

Cagayan de Oro – Philippines

growing cities – growing food

Background information:

Location: Southern Philippines

Climate:
mean annual temperature: 27,2° C

Total Population: 500,000

Population Density: 1,022 pers/km²

Size of the city: 489 km²

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Crop production



Aquaculture



Backyard garden

The main urban agricultural systems

44.7% of the surface of Cagayan de Oro is classified as agricultural land, 38.4% is classified as open spaces. Only 2,276 ha is actually used for crop production, mainly located in the peri-urban barangays (= districts). Farm sizes average at 1.7 hectares, with about 0.5 ha being used for growing vegetables. The present productivity only comes to about 117g vegetables per capita per day.

About 70% of the demand for fish is produced in the city. The two main reasons for this are: 1) the city is located right at the sea (75% of the city is coastal area) 2) some urban farmers practise aquaculture.

Backyard gardening is very common. About 40% of the total households in the city maintain backyard gardens. The parent-child partnership in gardening is encouraged by the Department of Education Culture and Sports (DECS).

The city's prospects for UA are great, mainly due to the availability of appropriate land. However, agricultural activities are still very fragmented. All stakeholders would benefit from greater streamlining.

Strategies and Policy Information

Cagayan de Oro, Philippines

The development of policies for urban agriculture (UA) is crucial for Cagayan de Oro. The collective efforts of all stakeholders need to be channeled and organized. To address these issues, the following approaches are being tried. **(1) PROJECT SHOWCASE.** The Peri-Urban Vegetable Project (PUVeP) is implementing farm trials in collaboration with other partners. **(2) TRIPARTITE PARTNERSHIP.** Partnership is being built between local

government units (GOs), people's (farmers') organizations (POs), and non-government organizations (NGOs) to promote UA. **(3) COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS.** Various agencies with interests in agriculture are cooperating by maximizing the benefits of school gardens. **(4) LEGISLATION.** The City Council has issued an initial ordinance allowing some urban farmers to use parts of idle land and open spaces.

Technology research is first conducted at the station before transferring it to small-scale farmers.



The city government allows peri-urban farmers to use open spaces for peri-urban vegetable production.



Efforts of various stake-holders in Urban Agriculture is encouraged by the city government.



The city government allows private groups to freely sell seedlings in the city. The city government also distributed some seedlings for free.

Lessons Learned with Relevance to Other Cities

- Research is a very important component. It was the findings presented by the Peri-Urban Vegetable Project (PUVeP) and the Xavier University College of Agriculture that convinced the city government to support urban agriculture.
- Collaborative efforts of various stakeholders and the tripartite partnership among POs, GOs and NGOs help streamline urban agriculture activities, thus avoiding project duplication and minimizing costs.
- City school gardens can contribute to food production. Parent-children partnership make the production of cheap and nutritious foods (such as vegetables) a bonding experience that is both educational and interesting.