

# Integration of Agriculture in City Development in Dar Es Salaam

A number of forces have driven the mushrooming of urban farming and livestock keeping. In Dar Es Salaam. They include poverty; decreasing formal employment; proximity to markets; availability of services; government policy; culture (like livestock keeping as part of the culture) and non-enforcement of laws, regulations and by-laws.

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Cropproduction in a valley in Dar Es Salaam

In the Tanzanian context urban agriculture is commonly referred to as “farming activities in the built-up areas where open spaces are available as well as livestock keeping in the built-up and peri-urban areas”. Farming and livestock keeping in the city of Dar Es Salaam is undertaken either in the backyard, near homes, in vacant lots around the city, and in the peri-urban areas. Substantial farming takes place in the many valleys and swampy areas. Size of the plots increase as one moves away from the centre to the periphery, while intensification moves in the opposite direction. Crops include vegetables (spinach, cabbages, tomatoes etc.); fruits (papaya, oranges, quaver); paddy; maize; cassava; sweet potatoes; and bananas. Table 1 below shows the growth in animals kept in the city.

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Despite substantial growth, urban agriculture received very limited recognition from the authorities in the past ten years. Of late, professionals and politicians have realised that if urban agriculture is taken seriously and properly organised, it can be effective land management. The city of Dar Es Salaam further recognises the need to develop strategies that can enhance urban agriculture in order to ensure sustainable human development, in support of the Local Agenda 21 and the Habitat Agenda.

## INTEGRATION OF URBAN AGRICULTURE INTO URBAN PLANNING

In 1992 the city of Dar Es Salaam adopted the Environmental Planning and Management (EPM) Approach in the City Consultation. This new approach has been the engine of change in many aspects amongst others related to urban agriculture. Environmental Planning and Management advocates dialogue and participatory city planning. Under this new approach the city held a mini-con-

sultation in 1993 to deliberate on agriculture. In the consultation, stakeholders agreed that agriculture in the city contributed substantially (almost 30%) in household food supplies and that it had become integral part of urban livelihood strategies. A Working Group was formed to work out strategies for putting urban agriculture on the city agenda.

The National Human Settlements Policy states that; The Government Shall:

- ❖ Designate Special areas within planning areas whereby people will be granted legal rights to engage themselves in agricultural activities;
- ❖ Continue to regulate and research on the urban agriculture and will ensure that it does not disrupt planned urban development;
- ❖ Review existing laws to facilitate planned agriculture in the city;
- ❖ Facilitate the construction of appropriate infrastructure to mitigate/prevent land degradation, water pollution and health and safety hazards in areas whereby agriculture is permitted.

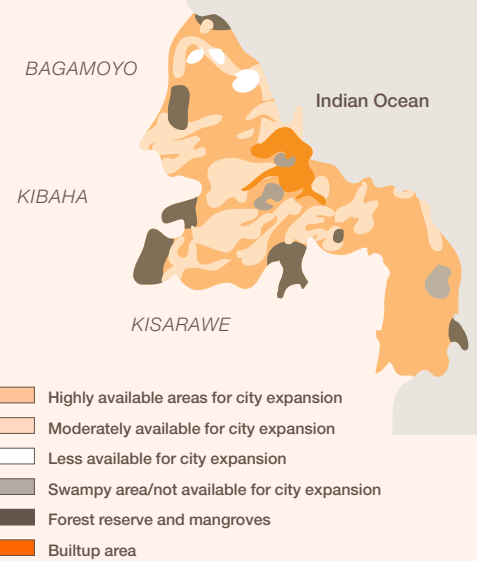
The Working Group included representatives from various segments of urban dwellers (the urban poor, men, youth and women groups); Village governments (especially in the peri-urban areas); various government ministries; institutions of higher learning; the Dar Es Salaam City Council Popular sector groups; NGOs and CBOs (both, within the city and active in urban villages). The size of the group depended on the issue being addressed. The Dar Es Salaam City Council was the co-ordinating institution and guided the operations in the urban context. Other members provided information and ideas from their respective localities. Conflicts of interest were minimum. The members knew failure to address interests of a section of city residents would be detrimental. Differences in opinion were managed in a participatory way.

The results of the whole process, from action plan preparation, implementation of demonstration projects and further integration of agriculture in the cities urban zonification was good. One of the

successful demonstrations is the Mbutu Agricultural project. Findings of the working group included results of these projects and were a basis of deciding where and to what extent agriculture can be practised in the city as reflected in the *Strategic Urban Development Plan (SUDP)*. In this plan, special land zones have been designated for agriculture (See *Map*) Ideas necessary for revising municipal by-laws and regulations were also worked out and a platform for co-ordination established and enhanced.

In Dar es Salaam UA has received attention on various policy levels and is accepted as a land use in the city. The SUDP also has deliberately set apart several areas to be used for large and medium scale urban agriculture in the future and gives corresponding development conditions. This is contrary to the earlier “zonification” where an area could only be considered for Agricultural activities while it awaited to be assigned other uses like residential or industrial areas. The major difference is that a Master Plan considered UA as a transitional land use

### Strategic Urban Development Plan Framework for Dar Es Salaam



whereas the SUDP considers it to be an important activity and has a very important contribution to its citizens.

Recognition of urban agriculture has contributed significantly to the quality and quantity of foodstuffs in the city, which in turn lowered prices, thus enhancing the purchasing power of the urban majority. A negative impact though, of agriculture in the city, is the uncontrolled growth, hindering efforts to develop land in a way that could benefit many citizens. With the decreasing

#### Mrs Mlambo presents

findings of the Sustainable Dar Es Salaam Project



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The Working Group applied the following steps (as part of the EPM Approach):

- ❖ Clarifying the issues to be addressed;
- ❖ Involving those whose cooperation is required;
- ❖ Setting priorities;
- ❖ Agreeing on priority issues
- ❖ Initiating and implementing demonstration projects in collaboration with respective institutions.
- ❖ Monitoring and evaluating progress and making periodic adjustments to WG proposals; and
- ❖ Providing input to the Strategic Urban Development Plan

### Special land zones have been designated for agriculture

number of jobs both in public and private sector, intra-urban and peri-urban agriculture calls for strengthened efforts to organise the activity.

Recognition is reflected in several laws and regulations, among them are the Agricultural and Livestock Policy (1997) and the National Human Settlements Development Policy (Jan 2000).

#### ACCESS TO LAND

Getting land in the city of Dar Es Salaam has always been difficult. The urban poor have consistently sold their land to the rich on the pretext that they do not have sufficient funds to develop it themselves. Through the Environmental Planning and Management Process, communities

**TABLE 1: Animals reared in Dar es Salaam City**

Year	Dairy cattle	Layers	Broilers	Local fowls	Ducks	Pigs	Goats
1985	3,318	221,920	146,205	88,720	4,900	6,795	1,361
1986	4,200	292,000	180,500	93,389	6,800	8,601	2,617
1987	5,278	390,000	194,500	98,304	8,100	10,454	3,820
1988	7,105	445,000	237,000	103,341	10,449	13,383	5,764
1989	8,597	551,800	282,083	108,508	13,479	15,658	8,531
1990	10,402	664,232	335,624	113,933	17,388	18,946	12,626
1991	12,586	824,448	399,393	119,630	22,431	22,925	18,686
1992	15,229	1,027,275	475,276	125,611	28,936	27,739	27,655
1993	18,286	1,225,392	565,579	131,891	37,327	33,564	40,930

are now aware that if they are empowered to better plan and manage their environment in a more coordinated manner, they can contain many of the problems they face.

To improve access to land the city authority is encouraging vertical expansion of buildings, to free some space in the built up areas and in potential areas for city expansion.

**CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

There is no one single way of organising urban agriculture, and success very much depends on adaptation to local conditions. In Dar Es Salaam, it is shown, that agriculture can be effectively integrated in Urban Land Use Plans. The city has integrated urban agriculture in urban planning through a bottom-up approach, under the Environment Planning and Management Process. Agriculture in the city is recognised as one of the land uses and an important informal opportunity for the unemployed population.

It is recommended that a thorough study to ascertain the potentials and limitations of urban agriculture be carried out. The results of this survey will be a basis for continued - informed - decision making, and to prevent detrimental effects to the residents and the environment. The shortage of affordable and reliable transport also needs due attention. Efforts to facilitate urban agriculture should incorporate elements to enhance low cost mobility, like bicycles, which will ease the work involved in distribution of the produce.

The approach piloted in the city of Dar Es Salaam has been widely accepted by the Ministry responsible for Land Development. The ongoing process to prepare other Strategic Urban Development Plans in the nine Municipalities with replication of the Environment Planning and Management Process provide evidence of its integration at national policy level. The Strategic Urban Development Plans will give due attention to urban agriculture.

**REFERENCES**

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**WORKSHOP ON URBAN AGRICULTURE**

*Dar es Salaam, 11-13 june 2001.*

This workshop, organised by the Urban Vegetable Promotion Project (UVPP) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and the University of Dar es Salaam, together with the Municipal Development Programme (MDP) based in Zimbabwe, under the RUAF Programme, looked at issues of planning and policy for urban agriculture, existing activities and initiatives as well as the communication, information and training needs of stakeholders. One important aim of the workshop was to close the gap between the policy makers and the practitioners at farm level. Representatives of the most important stakeholders were invited to the workshop, amongst others from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Lands, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), UVPP, The University of Dar es Salaam and Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in Morogoro and the University College of Lands & Architectural Studies (UCLAS). Next to presentations and working groups on special subjects mainly pertaining to the question of mainstreaming urban agriculture and the identification of a possible urban agriculture coordinating office, a small market was organised where some farmers displayed their products. One important conclusion was that urban agriculture should be seen as an urban management tool, another was that participatory techniques were necessary for the promotion of sustainable urban agriculture. Further information and the workshop proceedings may be obtained from [uvpp@africaonline.co.tz](mailto:uvpp@africaonline.co.tz) or from [ruaf@etcnl.nl](mailto:ruaf@etcnl.nl).

**A homegarden**



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