

# An invitation to participate and share **NETWORKING EVENT**



Jointly organised by:

**RUAF Foundation**  
International Network  
of Resource Centres  
on Urban Agriculture  
and Food Security

**FAO**  
Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

**IDRC**  
International Development  
Research Centre

**World Bank**  
Urban Development Unit

**MDS-SESAN**  
Ministry of Social  
Development and the  
Fight against Hunger,  
National Secretariat for  
Food Security  
and Nutrition,  
Brazil



## **CITIES, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE: Towards sustainable and equitable urban food systems**



**Wednesday 24 March**  
**14.00 – 16.00 hours**  
**Room W3-1**

# CITIES, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE: Towards



This session will provide national and city authorities and senior officers with intensive city experiences and field tested principles for the development of pro-active policies that enable urban and peri-urban agriculture to play a strong role in:

- Enhancing food security and generating income for the urban poor
- Greening the city and reduction of urban heat and dust
- Adaptation to climate change and storm water management
- Stimulating the productive reuse of urban organic wastes, reducing the

urban ecological footprint (less transport, packaging, cooling).

The experiences and lessons that are presented will also show how policy intervention can ensure that urban natural resource use for agriculture is safe and sustainable. To realise the positive impacts of urban agriculture and reduce potential health and environmental risks, local governments need to facilitate development of adequate policies on urban agriculture and its integration in urban spatial planning.

## PROGRAMME

**Opening address: The development of a national programme on urban agriculture as part of the Brazilian "Zero Hunger" strategy**

**Dr. Patrus Ananias**, *Minister of Social Development and the Fight against Hunger, Brazil*

**Effects of the food and economic crisis on the food security and nutrition of the urban poor**

**Dr. Gordon Prain**, *RUAF Foundation/Urban Harvest*

**The role of urban agriculture in enhancing urban food security and nutrition**

**Dr. Florence Egal**, *Vice-chair of the FAO-Food for the Cities multi disciplinary group*

**The role of urban agriculture in poverty alleviation and building more resilient cities**

**Dr. Judy Baker**, *Lead economic specialist Urban Development Unit, and Dr. Dan Hoornweg*, *Lead urban specialist, Finance, Economics and Urban Department of the World Bank*

**Sustainability of urban and peri-urban agriculture in Latin America: Progress and challenges**

**Dr. Juan Izquierdo**, *Senior plant production officer FAO Regional office Latin America, and Mr. Gunther Merzthal*, *Regional Coordinator RUAF programme at IPES, Peru*

**Plenary Dialogue on policy and programme development for urban and peri-urban agriculture as part of an integrated strategy for the development of inclusive and resilient cities**

Chair: **Dr. Yves Cabannes**, *Professor Development Planning Unit of the University College, London*



## KEY MESSAGES

### Urban agriculture

Urban agriculture<sup>1</sup> is a permanent and important component of the food, socio-economic and ecological systems of urban areas and needs to be accepted as a legitimate urban land use.

### Towards more resilient cities: multiple roles of agriculture in sustainable urban development

Urban agriculture forms an important strategy for enhancing urban food security and nutrition as well as for poverty alleviation and social inclusion of low income families living in and around cities. It contributes to urban greening, improves the urban climate (less dust and heat) and enables cities to better adapt to climate change, improve storm water management, enhance use of organic wastes as productive resources and provides recreational services. However, if left unattended and unmanaged by policymakers, urban agriculture may also have negative effects on public health and the urban environment.

<sup>1</sup>) Includes intra-urban agriculture (within the built up city area) and peri-urban agriculture (in the areas surrounding the city).

# sustainable and equitable urban food systems



## Productive urban greening and natural resources management

Growth of cities puts a significant pressure on natural resources resulting in drastic reduction of green open spaces, depletion of trees, floods, heat island effects and other natural disasters, further aggravated by the effects of climate change. These challenges can be better handled by giving proper attention to the potentials of urban forestry and agriculture which contribute to urban greening, heat reduction, storage of excess storm water and maintaining flood plains free from construction. By combining public management of parks and other open green spaces with private agricultural activities, a more sustainable management of the urban and peri-urban landscape can be realised. Issues of competition for natural resources (water, soil, land) between agricultural production and other priority urban needs (drinking water, housing, etc.) need to be properly addressed by local authorities, especially by giving attention to available win-win solutions (e.g. increased recycling of wastewater for use in agriculture to avoid use of drinking water; location of agriculture in zones that should be kept free from construction to avoid competition between agriculture and other uses, etc.).

## Win-win reuse of urban wastes

Waste management is one of the major headaches confronting developing world cities and an important consumer of municipal funds. In many cities, up to 90% of this waste is organic and by encouraging and contributing to its composting and reuse in urban agriculture, cities benefit from a low-cost solution to waste management and a productivity boost for local food production. Urban wastewater (and the nutrients it contains) can be used in irrigation of urban green spaces, trees and crops, if proper safety measures are taken.

## Policy and legal framework; Pro-active interventions

Urban agriculture has to be properly attended by the local authorities and adequately serviced by local support organisations

for it to yield income, food security, greening and recycling benefits whilst reducing the associated health and environmental risks. A development oriented approach is needed, not just restrictive bylaws and regulations or an attitude of “tolerating” urban agriculture. There is also an urgent need for stronger interplay between local and national governments and a stronger national support for local policies and programmes on urban agriculture (especially in Africa).

## Multi-stakeholder planning

A multi-stakeholder approach to policy formulation and action planning and implementation regarding urban agriculture, involving local authorities, producer organisations, urban planners, researchers, agricultural and health officers, consumer representatives, private enterprises, NGO's and service providers, enhances substantially the social acceptability of such policies and the likelihood that the interventions will be successful, whilst also contributing to good governance.

## Building capacity in urban agriculture

Organisations and programmes like IDRC's Urban Poverty and Environment Programme, RUAF's Cities Farming for the future programme, FAO's "Food for the Cities" and CIP's Urban Harvest programme have contributed in the past ten years to considerable capacity development and action research on urban agriculture in the South. Now it is time to integrate urban agriculture in diploma and masters studies in Universities in the South and to include research on urban agriculture in the research programmes of national research institutes (NARS).



# Convening organisations



## **RUAF Foundation (RUAF)**

The RUAF Foundation is an International Network of Resource centres on Urban Agriculture and Food security actually active in 21 major cities in 15 countries. RUAF supports capacity development of staff of the Municipality and other stakeholders and facilitates action research and multi-stakeholder policy formulation and action planning (MPAP) on urban and peri-urban agriculture.

The RUAF programme in Latin America is coordinated by IPES - Promoción del Desarrollo Sostenible

**Contact RUAF Foundation:** Ir. Henk de Zeeuw, Director (h.dezeeuw@etcnl.nl)

**Contact RUAF-LAC at IPES:** Sr. Gunther Merzthal (gunther@ipes.org.pe).

Website RUAF Foundation: [www.ruaf.org](http://www.ruaf.org)

Website RUAF-LAC: [www.ipes.org/au](http://www.ipes.org/au)

## **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations leads international efforts to defeat hunger. FAO assists developing countries and countries in transition to modernise and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices and promotes good nutrition for all. FAO also provides technical assistance to member countries to improve policies, develop strategies and improve implement good practices related to agriculture, forestry and fisheries. FAO incorporated urban and peri-urban agriculture as a Strategic Area in its Strategic Programme 2000-2015 and established the Food for the Cities multi-disciplinary group (FCIT) focussed on enhancing an integrated approach of action.

**Contact:** Dr. Paul Faure Munro, Chairperson of the FAO-FCIT (Paul.MunroFaure@fao.org)

Website: [www.fao.org/fcit](http://www.fao.org/fcit)

## **International Development Research Centre (IDRC)**

IDRC is a Canadian public corporation that has been supporting action research projects in the field of urban and peri-urban agriculture since the early nineties, first in the context of its multi-annual programme Cities Feeding People (CFP) and at the moment as a component of its Urban Poverty and Environment Programme (UPE) that supports larger scale action research projects in selected "Focus Cities". UPE aims to contribute to improving knowledge, raising awareness, capacity development and regional networking on urban agriculture.

**Contact:** Dr. Mark Redwood, Program leader (m.redwood@idrc.ca)

Website: [www.idrc.ca/en/ev-5911-201-1-Do\\_TOPIC.html](http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-5911-201-1-Do_TOPIC.html)

## **World Bank**

The World Bank is expanding its efforts in Urban Agriculture as a part of the urban poverty and cities and climate change agendas. At present key studies are undertaken regarding the socio-economic impacts of urban agriculture and the use of wastewater in urban agriculture. The recently launched mayors dialogue on urban poverty and climate change, will further integrate urban agriculture in the Banks overall urban programming.

**Contact:** Dr. Judy Baker, Lead economic specialist Urban Development Unit (Jbaker2@worldbank.org)

Website: [www.worldbank.org/urban](http://www.worldbank.org/urban)

## **Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger, National Secretariat of Food and Nutritional Security (MDS-SESAN)**

SESAN's institutional mission is to formulate and implement the National Policy on Food and Nutritional Security and promoting and coordinating Federal Governmental programmes in this area as part of the national Zero Hunger strategies. Its main objective is to guarantee sustainable citizens' access to food and water in enough quantity, quality and regularity and respecting cultural diversity. SESAN is implementing –amongst others– a National Programme on Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture that created training and demonstration centres on UPA in 13 metropolitan regions and is financing projects that promote collective food production, processing and marketing and finances processing and marketing infrastructure to local groups of urban poor and other disadvantaged categories of the population.

**Contact:** Dr. Crispim Moreira (crispimmoreira@terra.com.br)

Website: [www.mds.gov.br/portalfederativo/segalimentar/pag/programas/centros-de-apoio-a-agricultura-urbana-e-periurbana-e-sistemas-coletivos-de-producao-para-autoconsumo/](http://www.mds.gov.br/portalfederativo/segalimentar/pag/programas/centros-de-apoio-a-agricultura-urbana-e-periurbana-e-sistemas-coletivos-de-producao-para-autoconsumo/)

