

## 1.6 Urban Agriculture and Gender



**Both women and men play critical roles in urban agriculture.**

**(Picture: ETC)**

## **Gender and Urban Agriculture: Emerging Trends and Areas for Future Research**

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Over the last decade, literature on women<sup>1</sup> and urban agriculture has emerged revealing significant insights that arguably can change the future focus of the field at large. This overview presents a synthesis of lessons learned from recent studies that have begun to recognize and examine women as farmers in urban areas. The extent, nature, and role of urban agriculture vary considerably between and within countries, as well as throughout the urban hierarchy. Moreover, evidence tends to be scattered or speculative with little supportive data to substantiate general statements. As such, it is difficult to formulate a synthesis of trends that hold for every context, or even the majority of contexts.

Nevertheless, there are several broadly identifiable trends in recent literature on women and urban agriculture that warrant recognition and further exploration. First, studies now recognize women as urban farmers. Indeed, women play significant roles in urban food production and contribute to both urban household and market economies. Second, women benefit from urban agriculture activities that allow them to successfully combine their multiple roles in subsistence, production, and environmental management sectors. Third, researchers document the constraints hindering women's participation in urban agriculture activities. Obstacles exist at both sectoral and household levels. Fourth, studies identify women farmers' survival strategies and social activism in response to structural constraints and urban food issues. Together these trends have enriched the understanding of urban agriculture. Yet gaps persist in the literature, and a discussion of future trends and considerations for urban agriculture research in general is required.

### **Trends in Women and Urban Agriculture Research**

#### **(i) Women as urban farmers**

Arguably the most significant trend in recent urban agriculture research is the acknowledgment of women as urban farmers. Women's participation in and contribution to urban agriculture has been masked in past studies by reference to a so-called "urban farmer". This supposedly gender-neutral term suggests an undifferentiated urban dweller who engages in agriculture yet is undoubtedly based on a masculinised norm. Recent studies document women's predominance in the African context (Cockram and Feldman, 1996; Smit, Ratta and Bernstein, 1996), and particularly in the Central African Republic (Alaruka and Choma, 1985), Kenya (Mwangi, 1995, Lee Smith and Memon, 1993, Mazingira Institute, 1987), Mozambique (Ayisi, 1995; Gentili, 1989; Loforte, 1987), Tanzania (Tripp, 1997; Mlozi,

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<sup>1</sup> While the title "gender and urban agriculture" implies a focus on the social relations between men and women, the majority of work in this field tends to highlight only women's experiences with farming in cities. I thus refer to these texts as dealing with "women and urban agriculture" and discuss the need to explore "gender issues" in future urban agriculture research later in the introduction.

1995), Uganda (Maxwell, 1995; Maxwell, 1994; Maxwell and Zziwa, 1990), Zambia (Drescher, 1997; Drescher and Bos, 1993; Rakodi, 1988), and Zimbabwe (Chaipa and King, 1997; Mudimu, 1996; Mbiba, 1995; Mbiba, 1993). Research in Poland (Bellows, 1996), the Solomon Islands (Sommers, 1992), Thailand (Evers and Korff, 1996), and the United States (Hynes, 1996) also points to the dominance of women farmers in urban areas. Women urban dwellers play pivotal roles in subsistence and market gardening, animal husbandry, food processing, waste recycling and (re)use.

The predominance of urban women farmers in many contexts is attributed to two factors. First, women continue to bear primary responsibility for household sustenance and well-being (Mudimu, 1996:180), largely due to traditional cultural views and societal expectations (Chaipa and King, 1997). Everyday domestic tasks, including the provision of food, water, clothing, and healthcare, as well as the maintenance of a clean homestead, fall to female household members who are responsible for biological and social reproduction. Second, women tend to have lower educational status than men thus face less probability in finding suitable wage employment in the formal sector (Streffeler, 1993:8). Since few job opportunities exist for women in urban areas it becomes imperative for women to seek other ways to fill in the gap between cash income and what is needed and available for household reproduction (Rakodi, 1985:56). In combination, these two factors mean that women must often continue in their traditional reproductive roles and secure household subsistence through strategies that do not rely on formal employment.

### **(ii) The benefits of urban agriculture for women farmers**

Recent studies document the benefits of urban agriculture for women who are responsible for family food provision. Urban agriculture is predominantly considered a primary strategy employed by women to maintain livelihoods and protect household incomes through subsistence production. While the prime motivation of women urban farmers is to avert hunger by producing a variety of nutritional staple crops, home-grown food also frees up scarce cash that otherwise would go towards food purchases (Maxwell, 1994; Freeman, 1993:12-14). Urban agriculture can thus furnish "a significant contribution to [households], for whom small amounts of food . . . can make a crucial difference" (Sachs and Silk, 1987:3). When gardens flourish they can provide a sizeable portion of the household budget. Dramatic findings from a survey of eleven Latin American countries estimate that one and a half days spent cultivating an urban plot can save ten to thirty percent of the total food bill (Nugent, 1997:5). In Lusaka, approximately thirty-three percent of food consumed by poor households came from urban cultivation (Sanyal, 1987). In Harare urban farmers each cultivated on average five and a half 50kg bags of maize - enough to last a household four to six months (Mudimu, 1996:181) or incur savings of up to US\$20-40 on food expenditures per month (Mudimu et al., 1998:1).

In addition to providing yields sufficient for some quantity of household sustenance, urban agriculture activities have the advantage of allowing women to work close to the homestead. This is important in light of domestic and child-rearing responsibilities for which women often have primary responsibility (Ratta, 1993). Urban agriculture is also relatively accessible to women in that it utilizes indigenous practices and low-cost inputs that are attainable and affordable for women with limited incomes, skills, and resources. For example, women back-load fuelwood from periurban areas in Ethiopia to satisfy energy needs for cooking and food processing (Haile, 1991) or collect and prepare wild vegetables to contribute to household nutrition in urban Lesotho (Mapetla, 1994). Studies show that urban agriculture is particularly

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significant for women with larger families to support (Mudimu, 1996; Freeman, 1993:7; Rakodi, 1988; Alaruka and Choma, 1985), elderly women (Ethangatta, 1994; Rogerson, 1994), and women heads-of-households who tend to face considerable financial, resource, and time constraints (Nicholson et al., 1998; Mudimu, 1996; Maxwell, 1995; May and Rogerson, 1995; Mwangi, 1995; Egziabher, 1994; Maxwell, 1994; Mbiba, 1993; Lado, 1990; Mazingira Institute, 1987; Ninez, 1985).

Some researchers have found that women urban farmers do not limit their activities to the subsistence realm. Urban agriculture requires an investment of household resources, such as land, labour, and capital that can motivate women to go beyond food acquisition for domestic use. Urban food enterprises represent an avenue through which unskilled and uneducated women potentially can gain entry into the business milieu. Women, for example, sell fresh produce in market stalls in Maputo (Loforte, 1989), Harare (Horn, 1995), and Nairobi (Ethangatta, 1994), while women profit from urban dairying in Nigeria (Shehu and Hassan, 1995). Enterprises in Nairobi's informal sector, including food kiosks, restaurants and bars, and market stalls, are primarily run by women (Freeman, 1993:2). A similar trend is evident in Nigeria and Thailand, and women outnumber men as vendors in Indonesia, the Philippines, Senegal, and Jamaica (Tinker, 1998:6). Food produced by women urban farmers is often a major source of supply in these enterprises. These findings suggest that small-scale food businesses may be more accessible to those women already involved in urban agriculture production and processing for subsistence purposes.

In addition to reproductive and productive roles, women are environmental resource managers who (re)use and recycle materials to enhance crop and livestock yields to feed their households and communities. Women are caretakers of family health by maintaining sanitary conditions around the house and safely disposing of household wastes. Recent literature identifies linkages between waste management and women's participation in urban agriculture that facilitate both household food security and local environmental sustainability (Mehra, 1996; Furedy, 1990). In urban Mexico, for example, women have become principal managers of an organic waste recycling technology that produces nutrient-rich fertilizer and treats blackwater from household sewage systems for use on vegetable garden beds (Schmink, 1989). Paolisso and Gammage's (1996) research in Quito, Ecuador reveals that women undertake the majority of environmental management tasks in urban households, including the purification of drinking water and the recycling of domestic waste. Women are careful to reuse garbage and separate inorganic from organic refuse for the latter adds value to vital farming and husbandry activities. Assaad and Bruce (1997) detail the important role of young women in garbage collecting that contributes to and supports urban pig keeping in Egypt.

### **(iii) Constraints facing women urban farmers**

Another trend in recent work on women and urban agriculture has been the documentation of sectoral and household level constraints to women's participation in urban food production. Perhaps the most overarching barrier to women urban farmers is the opposition to city farming activities by local authorities. Urban agriculture is often perceived as an artefact of rural life that simply does not belong within the city limits and poses a potential health nuisance or threat to urban dwellers. It is also thought to be of marginal importance to the urban economy (Maxwell, 1995) and is not considered a legitimate form of urban land use. As such, urban planners or policy makers do not plan for cultivation and husbandry activities nor are these activities supported by local authorities (Mudimu, 1996:180). Hostile or

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unsupportive policy for urban agriculture may be particularly detrimental to women farmers who (in relation to men) tend to possess fewer skills that are valued in the marketplace and whose domestic responsibilities, including childcare, make it difficult to enter the formal workforce in order to adequately support their households. Repressive measures create barriers to women's access to urban space for cultivation (Mbiba, 1995; Freeman, 1991).

Women urban farmers also face local obstacles with respect to land, labour, agricultural inputs, and environmental conditions. First, many researchers have identified, in general terms, women's lack of access to land as a major constraint to urban agriculture activities (Maxwell et al., 1998; Smit et al., 1996; Maxwell, 1995; May and Rogerson, 1995; Maxwell, 1994; Drescher and Bos, 1993; Haile, 1991; Matlala, 1990). Women in many countries have been, and continue to be, barred from claiming ownership of land plots due to cultural traditions. Moreover, deflated economic status, and difficulties faced within the formal employment sector preclude women's ability to purchase land in their own right. Thus women tend to rent, borrow, or illegally use land for urban agriculture activities. Furthermore, for many women proximity to agricultural plots may be hindered by quality of homestead. Those who rent rooms in houses or reside in high-density areas may encounter few opportunities to farm neighbourhood land (Horn, 1995). Instead women resort to farming in locations that are some distance away from the homestead (Alaruka and Choma, 1985) and thus require increased time for commuting, leaving less time for other tasks and responsibilities. Those women forced to squat illegally on land face a greater probability of crop theft or confiscation and destruction by local authorities and private landholders, due to the lack of physical presence at the site (May and Rogerson, 1995). Hence, women tend to lose livelihood options in cities when faced with a loss of or poor access to land (Maxwell et al., 1998). In contrast to the trend of poor land access, Mbiba's (1995) study reveals women's roles as landlords and gatekeepers in the urban agriculture community in Harare. While women control and manage agricultural plots, men participate as contract labourers or assistants to female spouses in crop production. This finding points to the possibility of alternative scenarios in different contexts that deviate from trends revealed in recent literature on women and urban agriculture.

Second, women tend to invest their own labour in urban agriculture activities. It is documented that women spend longer amounts of time in the fields than men (Mudimu, 1996:190), commit substantial amounts of labour into dairy production, processing and marketing (Nicholson et al., 1998), and must fetch water, prepare meals, care for children, and so on, upon returning to the homestead (Dennery, 1995). Thus women must carry out household care and maintenance regardless of the time they devote to food production or other livelihood activities. This is particularly difficult for women heads-of-households who bear the sole responsibility for both reproductive and productive tasks (Egziabher, 1994).

Third, while women are most likely to invest labour in cultivation or husbandry activities, they are unlikely to have access to agricultural inputs (Cockram and Feldman, 1996). Women often do not have extra income with which to purchase seed and fertilizer. Hence, they must utilize those available resources that may be hazardous to their health, such as wastewater or solid waste. Credit is unobtainable without secure rights to land, which usually requires ownership. Women's decision-making power and ability to participate in agricultural activities may also be undermined by a lack of knowledge of inputs, such as pesticides and fertilizer, due to limited exposure to commercial urban agriculture (Dennery, 1995) or training and skills courses offered by institutions or non-governmental organizations. Women are also less likely

to benefit from research or extension services (Ratta, 1993; Mazingira Institute, 1987) that fail to consider gender specific differences regarding methods of plant production, crop species, and use of composts, manure and fertilizer (Drescher, 1997).

Fourth, environmental constraints hinder women's efforts in urban agriculture activities. Access to water, for example, is a key constraint to productive capacity and successful gardens are often limited to the rainy season. Otherwise, water is obtained at a high financial cost from informal street vendors or through illegal means (Nugent, 1997:5) such as tapping municipal water pipes. The productivity of land varies so that a surplus of produce is not guaranteed; this is especially the case in intensive continual work on urban plots which often occurs due to the need for subsistence produce or extra cash from marketing (Loforte, 1989). Continual urban development, and the resulting loss of environmental resources, means that women must search further and further away for products such as fuelwood (Haile, 1991), fodder, and wild vegetables (Mapetla, 1994) to support their families. Increasing urban pollution and environmental contamination result in serious problems that impede women's abilities to adequately feed their families. Food loaded with toxic contaminants sabotages the health of those it ought to nourish.

#### **(iv) Women urban farmers' survival strategies and community activism**

Recent studies identify women farmers' survival strategies and social activism in response to structural constraints and urban food issues. Millions of women urban farmers have managed to produce food in towns and cities without any official recognition or support. Women often gain access to rights-of-way and vacant land that they do not own to grow staple foods and raise small livestock near their dwellings. Elderly women in Nairobi grow beans, kale, cabbage, and bananas in the slum areas and along roadsides, while also keeping dairy cows to produce milk, during severe economic conditions (Ethangatta, 1994). In Mamelodi, South Africa, women banned from land-ownership illegally grow vegetables on vacant land scattered within the township or along riverbanks and mountainsides (Matlala, 1990). In Nairobi, women farmers spread the risk of crop theft, confiscation or destruction by cultivating multiple plots in different locations in the city (Freeman, 1993:10). Women's roles in environmental management become especially pertinent for those women who lack access to agricultural inputs such as fertilizer. Women are careful to recycle garbage and use organic refuse to add value to vital farming and husbandry activities (Assaad and Bruce, 1997).

As community activists, women farmers participate in governance, local politics, and community groups, linking social activism and urban food issues. For example, in Poland, women have buffered themselves from unfavourable policies that can result in uneven distribution or excessive prices of food (Bellows, 1998). Specifically, women rally around improving conditions for food provision as industrial pollution in the Silesia Region has given rise to food contamination (Bellows, 1996). The effectiveness of the women's "Tested Food for Silesia" program has created an environmental management model of immediate relevance, and has served to enhance the status and power of women farmers in the community. Similarly, the suburban farmlands of Mozambique have been the site of women's activism since the mid-1980s when the government initiated the Maputo Green Zones Project. It has since become a women's initiative (Ayisi, 1995) with ninety-five percent of the 11,500 cooperative members being women. These women have created a life in the public sphere, gained access to vegetables, grains and fruit produced by the cooperatives, and acquired skills and training (Marshall, 1987). Also, in the Gambia, government support for horticultural production has harnessed the community activism of women who have formed a periurban

farming cooperative. The cooperative was provided with a loan of 10,000 dalasi and managed to pay back the entire amount within nine weeks of the first harvest of chilli peppers (Barrett and Brown, 1988). The strength of women's social networks and cooperative efforts are noted as potential areas for successful development strategies in the urban agriculture sector.

### **Areas for Future Research**

Trends in recent research reveal that urban agriculture is an adaptive strategy of women to protect household food security either through direct provision of a supplemental food source, as food reserve, or as a means of stretching other sources of income. Despite sectoral and local level obstacles, women urban farmers pursue cultivation and husbandry activities through their reproductive, productive, and environmental management roles. While the four trends detailed above have facilitated greater understanding of women's participation in urban agriculture activities, several important issues must be considered in future research. These include gender analysis, geographical scale, and difference.

Gender as an analytical category is meant to capture a complex set of social processes that are inextricably linked with power relations. Gender analysis involves the examination of men's and women's roles, responsibilities, and social status in relation to local cultural perceptions of masculinity and femininity that delineate access to opportunities and resources in a particular context (Hovorka, 1998). In reformulating gender as a theoretical category and an analytical tool, we can better explore the division of social experiences along gender lines that tend to give men and women different conceptions of themselves, their activities and beliefs, and the world around them (Harding, 1986:31). Those researchers who explore gender dynamics to this depth provide some of the most comprehensive, interesting, and thought-provoking pieces in the field of urban agriculture (Mianda, 1996; Mudimu, 1996; Mbiba, 1995; Maxwell, 1994; Lee-Smith and Memon, 1992; Rakodi, 1991; Rakodi, 1988).

Mianda (1996:91), for example, explores how sexual division of labour serves as the basis for gender relations in garden production in Kinshasa, Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo). She illustrates how women utilize strategy and tactics to gain advantage over their husbands and hence control over the garden enterprise. In order to get the approval of their husbands to initiate production, women stress the feminine nature of agriculture and its importance to family well-being (for which women are primarily responsible). Men often refuse to participate in such culturally defined feminine tasks for fear of being symbolically perceived as a woman. The resulting sexual division of labour establishes gardening as an entirely female activity. Women gardeners rely on this to control the entire process of production from price setting and negotiation to marketing. Furthermore, women hide portions of the profits from their husbands by storing monies in kitchen pots. Again the cultural perceptions of domesticity as women's domain dissuades men from handling cookware for fear of becoming the victims of sorcery. Women thus take advantage of cultural traditions that tend to marginalize them into particular social spheres. It is important therefore to consider what activity men can involve themselves in without loss of community status. It is also necessary to recognize the cultural factors that play a role in the interchange of labour and relations between men and women.

By understanding how gender hierarchies are constructed, legitimated, challenged, and maintained in specific contexts one can unearth the social relationships that structure a particular urban agriculture system. This is especially pertinent when exploring who in the

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household actually controls produce or income generated from farming activities. Mbiba (1993) reveals that while women have control and decision-making power regarding cultivation, the husband's consent is still required due to his potential assistance with financing or dealing with local authorities. Shehu and Hassan (1995) note that dairying activities of female household members serve to balance household power relations by providing women with their own enterprise. Maxwell's (1994) study details the struggle over resources between men and women and their respective activities. Investigating issues of control and power relations shed light on how and why distinct urban agriculture activities are chosen by, or assigned to, particular household members.

Another important consideration for future research on women and urban agriculture is that of geographic scale. Rather than considering a particular scale in isolation, the application of gender analysis leads to the fundamental examination of social structures and institutions that create specific power dynamics at the local level (Rathgeber, 1990:494). Not only is it essential to analyse intra-household gender relations, it is also important to explore organizational, legal and political structures and ideas that reinforce gender differences and inequalities. As detailed above, for example, Mianda's (1996) study reveals the subtle gender relations that structure urban agriculture activities at the household level. The study illustrates how larger cultural traditions delineate masculine and feminine roles that form the basis of a power struggle in the household garden produce sector. Other authors also explore the linkages between micro- and macro-levels. Horn (1994) details the agricultural and urban developments that have resulted in the role of women as fresh produce vendors in Harare, Zimbabwe. Structural adjustment policies in particular have created differential problems for women as compared to men. Freidberg (1997; 1996) explores recent trade liberalizations in Burkina Faso that have prompted urban gardeners to adopt more entrepreneurial strategies in order to secure access to external markets and aid. Economic reforms have failed to create a market free of gender biases, leaving women gardeners in a disadvantaged position compared to men. Aside from a small number of examples, however, there are few cases where urban agriculture researchers peel back the layers to uncover the larger processes that influence relationships between men and women. Further work remains to be done, for example, to adequately examine how urban policy and/or economic markets at the macro-scale impact on the gender relations that structure local urban agriculture systems.

Finally, the issue of difference requires greater consideration in future urban agriculture research to highlight distinct systems that form along gender, race, ethnicity, class, and age lines. Some researchers have begun to emphasize differential experiences of women urban farmers, in particular the experiences of women heads-of-households, who tend to be amongst the poorest urban farmers and hence face significant constraints to food production. Others have noted experiences that differ across age and class lines. The recognition of context-specificity and distinct standpoints can provide greater scope and richness to research. It avoids a priori assumptions about a single determinant of gender relations in any particular culture or locale (Flax, 1990:46). Recognizing differences amongst urban agriculture practitioners also avoids the privileging of a universal experience that conflates the needs, interests, and experiences of persons into a single conceptualisation.

## Conclusion

Most research to date presumes a positive impact of urban agriculture activities on household food security despite the paucity of conclusive evidence confirming this assumption. While there is insufficient data on the linkages between urban food production and basic household

needs, there exists even less evidence as to what urban agriculture means for women who tend to be the primary practitioners in many contexts. This point was first made by Rakodi (1985) and continues to hold true some one and a half decades later. There is little consensus on whether the promotion and support of urban agriculture practices is beneficial to women. Some researchers note that such activities do not address, and may in fact mask, larger issues of women's access to education, skills, or wage employment (Mbiba, 1995; Rakodi, 1985). Encouraging women to spend more time engaged in urban agriculture may impose additional burdens to those they already face.

The advocacy of urban agriculture as a development strategy necessarily targets women in many contexts as the agents of intervention without adequate consideration of how potentially successful endeavours may alter their existing circumstances. Schroeder (1993) points out that high-visibility interventions can be co-opted by men to capture female labour or rights to land and natural resources where women have previously asserted some autonomy over their economic activities. Hence in capitalizing on women's modest successes in urban agriculture activities, development strategies may exacerbate inequitable gender relations. It is important to analyse the benefits of urban agriculture to households, especially to women, compared to alternative economic and social opportunities that might be made available through other initiatives (Smit et al., 1996; Egziabher, 1994). Advocating urban agriculture as a viable development strategy without truly understanding the intricacies of such current systems may prove perilous.

The consideration of gender analysis, geographical scale, and difference can further the advancement of knowledge on urban agriculture systems. Such investigations must be paired with the collection of empirical data to substantiate claims regarding the productivity and sustainability of cultivation and husbandry activities in cities. These issues will become increasingly important in light of urbanization, demographic and environmental trends, and continuing concerns regarding social and economic development.

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**Alaruka, AA; Choma, NK (1985). Les femmes de Kisangani et la pratique agricole.**

**Annales de l'Institut Stiperietir Pedagoqiaue de Kisanaani. Paper 13 pp.**

**Supplier: Annales de l'Institute Superier Pedagogique de Kisangani**

[gender](#) [economic impacts](#)

[Africa, Central African Republic, periurban, income generation, women's employment, intervention strategy](#)

The objective in this study is two-fold. First, to document the proportion of persons in Kisangani involved in urban agriculture, and to which social categories they belong. Second, to explore women's motivations for pursuing such activities. The study found that in the zones studied three out of five women cultivate food crops, many of which are married women. Also, women with children are more likely to participate in urban agriculture than those women who remain childless. Through urban agriculture, women are able to provide for their households. Many of the women are saleswomen, teachers, dressmakers, or are employed in various urban services. Problems facing women in both urban and peri urban areas include distance and transportation. The authors recommend that those organizations targeting women's issues, social affairs, and agriculture intervene more effectively so as to offer technical and material support to women involved in urban agriculture. (AH)

**Ayisi, Ruth Ansah. 1995. Supporting women farmers in the Green Zones of Mozambique. In Seeds 2. Ed Ann Leonard. New York: The Feminist Press. 41-63.**

[gender](#)

[women; agricultural cooperatives; Mozambique; human well-being](#)

In many countries of the developing world, particularly those in Sub-Saharan Africa, women farmers must deal not only with the inherent difficulties of gender inequalities, poverty, and the vagaries of nature, but with the consequences of war and civil strife as well. This case study focuses on efforts to help women farmers to survive and prosper in the Green Zones (suburban farmland) of Mozambique, and they provide desperately needed foodstuffs for the local market. The Maputo Green zones project was initiated by the government after the failure of the 'people's farms' which were designed as a self-help approach, and it has since become a women's organization. The General Union of Cooperatives (GUC) was established in 1983 to better serve the needs of the cooperatives operating within the Green Zones. This chapter discusses how the individual cooperatives function, the role of the GUC, the development of agricultural production, training and education of cooperative members, funding and support, and the importance of

## Gender

human development above economic development. The chapter concludes with an examination of one specific cooperative, the Beira Green Zones Project. (ah)

**Barndt, Deborah (1999). Women workers in the NAFTA food chain. In: For hunger-proof cities: sustainable urban food systems / Mustafa Koc, Rod MacRae, Luc JA Mougeot and Jennifer Welsh (eds). - p. 162-166 Chapters, 5 pp. 0\_88936\_882\_1: CAD 35.00. International Development Research Center (IDRC), PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9 Ottawa: IDRC. Supplier: International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Publications Department, PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9**

[gender](#)

[gender, food systems, globalisation, agribusiness](#)

Efforts to develop sustainable urban food systems must take into account the role of women in the various stages of production, preparation and consumption of the food we eat. The Tomasita project explores women's shifting roles in the restructured global labour force, tracing the journey of a tomato from a Mexican field to a Canadian table. This essay focuses particularly on salaried workers in Mexican agribusiness. The Tomasita project also aims to connect women food workers in Mexico and Canada, in both regular and alternative food systems, through photo-stories, films, and video letters. Sharing these stories across borders helps women understand how they are part of a broader global process while they learn from each others' tales of survival and resistance. (NB) (Abstract adapted from original)

**Bellows, Anne C (1996). Where kitchen and laboratory meet: the 'tested food for Silesia' program In: Feminist political ecology: global issues and local experiences / Dianne Rocheleau, Barbara Thomas-Slayter, Esther Wangari (eds). - p. 249-270 Chapters, 20 pp. 0415120276: USD 25.99 London and New York: Routledge.**

**Supplier: Routledge Customer Service, International Thomson Publishing Services Ltd, Cheriton House, North Way, Andover, Hampshire SP10 5BE, UK**

[gender](#)

[Poland; participatory approaches; gender issues; NGOs; public health; safe food](#)

Silesia, in Poland, is part of the 'sulphur triangle' which suffers from a devastating pollution. In response to this, a group of Silesian women have organised themselves into an NGO aiming at reducing local environmental health risks stemming from polluted food. This article tells the tale of the Gliwice Circle of the Polish Ecological Club and its 'Tested Food for Silesia' project in the midst of political turmoil during the post-1989 upheaval, and how this group struggled to bring about more local food safety. (WB)

**Caceres, D. and M. Arbomo, Surviving on Little Land: Women's Struggle in Town and Country, In: ILEIA Newsletter for Low External Input and Sustainable Agriculture, 1994, December: Farming At Close Quarters, vol. 10, no. 4, pp. 8-9. Department of Rural Development, Faculty of Agronomy, National University of Cordoba, Argentina / Centro de Comunicacion Popular y Asesoramiento**

**Legal (CECOPAL), Cordoba Argentina**

gender urban horticulture  
women's role; Argentina; home gardening

Socioeconomic policies implemented in recent decades in Argentina have led to division of land into small plots (minifundizacion) and expanding poverty belts around the big cities. Growing food in small gardens is seen as one way to help the poor feed their families. In this article, two case examples (one urban, one rural) are presented from Cordoba Province in Argentina.

**Chaipa, I. and B. King. 1997. Urban agriculture in Gweru: household nutrition, economic costs and benefits. IDRC Project No. 01015. Harare: Research, Development and Consultancy Division of ENDA-Zimbabwe.**

gender economic impacts  
Zimbabwe; economic impacts, urban infrastructure,

The understanding of the actual value and potential of urban agriculture in feeding urban populations is an important first step in defining the future of urban agriculture in Zimbabwe. This report outlines the findings of a household monitoring exercise conducted in Gweru during the period September 1996 and April 1997. The study focused on the economic, health and nutrition impacts of urban agriculture, and identified crop types of on and off plot urban cultivation and activities during the cropping season. The study showed that women are the main participants in all the activities in urban cropping and vegetable production. Apart from women being economically disadvantaged, this could be due to the African cultural views of women as the principle actors in the provision and preparation of household food. The study concludes that urban agriculture benefits a significant portion of the household in Gweru. Urban planners and policy makers should incorporate gender considerations in the layout design and planning of urban infrastructural services. To this end, more gender-focused research and workshops on gender sensitization ought to be carried out. (ah)

**Chimbowu, Admos; Gumbo, Davison (1993). Urban agriculture research in East and Southern Africa II: record, capacities and opportunities. Cities Feeding People Series report no. 4. 18 p. International Development Research Center (IDRC), PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9**

gender food security and nutrition  
Africa (Eastern); informal sector; urban policies; urban planning; economic aspects; waste management; urban zoning; environment

Most of the studies carried out were within the context of three broad paradigms: the planning paradigm, urban informal sector studies, and the spational and functional dimensions of urban agriculture. Most studies up to now have been baseline studies covering government policy, land tenure, women practitioners, poverty, homegardens, wastewater usage and urban planning. Aspects requiring further research are land use zoning, actual production levels, urban management and its relation to urban agriculture, marketing studies and studies on the interrelations between urban agriculture, water, waste and disaster. Concretely, studies on

decolonising urban management practices in Zimbabwe towards converging and symbiosis in urban economy and the use of agrochemicals in urban agriculture are suggested. (NB)

**Dennerly, Pascale (1994). Inside urban agriculture: an exploration of farmer decision-making in Nairobi: a research proposal for a masters thesis. 18 p.**  
R&D methodology    food security and nutrition    gender  
Kenya; decision-making process; gender issues; family relationships; extended families

Provides the outline of a study undertaken to obtain insight in factors affecting farmers' decision-making processes: notably gender differences and resource allocation among different member of the household. Social relations, both inside and outside the family, are examined as to their influence on farmers' decisions. (WB)

This study examines urban food producers and their households in Kibera, a large informal settlement of Nairobi. One of the main features of this study is the addition of a qualitative dimension to urban agriculture research in east Africa. Empirical evidence is provided on gender relations, labour relations and the multiple uses of produce at the individual, household and community level. The traditional division of agricultural labour was noted during fieldwork: men preparing the soil for planting, and women responsible for harvesting food for daily needs. Women decide how much produce to sell and what food to buy, in consultation with the spouse in order to provide a means of preserving marital harmony. Women's decision-making power may be undermined by factors such as size of plot, need for cash, and personal health. Women are also less likely than men to have knowledge on inputs, such as pesticides or use of sewage water, due to their limited exposure to commercially-oriented agriculture. The study also reveals that numerous labour issues are directly related to the prevailing gender ideology in Kenya. Female urban producers must carry out most of the care and maintenance of the household, regardless of the time they devote to food production or other livelihood activities. Thus, women tend to stay in the field longer than men, and are expected to fetch water and prepare meals upon returning to the house. In other cases, women's ability to control their own agricultural labour time is limited by responsibilities to others. (AH)

**Cockram, Mary, and Shelley Feldman. 1996. The beautiful city: gardens in third world cities. *African Urban Quarterly* 11(2&3):202-208.**  
gender  
social aspects women's employment; vacant lands; gender roles

International comparisons of research on the agronomic, social and policy aspects of urban agriculture share the conclusion that urban food production is an important component of household survival strategies. Most urban farmers are poorly educated women with families who possess only a few of the skills that are valued in the marketplace. Such women are among those most likely to invest their labour, but few other inputs, in urban agricultural production. These urban farmers

creatively gain access to rights-of-way and use vacant land which they usually do not own to grow staple foods and raise small livestock near their dwellings. Hostile government policy and access to water are key constraints to their productive capacity. These conditions help explain why successful gardens are often limited to the rainy season. Yet, urban agriculture, which flourishes during difficult economic times, provides between 10 percent and 30 percent of the household budget. The paper concludes that urban farmers, like their rural counterparts, engage in work that is gender stereotyped. Since subsistence production is perceived to be part of women's responsibility for feeding the family, it is hardly surprising that women are the dominant participants in this art of urban survival. (Author abstract)

**Dennerly, Pascale (1995). Inside Urban Agriculture: An Exploration of Food Producer Decision Making in a Nairobi Slum (M.Sc. Thesis) M.Sc. Thesis from Wageningen Agricultural University. The Netherlands. The Netherlands: Wageningen Agricultural University**

gender

informal settlement, gender relations, gender roles, decision making, labour, women's role, power relations

This study examines urban food producers and their households in Kibera, a large informal settlement of Nairobi. One of the main features of this study is the addition of a qualitative dimension to urban agriculture research in east Africa. Empirical evidence is provided on gender relations, labour relations, and the multiple uses of produce at the individual, household and community level. The traditional division of agricultural labour was noted during fieldwork: men preparing the soil for planting, and women responsible for harvesting food for daily needs. Women decide how much produce to sell and what food to buy, in consultation with the spouse in order to provide a means of preserving marital harmony. Women's decision-making power may be undermined by factors such as size of plot, need for cash, and personal health. Women are also less likely than men to have knowledge on inputs, such as pesticides or use of sewage water, due to their limited exposure to commercially-oriented agriculture. The study also reveals that numerous labour issues are directly related to the prevailing gender ideology in Kenya. Female urban producers must carry out most of the care and maintenance of the household, regardless of the time they devote to food production or other livelihood activities. Thus, women tend to stay in the field longer than men, and are expected to fetch water and prepare meals upon returning to the house. In other cases, women's ability to control their own agricultural labour time is limited by responsibilities to others. (AH)

**Dima, S.J. and A.A. Ogunmokun (2001), An Overview of Socio-Economics and Gender Aspects in Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture: The Potential of the City of Windhoek, Namibia. Paper prepared for the Sub-Regional Expert Consultation Meeting on Urban and Peri-Urban Horticulture, University of Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa, January 2001**

**Supplier: Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, University of Namibia.**

gender

economic impact

socio-economic aspects; gender issues; urban agriculture; periurban agriculture;

### Namibia, Africa (Southern)

Urban and peri-urban agriculture can be defined as the process of producing agricultural commodities within demarcated urban and edges of urban areas. Because of colonial and post-colonial local authority laws, rules and regulations, urban agriculture has been practised illegally, discreetly and without technical support by local authorities or the relevant ministries of agriculture. This paper provides an overview of the resources available, and the technologies used for urban and peri-urban horticulture in Namibia. This is followed by a survey of the recent literature on urban and peri-urban agriculture in Africa with a view to assess its extent and contribution in terms of food production, employment creation, improvement in nutrition status, income generation, innovation creation and adaptation and appropriate technologies development. This is followed by a case study of urban and peri-urban horticulture in the city of Windhoek.

**Drescher, Axel W. (1997). Management strategies in African homegardens and the need for extension approaches Paper presented at the International Conference on Sustainable Urban Food Systems. Ryerson Polytechnic University. Toronto, Canada. 22-25 May 1997. Papers**

gender horticulture food security and nutrition

Africa, Zambia, household survey, food security, management strategy, women's role, gender differences, intervention strategy, extension services

The relationship between urban food production, food security and urban environments has been largely neglected. This paper focuses on results from a household garden survey conducted during 1992 and 1993. The main objective of the survey was to clarify the role of household gardens for household food security in Zambia and to identify differences and problems in management strategies and their effects on production in different areas. The results reveal that the main actors in urban agriculture are often women. In all compounds studied in Lusaka, women were to a greater extent involved in cropping and gardening than men. Gender analysis is used to reveal differences between men's and women's urban agriculture techniques with respect to alternative methods of plant production, crop species, and use of fertilizer, manure and compost. The paper argues that gender specific differences in agricultural activities need to be paid more attention by extension services in urban and periurban areas. (AH)

**Drescher, Axel W. 1999. Urban microfarming in central southern Africa: a case study of Lusaka, Zambia. *African Urban Quarterly* 11(2&3 May-August 1996):229-248.**

gender

Zambia; gender roles access to land; access to water; urban food

The relationship between urban food production, food security and the urban environment has been largely neglected in the past. In Lusaka, Zambia as in many other tropical urban centres, gardening and cropping receive very little support from local authorities. Indeed, city councils often prohibit these activities. Production of staple foods prevails in the wet season, and vegetable production in the dry. Both

## Gender

activities largely depend on access to resources like water and land. Within the high- and medium-density squatter quarters, vulnerability in terms of food security differs. In the Zambian case, it was found that dry-season cultivation is not practiced by the most vulnerable households but rather by those which have access to essential resources for this activity. In Lusaka, garden size decreases with increasing population density. The walking distance to sources of water is much further in the high-density areas, making microfarming more difficult there. Access to both land and water is lowest in the high-density, low-income compounds in Lusaka. Microfarming obviously contribute to household food security in the city both directly by providing food and indirectly by generating income. There are significant differences between the role of women and men in urban household food security. Women are the major actors in urban microfarming but face many obstacles with respect to income generation and access to resources and markets. There is urgent need for appropriate support of urban agriculture in the future. (Author abstract)

**Drescher, Axel W.; Bos, F (1993). Report on fieldwork on homegardening in Northwestern Province (Zambia) In: Household Food Security, Nutrition and Health Monitoring Report. 1993 reports. Lusaka, Zambia: Central Statistical Office**

**Supplier: Central Statistical Office. Lusaka, Zambia.**

[gender food security and nutrition](#)

[Africa, Zambia, garden cultivation, gender differences, periurban, rural, intervention strategy](#)

This study describes home garden activities and the main problems experienced in maintaining home gardens. Research is conducted in relation to household food security issues, as well as ecological function of home gardens within the land use system. It compares gardening in urban, periurban and rural areas of Zambia. One of the main objectives of this study is to determine differences between male and female gardeners. Findings reveal that more male gardeners are found in periurban and rural areas than in urban areas and access to land in these areas more difficult for women than men. In urban areas, women have longer walking distances to water sources due to the fact that people often cannot chose the garden site. Female household labour is most important in urban home gardens, while male labour is key in rural areas and periurban areas have a mix of female-male labour. Strengthening the role of women is noted as a recommendation for policy makers in the future. (AH)

**Dima, S.J.. and A.A. Ogunmokun, An Overview of Socio-Economics and Gender Aspects in Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture: The Potential of the City of Windhoek, Namibia. Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, University of Namibia, 2001. Paper prepared for the Sub-Regional Expert Consultation Meeting on Urban and Peri-Urban Horticulture, University of Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa, January 2001**

[gender economic impact](#)

[socio-economic aspects; gender issues; urban agriculture; periurban](#)

### agriculture;Namibia

Urban and peri-urban agriculture can be defined as the process of producing agricultural commodities within demarcated urban and edges of urban areas. Because of colonial and post-colonial local authority laws, rules and regulations, urban agriculture has been practised illegally, discreetly and without technical support by local authorities or the relevant ministries of agriculture. This paper provides an overview of the resources available, and the technologies used for urban and peri-urban horticulture in Namibia. This is followed by a survey of the recent literature on urban and peri-urban agriculture in Africa with a view to assess its extent and contribution in terms of food production, employment creation, improvement in nutrition status, income generation, innovation creation and adaption and appropriate technologies development. This is followed by a case study of urban and peri-urban horticulture in the city of Windhoek.

**Egziabher, AG (1994). Urban farming, cooperatives, and the urban poor in Addis Ababa In: Cities Feeding People. Egziabher et al. Ottawa: IDRC, 1994. 85-104 Chapters 19 pp. 088936706X: CAD 25.00 International Development Research Center (IDRC), PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9 Ottawa: IDRC Supplier: International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Publications Department, PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9**

gender

Africa, Zambia, household survey, garden cultivation, women's role, food security, household analysis, intervention strategy

This paper focuses on urban agriculture in Lusaka and is based on a household garden survey conducted during 1992 and 1993. The main objective of this survey was to explore the role of household gardens in the context of household food security in Zambia. The findings reveal that women are more involved in agriculture and gardening in all compounds of Lusaka than men. In many ways women play an important role in the food supply of households: through their productive labour, their decisions on production, consumption and division of food, and through their income. A household gardening model was developed to enable a better understanding of urban gardening activities in the social and environmental context. The model can assist in highlighting and clarifying some of the factors influencing urban agriculture. The household itself is based in the centre of the model, with various internal and external factors determining the vulnerability of the household. The study reveals that gardening contributes to food security directly by providing food and indirectly by creating income respectively saving expenditures in the urban environment. Strengthening the role of women is listed as a potential recommendation for policy-makers for potential development of the urban agriculture sector to address household food insecurity. (AH)

**Engel, Marijke van den (ed) (1990). Women and the urban habitat. Vena Newsletter vol. 2 (1990) no. 1 Issues, 51 pp. Research and Documentation Centre Women and Autonomy (VENA), University of Leiden, PO Box 9555, 2300 RB Leiden, The Netherlands**

gender  
urban livelihoods

A newsletter issue focusing on the role of women in urban environments and the implications for development. Some aspects dealt with: housing, employment, women's organisations, housing finance. Also given is a list of bibliographic references related to this theme. (WB)

**Esterik, Penny (van) (1999). Gender and sustainable food systems: a feminist critique. In: For hunger-proof cities: sustainable urban food systems / Mustafa Koc, Rod MacRae, Luc JA Mougeot and Jennifer Welsh (eds). - p. 157-161. Chapters, 5 pp. 0\_88936\_882\_1: CAD 35.00 International Development Research Center (IDRC), PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9 Ottawa: IDRC**

**Supplier: International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Publications Department, PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9**

gender food security and nutrition  
gender, food systems, food security

This paper explores conceptual and practical linkages between women and food and suggests how feminist analysis may further our understanding of food security. Women's special relationship with food is culturally constructed and not a product of a natural division of labour. Women's identity and sense of self are often based on their ability to feed their families and others; food insecurity denies them this right. Food socialization and body image are also strongly gendered. The paper concludes with a working definition of feminist principles and a call for the development of a model of feminist food praxis. Food praxis refers to the practical "mastery" of routines of producing, preparing, and consuming food. The paper proposes 10 points to guide further research and action. These include acknowledging women as gatekeepers of the food system, placing priority on the elimination of hunger, using multiple research methods, recognizing how political forces control people's access to food, emphasizing the temporal complexity of food routines, and providing a critically reflexive guide to advocacy action. (NB) (Abstract adapted from original)

**Ethangatta, Linda K (1994). Households headed by elderly women in the slums of Kawangware and Kibagare in the city of Nairobi: poverty and environmental concerns Paper presented at the International Seminar on Gender, Urbanization and Environment. Nairobi, Kenya. 13-16 June 1994. Proceedings. Mazingira Institute Nairobi, Kenya: Mazingira Institute Supplier: Mazingira Institute, PO Box 14550, Nairobi, Kenya.**

gender  
Africa, Kenya, informal settlement, elderly women, nutrition, vegetable production, livestock, income generation, subsistence production, environmental degradation

The aim of the study is to determine the social-cultural, health-related factors and economic characteristics of elderly Nairobi women that may impact their nutritional status. The study is based on data collected from two hundred and one elderly

## Gender

women from slums of Kawangware and Kibagare, and the low income areas of Dagoreti and Waithaka in Nairobi. The findings reveal that women in low income areas use their land for growing food crops such as beans, kale, cabbage, and bananas. Some of these women also had a dairy cow that produced milk for their own consumption or for sale to neighbours. The marketing of fruit and vegetables was also cited by women as a income-generating activity in both slum and low income areas. Elderly women in the slum areas turned to growing vegetables on the edges of roads and any other open spaces due to economic hardships. This activity created further environmental degradation due to the uprooting of natural vegetation and potential soil erosion in these spaces. The author concludes that there is an urgent need to provide basic means of raising incomes and standards of living for families headed by elderly women. In turn, better living conditions will improve the environmental conditions of slums and low income areas. (AH)

**Evers, Hans-Dieter and Ruediger Korff. 1996. Subsistence production in Bangkok. *Development: Seeds of Change* 4:50-55.**

gender economic impacts

subsistence production, household farming, Thailand

This article focuses on the production-consumption pattern, usually referred to as a subsistence economy. Activities are carried out by unpaid labour, mostly female, to produce goods and services for household consumption. Activities include the growing of food and its processing, which takes place outside the market economy. The article argues that subsistence production can be distinguished on two levels. First, everyday reproduction of labour power within the household; and second, subsistence production organized on a more extensive scale via cooperation of several households or groups. The authors contend that individuals within households employ strategies to use the available labour power in the most efficient way. Examples detail the gender division of household labor in this context. (ah)

**Feix, Andrea. 1997. Advisory services for municipal authorities: small-scale agricultural projects. *Agriculture and Rural Development* 2/97:55-57.**

gender, urban livestock, urban horticulture

gender, resettlement, livestock production, vegetable production, beekeeping, Paraguay

This article details a project in the medium-sized town of Concepcion, Paraguay, that seeks to enable poor families to improve their diet and increase their income by promoting small livestock and vegetable production. The project focuses on the resettlement of flood victims, mostly headed by women, who developed various "productive" projects, including poultry. The project proved problematic given high initial outlay and the degree of attention required by this activity. A collective vegetable garden and bee-keeping have proved more successful. Projects are detailed in the article. (ah)

**Freeman, Donald B. (1993). Survival strategies or business training ground? The**

**significance of urban agriculture for the advancement of women in African cities. *African Studies Review* 36:3 (1993) pp. 1-22. Papers, 22 pp.**

gender

Africa, Kenya, household survey, women's role, women's strategies, entrepreneurship

This paper suggests that, contrary to findings in other research, urban agriculture is not a stop-gap activity, nor a means to become wealthy. The motivations of the urban cultivators appear not to be influenced by what planners, researchers or urban administrators feel ought to be the correct attitude toward urban farming. This paper analyzes interview data collected in Nairobi, Kenya in 1987 as part of a survey of active women cultivators. The paper first looks at the stated motives of women cultivators, and is then supplemented by information gathered through detailed case studies of three individual women involved in urban farming. The most common motivation of women cultivators was the need to avert hunger, but also important was the availability of home-grown food so as to free-up scarce cash earned by family members. The paper concludes that female cultivators face major impediments to meaningful advancement in Nairobi. Women are, in turn, dependent on the low-wage, formal manufacturing and service sectors for a market for their produce, and their activities are necessarily seasonal in the absence of the means to irrigate crops. The importance of this group as role models for other Third World women, the paper concludes, greatly outweighs their actual numbers. (AH)

**Freeman, Donald B. 1991. *A City of Farmers: Informal Urban Agriculture in the Open Spaces of Nairobi, Kenya*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press.**

gender

open spaces, informal sector, women's role, Kenya

The objective of this study is to shed light on urban agriculture, as an important but little understood component of the informal sector in Nairobi. The author addresses and emphasizes the significance of women in this activity. A chapter entitled "the role of women cultivators" details the evolution of women's roles in agriculture from rural areas to the urban context. Gender differences in urban agriculture practices are highlighted through statistical information on educational status, migration patterns, geographical distribution of farming practices, plot sizes, age structure, occupational and economic status, theft of crops, waste disposal and marketing and sale of crops. (ah)

**Freidberg, Susanne. 1996. *Making a Living: A Social History of Market-Gardening Work in the Regional Economy of Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso*. Ph.D. Dissertation. Berkeley: Department of Geography, University of California Berkeley.**

gender, economic impact

market gardening, livelihood strategies, marketing, Burkina Faso

This dissertation traces the twentieth century social and environmental history of the market-gardening sector around Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. Intensive vegetable cultivation has become one of the most important sectors in the regional economy. Gender and age-based divisions of labour have resulted in relation to

both production and marketing. Hardship and uncertainty has aggravated tensions within the households and peri-urban village communities involved in market gardening. It has also affected relations between and among producers, wholesalers and retailers. In the wake of recent trade liberalizations, gardeners are adopting more entrepreneurial strategies in order to secure access to external markets and aid. These livelihood strategies both reflect and inform the changing meaning of market-gardening work. (ah)

**Freidberg, Susanne (1999). Tradeswomen and businessmen: the social relations of contract gardening in southwestern Burkina Faso. *Journal of African Rural and Urban Studies* (1999). Paper**

gender

Africa, Burkina Faso, food exports, horticultural production, contract farming, gender roles, local trade, women traders, rural-urban linkages, historical linkages

This article examines the prospects for the expansion of export-oriented contract horticulture in southwestern Burkina Faso, specifically in the area surrounding the city of Bobo-Dioulasso. It sets out the main arguments for why any discussion of West African contract farming must take account of the gender roles and moral codes which have historically informed relations between peasants and different members of the urban merchant community. The day-to-day provisioning and commercialization depends on the services of itinerant and local traders, many of whom are, especially in fresh produce commerce, are women. The crucial role of women traders, contrasted with that of male politicians and entrepreneurs, has created a distinctive culture of contract farming. The case study presented demonstrates how women traders have made the most of limited career opportunities by placing the flexibility and durability of their commercial relations above season-to-season profits. In the interest of building trades they could pass to their daughters, women wholesalers set standards of trust and commitment that contractors find hard to match. The presence of a well-established, gender-based regional trade network poses a potential obstacles to profitable contract horticulture schemes because this network is essential to the economic security and occupational identity of both women traders and village gardeners in the Bobo-Dioulasso ""garden belt"". (AH)

**Freidberg, Susanne (1997). Contacts, contracts and green bean schemes: liberalisation and agro-entrepreneurship in Burkina Faso. *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 35:1 (1997) pp. 101-128. Papers, 29 pp.**

gender

Africa, Burkina Faso, rural-urban linkages, entrepreneurship, women traders, gender bias, historical linkages

This paper recounts the career histories and current ventures of numerous 'agro-entrepreneurs' operating in southwestern Burkina Faso, specifically in the area surrounding the city of Bobo-Dioulasso. It shows that while they are finding both new opportunities and perils in high-value export horticulture, 'agro-entrepreneurs' are also running up against obstacles to agricultural accumulation familiar to past

generations. The author contends that the ongoing economic reforms will not dramatically transform the historical-structural conditions of African entrepreneurship. In relation to women traders, economic reforms have not created a market that is more free of prejudices and old-boyism than commerce under socialism or colonialism. The norms, practices, and sites of economic activity are structured by numerous factors including by relations of gender, class, and so forth, in historically specific ways. (AH)

**Furedy, Christine (1990). Women and solid wastes in poor communities. In: Proceedings of the 16th WEDC Conference Infrastructure for Low-Income Communities / Michael Smith (ed.), p. 25-27. Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC)**

waste recycling      gender  
waste management; women's role; solid wastes

Deals with the use of waste materials by women to meet basic needs and generate income and work. As the author argues, this informal system of waste gathering goes well beyond household needs and represents important savings for poor households. An analysis as to gender is made of the composition of these waste picker groups. Areas for further research on this issue are suggested. In the field of solid waste management, one cannot deny the crucial role played by women in this low, polluted, yet crucial work. (WB)

**Gabel, Stephanie (2001) Methodological reflections on using participatory and action oriented research with women farmers in Harare. Paper for topic 1 of the workshop "Appropriate Methodologies for Urban Agriculture", October 2001, Nairobi, Kenya. Proceedings, available On: [www.ruaf.org](http://www.ruaf.org).**

R&D methodology      food security and nutrition      gender  
Zimbabwe; survival strategies; policy; gender; equity; participatory approaches

This paper presents the methods used for a case study in Harare, Zimbabwe in the role that people play in food provisioning within their household and, second, their use of urban cultivation on open spaces as both a household survival strategy and a food provisioning. Another aspect of the research was focused on policy and governance issues related to urban agriculture, taking special note of local level policies and decision making in regard to: gender sensitivity, equity and public participation. The methodology describes various participatory approaches that were used during the research.

**Garnett, Tara. 1996. Growing Food in Cities: A Report to Highlight and Promote the Benefits of Urban Agriculture in the UK. United Kingdom: National Food Alliance and Safe Alliance.**

gender, community development,  
community initiatives, food production, empowerment, United Kingdom

This report presents analysis and a wide variety of case studies, which illustrate that urban agriculture can yield a range of practical benefits. Women are briefly

highlighted in relation to combating discrimination. In the UK, urban agriculture allotment has traditionally been a male domain. Women tend to be more involved in food growing projects, rather than traditional allotment gardening, and are often responsible for initiating the projects. Five case studies are identified as those initiated by women in the UK. The author contends that by giving women experience at the beginning of the food chain, food-growing projects can help broaden women's awareness of their actual and potential abilities. (ah)

**Gentili, Anna Maria. Donne e Lavoro: Il movimento cooperativo delle zonas verdes di Maputo. *Africa* 44(1):1-24. (in Italian)**

gender, economic impacts

cooperatives, green spaces, Mozambique

This research focuses on the contribution of women's agricultural work to the reproduction of urban families in Maputo, Mozambique. The subsistence *machambas* (small fields) in the suburban districts (of which two are considered) of Maputo have always been an essential support to the survival of the family, especially in those situations where men's salaries were not adequate. Cooperatives have attracted such women producers, belonging to the less privileged sectors of the population because they guaranteed land and some means and factors of production. (ah)

**Gentili, Anna Maria. Da Lourenco Marques a Maputo: la trasformazione delle aree agricole suburbane. *Africa* 40(2):183-219 (in Italian)**

gender, land use planning

periurban agriculture, access to land, cooperative organisation, Mozambique

This article focuses on the transformation of the suburban farming areas around Maputo, Mozambique. Land ownership and control issues have resulted in conflict between diverse parties and interests. New fears of renewed expropriation have increased among women in the suburban agricultural zones who still need access to land for growing food for family consumption. Agricultural cooperatives are in large part formed by women who, by age and social stratum, have no alternative means of support. The strong participation of women in cooperative development has significantly contributed to transforming their social status. The author contends that major technical and educational support is needed for cooperative members. (ah)

**Gowon, Rahila P. 1999. Women's participation in small-scale irrigation farming in Jos-Bukuru area, Nigeria. In *Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture in Africa*, edited by David Grossman, Leo M. van den Berg, and Hyacinth I. Ajaegbu. Aldershot, United Kingdom: Ashgate. 147-162.**

gender

irrigation, women, Nigeria,

This chapter discusses the participation of women in irrigation farming, ranging from land preparation to the marketing of products harvested, in the Jos Plateau, Nigeria. The author reveals that women have a low presence, and indeed are nearly absent, in this activity. The market-oriented nature of irrigation farming requires substantial capital input and specialized skills. Women's weak economic base and reproductive responsibilities deters their general productivity and their

## Gender

overall involvement in this activity. Women's participation can be enhanced through provision of credit facilities, land reforms, agricultural skills training, and membership in farmers' associations. (ah)

**Hasna, MK (1998). NGO gender capacity in urban agriculture: case studies from Harare (Zimbabwe), Kampala (Uganda) and Accra (Ghana). Cities Feeding People Series no. 21. Reports, webpages. International Development Research Center (IDRC), PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9. Ottawa: IDRC Supplier: International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Publications Department, PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9**

[gender](#)

[Africa, Ghana, Uganda, Zimbabwe, gender issues, research agenda, non governmental organisation, gender analysis](#)

This study examines the marginalization of gender issues within urban agriculture research agendas. Data was collected from field visits to the cities of Accra, Kampala and Harare. It provides an overview and analysis of the nature and extent of NGO policies and strategies regarding the integration of gender into urban agriculture research. It is found that many NGOs are working with 'women in development' approaches. A proper understanding and scope of 'gender analysis' within these organizations is needed. Participatory learning partnerships should be developed amongst relevant groups, organizations and institutions to share gender sensitive research findings and create provisions for effective gender-focused policy interventions. (AH)

**Horn, Nancy. 1995. Market women, development, and structural adjustment in Harare, Zimbabwe. *Africa Rural and Urban Studies* 2(1):17-42.**

[gender, urban horticulture](#)

[women traders, women's strategies, Zimbabwe](#)

This article discusses women fresh produce vendors in Harare within a larger context of "responsible development" and structural adjustment policies in Zimbabwe. Analysis includes brief references to linkages between market women and urban horticultural crop production. For example, in urban areas, women's task of food provision is more difficult because housing plots are generally not large enough to grow gardens. Many women opt to become fresh produce vendors for it allows them to provision their families. Vendors purchase produce from urban neighbourhoods where green vegetables are grown in gardens on larger compounds. (ah)

**Hovorka, Alice J. (1998). Gender resources for urban agriculture research: methodology, directory and annotated bibliography. Cities Feeding People Series no. 26. Reports, webpages, 90 pp. International Development Research Centre, PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9. Ottawa: IDRC Supplier: International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Publications Department, PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9**

[gender](#)

[gender analysis, methodologies, annotated bibliography, resource persons](#)

## Gender

Although there is a growing interest in the factor gender in development research, there is also a general lack of understanding of how this type of analysis can be applied. Purpose of the underlying publication is to provide researchers with simple and systematic methodological tools for practical application of gender analysis within urban agriculture. It has been developed primarily for the Cities Feeding People team members, but can be applied by anyone doing a similar type of research. The methodology covers all stages of a research project: (1) proposal; (2) data collection, interpretation and analysis; (3) monitoring and evaluation. Still, it is not intended as a blueprint, but rather gives guidelines. Included are a directory of gender resource persons for urban agriculture research and an annotated bibliography on gender and urban agriculture. A very useful publication, both with regard to research & development methodology and for practical information. (WB)

**Hovorka, Alice J. (2001) Gender Considerations for Urban Agriculture Research. In: *Urban Agriculture Magazine*, no 5, Appropriate Methodologies for Urban Agriculture, December 2001, RUAFA, Leusden The Netherlands.**

[gender R&D Methodology](#)

[urban-peri urban, income generation, women's employment, intervention strategy](#)

The incorporation of gender considerations in urban agriculture research is increasing, and indeed, there have been advances over the last decade in our understanding of both men's and women's experiences with farming in cities around the world. There is a move away from the so-called "urban farmer", an undifferentiated, masculine, normalised urban dweller who engages in agriculture. Instead, there is greater recognition that people's experiences with urban agriculture cannot be easily standardised and that gender neutrality does not necessarily capture the breadth of such experiences. Many researchers have begun to emphasize differences amongst urban farmers, thus highlighting the distinct agriculture systems that form along gender, race, ethnicity, class, age, etc. lines. Gender analysis allows us to disaggregate data on urban agriculture and to explore why certain processes and structures generate different opportunities and constraints for different people. This article gives a comprehensive overview

**Hovorka, Alice J., Gender and Urban Agriculture: Emerging Trends and Areas for Future Research**

[gender](#)

[women's role; gender issues; urban agriculture](#)

Over the last decade, literature on women and urban agriculture has emerged revealing significant insights that arguably can change the future focus of the field at large. This overview presents a synthesis of lessons learned from recent studies that have begun to recognize and examine women as farmers in urban areas. The extent, nature and role of urban agriculture vary considerably between and within countries, as well as throughout the urban hierarchy. Moreover, evidence tends to be scattered or speculative with little supportive data to substantiate general statements. As such, it is difficult to formulate a synthesis of trends that hold for every context, or even the majority of contexts.

## Gender

Nevertheless, there are several broadly identifiable trends in recent literature on women and urban agriculture that warrant recognition and further explanation. First, studies now recognize women as urban farmers. Indeed, women play significant roles in urban food production and contribute both urban household and market economies. Second, women benefit from urban agriculture activities that allow them to successfully combine their multiple roles in subsistence, production and environmental management sectors. Third, researchers document the constraints hindering women's participation in urban agriculture activities. Obstacles exist at both sectoral and household levels. Fourth, studies identify women farmers' survival strategies and social activism in response to structural constraints and urban food issues. Together these trends have enriched the understanding of urban agriculture. Yet gaps persist in the literature, and a discussion of future trends and considerations for urban agriculture research in general is required.

**Hynes, Patricia H (1996). Why so many women? In: A Patch of Eden: America's Inner-City Gardeners. Ed. H. Patricia Hynes. Vermont: Chelsea Green Publishing Company, 1996. Chapters. 0930031806: USD 18.95. Vermont: Chelsea Green Publishing Company**

[gender community development](#)

[household economy, women's role, garden cultivation, socioeconomic differentiation, subsistence production, food supply, historical perspective](#)

In this chapter, the author considers whether there is a larger, broader history of women and gardens which underlies the community garden movement. What meaning - personal, social, and political - have gardens held for women of different classes and ethnicities? The practice of gardening has been stratified by wealth and by gender. Millions of subsistence, kitchen, and medicinal gardens planted and tended by women have been central to household economy, village health and local biodiversity. The garden has been a source of natural beauty for the urban and rural poor. Yet the value of this work, is generally not counted in the economy because it is unpaid and not market-based, nor is it recorded in environmental history because it is considered insignificant work of many "ordinary" women. Women's contribution through gardening to the world's food supply is chronically underestimated. The author draws a parallel between inner cities in the United States with the Third World: the urban community garden has the potential to feed households and generate local cottage industry, restore a measure of community life, and recycle organic wastes. (AH)

**Hynes, H.P., (1996) A Patch of Eden: America's Inner City Gardens. Chelsea Green Publishing Company.**

[gender community development](#)

[household economy, women's role, garden cultivation, socioeconomic differentiation, subsistence production, food supply, historical perspective](#)

Stories of successful, real life, inner-city garden projects in the formidable big city environments of New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and San Francisco. (from website)

**Ishani, Z. and D. Lamba (2001), Applications of Methods and Instruments in Urban Agriculture Research: Experiences from Kenya and Tanzania**

gender

Kenya; Tanzania

The paper deals with methodology applied in two studies of urban agriculture in Kenya and Tanzania, conducted by, and in collaboration with Mazingira Institute. The first study titled "Urban Food Production and the Cooking Fuel Situation in Urban Kenya" was published by the Institute in 1987. The second study on "Gender and Urban Agriculture and its Implication for Family Welfare and the Environment in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania." was completed in 2000 (not published). The Kenyan study comprised six cities and towns covering the various agro-climatic zones. It analysed the patterns of food and fuel production and consumption by the urban households in Kenya by considering the socio-economic characteristics of the sample population, crop production, livestock production and fuel. In addition, it raised issues for consideration by policy makers. The Tanzanian study "Tanzania - Gender and Urban Agriculture: Cattle Raising and its Implication for Family Welfare and the Environment in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania" was at a city level. It analysed the gender roles in cattle raising in the district of Kinondoni in Dar Es Salaam.

**Jacobi, Petra, Jörg Amend and Suzan Kiango. Urban agriculture in Dar es Salaam: providing for an indispensable part of diet. In *Growing Cities, Growing food: Urban Agriculture on the Policy Agenda*, edited by Nico Bakker, Marielle Dubbeling, Sabine Gündel, Ulrich Sabel-Koschella, and Henk de Zeeuw. Germany: Deutsche stiftung für internationale Entwicklung. 257-184.**

gender, food security and nutrition

women's role, subsistence production, men's roles, market production, Tanzania

This case study provides an overview of urban agriculture in Dar es Salaam. It specifically details the types of activities, namely home production and community gardens, present in urban and peri-urban areas. It also delves into issues of food security, health, nutrition, household economy, urban environment, and city policy. The authors highlight gender issues and reveal that while both men and women farm, their participation is differentiated by field locale. They also reveal that there is a strong link between socio-economic family status, objective of production and involvement of women. While men dominate market production, women predominate in subsistence food production. Location, magnitude of enterprise and orientation of production reflect gender differences in urban agriculture in Dar es Salaam. (ah)

**Kreinecker, Petra (2000). La Paz: urban agriculture in harsh ecological conditions. In: *Growing cities, growing food: urban agriculture on the policy agenda*, p. 391-411. DSE, GTZ, CTA, SIDA**

gender food security and nutrition

food security; food policy; land use systems; ecology; economic impact; gender; urban policies; reuse of waste; poverty; land tenure; migration; nutrition; microclimate; Bolivia; appropriate technology

The climate in La Paz enhances the development of adapted techniques for urban

## Gender

agriculture. Officials tend to not see urban agriculture though in fact it is everywhere. Urban agriculture is a survival strategy for socially marginalized people as urban agriculture fits well in their economy based on social relations. Several urban farming systems can be found of which private home gardens and communal gardens are more important. Land titles are unclear and little capital is used. Farmers are organized in informal and formal organizations and networks. Women play a central role in farming and urban farming contributes to women's independence. Urban agriculture contributes little to food energy supply but increases the diversity of food consumption. Many factors hamper the development of urban agriculture among others the ecological conditions, cultural heterogeneity and land tenure situation. A future strategy needs to emphasize existing structures and socially accepted Andean varieties to improve the situation of marginalized people. (NB)

**Krug, Karen L (1999). Canadian rural women reconstructing agriculture In: For hunger-proof cities: sustainable urban food systems / Mustafa Koc, Rod MacRae, Luc JA Mougeot and Jennifer Welsh (eds). - p. 167-173 Chapters, 7 pp. 0\_88936\_882\_1: CAD 35.00 International Development Research Center (IDRC), PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9 Ottawa: IDRC Supplier: International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Publications Department, PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9**

[gender](#)

[gender, food systems, land tenure, Canada, rural-urban linkages](#)

The paper considers Canadian farm women's perceptions of the barriers to sustainable agriculture in relation to the general categories of the economic system, declining rural communities, environmental degradation, health issues, and stress. It then examines Canadian farm women's visions of how agriculture ought to be and their general perspectives on how the desirable alternatives might be achieved. The focus then shifts to a discussion of how and why urban and rural people must cooperate to achieve a sustainable food system. The paper concludes with a summary of the suggestions made by Canadian farm women for agricultural reforms to strengthen both rural and urban sustainable agricultural systems. These include emphasizing local food production and distribution over export and import systems, ensuring security of land tenure, reducing or eliminating land speculation, building national constituencies to foster urban-rural connections, and increasing rural populations through smaller scale local production and government support. (NB) (Abstract adapted from original)

**Kusakabe, Kyoko, Chan Monnyrath, Chea Sopheap and Theng Chan Chham, (2001) Social Capital of Women Micro-Vendors in Phnom Penh (Cambodia) Markets: A Study of Vendors' Association. Asian Institute of Technology / Urban Sector Group, Women's Economic and Legal Rights Project (USG/WELR). Bangkok: United Nations Urban Management Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. UMP-Asia Occasional Papers no. 53**

[gender](#)

[Cambodia; women's role](#)

In Cambodia, because of the long history of civil strife, it is said that mutual trust has been destroyed, and that because of their negative experience with "cooperatives", there is a stigma on organizing and on working together and sharing information together. Efforts to revive social capital and attempts and initiatives to organize people are taking place in Cambodia. One of such initiatives is the micro-vendors' association in Phnom Penh markets. With the support of a local NGO Urban Sector Group (USG) and The Asia Foundation, micro-vendors in public market places are forming an association under the Women's Economic and Legal Rights Project (WELR). This study examines how being a member of the vendors' association influenced their sense of mutual trust and confidence in making changes in the society, and how such trust in turn influence their gender norms and ideologies and how they see their own positions in the households. The study examines how this collective process and balance is struck in the micro-vendors' association in Phnom Penh. Through their collective action against the authorities, are they able to overcome the existing economic and social subordination? Or are they encouraging them to conform to the existing norms through building social capital?

**Lee-Smith, Diana; Memon, Pyar Ali (1993). Urban agriculture in Kenya. Canadian Journal of African Studies 27:1 (1993) pp. 25-42. Papers, 18 pp.**

gender food security and nutrition      R&D methodology

Africa, Kenya, urban theory, urban policies, urban development, women's role, subsistence production, urban poor, food security

This article analyzes the characteristics of urban agriculture in Kenya within a wider conceptual and socioeconomic context and is based on a survey by the Mazingira Institute (Lee-Smith et al., 1987). This article emphasizes the significance of incorporating a food component, namely crops and livestock, into urban theory, and raises questions of policy for sustainable urban development. The authors claim that the situation in urban areas with respect to urban farming must be understood as part of a wider food crisis, exacerbated by the fact that women's work and subsistence production are largely ignored, and the situation therefore remains misunderstood. The article notes women's roles and participation in urban agriculture. Extension services need to be made more available in urban areas, and specifically, they need to be directed to poor urban women. The article concludes by stating that the fact that urban farmers are mainly, but not exclusively, women producing for their own families' consumption, is no reason to discount the conceptual significance of these activities or the value of their primary economic production. (AH)

**Loforte, Ana Maria. 1989. A persistencia dos valores 'Tradicionais' nas Comunidades Urbanas e Ethnicidade. Trabalhos de Arqueologia e Anthropologia 6:21-27.**

gender,

periurban agriculture, farming systems, Mozambique

This paper stems from research conducted in the district of Mahlazine on the periphery of Maputo, Mozambique. The research focuses on suburban agricultural

## Gender

activity, largely done by women. It reveals that eight percent of families have *machambas* (small fields) close enough for daily work. A further ten percent of families have *machambas* at a distance of twelve to fifteen kilometres. Some of the women have market stalls where they sell a portion of their produce. Productivity of the land varies from area to area, so that not all families produce a surplus. (ah)

**Loforte, Ana Maria. 1987. Migrantes e sua Relação com o Meo Rural. *Trabalhos de Arqueologia e Antropologia* 4:55-60.**

gender, economic impacts

migration, survival strategies, periurban agriculture, Mozambique

This paper explores the economic situation and the social networks of migrant families in Mahlazine District, Maputo, Mozambique. Reasons for migration are generally based on economic principles and are part of a collective strategy. The author contends that migrants continue to rely on rural survival skills. These skills involve more than simple agricultural activities; rural-based values that focus on family, ethnicity and religion are predominant among new urban residents. Residents in the so-called "cement city" in Maputo generally do not have gardens. However, in the city's suburban neighbourhoods, women continue to be involved almost exclusively in agricultural labour. (ah)

**Made, Pat (2000). A field of her own: women and land rights in Zimbabwe. In: No paradise yet: the world's women face the new century / J. Mirsky and M. Radlett (eds). p. 81-100. London: Panos/Zed.**

gender

access to land; land tenure; Southern Africa; Zimbabwe

Land tenure, a prime issue for women in urban and rural agriculture, is addressed here from the point of view of women farmers Harare. More than 70 percent of Zimbabwe's agricultural work force is women; an equal share of urban agriculture is managed by women. Women cannot inherit land either from their fathers or husbands. The author concludes that economic development will be slow, with only half the population empowered by legal access to land. (JS)

**Mapetla, M; Phororo H; Prasad G (1994). Urbanization, gender and environment: the role of wild vegetables. Paper presented at the International Seminar on Gender, Urbanization and Environment. Nairobi, Kenya. 13-16 June 1994. Proceedings. Nairobi, Kenya: Mazingira Institute Supplier: Mazingira Institute, PO Box 14550, Nairobi, Kenya**

gender food security and nutrition

Africa, Lesotho, resource use, wild vegetables, nutrition, income generation, gender issues, cultural aspects, urbanisation, women's role, social networks, rural-urban linkages

Although many people in Lesotho move to towns in search of better job opportunities, they miss out on access to natural wild food resources. It is argued in this paper that such resources can be adapted to the urban environment and wild vegetables could contribute to nutrition and cash income of urban dwellers.

## Gender

Gathering, preparing and eating are related to gender and culture. Earlier studies have shown that collecting and preparing wild vegetables is a strategy for rural women to provide a balanced diet for their families. Urbanization in Lesotho has affected women's access to natural resources like edible wild plants. Settlements now occupy former agricultural land and wild foods become scarce in peri urban areas due to over harvesting. Urban women have to spend much more time to find enough wild plants for a meal. The study reveals that only a few people collect wild plants, and children are no longer taught about edible plants due, in part, to schools highlighting westernized curriculums which do not foster the value of indigenous plants. For many people in towns, wild foods have low status and they would rather buy cultivated vegetables from the market. Towns have created markets but only rarely are wild vegetables sold. Women from the countryside sell the wild vegetables through informal networks in town. A promotion strategy for wild vegetable focusing on knowledge, attitude, value and nutrition is suggested. Outward rather than inward growth of urban areas is also recommended by the authors. It is argued that gardens within urban housing sites in Lesotho are agriculturally more productive than fields in rural areas, and agricultural production does not decrease when fields are converted into housing sites with gardens in the present urban expansion pattern. (AH)

**Marshall, Judith. 1987. Life on the frontline: Mozambique diary. Southern Africa Report 3(1):7-10.**  
gender,

cooperatives, women, livelihood strategies, privatisation, Mozambique

This article briefly highlights the cooperatives in the Green Zones of Maputo as an example of popular efforts by people to survive and organize in Mozambique. Ninety-five percent of 11,500 cooperative members are women. Many of these women have been able to create a life in the 'public' sphere, have gained access to all of the vegetables, grains and fruit that the cooperatives produce, and have had training in various livelihood skills. The Green Zone Cooperatives now find their land and markets under attack due to privatization. Urban businessmen or bureaucrats are claiming title to family land, and private producers are strong competitors to cooperatives who were once the only vegetable producers for Maputo. Cooperatives are seeking other markets and funding through NGOs for trucks that can keep them competitive. (ah)

**Matlala, Padi (1990). Mamelodi's amazing maize growers. New Ground 1:1 (September 1990) 30-31. Reports, 2 pp.**

gender

Africa, South Africa, cooperative organization, women's organization, elderly women, access to land, subsistence production, income generation

This short article describes the urban agriculture activities of the elderly and unemployed women of Mamelodi, South Africa. The women were inspired by the Mamelodi Street Committees that sprung up between 1985 and 1987. These committees had a profound impact on the way of life in the township, enabling residents to take greater control of their lives. The women organised themselves into working groups of four to five, and took over most of the unused land scattered

throughout the township, as well as along the riverside and mountainside. Rain-fed food crops provide food for their households and are also sold for much-needed cash. The women face an uncertain future due to land and property development issues. (AH)

**Maxwell, Daniel G. (1993?). Land access and household logic: urban Farming in Kampala. Research Paper. Kampala, Uganda: Makerere Institute of Social Research, (1993?). 35 p.**

R&D methodology    gender  
Uganda; land tenure; household economy

This report goes beyond Maxwell's previous work and other research on urban farming in Kampala which tended to treat households as internally homogeneous units, except for income differences. This paper thus dives into breaking down the functioning of the urban farming households to understand its logic. (JN)

**Maxwell, Daniel G. (1994). The household logic of urban farming in Kampala. In: Cities Feeding People. Egziabher et al. Ottawa: IDRC, 1994, 47-65. Chapters, 19 pp. 088936706X: CAD 25.00 International Development Research Center (IDRC), PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9. Ottawa: IDRC Supplier: International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Publications Department, PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9**

gender  
Africa, Uganda, literature review, gender analysis, access to land, household strategies, entrepreneurship, food security, women heads-of-households

The objective of this paper is to evaluate the various claims made about urban agriculture in Kampala, Uganda. This includes reviewing the limited literature on the importance of this activity in Kampala; attempting to assess direct evidence on nutritional status; examining the means of access to land; and understanding the logic of various households involved in urban food production. Gender is applied to examinations of land access and household logic. The paper contends that commercial producers may be either men or women, and male and female household members may collaborate in business ventures. In production for food security, it is common for senior women in the household to gain access to land through borrowing, renting, squatting, or purchasing of use rights. Urban agriculture contributes to household food security, and allows women to use cash income on items other than the purchase of food. Urban agriculture often becomes a survival strategy for low-income female-headed households, widows, and families suddenly abandoned by a primary wage earner. (AH)

**Maxwell, Daniel G., 1998. Urban agriculture: unplanned responses to the economic crisis. In *Developing Uganda*. Eds Holger Bernt Hansen and Michael Twaddle. Athens: Ohio University.**

gender, economic impacts, food security and nutrition

## Gender

women's role, men's roles, household strategies, cultural aspects, Uganda

This study challenges previous perceptions about the practice of urban agriculture, as well as the extent to which it can be understood or characterized as a household strategy. Findings reveal that farming in Kampala spans a continuum from survival strategy for some to large-scale, lucrative investment of capital for a few. Contemporary women face economic circumstances, which leave them responsible for household food provision, often without the means to do so.

Urban women use this activity to achieve some degree of food security for their households beyond cash incomes and markets; under some circumstances this activity also provides a source of income. Men and women have different rationales for farming: men often explain farming in terms of a cultural imperative for women whereas women express it in much more pragmatic terms. Hence the logic of urban farming varies with the circumstances of the men and women who engage in it.

**Maxwell, Daniel G. (1995). Alternative food security strategy: a household analysis of urban agriculture in Kampala. World Development 23:10 (1995) pp. 1669-1681. Papers, 13 pp.**

gender

Africa, Uganda, household relations, gender relations, household analysis, access to land, food security, nutrition, women's role, women heads-of-households, urban policies, intervention strategy

The author contends that little is understood about the forces behind urban farming or its impact at the household level. Intra-household dynamics and gender relations, as well as declining wages and economic informalisation, are all important to an understanding of urban farming. The paper presents an overview of the household analysis of urban farming, as based on research carried out in Kampala, Uganda, between November 1992 and October 1993. This includes a discussion of intra household dynamics, access to land, and a comparison of food security and nutritional status in farming and non-farming households. Underlying the evidence gathered is the fact that urban farming is almost completely under the control of women, who bear primary responsibility for provision of food. Discussion also centres on the implications of urban farming, and possible policy alternatives. The author suggests that programs promoting urban farming should give priority to low-income, female-headed households due to equity reasons. Such programs could be established through women's organizations, such as informal savings and credit groups, and should be closely monitored, both in terms of the direct effect on women's income, and in terms of food security and child nutritional status. (AH)

**Maxwell, Daniel G. (1999). Internal struggles over resources, external struggles for survival: urban women and subsistence household production. Urban Agriculture Notes <http://www.cityfarmer.org/danmax.html> Webpages, 14 p. Noguchi Memorial Institute, University of Ghana, PO Box 25, Legon, Ghana. Vancouver: City Farmer**

gender

Africa; Uganda; household strategies; income generation; subsistence production;

gender analysis; gender roles; gender relations; power relations; women heads-of-households; urban policies; household resources; intervention strategy

Presents data on Kampala in an attempt to examine and understand semi-subsistence urban farming and the way in which the practice has been incorporated into the economic strategies of urban households and individuals. The paper argues that in contemporary Africa farming spans a continuum from a survival strategy for some to a large scale high return investment for a few. For the most part it should be considered as a deliberate crisis response of urban women to provide for themselves and their household a source of food which is not dependent on cash money or volatile markets. The paper explores patterns of engagement in farming, the use of food and division of labour. Furthermore, the paper discusses reasons for farming and divisions of household responsibilities before drawing conclusions. (NB)

**Mazingira Institute. 1987. Urban Food Production and the Cooking Fuel Situation in Urban Kenya. Nairobi: Mazingira Institute.**

gender, extension

food production, women heads-of-households, municipal policies, extension services, subsistence production, Kenya

This study analyzes the patterns of food and fuel production and subsistence consumption by urban households, based on a stratified random sample of urban households in six representative towns in Kenya. Survey data collected from October 1984 to July 1985 indicates that the majority of urban farmers are women. Women heads-of-households are especially reliant on subsistence food production for the survival of themselves and their children. The study raises the issue of women farmers for consideration by policy and decision-makers at national and municipal level. Urban extension programs need to be specifically targeted to women farmers if they are to effectively reach the majority, with allotment programs ensuring fair proportional access to women, particularly poor, women-headed households. (ah)

**Mbaye, Alain, and Paule Moustier**

**. 2000. Market-oriented urban agricultural production in Dakar. Urban agriculture and sustainable cities. In *Growing Cities, Growing food: Urban Agriculture on the Policy Agenda*, edited by Nico Bakker, Marielle Dubbeling, Sabine Gündel, Ulrich Sabel-Koschella, and Henk de Zeeuw. Germany: Deutsche Stiftung für internationale Entwicklung. 235-156.**

gender

commercial agriculture, men's roles, women's role, women's organization, Senegal

This case study provides an overview of urban agriculture in Dakar. It specifically details the range of production systems found in the area, and points to the contribution of these systems to urban household supply, health, the environment, and the domestic economy. The authors note that men are more often involved in commercial urban agriculture given high start-up costs. Moreover, more men than women are in charge of horticultural and livestock farms in and around Dakar.

They highlight the *Fedri* group as an interesting case of women voluntarily investing in urban agriculture for both domestic and export markets. (ah)

**Mbiba, Beacon M (1995). Urban Agriculture in Zimbabwe: Implications for Urban Management and Policy. Chapters. 1856288579: USD 59.95 (hardcover). Aldershot, England: Avebury**

gender food security and nutrition

Africa, Zimbabwe, women's employment, adolescents, gender roles, socioeconomic differentiation, gender relations, access to land, decision making, power relations, men's roles, women's role, men's strategies, women's strategies

This book addresses the phenomenon of urban agriculture in Zimbabwe. While it acknowledges that the activity is a significant source of food and income for the urban poor, the book draws attention to the development conflicts raised by the activity. It attempts to place urban agriculture within the context of urban economy, the environment, institutional concerns, gender and urban poverty. Evidence presented confirms the role of urban agriculture for employment of women and children. A review of gender dimensions of informal urban cultivation highlights the needs, problems and experiences of women's double burdens of production and reproduction. Men's social and economic motivation for urban cultivation activities are also noted. Issues of 'gate-keeping', women landlordism, and decision-making are discussed in terms of gender dynamics. It is noted that women are not a homogenous group, thus there is a need to revise generalizations of poor women, and extend research issues to high income groups. The author contends that urban cultivation should only form one part of a strategy designed to improve the position of urban women for it does not tackle the problems of women's access to education, skills, wage and self-employment. Based on ongoing research the book demonstrates that there is a potential for urban agriculture as part of the urban economy, but that the urban poor, including women-headed households, are not major beneficiaries of the activity. (AH)

**Mbiba, Beacon. 1995. Classification and description of urban agriculture in Harare. *Development Southern Africa* 12(1):75-86.**

gender, economic impacts

institutional aspects, policy development, women's role, Zimbabwe

This study aims at placing urban agriculture within the context of the urban economy, management and development. It also extends to gender and institutional concerns and links this phenomenon to broader issues of housing supply and the fiscal base of local authorities. The study examines those persons engaged in urban agriculture, the official policy on this activity, and the cultivators' views on relevant policy. Research confirms the dominance of women in urban agriculture. Women contribute to economic subsistence in ways not captured by national accounting techniques, and they hold a significant amount of decision-making authority in terms of how agricultural produce is used. (ah)

**Memon, Pyar Ali; Lee-Smith, Diana, (1993) Urban agriculture in Kenya. Mazingira Institute, Nairobi, Kenya. In: *CJAS/RCEA* (January 1993) p. 25-42**

gender, food security and nutrition, R&D methodology

## Gender

food security; surveys; Kenya, urban theory, urban policies, urban development, women's role, subsistence production, urban poor

Presents the results of a survey among urban farmers in Kenyan cities by the Mazingira Institute. The study concludes, once more, that subsistence production in towns and cities has been neglected in economic and spatial planning to the point of being outlawed. Still, the economic value of urban subsistence farming is both significant at the national level and crucial to the poor themselves. (WB)

**Mianda, Gertrude (1996). Women and garden produce of Kinshasa: the difficult quest for autonomy. In: Women, Work, and Gender Relations in Developing Countries. Eds. Parvin Ghorayshi and Claire Belanger. Westport Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1996. 91-101. Chapters, 20 pp. 0313297975: USD 59.95 (hardcover). Westport Connecticut: Greenwood Press**

gender

Africa, Zaire, garden cultivation, women's role, gender relations, power relations, income generation, women's strategies, labour

This chapter focuses on women and the organization of garden production in Kinshasa, Zaire. Gender relations are viewed as power relations whereby garden production becomes a game of power relations between women producers and husbands. Women undertake garden production to acquire economic independence from their husbands, as well as to meet the financial needs of their families. Through various strategies and tactics, women manipulate the sexual division of labour, despite its constraints, for their own benefit. They gain advantage over their husbands for initiating the production. In order to claim total autonomy, women gardeners establish control over the management, marketing and revenue derived from production. They thus modify, both at the level of garden production and at all levels of power related to this production, the traditional image of women. (AH)

**Mudimu, Godfrey D (1996). Urban agricultural activities and women's strategies in sustaining family livelihoods in Harare, Zimbabwe. Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography 17:2 (1996) pp. 179-194. Papers, 16 pp.**

gender

Africa, Zimbabwe, women's role, urban planning, women's employment, gender bias, access to land, gender relations, power relations, socioeconomic differentiation, household strategies, income generation, subsistence production, urban policies

Though a widespread practice, urban agriculture is not planned for or supported by urban planners and managers as a legitimate form of urban land use in Harare, Zimbabwe. As women are the main participants in urban agriculture, their activities come into direct conflict with planning provisions for urban space. This study examines the role of women in urban agriculture and views and perceptions of the use of urban space for agricultural activities in Harare. The large presence of women cultivators is indicative of women's reduced opportunities for formal employment in urban areas and the perceived notion of women having primary responsibility for

providing family sustenance. While women were the predominant ""owners"" of the plots, the men in the fields were primarily cultivating land on behalf of their spouses or as hired hands. A significant proportion of female respondents were heads-of-households, and urban agriculture is practised by women of all socioeconomic-economic classes. Those women in professional occupations tended to hire contract workers for their plots. Data collected also supports the fact that larger households are more likely to be under pressure to supplement their food sources and incomes via urban agriculture as a survival strategy. Urban agriculture offers women the opportunity to enhance their economic power within the household, although not without negotiating with their spouses, and the ability to provide food for family consumption. The study identifies two immediate issues requiring the attention of policy makers. First, the potential increased competition for land, as reduced employment opportunities push more men to pursue urban agriculture activities, may pose a threat to women's future access to land. Second, current urban planning concepts must be reviewed so that a clear policy on urban agriculture is formulated so that it will support women's struggle for sustaining family livelihoods in the urban economy. (AH)

**Ninez, Vera. 1985. Working at half-potential: constructive analysis of home garden programmes in the Lima slums with suggestions for an alternative approach. *Food and Nutrition Bulletin* 7(3):6-14.**

gender

home gardening, women heads-of-households, community aspects, women's role, men's roles, Peru

This article explores traditional gardening and garden development projects in Lima, Peru. It details the socio-economic and nutritional background of low-income target populations served by small-scale food production development projects; discusses "native" food production; analyzes a series of past and contemporary programmes; and offers concrete suggestions to guide future programme design. In the course of establishing themselves in Lima, many female heads-of-households have opted to start small gardens, in light of household responsibilities. In the study, thirty-two of forty producers were housewives with small children and no gainful employment outside the home. One main difference between male and female gardeners in Lima is that men often capitalize on their backyard enterprises while women aim to produce food for household consumption. The author contends that the reason most overlooked in the failure of community garden programmes is the artificial nature of the main vehicle used to put them into operation: the mothers' clubs which are remnants of Peace Corps work in Peru and have no roots in the community structure. One key factor in the success of another gardening project is that women are able to plant foods relevant to the daily diet and not easily obtained otherwise. (ah)

**Ofei-Aboagye, E (1996). gender critique on urban agriculture: food security and nutritional status in greater Accra (Ghana). Report for IDRC Project No. 96-0013 003149. Reports. International Development Research Center (IDRC), PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9. Ottawa: IDRC Supplier: International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Publications**

**Department, PO Box 8500, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3H9**

gender food security and nutrition

Africa, Ghana, gender issues, research agenda, development projects, gender analysis, methodologies, food security, nutrition

This proposal review is based on an IDRC study on food security and nutritional status in Greater Accra, Ghana, and highlights key issues in gender considerations for research on urban agriculture. It focuses on the reviewer's expectations regarding objectives of the study and suggestions for improvement along gender lines. The reviewer notes that resources of land, water, credit, information and other inputs need to be considered from a gender perspective. Gender proportions of poverty and its influencing factors should inform the design of conceptual framework and proposed methodology (with qualitative methods facilitating particularly rich gender enquiry). The reviewer contends that the participation of a female leader researcher does not necessarily guarantee incorporation of a gender perspective. Use and involvement of policy makers, the National Council on Women and Development, women's organizations and the media are critical at various stages of the research. (AJH)

**Peters, Kim (1999). Community-based waste management for environmental management and income generation in low-income areas: a case study of Nairobi, Kenya. Urban Agriculture Notes.**

<http://www.cityfarmer.org/NairobiCompost.html>. 36 p. Mazingira Institute, Nairobi, Kenya

**Supplier: City Farmer, Canada's Office of Urban Agriculture**

waste recycling community development gender

waste management; composting; Kenya; gender; organisation; environmental aspects; rural-urban linkages

The paper focuses on community based waste management in Nairobi, Kenya. Women groups started composting organic waste as a means of improving community environmental conditions and generating income through the sale of compost. Through this composting, significant environmental improvements have been achieved including health, agricultural opportunities, improved drainage. It is recommended that local authorities should focus on regulation and co-ordination while NGOs could provide advice and training for local authorities. (NB)

**Rakodi, Carole (1988). Urban agriculture: research questions and Zambian evidence. The Journal of Modern African Studies 26:3 (1988) pp.495-515. Papers, 21 pp.**

gender food security and nutrition

Africa, Zambia, gender roles, labour, food production, decision making, income generation, subsistence production, research issues, urban policies

This article explores the forgotten or ignored area of food crop cultivation in urban areas in the 1980s. The author contends that the first stage in studying any neglected area is to review existing evidence and policy, in this case from Zambia, to

## Gender

reveal gaps and suggest avenues for further enquiry, policy formulation, and experimentation. The author situates urban agriculture within a wider framework of the gender division of labour, specifically the economic activities of women. Food production in Zambian cities is predominantly a women's activity, determined by the size of household, income per capita, stability of urban residence, and the availability of land for cultivation around the house and/or within reasonable walking distance. A strategy to increase the household production of fruit and vegetables for consumption and sale must be examined in the context of household decision-making, and especially the labour time available to women. Women's response to opportunities to grow more food will depend on the extent to which they make decisions about cultivation, the use or sale of produce, and the distribution of benefits within the household. More detailed evidence from urban agriculture projects and wider implications of such a policy must be assessed before more widespread cultivation is advocated. This includes assessing the benefits to households, and especially to women, compared to alternative economic opportunities which might be made available by other initiatives. (AH)

**Rakodi, Carole (1987). Urban agriculture: research questions and Zambian evidence. Papers in Planning Research No. 109. Cardiff, Wales: Department of Town Planning, University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology. 77 p.**

[gender](#)

[Zambia; women; economics; access to land; household economy](#)

This is one of the studies on urban agriculture to be undertaken in eastern Africa in the mid-1980s. It focuses on the economic activities of women in urban farming. A shorter version of this unpublished report was published in *Journal of Modern African Studies* 26, no. 3 (1988): 495-515. (JN)

**Rakodi, Carole (1985). Self-reliance or survival? Food production in African cities with particular reference to Zambia. African Urban Studies 21(1985) pp. 53-63. Papers, 10 pp.**

[gender](#)

[Africa, Zambia, research issues, women's role, household strategies](#)

This paper focuses on urban agriculture, based on a review of Zambian evidence and policy, and is set within a context of wider research issues. The author details the relationship between gardening, women and economic activity. The potential of urban agriculture and its implications for urban land allocation and development are discussed, with specific attention paid to women as urban agriculture practitioners. Research needs to focus on the well-being of populations citywide and at the household level. The role of women in household survival strategies is especially important and more information is required. (AH)

**Ratta, Annu (1993). City women farm for food and cash. International Ag-Sieve vol. 6 (1993) no. 2 p. 1-2 articles, webpages**

## Gender

gender

women's role, gender bias, income generation, subsistence production, extension services

This brief article outlines women's involvement in urban agriculture and highlights barriers and solutions to such activities. Farming is a viable alternative to wage labour for women and allows women to work close to home. Women's role is not limited to food production but includes processing food for home and market. These activities are rarely reflected in official statistics nor are they recognized as a contribution to the family budget. Thus women do not fully benefit from research or extension services. (AH)

**Shehu, DJ; Hassan, WA (1995). Women in dairying in the African savannah: their contribution to agro-pastoral household income in the dry northwest of Nigeria Nomadic Peoples. 36/37 (1995) pp. 53-63. Papers, 10 pp.**

gender

Africa, Nigeria, rural-urban linkages, dairy cattle, dairy production, dairy processing, income generation, social networks, power relations, gender relations, women's role, market women, intervention strategy

This article considers some aspects of the productive work of Fulbe women in Nigeria, and examines the ways in which their contribution to the household income through the sale of dairy produce has sustained Fulbe communities. Women, through the processing and the daily sale of their products in the urban market contribute the cash for the day to day expenses of the family unit. The daily trips to the urban markets also make them important channels of information for their small rural community. Dairying is no longer carried out on a purely subsistence basis. Women have made inroads into the cash economy especially through the urban markets. Women have thus managed to obtain important leverage through dairying in three ways. First, it serves to balance power relations between male and female household members. Second, it also provides links for women to the larger urban and rural community. Third, it generates leverage for women through their attempts to integrate livestock and dairy economies of the rural areas with urban markets. Modernisation of women's dairying activities, through simple and appropriate mechanization and refrigeration and improved processing techniques for production and supply of fresh milk, would potentially allow a larger populace to benefit. (AH)

**Sheldon, Kathleen (1999). Machambas in the City : Urban Women, and Agricultural Work in Mozambique. Contemporary Challenges in Portuguese-Speaking Worlds. p. 121-140 Paris: Éditions Karthala, 22-24 Bd Arago, 75013-Paris.**

gender

Africa, Mozambique, historical perspective, rural-urban linkages, garden cultivation, women's role, subsistence production, women's organization, intervention strategy

Women in southern and eastern African cities commonly devote time and energy to cultivating an urban garden. This is an often observed but little analyzed activity; it makes an important contribution to family nutrition and sometimes income, but has

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been neglected in studies of urban informal activities, food supplies to urban areas, household labor, and development. This paper investigates the past and present agricultural work done by urban women in Mozambique, and shows that the inclusion of this area of female endeavor improves our understanding of the process of urbanization. This paper documents the history of women's urban agricultural work during the colonial era, findings that alter ideas that this work is only related to periods of economic crisis. Another intriguing aspect was the discovery that the majority of women who worked full time in the garment or cashew factories also invested time and energy in urban family agriculture. This work was not only the province of women who were otherwise unemployed and had the time to devote to growing food for their families; it was also a common recourse for women working for a wage during a time of food scarcity. The adaptation of women's rural labor to the urban setting, even for women with full-time waged jobs, speaks eloquently of the rural impact on African city life. Website: [www.cean.u\\_bordeaux.fr/lusotopie](http://www.cean.u_bordeaux.fr/lusotopie) (Original abstract)

**Slater, R. (2001), Understanding women's involvement in urban agriculture in Cape Town: A social development perspective. In: *Urban Agriculture Magazine, no 5, Appropriate Methodologies for Urban Agriculture*, pp. 17-18, December 2001, RUAF, Leusden The Netherlands.**

gender, R&D methodology

South Africa

Urban agriculture research in Southern and Eastern Africa has concentrated largely on the use of questionnaires and surveys, usually with a view to understanding the economic benefits accruing to those who practice urban agriculture. For researchers, the focus has been on identifying and analysing the contribution of urban agriculture to income generation, subsistence and food security or on considering its environmental and planning implications. In Cape Town, however, the economic benefits of urban agriculture are limited. In 1989 an investigation found that, where practised, urban agriculture contributed less than one per cent of household income. Questions remain of what are the dynamics behind urban agricultural activity in this context? Why do people living in low-income settlements in Cape Town invest time and money in agriculture in the absence of economic benefits? To try and answer this question an alternative analytical and methodological approach was developed and applied during 10 months of interviewing in three townships in Cape Town. The approach relied on an understanding of how people came to live in Cape Town and the impact of apartheid on opportunities to find work and a place to live. During 1996, 169 people were interviewed in Langa, Khayelitsha and Lower Crossroads settlements and the life histories of fourteen women were recorded. Through the use of an alternative framework, urban agriculture was found to be important in a number of ways.

**Talukder A., Pee, S. de, Taher, A., Hall, A., Moench-Pfanner, R., Bloem, M.W. (2001) Improving food and nutrition security through homestead gardening in rural, urban and periurban areas in Bangladesh. Paper for the workshop "Appropriate Methodologies for Urban Agriculture", October 2001, Nairobi, Kenya. Proceedings, available On: [www.ruaf.org](http://www.ruaf.org). A shortened version is taken up In: *Urban Agriculture Magazine, no 5, Appropriate Methodologies for Urban***

**Agriculture, December 2001, RUF, Leusden The Netherlands.**

R&D Methodology food security and nutrition gender  
Bangladesh; home gardening; gender; children

Malnutrition is a serious public health problem in Bangladesh, and can have serious impacts on the population as malnutrition retards child growth, increases the risk and duration of illness, reduces work output, and slows social and mental development. Improving nutritional status, including micronutrient status, can lead to increased productivity, increased child survival and growth, and reduced maternal morbidity and mortality. Interventions for improving nutrition can address deficiencies of specific nutrients. However, when the goal is to address deficiencies of more nutrients simultaneously and to target the population throughout the lifecycle interventions such as dietary diversification are more appropriate. Homestead gardening activities are centered on women because they are usually the ones who take care of the homestead garden. These activities empower the women and can increase their income. This combination of empowerment and increased income can result in better use of household resources and improved caring practices. Therefore, homestead food production also addresses a priority area of poverty alleviation and overall development of communities. This article describes the important characteristics of HKI's Homestead Gardening Program in Bangladesh (1990-2001) as well as how it is being monitored and evaluated.

**Tinker, Irene (1997). Street foods: urban food and employment in developing countries. Oxford University Press, New York. 243 p.**

food security and nutrition R&D methodology gender  
poverty; gender; safe food; informal sector; street food

This book presents the first empirical study of sellers of foods on urban streets. It recounts the efforts of an action-research project to improve the income of street food vendors and the safety of the food they sell in the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Egypt, Nigeria and Senegal. Details of the street food trade provide robust comparative data on the vendors and the informal sector. The study includes an analysis of income and gender. The Book is thorough in its analysis of what is urban and how street food functions as a system interfaced with other urban systems, in a variety of economies and cultures. Street food is found to be an essential link in the informal economic sector, nutrition and urban agriculture. (JS)

**Upreti, Bishnu Raj, (2000), Resource-Use Negotiation as an Alternate Strategy for Sustainable Water-Resource Management: Experience from Nepal. Department of Social Sciences, Wageningen University. In: *The Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension*, 2000, vol. 7, no. 1**

gender,  
Nepal; women's role; natural resource management; water management; extension

This paper aims to examine the strategies, mechanisms and practices of local level water use negotiation. The paper reveals that local people have their own strategies, mechanisms and approaches to utilise available limited natural resources. The case of water-use negotiation was studied using direct observation, group discussion and

## Gender

interview methods. The paper explores the effect of norms, values, beliefs, knowledge, power, communication and facilitation, feelings of ownership on resources use negotiation and water-resource management processes in Nepal. Women are the crucial actors and dynamic negotiators of community level resource use conflict. The role of development organisations is identified as facilitators to resolve conflict instead of leading the negotiation. The dominant extension approach in Nepal is not able to address resource use conflict. It needs an approach that acknowledges conflict as a part of social process and that promotes the facilitation of negotiation and adaptation.

Urban agriculture. 1998. *WE International* 44/45 (Spring/Summer).

gender

community gardens, urban agriculture, Cuba, Poland

This special edition of *WE International* covers a broad range of topics on gender and urban agriculture. It includes short articles from Deborah Moffett and Mary Lou Morgan, Dee Kramer, Mariana Canidad Cruz and Yalila Murciano (translated by Nancy Allen), Cathleen Kneen, Amina Miller, Anne Bellows, and Susan Giordano, Chick Tam and Rachel Mabie. Topics include food and consumer issues, experiences of urban agriculture in Cuba and Poland, biotechnology, community gardening, and women's participation in city gardens.