

WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES USED IN URBAN AGRICULTURE

December 6 and 7 2000, Dakar, Senegal

The workshop was organised by the IAGU (l'Institut Africain de Gestion Urbaine) and RFAU/ AOC, and financed by IDRC. NGO's from seven countries participated; Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal. The objective of the workshop was to exchange information on research methodologies used in urban agriculture and assess their applicability.

Information can be obtained with IAGU, Tel: +221 824 44 24; Fax: +221 825 08 26; e-mail : iagurps@enda.sn

POLITICAL ECONOMY OF URBAN AGRICULTURE

Bronte Hotel, Harare, Zimbabwe, February 28 - March 2, 2001

This event was organised by the Municipal Development Programme for Eastern and Southern Africa (MDP-ESA) in collaboration with the IDRC. The purpose of the workshop was to get insight into the priorities in Eastern and Southern

Africa on the political economy of urban agriculture.

Understanding these processes can assist in establishing political processes and institutions, which enable stakeholders to resolve potential conflicts over access to resources.

More information:

Mr Shingirayi Mushamba, Tel: +263.4.724356/774385; Fax: +263.4.774387; e-mail: region@mdpesa.co.zw ; website: www.mdpesa.co.zw

INFORMAL PERIURBAN IRRIGATION: OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Kumasi, Ghana, 7-9 March, 2001

This workshop aimed to provide a forum to share observations, field experiences and findings from research into irrigated agriculture in urban and periurban settings. The focus of the workshop was to understand the extent and importance of irrigation as providing a viable livelihood within urban and periurban environments. The question of potential health risks associated with water quality and what actions might be taken was

also raised. For more details, contact: Prof. Kasim Kasanga, Institute of Land Management & Development, UST, Kumasi (51 60454) or Gez Cornish, HR Wallingford, UK, Fax + 44 (0)1491 826352, e-mail: g.cornish@hrwallingford.co.uk

SECOND INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON HYDROPONICS

Toluca, Estado de México, 26-28 April, 2001

More information on this event can be found at http:

//www.hidroponia.org.mx (in Spanish)

TENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF INSTITUTIONS FOR TROPICAL VETERINARY MEDICINE (AITVM)

Copenhagen, Denmark, August 20-24, 2001

The AITVM aims at an improvement of human health and quality of life by means of increased and safe food production in tropical regions, through the enhancement of research, training and education in veterinary medicine and livestock production, within the framework of sustainable development. The 10th International Conference will address the theme: "Livestock, Community and Environment". The workshops will cover topics such as: livestock-environment interactions and their impact on human health and animal health/reproduction; periurban animal production systems - opportunities and environmental constraints; and veterinary public health: aspects of zoonoses and food quality.

More information on registration can be found at www.aitvm.org. AITVM Conference Secretariat: The Danish Centre for Experimental Parasitology

CGIAR SYSTEM-WIDE INITIATIVE ON MALARIA AND AGRICULTURE (SIMA) A CALL FOR RESEARCH PARTNERS

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) co-ordinates the CGIAR System-wide Initiative on Malaria and Agriculture (SIMA). The basis for the initiative is the need to better understand the important links that exist between agriculture and malaria, a disease that has been responsible for untold human suffering, especially in Africa. As a first step in the exploratory process for SIMA, IWMI researchers in the Health and Environment Programme developed a summary of highlights on the links between malaria and agriculture. The target audience includes national and international research institutions, universities, non-governmental organisations, communities in malaria-prone areas, the private sector and donor organisations. A first key stakeholder-planning meeting will be held in April 2001, in Nairobi, Kenya, in order to constitute a steering committee for SIMA, to discuss available knowledge on the links between malaria and agriculture, to review current or proposed research related to malaria and agriculture, to determine research directions and needs, and to propose partnerships to address these needs.

In preparation for the April 2001 SIMA consultation, an e-discussion has been initiated to facilitate dialogue among a wide audience. The e-discussion will run until 15 March 2001, when various contributions will be synthesised and compiled into a report to be discussed during the April meeting in Nairobi.

SIMA Co-ordinator: Dr. Clifford Mutero, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), C/o ICRAF, Nairobi, e-mail c.mutero@cgiar.org

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Ridebanevej 3, DK-1870 Frederiksberg Denmark; Phone: +45 35282785; Fax: +45 35282774.

LATIN AMERICAN RESEARCH NETWORK ON URBAN AGRICULTURE: RED AGUILA

AGUILA is a network of Latin American and Caribbean institutes and organisations working on urban agriculture. It was founded in 1995 in La Paz, Bolivia, and currently counts more than 45 members from 18 countries. The mission of AGUILA is to unite and articulate the activities of its members by means of research, communication and information exchange, training and co-operation. Its activities comprise:

- ❖ translation of the Urban Agriculture Magazine into Spanish;
- ❖ setting up of and maintenance of databases and a website;
- ❖ publication of two-monthly

electronic Bulletins;

- ❖ implementation of several regional projects on Urban Agriculture; and
- ❖ organisation of regional events for exchanges. Since January 2001, the Secretariat of AGUILA is managed by the Institute for Promotion of Social economy (IPES), located in Lima, Peru. IPES/AGUILA and the Urban Management Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (UMP-LAC/UNCHS-HABITAT/-UNDP) and its City Working Group on Urban Agriculture (see Magazine no. 1) serve as the Regional Focal point for RUAF. For further information, e-mail: aguila@ipes.org.pe

FOURTH MEETING ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE Havana, Cuba, 17-19 May, 2001

This meeting is being organised by ACTAF (*Asociación Cubana de Técnicos Agrícolas y Forestales*) and the Organic Agriculture Group of Cuba. The main objective of this meeting is to discuss progress

AGROPOLIS IN THREE LANGUAGES

Agropolis is the research and training awards programme, co-ordinated and led by the IDRC on behalf of the Support Group on Urban Agriculture (SGUA). Agropolis supports innovative Masters' and Doctoral research in urban agriculture around the world. Each award covers field research expenses of up to CA\$ 20,000 for the period of the research (between 3 and 12 months).

The deadline for applying for 2002 awards is December 31, 2001.

Agropolis now has its own homepage in three languages. Please link to:

<http://www.idrc.ca/cfp/agrhome.html> for English

<http://www.idrc.ca/cfp/fagrhome.html> for French

<http://www.idrc.ca/cfp/sagrhome.html> for Spanish

made on organic agriculture in rural and urban areas. Among the main themes for discussion is urban agriculture.

Information can be obtained from the *Secretario Ejecutivo IV Encuentro de Agricultura Orgánica*. ACTAF, Ciudad de la Habana, Cuba. Telephone +537.845266 Fax: +537.845387; E-mail: actaf@minag.gov.cu

REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON URBAN AGRICULTURE

The "Cities Feeding People Programme" of the International Development and Research Centre (IDRC-Canada) is collaborating with UMP-LAC/UNCHS-Habitat and its anchoring institute IPES in the development and implementation of the first Regional Training Course on Urban Agriculture. Specific support to the project will also be provided by ETC-RUAF, NRI-UK and the FAO. The course will be held in November in Quito-Ecuador, and will allow twenty (20) municipal staff members, researchers, NGO professionals, and representatives of producer or marketing organisations to discuss and evaluate together proposals for action-research and concrete intervention in urban agriculture, so as to influence planning and management of their cities.

The project foresees the development and production of six training manuals, and an interactive CD-ROM.

More information: Marielle Dubbeling, Urban Management Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (UMP-LAC/IPES). E-mail: marid@pgu.ecuanex.net.ec

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL BY 2020: FROM DIALOGUE TO ACTION

International Congress Centre of the Federal Parliament, Bonn, Germany, September 4-6, 2001

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) will, in close collaboration with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ), organise this event.

The conference takes stock of the current situation, reviews progress in achieving sustainable food security since the first 2020 Vision conference in 1995, and offers state-of-the-art projections for scenarios in 2020. The Congress will focus on the emerging issues that are most likely to affect the global goal of achieving sustainable food security for all by the year 2020, and to prioritise actions. For more information and registration: www.ifpri.org/2020conference

THE AGRICULTURE-URBANISATION INTERFACE IN COASTAL LEBANON AND IN THE MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA

The French Cultural Centre of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon, 13-16 June, 2001

This will be a combined event, in which the results of a four-year running research programme will be presented and discussed, after which a regional needs assessment will be held (to start up the regional RUAF Programme in the Middle East). The four-year research program (currently in its final year) has been established in order to study the agriculture-urbanisation relationship to suggest possible changes in both urban and agricultural policies, to enhance the capacity of the agricultural sector to survive and prosper in an increasingly urbanised Lebanon. A number of studies and discussions among researchers and stakeholders have been undertaken. The programme was also meant as a foundation for broader regional exchanges, which would cover neighbouring countries in the southern and eastern Mediterranean basin. The coastal Lebanon programme and the regional needs assessment is co-ordinated by Joe Nasr, vice-president of The Urban Agriculture Network (TUAN) and researcher at the CERMOC. CERMOC is also the main host. The Lebanon program is inscribed within the activities of the CERMOC's Observatoire de Recherches sur Beyrouth et la Reconstruction.

For further information, you can contact: Joe Nasr, e-mail: joenasr@compuserve.com