

We would like to receive your contributions or suggestions for the next issue of the UA-Magazine

NO. 21: LINKING RELIEF, REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT - A ROLE FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE? DECEMBER 2008

Please send us your contribution before: 1 October 2008

Natural disasters, political conflicts, wars and economic crises make it difficult for people to maintain their livelihoods and often result in people being forced to leave their homes. Many international refugees or internally displaced people have to remain for an extended period in refugee camps, or reside (often illegally) in and around cities. Under such conditions displaced people may improve their food security by establishing some form of agriculture, be it small-scale gardening on open spaces inside or outside camps or settlements, or by using non-soil bound forms of agriculture. Insecurity in the areas of origin may continue over many years. Refugee camps tend to gradually convert into "shanty towns" or become permanent settlements. And for diverse other reasons, part of the displaced persons does not return to their original "home" areas, and often seek new livelihood opportunities in and around cities.

In this issue of the UA-Magazine we will look into the role that urban agriculture can play in mitigating the effects of crisis situations and in rehabilitation and development following the crisis situations. The issue will also discuss how urban agriculture may contribute to building resilient cities.

Similarities exist between agriculture in refugee camp settings and urban and peri-urban agriculture in "normal" cities. Urban agriculture, with its emphasis on space confined technologies, use of composted organic wastes, rainwater harvesting and recycling of grey wastewater, may offer good options for provisioning fresh vegetables, eggs, dairy products and other perishables and generate some income. Moreover, gardening and animal husbandry activities may contribute to enhance the knowledge and skills of the refugees (which also may be of value when returning to their home area), and may play a role in building the new community and improving the living environment.

We are interested to receive your articles and well-documented experiences regarding agricultural activities after crisis situations in and around cities or in protracted refugee situations, for example:

- Case studies on initiatives of refugees to develop agriculture in refugee camps;
- Experiences gained by support organizations seeking to assist displaced persons to make the transition from relief and food aid to local development initiatives, including a food production component;
- Innovative technologies that have been developed or propagated in refugee camps, that optimally use the scarce local resources;
- Experiences gained with the social and organizational side of such programmes;
- Issues of planning; legal and regulatory issues.;
- The role of urban agriculture in building resilient cities and disaster/crisis prevention and mitigation.

Please clearly mention in your article where these experiences were gained, who the main actors were and the conditions under which the activities were developed.



20 Urban Agriculture magazine

Water for Urban Agriculture

ISSN 1571-6244
No. 20, September 2008

UA Magazine is published two 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, Portuguese, Chinese, and Arabic, and distributed in separate editions through the RUAF regional networks, and is also available on www.ruaf.org.

The RUAF Partners are

- *English-speaking West Africa:* International Water Management Institute, IWMI-Ghana; email: o.cofie@cgiar.org Website: www.iwmi.cgiar.org/africa/west_africa/projects/RUAFIL-CFF.htm
- *East and Southern Africa:* MDP Municipal Development Partnership (MDP); email: tmubvami@mdpafrica.org.zw; website: www.mdpafrica.org.zw/urban_agriculture.html
- *South and South East Asia:* International Water Management Institute, IWMI-India; email: r.simmons@cgiar.org Website: www.iwmi.cgiar.org/southasia/index.aspx?nc=9106&msid=19
- *Latin America:* IPES Promoción del Desarrollo Sostenible, Lima Peru; email: au@ipes.org.pe; Magazine in Spanish: www.ipes.org/au Magazine in Portuguese: www.ipes.org/au
- *French-speaking West Africa:* IAGU Institut Africain de Gestion Urbaine, Dakar, Senegal; email: moussa@iagu.org; Magazine in French: www.iagu.org/ruaf/ruafiagufr.php
- *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.cn
- *Coordination and Support:* ETC Foundation; email: ruaf@etcln.nl; Magazine in English: www.ruaf.org

Editors, No. 20

This issue was compiled by René van Veenhuizen (Responsible Editor), together with Olufunke Cofie of IWMI Ghana.

Web Editing, Events, and Books

Femke Hoekstra and René van Veenhuizen

Administration

Ellen Radstake

Language Editor

Catharina de Kat-Reynen

Design, Layout and Printing

Koninklijke BDU

Subscriptions

The editor: ruaf@etcln.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@etcln.nl website: www.ruaf.org

Issues of the UA-Magazine in 2009

The following issues will be produced in 2009 and your ideas and contributions of articles are already most welcome:

- No. 22: Linking Urban Producers to Markets; Chain development for urban agricultural products
- No. 23: Designing the Resilient City - What role will urban agriculture play?

Articles on urban agriculture should consist of maximum 2000 words (three pages), 1300 words (two pages), or 600 words (one page), preferably accompanied by an abstract, a maximum of 5 references, figures and digital images or photographs of good quality (more than 300 dpi or in jpg format more than 400 kb preferably). The articles should be written in a manner that is readily understood by a wide variety of stakeholders all over the world.