



**TCP/SLC/3401: International
Seminar on Urban and Peri-
Urban Agriculture (UPA)
(=backyard garden) Havana,
Cuba, 14-17 May 2012**

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Presentation Outline



- Background: Urban & Peri-Urban Agriculture
- Details: International Seminar on UPA in Cuba
 - Dates, Funding, Objectives, Participants
 - Activities
 - Challenges and opportunities for UPA in LAC
 - Recommendations
- Havana Declaration on UPA
- Next Steps



Background (1 of 2)

- In 2010:
 - FAO's 31st Regional Conference for Latin America & Caribbean (LAC), identified promotion of Urban / Peri-Urban Agric (UPA) as medium-term priority
 - COTED endorsed FAO-CARICOM Regional Food & Nutrition Security (FNS) Policy

Background (2 of 2)



- Recent food price volatility raised awareness of importance of UPA as source of FNS:
 - supply food and generate employment & income for urban poor
 - leads to balanced & improved urban development
- Needs for unlocking UPA's full potential in LAC:
 - develop conducive institutional framework
 - identify and address gender gaps
 - provide training & extension services to producers

UPA International Seminar



- Date: 14-17 May 2012, as a side event at 4th International Tropical Agriculture Congress, Cuba
- Venue – Convention Centre, Havana, Cuba
- Funding: FAO (participants, resource persons)
- General Objective:
 - Contribute to regional coordination / collaboration among programmes & projects on UPA, aimed at establishing a regional strategy and programme on UPA to enhance FNS in LAC



Specific Objectives

- Review experiences and lessons learned
- Assess UPA's contribution to urban food supply, nutrition and livelihood
- Capitalize on current experiences, knowledge and innovations
- Foster UPA initiatives and networking
- Lay foundation for increased support (policy, institutional) for UPA
- Promote ecologically sound Agriculture and Environmental sustainability



Participants

Beneficiaries

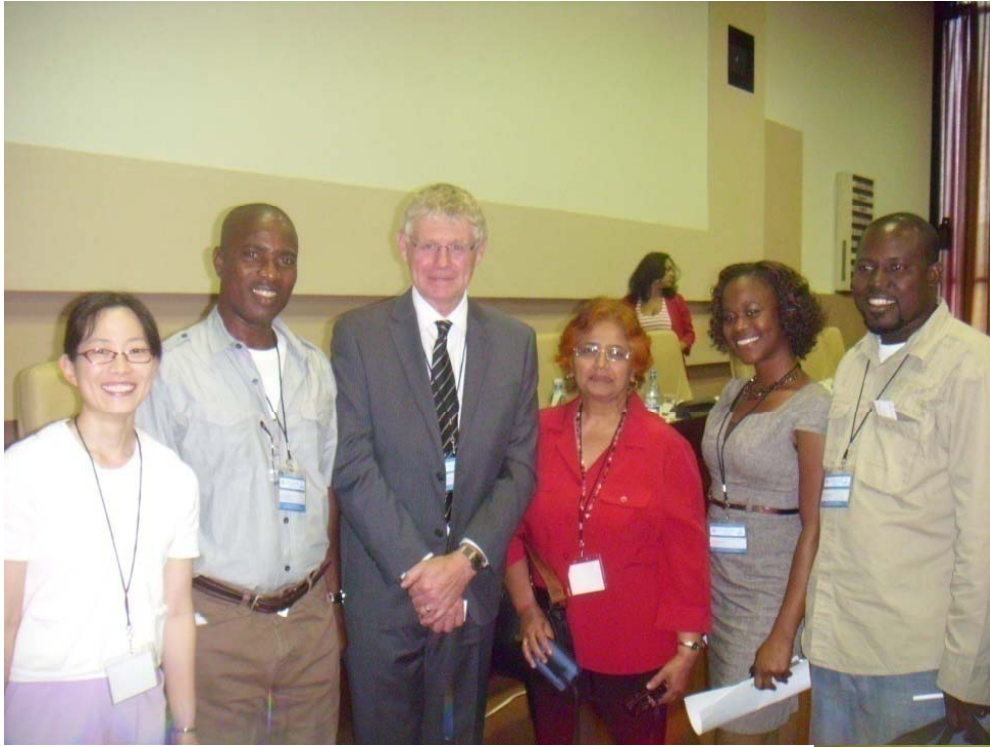
- Antigua & Barbuda
- Belize
- Cuba (Host country)
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines / CaFAN
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- St. Lucia
- Dominican Republic

Resource Persons

- Nicaragua
- Honduras
- Colombia
- Belize
- USA
- Panama

FAO

- HQ
- SLC
- RLC



Activities



- Opening: Feature address - FAO 'Save & Grow'
- Three academic sessions, 24 presentations:
 - opportunity to share experiences, understanding articulation and promotion of UPA
 - analysis of status of UPA in the Caribbean
 - research/cooperation needs under a UPA program
 - key actors from various countries
 - formulation of Havana Declaration for UPA, 2012
- Field trip: iconic UPA organoponic prod system

Highlights of Cuban UPA



- Dedicated training institution (under INIFAT)
- High level of education, strong legal framework
- Use of semi-protected/protected systems for year-round vegetable production
- Maximum plant diversity in production units
- IPM strategies, use of organic materials for soil improvement and amelioration
- Articulated, intensive Monitoring & Evaluation



VERMICULTURE







Challenges, Opportunities for UPA

Major Challenges (Caribbean)



- Lack of:
 - legal, institutional frameworks
 - quality planting material
 - quality seed production facilities
 - appropriate monitoring mechanisms and tools
- Know-how to sustain and increase soil fertility
- Water: availability, quality, monitoring strategy
- Limited land availability, particularly in SIDS

Major Challenges (C. America)



- Documentation, expansion of UPA experiences
- Revision of the use of demonstration centers in UPA projects as a training approach
- Establishment cost and sustainability
- Research on integration and impact of produce in urban market and food supply systems
- Essential to share experiences, lessons learnt on family farming policies to avoid duplication of effort and delay in implementing policies

Opportunities



- UPA promotes social interaction and a two-way exchange of information & experiences in LAC
- UPA can provide vital service to meet national demand for clean, fresh, nutritious produce
- Good business opportunity: production of quality, affordable seeds and planting material

Recommendations



- Strategy elements for regional approach to UPA:
 - research on adaptation of methods & technologies
 - distance learning, meetings/workshops, technical cooperation, and networking
 - generation, youth and gender considerations
 - participatory processes: focus on producer-to-producer knowledge sharing & knowledge management, self management capacity
 - use of communication media for development and networking

Recommendations



- Strategy elements for regional approach (cont'd)
 - local diagnosis of producers' interests and needs, and clustering producers by interests and needs
 - integration, coordination among & between Government and NGO programs and organizations
- In C. America:
 - Governments /municipalities to review, assess & institutionalize completed projects.
 - Public policy needs to embrace UPA at all levels



Havana Declaration on UPA, 2012

Participants at UPA Seminar...



EXPRESSED

Support for World Food Summit declaration: “**Food Security exists when all people at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meet their dietary needs and food preference for an active and healthy life**”

CONSIDERING

That Food and Nutrition are inalienable human rights and that UPA contributes significantly to food and nutrition security of the countries of the region

Participants at UPA Seminar...



RECOGNIZING

That development of UPA contributes to FNS of countries of the region and also recognizing cultural traditions and increases in educational levels of the population

That it is necessary to identify, characterize, exchange and conserve genetic resources because of their contribution to food security, while respecting national sovereignty

Participants at UPA Seminar...



URGED AND RECOMMENDED

Promotion & encouragement of implementation of public policies and action plans to support UPA development with an agro-ecological production approach in order to facilitate access to and availability of healthy food for all and taking into consideration local know-how and traditions

FAO to advice on the definition and implementation of policies and action plans for development of UPA in the region

The Way Forward



1. Creation of region-wide framework focusing on on two modalities of family farming, UPA, differentiated by location, scale, commodity and language (Spanish, English), but with common management and monitoring tools
2. Research, publish & disseminate sustainable technologies developed by previous projects & experiences of Cuban UPA (Spanish, English) that can benefit other countries

The Way Forward



3. Promote 'Havana Declaration for UPA 2012':
 - UPA activities should be taken up by CARICOM, NGOs, other interested groups working on UPA
4. Adopt concept of Family Farming (per FAO definition), covering a population segment with wide variety of physical, financial, human and social resources that are different in each country , but the type of agriculture shares a number of common characteristics

MUCHAS GRACIAS, FAO CUBA

