

Food Security: Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide



Welcoming remarks

FAO Food for cities multi-disciplinary initiative

- **Right to Food in Cities**

Valéria Burity, Ação Brasileira pela Nutrição e Direitos Humanos (ABRANDH)

- **Local Food and Marketing : Urban Markets, the Key of Poverty Alleviation**

Arthur Getz, Heifer International

- **Building a green vision for our cities: Trees and Forest for Disaster and Poverty Reduction**

Bruce Knight, American Planning Association

- **Urban Planning and Local Agriculture: Example of Paris Region**

Iuli Nascimento, Région Île-de-France

- **IASC-TF on Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas: the Food and Agriculture Dimensions**

Florence Egal, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Plenary discussion

Wednesday, 24 March 2010

16:30 – 18:30 hours

W2-7 Room

Description

The recent food and financial crises have highlighted the problem of urban food insecurity in developing but also developed countries. Many urban households have been hard hit as they saw their purchasing power declining drastically, while they have if any a very limited capacity to produce their own food.



Feeding expanding urban populations is therefore a critical key issue at local and national but also global levels to address the right to food and to contribute to a sustainable city. It will help reduce the risk of social unrest and conflict.



Satisfying the food needs of expanding urban markets and promoting nutritious and healthy diets of urban households can function as an engine of economic and social development in rural communities as well as being a key element in creating markets for local producers, food supply actors, processors and vendors, articulated with national and global markets.

Specific attention needs to be given to the links that connect urban and rural communities, shape the economic relationships between them and determine how land, water, forestry and other natural resources are shared and used for a sustainable development. Moreover, immediate answers have to be proposed for emergency responses in cases of natural disasters or conflicts also in a framework of local development.



There is an urgent need to ensure that cities are included on the agenda of food and agriculture policy makers, planners and institutions. Likewise, it is equally urgent to integrate food security and agriculture into the agenda of city planners and local urban authorities.



By addressing thematic that go beyond the food production issue, the event would be a critical step in setting up multi-stakeholder platforms, with international organisations, national and regional representatives and related sectoral expertise aimed at developing a coherent and holistic approach.

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