



# URBAN AGRICULTURE STRATEGIC AGENDA

for



THE CITY OF BULAWAYO

**BULAWAYO CORE TEAM  
2007**

## **ACRONYMS**

AREX Services	Department of Agriculture Research and Extension
BCC	Bulawayo City Council
DDF	District Development Fund
EMA	Environmental Management Agency
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
SAST	Southern Areas Treatment Works
UA	Urban Agriculture
ZINWA	Zimbabwe National Water Authority

## **PREAMBLE**

Urban agriculture practice in Bulawayo aims at alleviating poverty through provision and maintenance of food security to the citizens and the strategic plan here presented is about the art of ensuring high production with food and economic gains.

The UA strategic planning in Bulawayo marks the beginning of a renewed orientation towards action and is biased towards ‘doing’ because the strategy emphasises on implementation. The success of UA will depend on how the key players namely BCC, MDP/RUAF, the multi-stakeholder forum and the farmers themselves manage this change process.

The successful implementation of this giant project will also depend on a carefully designed strategic plan that spells out the activities, directions how to implement them, when to implement them and how to be able to know when they have been achieved. The vision and mission statements of UA also guide the plan.

An environmental scan of UA relating to internal and external factors has been undertaken and the results of this SWOT analysis and the UA Baseline Survey have been used as a basis for crafting the strategic agenda.

### **Urban Agriculture in Bulawayo.**

Urban Agriculture is the growing of plants and rearing of livestock for food, aesthetic value and commercial purposes within the urban and peri-urban areas. This also includes related activities such as production and delivery of inputs, and the processing and marketing of products. The scale of activities is determined by the land size, water availability, skills, labour, legislative framework as well as finance.

Urban agriculture is viewed as both a vehicle for empowerment, self-reliance, as an income generator and sustainable use and management of natural resources. Urban agriculture in developing and developed countries provides meaningful contributions towards household food security, which ensures availability, accessibility and affordability of unprocessed and processed foods. These enhance improved nutrition and they boost the immune system that contribute towards the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The urban agriculture practice also promotes self-production and self-reliance among the vulnerable groups such as widows, unemployed youths, the economically disadvantaged and those living with HIV/AIDS. Urban agriculture practices contribute to income generation of surplus products which can be sold for cash needed for education, health, clothing etc. It can also be a source for foreign currency generation. Therapeutic treatment, improved environmental health, environmental restoration and greening of the city can also be realised through the practice of urban agriculture. The beneficiaries of urban agriculture enjoy safer living environments and improved environmental awareness. Currently men and women migrate to urban settings in search of jobs and

money and it is hoped that urban agriculture in the cities will promote reversal of urban migration.

Urban Agriculture in Bulawayo is a prevalent land use and activity encompassing crop and livestock production and is practised under different circumstances and arrangements. It is undertaken by individual households or groups or even companies on plots or off plots, permitted or unauthorized, on a farmer's property or on illegally occupied land, rain fed or irrigated. These activities have had socio-economic and environmental impacts in Bulawayo. Some of these practices are summarized below: -

### ***Designated/Zoned Areas***

Residential/Agricultural Areas in plots mostly over 2 hectares are designated through the city's master and the local plans. These plots are largely in peri-urban areas of Douglasdale, Montgomery, Umguza Agricultural Lots, Norwood and so forth. Also included here are low-density residential areas such as Burnside, Lochview, Trenance, Riverside and Richmond. Cropping is mostly dependent on rainwater as the city is in a low rainfall area and to a lesser extent on irrigation. Shortage of water is one of the major problems. Produce includes crops such as maize, vegetables, fruit, fodder crops, poultry, goats, sheep and dairy cows. The produce is marketed in the city especially at the wholesale markets which are in the central business district.

### ***Special Consent Areas***

These are mostly the low-density residential areas as mentioned above and practice certain types of urban agriculture that requires Council Special Consent. Poultry and market gardening are the most common urban agricultural uses applied for. Sometimes applicants are considered for cattle pen feeding and horse keeping and dairy production. Permits are granted by Council with special conditions especially health and environmental conditions. The number of chickens permitted is according to property size. For more than 20 chickens Special Consent is required otherwise a smaller number is freely permitted in all residential areas. Performance of those farmers granted special consent needs to be followed to assess success in terms of production levels and compliance.

### ***Council Farms***

Council has two productive farms within its boundaries namely Aisleby and Good Hope. Aisleby Farm covers an area of 1 286 hectares and lies to the north of the city and this is where Aisleby Sewerage Works are situated. The treated effluent from the works is used for irrigating the farm pastures, which are divided into a number of paddocks. A successful livestock production project is run by Ingwebu Breweries, which is a commercial wing of the City Council. For example in 2004 the year opened with 1996 cattle. At the end of December there were 1 813 beef cattle, with 320 births during the year, 84 deaths and 509 cattle sold that year. Causes of the high mortality are thought to

be the high content of metallic chemicals from industry which discharges into the municipal sewers feeding the works. There is also an experimental sheep project which started in 2004 with 20 sheep.

Goodhope Farm adjacent to Aisleby planted 86 hectares of maize, which yielded 257 tones or 3 tones per ha. These yields were considered low and attributed to imbalances in nutrients as a result of shortages of farming inputs. Some Council Farms are leased out for grazing for example, Remainder of Umanin, measuring 1 500 hectares is leased to one farmer.

### ***Garden Allotments***

Over many years the City Council has set aside areas for garden allotments in the high-density areas. These have been established in selected areas especially areas with relatively fertile soils on vleis and along rivers or streams. There are 12 garden allotments scattered throughout these low cost residential areas and examples are West Park near Mzilikazi and Makokoba, St. Columbus near Makokoba, Mabutweni, Mpopoma and Njube.

These garden allotments were created particularly for the underprivileged groups such as the elderly, destitute, the poorest and widows. Beneficiaries were selected by case study social workers in the Department of Housing and Community Services and the major objective of this urban agriculture programme is to alleviate urban poverty and improve nutritional state of the poor. At present there are over 1 000 plot holders and the size of each plot averages 130m<sup>2</sup>. The size of each garden allotment area ranges from 0.42 to 4 hectares.

Crops grown are mainly vegetables and the most common is chomoliaer and farmers say they prefer it because it is perennial, grows quickly and even when stolen by thieves, regeneration is fast and there is a ready market for it. The popular variety is grown from shoots and does not need seed. However, the quality of the crops and productivity everywhere appears poor mainly because of continued use of soil without use of the fertilizer and organic manure. Also Council previously used to provide technical assistance officers but this has declined due to financial problems. Most of the garden allotments use reclaimed wastewater from the sewage works although this is erratic during times of water shortage in the city. Recently orchard gardens have been established in the high-density areas with the assistance of World Vision. These gardens grow a variety of vegetables and use borehole water. Community have been organized to work on these gardens which appear to be popular and sustainable

### ***Gum Plantation***

This is an urban agriculture project initiated and supported by the City Council. It is located north west of the city and measures 350 acres in extent. There are 1 100 plots of 5 000m<sup>2</sup> each and the project uses waste water from Cowdray Park, Magwegwe and Luveve Sewage Works – 4 500 to 5 000 cubic metres of this water per day is used by

individuals and 4 co-operatives (5ha). Allocations of plots is done per ward by Councilors. Productivity is reasonably high, much better than in the garden allotments. Crops grown are mainly chomoliaer, 40kg per month per plot holder, green mealies, approximately 5 000 cobs per year per plot holder is produced and with regards to sugar beans 25kg per plot is realized on average. There is potential for agro-forestry – bee keeping. This area has been selected and approved as a pilot project under the MDP/BCC partnership and commencement of the project is underway.

### ***Khami School Leavers and Co-operatives***

Khami School Leavers Training Centre is located nearby the Southern Areas Treatment Works (SAST). This is also one of Bulawayo City Councils initiative for training youth and co-operatives. The centre offers general agriculture training – practice and theory in both livestock husbandry and agronomy. In the livestock section there are 25 beef cattle 2 to 3 of which are sold annually, 2 slaughtered annually. A piggery project is planned.

### ***Un-authorized Urban Agricultural Activity***

This is the most prevalent form of urban agriculture in the city although it is seasonal occurring mostly during the rainy season. Maize is the predominant crop although other crops like sweet potatoes, melons, pumpkins, beans are also grown. Cultivation takes place almost everywhere and during the rainy season maize fields become so much part of the city's landscape that it is often even unnoticed as one moves around the city. It is done around the house, in open spaces, along road sides, or vleis, water courses and stream banks, on hill slopes, on old rubbish dumps, along servitudes for electricity, water and sewers. A lot of urban farming is carried out on land that was planned, surveyed and even serviced, awaiting development in some cases.

The majority of these farmers belong to the low-income groups who grow crops on a part time basis for subsistence and improving food security and income levels. Usually the whole family is involved in maize cultivation although women appear to take a leading part. The size of the maize fields range from small patches measuring a few square metres to a number of hectares. According to these sizes the methods of cultivation also differ with smallest farmers using hoes whilst others use donkey drawn ploughs or hired tractors. During the farming season, villagers in the surrounding rural areas like Matopos come into Bulawayo with their donkeys and ploughs to hire them out to the urban farmers.

There are no records on the fields and overall production of these unauthorized cultivations. But it is thought that the amount of staple food produced is substantial and there is need for research in this area. However unauthorized cultivation in Bulawayo and other cities has also contributed to soil erosion, land degradation and siltation of water bodies. Inputs such as seed and fertilizer are readily available in the city's outlets but issues of affordability, proper application and returns remain of great interest to research.

## SWOT ANNLYSIS OF UA IN BULAWAYO

<b>STRENGTHS</b>	<b>WEAKNESSES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Support and active participation of stakeholders in UA programmes</li> <li>● National recognition of UA</li> <li>● Community awareness of UA and its benefits</li> <li>● Communities have organised themselves into groups, cooperatives and associations</li> <li>● Farmers are initiating networking and sharing of knowledge and experiences through field days and</li> <li>● Good market structures in the Central Business Center</li> <li>● Budget for UA within Local Authority</li> <li>● BCC working in partnership with other stakeholders on UA programmes</li> <li>● Increased number of livelihood gardens as well as improved allotment gardens</li> <li>● Training and capacity building of both farmers and the stakeholders on best farming skills and business skills</li> <li>● Engagement in research towards evidence based faming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No single legal instrument for UA. UA is mentioned in piece meal in various Acts.</li> <li>● No specific section on UA within Local Authority</li> <li>● Some sections of the community are anti UA practice</li> <li>● There are poor marketing networks</li> <li>● There is serous water shortage to support UA</li> <li>● Limited capital for UA</li> <li>● Unclear policies for loans and grants</li> <li>● Poor transport facilities to ferry produce to the markets</li> <li>● Poor produce storages on sites</li> <li>● Access to land still poor</li> </ul>
<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>THREATS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● UA is seen as a platform for poverty alleviation and source of food security</li> <li>● UA can provide employment opportunities</li> <li>● UA is a source of income generation</li> <li>● There are opportunities to ensure improved nutrition, good health and boost of the immune system</li> <li>● UA will provide industrial linkages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ownership of land still remains with BCC</li> <li>● Water shortage a crisis</li> <li>● Existence of strong competitors from the peri-urban area and beyond.</li> <li>● Myths from the ‘elite’ that UA is an unhealthy practice and an eye sore for the city</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased knowledge and technical know how for both the farmers and the stakeholders</li> <li>• Sharing of knowledge, skills and experiences among the farming community and with the stakeholders</li> <li>• It is a potential source of foreign currency</li> <li>• It can contribute to greening of city</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unclear and rigid collateral facilities especially for women</li> <li>• HIV and AIDS scourge</li> </ul>
---	--

## **VISION**

City of Bulawayo would like to see a vibrant, well-managed and diversified urban agriculture sector with subsistence, social and commercial activities dealing in crop and livestock production taking place in all wards of the city in an environmentally sustainable manner by 2017. Gender equity in the provision of UA services will be the hallmark of this policy. Urban agriculture in the city should contribute to poverty alleviation, whereby jobs will be created and cash income generated by the poor families from surpluses that can be sold.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Urban Agriculture will ensure food security, poverty alleviation, HIV/AIDS mitigation and economic empowerment of Bulawayo residents through the provision of land, water, human, material and financial resources; creation of an enabling legal framework, research and capacity building of stakeholders. Multi-stakeholder involvement in the programme should be effected at all levels through the established structures. Capacity development for stakeholders and council officials will be undertaken to ensure that the objectives of the policy are met. An institutional home for UA will also be established in the council.

**BULAWAYO URBAN AGRICULTURE STRATEGIC  
AGENDA**

<b>KRA/ISSUE</b>	<b>GOAL</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>STRATEGIES/ ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>	<b>RESONSIBLE AUTHORITY</b>
<b>1. LAND</b>	1.1 Provision of land for UA	1.2.1 To provide land for UA in all 13 wards by December 2008	1.3 Identification of land and verification of ownership	Layout plans of vacant land	BCC Councillors
		1.2.2 To ensure that at least 10% of the aspirants per ward have access to land by December 2010	1.3.2 Preparation of layout plans, surveying & demarcation	Results of land surveys	AREX
		1.2.3 To provide security of tenure for UA by December 2010	1.3.3 Drawing up of lease agreement	Signed lease agreements	BCC
<b>2. ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH</b>	2.1. Promotion of environment and health in all UA projects	2.2.1. To ensure access to fresh/nutritious foods/herbal gardens for each household by December 2010	2.3.1. Communities to embark on diversified farming e.g. nutritional herbs	Proper sanitation facilities in place	BCC NGOs EMA
		2.2.2. To minimise the spread of diseases within UA communities by December 2008	2.3.2. Construction of proper sanitation facilities in UA activities	Diversified farming being practised	
		2.2.3. To promote the practice of environmentally	2.3.3. Ensure use of protective clothing	Farmers using appropriate protective clothing	

		friendly farming techniques by December 2008	2.3.4. Ensure farmers avoid pollution of the environment	Safe and clean environment	
<b>3. MARKETING</b>	3.1. Marketing of UA produce	3.2.1. To identify markets for UA farmers by December 2010  3.2.2. To promote diversification of UA farming by May 2008	3.3.1. Advertise farm produce, hold field days with business community -Identification of lucrative markets  3.3.2. Train farmers on new varieties of UA commodities	UA produce sold soon after delivery /harvest  Improvement on the social & economical wellbeing of farmers  New products on the market.	BCC  Farmers Association
<b>4. WATER</b>	4.1. Provision of adequate water	4.2.1. To ensure adequate water supply for the pilot project and to 10% of the urban farmers by December 2010	4.3.1. Identification of sources of water  4.3.2. Drilling of boreholes  4.3.3. Rainwater harvesting  4.3.4. Infrastructure development for piped and recycled water for irrigation purposes	Inventing of water sources  Availability of adequate water for UA	BCC  ZINWA  DDF  EMA  NGOs  Farmers
<b>5. LEGAL</b>	5.1. Provision of	5.2.1. To develop an	5.3.1. Drafting an UA	Draft UA Policy	BCC

<b>FRAMEWORK</b>	legal framework for UA	<p>UA policy document by December 2007</p> <p>5.2.2. To develop specific UA legislation (by-laws) by December 2007</p> <p>5.2.3. To institutionalise UA into BCC structure by December 2009</p>	<p>policy document</p> <p>5.3.2. Amend BCC by-laws in favour of UA</p> <p>5.3.3. Set up an UA office by December 2009</p>	<p>Document in place</p> <p>By-laws for UA amended &amp; in place</p> <p>UA office in place and functional</p>	<p>UA Steering Committee</p> <p>BCC</p> <p>BCC</p>
<b>6. RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING</b>	6.1. Provision of research based capacity building for UA	<p>6.2.1. To utilise research based findings for UA by December 2010</p> <p>6.2.2. To carry out research on identified UA issues by December 2010</p> <p>6.2.3. To ensure UA farmers are equipped with knowledge and skills by December 2008</p>	<p>6.3.1. Collecting, collating and dissemination of information</p> <p>6.3.2. Conduct research on modern farming techniques e.g. conservative farming</p> <p>6.3.3. Conduct training workshops on UA (demos &amp; field days included)</p>	<p>Database of UA in place</p> <p>Research reports in place</p> <p>High productivity and improved quality of produce</p>	<p>BCC Steering committee</p> <p>AREX, Research teams from universities and farmers and BCC.</p> <p>Steering committee</p>

<p><b>7. FINANCE</b></p>	<p>7.1. Provision of finance for UA</p>	<p>7.2.1. To allocate a budget for UA activities by December 2010</p> <p>7.2.2. To identify loan facility for UA farmers by December 2008</p> <p>7.2.3. To identify and encourage donor funding for UA by December 2008</p>	<p>7.3.1. Make bids for UA budget</p> <p>7.3.2. Lobby for commercials to sponsor UA activities</p> <p>7.3.3. Availing/advertising of policy document to prospective donors</p>	<p>At least 10% of the farmers being financed by December 2008</p> <p>Availability of finance and loans from CB available to at last 10% of UA farmers.</p> <p>Funds available through donors</p>	<p>BCC NGOs Govt</p> <p>BCC NGOs</p>
<p><b>8. MITIGATING HIV/AIDS</b></p>	<p>8.1. Mitigating the impact and progression of HIV/AIDS disease</p>	<p>8.2.1. To ensure production of nutritious foods and herbs that boost the immune system to persons affected by HIV/AIDS in the 29 wards of Bulawayo</p>	<p>8.3.1. Information and education about nutrition and HIV. Encourage consumption of natural and unprocessed produce as well as herbs</p>	<p>People aware of food values of natural foods and herbs</p> <p>Consumption of natural and unprocessed foods and herbs</p> <p>Improved nutritional and health status of people</p>	<p>AREX City Health Department Multi-stakeholder forum.</p>

<b>9. GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN UA</b>	9.1. Equitable provision of opportunities for UA among men, women and social classes.	9.2.1. To facilitate equitable opportunities for UA among social groups in terms of gender, social and HIV status in the 29 wards of Bulawayo.	9.3.1. Allocate land for UA equitably to men, women, elderly, disabled and those affected and infected by HIV/AIDS	Disadvantaged groups are given priority to land access	Ward Councillors, BCC, Multi-stakeholder forum
---	---	--	--	--	--