

RUAF FOUNDATION

The International Network of Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security



The RUAF Foundation is an international network of Resource centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security. Since 1998 the RUAF partners have been playing a crucial role in facilitating multi-stakeholder strategic action planning on urban agriculture in over 20 cities in 15 countries, resulting in the integration of urban agriculture in city development plans and urban spatial planning and better conditions for sustainable development of urban and peri-urban agriculture.

Joint learning and networking

The RUAF network of regional resource centres on urban agriculture was initiated in 1998 in response to the expressed need of organisations and local governments in the South for support regarding urban agriculture and urban food security (IDRC workshop, Ottawa). In 2000 the RUAF-Cities Farming for the Future programme was launched.

During its first phase (2000-2004) the emphasis was on promoting networking, sharing of experiences and awareness raising among policy makers and urban planners. Since 2004 the emphasis is on local capacity building and facilitation of multi-stakeholder policy development and action planning in close cooperation with local authorities, farmer groups, NGO's and Universities in a large number of cities.

Urban agriculture on the policy agenda

In the coming years, we will continue to do so. But in addition we will develop –with the local partners– innovative “From Seed to Table” projects to strengthen urban producer groups and assist them to innovate their production and engage more directly in, processing and marketing activities (micro-enterprise and chain development).

Cities Farming for the Future

The cities where the RUAF partners operate are: • Pikine (Dakar, Senegal) • Bobo Dioulasso (Burkina Faso) • Porto Novo (Benin) • Accra (Ghana) • Freetown (Sierra Leone) • Ibadan (Nigeria) • Bulawayo (Zimbabwe) • Cape Town (South Africa) • Ndola (Zambia) • Villa Maria del Triunfo (Lima, Peru) • Belo Horizonte (Brasil) • Bogota (Colombia) • Serilingampallt (Hyderabad, India) • Magadi (Bangalore, India) • Gampaha (Sri Lanka) • Huairou (Beijing, China) • Shunyi (Beijing, China) • Dujiangyan (Chengdu, China) • Minhang (Shanghai, China) • Amman (Jordan) • Sa'ana (Yemen)

In the 20 RUAF partner cities important changes regarding urban agriculture have been realized. For example:

In **Beijing (China)**, RUAF supported the development of the New Country-side Policy of the government and the planning of a multi-functional peri-urban corridor, combining production functions with nature conservation and agrotourism. Also the development of a new type of cooperative system (stronger self-reliance and membership participation) was supported.



In **Villa Maria del Triunfo (Lima, Peru)**, RUAF supported the formulation of a City Strategic Agenda on Urban Agriculture and an Ordinance was approved in which urban agriculture is recognised as a legal activity in the district. RUAF also facilitated the development of the Urban Farmers Network, which is now legally recognised by the local government, and an agreement with an electricity company to lease land under power lines to poor urban households interested in farming.

The RUAF Foundation aims to contribute to urban poverty reduction, employment generation, enhanced urban food security, participatory city governance and improved urban environmental management, by strengthening urban producer organisations, capacity development on urban agriculture of local authorities and other stakeholders and facilitating the integration of agriculture in urban policies and action programmes of local governments, civic society organisations and private enterprises.

Promoting technological, organizational and institutional innovation in urban farming



In **Bulawayo (Zimbabwe)** RUAF supported the revision of the Bulawayo Policy on Urban Agriculture and the establishment of various new and improvement of existing community gardens, which played an enormous role in securing food security in Bulawayo during the political and economic crisis.

RUAF-CFF and the Ministry of Social Development and Combatting Hunger (MDS) collaborated in the assessment of the status of urban agriculture in **Brazil**. Over 600 initiatives were identified, which were discussed in regional workshops, and presented at a national conference in Fortaleza, with the presence of the Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Based on this, guidelines have been developed for policies at national level regarding the promotion of urban agriculture, which are presented and approved during a National Seminar held in Brasilia in 2007 and will be integrated in the national Zero Hunger Campaign.

In **Accra (Ghana)** RUAF supported the Accra Working Group on Urban Agriculture in the revision of by-laws on urban agriculture and developed guidelines for the development of urban agriculture for the Accra Metropolitan Assembly. The RUAF-CFF partners also provided inputs for the integration of urban and peri-urban agriculture into the Food and Agriculture Sector Development Policy II (FASDEP) of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture at national level.



In **Hyderabad (India)**, RUAF-CFF supports poor members of the Surabhi neighbourhood in Serilingampalli, in the development of kitchen gardens, low space cultivation methods, composting of kitchen waste, schoolgardens, rainwater harvesting from roofs and water use efficiency.

In **Porto Novo (Benin)** and **Amman (Jordan)** the Municipality supported the development of a City Strategic Agenda on Urban Agriculture and included funds for its implementation in the Municipal budget.

In **Cape Town (South Africa)** local authorities and NGO's that had never cooperated before, are collaborating now in a joint effort to prepare and implement a Joint Action plan for the development of urban agriculture in the Philippi area.

Resources

RUAF Foundation has published various “land mark” publications on urban agriculture (e.g. “Growing cities, Growing Food” and “Cities farming for the future”) which are accessible at the RUAF website (www.ruaf.org), that also contains fact sheets, policy briefs, back issues of the Urban Agriculture Magazine, proceedings of international workshops organised in cooperation with leading international and local organisations, an on line bibliographic database and ample information on the RUAF activities in the 20 partner cities.

International Cooperation

The RUAF Foundation seeks to support local initiatives and to build partnerships with relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations and networks in the cities and regions where it operates.

RUAF Foundation also maintains close working relations with various international organisations and programmes that have taken major initiatives on urban agriculture like IDRC, FAO, CGIAR, UNDP, WASTE, IWMI and NRI seeking synergy and efficient use of scarce resources.

Funding sources

Main sources of funding for the programmes implemented by the RUAF Foundation are the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (The Netherlands), the International Development Research Centre (Canada) and the European Union. Many other organisations have contributed to specific activities.

Cities Farming for the Future

www.ruaf.org

The Partners in the RUAF Foundation are:

Global Coordination: ETC-Urban Agriculture (ETC-UA), Leusden, The Netherlands; Email: h.dezeu@etcl.nl; Website: www.etc-urbanagriculture.org

Latin America: IPES Promoción del Desarrollo Sostenible (IPES), Lima, Peru; Email: au@ipes.org.pe; Website: www.ipes.org/au

Anglophone West Africa: International Water Management Institute, Sub regional; office West Africa (IWMI-Ghana), Accra, Ghana; Email: o.cofe@cgiar.org; Website: www.iwmi.cgiar.org/af/west/projects/RUAFII-CFF.htm

Francophone West Africa: Institut Africain de Gestion Urbaine (IAGU), Dakar, Senegal; Email: moussa@iagu.org; Website: www.iagu.org/ruaf/ruafagufr.php

Southern and Eastern Africa: Municipal Development Partnership (MDP), Harare, Zimbabwe; Email: tmubvami@mdpfrica.org.zw; Website: www.mdpafrica.org.zw/ua_cff.html

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