

TANZANIA & ECUADOR

INTEGRATION OF URBAN AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY IN LAND USE PLANNING IN DAR ES SALAAM AND QUITO

Urban agriculture makes a significant, and growing, contribution to the livelihoods of many city residents. It is estimated that urban farms will represent 33% of world food production by 2005. However, urban farmers frequently face barriers such as legal and policy environments that limit their access to vital resources such as credit and secure tenure. It is therefore important to raise policy makers' awareness about the importance of urban agriculture. Experiences in Tanzania and Ecuador show how consultative processes and pilot projects can be used to lobby for policy changes that are more supportive to urban agriculture.



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With a population of about 3.5 million and a growth rate of 8% per annum, Dar es Salaam is one of the fastest growing cities in Africa. About 70% of the city's population live in unplanned, unserved, and densely populated areas and, in recent decades, urban farming and keeping livestock have grown substantially in the city (the number of households engaged in food production grew from 20% to more than 65% between 1970 and 1990) due to economic reforms leading to increased poverty and decreased formal employment.

In 1992 (under the UN-Habitat and UNEP Global Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP)) Dar es Salaam adopted an Environmental Planning and Management (EPM) process. EPM focuses on capacity building and institutional development aimed at improving the living environment through stakeholder participation and inter-sectoral co-ordination.

During the 'City Consultation' phase of the EPM (in which groups of stakeholders have a round table discussion of their problems, and define priority areas of concern for which they negotiate strategies), one of the nine environmental issues identified as needing urgent attention was 'Open Spaces, Urban Agriculture and Hazard Lands'. This led to a mini-consultation on urban agriculture in 1993 with representatives ranging from urban residents (including women and youth groups), to village governments (from the peri-urban areas), various government ministries (such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development), the Dar es Salaam City Council, and local NGOs and CBOs.

The consultation identified a number of strategies, action plans and demonstration projects which were developed and implemented in different parts of the city. The results of these projects were the basis for deciding where and how urban agriculture can be practiced in the city, as reflected in the Strategic Urban Development Plan (SUDP) in which several areas have now been set apart for urban agriculture. In addition,



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they informed the National Human Settlements Development Policy of 2000 which included statements to override previous laws which had banned grazing in urban areas and farming any plots of more than 3 acres in cities.

The EPM process in Dar es Salaam therefore, by providing a forum in which the constraints facing urban farmers could be discussed with policy makers and solutions piloted, has helped to get urban agriculture accepted as a legitimate land use and integrated to the land use zoning code.

However, even when policy makers are already committed to urban agriculture, there is often a need for further work to build a deeper understanding of the policy support needed by urban farmers. In Ecuador, agricultural practices are still common in

neighbourhood located in the historic centre of Quito, which as a protected historical area, has a relatively low housing density and a large number of vacant lots used for agricultural activities.

The four pilot projects in El Panecillo tested new approaches to developing skills bases, resources and systems for urban farmers in areas including organic waste collection and recycling, small agro-industries for processing and direct marketing of vegetables and aromatic herbs of sustainable and organic production in home-gardens, and local nurseries for trees and ornamental plants. They encompassed training and capacity building, community organisation, a credit scheme, and revision of legal regulations, managed by a Steering Committee made up of community representatives, NGOs and various municipal departments. In addition to the pilot projects, the programme has also defined specific guidelines for credit systems for urban agriculture and formulated municipal regulations that support the productive use of intra-urban land (through symbolic land rents, preferential taxation, user agreements for community lands). Significantly, the programme has led to the inclusion of urban



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many urban and peri-urban areas, including the capital Quito. However, the need for specific regulations for urban agriculture has led the Municipality of the Metropolitan District of Quito to develop a policy for interventions in support of urban agriculture. Yet, in order to deliver such policies there was first a need to develop a deeper understanding of the needs of urban framers.

In order to inform the policy, a participatory baseline study on urban agriculture in Quito was produced and its results discussed with a Consultative Forum made up of a large group of actors involved in urban agriculture practices and development (including community leaders, farmers, NGOs, Universities and various Municipal Departments). This Forum drew up an Action Plan for an alternative credit and support system for the production, transport and marketing of urban agricultural products by poor households. In 2000 these measures were implemented and tested through pilot projects in El Panecillo, a low income

agriculture as a legitimate urban land use in the Quito Territorial Land Use Plan 2000-2010.

It is now intended to build on the experience and knowledge gained through the four initial pilot projects by piloting more projects in 5 additional poor neighbourhoods in Quito as an intermediate step towards the creation of a comprehensive public policy on urban agriculture and micro-credit. This will require a full-time municipal coordination programme and US\$200,000 allocation from the municipal budget.

The experiences of Quito and Dar es Salaam show both the scope for building policy commitment to supporting urban agriculture through consultation and dialogue, and the need (even when policy makers are already committed to supporting city farmers) to build a more detailed understanding of the needs of urban framers in order to inform the design of legal frameworks, credit systems and other support measures.



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