RESOURCES

Key readings on urban agriculture

This reader contributes to the debate on the value of urban agriculture for sustainable urban development in a thematic way. Definitions and presence of urban agriculture are explored. From there, potential contributions of urban agriculture to food security, household economics and city ecology are examined. Policy and institutional options and implications are also discussed. The second part of the reader contains case studies from selected cities in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe which pursue a system-oriented approach to understanding urban agriculture and its ecological, economic and food security impacts in different political, economic, demographic and ecological conditions. The authors include urban planners, researchers, project coordinators and NGO staff from both developing and northern countries. http://www.ruaf.org/node/54

Organized within a research framework that encompasses the themes of Ecosystem Health, Livelihoods and Markets and Stakeholder and Policy Analysis and Dialogue, Urban Harvest presents the impacts of innovative work undertaken in Africa, Asia and Latin America to enhance the food, nutrition and income security of the urban poor through agriculture. http://www.database.ruaf.org/ruaf_bieb/upload/2887.pdf

This book presents research results on potential health risks of crop and livestock production in the city, as well as nutritional and food security benefits of urban farming, embedded in the policy context of Kampala, but with relevance to other cities in Africa. It addresses the role of urban agriculture in a time of global urban food crises and rapid, unplanned city growth, and how these were re-integrated in a public policy debate. http://www.uharvest.org/

This report gives an introduction to the background and aim of the study visit and workshop and an introduction to the key issues on urban micro-farming and HIV/AIDS. It includes 20 cases presented during the study visit and gives a summary of the main conclusions and recommendations to local and national policy makers and donor agencies as well as an overview of the follow up actions planned by the participants themselves.

http://www.ruaf.org/node/1329


The discussion paper discusses a number of key challenges encountered by cities today (including increasing urban poverty and food insecurity; growing scarcity of fresh water; waste disposal problems; flooding and rising urban temperatures) and provides research data on the contributions urban and peri-urban agriculture can make to respond to these challenges. Finally a number of policy recommendations are formulated at local, national and international level to strengthen the resilience of urban food systems. http://www.ruaf.org/node/2135


This book addresses the subject of waste management and environmental protection in a rapidly urbanizing environment. The book is mainly based on papers presented at a workshop on ‘Closing the nutrient cycle for urban food security and environmental protection’ held in Ghana by the International Board for Soil Research and Management (now part of the International Water Management Institute) and FAO. Special reference is given to sub-Saharan Africa, with acknowledgement to experiences from other parts of the world.

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Waste-Composting-Urban-Peri-urban-Agriculture/dp/0851995489


This manual focuses on issues of central concern to urban producers worldwide: access to resources for production; financial constraints; policy and regulatory environment; local government and institutional support; environmental and food quality; and safety standards and group organization. It explains how urban producers can be assisted in forming themselves into organizations or how they can strengthen their existing organizations.

http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a1177e/a1177e00.htm


The book analyses the roles of women and men in urban food production, processing and marketing in case studies from three development regions and includes field-tested guidelines and tools for gender mainstreaming. It is essential reading for researchers, policy makers and
development practitioners. The publication is based on experiences gained in the context of Urban Harvest, the CGIAR System-wide Initiative on Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture and The Cities Farming for the Future programme of the RUAF Foundation. http://www.database.ruaf.org/gender/index.htm

Knuth, L. (2006) Greening cities for improving urban livelihoods: Legal, policy and institutional aspects of urban and peri-urban forestry in West and Central Asia (with a case study of Armenia), FAO Livelihood Support Programme (LSP), Working Paper 37, FAO, Rome. This paper is one of a series which addresses the linkages of poverty and forests in West and Central Asia within the context of sustainable livelihood approaches. It presents a livelihoods analysis of the contribution of forests and trees to urban poor livelihoods. http://www.mountainpartnership.org/common/files/pdf/5_Greening.pdf

Koc, M., MacRae, R., Mougeot, L.J.A. and Welsh, J. (eds) (1999) For Hunger-proof Cities - Sustainable Urban Food Systems, IDRC, Ottawa. This is the first book to fully examine food security from an urban perspective. It examines existing local food systems and ways to improve the availability and accessibility of food for city dwellers. It looks at methods to improve community-supported agriculture and cooperation between urban and rural populations. It explores what existing marketing and distribution structures can do to improve accessibility and what the emerging forms of food-distribution systems are, and how they can contribute to alleviating hunger in the cities. The book discusses the underlying structures that create poverty and inequality and examines the role of emergency food systems, such as food banks. It includes contributions from farmers and professors, young activists and experienced business leaders, students and policy makers, and community organizers and practitioners. http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-9394-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html

Mougeot, L.J.A. (2005) AGROPOLIS - The Social, Political and Environmental Dimensions of Urban Agriculture, IDRC, Ottawa. This book presents the first harvest of graduate research on urban agriculture supported by the AGROPOLIS small grant facility of Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC). All studies are preoccupied with higher-order (institutional) constraints or enabling conditions and their effect on the performance and benefits accruing to small (peri-)urban producers. The various authors creatively combined methods developed by different disciplines into batteries which they applied to researching urban agriculture issues. http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-84289-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html

Mougeot, L.J.A. (2006) Growing Better Cities: Urban Agriculture for Sustainable Development, IDRC, Ottawa. This book reviews the research experience of IDRC and its partners, including local governments, into the issues surrounding urban agriculture, with a particular emphasis on the influence that research has had on government policies. It describes the growth of city networks in Africa and Latin America that focus on accommodating urban agriculture and improving
the lot of urban food producers. And it offers specific recommendations aimed at helping policymakers at all levels of government to maximize the potential of urban agriculture. The book concludes with a vision of how such policies might transform cities in the near future. http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-95297-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html


This book gives a comprehensive overview of urban and peri-urban vegetable farming in Ghana’s major cities with a special focus on wastewater use. It gives recommendations on how the health risks for consumers could be effectively reduced in a low-income country like Ghana, while simultaneously supporting the important contribution of open-space urban and peri-urban agriculture. The book highlights further research needs and will serve as an important resource for students, academics and decision makers. http://www.ruaf.org/node/1046


This volume written by researchers working in urban agriculture examines concrete strategies to integrate city farming into the urban landscape. Drawing on original field work in cities across the rapidly urbanizing global South, the book examines the contribution of urban agriculture and city farming to livelihoods and food security. http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-133761-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html


This report reviews information from case studies on peri-urban livestock systems across the world – from Ho-Chi-Minh City, via Karachi to Dar-Es-Salaam and Quito and Mexico City. It also includes additional references and interviews with consultants.


This publication uses a not so widely publicized FAO report with cases on urban livestock around the world as a background document. The emphasis of this publication is, however, on practical aspects of animal production in urban conditions, such as feeding, breeding and animal species, husbandry techniques, product processing and waste management. http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/004/Y0500E/Y0500E00.htm


This book provides a comprehensive synthesis of current knowledge of the potential and challenges associated with the multiple roles, use, management and livelihood contributions of indigenous vegetables in urban agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa. http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?TabId=56958&v=451875
This publication presents the current state of affairs in the development of sustainable urban agriculture and as such indicates what progress has been made since the first major works on urban agriculture were published (the UNDP book ‘Urban Agriculture’ by Smit et al. published in 1996 and the DSE book ‘Growing Cities, Growing Food: Urban Agriculture on the Policy Agenda’ by Bakker et al. published in 2000). http://www.ruaf.org/node/961

This paper integrates the results of three earlier studies on the profitability and sustainability of farming in UPA sites, mainly in Africa and Asia, putting them in a wider context by using additional published and unpublished information available at the International Network of Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (RUAF), and also to appraise aspects on policy. Coordination and improvement of further research on the multiple functions of UA and monitoring of its impacts are recommended to provide municipalities and other city stakeholders with proper information and tools to include UA into sustainable city development. http://www.ruaf.org/sites/default/files/2838.pdf

Urban Agriculture Magazine
UA Magazine no. 1 - Maiden issue
UA Magazine no. 2 - Livestock in and around cities
UA Magazine no. 3 - Health aspects of urban agriculture
UA Magazine no. 4 - Integration of UPA in urban planning
UA Magazine no. 5 - Methodologies for UA research, policy development, planning and implementation
UA Magazine no. 6 - Transition to Ecological Urban Agriculture: A Challenge
UA Magazine no. 7 - Economic Aspects of Urban Agriculture
UA Magazine no. 8 - Wastewater Reuse in Urban Agriculture
UA Magazine no. 9 - Financing Urban Agriculture
UA Magazine no. 10 - Appropriate (Micro) Technologies for Urban Agriculture
UA Magazine no. 11 - Availability, Access and Usability of Land for Urban Agriculture
UA Magazine no. 12 - Gender and Urban Agriculture
UA Magazine no. 13 - Trees and Cities – Growing Together
UA Magazine no. 14 - Urban Aquatic Production
UA Magazine no. 15 - Multiple Functions of Urban Agriculture
UA Magazine no. 16 - Formulating Effective Policies on Urban Agriculture
UA Magazine no. 17 - Strengthening Urban Producers’ Organizations
UA Magazine no. 18 - Building Communities through Urban Agriculture
UA Magazine no. 19 - Stimulating Innovation in Urban Agriculture
Multi-stakeholder policy formulation on urban agriculture

This concise booklet looks at ways to foster participatory innovation development (PID) at a regional, national and global level, drawing on lessons from Prolinnova projects in Africa and Asia. Development professionals interested in the mechanics of agricultural innovation and management will find this a useful, readable resource.
http://www.prolinnova.net/fmsp-booklet.php

This working paper outlines how urban agriculture can contribute to various policy goals (social, economic and ecological) and shortly describes four types of policy instruments that can be used for urban agriculture. The main body of the paper presents a series of key issues to be considered in formulating policies and intervention strategies related to urban agriculture and possible courses of action for each of these issues.
http://www.ruaf.org/sites/default/files/WP_02.pdf

This paper describes the capacity development and multi-stakeholder processes initiated in Anglophone West Africa, their lessons and successes with special reference to Ghana, where research had already produced a favourable knowledge base on urban and peri-urban agriculture in general and irrigated urban farming in particular.

The PAPUSSA Programme has made available an increasing amount of information on peri-urban aquatic production systems in South-east Asian cities. An overall description of the importance, the need and recommendations for development and policy making on (peri-)urban aquaculture is given in a first and introductory Policy Brief. Each of these
recommendations has further been addressed in greater depth in four additional Policy Briefs. All guidelines are based on PAPUSSA research and output, and aim to assist in the process of decision-making rather than to provide definitive answers.
http://www.papussa.org/publications.html#article9

**Dubbeling, M. (2008) Multi-stakeholder policy development and action planning on urban agriculture, RUAF working paper 1, RUAF Foundation, Leusden.**
This first working paper gives an overview of lessons learned under the Cities Farming for the Future programme with Multi-stakeholder Policy formulation and Action Planning (MPAP). It discusses the importance of interactive and participatory processes of policy formulation and action planning, presents the MPAP process and the different steps to be taken, and highlights lessons learned thus far by RUAF partners and several other organizations.
http://www.ruaf.org/sites/default/files/WP_01.pdf

The article analyses the challenges Multi-stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) face in an unfavourable context, and identifies five main issues: Power relationships; Platform composition; Stakeholder representation and capacity to participate meaningfully in the debates; Decision-making power and mechanisms; and finally the Cost of setting up an MSP. The analysis is mainly based on two case studies: the first on water user associations in South Africa, and the second on a negotiation platform set up to resolve conflicts over a water and sanitation project in Bolivia. http://publications.cirad.fr/une_notice.php?dk=538626

This practical guide explains how multi-stakeholder processes (MSPs) can be organized and implemented. It includes detailed examples of MSPs in practice and provides functional checklists, explaining how to bypass adversarial politics and achieve positive results. This important contribution to the understanding of participatory approaches to decision-making will be invaluable to policy makers, NGOs, business unions, local authorities and activists. http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=705

This working paper presents an analysis of actors, events and influences affecting a policy change on urban agriculture in Kampala. It is an output of the International Livestock Research Institute’s (ILRI’s) and Overseas Development Institute’s (ODI’s) ‘Process and Partnership
for Pro-poor Policy Change’ project, which, through case studies with national and international partners, seeks to identify and institutionalize innovative research and development mechanisms and approaches that lead to pro-poor policy.

This brief describes how the Rural Agroenterprise Development Project of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture is addressing the problem of a lack of exchange between researchers, policy makers and other stakeholders. Through building learning alliances that engage multiple stakeholders in processes of innovation, the initiative is enhancing learning and improving effectiveness in rural enterprise development.

The paper highlights some of the practical experience developed under the EC funded EMPOWERS Partnership to facilitate stakeholder dialogue and ensure end user participation in local water management in three countries (Palestine, Jordan and Egypt). Moreover, it will show how such dialogue could improve good local water governance in that area. The paper will further elaborate on the possibilities for institutionalization of the facilitation process.
http://www.project.empowers.info/page/1981

**Urban Management Programme (UMP) and IPES (2003) Policy briefs on urban agriculture, IDRC, UMP, IPES.**
Series of guidelines based on scientific and technological research, reflecting innovative practices on nine urban agriculture themes. This work was coordinated and financed by IDRC, the Urban Management Program for Latin America and the Caribbean in Ecuador and IPES, Peru. http://www.ruaf.org/node/419

**UN Habitat/UNEP (1999) Sustainable Cities Programme Source Book Series.**
Experiences with the environmental planning and management approach of the Sustainable Cities Programme (UN Habitat/UNEP) have been captured and translated into effective tools – in the form of manuals – that can be used to inform, support and guide the environmental planning process in cities.

Source Book Series manuals provide guidance on the step-by-step process.
http://www.unchs.org/programmes/sustainablecities/SCPPProcess.asp

This toolkit aims to support participatory urban decision-making. It has been prepared as one of the products of the ‘Global Campaign on Urban Governance’, led by UN Habitat in collaboration with a range of partners. It provides tools and short case studies on aspects such as mobilizing stakeholders, building collaboration and forging consensus, identifying key issues and formulating priority strategies, negotiating and implementing action plans, monitoring and evaluation and institutionalization.


This guide provides concepts and tools for working with actors along the entire value chain so that modern markets can be more inclusive of small-scale producers and entrepreneurs.


Taking a positive but critical look at experiences with multi-stakeholder platforms in both the developed as well as developing worlds, the book argues that care should be taken not to promise too much or expect that political barriers will automatically be broken down and equal participation will be achieved. Suggestions for improving success and sustainability are made.

http://www.irc.nl/page/37623

Websites

http://www.ruaf.org

Visiting this site allows you to learn about the RUAF Foundation and its work (the Cities Farming for the Future and the From Seed to Table programmes), and download most of its publications, including all the Urban Agriculture Magazine issues. One can also find thematic references and a searchable bibliographic database on urban agriculture.

RUAF website in Spanish language: http://www.ipes.org/au


In French: http://www.iagu.org/ROAF/index.html

In Chinese: http://www.cnruaf.com.cn/


http://www.communitygarden.org/

The American Community Gardening Association is a bi-national non-profit membership organization of professionals, volunteers and supporters of community greening in urban and rural communities. The website displays, among other information, resources for starting a garden and contact details for existing gardens.
Food for the Cities is the interdepartmental programme on urban agriculture at the FAO, and offers fact sheets, working papers and thematic publications in three languages.

The Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition Policies and Strategies (FSN) is an online community whose members share experiences, identify resources, provide peer coaching and support and find collective solutions to food security and nutrition issues, focusing on policies. It is supported by the FAO.

Farming Solutions, the Future of Agriculture, is a site supported by ILEIA, OXFAM and Greenpeace that seeks to share examples of successful, environmentally responsible farming systems from all over the world that illustrate how farmers can protect the environment while at the same time increasing the food supply where it is most needed.

The Community Food Security Coalition is a non-profit, North American organization dedicated to building strong, sustainable, local and regional food systems that ensure access to affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food for all people at all times.

The Global Horticulture Initiative is a worldwide programme intended to foster more efficient and effective partnerships and collective action among the stakeholders. This GlobalHort Information Portal offers information on the activities of the partners related to horticulture.

The Local Agenda 21 Campaign promotes a participatory, long-term, strategic planning process that helps municipalities identify local sustainability priorities and implement long-term action plans. It supports good local governance and mobilizes local governments and their citizens to undertake such a multi-stakeholder process. The ICLEI website offers a variety of resources on Local Agenda 21 and urban governance, which include case studies, publications and toolkits.

The Urban Poverty & Environment Program (UPE) funds research and activities in developing countries that apply integrated and participatory approaches to reducing environmental burdens on the urban poor and enhancing the use of natural resources for food, water and income security.
The IDRC website features under the ‘in-focus’ programme a variety of resources on urban agriculture, including slide presentations, short stories, case studies, research reports and books. These are only part of the reported results of IDRC-supported research.

www.iwmi.cgiar.org/health/wastew/index.htm
Here you can learn more about IWMI’s Water, Health and Environment research including objectives, projects, outputs and impacts on the issue of wastewater reuse for agriculture.

http://knownetgrin.honeybee.org/
Honeybee Network is a global initiative to give voice to creative and innovative people at the grassroots level. The Honeybee Network is run by SRISTI (Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions) in India. The Network has an online database of innovations, primarily from India but also from other countries. Honeybee tries to connect innovators with each other through communication and networking in local languages. Innovations can be submitted via the innovation registry form on the website and, after verification, will be added to the innovation database.

www.leisa.info
The Centre for Information on Low-External-Input and Sustainable Agriculture (ILEIA) is an independent organization that seeks to contribute to alleviating poverty by promoting agro-ecological approaches. Documentation, analysis and publication of successful experiences in low-external input and sustainable agriculture (LEISA) are the major activities. The website provides access to large, searchable databases on LEISA and PTD.

http://www.livablecities.org
The International Making Cities Livable Council is an interdisciplinary, international network of individuals and cities dedicated to making our cities and communities more liveable.

http://www.megacitiesproject.org
The Mega-Cities Project is a transnational non-profit network of community, academic, government, business and media leaders dedicated to sharing innovative solutions to urban problems. Its aim is to make cities more socially just, ecologically sustainable, politically participatory and economically vital.

www.prolinnova.net
PROLINNOVA is an international NGO-led initiative to build a global learning and advocacy network on promoting local innovation in ecologically-oriented agriculture and Natural Resource Management. The focus is on the dynamics of indigenous knowledge, and on how research, extension and other actors in development can strengthen the capacities of farmers to adjust to changing conditions: to develop and adapt their own site-appropriate systems and institutions of resource management.
Peri-urban regions in Europe are facing extreme pressure on their rural areas. The balance between sustainable open space, sustainable agriculture and urban spatial and economic dynamics needs to be re-established. This demands a combination of European, national and regional policy strategies and objectives. Therefore it is essential to recognize the specific peri-urban agenda in the new European regulations on rural development and structural funds.

The Peri-urban Vegetable Project (PUVeP) is a research and outreach unit of Xavier University College of Agriculture (XUCA), Cagayan de Oro City in the Philippines and provides research, training and education related to urban natural resources management and food production in the city.

Sustainable Aquaculture Research Networks In Sub Saharan Africa (SARNISSA) is an EU (FP7) programme on Aquaculture Research Networks and Policy dialogue in sub-Saharan Africa. RUAF collaborates with Stirling University, CIRAD, World Fish Center, CABI-UK, IRAD (Cameroon) and Bunda College (Malawi) in this project, which includes aquaculture in urban settings, on a critical review of national aquaculture policies in 10 African countries.

The SuSanA is not a new organization, but rather a loose network of organizations working along the same lines, and open to others who want to join and be active in the promotion of sustainable sanitation systems.

The International Centre for Sustainable Cities (ICSC) was created to bring the idea of urban sustainability into practical action. ICSC is a ‘do tank’, rather than a think tank, and serves as a broker, bringing together the business community, civil society organizations and various levels of government to tackle urban issues.

The Sustainable Food Center (SFC) supports and is active in local food system development in the USA. SFC teaches sustainable food gardening practices to children and adults, organizes markets for locally grown produce in urban areas accessible to low-income residents, donates produce to area food pantries, and develops training courses for individuals and institutions on how to prepare healthy and affordable meals.

SWITCH aims to bring about a change in urban water management. The website contains information on the work in the cities, learning alliances, the SWITCH partners and published research reports.
http://www.uharvest.org/
This website offers information on the achievements and publications of Urban Harvest, the CGIAR system-wide initiative on urban and peri-urban agriculture.

http://portals.wi.wur.nl/msp/
This website provides practical information on how to facilitate participatory learning processes with various stakeholders. It gives theoretical foundations, concrete case studies, methods and tools to create learning processes, facilitation tips, examples, literature and links. The aim of providing this information is to build capacity for multi-stakeholder processes and social learning. Tools include those that can be applied for collecting information, stakeholder analysis, planning and decision-making.