Urban agriculture: what’s next?

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Outline

✓ About RUAF
✓ Need for a new definition?
✓ UA: at what scale?
✓ Role UA in addressing food system vulnerability?
✓ UA not commercially viable
✓ UA: can it respond to new city agendas?
✓ Role of city networks
RUAF Global Partnership on Sustainable Urban Agriculture and City Region Food Systems

- Members: Quito, Ghent and Toronto, IWMI, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, Mazingira and Está

- Projects and programmes in over 50 cities, since 1999

- Urban agriculture & food systems, food security, local economic development, resource recycling and adaptation to climate change
Extent of urban and peri-urban agriculture

• The global area of urban irrigated croplands was estimated in 2014 at about 24 Mha (11.0% of all irrigated croplands)

• The global area of urban rain-fed croplands found was approximately 44 Mha (4.7% of all rain-fed croplands)

• Analysis of croplands within 20 km of urban extents show that 60 and 35% of, respectively, all irrigated and rain-fed croplands fall within this distance range
Sustainable and resilient city region food systems

CRFS tool to integrally link SDG 2, 11, 12 and 13; promote integrated territorial development and landscape management; urban-rural linkages
UA: what scale?

- Diversification instead of volumes
- Impacts at household level
- Work at city scale
Cleveland, USA. Scenarios

1: use 80% of every vacant lot: 22-48% of demand for fresh fruits and vegetables depending on intensity production; 25% poultry and eggs and 100% honey

2: 80% of all vacant lots and 9% of every occupied residential lot: 31-68% of demand for fresh fruits and vegetables; 94% poultry and eggs and 100% honey

3: as scenario 2+ 62% of all industrial and commercial rooftops: 46-100% of demand for fresh fruits and vegetables; 94% poultry and eggs and 100% honey
Cleveland, USA

- The city can attain levels of self-reliance between 4.2 - 17.7% by weight

- 1.8 - 7.3% by expenditure in total food and beverage consumption (compared to actual 0.1%)

- Result in 29-155 M USD being retained in the local economy

- Active commitment city governments and planners
- Public engagement & Financial investment
- Revision of land use and building codes
- Labour
Role UA in addressing food systems vulnerability?

- Growing concentration of processing industry and supermarkets
- Processing/retail sector losing connection to a regional suppliers base
- Coordinate supply and link with medium-scale intermediaries
- Support to family business
- Inclusion of local provenance criteria in procurement and CRS
- Mobilise consumer awareness and demand
- Territorial food security policy: legislation and support
UA not commercially viable

- What business models?
- Trickle down effects
- Social and environmental pay-offs
UA: can it respond to new city agendas?

- Climate change
- Obesity
- Youth employment and migration
- Urban Agroecology
Dutch food agenda (2015) lacked vision on role city and city regions to food agenda. Role cities is key for territorial integration and coordination; feeding an increasing urban population; being centres of knowledge and innovation (City Deal)

140+ Cities pledge to develop more sustainable and resilient urban food systems (MUFFP)

Recognition of food security, integrated territorial development, food systems planning and urban agriculture in New Urban Agenda (Habitat III)
- Learn from different networks
- Integrate national with international networks
- Support existing networks
Thank you

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