

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### AGRICULTURE PÉRIURBAINE EN AFRIQUE SUBSAHARIENNE

Moustier P, Mbaye A, De Bon H, Guérin H & Pages J (eds). 1999. *Actes de l'atelier international 20-24 avril 1998, Montpellier, France. CIRAD, CORAF.*

These are conference proceedings, providing a state-of-the-art overview of periurban agriculture and horticulture in sub-Saharan Africa. This important publication highlights the wide array of agricultural activities in and around cities in Africa and the crucial place these activities occupy in the informal economy of African states. After a general introduction defining periurban agriculture and setting its limits, numerous case studies are presented, grouped according to ecozone (humid tropical and soudano-sahelian). (WB)

### THE ROLE OF URBAN AND PERIURBAN AGRICULTURE IN METROPOLITAN CITY MANAGEMENT IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: A CASE STUDY OF DELHI

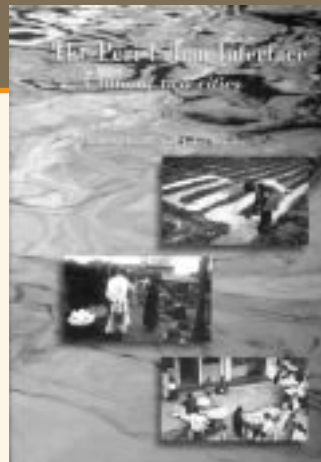
National Institute of Urban Affairs. 2000. *Research Study Series No. 74. New Delhi: NIUA. <http://www.niua.org/publicationlist/index.html> (Rs. 250; US\$20).*

This study developed from earlier collaboration under the British DFID project on policy implications of air pollution on urban and periurban areas in developing countries. Its main concern is the contribution of urban agriculture to the national capital area of Delhi in India. After a general discussion of urban agriculture, there is a review of the policy orientation and planning provisions of the Government of India that impinge on urban agricultural practices. The case study of Delhi is described as a 'cursory review.' It gives a considerable amount of information about Delhi from official sources, and the characteristics of the periurban area or rural-urban fringe. The study tries to understand the concept and characteristics of urban agriculture, it reviews the policies that might influence such developments, studies the importance given to urban agriculture in both city development and urban environmental management and estimates its potential role in sustainable urban development. Among the conclusions: urban agriculture is important but there is no clear responsibility for these varied activities in the capital area, and planning does not yet address the issue from the standpoint of the urban poor. (C. Furedy)

### WASTE COMPOSTING FOR URBAN AND PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE: CLOSING THE RURAL - URBAN NUTRIENT CYCLE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Drechsel P & Kunze D (eds). 2001. *Co-published by CABI, UK, the International Board for Soil Research and Management (IBSRAM) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. ISBN 0 85199 548 9. approx. 200 pages.*

Rapid urbanisation has created a major challenge with regard to waste management and environmental protection. However, the problem can be improved by turning organic waste into compost for use as an agricultural fertiliser in (peri)urban areas. The forthcoming (May/June 2001) CABI hardcover book provides an African perspective on potentials and constraints of urban waste recycling for soil amelioration (and integrated pest management), as well as on urban and periurban farming systems as beneficiaries. Most of the papers in this publication stem from an IBSRAM - FAO workshop held in Ghana in August 1999, with authors from several European as well as African countries, representing various disciplines. Subjects in this book include: the potential use of waste-stream products for soil amelioration; economic, sociocultural and environmental considerations; turning urban waste into fertiliser; modelling urban and periurban biomass and nutrient flows; international support and capacity building in Africa. (Pay Drechsel)



### THE PERI-URBAN INTERFACE, A TALE OF TWO CITIES

Brook RM & Dávila JD (eds). 2000. *London: School of Agricultural and Forest Sciences, University of Wales and Developing Planning Unit, University College London. 251 pp.*

This publication is written in the framework of research conducted by the Natural Resource Systems Programme of the UK Department for International Development (DFID) on natural resources in the 'peri-urban interface'. It describes research conducted in two city-regions: Kumasi, Ghana, and Hubli-Dharwad, India - both medium-sized cities and well known in the world of urban agriculture. In six chapters, the nature of the periurban interfaces of the two cities is described. In a historical overview, the spatial and institutional setting is explained, after which an exhaustive comparison is made between the national development of India and Ghana, and between the two cities. Spatial, human and economic developments are described, but also the institutional framework under which the periurban interface has developed in recent years, as well as the decision-making processes that are likely to shape the future of the interface. The resource base of the two cities is examined considering cropping and livestock systems, and soil, water and waste management, and how the urbanisation process has affected these. A most interesting and well-documented chapter is the discussion on the livelihood strategies of poor households, in which the sustainable-livelihoods framework dominates. Although the use of this framework does not lead to clear conclusions, and appears difficult at the (macro-) institutional level (as is acknowledged: "the framework was not at the base of the research programme"), the authors manage to capture the dynamics of livelihoods in periurban areas. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) also play an important role in the research conducted by the NRS programme and receive much attention in this publication. In a final chapter, the strength of this tool for planning and analysis in a rapidly changing environment is clearly demonstrated, notably for the case of Kumasi. (WB)

### DIE WIEDERKEHR DER GAERTEN: KLEINLANDWIRTSCHAFT IM ZEITALTER DER GLOBALISIERUNG

*(The return of the gardens : small-scale agriculture in the era of globalisation) Meyer-Renschhausen E & Holl A*

(eds). 2000. *Innsbruck : Studien-Verlag. ISBN 3 7065 1534 2. 229 pp.* (in German)  
 City dwellers become increasingly involved in producing vegetables and fruit, rather than consuming commercially produced food. The reasons strongly vary, however, from sheer necessity in many Eastern European and developing countries, to a reaction against unhealthy commercial products, and the benefits of a relaxed pastime for urban citizens suffering from high stress. A number of chapters in this book were originally presented at the International Symposium on Urban Agriculture and Horticulture: the Linkage with Urban Planning, held in Berlin in July 2000. Cases described are from Western Europe - Germany in particular, Eastern Europe, the USA and from developing countries. Many different aspects are described, ranging from the land use issues that never fail to come up in these cases, to community development and descriptions of gardening systems, like the chinampas near Mexico City. Interestingly, a number of projects are analysed that were unsuccessful in involving the beneficiaries. Invariably, these projects did not take traditional production and consumption patterns enough into account. This is an important warning not to automatically paint a rosy picture of urban gardening. (WB)

## GOOD GOVERNANCE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN NAIROBI

*Lee Smith D & Lamba D. 1998. Nairobi: Mazingira Institute, Kenya.*

This 40-page booklet, which is a study for the background report of the World Report on the Urban Future 21, gives a good historical overview and description of the development of Nairobi and its governance. It puts the situation of agriculture in its wider context of urban planning and policy-making, forcing urban agriculturists to look at the institutional structure and governance of the city, and to perhaps understand the problems planners might face. (RvV)

## URBAN AGRICULTURE & MICROFARMING, ISSUE 01, JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2001

This is the first issue of the magazine, published by TUAN Western Pacific and edited by its executive director, Geoff Wilson. The first issues are available as free inserts in "Practical Hydroponics and Greenhouses". The Magazine seems to be geared towards practicality, focusing on those practising, or interested to start, agriculture in a confined urban space and having a clear business orientation. The first issue features Singapore as an example of a city with well-advanced urban agriculture. (RvV)

<http://www.lboro.ac.uk/well/> This site, on Water and Environmental Health, is managed by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and the Water, Engineering and Development Centre, Loughborough University, and further supported by a network of collaborating institutions. WELL is a resource centre promoting environmental health and well-being in developing and transitional countries.

<http://csdinfo2.liv.ac.uk/~mhb/> This site, on Health Impact Assessment, is maintained by Martin Birley, and is a combined initiative of the International Centre for Health Impact Assessment of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and the UK Department of Health. It has a UK focus, but has weblinks to HIA sources from other countries. It has some downloadable texts and is a good source for those looking for more information on the subject.

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/~mhb/publicat/hmsocov.html> At this site, you can download the book 'Health Impact Assessment of Development Projects' by MH Birley (1995).

<http://www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/agricult/ags/agsm/sada/asia/index.htm> The report and papers of the regional seminar on Feeding Asian Cities, held in Bangkok on 27-30 November 2000, can be found here. This seminar was organised by the FAO, the Association of Food Marketing Agencies (AFMA), and CITYNET, in collaboration with the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA).

<http://www.who.int/> This is the homepage of the World Health Organization, with the full list of WHO publications available at <http://www.who.int/dsa/cat97/ztrs.htm> (for instance the often quoted in this issue #778 Health Guidelines for the Use of Wastewater in Agriculture and Aquaculture, 1989). It further provides a good overview on other health-related topics.

<http://puvep.webjump.com> This site is home to the Urban and Periurban Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Development for Sustainable Vegetable Production and Marketing Systems (PUVeP). It contains summarised information on a research project on periurban vegetable production, consumption and marketing in Cagayan de Oro (Philippines), Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) and Vientiane (Laos).

<http://www.ias.unu.edu/proceedings/icibs/ibs/ibsnnet/> The Integrated Bio-Systems Network is a "network of people, connected via Internet, for forum and co-operation in the applications of integrated bio-systems in agriculture, industry, forestry and habitat." This "News-Portal" type of website is managed by UNESCO's Microbial Resources Centre in Stockholm.

[http://www.worldbank.org/html/fpd/urban/solid\\_wm/swm\\_body.htm#support](http://www.worldbank.org/html/fpd/urban/solid_wm/swm_body.htm#support) The Urban Waste Management Thematic Group of the World Bank site gives references to publications, and short discussions on topics like institutional arrangements, private sector participation and environmental management.

<http://www.gdrc.org/uem/> This site, called Urban Environmental Management, is maintained by the Global Development Research Centre. A comprehensive site, which includes names of mailing lists related to urban development, references, an agenda of events, networks, links and statistics. Related to this issue of the magazine are waste and water management, and impact assessments.

<http://habitat.aq.upm.es/boletin> The Spanish habitat site including the virtual library "Cities for a Sustainable Future" (*Ciudades para un futuro más sostenible*)