

NEW PUBLICATIONS on Urban Agriculture



You will find here a selection of recent publications on urban agriculture.

A bibliography on urban agriculture, partly annotated, can be found at www.ruaf.org. Please send information on new publications to us.

The next issue will focus on Urban Health. Suggestions and descriptions of related books and articles, are welcome and can be sent to the editor.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION ON OPEN SPACES IN DAR ES SALAAM: SPATIAL CHANGES FROM 1992 TO 1999

Dongus, Stefan. 2000.

Urban Vegetable Promotion Project : Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoA&C) and Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ). 32, 12 p.

This paper can be found at

<http://www.cityfarmer.org/daressalaam.html>

Until recently only estimates have been available about the extent of agricultural open spaces in the urban areas of Dar Es Salaam. The author describes the results of a research project, in which an interesting method was developed using existing maps, other information and Geographical Information Systems (GIS), to assist planners and to provide decision-makers with more accurate data. Aerial photographs dating from 1992 were analysed to identify productive open spaces. The results of this exercise were used as a base for field visits to compare the size and current use. The results then were processed using Geographical Information Systems (GIS), to finally present a full inventory of agricultural open spaces including location and size for planning purposes (RvV).

FOOD PRODUCTION IN URBAN AREAS

Kwaku Obosu-Mensah. 1999

University of Toronto, Canada. 246 pages. Ordered at Ashgate, www.ashgate.com or info@ashgate.com.

This book explores the emergence of contemporary urban agriculture as well as official attitudes towards it. Using three theoretical models, the author explains which group in Accra, Ghana is more likely to become involved in urban agriculture. In line with this, he explains why, contrary to expectations, in Ghana there are more males than females involved in urban agriculture. The author also addresses issues such as the influence of social inequality and the effects of social networks on urban agriculture. Furthermore, he identifies the problems urban cultivators encounter as city farmers and how they cope with such problems. Finally the author predicts the future trend.

FARMING INSIDE CITIES: ENTREPRENEURIAL URBAN AGRICULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES

Kaufman, J. and M. Bailkey. 2000

Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The report investigates the nature and characteristics of 'for-market-city-farming', obstacles to such activities, and ways of overcoming these obstacles. It also offers proponents of urban agriculture suggestions for advancing the cause of city farming in environments where many are either uninformed of the multiple benefits of entrepreneurial urban agriculture disinterested, or sceptical about its durability and longer lasting significance. It describes 70 entrepreneurial urban agriculture projects in cities in the USA, of which 25 are described in detail. Cases in Chicago, Boston and Philadelphia are presented in which the obstacles to entrepreneurial urban agriculture, or 'for-market-city-farming', and ways to overcome this are discussed. The study found both supporters and critics of entrepreneurial urban agriculture. Obstacles to such activities were identified from the interviews conducted. These are discussed under four broad categories - site-related, government-related, procedure-related and perception-related. Among the more prominent obstacles mentioned were site contamination, site vandalism, government and non-profit community development group scepticism, inadequate financing, and staffing problems. Ways of overcoming these obstacles are discussed, based on the possibility that governments at all levels, local and national philanthropic foundations, and community development corporations can offer stronger support for entrepreneurial urban agriculture. Actions are presented that specific groups could initiate to be more proactive towards the nascent movement of for-market urban agriculture (abstract by authors).

ANALYSING FOOD SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS OF CITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. METHODOLOGICAL AND OPERATIONAL GUIDE

Aragrande, M. and Agenti, O: Food into Cities Collection (DT/36-99E), FAO, Rome. It is also available in French and will soon also be available in Spanish.

This document can be freely downloaded from the website:

<http://www.fao.org/ag/ags/agsm/sada/pages/dt/dt3699e.htm>

It is estimated that by 2025, between 60 and 85 per cent of the population of developing countries will be concentrated in cities. Urbanisation brings changes in consumption patterns and urban consumers' location. The problem is that the food supply and distribution systems in cities are often poorly organized and inefficient. The situation with regard to food availability and accessibility in cities is growing alarmingly, mainly as a result of increasing poverty levels. The challenge is to improve the efficiency and dynamism of food supply and distribution systems, bearing in mind that the rapidity with which the problems arise and grow calls for quick, effective and concerted action. This guide is aimed at researchers, technicians and administrators concerned with the food security of urban populations. It proposes an interdisciplinary approach.

ach to the analysis of complex food supply and distribution systems, the identification of their present and expected constraints as well as sustainable solutions, and shows how this approach can be used in practical terms. The guide also deals with the preparation of a case study and ends with a framework for formulating urban FSD policies, strategies and action plans. (FAO).

URBAN LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN GREATER ACCRA, GHANA

Maxwell, Daniel et al. 2000. IFPRI Research Report no. 112. 172 p. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), 2033 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006-1002, USA

This report is the outcome of the Accra Urban Food and Nutrition Study, a collaborative effort of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Noguchi Memorial Institute of Medical Research in Accra, and the World Health Organization. It examines the nature of urban poverty and how it relates to food insecurity and malnutrition in Accra, Ghana, especially among children. By exploring the major determinants of food security and nutritional status, it develops indicators that are appropriate in an urban context, identifies vulnerable groups within the city, and suggests policies and programmes to improve the lives of the urban poor. With regard to the importance of urban agriculture in food security strategies of the poor in Accra, the authors found it to be less important than in some other African cities, but it is of critical importance in the peri-urban areas around the city. Agriculture as a source of livelihood is increasingly vulnerable as the city physically expands, destroying farmland. Street vendors in Accra play an important role in food distribution: their role should be acknowledged by city authorities. This major study has important consequences for policy making: governments have to accept the fact that urban poverty is real and must be addressed, especially where vulnerable groups, such as female-headed households, are concerned. (WB - adapted from the original summary).

URBAN FORESTRY IN EUROPE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CONCEPTS, POLICIES AND PLANNING FOR FOREST CONSERVATION, MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN AND AROUND MAJOR EUROPEAN CITIES

Konijnendijk, Cecil C. 1999. University of Joensuu Research Notes no. 90. 182 p. Faculty of Forestry, University of Joensuu, Finland

Analyses the role of urban forestry in and around 16 cities in 9 European countries, focusing on the conservation, management and development of forests as a central element of urban green structures. There is an interesting section on the emergence of urban forestry in and around cities, revealing the close relationship that always existed between city inhabitants and local forests. The author presents a typology of urban forests setting these apart from forestry at large, by highlighting ownership, location and level of recreational facilities, the latter overriding their importance for wood production. The study specifically examines the existing variety in concepts, policies, programmes, plans, processes, networks of actors, conflicts and problems related to urban forests. The rapidly changing and often conflicting demands on urban forestry in Europe place considerable pressure on urban forest planners and managers. To meet these challenges, the author argues, an innovative mix of policy and management approaches is required, including an emphasis on extension and social participation. (WB - adapted from original summary)

BRIEFING GUIDE FOR MAYORS, CITY EXECUTIVES AND URBAN PLANNERS – FOOD FOR THE CITIES. FOOD SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION POLICIES TO REDUCE URBAN FOOD INSECURITY

FAO (2000): *Food into Cities Collection (DT/43-00E)*, FAO, Rome

Also available in French, Spanish and Arabic and can be freely downloaded from the website:

<http://www.fao.org/ag/ags/AGSM/SADA/pages/dt/dt4300e.htm>

This guide is intended to brief mayors, city executives and urban planners, including specialists in food production, market development, public health, environment, forestry and agroforestry on the compelling need for food supply and distribution policies and programmes. These would lower the cost of access to food for low-income households in their cities and stimulate private investment. It reviews the role of city and local authorities in food supply and distribution at regional, metropolitan, urban and local level and outlines the key steps for the formulation, implementation and monitoring of required interventions. This guide stresses the need for a proper understanding of local conditions, an interdisciplinary, intersectoral and participatory approach to finding sustainable solutions, forecasting urban food security and collaboration between institutions and organizations. The direct involvement of the private sector is essential for sustainable planning decisions. (FAO).

ACHIEVING FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Garrett, James L.; Ruel, Marie T. (eds). 2000. 2020 Vision, Focus 3

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), 2033 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006-1002, USA. Collection of 10 loose sheets.

If you would like to receive a hardcopy of the collection of briefs, contact Jenna Kryszczun at j.kryszczun@cgiar.org.

A collection of ten 2-page policy briefs on a number of hot topics in connection with urban food security, presented in a convenient format. A few figures to map the importance and timeliness of this topic: by 2020, the number of people living in developing countries will grow from 4.9 billion to 6.8 billion. Ninety percent of this increase will be in rapidly expanding cities and towns. More than half of the population of Africa and Asia will live in urban areas by 2020. More than three-quarters of Latin Americans already do. This rural-urban migration will go hand-in-hand with a growth in urban poverty and urban food insecurity, as is already apparent from the increase in the urban proportion of malnourished children. (WB)

URBAN FARMERS IN NAKURU, KENYA

Foeken, D. W.J. and S.O. Owuor. 2000. *ASC Working Paper 45/2000. Afrika Studie Centrum, Leiden The Netherlands and Centre for Urban Research, Univeristy of Nairobi, Kenya.*

This report, on which an article in this Magazine is based, contains the result of a general survey, carried out in 1999, on farming practices performed by the inhabitants of Nakuru Town. The survey is the first part of a larger research project on farming by urban dwellers in Nakuru. Major objectives were to collect basic data on farming and provide the Municipality of Nakuru with adequate information. (Abstract from the publication.)

LIVESTOCK AND THE ENVIRONMENT : FINDING A BALANCE

Haan, Cees (de); Steinfeld, Henning; Blackburn, Harvey 1997. 115 p. *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United States Agency for International Development; World Bank*

This report, and the accompanying booklet, list findings of a multi-donor study co-ordinated by the FAO on livestock-environment interactions conducted between 1994 and 1996. Within the framework of the study, a number of activities were launched dealing with information gathering and exchange focusing on environmental hotspots, and with the provision of decision-making support. (WB)

UNRULY URBANISATION ON DELHI'S FRINGE : CHANGING PATTERNS OF LAND USE AND LIVELIHOOD

Bentink, Johan. 2000 190 p. *Netherlands Geographical Studies. ISBN 90-367-1260-2. ISSN 0169-4839.*

This thesis discusses changes in land use, the actors related to the land use, the changing employment and income situation for the village residents and the quality of the living environment. The influence of the incorporation of villages in the city is demonstrated through a case study. The strong dynamics of the land use pattern are characteristic of the rural urban fringes of metropolises such as Delhi. (NB)

FARMING IN THE CITY OF NAIROBI

Dick Foeken & Alice M. Mwangi. 1998. *Leiden: African Studies Centre, ASC Working Paper 30. Also available on the website of the African Studies Centre (<http://asc.leidenuniv.nl>)*

An overview of urban agriculture in Nairobi, based on all the studies that have been carried out to date (45 pp).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS on Urban Livestock

PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE OF URBAN LIVESTOCK PROJECTS

Meares Cohen, Alison. 1999. In: *For hunger-proof cities : sustainable urban food systems / Mustafa Koc, Rod MacRae, Luc JA Mugeot and Jennifer Welsh (eds), p. 90-94. ISBN 0-88936-882-1 : CAD 35.00. International Development Research Center (IDRC), PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9*

Promoting urban agriculture is an important means of ensuring sustainability of regional community food security and human settlements. Too often the focus is exclusively on technology and agricultural production methods. In its urban animal-agriculture initiative in Chicago, Heifer Project International promotes a method of participatory development that enables low-income neighbourhood groups to reach beyond the goals of beautification and environmental improvement and become a vehicle for social and economic development in their communities. The elements of this model include the interdependence of the landscape and lifescape, full participation of intended beneficiaries, values-based planning, and "passing on the gift". When approached as a vehicle for community development, urban agriculture can bring multiple benefits: economic benefits, by providing opportunities to earn income; educational benefits, by teaching technical and job skills; environmental benefits, and, finally, empowerment. (Abstract adapted from original)

PERI-URBAN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION SYSTEMS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Smith, O.B., and E.A. Olaloku, 1999. *IDRC, Dakar, Senegal, ILRI, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. http://www.idrc.ca/cfp/rep24_e.html*

This paper presents statistics that demonstrate the importance of the currently expanding urban and peri-urban livestock production sector. It suggests that the observed growth is a response to market demands arising from rapid urbanization. A variety of urban and peri-urban livestock production systems are described, and technical, institutional and policy related constraints responsible for the less than optimum performance of the systems as well as opportunities for alleviating the constraints are reviewed. The authors conclude that the many peri-urban livestock production systems contribute substantially to meeting the specialised food requirements of city dwellers, and have the potential to contribute to meeting national food security goals. (IDRC)

LIVING WITH LIVESTOCK IN TOWN: URBAN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND HUMAN WELFARE

Waters-Bayer, Ann 1995. 9 p. *ETC International, PO Box 64, 3830 AB Leusden, the Netherlands*

Small-scale raising of animals by families inside cities is often ignored or even forbidden. However, urban livestock keeping is more widespread than most city authorities would like to admit. It consists mainly of low-input production of poultry, small ruminants, pigs, rabbits, guinea pigs or milk buffalo or cattle, usually indigenous breeds. With deteriorating economic conditions and rapid urbanization, small-scale urban farming, including animal husbandry, is being practised by a growing number of families in all income groups in the tropics. An indication of growth trends, a classification of the various types of

livestock systems and an outline of the functions of livestock for urban dwellers and for cities as a whole are presented, as well as problems associated with urban livestock. Lastly, suggestions for action to improve animal husbandry and human welfare in cities to be taken by government and development agencies are provided. (NB - abstract adapted from original)

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN PERI-URBAN AREAS OF AFRICA: an analysis of Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Shinyanga, Tanzania

Sumberg, James. 1996. 79 p. Overseas Development Group, School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, UK

Describes and characterises livestock production in and around urban areas in Tanzania, focusing specifically on dairy, broiler and egg production. Contains a bibliography with nearly 450 references. The enclosed paper critically examines the large number of publications extolling virtues of urban agriculture for urban food security and poverty reduction. The authors stress the importance of rural-urban linkages in resource and output markets. At the same time, they issue a warning against attaching exaggerated weight to the contribution of urban farming to food security of the majority of urban dwellers. Very detailed, very sound and very complete. (WB)

SUBURBAN LIVESTOCK REARING BY SMALLHOLDERS IN THE BACKYARDS OF XOCHIMILCO in the south-east of Mexico City as an important strategy for sustainable urban agriculture

Losada, Hermenegildo [et al.] 1999. <http://www.cityfarmer.org/livestock.html>, 8 p. Department of Biology of Reproduction, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Iztapalapa, Mexico

Describes backyard poultry and pig keeping in the suburban area of Xochimilco, Mexico City. Motives for rearing animals are mainly subsistence and money saving for emergency expenses. In the case of pig raising this is also done to supplement the household budget. Animal feed is based on household waste, stale tortilla, alfalfa and other feeds. The number of pigs kept ranges from 1-5 and the number of chickens from 1-50. (NB)

PERI-URBAN LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS; PROBLEMS, APPROACHES AND OPPORTUNITIES

J.B.Schiere, Ventana Agricultural Systems A&D. FAO (Rome) and International Agricultural Centre (IAC). Wageningen. The Netherlands

Some ten years ago the FAO saw the need to base livestock development on differences between production systems. One such a system was the peri-urban livestock system and case studies were commissioned in places ranging from Ho-Chi-Minh City, via Karachi and Dar-Es-Salaam to Quito and Mexico City. This report reviews information from those case studies, additional references and interviews with consultants. It suggests ways to classify the systems and their problems, it explains the rationale behind peri-urban livestock systems and it distinguishes between so-called linear and non-linear approaches to deal with the issues. Linear approaches focus on "average" solutions and disciplinary concerns (public health, efficient meat production, direct quality control of the produce etc.). Non-linear approaches stress variation between stakeholders and production systems, as well as the multiple goals of livestock, particularly in small systems. The report stresses that many simple technologies are available for the benefit of urban livestock keepers and that small- to medium-scale systems are likely to be important in urban agriculture for some time to come. Setting of policies and priorities in urban livestock development for the long term has to recognise differences between systems and a broader function of livestock than only for food production. (Abstract by the author)

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN PERI-URBAN URBAN AND DENSELY SETTLED RURAL AREAS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA : A BIBLIOGRAPHY

Scott, James; Okali, Christine 1993. Natural Resources Institute (NRI), Central Avenue, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4TB, UK

Contains 45 annotated references ranging from studies of particular livestock enterprises and comparative studies of the involvement of different pastoral groups in markets to historical and systems studies of urban centres and their hinterlands. The aim was to identify research needs of particular types of livestock systems. (WB)

URBANISATION: VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH CONSEQUENCES. PROGRAMME AND ABSTRACTS OF THE 7TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE TROPICAL ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION GROUP

Edited by J.H.A. de Gooijer and R.W. Paling. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. Utrecht. The Netherlands.

This symposium was organised at least a few years before the present surge regarding the role of livestock in urban food production. The papers show, however, that the concern about animal and human health aspects of livestock around human settlements is not new. In that, predominantly veterinarian, tradition the emphasis of the publication is very much on technical aspects regarding epidemiology of diseases and parasites that occur between men and animals. The range of topics includes issues such as the use of various animal products and installation of slaughterhouses. Little information is given however, on the organisational and institutional aspects of these issues. Still, the booklet provides a nice introduction to the more general issues regarding veterinary and human health aspects in urban agriculture. (JBS)

THE CATTLE OF CHITUNGWIZA : CONFLICTS ON THE RURAL-URBAN FRINGE

Mbiba, Beacon M (1994). In: ILEIA Newsletter vol. 10 no. 4 (December 1994) p. 22-23. Mexico City : DDF. Department of Rural and Urban Planning, University of Zimbabwe, PO Box MP 167, Harare, Zimbabwe

Expanding cities are engulfing farmland without providing alternative land for the displaced rural people, often peasants without land titles. Herders continue to use the spaces not yet built on, the "city commons", but many residents do not appreciate the presence of cattle. Beacon Mbiba looks at this potentially conflictual situation in urban Zimbabwe. (ILEIA)