

Growing better cities to enhance food security, create jobs and protect the environment

International Development Research Centre (Canada) and ETC Urban Agriculture (The Netherlands)

More local governments are including urban agriculture in their policies to address a wide range of urban social, economic and environmental challenges. In this interactive panel local authorities in the North (Canada) and the South (Argentina, China and Uganda) will share their experiences and discuss next steps in strengthening the contribution of various forms of urban and peri-urban agriculture to different "city visions"(e.g the inclusive city, the productive city, the sustainable city). The panel will highlight how these innovative policies are already helping cities meet their development challenges:

The food secure and inclusive city (Rosario, Argentina and Kampala, Uganda)

Rosario and Kampala took concrete steps in working with a range of local actors (NGOs, producer groups, universities) to put into production underused land and water resources. After winning the prestigious Dubai Award in 2004, **Rosario's municipal urban agriculture program** is being converted from a crisis response to an integral dimension of physical urban planning. Similarly, following zoning provisions recently adopted for urban agriculture, **Kampala** has adopted a participatory approach to develop and approve **innovative municipal ordinances** to protect (peri) urban agricultural producers and consumers. In both cities, urban agriculture is currently being incorporated into new housing development and neighbourhood improvement programmes. As a result, food security is being improved, employment and income generated, and social inclusion enhanced.

The sustainable and productive city (Beijing, China and Vancouver, Canada)

Beijing has mainstreamed urban agriculture into local social, economic and environmental development policies by promoting **commercial agro-enterprises and agro-tourism** on the one hand, while supporting **poor migrant farmers** in their efforts to generate jobs and income on the other hand. Beijing's aim is to harmonize rural-urban interactions, applying a multi-stakeholder and participatory approach to development. **Vancouver** has integrated urban agriculture into its **sustainability policy**, through linkages with its children and youth, multicultural and aboriginal programmes, environmental programmes and urban development projects. It is engaging different citizen groups and various government departments in the promotion of its **food policy** as a new model of integrated local governance.

All presentations highlight and reinforce the following key messages of the overall panel:

1 Policy Objective

Depending on local situations, supporting urban agriculture can be part of a wide range of policies intended to make cities more inclusive and food secure, productive or greener. This allows policies to link urban agriculture to a broader sustainable development agenda that caters to social, economic and ecological needs of cities.

2 Implementation Strategy

Partnerships and collaboration among different municipal departments (housing, planning, social and economic development etc.), NGOs and Universities, and the direct participation of urban farmer (organisations) are essential to the development of appropriate policies, norms and regulations regarding urban agriculture.

3 Monitoring Outcomes

Urban agriculture is already helping local governments to meet the Millennium Development Goals and good governance, its impacts should be measured and incorporated into databases and related indicators.