27 MARCH 2008

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

FOR

RUAF/PHILIPPI URBAN AGRICULTURE PROJECT
CONTENTS

1. Background

2. Study Area
   2.1 Location and Demarcation
      2.1.1 Residential/Industrial Area
      2.1.2 Philippi Horticultural Area
   2.2 Socio-Economic Data
      • Economic conditions
      • Infrastructure and services
      • Environmental conditions
      • Housing and shelter conditions
      • Safety and security conditions
   2.3 Agricultural production in the City

3. Policy and Legal framework
   3.1 National
   3.2 Provincial
   3.3 Municipal

4. Literature review
   4.1 Books, Monographs, Conference Proceedings and Reference Materials
   4.2 Journal Articles
   4.3 Newspapers, Magazines and Reports
   4.4 Theses and Dissertations

5. Spatial Information
   5.1 Types of maps available
   5.2 Applications of Maps
   5.3 Limitations of maps

6. Stakeholder Identification and Analysis
   6.1 Identification of stakeholders
   6.2 Classification of stakeholders

7. Record of Current Urban Agricultural Activities
   7.1 Types of Urban Agricultural Activities
      7.1.1 Horticulture/Vegetable Gardens
      7.1.2 Livestock Keeping
      7.1.3 Trading
   7.2 Main Challenges and Constraints

8. Opportunities for Urban Agriculture

9. Conclusion
11. **Annexures**

Annexure A: Reading List

Annexure B: Socio-economic Data
SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

*Purpose of report*

The key objectives of this report is to provide an up-to-date snapshot of the most pertinent issues influencing the state of the urban agriculture in the Philippi area of the City of Cape Town. This will include, inter alia, the identification and analysis of current urban agricultural activities in the area, challenges, opportunities and who the role players are.

The information flowing from this report will be used to formulate a comprehensive strategy for the management and development of urban agriculture in the Philippi area.

*Approach and Methodology*

The methodology used in undertaking the research can be described as participatory and characterized by stakeholder consultation. Various data collection methods were used such as literature reviews, case analysis, key informant interviews, field visits as well as questionnaires, telephonic interviews and internet searches.

1. **BACKGROUND**

   World-wide it is recognised that urban agriculture can play a key role in poverty alleviation programmes and local economic development strategies.

   Recently the City Of Cape Town has approved an urban agricultural policy which aim is to develop an integrated and holistic approach for the effective and meaningful development of urban agriculture in the City. The policy should be used by all roleplayers to align and synergise efforts to maximize the positive impact of urban agriculture in the City.

2. **STUDY AREA**

   The study area (Philippi Area) was selected in terms of the following criteria:
• very poor priority area of the City.
• presence of existing urban agricultural activities
• perceived potential for development of urban agricultural activities
• existence of certain support infrastructure for urban agriculture (e.g. the fresh produce market and Mechanised Agricultural Centre)
• visible active role players e.g. NGO’s, government departments, etc.

2.1 LOCATION AND DEMARCATION

The area is located in the Cape flats area between the R300, Lansdowne Road and includes the Philippi Horticultural area (see Annexure A: Locality Map).

The study area includes the following wards; Ward 33, Ward 34, Ward 35, Ward 75, Ward 80 and Ward 88.

Due to the necessity to identify clear hard boundaries for the study area some of the wards are only partially included because main roads were taken as such boundaries.

2.1.1 Residential/Industrial Area

This portion of the study area includes the following neighbourhoods:

• Philippi East
• Browns Farm
• Weltevreden Valley North
• Philippi Industrial area
Most of the residents of this area is extremely poor and nearly 50% lives in squatter conditions. See Section 2.2. for a more detailed socio-economic analysis of the area.

2.1.2 Philippi Horticultural Area (PHA).

The PHA comprise 3073,9 ha and the significance of the are derives from (Set Plan 2000, p.5):

- reserves of construction materials (sand) of metropolitan importance,
- the presence of a metropolitan horticultural resource and production assets,
- being an integral part of the City-wide green space and biodiversity network, and
- being representative of an agricultural complex from which lessons can be learnt and which can be replicated

Only 60% (1800ha) of the potentially productive land in the PHA is used to produce vegetables which is mainly supplied to the Epping Market and chain stores. The PHA also provides for about 2000 jobs. Complementary to horticultural production is the presence of significant equestrian stud and racing stables.

Although the significance and the need to retain and enhance its horticultural function is entrenched through legislation and the spatial development framework, the PHA is facing challenges in terms of:

- illegal dumping
- unauthorised land usage
- invasion of public and private land
- unauthorised Buildings especially for extensive residential accommodation.
2.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA
Socio-economic data for the City is available per ward and a composite table was compiled to reflect the salient statistics of the study area (See Annexure B).

The study area faces rising development challenges. During the recent past poverty, unemployment, housing backlog, HIV prevalence and crime has increased tremendously, while access to services did not keep up with the influx of people. Inadequate shelter, overcrowding and indiscriminate development are growing problems in the study area.

**Demographics**

The total population of the study area is estimated at 164 920 with a literacy rate of 92.75%. The majority of the population (44.4%) has a rather high level of education, i.e. between Grades 8 and 11.

The age distribution reflects a normal society where approximately half of the population falls within the category of non-economic active people (children and the elderly). The gender distribution is nearly equal with 48.5% male and 51.5% female respectively.

**Economic Conditions**

The study area has an estimated 81 049 economic active people of which 49.9% are unemployed.

Although the average income per household falls within the R9600 – R76 800 bracket, it is obvious that there is a vast income disparity between the residents of the different wards. For example 31.0% and 35.0% are without any formal/recorded income, i.e. there are large pockets of severe poverty in the study area.

**Infrastructure and Services**

Urban growth in the area has been spatially ad hoc which has forced reactive and uncoordinated public investment in infrastructure. Due to the location of informal settlements throughout the area has placed immense strain on the City’s ability to provide new bulk and infrastructure extensions and subsequently the demand for services (water, electricity, sewerage,
roads) exceeds the current delivery capacity of the City in the area. For example 34.6% do not have access to electricity, 16.6% do not have access to sanitation system and 33.2% do not have piped water in their yards.

**Environmental Conditions**

Uncontrolled human settlement and illegal land uses (e.g. sand mining) has impacted very negatively on the biodiversity of the area as well as the quality of life (in terms of environmental health conditions). This is further compounded by illegal dumping, lack of toilets, lack of proper waste disposal, free roaming animals, etc.

**Housing and Shelter Conditions**

Statistics indicate that around 51.19% of the residents reside in les formal housing with very little access to municipal services such as electricity, sanitation and water.

**Safety and Security Conditions**

The study area is not a competitive and attractive private sector investment location because the area does not provide a safe business and living environment. Levels of crime in some categories (like murder, burglaries, property theft) are extremely high.

### 2.3 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN THE CITY

The following agricultural production figures for the City has been obtained from Statistics SA in terms of its Agricultural Census of 2002.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Vegetable</th>
<th>City-wide</th>
<th>Bellville</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Planted Ha</td>
<td>Production Tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>12 274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomatoes</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>2 949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cauliflower</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>4 768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>19 113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onions</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>2 559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Produce</td>
<td>kg</td>
<td>ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beetroot</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrots</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>17 189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Potatoes</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green beans</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>1 213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pumpkins</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>1 942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1 386</td>
<td>34 248</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The production statistics for Cape Town is disaggregated only to the level of districts, namely Bellville, Kuilsriver, Somerset West and Wynberg.

The Philippi Horticultural Area (PHA) is located in the Bellville district and from local knowledge it is estimated that almost all production for the Bellville district is coming from the PHA.

### 3. POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This section gives a high level overview of the most important policies and legislation with regard to the regulations and development of urban agriculture in the City.

Urban agriculture subsists in an environment governed by a plethora of fragmented and coordinated legislation dealing with land use, health and environment, i.e. urban agriculture is not prohibited. However it has the following effects:

a) The legislation (Acts, Ordinances and by-laws) place limitations on the scope and location of urban agricultural activities. This means further that it is prohibited where it is not aligned with sound town planning, environmental management and public health and convenience.

b) Complex and cumbersome application and approval processes place the utilization of an urban agricultural opportunity beyond the reach of an ordinary poor person.

On the other hand a few policies and strategies exist which aim at the development of urban agriculture within the context of the legal framework. However it has to be said that most of these policies and strategies are not specifically focussing on urban agriculture but rather on the broader concept of agriculture as an economic sector.
The following is not an exhausted list of policies and legislation, but rather a summary of the most critical ones:

**3.1 NATIONAL**

3.1.1 Legislation

The following acts has a significant impact on urban agriculture:
- Agricultural Pests Act (Act 36 of 1983)
- Agricultural Products Standard Act (Act 119 of 1990)
- Animal Diseases Act (Act 35 of 1984)
- Conservation of Agricultural resources Act (Act 43 of 1983)
- Cooperatives Act (Act 14 of 2005)
- Land Redistribution
- Marketing of Agricultural Produce (Act 47 of 1996)
- Meat Safety Act (Act 40 of 2000)
- National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998)
- Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act (Act 70 of 1970)
- Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA)

3.1.2 Policies and Strategies

- The Strategic Plan for South African Agriculture (2001)
- Draft Transformation Charter for Agriculture – Agree-Bee (National Dept. of Agriculture, 2005)

**3.2 PROVINCIAL**

3.2.1 Legislation
• Land Use Planning Ordinance (Ordinance 15 of 1985)
• Public Finance Management Act.

3.2.2 Policies and Strategies

• Strategic Plan of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture 2005/06 – 2009/10
• Micro Economic Development Strategy (MEDS)
• Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF)
• The Ikapa Growth and Development Strategy (Ikapa GDS) (2008)

3.3 MUNICIPAL

3.3.1 By-Laws

• Integrated Zoning Scheme (2008)

3.3.2 Policies and Strategies

• Urban Agricultural Policy for the City Of Cape Town (2007)
• Local Economic Development Action Plan for Cape Town East
  LAED District (2007)
• Economic and Human Development Strategy (2006)
• Urban Renewal Programme
• Metropolitan Development Framework (MSDF)
• Spatial District Plans (2008)
• Integrated Development Plan for the City Of Cape Town (IDP)
4. LITERATURE REVIEW

The purpose of this section is to access briefly what has already been done in the field of urban agriculture in the City Of Cape Town, i.e. a review of the body of existing research and publications. As a first step the main sources of information was established and the following main categories of sources were identified.


b) Journal articles

C) Newspapers, magazines and reports.

d) Theses and dissertations.

The approach followed in the literature review was that it was not confined to a specific period but it started with the most recent sources and was worked backwards to include older classical work.

The following is a brief synopsis of a selected number of literatures deemed as most appropriate for this study. (See Reading List for more publications).

4.1 BOOKS, MONOGRAPHS, CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS, REFERENCE MATERIALS


This series of Working Papers was produced by E. Eberhard, Town Planner, Town Planning Branch, City Planner’s Department, Cape Town.

“*This investigation set out to test the proposition that urban agriculture could make a significant contribution to the low-income household budget*

*Calculations show that the value of food that can be produced by an average gardener in Cape Town is economically insignificant – less than 1% of the monthly budget of a household living at the Household Subsistence level.*
The benefits of gardening, however, do not only relate to its economic significance. Gardening may be a form of recreation. A garden may be aesthetically pleasing and may brighten an otherwise drab’s environment. Gardening may heighten an awareness of nature and natural processes, stimulating an awareness of the natural environment and the effects of pollution development, etc. Involvement in gardening may provide points of common interest among members of communities, encouraging social interaction and increasing community cohesiveness.

No matter how compelling these benefits may appear in theory, they are only real if they are appreciated by the gardeners themselves”.

4.1.2 Urban Managers’ Perception of Urban Agriculture in Greater Cape Town (1995)

This paper was presented by Pieter De Necker and Jacques Uys at the IGU Commission on Urban Development and Urban Life Conference, “Structuring the Contemporary City: International Geographical Insight”, Cape Town, August 21 -25, 1995. Both presenters were from the Department of Geography, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa.

“This paper reports on the results of exploratory research about the perceptions and attitudes towards urban agriculture of urban managers in Greater Cape Town. The investigation was done as a prelude to a series of case studies of both formal and informal urban agriculture in the Greater Cape Town region.

Overall, there were proponents, opponents and those of mixed persuasion. There was more acclamation for than resistance to the issue of urban agriculture. This appreciation by urban managers of the possible presence and challengers of urban agriculture is singularly heartening.

There is a dire need for better dissemination of information about urban agriculture from academia for urban managers and vice versa. The latter group can bring less accessible internal documents, reports and newsletters to our attention. I envisage a networking of all parties interested in urban agriculture.

The ways towards making urban agriculture a coherent part of urban physical, social and economic structure need to be investigated”.
4.1.3 First Urban Agricultural Summit, City of Cape Town, 8 – 9 May 2002.

This summit was hosted by the City of Cape Town and presenters were invited from the whole spectrum of agricultural roleplayers.

The need for the summit arose from various roleplayers and it started the process to formulate an urban agricultural policy for the City Of Cape Town. The specific aims and objectives of the summit was to:

- Create a platform to bring together all the roleplayers and stakeholders in the field of urban agriculture and to obtain role clarification of the respective actors,
- Build a better understanding of the concept and scope of urban agriculture,
- Identify and unpack the challenges and opportunities regarding urban agriculture,
- Promote networking and information exchange, and
- Establish a vision for urban agriculture in the City.

4.1.4 Second Urban Agricultural Summit, City Of Cape Town, 18 – 20 June 2003.

This summit was hosted by the City Of Cape Town and was focused on local roleplayers and urban practitioners.

During 2002 the City has started a process to formulate an appropriate urban agricultural policy for the City of Cape Town. A first summit was held in May 2002 as part of the public participation process. The specific purpose of the 2nd summit was to:

- Introduce the draft policy
- Discuss livestock keeping in the City.
- Network and build working relationships
- Explain urban agricultural assistance programme
- Identify urban agricultural opportunities in the City.
- Exhibit produce from urban farmers.
4.2 JOURNAL ARTICLES


This article was produced by Rachel J. Slater, a Tutorial Assistant in Human Geography, School of Geography, University of Leeds, United Kingdom.

“Studies of urban agriculture (UA) in South Africa, and more broadly Southern Africa, have drawn on quantitative research methodologies to explain the involvement in UA of people from low-income households. Such studies tend to explain UA with reference to the direct economic and monetary gains that are made through agricultural activity. In Cape Town, the contribution of UA to income generation and expenditure substitution is limited. However, UA is important to women of low-income households in ways less directly related to monetary gain. Women use UA in processes of empowerment, to establish social networks, to symbolise a sense of security and to encourage community development. Policy-makers should extend their perceptions of UA’s benefits beyond the narrow economistic notions to include these positive social effects”.

4.2.2. Competition for the use of public open space in low-income urban areas: The Economic potential of urban gardening in Khayelitsha, Cape Town (development Southern Africa, Vol 23, No 1, March 2006).

This article was published by Sue Reuther and Neil Dewar, respectively Environmental Consultant, SRK Consulting and Senior Lecturer, Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, University of Cape Town.

“Urban agriculture is a contested issue on the larger South African debate on urban poverty alleviation. This paper investigates the economic viability of urban agriculture and informs the debate on the optimal use of open space in Khayelitsha. It compares the economic performance of Scaga Community garden in the low-income township Khayelitsha, predicted in a 1998 study by Fermont et al., which empirical results of a similar study by Fleming in 2003. It concludes that urban agriculture in Khayelitsha is potentially viable, subject to certain conditions being satisfied. However, as a land use, urban agriculture competes with housing, ecological corridors, the storm water management system and nature areas and reserves.”
4.3 NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINES AND REPORTS

Over time various newspaper and magazine articles were published and some recent are listed, but not discussed:

- Concrete Actions: Cape Town’s Urban Agriculture Assistance programme (Urban Agriculture Magazine, No 16, October 2006).
- Organic vegetables create jobs (Die Burger, 14 October 2005). Focused on Umfuleni project driven by Organic Farmers group.
- Tonnes of Tomatoes (rapport, 20 July 2003). Focused on tunnel farming at Paarl Hospital.
- Cultivate more than vegetables (Die Burger, 3 September 2003). Focused on vegetable gardens at Vusisizwe pre-school centrum.
- Food gardens keep growing (Contact April/May 2204). Focused on joint gardening initiative by the City and the German Town of Aachen.
- Agri-economic power for blacks: The way forward (Farmer’s Weekly, 22 October 2004). Focused on the responsibilities of all role-players to advance new black farmers.
- Policy on urban agriculture in process (Die Burger, 11 July 2003). Focused on stray animals in the City and the process to compile an urban agricultural policy for the City.

4.4 THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

5. SPATIAL INFORMATION

The spatial information forms a critical part of the situational analysis as well as the identification of opportunities and the subsequent formulation of a strategy to develop urban agriculture in the area. The spatial information is mainly reflected through land use mapping.
5.1 TYPES OF MAPS AVAILABLE:

The purpose of the maps is to assist with identifying current agricultural land uses, and identifying vacant land parcels for potential future projects. For this purpose different types of maps are required. The types and sizes of maps available as well as the types of information they can provide is outlined below.

- colour aerial photographs
- land-use maps
- cadastral maps

5.2 APPLICATION OF MAPS

5.2.1 Aerial photographs

The A0 size aerial photographs provide a satellite image of current land-use activities taking place within the study area. Its main purpose is to identify land uses and pinpoint their locations e.g. community livestock kraals or large vegetable gardens can be identified on it. It also assists to identify vacant open spaces, access roads and the location of major water bodies.

Once potential sites have been identified on the aerial photos their locations can be cross referenced with the cadastral maps which show erf numbers. The City Of Cape Town has a Geographical Information System (GIS) database of all properties within its administrative boundaries. By entering the erf number various types of information can be accessed including the size of the land, usage/zoning, ownership, etc.

Also indicated on the aerial photographs are the wards and sub-councils to indicate which Councillors need to be included in the project.

5.2.2 Land-use maps
A0 size land-use maps indicate current and permissible future land uses. Different land uses are indicated by different colour variations and are summarised in a legend on each map. After a site has been identified on the aerial photograph its land use can be cross referenced with the land-use map to make a preliminary assessment of the future permissible use of that site.

5.2.3 Cadastral maps

Cadastral maps indicate erf boundaries, erf numbers and street names. This information is required when a site has been identified and the ownership, size, usage, etc. needs to be identified.

Institutional land ownership within the horticultural area has also been identified on an A0 size cadastral map. These have been marked with a corresponding legend to indicate the different spheres of Government ownership.

5.3 LIMITATIONS OF MAPS:

5.3.1 Soil potential

No map is available that indicates soil potential for agricultural use within the study area. Once a potential site has been identified a further on-site agricultural potential assessments should be made to capture this information. This information can however be indicated on a map once it has been obtained.

5.3.2 Zoning

The zoning of the study area cannot be displayed on a map. The land-use map indicates for example if a site is an urban open space, but not if it has been zoned as public open space or institutional (e.g. schools). Therefore to see if an intended land use falls within the permissible zoning of that site it will have to be forwarded to the relevant Town Planning Department for confirmation. It can then also be determined if a re-zoning or land-use departure will be required for the activity.

5.3.3 Scale of the Maps
Due to size of the study area (covering approx. 35km²), the relative small size of individual properties (especially residential properties) and the volume of properties in the study area certain types of information cannot be displayed on the maps itself. There cannot for instance be a single map displaying information such as erf boundaries, erf numbers, ownership, land use, etc.

To overcome this limitation the areas of interest need to be identified on an A0 size map and the required information (e.g. erf number) can be extracted with the City’s GIS database.

The size of the study area also impacts on the size and scale of maps that can be produced of the area. For analysis purposes a single map needs to be produced at size A0 and scale 1:10 000. It is therefore difficult to include such a map into an A4 document.

To address this problem certain portions of the study area can be printed on A3 size maps at scale 1:6 000. A number of these maps will be required to cover the study area but these can be included in an A4 document with relative high levels of detail for analysis purposes.

5.3.4 Growth of the area

Due to the rapid rate of urbanisation in Cape Town vacant portions of land often become the victims of informal settlement within a few weeks. The aerial photographs are updated once per year, and as such sites might be identified as vacant on a photograph, but in reality could be covered with informal housing. Site visits are therefore crucial to confirm that vacant land parcels that have been identified on the aerial photograph are still available.

The maps available for this project provide a general overview of current and permissible land uses within the study area. These maps alone do not provide comprehensive information on all the properties within the study area, but merely serves a starting point from which all required information can be obtained.

6. STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS
**Stakeholder:** This includes people who influence a decision or can influence it, as well as those affected by that decision.

The **purpose** of the stakeholder identification and analysis is to make a systematic inventory and analysis of all the stakeholders that have something to contribute to the development of urban agriculture in the Philippi area. The **objective** of the stakeholder analysis is to:

- identify who are involved in urban agriculture and to assess their respective mandates, main area of operation, interests, and available resources
- identify potential contributors to the development of urban agriculture, e.g. financial and human development
- analyse relationships between the various stakeholders, their fields and levels of cooperation and conflicts so as to provide a basis for identifying effective strategies to improve networking, communication, coordination and cooperation.

Direct and indirect stakeholders

6.1 IDENTIFICATION OF MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

Numerous people and institutions are involved in urban agriculture in the study area. Some of them are directly involved in production activities, while others are playing a supportive role.

This identification of the roleplayers involved the consultation of known databases, literature reviews, site visits, internet searches (websites) and interviews (personal, telephonic and electronic).

6.2 CLASSIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

The identified stakeholders has been loosely classified in the following categories with an indication of their main role and programmes.

**TABLE 1: PROFILE OF STAKEHOLDERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category and Agency</th>
<th>Legislation, policies, strategies</th>
<th>Initiatives / Programmes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

18
| National Government | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| • Department of Agriculture | • Overall policy and strategy for agricultural development | • Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) |
| | • Integrated Food Security Strategy for South Africa | |
| • Department of Land Affairs | • Policy and strategy for land reform | • Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development (LRAD) which include financial grants |
| • Department of Health | | • Integrated Nutrition programme |
| • Department of Education | | • Integrated Nutrition Programme |
| • Department of Water and Forestry | • Water Act | • Issue water licenses/permits • Borehole and irrigation funding programme |
| | | |
| Provincial Government | | | |
| • Department of Agriculture | • New farmer settlement | • Research support • Extension services • Training programmes • Infrastructure grants • Agricultural engineering services (planning of irrigation systems, |
| • Kraals, etc. | • Agricultural economic (business planning, production, plans, etc.) | • Veterinary services |
| • Department of Social Services and poverty alleviation | • Poverty alleviation strategy | • Food packages, Startup kits for gardeners |
| • Department of Education | • Integrated Nutrition Programme | |

**City of Cape Town**

| • Economic and Human Development | • Urban Agricultural Policy | • Economic Development Programmes, Urban Agriculture Support Programme |
| • Social Services | • Acts, ordinance and by-laws to regulate and manage urban agricultural activities | • Poverty alleviation programme |
| • Town Planning | | |

**Parastatals**

<p>| • Universities | • Research |
| • Colleges | • Training |
| • CASIDRA | • Project of development |
| • Landbank | • Loans for acquisition of land, infrastructure, production marketing |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs)</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Muslim Judicial Council | Training  
Advice  
Land  
Tools |
| Abalimi Bezakaya | Training  
Advice  
Tools/equipment  
Organisational development |
| The Business Place | Business training  
Business advice |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Private Sector</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Kaap Agri | Tools, equipment  
Seeds and seedlings  
Compost, fertilizers  
Fuel  
Pesticides  
Etc |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Urban Farmers</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable gardeners</td>
<td>See Section 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock keepers</td>
<td>See Section 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traders</td>
<td>See Section 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. RECORD OF CURRENT URBAN AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

In order to collect data on existing urban agricultural activities the following sources and methods were used:

- extraction of information from data bases of various roleplayers (e.g. Dept. of Agriculture, City of Cape Town, Abalimi Bezakhaya, MJC, etc).
- sample surveys by members of the MAP team, and
- survey done by consultant.

The study areas consist of two distinct portions, namely a residential/industrial area and a large horticultural area. The following record of current urban agricultural reflects only activities within the residential/industrial area i.e. the horticultural area is excluded. The reason for this is that the horticultural area accommodates formal large unit commercial farming activities and the production thereof is reflected under Section 2.3.

For the purpose of this analysis the urban agricultural activities has been divided into the following types:

- horticulture/  
  Vegetable Gardening - backyard gardens  
  - community gardens  
  - institutional gardens  
  - small/emergent commercial farmers  
  - larger commercial farmers

- livestock keeping - Cattle  
  - Sheep/Goats  
  - Chickens  
  - Pigs  
  - Horses

- Trading - vegetables  
  - livestock
Various surveys were undertaken through consultation with the urban farmers and the following categories of information was requested:

- type of urban agricultural activity
- location of activity
- size of activity (area and/or numbers)
- ownership
- challenges
- what type of support is required
- why they are involved in the activity

7.1 TYPES AND SCOPE OF EXISTING URBAN AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Notes: In some instances people were hesitant to provide information because of fear that the information will be negatively used, i.e. to stop their activity.

7.1.1 Horticulture / Vegetable Gardens

Home gardens

There are not many people that are engaged in vegetable gardening in their backyards. This could be ascribed to a certain extend to overcrowding (house plots are very small) and the widespread occurrence of informal housing. However 13 home gardens were visited in the identification process. Their garden sizes ranges from 250m² (big) to very small (4m²) and they grow mainly mealies, potatoes, pumpkins, spinach, cabbage, tomatoes, onions, carrots, peas, beans and beetroot. Most home gardeners are doing it for household consumption and for the pleasure thereof. None produced a surplus for selling.
The home gardeners do not receive any formal assistance and have identified the following challenges:

- lack of enough land
- tools
- seeds
- compost
- availability and affordability of water
- nuisance to neighbours (bad odours)
- theft

**Community Gardens**

A few community gardens exits and 4 were identified and visited. Their sizes varied from 7000 m² to 15000 m² and the following vegetables are produced: cabbage, spinach, beetroot, peas, green peppers, mealies, carrots, potatoes, lettuce, onions, pumpkins and tomatoes. The objectives of their gardening activities are to provide vegetables for own consumption and to sell surplus for survival income.

Although some of the groups do receive formal assistance from a range of institutions they have listed the following challenges:

- tools
- availability and affordability of water
- pest control (bugs and insects)
- seeds
- compost and manure
- nuisance to neighbours (bad smells)

All the community garden groups have an organisational setup, but it is very weak in some instances and leadership skills are lacking. The aspirations of all these community garden groups are to become self-sustainable and to produce the quantities and quality that they need.

**Institutional Gardens**
There are not many institutional gardens in the area and only 6 were identified at schools (2), clinics (1), churches (1), and day care centre (2). They also produce: peas, potatoes, tomatoes, pumpkin, cabbage, green peppers, mealies, spinach and onions. They following challenges were sited:

- lack of land
- need of tools
- non-involvement of parents
- nuisance to neighbours (bad smells)

The following institutions are involved:

- schools - Bambanani at Sinetthemba High School
  - Masibambane at Siyazaka Primary School
- clinics - Masakhane at Mzamomle clinic
  - Sweethouse Farm garden at Philippi clinic

7.1.2 Livestock Keeping

It was difficult to collect information on the livestock because the herdsmen could not provide detail information, some animals owners could not be traced and livestock owners where hesitant to provide information.

Six livestock owners were identified and they keep the following animals:

- Cattle  51
- Horses  10
- Goat/sheep  85
- Chickens/turkeys  133

The livestock owners experience the following challenges:

- Lack of grazing land
- Theft
- Lack of access to water
- Lack of animal health care
- Nuisance in residential areas.

7.1.3 Trading

7.1.3.1 Fruit and vegetables

Approximately 80 fruit and vegetable stands were counted on Samora Machel Street, vanguard Drive and Lansdowne road. The stands sizes ranges between $4\text{m}^2$ and $10\text{m}^2$.

7.1.3.2 Meat and Braai Sales

Ten meat and braai sales stands were identified alongside the major roads of the study area and only two had the consent of the landowners to trade from their sites. The following challenges were raised by these hawkers:

- Lack of suitable space/land
- Lack of proper shelter
- Too near the road and traffic
- No storing facilities (fridges and freezers)
- Lack of finances
- No support from government.

7.1.3.3 Livestock trading

The main point for livestock trading (sheep goats and chickens) were found at the intersection of Vanguard Drive and Lansdowne Road. The chickens are kept in wire cages with no shelter and proper access to water, while the sheep and goats are free roaming on a small open piece of land adjacent to the intersection. This creates a road safety hazard and the animals are not properly cared for due to lack of shelter and/or kraal facilities.
7.2 **MAIN CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS**

The survey and assessment of urban agricultural activities in the study area indicated that:

- Urban agriculture is a marginal activity in the area, but there is a desire from current urban farmers to extend and enhance their activities to reach a sustainable level.
- The vegetable gardeners are mostly older women, while the livestock keepers are mostly elderly men.
- There is no coordinated effort to assist the urban farmers from all relevant stakeholders.

The main challenges and constraints of urban farmers and the prospect to develop urban agriculture in the study area could be summarised as follows:

- Urban agricultural activities take place in a disorderly way, i.e. no compliance with zoning schemes, no consent of land owners, no mitigation of negative impacts, inappropriate farming methods and techniques.
- Lack of data on urban farming activities in the area.
- Inefficient agricultural knowledge and skills amongst urban farmers.
- Lack of access to and affordability of water.
- Availability of suitable land.
- Very weak linkage to commercial agricultural sector in terms of supplies, marketing and sharing of opportunities.
- Low level of alignment and coordination between all main role-players.
- Lack of tools and production inputs (seeds, compost, etc.).

8. **OPPORTUNITIES FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE**

Notwithstanding all the challenges and constraints mentioned in Section 7.2 there are many opportunities to enhance and develop urban agriculture in the study area. The following opportunities have been identified:

8.2 **LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

Although there are many legal documents prescribing to and impacting on urban agricultural activities in the study area, it is not prohibited and can take place under certain controlled conditions. For example home gardens are allowed as well as the keeping of a very limited (usually chickens) number of animals in back yards. Where appropriate and where the correct administrative procedure was followed community gardens are allowed on public land.
8.2 LAND

As in any urban context land is scarce in the study area and there are many competing needs (with land for housing as the most critical one). However there are many small pieces of waste land and public open spaces in the residential/industrial area of the study area which could be utilised for vegetable gardening. On the other hand substantial land is available in the Philippi Horticultural Area both for vegetable farming and animal husbandry. However these portions of land do not belong to the state and, therefore, partnerships should be formed with willing and supportive private land owners.

8.3 WATER

Potable water is scarce and expensive in Cape Town and is in many instances the main cause for the collapse of a garden project, i.e. the gardeners cannot afford to pay for the water.

However alternative water sources do exist in the area such as rain water harvesting, ground water and grey water. Furthermore if water saving irrigation methods are used it is possible to remove the constraint of water to a large extent.

8.4 SUPPORT SERVICES

The survey shows that there are many role-players active in the area with the mandate to assist urban famers, but the real problem is availability of information, communication and cooperation.

8.5 INFRASTRUCTURE

Recently two major infrastructure facilities have been provided by government in the study area to support the development of an urban agriculture system in the study area, i.e. the Philippi Fresh Produce Market and the Agricultural Resource Information and Training Centre. These two projects were developed and are operated in partnership with the private sector.

The Philippi Fresh Produce Market has a special section which provides a facility for the grading and packing of produce from emerging farmers. It is envisaged that eventually 40% of the suppliers to the market will be emerging farmers of which a significant number will be urban farmers from Cape Town and the surrounding towns. This market is viewed as catalyst to kick-start production by emergent famers and to attract additional private sector into the area.
The Agricultural Resource Information and Training Centre (AgRIC) was established as joint venture between the Muslim Judicial Council, the Department of Agriculture and the City of Cape Town. This centre has, inter alia, a tractor and various implements to the disposal of urban farmers.

8. CONCLUSION

The data collection and analysis was done through a multi-stakeholder participation process. Although the process was slow and some difficulties were encountered useful primary and secondary information was gathered to give an insight into urban agriculture in the study area. While in some instances data was very scanty it can be said that the derived trends, challenges and opportunities are a reliable reflection of the current reality of urban agriculture in the study area.

The outcome of this situational analysis will now be interrogated at various stakeholder workshops and be used for the foundation to formulate a comprehensive urban agricultural development strategy for the Philippi area.

ANNEXURE A

READING LIST


Canada’s office of Urban Agriculture. 2002. Urban Agriculture Notes by City Farmer. Cityfarm@interchange.ubc.ca


De Swart, Cobus. 2004. Cape Town’s African Poor. Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies (Plaas). School of Government. University of the Western Cape (Chronic Poverty and Development research article No 3.)


Republic of South Africa, 2001, Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development Programme, Department of Land Affairs, Western Cape Branch.


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Urban Agriculture Magazine, October 2000, Volume 1, Number 2.

Urban Agriculture Magazine. 2002. World Summit Special


## ANNEXURE B

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA

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<th>Ward</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>Economic Active</th>
<th>Unemployed Active</th>
<th>Brick Houses</th>
<th>Number of Households</th>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Access to Electricity</th>
<th>Piped Water Inside Yard</th>
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