



Cities Farming for the Future



VILLA MARIA DEL TRIUNFO

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Villa Maria del Triunfo, is located in the southern part of Metropolitan Lima, and is one of the 43 districts into which the capital of Peru is divided. It is situated on a desert, with annual rainfall of only 25 mm, and thus suffers from a significant shortage of water. Most of the district's residents are migrants from poorer provinces in the southern part of the country. Over half of the population is poor, and a significant proportion does not have a regular income, which limits their access to food and their ability to maintain balanced, healthy diets. As a result, nearly one-third of children under eight of age are malnourished.

CONTACT

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Villa Maria Del Triunfo at a glance	
Population	355,761
Surface Area	70,570 km ²
Poverty rate	57%
Extreme poverty	22%
Unemployment	10%
Underemployment	76%
Source: INEI – 2005 Census	



THE RUAF FOUNDATION

The central aim of the RUAF Foundation (the International Network of Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security) is to contribute to urban poverty reduction, urban food security, improved urban environmental management, empowerment of urban farmers and participatory city governance by enhancing policy awareness on benefits and risks of urban agriculture, capacity development, facilitating local policy formulation and action planning on urban agriculture, and promoting networking and exchange of experiences. The RUAF – Cities Farming for the Future programme (RUAF-CFF) is executed by the seven regional RUAF partners in coordination with ETC Urban Agriculture (the Netherlands) in 20 pilot cities and 48 dissemination cities. The CFF-project is funded by DGIS (the Netherlands) and IDRC (Canada). More information is found on www.ruaf.org.

International Coordination: ETC Urban Agriculture
Global website: www.ruaf.org

THE RUAF PARTNERS ARE:

- Municipal Development Partnership (MDP), Harare, Zimbabwe
- Institut Africain de Gestion Urbaine (IAGU), Dakar, Senegal
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI-Ghana), Accra, Ghana
- International Water Management Institute, (IWMI-India), Hyderabad, India
- Promoción del Desarrollo Sostenible (IPES), Lima, Peru
- Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resource Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (IGSNRR), Beijing, China
- Environment and Sustainable Development Unit, American University (AUB-ESDU), Beirut, Lebanon
- ETC Urban Agriculture, Leusden, The Netherlands



CITIES FARMING FOR THE FUTURE

The Cities Farming for the Future programme (RUAF-CFF) seeks to make a contribution to sustainable urban development, by creating enabling conditions for empowerment of male and female urban and peri-urban farmers, capacity development of local authorities and other stakeholders and by facilitating the integration of urban agriculture in gender-sensitive policies and action programmes of local governments, civic society organisations and private enterprises with active involvement of the urban farmers, livestock keepers and other relevant stakeholders”

LIMA PERU

“Urban agriculture is a permanent, legitimate activity in our district and it is an anti-poverty strategy that contributes to local economic development.”

Municipal Council



MULTI STAKEHOLDER ACTION PLANNING

RUAF Cities Farming for the Future Programme (RUAF-CFF) facilitates participatory and multi-stakeholder policy formulation and action planning (MPAP) on urban agriculture in Villa María del Triunfo (VMT).

Participatory and **Multi-stakeholder Policy formulation and Action Planning (MPAP)** is a process of collaboration between the urban authorities with citizens, farmers, civil organisations, private sector companies and other governmental entities in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of policies and related action plans. This approach brings together major stakeholders in communication, dialogue, co-determination of issues, joint decision making, planning, policy-making and implementation of projects. The main output of a MPAP is the joint development of a **City Strategic Agenda** on urban agriculture.

The Municipality of VMT initiated in 2005 the formulation of a policy on urban agriculture, supported by RUAF-CFF, in order to encourage urban agriculture in the district, and to design, plan and implement strategic actions stemming from those policies.



A multi-stakeholder process was developed under the Municipality's direction. After a period of awareness-raising, training and exchanges with municipal decision-makers, in 2006, an assessment was carried out of urban agriculture land use and practices. Following this assessment, a strategy document was produced, summarising the main limitations and potentials for promoting urban agriculture. In 2007, an Urban Agriculture Forum was established, with the active participation of urban farmers and 20 other institutions (local government, NGOs, community organisations, universities, funding agencies, and private companies). To bolster participation in the Forum, and in other decision-making bodies in the city, a local network of urban farmers was also set up.

The Forum developed Public Policy Guidelines and a Strategic Urban Agriculture Plan for the 2007-2011 period, which are now being implemented by the members of the Forum.

CITY STRATEGIC AGENDA

The City Strategic Agenda on urban agriculture (CSAU) is an operational tool designed in a participatory way by the Urban Agriculture Forum that proposes a joint vision and practical solutions to the needs and priority issues identified by the Forum. The Agenda has been recognised and adopted by the local government. It is being implemented with local, national and international resources contributed by the local government and different members of the Forum.

The CSAU seeks to:

- Build citizen awareness about the benefits of urban agriculture .
- Build technical and management capacity among the urban farmers.
- Facilitate access to and the rational use of water in urban agriculture in the district
- Boost local production as well as local and national commercialisation.
- Strengthen the institutional and regulatory frameworks needed to develop urban agriculture in the district .
- Facilitate access to information and promote financing and investment for urban agriculture in the district.

The CSAU will continue to guide the work in VMT on urban agriculture, supported by RUAF under the From Seed to Table programme (2009-2010).

URBAN AGRICULTURE IN LIMA

In Peru urbanisation is intense, especially in metropolitan Lima. Massive migration resulted in urbanisation of poverty, which in the case of Lima is concentrated in the expanding outer zones of the city. In this context of an impoverished urban-rural interface, urban agriculture is an important livelihood strategy. Despite unfavourable geographic conditions, more than 500 family and community (huertas) (plots used for gardens or small-scale farms) have been planted by community groups and schools, while another 175 hectares of vacant land are still available for agricultural production. In these (huertas) the use of agro-ecological production technologies is promoted. Just over two-thirds of the urban farmers are formerly rural women migrants, heads of household who have to maintain families with 5 or more members. Since their household incomes tend to be less than the minimum monthly salary (US\$152), most of their production is used to ensure household food security. Of every 100 urban farmers, 83 produce vegetables, 52 raise small animals, 45 have fruit trees, 31 grow aromatic herbs, and 18 produce ornamental plants. Only 20 percent process their products occasionally (conserves, marmalades, jelly), and efforts to sell these products are still incipient.



VISION FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE

“By 2010, urban agriculture in Villa María del Triunfo will be recognised as a dynamic and integrated activity that contributes to sustainable growth, recovery of space, harmony with the environment, food security and the creation of income for the population, based on the participation of all stakeholders involved.” (Urban Agriculture Forum VMT, 2007)

IMPLEMENTATION

As part of the CSAU, the project “Productive Learning Centre” was formulated in 2006, to develop a strategy for the promotion of crop production for the market in community gardens. Lessons learned in this project were used to motivate the Forum members in the further pursuit of their activities. The project was implemented and financed by members of the Forum: IPES/RUAF, the Municipality of Villa María del Triunfo, the Peru Energy Network, and FAO Peru.

The Centre is run by 12 families that benefit from the complementary family incomes generated by selling products and the savings made possible by the availability of farm products for household consumption. It is located in an area under power lines. The families were granted permission to use this land through a use agreement provided by the Energy Network. The Centre covers 4000 m². It includes crop compost areas, seed incubators and vegetable patches (including aromatic herbs, medicinal plants, lettuce, spinach, beets, peppers, tomatoes, cauliflower and onion) and a research and training area which has made it possible to improve farming techniques in dry-land areas. The farm combines family work on plots with collective activities, like managing the training areas, cleaning and maintenance.

KEY RESULTS

- Quantitative and qualitative information was gathered on the status of urban agriculture and a policy narrative published.
- Public Policy Guidelines and the 2007-2011 Strategic Plan on Urban Agriculture were developed and adopted by the municipality.
- A multi-stakeholder platform, the Villa María del Triunfo Urban Agriculture Forum, has been created and consolidated.
- An Urban Farmers Network of Villa María del Triunfo, bringing together all local farmers, has been formed and is now legally recognised by the local government (Mayoral Resolution No. 060-2008 / MVMT).
- A Framework Ordinance was approved recognising Urban Agriculture as a legal activity in the district (Council Resolution No. 021-2007/MVMT).
- The “Villa María del Triunfo Urban Agriculture Week” was established and will be held each year.
- By 2007, 75% of the Plan's short-term strategic actions were implemented (Year 1), and approximately US\$195,000 of funding has been mobilised.

LESSONS LEARNED

- The Urban Agriculture Forum is an ongoing space for planning and action that involves various local stakeholders, and facilitates the input of financial- and human resources.
- Encouraging urban farmers to get organised (in this case through the Forum and the Network of Urban Farmers) and building their lobbying capacities is essential for developing participatory and inclusive decision-making processes.
- The creation and strengthening of such platforms and networks ensures the inclusion of urban agriculture in the policy agenda of the local government. The change in municipal authorities that occurred in 2006 did not result in a setback in urban agriculture development, thanks to the awareness-raising and lobbying activities carried out by the Network and the Forum.
- Demonstration projects make it possible to generate new knowledge as well as validate and adjust intervention strategies and methodologies that can then be replicated at a larger scale.