

Annex 1 Convening organizations

RUAF Foundation (International Network of Resource centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security)

The RUAF Foundation is an International Network of 7 regional and 1 international Resource centres on Urban Agriculture and Food security managed by organisations like IPES (Lima), IAGU (Dakar), IWMI (Accra and Hyderabad), MDP (Harare), AUB-ESDU (Beirut), IGSNRR (Beijing) and ETC-Urban Agriculture (Leusden, the Netherlands). The RUAF programme was initiated in 1999 and mainly focuses on networking and knowledge sharing activities (databases, websites, Urban Agriculture Magazine in 6 languages, regional workshops, E-conferences), capacity development, and promoting Multi-stakeholder policy formulation and action planning (MPAP) on urban and peri-urban agriculture. In the present phase RUAF is supporting such processes in 20 cities in 15 countries. Main funding organisations of RUAF are the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada). See www.ruaf.org for more information.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

FAO leads the international efforts to defeat hunger. FAO incorporated urban and peri-urban agriculture in its Strategic Programme 2000-2015 and in the corresponding Medium Terms Plans as a Strategic Area. The Food for the Cities Interdisciplinary Team (FCIT) coordinates FAO's activities regarding urban agriculture that focus on Information Supply (on areas like urban forestry, urban horticulture, urban aquaculture, informal food marketing and processing, urban food supply and distribution) and Technical assistance (regional and national expert consultations, assistance to project formulation and implementation, city level food security assessments). See www.fao.org/FCIT for more information.

International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

IDRC is a Canadian semi-governmental agency that has been supporting action research projects in the field of urban and peri-urban agriculture since the early nineties, first in the context of its multi-annual programme Cities Feeding People (CFP) and at the moment as a component of its Urban Environmental Programme (UPE) that supports larger scale action research projects in selected "Focus Cities". IDRC-CFP en UPE contributed significantly to improving knowledge, raising awareness, capacity development and regional networking on urban agriculture. See www.idrc.ca/en/ev-5911-201-1-Do_TOPIC.html for more information.

CGIAR-Urban Harvest

The international research centres that form the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) initiated in 1999 a CGIAR wide programme to coordinate and direct the research efforts of the international centres in the field of urban and peri-urban agriculture. Projects with national partners are ongoing in 6 countries that undertake action research on UPA under three main themes: stakeholders and policy dialogue, livelihoods and markets and urban ecohealth. See www.cipotato.org/urbanharvest/home.html for more information.

Chinese Urban Agriculture Association

The Chinese Association on Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture was created in 2006 as an expression of the rapidly growing interest of researchers and city authorities in the development of urban and peri-urban agriculture in China, under influence of the national policy to "reconstruct the countryside" and increased national and international exchange regarding UPA (o.a. with Taiwan and in the context of the RUAF programme).