

RUAF Update # 3

December 2004

E-mail bulletin with news of the International Network of Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (RUAF).

For an overview of the partners in the RUAF network look at the end of this bulletin.

A PDF version of this bulletin is available on the RUAF website at: (www.ruaf.org/ruafpublications)

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1. THE NEXT PHASE OF THE RUAF PROGRAMME

We are pleased to announce that the Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation approved our application for support for a second phase of the RUAF programme. This means that for the coming four years the work of the RUAF partners in their respective regions can be continued and further strengthened.

The new phase of the programme has been given the title: **Cities Farming for the Future**

The **main aim** of the RUAF-CFF programme is to contribute to urban poverty reduction, urban food security, improved urban environmental management, empowerment of urban farmers and participatory city governance.

RUAF hopes to achieve this by means of the following **strategies**:

Knowledge management and networking

- Facilitation of local data gathering and analysis on urban agriculture
- Maintenance of databases (in English, French, Spanish, Chinese; accessible on Internet and on CD-rom)
- Promotion of networking, cooperation and exchange of research and project results between researchers, policy makers, urban farmers and other stakeholders
- Publication of *UA Magazine* (English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Chinese)
- Production and translation of books, policy guidelines, fact sheets, manuals and other materials of relevance to various types of local stakeholders in urban agriculture

Local capacity development

- Consolidation of the six regional resource centres
- Creation of regional training capacity on urban agriculture (development of training materials and training of trainers in cooperation with local universities)
- Regional and local training courses on urban agriculture and multi-stakeholder planning for senior staff of municipalities, governmental organisations, universities and non-governmental organisations

Facilitation of multi-stakeholder policy development and action planning

- Organisation of policy awareness seminars on urban agriculture
- Assistance in the establishment of local multi-stakeholder platforms on urban agriculture and provision of process support for the diagnosis of the local situation regarding urban agriculture and food security and the participatory formulation of local policies and action plans
- Establishment of monitoring systems and provision of feedback to policymakers and urban planners on the social, economic and ecological impacts of their urban agriculture policies and projects

Pilot and dissemination cities

The RUAF partners have selected in each region 3-4 **pilot cities**, 20 in total, that have shown willingness to integrate urban agriculture into their local policies and planning. It is in these pilot cities that RUAF-CFF will concentrate its main activities in the coming four years, including capacity development of local stakeholders, provision of support for local diagnosis and participatory action planning, and monitoring of changes in policies and actions of local stakeholders, focusing particularly on impacts these have on the livelihoods of the poor.

In addition, 6-10 **dissemination cities** have been selected in each region, 46 in total, that will participate in certain capacity development activities and in the exchange of the results

with the pilot cities. Aside from technical and training support each pilot city will receive some matching funds for one or more small pilot projects. The dissemination cities may also apply for co-funding of pilot projects: each year a maximum of five pilot projects in dissemination cities will be co-funded.

Organisation of the RUAF programme

The RUAF partners have jointly established the **RUAF Foundation**, which is the recipient and administrator of the donor contributions received. The RUAF programme is coordinated at global level by ETC Foundation and at regional level by IPES for Latin America and the Caribbean, MDP for Southern and East Africa, IAGU for francophone Africa, IWMI-Ghana for Anglophone Africa, IWMI-India for South and East Asia and IGSNRR for China. Overall strategic decisions are prepared by the **RUAF Programme Committee** consisting of the regional and international RUAF coordinators. The local partners in the RUAF pilot and dissemination cities jointly form a **Regional Advisory Board**.

Ir. Henk de Zeeuw
Coordinator RUAF

*More details on the Cities Farming for the Future Programme will be published soon on the RUAF website www.ruaf.org
Information on RUAF-Cities farming from the future can be obtained from: Henk de Zeeuw: h.dezeeuw@etcnl.nl*

2. RECENT EVENTS (CO-) ORGANISED BY RUAF PARTNERS

*** International Workshop on Urban Agriculture, Agro-tourism and City Region Development (October 2004, Beijing, China)**

The first International Workshop on Urban Agriculture, Agro-tourism and City Region Development took place in Beijing during 11-14, Oct, 2004. It was jointly held by the RUAF partner IGSNRR (Institute of Geographical Science and Natural Resources Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences) and Beijing Agricultural College.

Aim of the workshop was to review the relationship between urban development and suburban agriculture and to provide theoretical, technical and policy suggestions on how to promote the development of urban agriculture and to stimulate the linkages between the urban and suburban areas and to create modern multi-functional agriculture in these areas.

In total about 200 experts and scholars from China, Taiwan, the Netherlands, Denmark, India, Japan and South Korea sat together to have discussions on the topic.

During the 4-day workshop, the experts exchanged experiences on urban agriculture gained in China and Taiwan as well as in some western countries and they discussed the approaches and mechanisms for developing urban agriculture in mega-cities.

The participants visited four urban agriculture projects that are carried out in Beijing.

During the closing ceremony, the participants adopted the Beijing Declaration of Urban Agriculture.

More information on this event can be obtained from Dr Jianming Cai: caijm@igsnrr.ac.cn

*** Workshop on Gender and Urban Agriculture (September 2004, Accra, Ghana)**

In September 2004 the Workshop on Gender and Urban Agriculture "Women Feeding Cities" was organised in Accra, Ghana by RUSAF partners ETC and IWMI-Ghana in cooperation with CGIAR-Urban Harvest and with the financial support of CTA.

During this workshop, participants critically reviewed the 15 case studies on gender in urban agriculture prepared by the participants.

The discussions led to the identification of critical issues regarding gender in urban agriculture and improvements needed in the gender differentiated analysis framework that was applied in the case studies. Also adaptations needed in Participatory Appraisal tools for application in the urban setting were identified.

In addition, a priority agenda was developed for gender in urban agricultural research, capacity development, policy development and action planning.

Participants also discussed the concept of mainstreaming gender and identified effective strategies for mainstreaming gender in their own projects and organisations.

The proceedings will soon be published on the RUAF Web site (www.ruaf.org), along with the case studies.

More information on this activity can be obtained from Henk de Zeeuw: h.dezeeuw@etcnl.nl

*** World Urban Forum 2004, Barcelona, Spain**

An international panel on credit and investment for urban agriculture was held on September 16th of this year in Barcelona during the World Urban Forum organised by Habitat. The panel was organised by IDRC, CIGU and RUAF partner IPES and supported by ETC-RUAF. Experts in urban and financial issues, researchers and decision makers shared information and experiences about innovative forms of financing of urban agriculture. The views of international agencies and local actors about public financing of urban agriculture, micro-credit systems, and farmers' cooperatives were presented. The presentations were divided into three parts:

- part 1. Innovative local approaches for financing urban agriculture;
- part 2. From local practice to an urban development strategy;
- part 3. The way forward.

More information can be found at www.unhabitat.org/wuf/2004/default.asp

3. NEW PROJECTS THAT INVOLVE RUAF PARTNERS

*** Making the Edible Landscape - Integrating Agriculture in Urban Development and Design (2004-2006)**

This new project seeks to creatively involve local authorities, architects and urban planners in a collaborative and participatory process to test and validate the potential of integrating urban agriculture into processes of slum upgrading and construction of new settlements. The

three-year global project hopes to demonstrate the value of urban agriculture in three partner cities: Rosario (Argentina), Kampala (Uganda) and Colombo (Sri Lanka).

The project is made possible through a seed grant from Cities Feeding People Program of the International Development Research Centre and the Urban Management Program-Regional Office for Latin America and is implemented by the International Centre for Urban Management Centre (CIGU), McGill University in Montreal, Canada and the RUAF partners IPES and ETC in operation with local partner organisations in the three cities.

In Rosario, the project concerns the integration of urban agriculture into the construction of new settlements as well as into the management of public areas in existing neighbourhoods (a public park, a flood area).

In Kampala, the project concerns the construction of a new low-income and sustainable neighbourhood that integrates urban agriculture and ecosanitation.

In Colombo, activities will focus on processes of slum upgrading of underserved settlements as well as integrating of production activities (and specifically medicinal plants) in urban greening.

The research project will:

- a) Develop practical tools for housing designs;
- b) Design prototypical site plans;
- c) Demonstrate pilot projects (slum upgrading incorporating urban agriculture and new garden neighbourhoods), and
- d) Publish design modules that will encourage design professionals to incorporate agricultural activities within urban development plans.

Results of the project are planned to be shared at the World Urban Forum in Vancouver in 2006.

More information on this project can be obtained from Marielle Dubbeling:
m.dubbeling@etcnl.nl

*** Legal aspects of Urban Agriculture**

[Shingi]

More information on this activity can be obtained from: Shingirai Mushamba:
smushamba@mdpafrika.org.zw

*** World Urban Forum 2006 (Montreal, Canada)**

On request of the Canadian Government, IDRC is organising sessions on urban agriculture, food security and good governance as part of the official programme of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver in 2006.

IDRC invited RUAF partners MDP and ETC to participate in the preparations of this session, starting with a planning meeting in Toronto last August. During this meeting, various actors brainstormed about the set up of the session at the WUF 2006. Plans include Panel Presentations by local authorities on their experiences with developing urban agriculture;

Also local partners of the RUAF programme and young researchers participating in the Agropolis awards programme will present their experiences and results. Also several field trips will be organised in Vancouver.

A Steering Committee will be formed to maintain the relations with Canadian Government, Habitat, etcetera, to further develop the programme for the WUF 2006 session, to prepare the diverse materials and to develop linkages with municipal authorities, press, etcetera. RUAF will coordinate the preparation of two sessions.

The next preparatory meeting is planned for June 2005 in Montreal. We will keep you informed.

More information on this project can be obtained from: Marielle Dubbeling:
m.dubbeling@etcnl.nl

4. RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY RUAF PARTNERS

*** *Urban Agriculture Magazine* issue 13 on Urban Forestry**

No. 13 on Urban Forestry (English edition) has been distributed to our readers in the first week of December. While human societies have largely been rural over the years, currently the majority of the world's population lives in cities and towns. Increasingly land is needed for urban areas to cater for the inputs and outputs (the urban footprint), with often a detrimental effect on forests and other green areas.

The experiences described in this *UA Magazine* show the importance of urban and periurban forestry (UPF), and the need to join forces with urban agriculture and other initiatives aimed at sustainable urban development. This requires a strategic approach and linkages need to be made to a broad range of issues and agendas. The problems faced by cities in the 21st century cannot be effectively resolved without a coherent alliance of all forces at local and international levels. Initiatives for cooperation and city-twinning open the door to various kinds of partnerships.

This *UA Magazine* has been supported by FAO Forest Department (www.fao.org) and the European Urban Forestry Research and Information Centre (EUFORIC) www.sl.kvl.dk/euforic

*** *Urban Agriculture Magazine* – Other languages**

The Spanish edition no. 12 of the *UA-Magazine* is published (<http://www.ruaf.org/newslgenspanish.html>), while the French edition of the *UA-Magazine* no. 9 and 11 are distributed, with no. 10 under production (<http://www.ruaf.org/newslgenfrench.html>). The *UA-Magazine* in Chinese no. 5 is distributed (<http://www.ruaf.org/newslgenchinese.html>) and with the support of RUAF-partner IPES, all back issues of the *UA-Magazine* have been translated into Portuguese by Mr. Joaquim Moura of Brazil (<http://www.agriculturaurbana.org.br/RAU/AUrevista.html>). Readers in those languages are suggested to contact the respective RUAF institutes in these regions.

*** CD-rom with French language materials**

In cooperation between the RUAF partners IAGU (Senegal) and ETC (The Netherlands) a CD-rom with French language materials was published. The CD-rom contains the following materials:

Dorine invoegen

Copies of the CD-rom can be obtained free of charge from: Moussa Sy: moussa@iagu.org

*** New book on urban agriculture**

The RUAF partners IGSNRR, IWMI, IPES, MDP, IAGU and ETC and a large number of invited authors are preparing the various chapters of a new publication on urban agriculture (after the successful publication "Growing Cities, Growing Food; Urban Agriculture on the Policy Agenda of 2000 jointly with DSE). IDRC is co-funding the publication. ETC coordinates its preparation and IIRR (institute for Rural Reconstruction) in Nairobi will publish the book. Publication is expected Mid 2005.

More information on this publication can be obtained from: René van Veenhuizen:
r.van.veenhuizen@etcnl.nl

*** Urban Agriculture on the Development Gateway**

The site www.developmentgateway.org is run by the not-for-profit Development Gateway Foundation in collaboration with a variety of cooperating organisations.

Since December 2003, this includes RUAF. ETC agreed with the Development Gateway to add short thematic information and links to events, Web sites and books to the thematic sections of Urban Development and Food Security. This submission of information is coordinated three times a year by the *UA-Magazine* Editor. Upon entering the development gateway you enter "urban" in the search engine on this site to view a wide range of materials, amongst others on urban agriculture. You can also sign up for updates on new content, access a database containing many projects and practitioners on urban development and food security, and post resources of your own.

5. CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Urban Aquaculture Magazine No. 14, April 2005.

Since the second phase of the RUAF programme has been approved we are able to continue to publish the *UA-Magazine* in hardcopy and in four languages. The next issue of *UA-Magazine* (no. 14) will focus on urban aquaculture, and will be a collaborative effort with the Papussa Network. PAPUSSA is a collaborative research project of European and Asian partners and is funded by the European Union (see www.ruaf.org/papussa).

This issue of the *UA-Magazine* will assess the status and prospects of urban and peri-urban aquaculture. Urban aquaculture captures a broad array of activities, varying from traditional fishing like in the Kolkata wastewater-fed wetlands and lagoons to high-tech Tilapia culture in tanks.

Contributions from different parts of the world are invited that discuss concepts and methodologies; actors and multiple benefits; experiences with different types of urban aquaculture management systems; advantages and potential, as well as the disadvantages and risks; policy, legal and partnership arrangements; and research and education needs.

Deadline for submissions is 1 January 2005. (See for more: call for contributions).

More information on this publication can be obtained from: Rene van Veenhuizen:
r.van.veenhuizen@etcnl.nl

Future issues of UA Magazine

Planning for the first issue in 2005 is thus well underway, and new ideas have already been suggested for subsequent issues. But at the start of this new phase, we would first like to know what our readers think about the *UA-Magazine* and the direction it should take.

So, before planning the topics for 2005 and 2006, we like to ask you the following question:
What are the major topics or questions that you would like to see discussed in UA-Magazine in the coming years?

Please indicate WHY you would like to have these topics discussed. Perhaps you could do this by sending us a few lines describing your involvement in urban agriculture, your role or job, and whether you are involved in a project or development activity in your city, policy making, etc. The responses we received will be compiled in an article in the next issue of *UA-Magazine*.

Please find some time to provide us with your feedback and of course we are looking forward to your contributions!!

Send your suggestions to: René van Veenhuizen: r.van.veenhuizen@etcnl.nl

7. OTHER NEWS

* **CANCELLED - International Course, "Design, Analysis and Management of Urban Agriculture for Resilient Communities"** (Wageningen, The Netherlands) - 6-17 December 2004)

This two week international course which RUAF-ETC was organizing together with the International Agricultural Centre, unfortunately had to be cancelled. We had a large number of interested persons from all over the world, but not enough of them were able to fund the course themselves or to obtain support from a donor organisation.

We do consider alternative ways to answer this interest in training on urban agriculture and definitely will keep you briefed. More information: r.van.veenhuizen@etcnl.nl.

The RUAF programme is funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS, the Netherlands) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Canada)

The partners in the RUAF programme are:

- Programme coordination: **ETC**-Urban Agriculture, Leusden, the Netherlands. E-mail: ruaf@etcnl.nl.

- Latin America and the Caribbean: Promocion del Desarrollo Sostenible (**IPES**), Lima, Peru. E-mail: gunther@pgu-ecu.org.

- East and Southern Africa: Municipal Development Partnership (**MDP**), Harare, Zimbabwe). E-mail: smushamba@mdpafrika.org.zw.

- West and Central Africa (Anglophone): International Water Management Institute Sub regional Office for West Africa (**IWMI-Ghana**), Accra, Ghana. E-mail: o.cofie@cgiar.org.

- West and Central Africa (Francophone): Institut Africain de Gestion Urbaine (IAGU), Dakar, Senegal. E-mail: moussa@iagu.org.

- South and South East Asia: International Water Management Institute India Office (**IWMI-India**), Hyderabad, India. E-mail: s.buechler@cgiar.org.
- China: Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resource Research of the National Academy of Sciences (**IGSNRR**) Beijing, China. E-mail: caijm@igsnr.ac.cn.

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