

The Urban Agriculture Magazine



No. 16: Policies, Norms and Regulations on Urban Agriculture, May 2006

Deadline for submissions is 1 March 2006.

Urban agriculture is a dynamic concept that comprises a variety of livelihood systems, ranging from subsistence production and processing at household level to fully commercialised agriculture. Urban agriculture enhances food security, provides additional income and employment for poor and middle-income urban dwellers, and contributes to an ecologically sound urban environment. These different functions for urban agriculture (see this UA Magazine) co-exist in a range of different combinations. The demand of policy makers and local practitioners for inspiring examples of successful policies and action programmes from other countries and cities is therefore growing. Interventions must be linked with specific development objectives, to which urban agriculture is expected to make a significant contribution and be based on participatory and multi-stakeholder diagnosis and planning processes. A range of potential suitable policy responses to urban agriculture have been presented in the various issues of the UA Magazine so far. These recommendations were of a general nature. An overview and discussion of initiatives that have led to policy change will provide important insights for those currently planning or operating similar activities. Historically urban agriculture does not have an institutional home. Organisations like a Ministry of Agriculture usually lack a political mandate for urban agriculture. Urban agriculture projects are rarely integrated in overall urban planning. Generally there is little co-ordination between NGOs and municipal agencies, and urban farmers are often not organised. The RUAF partners have initiated so-called Multi Stakeholder Policy Making and Action Planning (MPAP) processes in 6 cities in 2005 and will start again in 6 other cities in 2007. Preliminary results will be reported in this magazine. For this issue of the UA Magazine, we are seeking examples of policies, of initiatives driven by farmers or local communities or facilitated by multi stakeholder processes that have influenced change at policy level, and (sometimes) lead to further positive changes at local level.

We welcome your contributions,

*** Describing examples of participatory and multi-stakeholder policy making and action planning on urban agriculture, and/or**

*** Describing and critically analyzing, the innovative policies, norms and regulations resulting from such processes.**

This issue of the UA Magazine will be presented at the World Urban Forum in Vancouver, 2006. Therefore we seek to incorporate experiences (including of the RUAF partners and their wider network) that present best practices and give clear suggestions for the way forward.

Articles

Articles on urban agriculture should consist of approximately 2,300 words (three pages), 1,600 words (two pages), or 700 words (one page), preferably accompanied by an abstract, references (maximum of 5), figures and digital images or photographs of good quality. The articles should be written in a manner that is readily understood by a wide variety of stakeholders all over the world. We also invite you to submit information on recent publications, journals, videos, photographs, cartoons, letters, technology descriptions and assessments, workshops, training courses, conferences, networks, web-links, etc.

Future issues of UA Magazine

2006

-No. 17, September: Strengthening Urban Producers Organisations and Micro- Enterprises

Working Materials:

- Participatory Methods, GIS and other tools for land use and action planning
- Monitoring and Evaluation

2007 / 2008

-No. 18: April: Sustainable Urban Water Management;

Other suggested issues:

- Role of Urban Agriculture in Emergency Situations (currently being explored: suggestions welcome).
- Institutions for Urban Agriculture.
- Youth, Education and Urban Agriculture.
- Health and Food Security.
- Urban agriculture as an additional strategy for mitigation of the HIV-AIDS epidemic

Urban Agriculture Magazine

Multiple functions of Urban Agriculture

ISSN 1571-6244

No. 15, December 2005

UA Magazine is published three times a year by the Network of Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (RUAF), under the Cities Farming for the Future Programme, which is financed by DGIS, the Netherlands, and IDRC, Canada.

UA Magazine is translated into French, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic and Turkish, and distributed in separate editions through the RUAF regional networks, and is also available on www.ruaf.org.

The RUAF Partners are

* Latin America: IPES Promoción del Desarrollo Sostenible, Lima Peru; email: au@ipes.org.pe; Magazine in Spanish: www.ipes.org

* French Speaking West Africa: IAGU Institut Africain de Gestion Urbaine, Dakar, Senegal; email: moussa@iagu.org; Magazine in French: www.iagu.org

* English Speaking West Africa: International Water Management Institute, IWMI-Ghana; email: o.cofie@cgiar.org

* East and Southern Africa: MDP Municipal Development Partnership (MDP); email: smushamba@mdpesa.org

* South and South East Asia: International Water Management Institute, IWMI-India; email: r.simmons@cgiar.org

* North Africa and Middle East: American University of Beirut, email: zm13@aub.edu.lb;

Magazine in Arabic:

www.ecosystems.org/esduhomepage.php

* China: IGSNRR Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resource Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences; email: cijm@igsnr.ac.cn; Magazine in Chinese: www.cnruaf.com

* Coordination and Support: ETC Foundation; email: ruaf@etcnl.nl; Magazine in English: www.ruaf.org

Editors, No. 15

This issue has been compiled by René van Veenhuizen (Responsible Editor), together with Leo van den Berg of ALTERRA.

Web Editing and Books

Marije Pouw and René van Veenhuizen

Administration

Ellen Radstake

Language Editor

Catharina de Kat-Reynen

Design, Layout and Printing

Koninklijke BDU

Subscriptions

The editor: ruaf@etcnl.nl

Address

Urban Agriculture Magazine
P.O. Box 64
3830 AB Leusden
The Netherlands
Visitors' address: Kastanjelaan 5, Leusden.
Tel: +31.33.4326000
Fax: +31.33.4940791
e-mail: ruaf@etcnl.nl
website: www.ruaf.org