



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Forty-fourth Session

"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"

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**ADDRESSING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE
CONTEXT OF CHANGING RURAL-URBAN DYNAMICS:
EXPERIENCES AND EFFECTIVE POLICY APPROACHES
WITH DRAFT DECISION**

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MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee:

- a) Expresses its appreciation for the work of the OEWG on Urbanization, rural transformation and implications for food security and nutrition, chaired by H.E. Hans Hoogeveen (Netherlands);
- b) Recalling para 32 e) of the CFS 43 Final report, acknowledges the compilation of experiences and effective policy approaches contained in the document CFS 2017/44/6 “Addressing food security and nutrition in the context of changing rural-urban dynamics: experiences and effective policy approaches” as an informative exercise to help develop a common understanding of issues among CFS stakeholder and possibly lay the basis for informed CFS policy convergence and coordination work;
- c) Takes note of the thematic areas identified in the document as entry points to addressing food security and nutrition in the context of rural-urban linkages and of the knowledge gaps and policy implications emerging from the review;
- d) Takes note of the outcomes of the OEWG discussions, particularly of the areas identified by Members and Participants as requiring further attention: (i) the impacts of urbanization and rural transformation on the food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable and on lower income groups (smallholders, landless, net food buyers, informal sector traders, low income urban consumers); (ii) addressing the areas in point (i) through promoting youth

and women engagement and employment in food systems across the rural-urban continuum including linking producers to markets; (iii) the development of a vision for food systems; and (iv) local and regional governance of food security and nutrition and the role of small/intermediate cities;

- e) Agrees that CFS should continue its work in 2018 to carry out further exploratory work through two intersessional events in order to determine at CFS 45 the feasibility of working towards policy convergence to support governments and other stakeholders at the national and local level in addressing food security and nutrition within the context of changing rural-urban dynamics as elaborated in paras 19-27 of the 2018-2019 CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW).

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background and Objectives

1. In 2016, as part of its Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW), the CFS held a Forum on Urbanization, Rural Transformation and Implications for Food Security and Nutrition “to reach a better understanding of the issues at stake, identify key areas for policy attention and possible roles for CFS”.
2. The subsequent Forum held at CFS 43, informed by a comprehensive background document¹, provided a first opportunity for CFS stakeholders to exchange views and practical experiences on the challenges, opportunities and positive outcomes that they have seen as a result of more integrated rural-urban approaches.
3. As a follow-up to the Forum and following the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, the Committee requested the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Urbanization and Rural Transformation to meet in 2017, and to agree on a process to compile experiences and effective policy approaches for addressing food security and nutrition in the context of changing rural-urban dynamics.
4. Following consultations within the OEWG, a global call was placed through the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN Forum), soliciting short summaries of experiences and effective policy approaches having rural-urban linkages as a primary focus, and touching upon the following thematic areas: governance, sustainability, food systems and social and economic equity.
5. The document provides a compilation of selected experiences and policy approaches that identify some key messages relating to addressing food security and nutrition in the context of changing rural-urban dynamics. The presentation of the experiences is preceded by an overview of the current shifts taking place within and across the dynamics of urbanization, rural transformation and changes in the food system; as well as an overview of the global policy environment.
6. This document seeks to achieve the dual objective of informing CFS stakeholders and stimulating further discussions on possible roles for CFS going forward. While recognizing that the experiences received through the call represent neither all geographical areas, nor the full range of dynamics under the broad topic of urbanization and rural transformation, the contributions contained

¹ Background document to the CFS Forum on Urbanization, Rural Transformation and Implications for Food Security and Nutrition - key areas for policy attention and possible roles for CFS “(CFS 2016/43/11) - <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mr205e.pdf>

in this paper nevertheless offer insights into the design/adjustment of food and agriculture related policies/investments in the effort to meet the needs of all people across the rural-urban continuum.

B. Methodology

7. This document is the result of a four-step process:

- 1) Screening of the submissions received through the global call – Following a first screening of the 93 submissions² received through the global call on the FSN Forum, the Technical Task Team (TTT) – comprising FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNSCN, UN Habitat, the CFS Civil Society Mechanism and the CFS Private Sector Mechanism – developed a matrix (see page 53) that allowed for the experiences and policy approaches to be mapped along three thematic areas (i. Governance, food systems and territorial planning; ii. Labour flows of people, goods and services; iii. Sustainable food systems for healthy diets; and five cross-cutting issues (i. Health/Nutrition; ii. Environment/climate change; iii. Resilience to risks and crises; iv. Social and economic equity; v. Capacity development, consumer awareness, education).
- 2) Selection of the experiences – The matrix exercise facilitated a preliminary selection of experiences (attached as an annex to this document) on the basis of the first two criteria agreed by the OEWG: focus on rural-urban linkages and impact/relevance for food security and nutrition. A further selection was made on the basis of the additional criteria agreed by the OEWG (adversity; equity; innovation and change) and included in this report. Each thematic area used in the matrix is briefly introduced as a chapeau to the selected experiences.
- 3) Analysis of the experiences and identification of key messages – Building on the above review and with the general acknowledgement of a need for additional geographical and thematically diversified data that would result in a more rigorous process, the TTT developed a set of key messages for each of the three above-mentioned thematic areas. The analysis of the experiences was complemented by additional ongoing research within the Rome Based Agencies and beyond, and the identification of additional key messages;
- 4) Identification of policy implications – Drawing from the analysis of the experiences summarized in the matrix and the analysis of the key messages identified under each thematic area, a number of categories with policy implications have been singled out to guide discussions in CFS, as well as to facilitate linkages to both existing policy tools/recommendations and ongoing CFS workstreams.

C. Global Context

8. It is estimated that more than 50 percent of the world's population, or around 3.9 billion people, now lives in cities and large towns classified as urban, and this figure is expected to rise to 67 percent by 2050³.

9. At the same time, the transformation of the rural economy is mostly manifested through the diversification of peoples' income sources and produced output, through increasing dependence on non-farm activities.⁴ This transformation goes hand in hand with increases in agricultural productivity, which dominates rural geography.⁵

² Call for experiences and effective policy approaches in addressing food security and nutrition in the context of changing rural-urban dynamics. Proceedings, <http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/activities/discussions/call-urbanization-rural-transformation>

³ UN DESA.2014. Revision of World Urbanization Prospects

⁴ Berdegue, Rosada, and Bebbington 2013

⁵ The future of food and agriculture, FAO 2016.

10. Furthermore, the food system is changing as a result – and in order to support the needs – of urban populations, and is transforming rural areas. Over recent decades, the industry has expanded as a result of technological advances and changing dietary patterns, urbanization and the greater participation of women in the labour force. The industry has, in turn, played a role in changing dietary patterns in diverse ways. Domestic food dominates supply but imports play an increasing role in satisfying food demand. A range of wholesale and retail markets connect rural and agriculture dominated areas with small towns and urban centres. Globally, the food industry is valued at \$7 trillion (10 percent of the world's GDP)⁶.

11. Evidence indicates that fast urbanization can drive diet-related diseases which are associated with changes in lifestyles and increased dependency upon low-quality and often imported foods, resulting in unbalanced and unhealthy diets⁷. In the light of this evidence, food systems need to be repositioned from just supplying food to providing high-quality diets for all⁸.

12. Urbanization, higher incomes but also shifting income sources in a world dominated by digital technologies, are already defining the habits of people regarding what to eat, how food should look, how it should taste, but also how it should be sold⁹. The need to serve large urban markets brings a range of opportunities and challenges for the food system and for small farmers. The food system needs to develop improved storage and transportation and food-processing capacities based on new technologies. In some parts of the world, the ability to satisfy these needs leads to land consolidation and increased importance of mid-sized farms in food production. Where infrastructure, credit and other related facilities are missing or are slow to develop, many farmers and rural populations may fail to benefit from new dynamics.

13. When looking at the world's poor, approximately 78 percent of those living on less than US\$2 per day live in rural areas, and 63 percent of the poor are working in agriculture¹⁰. At the same time, an increasing share of world poverty is located in urban centres¹¹. UN Habitat estimates that about 45 percent of the urban population in developing countries live in slums – or households lacking adequate space, solid construction, secure residential status, safe water, sanitation and access to safe foods that are affordable¹². Rapidly growing unplanned informal settlements are often in the most hazard-prone urban areas, increasing risks of flooding and other climate hazards for poor urban populations.

14. There are serious concerns about climate change, the sustainable use of natural resources and demographic trends that refer to changing fertility rates, high population growth, more women in the labour force, including in agriculture, and an increasing proportion of youth entering the labour force in certain regions and ageing of societies in others. All these factors influence and shape the paths of development transformation, in multiple ways that may diverge from historical patterns and experiences. Increasingly, employment that is decent and remunerative – especially for youth – is becoming a challenge of immense proportions across regions and countries, irrespective of their level of development.

15. Employment opportunities and associated labour mobility in a context of urbanization, rural transformation and overall economic development, depends on a range of push and pull factors that function as drivers and connect rural and urban areas during the transition of economic and social systems. Push factors commonly refer to lack of opportunities in rural areas, whereas pull factors

⁶ Wynberg 2015, Frost and Sullivan 2015; Root Capital 2015; ERS 2016; McKinsey 2016

⁷ SOFA 2017

⁸ <http://glopan.org/news/foresight-report-food-systems-and-diets>

⁹ IFAD RDR 2016, SOFA 2017

¹⁰ Olinto, P.; Beegle, K.; Sobrado, C.; Uematsu, H., 2013. The State of the Poor: Where are the poor, where is extreme poverty harder to end, and what is the current profile of the world's poor. Economic Premise, World Bank. Washington D.C. Available at: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTPREMNET/Resources/EP125.pdf>

¹¹ Mitlin, D. and Satterthwaite, D., 2013. Urban poverty in the global South: scale and nature. New York: Routledge

¹² UN Habitat. 2012. The State of the World's Cities Report 2012/2013: Prosperity of Cities. Nairobi: United Nations Human Settlements Programme

usually relate to the emergence of non-farm sectors, typically associated with industrial development, around urban centres or in rural hubs. In many of the countries where incidence of food insecurity and malnourishment is highest, non-farm and urban sectors have been slow in developing; raising the question of whether agri-food sectors will need to play a significant role in the decades ahead in creating employment for growing youth populations.

16. Where rural townships and intermediate cities are better developed, more agricultural and non-agricultural jobs are created and there is a positive reduction in poverty. Put differently, rural transformations in these contexts are being shaped by the interaction of “two middles” in rural areas¹³.

- i) The “hidden middle” of rural societies: This refers to the emergence of rural towns, which provide a potentially dynamic ground for economic and social improvement via the demand for goods, services and food, and the propensity for generating short food-supply chains.
- ii) The “middle segment” of the food system: The component of the system after primary production that refers to trading, processing, packaging, distributing and storing agricultural products including food, up to final consumption.

17. Part of the challenge for new jobs and decent employment in the future (including a decent living wage), lies with the components of the food system and the food supply chain that extends beyond production. These parts of the system are able to create jobs, or improve current working conditions, by engaging and empowering small and medium-sized enterprises and smallholders to capture more benefits by integrating into markets, under supportive conditions¹⁴.

18. A high number of smallholder producers in developing countries still lack access to these markets, and they face barriers both in integrating and in conforming to demand requirements. It still remains to be understood to what extent 6.5 billion urban dwellers by 2050, rural transformation and the changing food system will affect both consumers and producers – particularly the hundreds of millions of smallholder farmers that produce most of the food in the world¹⁵.

19. All the above-mentioned driving forces are mediated by social structures, institutional frameworks, and territorial assets which present a high level of within-country diversity. The food security and poverty outcomes, as well as social inclusion and sustainability of food systems will therefore depend on the interplay of global/national and local factors as well as on the heterogeneity of rural households, and economic and social behaviours.

20. Rural households are generally involved in several interlinked economies, including rural and urban, formal and informal, farm and non-farm. Moreover, markets display wide variety in forms of segmentation based on economic, ethnic, religious, political, spatial, and commodity forces¹⁶. This explains why in some countries transformation patterns do not follow expected processes of transition from nonmarket-to-market, agriculture-to-industry, or rural-to-urban. It also raises the issue of whether the unidirectional characterization of rural change accurately reflects the complex interactions of co-evolving factors influencing rural transformation and food systems patterns.

21. The dynamics outlined above illustrate that achieving sustainable and inclusive food systems will require solutions reflecting the heterogeneity of the rural and urban spaces’ response to drivers of

¹³ FAO 2016, Technical Workshop on Rural transformation, agricultural and food system transition: Building the evidence base for policies that promote sustainable development, food and nutrition security and poverty reduction, Rome

¹⁴ More concrete options are discussed for smallholder farmers in CFS 2016, Recommendations on Connecting Smallholders to Markets, Rome.

¹⁵ Seto, K.C. and Ramankutty, N., 2016. Hidden linkages between urbanization and food systems. *Science*, 352(6288), pp.943-945.

¹⁶ Koppel B., J. Hawkins, and W. James (Editor) (1994) , Development or Deterioration?: Work in Rural Asia

changes, targeting both producers and consumers and building institutions and/or strengthening institutional capacity to deal with this complexity.

D. Policy Environment

22. Governments and the international community have tended to focus on urban and rural development as separate ‘sectors’ and challenges, and usually through the lenses of sectoral progress.

23. In the last two years the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda, the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition adopted at Habitat III and the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, have marked a significant and unprecedented shift towards de-constructing the rural-urban dichotomy, and reframing the policy environment around a more holistic approach to integrated policies:

- SDG1 seeks to eradicate extreme poverty, SDG2 to eradicate hunger, eliminate all forms of malnutrition and increase smallholder farmer productivity and incomes, while SDG11 seeks to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, with Target 11.a aiming to “support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning”. Goal 10 calls for reducing inequalities in income as well as those based on age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status within a country. The Goal also addresses inequalities among countries, including those related to representation, migration and development assistance;
- The New Urban Agenda refers to the “urban-rural continuum of space”, and asks countries and international agencies, to commit to balanced territorial development approaches by promoting equitable growth across the rural and urban continuum of regions, and by leaving no one behind. The Agenda further asks for the promotion of coordinated policies for food security and nutrition across rural, urban and peri-urban areas, in order to facilitate production, storage, transportation processing and marketing of food;
- The Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2016, marks a 10-year window of high-level attention for nutrition and aims to intensify the development of policies, programming and actions for nutrition by all relevant actors. The Decade as such will contribute to the achievement of all other SDGs;
- The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact provides a municipal entry point for coherent territorial food policies through its focus on sustainable food systems, integrating governance, sustainable diets and nutrition, social and economic equity, food production, food supply and distribution, and food waste¹⁷.

24. Together, these mechanisms provide a global enabling environment for addressing food security and nutrition across the rural-urban continuum. However, there is still an urgent demand from governments and other stakeholders for tools and support to develop and implement their own policies.

¹⁷ <http://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Milan-Urban-Food-Policy-Pact-EN.pdf>

II. PRESENTATION OF SELECTED EXPERIENCES AND KEY MESSAGES

A. Governance and territorial, food system planning

25. The growing influence of global food systems is associated with important changes in the way food is produced, traded, and consumed. The consequences of these changes include impacts on the viability and resilience of smallholder farmers, access to markets processing activities, the flow of goods and services, the generation of labour opportunities, and on the health of vulnerable people in cities and rural communities.

26. It is increasingly recognized that in order to respond to these challenges, more integrated territorial development and balanced urban-rural linkages must be pursued for the benefit of both urban and rural populations (Dubbeling et al., 2016). Sectoral policies will not suffice to eradicate poverty and hunger. Policy measures and incentives will need to be assessed from a food system-wide approach, and to take into account constraints determined by the interplay between geographic, social, economic and institutional factors.

27. While the conceptual shift towards enhanced urban-rural connections is visible in the global policy environment, there is a need to translate these concepts into concrete models of inclusive, multi-sectoral and multi-level governance, in order to improve rural-urban relationships and to ensure the participation of those most affected by food security and nutrition issues; in particular marginalized groups, and smallholder producers.

28. Cities, towns and villages of any size cannot support their inhabitants effectively without mechanisms that facilitate participatory decision-making as well as cross-sectoral collaboration with public entities that have a role in food system governance. Human rights-centred approaches to local, bottom-up efforts to address all modalities of food security and sustainable diets call for new policy tools, and a shift towards “multi-level food system governance” mechanisms that bring innovative forms of participation to the elaboration and implementation of local food policies. The notion of a spatial continuum of urban and rural landscapes connects to the notion of a governance continuum across levels of government, extending from emergency response to longer-term development: in effect, a continuum of “food system care”¹⁸.

29. There is potential for territorial and food system planning to address the issue of insecure land tenure, where lack of clarity in policies limits investments in land improvements and hence, output. Besides land related issues, territorial and food system planning also has the potential for addressing the entire food system in relation to supply, logistics, distribution through wholesale and retail formal and informal traders, public outlets and food waste.

30. The four experiences presented below provide diverse and innovative examples of such mechanisms: in the Medellin-Antioquia region of Colombia an inter-institutional alliance has been put in place to articulate the agro-food system under a single, comprehensive policy. In Vancouver, the region food system approach was translated into a regional food system strategy involving a variety of sectors and institutions. In Nairobi, the city council has partnered with a civil society organization to develop the technical capacity of the local government to facilitate the implementation of its Urban Agriculture Promotion and Regulation Act. In Peru, the national government has partnered with IFAD to implement a territorial development plan that targets the most vulnerable to poverty and hunger.

¹⁸ Food, Agriculture and Cities - Challenges of food and nutrition security, agriculture and ecosystem management in an urbanizing world (FAO 2012)

Key messages emerging from the experiences

- Multilevel institutional arrangements promoted across public sector and multi-stakeholder engagement can successfully contribute to sustainable food security and nutrition challenges, in the context of changing rural-urban dynamics;
- Integrated local planning – such as city-region and territorial development approaches – can ensure synergies and balance between rural and urban areas by supporting the development of stronger local or territorial food systems, facilitating consumer access to local foods for sustainable diets and supporting small-scale food producers and distributors in accessing markets, with particular attention to marginalized and/or food insecure households;
- There is a need to improve the technical capacity of local institutions and governments at all levels – particularly of small cities and rural towns – and to acquire new skills necessary to address the changing dynamics of food systems.
-

Additional elements for policy consideration suggested by the Technical Task Team

There is increasing attention on the need to:

- harmonize national, sectoral policies and local development strategies so as to reflect context-specific challenges and opportunities;
- acknowledge the central and growing role of local governments – and in particular local authorities of small cities and rural towns - as emerging actors in the food security and nutrition governance arena;
- improve the capacity of local institutions and governments – including that of provincial, sub-national regional governments, and small cities and rural towns - to address issues of inequalities within and between rural and urban areas. To this end, access to disaggregated data, financial autonomy and legitimacy through accountability to citizens, and the harmonization of procedures and legal and regulatory frameworks are highlighted as crucial factors;
- recognize that the existence of dialogue spaces or multi-stakeholder platforms alone does not automatically generate an inclusive, equitable, transparent and accountable process, nor does it automatically produce outcomes geared towards positive food security and nutrition, or to the realization of the right to adequate food; and
- address the issue of insecure land tenure for food system activities, and the lack of clarity in policies. There is a potential for urban and territorial food system planning as a cross-cutting policy component which must involve government departments and community and other stakeholders.

Alianza por el Buen Vivir (Good Living Alliance), City of Medellín (Colombia) – FAO

Main responsible entity
Medellin Mayor's Office

Date/Timeframe
From 2016-2019

Source of funding
Public funds

Location

Department of Antioquia, Colombia

Background/Context

Over the last few decades governments have tried the same old formulas for rural development: increase production and productivity of staple food, rural technical advice, free trade policies with foreign countries, finance mechanisms for agricultural and livestock production, and incentives for direct foreign investment particularly focused on extractive industries.

These policies have been ineffective and counterproductive as the increases in production and productivity have not translated into increased revenues for farmers. The vast majority of rural producers have not benefited directly from access to new foreign markets and financial mechanisms have not been capable of including the overwhelming majority of farmers with the greatest need, and in many cases mining areas are the poorest and most violent parts of the country.

Approach/Objectives

The “Good Living Alliance” is an intervention model for the Department of Antioquia, Colombia, which represents the inter-institutional interests of the Mayor’s Office of Medellin, the local government of Antioquia, the metropolitan area of Valle de Aburra and FAO, to coordinate fully the agrifood system under a single comprehensive policy that:

- Minimizes market failures in the fresh and manufactured food sector. These market failures include the high costs of intermediation, information asymmetry, monopolies (unfair competition), and negative environmental impact (externalities).
- Improves growth and competitiveness of companies and specific stakeholders in the agrifood and agro-industrial sectors through grants and financial and non-financial transfers that optimize their cost and expense matrices.
- Favours the conglomeration and organization of social, public, private and academic stakeholders to improve economies of scale and knowledge transfer, and maximizes the financial resources of specific projects.
- The “Good Living Alliance” endeavours to:
 1. Benefit both rural and urban people from the socio-economic strata that are most in need, with the clear objective of improving their wellbeing.
 2. Develop and build associations and networks that improve the social fabric, and optimize productivity and economies of scale.
 3. Undertake large scale development projects that deliver greater impact in the region.
 4. Ensure that the impact is not only measured on a social level, but also benefits the whole of the natural system in terms of environmental sustainability.
 5. Develop projects in conjunction with alliances or associations with private and/or social entities, which provide greater speed, knowledge transfer, process continuity, and better management and risk sharing.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

The project results are geared towards:

- Improving the efficiency of production systems and adding value to the processes undertaken by small and medium-sized producers.

- Improving the efficiency of each of the links in the market chain, in the items and the municipalities chosen to cover local and regional food demand.
- Implementing strategies to optimize the use of natural resources in agrifood systems of the chosen items.
- Implementing information and communication technologies that enable greater efficiency of agrifood systems.

The effects of the project will be achieved by training and technical assistance, continuous backing, funding and infrastructure, all of which help to build capacities to increase production and consumption of safe food, encourage healthy lifestyles and healthy food conditions, promote coordination of family farming with local and/or regional markets by improving the efficiency of the supply subsystem, generating savings in food costs and revenue based on the items in the basic food basket.

Key stakeholders involved and their roles

- The inter-institutional coordination of the Alliance is made up of three basic stages in the chain:
- Production and productivity of food in subregions (run by the local government of Antioquia),
- Distribution and transport (run by the metropolitan area of Valle de Aburra),
- Consumption and marketing (run by the Mayor's Office of Medellin).
- These three institutions comprise the tripartite commission and are responsible for the following three public objectives:
- Small and medium-sized producer associations
- Logistic and transport companies and businessmen
- Tradesmen, medium-sized outlets and family consumers

To focus on three main intervention objectives: household income and employment training; minimizing intermediation and profiteering; and reducing sales prices while increasing the quality of agricultural products.

FAO as the international organization is participating across the board in the project by providing technical assistance and advice, the exchange of experiences, and monitoring and follow-up of project indicators and results.

Although the different institutions have very specific roles in the projects, it is important to note that the coordination and joint work guarantees the sustainability and success of the project.

The main changes observed that result in improved food security and nutrition

Rural poverty and the lack of food and nutrition security are two sides of the same coin. Rural farmers do not receive much for their produce and consumers pay a higher price for lower quality food because both groups face an agrifood system that is based on a monopoly and profiteering, with disjointed public policies, that have little impact, are short term in nature and are based on a sectoral strategic plan that is practically non-existent and closed to global tendencies.

Therefore, the "Good Living Alliance" seeks concrete results to respond to the inefficiencies of the agrifood chain, based on two key expected outcomes:

- Improvement of 15% in the income of small and medium-sized food producers by improving productivity and the efficiency of the supply chain and production systems.

- Improvement of food security and nutrition of the most vulnerable families with a 15% reduction in the purchase price of food.

Challenges faced and how they were overcome

Institutional coordination along with the overview and scope of each institution make agreement on goals and results more complicated, which is also the case for the methodology on how to manage the project. This has been gradually overcome by periodic meetings involving individuals from the institutions who have different backgrounds and experiences, helping to ground ideas more firmly.

The limited availability of civil servants from different institutions for the project formulation has meant that timeframes are lengthened. This has been overcome thanks to the interest of the participating institutions in providing officers dedicated exclusively to the project formulation.

Lessons learned/key messages

Each institution provides resources for development of the proposal, which demonstrates true coordination that benefits all stakeholders in the agrifood system, preventing isolated interventions that are not sustainable.

Constant project communication and outreach between different stakeholders and on different scenarios has connected more individuals interested in the process, helping to enrich the intervention proposal.

Implementing a regional food system strategy, Vancouver (Canada)

Main responsible entity

Metro Vancouver Board

Date/Timeframe

2011-present

Funding source

The Regional Food System Strategy (RFSS) had no allotted budget for the period between 2011 (when it was adopted) and 2014. With the operationalization of the Action Plan, the RFSS will have an as yet unspecified budget.

Location

Metro Vancouver, Canada

Background/Context

In Vancouver, there are growing concerns about the rising incidence of obesity, food safety, the disappearance of farmland and increasing prices, depleted fish populations, food waste, pesticides, fertilizer, pollution, depletion of local markets, and the large carbon footprint of food. The globalized food system and the rapid population growth have put great pressures on both the resources and local farmers. In British Columbia (BC), 86 percent of food was produced locally in the 1970s; in 2010 only 43 percent is produced locally. However, there is a renewed interest in growing food, preparing healthy meals, and buying locally produced foods. Yet, the average age of farmers in British Columbia is 57 years; only 6 percent of the farmers in BC are under age 35. The discrepancy between the supply of local food and increasing demand requires local government action.

Focus/Objectives

The Regional Food System Strategy (RFSS) was adopted by Metro Vancouver in 2011, with a vision to create “a sustainable, resilient and healthy food system that will contribute to the well-being of all residents and the economic prosperity of the region, while conserving our ecological legacy”.

The RFSS contains five goals which aim to mitigate the negative impacts of food systems services, promote positive developments, include public participation and utilize interdependent synergies at the regional level.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

| Goals/objectives | Actions |
|--|--|
| <p>Goal 1: Increased Capacity to Produce Food Close to Home</p> <p>1.1 Protect agricultural land for food production</p> <p>1.2 Restore fish habitats and protect sustainable sources of seafood</p> <p>1.3 Enable expansion of agricultural production</p> <p>1.4 Invest in a new generation of food producers</p> <p>1.5 Expand commercial food production in urban areas</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protected agricultural land through the implementation of Metro 2040; • adopted guidelines to restore and enhance fish habitats; • invested in irrigation and drainage infrastructure to enable farmers to expand food production; • facilitated commercial food production in urban areas; • addressed the deposition of illegal fill on farmland through municipal by-laws and enforcement activities. |
| <p>Goal 2: Improve the Financial Viability of the Food Sector</p> <p>2.1 Increase capacity to process, warehouse and distribute local foods</p> <p>2.2 Include local foods in the purchasing policies of large public institutions</p> <p>2.3 Increase direct marketing opportunities for local foods</p> <p>2.4 Further develop value chains within the food sector</p> <p>2.5 Review government policies and programmes to ensure they enable the expansion of the local food sector</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reviewed policies to include local food in purchasing agreements; • expanded marketing of local foods (leases on city-owned lands for farmers' markets, municipal services, improved promotion of farm tours and events, etc.); • developed plans to address food related issues and reviewed regulations, by-laws and policies to remove obstacles and to create a more enabling business environment for local food enterprises. |
| <p>Goal 3: People Make Healthy and Sustainable Food Choices</p> <p>3.1 Enable residents to make healthy food choices</p> <p>3.2 Communicate how food choices support sustainability</p> <p>3.3 Enhance food literacy and skills in school</p> <p>3.4 Celebrate the taste of local foods and the diversity of cuisines</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • involved educational institutions and hosted annual events; • initiated a programme to increase student capacity to manage and expand teaching gardens, and supported agricultural-related content and programming at the local museum; • developed new curriculum resources to support K-12 teachers and students with the integration of 'food systems' thinking into the classroom. |
| <p>Goal 4: Everyone has Access to Healthy, Culturally Diverse and Affordable Food</p> <p>4.1 Improve access to nutritious food among vulnerable groups</p> <p>4.2 Encourage urban agriculture</p> <p>4.3 Enable non-profit organizations to</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • initiated pilot projects to allow for residential bee-keeping and rearing urban chickens; • did research on how to improve food security in social housing sites; |

| | |
|--|---|
| recover nutritious food | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supported programmes to facilitate food access for vulnerable populations; • created community gardens for residents. |
| <p>Goal 5: A Food System Consistent with Ecological Health</p> <p>5.1 Protect and enhance ecosystem goods and services</p> <p>5.2 Reduce waste in the food system</p> <p>5.3 Facilitate adoption of environmentally sustainable practices</p> <p>5.4 Prepare for the impacts of climate change</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developed Integrated Stormwater Management plans to manage water flowing from urban areas and the impact on aquatic and terrestrial species, vegetation management, and groundwater recharge; • educated residents and businesses about the disposal ban on food waste through media campaigns and advising on ways to reduce organic and food waste, as part of the regional Organic Waste Ban; • launched initiatives in support of Best Management Practices for stream crossings, and land management for horses and small-lot owners; • developed climate change adaptation strategies that take into account impacts on local food production. |

Key actors involved and their roles

The engagement of a diverse group of stakeholders, including local governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, community groups, educational institutions, provincial health authorities, food banks and charitable organizations, is promoted by Metro Vancouver, its members and the action plan. The involvement of these stakeholders is aimed at enhancing the generation of ideas, capacity building and problem-solving, and ultimately, at revitalizing the regional food system.

Challenges faced

The local governments have many competing priorities and obligations. Across the region there is a lack of adequate resources committed to food and agricultural issues and a lack of consistency in terms of where and how agrifood issues are addressed within each municipality, which makes it difficult to coordinate among departments and across the region. The siloed nature of local governments limits the ability of government agencies to work across multiple jurisdictions to capture synergies. The differing levels of political commitment to a food system approach often result in actions being completed when staff- time and funding become available, rather than because they represent a strategic priority.

Lessons/Key messages

To improve urban food systems requires a city-region, ecosystem-based approach. Pollutants, pesticides, exhaust fumes, sewage dumping, etc., do not adhere to political boundaries and erode the natural resources that supply our food. A city-region food system approach requires an understanding of the different and interdependent relationships between agricultural municipalities which tend to be focused on protecting agricultural land and expanding commercial food production, and those with less agricultural land, which can help to bring local food awareness and social benefits to residents through activities such as farmers' markets and urban agriculture. Building an awareness and understanding of the respective roles and interdependence of local governments is key to effectively expanding local food production. Stakeholder engagement is critical, as it allows each community to build on its own strengths to address food issues, while also working together on cross-cutting actions

and learning from each others' experiences. There is a need to continue investing in and expanding innovative approaches across the region; and to embark on new initiatives to address the persistent challenges and emerging regional food system issues.

Developing the capacity of local government, Nairobi City County (Kenya) - Mazingira Institute

Proponent
Mazingira Institute

Main responsible entity

Nairobi City County

Date/Timeframe

2015-2017

Funding source

Nairobi City County, and Mazingira Institute channelling funds for training from Rooftops Canada, Global Affairs Canada and IDRC.

Location

Nairobi, Kenya

Background/Context

In 2010 it was established that the majority of children living in informal settlements in the city are malnourished, which is also the case in other African cities, mainly due to low incomes and lack of employment, making food unaffordable to many.

In 2013, the Nairobi City government was devolved under the 2010 Constitution and became responsible for agriculture in the city. In 2015 the Nairobi City government passed the Urban Agriculture Promotion and Regulation Act – developed under Kenya's Constitution and Bill of Rights, which includes the right to food – within the framework of Kenya's institutional structures and towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and sustainable, resilient cities. The focus of the Act is on hunger and poverty alleviation while protecting food safety and the environment.

Focus/Objectives

There is a long history of neglect of the widespread phenomenon of urban agriculture in African cities, and of a legislative history that either restricts or ignores it. Food security itself has not been a priority for local urban governments until very recently. In a similar vein, various related professions such as town planning and urban design, as well as public health administration, have not adequately incorporated these subjects into their curricula for professional training.

This experience is about collaboration between government and civil society in favour of improved governance and food systems management in a primate city of Eastern Africa. The overarching objective was to develop the capacity of the local government towards the implementation of the 2015 Urban Agriculture Promotion and Regulation Act, through a two-day Intersectoral Training on Urban Food Systems and Agriculture, in collaboration with the Mazingira Institute.

Key characteristics of the experience

The training course consisted of five modules:

Module 1: Urban Food Production and Agriculture

- b) NCC's presentation on agriculture and the 2015 Nairobi City County Urban Agriculture Promotion and Regulation Act
- c) Urban agriculture in Africa and globally
- d) Urban agriculture and waste management in the food system
- e) Discussion on implementing the 2015 Act

Module 2: Urban Food Systems Policy and Planning

- f) The urban agrifood system
- g) Urban food systems: a worldwide policy challenge
- h) Local government jurisdictions in the food system
- i) Other stakeholders in the food system
- j) Discussion on Nairobi's inter-sectoral opportunities and challenges

Module 3: Planning and Design for Urban Food Systems

- k) Challenges in the planning and design of urban food systems
- l) Components of urban food systems that need planning and design
- m) Types of food spaces in Nairobi
- n) The case of the NACHU housing cooperative
- o) Discussion on planning and designing food systems in Nairobi

Module 4: City and Regional Food Economies

- p) Urban agriculture, incomes and poverty
- q) Agro-ecology v WTO and trade agreements
- r) Making the local and regional food economies work
- s) Services and programmes to rescue small farmers from poverty
- t) Discussion on Nairobi City County's food system as a productive sector

Module 5: Urban Food and Nutrition Security

- u) Urban food and nutrition security globally and in Africa
- v) The right to adequate food and nutrition – how urban agriculture helps
- w) Veterinary public health and livestock consumption – learning from Nairobi
- x) Aquaculture, fish and water management
- y) The way forward for Nairobi City County

After the course, and in consultation with an international City Region Food Systems training group, of which Nairobi City and the Mazingira Institute are members, it was decided to add a sixth training module covering Waste Management and Re-use.

Key actors involved and their roles

The process was led throughout by the Nairobi City County's Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry and Natural Resources Sector. Officers from the various departments, including Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, prepared the training materials for officers from their own and other sectors of City government. A task force was established for this purpose.

Staff of the Mazingira Institute collaborated fully with the City staff in preparing the training materials and delivering training courses, as members of the Task Force.

The City of Toronto, Canada, participated in the training course, in the person of the Head of its Food Strategy. Toronto is conducting parallel training at home, and is a member of the City Region Food Systems training group.

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

It is too early to assess the impact of either the Nairobi UA Promotion and Regulation Act, or the training course of March 2016, although post-workshop evaluation was favourable. The measurement of food and nutrition security in Nairobi – especially the low-income informal settlements – should be carried out later to assess any changes in key indicators in relation to the 2010 data.

Lessons/Key messages

Urban poverty and hunger need sustained collaborative input from a wide range of concerned institutions, but in particular decisive leadership, of the kind that has been shown by the City County Government of Nairobi.

Territorial development approach, Peru – IFAD

Proponent

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in partnership with the Republic of Peru.

Main responsible entity

The Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is the main implementing agency, in partnership with IFAD, with the latter responsible for providing implementation support, supervision and appraisal.

Date/Timeframe

Oct 2016- Dec 2022

Funding source

The bulk of the total project totalled just over US\$70 million and was made up as follows: IFAD loan (US\$28.5 million); contribution from the Government of Peru (US\$38.8 million); project beneficiaries (US\$7.2 million). Total project cost: US\$74.5 million.

Location

The project area encompasses 27 municipal districts in seven provinces in the Apurímac, Ene and Mantaro Rivers Valley (VRAEM) – a geopolitical area in central Peru located in the regions of Cusco, Apurímac, Ayacucho, Huancavelica and Junín. The area is located between the interdependent depressions of the Central Cordillera and Eastern Andean Cordillera and the Amazonian slope of the Andes. It includes a high mountain range of between 3000 and 4500 metres, the Inter-Andean valleys of between 1500 and 3000 metres, a pre-mountain or forest area of between 300 and 1500 metres and part of the Amazonian plain or jungle, of less than 300 metres.

Background/Context

The project area suffers a high incidence of extreme poverty and has largely been excluded from the country's development. This situation was exacerbated by the long-standing conflict that affected Peru in the 1980s. Illicit drug-trafficking is well established in the Apurímac, Ene and Mantaro Rivers Valley (VRAEM), where there are remnants of the guerrilla group Sendero Luminoso, nowadays associated with drug-trafficking. Within the project area, there is a division of approximately 75 percent rural against 25 percent urban population, based on local definitions. 74 percent of the population in the area lives below the monetary poverty line. Of these, 39 percent are extremely poor

and 33 percent poor – values that place these districts among the country's most vulnerable. Among those living in the project area, 73 percent are under 29 years of age, and 66 percent are indigenous.

Focus/Objectives

The project is focused around three interrelated objectives:

- Building institutional capacities in the territory, including in local and provincial governments, and supporting initiatives to improve communal goods and properties.
- Developing a sustainable network of associations among potential project beneficiaries to promote and expand opportunities for economic development and social inclusion, providing support for economic activities by interest groups such as farmers' organizations, together with financial inclusion of families and associations.
- Enhancing connectivity within the territory, focusing in particular on facilitating market access, creating jobs with start-ups or contracting of communal or associational micro-enterprises for the routine maintenance of roads, providing for irrigation infrastructure at community level, and promoting water-harvesting and collection.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

The following complementary approaches are designed to ensure that the project benefits those households most vulnerable to poverty and hunger, while facilitating territorial-wide transformations:

- The territorial development approach combines two main elements: (i) institutional development to promote consultations among local and external agents, and include poor people in production transformation processes and benefits; and (ii) production transformation to link the territory's economy with dynamic markets.
- Focus on participatory, community-driven development through delegation to community organizations to design and implement sub-projects which prioritize approaches to improve the access of poor groups to social, human, financial and physical assets.
- Social inclusion is cross-cutting. Accordingly, working with poor groups' organizations – especially small-scale and indigenous farmers' groups – and recognizing, as well as securing rights to, tangible and intangible assets of these groups, is a priority.

Key actors involved and their roles

- The agency responsible for the project is the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, with close coordination and collaboration from municipal and provincial administrations.
- Project implementation will be the responsibility of a project coordination unit, composed of a project coordinator and eight specialists in the following areas: (i) M&E; (ii) financial inclusion; (iii) entrepreneurship; (iv) infrastructure; (v) natural resource management and climate change; (vi) social inclusion; (vii) administration; and (viii) accounting and support staff. Each local agency will have a team made up of a coordinator, an administrative assistant and various specialists.
- In all cases, project implementation specialists will work with local groups on design and implementation, with the latter having primary responsibility for the implementation of sub-projects.

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

Foreseen benefits in terms of food security and nutrition include: increased physical assets for farming communities; improved agricultural productivity; more sustainable natural resource management; increased access to affordable food by poor consumers of targeted territories ; increased social capital to promote the start-up and development of economic associations of small-scale rural farmers to improve their access to value chains, and to promote their participation in the benefits of territorial development. Over the long term, all this is expected to lead to improved food access and availability in the territory.

Challenges faced

The major challenges relate to: (i) institutional capacity; and (ii) possible trade-offs between targeted approaches to ensure benefits among food-insecure groups (e.g. focusing on poor groups and areas) vs. holistic/multi-faceted approaches to achieve territorial-wide development.

In the first instance, while some measures to develop decentralized governance systems are already in place, capacity among relevant institutions is often lacking. Similarly, the capacity among organizations for food-insecure groups to contribute in the design and implementation of initiatives is generally weak. As such, providing training at both sub-national and local level is imperative in the short term; the same applies to longer term approaches to ensuring access to relevant education and training in territorial development, with the latter implying the need to partner with local, national and international institutions with specific human capital and educational mandates.

In the second instance, achieving an appropriate mix between targeted and wider initiatives to develop territories is not straightforward for relatively small-scale projects. Engagement with national and sub-national policy processes, focusing on knowledge management for the sharing of results with similar (complementary) territorial initiatives, and giving priority to learning and training systems are all measures that can facilitate the transfer of relatively targeted local approaches to wider territories.

Lessons/Key messages

- 5) Individual projects need to find the appropriate mix and complementarity between targeted and holistic approaches. Targeted approaches are required not only to have a pro-poor approach able to reach food-insecure groups, but in a context of limited resources, to focus on those thematic areas in which the project can bring an added value. However, territorial development itself involves considering a holistic approach that integrates the different conditioning elements that underpin the development of networks of communities.
- 6) Individual projects need to be linked and coordinated to wider development actors, policies and approaches, to properly address the multi-faceted constraints faced by local actors.
- 7) Territorial development must be grounded in people-centred approaches which target and enable the participation of food-insecure groups.
- 8) Local actors – especially food-insecure groups – must be placed at the centre of the design and implementation of initiatives aimed at benefitting them, and be represented in territorial governance systems. At the same time, capacity development among these groups, as well as among sub-national and local authorities, will be required to ensure long-term improvements.

B. Labour and flows of people, goods and services

31. The links between urban and rural areas are typically defined in terms of flows of people, goods, information, finance, waste and social relations across space. These flows are in practical terms the manifestation of the connection between rural and urban areas that emerge from the “functional links” between the broad sectors of agriculture, industry and services¹⁹. Many of these linkages related directly or indirectly to food and nutrition²⁰.

¹⁹ Tacoli, C., 2015. The crucial role of rural-urban linkages. The Sahel and West Africa Week, EXPO 2015. Available at <http://www.oecd.org/swac-expo-milano/presentationsanddocuments/session-1-insight-tacoli-ii.pdf>

²⁰ Forster, T.; Santini, G.; Edwards, D.; Flanagan, K.; Taguchi, M. 2015. Strengthening Urban Rural Linkages Through City Region Food Systems, Paper for a joint UNCRD-UN Habitat issue of the Regional Development Dialogue, Vol 35 on “Urban-Rural Linkages in Support of the New Urban Agenda.”

32. The review of evidence from the literature²¹ and experiences, indicates that employment opportunities will emerge in developing regions from increased domestic demand for goods and services as well as from innovation and investment, diversification and differentiation in processing of output and products and international trade. Opportunities emerge beyond output production in agriculture or industry, extending to the rest of the links of the food system but also the provision of services.

33. Addressing structural constraints remains the key priority for rural areas and smallholder agriculture to improve their capacities to produce more and better output and integrate into the food system. Supporting the creation of employment opportunities and improved working conditions across food systems and across the rural-urban continuum will be particularly important²².

34. Even in the poorest regions of the world, in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, urbanization and changes in food systems are reshaping the economic and social landscape. Food supplies in Africa and Asia are mostly sourced by domestic markets. Rapid urbanization and digital technologies are creating new dynamics and challenges for rural areas and the sector of agriculture. The shifts towards more demand for fruits, vegetables and meats in food demand is providing opportunities for income diversification and decent employment within agriculture²³.

35. Building infrastructure and human capital lies at the heart of resolving structural challenges in rural areas. Many smallholders face chronic economic, social but also legal and regulatory constraints which manifest in low earnings, low savings and investments. This burden is furthered with poor technologies, but also weak integration in the food system in terms of transportation, access to electricity and extension services.

36. Social protection schemes and safety nets are necessary to support skill building of the increasing number of youth entering the labour force, and vulnerable women in agriculture and elsewhere. Such schemes can smooth the transition of youth to productive employment but make mobility of people across sectors and geographic regions less painful²⁴.

37. Outside – as well as within - agriculture, most of the population in developing countries is involved in informal household enterprises both in urban and rural areas, which are frequently part of a diversified family strategy. The productivity of non-farm household enterprises is low, they use mostly self-employed labour, but often earnings per person are higher than in agriculture or from wage employment in urban areas.²⁵ However, providing services and support to these informal organizations and – where feasible and appropriate – supporting their integration into the formal system can provide solutions and also higher incomes including revenues to the state.

38. Internal or international migration takes place for multiple reasons, including out of need, due to limited livelihood opportunities in particular in rural areas. Despite social and economic costs involved in the process, migration can be a poverty reducing and development instrument for both origins and destinations, providing remittance flows to invest in farm and non-farm enterprises. In other instances, where opportunities are not available or the skills demanded not matched with skills supplied²⁶ migrations results in a rise in inequality and food and nutrition insecurity. In sub-Saharan Africa, research showed progress in poverty reduction resulting from migration within rural areas

²¹ World Development Report 2013, Jobs, World Bank, Washington DC

²² FAO 2016, The future of Food and Agriculture, FAO, Rome

²³ SOFA 2017

²⁴ Kangasniemi M., P. Karfakis and M. Knowles (2017), The role of social protection in inclusive structural transformation, FAO, Rome, mimeo

²⁵ World Bank. 2014. Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa. Washington, D.C

²⁶ ILO, 2016. World employment and social outlook 2016: Transforming jobs to end poverty. Geneva, Switzerland

(from agricultural communities to rural towns)²⁷. This contribution can be further enhanced as long as efforts are undertaken to coordinate flows, manage rural-outmigration push factors by decreasing inequalities between rural and urban areas, reduce economic and social costs, promote decent employment, but also support the matching of skills supplied with those demanded.

39. The interdependencies and synergies between urban and rural spaces and functions are further asserted through the economic dynamics, social links and environmental synergies. Ecology and biodiversity are part of these complex interrelations between rural and urban areas. Biodiversity and strong ecosystems are cornerstones to sustainable food systems, food security and nutrition. As cities and urban areas grow and food production becomes more industrial, there is an increased risk to the sustainability and destruction of the ecosystems that support food systems, and in particular the degradation of biodiversity.

40. Maintenance of relevant functions, which cannot be separated from the discussion of ecosystem services and biodiversity planning and management are an important part of a sustainable food system. On this ground is important to assess models of agricultural and other food production, together with social values and community practices.

41. The selection of experiences presented below provides a glimpse of the vast array of issues related to flows of people, goods and services across rural and urban areas in the context of food security and nutrition. These include: an integrated multi-sectoral national strategy to address the multiple challenges posed by the rapid urbanization in China; a system facilitation approach to improving soil fertility through organic fertilizer value chains in Bangladesh and Nepal; promoting short value chains to offer quality and affordable products to vulnerable neighbourhoods in Argentina; uncovering the hidden yet essential role of informal dairy markets across the urban and rural areas of Somalia; supporting the adaptation of traditional knowledge and practices to contemporary life by engaging vulnerable rural elderly people with urban youth in community peri-urban agriculture and animal husbandry; promoting new stewardship for land planning and management as a way to combine environmental stewardship and rural job creation in a fragile context in the peri-urban area of Milan, Italy.

Key messages emerging from the experiences

Strengthened rural-urban linkages can foster food security and nutrition outcomes through:

- Addressing infrastructure gaps to improve the productivity and sustainability of food systems across the rural-urban continuum;
- Promoting opportunities for rural and urban producers to derive greater value from engagement in local and regional supply chains;
- Promoting income generating opportunities on and off-farm particularly geared towards women and youth, including social and solidarity economy;
- Promoting opportunities for integrated land use, natural resources and circular economy planning across territories;
- Promoting mechanisms to improve efficiency and use of waste and by-products to reduce demand on natural resources and facilitate greater rural-urban synergies;
- Providing legal frameworks and policies in support of innovative mechanisms for social inclusion and preservation of effective informal practices;
- Promoting rural-urban public partnerships for preserving natural heritage and (environmental) resources management as well as joint promotion of economic and social activities.

²⁷ Chrsitiensen, L., Y. Todo, (2014), Poverty reduction during the rural-urban transformation-the role of the missing middle. World Development, 63, 43-58 and Dorosh, P. and J. Thurlow (2014), Can cities drive African development? Economy wide analysis for Ethiopia and Uganda, World Development, 63, 113-123

Additional elements for policy consideration suggested by the Technical Task Team

There is increasing recognition of the need:

- to strengthen capacities in small cities and rural towns to enhance their role in providing employment opportunities, market nodes and administrative, financial, educational social and medical services for the rural population;
- to use urban food policies and spatial planning as tools to promote integrated territorial development and better, more sustainably planned urbanization (reducing urban sprawl in order to protect land for sustainable agricultural production);
- to understand the dynamics of and address distress migration.

An integrated multi-sectoral national strategy, China

Proponent and main responsible entity

Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)

Background/Context

The Chinese rural population has migrated to cities in huge numbers since the onset of China's opening-up and reform in 1978. The urbanization rate of the country rose from 17.9 percent in 1978 to 57.4 percent in 2016. The Chinese Government has provided support to hundreds of millions of these migrant populations, and to equally large numbers of the rural population, to improve their food security and nutrition levels.

Focus/Objectives

- 9) To effectively promote public and private investment in agriculture and rural development by way of industry nurturing agriculture and cities supporting the countryside, with a view to increasing the supply of food and its stability.
- 10) To carry out appropriate re-adjustments to cropping structures in the light of the changes in consumption patterns of urban and rural populations, on the pre-condition of ensuring absolute security of the food grain supply, in order to produce agricultural products that meet the demand of consumers.
- 11) To facilitate the voluntary transfer of arable land tenure from migrant populations to specialized farming households, building on the basis of implementing land tenure registration and safeguarding farmers' rights of tenure, so as to increase the income level of both the transferors and transferees, and to avoid abandoning the land.
- 12) To strengthen agricultural infrastructures and promote socialized services for agricultural production, and to ensure that the needy migrant population can engage in part-time crop farming so as to minimize food security risk.
- 13) To provide training and support to farmers, particularly youth, women, and elderly people, in order to strengthen migrants' capacity to obtain employment, to develop specialized food producers and to improve farmers' livelihoods.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

- 14) Increasing investment in agriculture and rural areas in order to facilitate and optimize the allocation of urban and rural productive resources in farm and non-farm sectors, with a view to achieving mutual complementarity between industry and agriculture, and interaction between urban and rural sectors.

- 15) Adherence to the combination of bottom-up and top-down approaches, encouraging context-specific innovative development models and rolling out support policies in accordance with actual need.
 - 16) Emphasis on protecting farmers' tenure and rights, safeguarding farmers' production and management rights, and facilitating farmers' production and management through diverse means.
 - 17) Enhancing policy design and enforcement. Multiple so-called 'No. 1 Documents' of the CCP's Central Committee have focused on urban-rural integrated development, with the aim of promoting the liberalization and flow of labour, land capital, while at the same time safeguarding farmers' livelihoods after they have transferred their land, through the establishment and improvement of a rural social protection network, and improvements to the regulation of access on the part of industrial-commercial capitals to the agriculture sector.
- 2)

Key actors involved and their roles

- 18) Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant government ministries and departments, in areas of policy-making, financial allocation/investment, training, etc.;
- 19) Private-sector companies in areas of private investment and the improvement of farmers' access to markets;
- 20) Cooperatives, in areas of farmers' market access and socialized service provision;
- 21) The migrant population, in areas such as enhancing non-farm employment skills;
- 3) Farmers, in areas such as improving food-farming capacities.

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

- 22) Food production has increased over consecutive years, reaching 616,239 million tons in 2016, far higher than the 304.77 million tons recorded in 1978. During 2004-2015, food production increased for 12 years in a row;
 - 23) Unit food yield has reached 5452.1 kg per hectare, a much higher figure than the 2527.3 kg per hectare in 1978;
 - 24) Farmers' incomes have increased rapidly, with rural per capita disposable income reaching 12363 Yuan in 2016, far more than 133.6 Yuan in 1978 (in nominal terms). The urban-rural income gap has been narrowing since 2009;
 - 25) As of the end of 2016, over one-third of China's land has been transferred.
- 4)

Challenges faced

- 26) The out-flow of the rural population, mostly youth, has led to a relative drop in farming labour quality, and has thus exerted considerable impact on agricultural production;
- 27) With industrial-commercial capital entering into agriculture and capital replacing labour, smallholder production has been impacted to some extent;
- 28) In the open-market environment, price fluctuation of the food market has become greater, exerting some impact on agricultural production and consumption in both urban and rural areas.

Organic fertilizer value chains, Bangladesh and Nepal - IIED

Proponent

IIED (International Institute for Environment and Development)

Main responsible entity

Practical Action and IIED

Date/Timeframe

2016

Funding source

DFID

Location

Bangladesh and Nepal

Background/Context

Organic matter in rural areas of South Asia is often in short supply. Mechanization has replaced draught animals with tractors; livestock rearing is in decline and crop and animal residues tend to be used mostly for fuel and fodder rather than returned to the soil. Meanwhile, government agricultural policies heavily favour chemical fertilizer over organic fertilizer. As a result of all these trends, not enough organic matter is making its way back to the fields to sustain healthy soils.

The production of urban organic waste, on the other hand, has grown significantly in tandem with urbanization and economic development. In fact, the management of municipal solid wastes remains one of the most neglected areas of urban development in many developing countries. While markets (mostly informal) exist for inorganic waste, this is not the case for organic waste. Considering the large amounts of organic waste that are generated, there is a clear potential to use these materials for productive purposes, such as energy generation or for reuse and recycling. Organic waste can be composted and turned into fertilizers for agricultural production, and can help to compensate for shortages of organic materials in rural areas. The conversion of urban organic waste into fertilizer is one of the strategies that is being used to address problems of soil fertility in rural areas of Bangladesh and Nepal.

Focus/Objectives

To improve soil fertility in Bangladesh and Nepal, through collaboration and a system facilitation approach to the markets and mind-sets of actors involved in organic fertilizer and compost value chains.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

Greater use of organic fertilizer and/or other methods of improving soil fertility require coordinated action at many levels. Collaboration can address issues in the organic fertilizer sub-sector and achieve actions beyond the reach of individual actors or interventions. In particular, collaboration is needed:

- with farmers and their communities in order to understand their constraints and help build capacities to produce their own compost;
- with policy-makers to ensure an enabling environment for investors, manufacturers, traders and farmers; and
- with investors and manufacturers to develop the supply side of the sub-sector, including agro-dealers and providers of knowledge and advice.

With this need in mind, collaborative mechanisms were established to drive innovation and coordinated action in both countries. These collaborative mechanisms involved a series of multi-stakeholder platforms combined with action planning and the implementation of a common agenda. Thus they were far more than just a discussion platform, requiring instead, sustained engagement on the part of key partners and stakeholders.

Key actors involved and their roles

Practical Action Bangladesh – implementation role

Practical Action Nepal – implementation role

Practical Action UK – advisory role

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) – advisory role and lead in publications

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

In Bangladesh, consumers are demanding safe food and this demand is creating opportunities for producers and marketers alike. One of the key changes we observed is a growing awareness by farmers of the negative impacts of excessive chemical fertilizer and pesticide applications. Most farmers said that they are using organic fertilizer and compost on lands growing food for own consumption. However, due to limited supplies of organic fertilizer, they are not able to do the same for their commercial crops.

At the same time, policy-makers are increasingly cognizant of the need for changes in existing policies to create an enabling environment for organic fertilizer value chains. These include the need to liberalize the licensing policy and remove the requirement for organic fertilizer producers to have their own laboratory for testing samples. In the meantime, collaborative mechanisms bringing together farmers, government officials, NGOs and the private sector have become self-perpetuating.

In Nepal, the Soil Management Directorate of the Department of Agriculture is committed to leading the collaborative mechanism and working with other stakeholders to strengthen organic fertilizer value chains. The country's long-term Agriculture Development Strategy has also highlighted the need for improving soil fertility through organic matter. Upscaling the use of organic fertilizer can contribute to reversing soil fertility decline, and it also has the potential to increase the productivity of Nepal's agriculture, which is the lowest in South Asia.

Challenges faced

Work on organic fertilizer value chains is still at an early stage in Bangladesh and Nepal, and has encountered significant obstacles. The policy environment and input distribution system in both countries still heavily favour chemical fertilizer over organic fertilizer. It has, moreover, been difficult to convince farmers to use balanced applications of chemical and organic fertilizers.

Lessons/Key messages

To break the vicious cycle whereby intensive agriculture in South Asia depletes soil organic matter and increases vulnerability to drought, an integrated approach is required which balances applications of organic and chemical fertilizers and promotes agronomic practices that enhance soil fertility. Research is needed to develop cost-effective agronomic and market-based strategies, adapted to the wide range of circumstances and kinds of farmers. Ensuring that sufficiently large quantities of organic matter are returned to the soil will require policies that raise awareness of soil fertility problems, encourage and support organic matter value chains, simplify licensing procedures and modify unrealistic standards, build capacity among companies, secure sufficient quantities of raw materials from multiple sources, and stimulate demand.

One of the key lessons of this case study is that value chains for commodities such as organic fertilizer do not simply materialize by themselves. They need to be nurtured over time, and require action by multiple stakeholders. These include the private sector, NGOs, government agencies and farmers. Knowledgeable and well-respected civil society organizations have a crucial role to play in facilitating collaborative mechanisms between different actors, and in building momentum.

The Market in your Neighbourhood Programme (“El Mercado en Tu Barrio”), Argentina

Main responsible entity

Ministry of Agro-Industry’s Under-secretariat for Food and Drink

Ministry of Production’s Under-secretariat for Domestic Trade

Date/Timeframe

Beginning of September 2016 – continuing throughout 2017

Source of funding

Both ministries fund themselves.

Location

Argentina: national coverage

The Programme began in the conurbation of the province of Buenos Aires, and this year, 2017, implementation will begin in the rest of the country.

Background/Context

The programme has been developed to offer the population quality products at affordable prices in the most vulnerable neighbourhoods, given that the situation over the last few years has resulted in a huge disparity in market prices for the same products.

Approach/Objectives

- To offer the general population, and in particular those most socially vulnerable, a variety of food at affordable prices.
- To bring the producer and the consumer closer together and thereby shorten the supply chain.
- To make local fairs and markets places that sell food that complies with health and hygiene standards, at affordable prices, guaranteeing quality, offering variety and consumer information on nutritional value, consumption and purchasing recommendations.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

Fresh and processed food is offered from all the main food groups including dairy products, fruit and vegetables, meat, and cereals, which are varied, high-quality and at affordable prices. There are between 8 and 12 stalls, each selling different food, so there is no competition between the stallholders in the “The Market in your Neighbourhood” Programme.

The improvement in consumer prices is achieved by reducing the number of middlemen, the availability of free space for selling food, the guarantee of sales from advertising the fair at the expense of the State and the Municipality.

Priority is given to producers and/or SMEs of local food.

Formal marketing of food that complies with the health and hygiene regulations in force is also encouraged.

Key stakeholders involved and their roles

Provincial and municipal government, market workers (can be food SMEs or agricultural producers).

The main changes observed that result in improved food security and nutrition

The Market in Your Neighbourhood Programme offers a varied number of items in the basic food basket, which include several different fruit and vegetables of high quality and at an affordable price that comply with food security in several aspects: safety, access to food, and in terms of nutritional

requirement it educates and promotes the consumption of fruit and vegetables.

Challenges faced and how they were overcome

Ensure the materials delivered to the stallholders through the municipality are cared for. In just a few cases maintain the frequency, or improve the locations selected by the municipality for market venues. Ensure that the Market in Your Neighbourhood is not a competition for nearby shops, which is why the markets are only held once a week, as the case may be, and if not weekly it may be fortnightly. Create a good communication circuit to promote the market, some of which have an excellent sales record with participation levels measured at 3,000 purchasers in one day.

Lessons learned/key messages

Backing and monitoring are key for the neighbourhood markets both during and after their launch. Assessment of the state of each location and getting to know the local stakeholders to prioritize variety, quality and production in the area, and agree on benchmark prices of products that benefit both the producer and the consumer.

Informal dairy marketing, Somalia

Main responsible entity

Terra Nuova, East Africa

Date/Timeframe

Survey conducted from 10 - 20 March 2016

Funding source

Terra Nuova, through EU-funded Development Education “Hands on the Land” project

Location

SOMALIA: Wajaale and Hargeisa - key marketing and production centres in Somaliland

Background/Context

The Somaliland dairy industry is plagued by a variety of problems such as: lack of commercial dairy farms, low productivity due to poor nutrition, weak infrastructure, lack of financial facilities and the ready availability of raw milk to a poor and uneducated population. In urban areas, milk is available to consumers in two forms, either as loose/unprocessed milk or as packed/processed milk. Although there is no reliable data on the proportion of household incomes spent on milk in Somaliland, milk is, on average, consumed twice a day and provides about 60 percent of the caloric intake for both rural and urban populations. Milk is highly valued in the Somali food tradition and is an integral part of pastoral staple food.

Hargeisa is the main centre for the milk trade in Somaliland. The bulk of the fresh raw milk consumed in Hargeisa originates from the agro-pastoral areas of the country. In Somaliland, milk is mainly produced in a traditional system based on nomadic or semi-nomadic, low-producing indigenous breeds of camels, zebu cattle and goats.

Focus/Objectives

The broad objective of the study was to determine the role of the informal sector in the marketing of milk produced in a pastoral/urban interface.

The study focused on exploring opportunities and challenges that exist along the major urban (Hargeisa and Wajaale) milk value chains. It was designed to provide information to understand how actors along the milk chain are interlinked to facilitate the conveyance of milk from the remote nomadic or semi-nomadic production areas to the consumers. The study also explored whether social practices and traditions play a role in the sustenance of the milk marketing system, particularly during

production shock periods such as dry seasons or droughts.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

- Milk marketing in Somaliland is characterized by a uniquely efficient system that contributes to food security in a pastoral milk production environment.
- The players along the milk chain have developed a system that ensures members have access to milk during periods when there are fluctuations in the supply.
- Trading along the milk chain in Somaliland largely operates through a shared culture, values, and trust.

Key actors involved and their roles

Milk marketing in the urban and peri-urban areas of Hargeisa is largely the women's domain, while the transportation of the milk is male-dominated. The milk chain consists of primary rural producers, primary collectors, transporters, and primary and secondary retailers. Women are key, both as primary and secondary retailers and in milk production with regard to the management of small ruminants (goats), while men are central to the collection and transportation of milk to the markets.

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

The milk marketing system in Somaliland is efficient and sustainable. Trading along the milk chain in the country largely operates through a shared culture, values, and trust. This is highlighted by a unique system (known as "Hagbed") that is in operation in Somaliland, whereby producers organize themselves in groups of 10-15, with the objective of minimizing operational costs. Members of the group contribute towards the daily milk requirements of their customers. The milk is then sold to customers on behalf of one of the producers in the group at a time. The selected producer retains the money. Then s/he contributes milk to another producer in the group the following day. This operation is repeated until all members of the group have had a chance to sell milk. This indigenous system benefits the consumers in ensuring a relatively regular supply of milk. It also ensures that all actors have an equal opportunity to access customers and a guaranteed income. This "informal" marketing method plays an important role in food security and should therefore be supported by appropriate policies. This can be achieved through lobbying for policies and services that recognize and favour this kind of "invisible" trade.

Another important aspect of the Somaliland milk trade is a service offered by cooperatives to ensure members have access to milk during periods when there are fluctuations in supply. For instance, if a milk trader fails to get milk from her/his regular suppliers, she/he can obtain milk from other cooperative members for sale to her/his customers. Thus, the system is also important in creating strong social and economic bonds among members and in sustaining supply along the milk chain. It is also important to note that there are no major multinational companies operating in the country. These companies are known to have a monopolistic approach that interferes with indigenous marketing systems. The unique attributes of the Somaliland marketing system would be ignored if multinational companies operated in the country, and it can be argued that their presence might contribute to food insecurity and the marginalization of women who are the backbone of the milk supply chain.

There is an ongoing rapid increase in the urban population of the country, mainly attributable to rural urban migration. Increasing and un-met demand for fresh/raw milk, particularly in the fast-growing urban centres, is reported to be causing an increase in the demand for packaged/processed milk, especially among the middle classes. Although the changing pattern in milk consumption in urban areas has so far not had a significant impact on the consumption of raw milk, the evolving rural-urban population dynamics are likely to influence milk consumption patterns in the long run. This is an aspect that cannot be ignored when formulating milk trade regulation policies in the country.

Challenges faced

The challenges include poor milk hygiene, an under-developed transportation infrastructure, inadequate credit facilities, lack of cooling facilities along the milk chain, poor market infrastructure and nascent milk trade regulation policies.

Lessons/Key messages

In spite of absence of a strong lobby movement on the consumption of locally produced products, the community using the platform of a growing cooperative movement is able to sensitize the population on the benefits of consuming raw milk, especially the economic benefits which trickle down to household level. Milk marketing in Somaliland plays an important role in food security and the provision of balanced and nutritious food. Investing in milk production and trade will therefore improve food provision, and social and environmental sustainability and will safeguard the livelihoods of the majority of the population, given that livestock is the country's main source of livelihood.

Connecting vulnerable elderly farmers and urban youth through community peri-urban agriculture, Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)

Main responsible entity

Public Fund 'Arysh' / Общественное объединение "Арыш"

Date/Timeframe

2015 – Present

Funding source

Danish Church Aid Central Asia (DCA CA) (at present); local community funding

Location

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Background/Context

Kyrgyzstan is a small, mountainous country in the heart of Central Asia, which is still undergoing demographic, economic, and environmental upheaval following the collapse of the USSR. More and more people continue to move from rural areas to the booming informal settlements around the capital city of Bishkek. However, Bishkek's informal settlements are increasingly becoming a way-station for people of working age to pursue labour migration to Kazakhstan and Russia, leaving the elderly and young behind. The elderly of Bishkek's informal settlements – dependent on remittances and unrelatively small pensions – face significant economic and social hardship which is compounded by their structural isolation from meaningful social services.

High on the list of challenges that the elderly of the informal settlements face is access to healthy and affordable food. In this situation, Arysh, a community-based organization with a long history of social mobilization and advocacy in the informal settlements, has come forward to assist the country's neglected community elders. Using an innovative whole-of-community approach, Arysh brings together youth and elders to engage in community gardening through peri-urban agriculture and animal husbandry. Not only has this approach managed to link disparate generations through meaningful labour, but it has also provided a source of readily available and locally produced food for both consumption and sale at bazaars. Additionally, by encouraging knowledge-sharing between the rural elders and their young urban counterparts, Arysh has maintained traditional knowledge which would otherwise have been irretrievably lost. Underpinning these processes is Arysh's longstanding

advocacy with political and governmental structures for land-rights recognition of those who dwell in the informal settlements

Based on the success of their initial work in community agriculture, the DCA provided Arysh with additional funds to expand their resilience building throughout the informal settlements.

Focus/Objectives

- Reduce food insecurity and provide livelihoods generation through community agriculture.
- Through community agricultural practices, foster inter-generational understanding and solidarity, which in turn strengthens community resilience.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

- - Intentional community building; recognizing the value of overlooked or structurally marginalized people's knowledge, experiences, and practices; and fostering learning.
- Key actors involved and their roles

Public Fund 'Arysh': community organization, fund-raising, and provision of technical expertise.

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

Proximal changes: The former rural elderly living in Bishkek's informal settlements now have immediate access to fresh, seasonal foodstuffs which supplement and improve their diet (restricted in the past to pension facilitated purchases). By engaging urban youth from the informal settlements in community agricultural practices, traditional smallholder agricultural practices are passed down through generations.

Distal: Repeated harvests coupled with seasonal celebrations help to ensure greater awareness of the importance of community food security and agricultural-cultural practices. Reaffirming 'traditional' knowledge in a contemporary environment of rapid change and climatic/economic/political/food insecurity builds broader community resilience.

Challenges faced

- Funding for community-level food security interventions and long-term programming remains meagre. While communities are sometimes able to raise funds through their own community savings groups, larger structural barriers (land tenure; community mobilization in socially isolated areas; cheap, subsidized foodstuffs with poor nutritional content; labour-market competition for unpaid community agricultural labour, etc.) to instilling broader community food security remain.
- Both international donor funding and national government priorities tend to focus on large-scale industrial agricultural practices. However effective macro-industrial agriculture may be in providing basic carbohydrate requirements, it does not meet the needs of varied and healthy diets based on fresh and locally available food. As a result, community practices which increase food security are ignored and neglected in policy decision-making practices.

Lessons/Key messages

Food security/sovereignty is not a new or externally imposed concept: self-sustaining communities have been practicing techniques to ensure community food security for countless years. However, in the face of large-scale political and economic structural upheaval, traditional practices – which ensure

food security – risk being lost when placed in a ‘marketplace of ideas’ where modernizing and capital-technology intensive logic prevails. By supporting the adaptation of traditional knowledge and practices to contemporary life and linking disparate urban and rural generations, community integrity and food security can be bolstered, and greater community resilience encouraged.

Martesana consortium of local authorities, Metropolitan Milan area (Italy)

Proponent

EStà – Economia e Sostenibilità

Main responsible entity

Martesana Consortium of Local Authorities of the Metropolitan Milan Area

- 12 municipalities in the peri-urban area of Milan, located along a historical artificial water channel called the Martesana, which collects the water from a natural river flowing to the centre of the city of Milan. The partnership with the Land Bank also involves CSOs, farmers, social cooperatives and universities, as well as independent research centres for policy design support.
- Cariplo Foundation: private, grant-making philanthropic foundation, with banking origins, that plays a fundamental role in supporting social, cultural, environmental and research activities in the Lombardy Region (Northern Italy), for sustainable development.

Date/Timeframe

2016-2017

Funding source

Cariplo Foundation and Local Authorities

Location

Italy, around Milan

Background/Context

The Martesana is a peri-urban area that was once characterized by big informatics and telecommunication companies, and multinational corporations that, following the onset of the economic crisis, closed down, which resulted in a profound depression in the local economy. In the wake of this crisis, some of the local authorities began to develop a process for sharing a common vision of the future and a new activism for defining novel institutional competences.

Focus/Objectives

The creation of a new stewardship for land planning and management as a way of combining environmental supervision and rural job creation in a fragile social context.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

Learning to manage issues of land tenure in a fragmented peri-urban context from the point of view of agro-ecology and land ownership.

Key actors involved and their roles

- Local authorities, as decision-maker institutions for land-use planning, and as owners of several tracts of agricultural land.
- Farmers’ cooperatives as producers/actors interested in novel and innovative opportunities for strengthening their individual capacities.

- Grassroots organizations of civil society, as consumers/actors engaged in local food systems.
- Young people, eager to become farmers, but who are not landowners, interested in starting up and implementing their entrepreneurial ideas.
- Academics and independent research centres for the analysis and interpretation of land policies as part of the food system.

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

- Local authorities are now making public lands available to support the creation of new jobs connected to the local food system.
- The creation of an innovative local school for agriculturalists with entrepreneurial skills, able to manage the land and soil using an agro-ecological approach.

Challenges faced

Land tenure, urbanization and rural transformation with an agro-ecological optic, in the face of a high risk of biodiversity loss.

Lessons/Key messages

-
- Facilitation activities for establishing networks of communication among the different actors involved in the local food system.
- Role of financial actors in designing new policies of land tenure in a kind of “bank”.
- Establishing the connection between land planning and rural policies for land tenure.

C. Sustainable food systems for healthy diets

42. A food system gathers all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructures, institutions, etc.) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, and the outputs of these activities – including socio-economic and environmental outcomes. A sustainable food system is a food system that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised²⁸.

43. It follows that food systems are complex, non-linear, multidimensional and heterogeneous networks of social, economic, institutional and environmental relations evolving over space and time. They are characterized and affected by webs of complex interactions - cutting across borders both within and between countries - and feedback loops, broad constellations of policies, as well as multi-scale power relations and the political economy. These features have strong consequences on the way policies should be conceived, and on the way knowledge should be assembled and conveyed to inform them and policy action²⁹.

44. The dynamics of urbanization, increasing incomes and diversified income sources have profound effects on the food system and its sustainability by influencing the diets of all people irrespective of where they reside. Urban food consumption dominates not only in terms of its

²⁸ HLPE (2014) report “Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems” <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3901e.pdf>

²⁹ Cistulli et al (forthcoming (2017), Social Network Analysis for Territorial Assessment of Food Security and Nutrition Systems (FSNS): A Methodological Approach, FAO

monetary value but also in how it shapes the food system and the supply chain both globally and locally.

45. Evidence suggests that the development of local supply chains can provide labour opportunities, especially in secondary cities or rural towns that connect primary producers with agro-industry and consumers in urban areas³⁰. This requires on the one hand consumers (both in rural and urban areas), who are able to make informed choices to demand healthy and affordable foods such as seasonal and organic fruits and vegetables, and locally processed foods (thereby providing a market for local food producers), and a food environment that offers a healthy and diverse range of products in both rural and urban areas.

46. More attention should be placed on policies that protect, strengthen and reorient local food systems in order to promote healthy and high quality diets for all. Specific approaches based on territorial and food system characteristics are needed to ensure access to foods that are affordable and convenient, while generating income and employment of small-scale food producers and suppliers – in particular youth and women – and making sustainable use of local biodiversity. This requires a combination of distribution channels. The retail and catering sectors, in particular informal, have a key role to play in facilitating access to healthy and sustainable diets. Street foods and markets are good entry points to promote safe and healthy foods and facilitate short food chains and consumer-producer partnerships.

47. Public catering and social services constitute privileged entry points to simultaneously promote behavioural change among consumers for sustainable and healthy diets, assist vulnerable households and population groups and to provide markets for local food producers and family agriculture. Municipalities and local governments are therefore in a unique position to develop policies that promote nutrition in the context of rural-urban migration and other dynamics.

48. The selection of experiences provided below offers a few insights into some innovative initiatives in support of healthy and sustainable diets, such as: public procurement of organic products for school canteens in Sao Paulo; promotion of indigenous food both as a contribution to the empowerment of indigenous peoples, and as a healthy and sustainable option in Peru; a campaign aimed at strengthening public food policy through greater investments in Andean crops, direct farmer purchasing and agro-ecology/organic production in Ecuador; a grass-root collective action in Montespertoli (province of Florence, Italy) to establish an effective collaboration between consumers and producers and revive traditional food systems based on local biodiversity; a health and child care initiative in Minnesota (USA) that brings together social and production dimensions.

Key messages emerging from the case studies

Sustainable food systems and healthy diets can be fostered through:

- Media campaigns which promote eating fresh, agro-ecological foods by linking urban consumers and rural smallholders;
- Short food supply chains and participatory approaches which establish an effective collaboration between consumers and producers and revive traditional food systems based on local biodiversity;
- Promoting nutrition education and ensuring access to culturally acceptable local foods in child care centres;
- Public procurement that uses organic food in school canteens;

³⁰ SOFA 2017 (forthcoming)

- Promoting indigenous foods/diets for improved health that provides the enabling context to produce indigenous foods, which contribute to mitigating climate change and enhancing resilience;
- Interventions that bring together social (health, child care) and production sectors.

Additional elements for policy consideration suggested by the Technical Task Team

Increasing attention to the need to:

- strengthen the role of small cities and rural towns as conduits for healthy and nutritious food;
- raise awareness and develop the capacity of local governments on nutrition-sensitive agriculture, involving all relevant actors at local, sub-national, regional and global levels;
- recognize the important role of civil society in protecting and increasing sustainability of local diets and food systems, and participation in policy processes;
- harmonize legal and regulatory frameworks in support of sustainable food systems, and healthy diets;
- promote the generation and management of practice-based evidence for sustainable food systems and diets, including local to local networking; and
- retrieve indigenous knowledge and practices as a contribution to local sustainable food systems and diets/preservation and promotion of local/indigenous food and food culture.

Organic school feeding, Sao Paulo (Brazil)

Main responsible entity

Coordinating Body of the Secretariat of Education of São Paulo (Brazil) for School Feeding

Date/Timeframe

To be determined

Funding source

National School Feeding Programme of Brazil

Location

City of São Paulo (Brazil)

Background/Context

Municipal Act No. 16 140/2015 establishes the inclusion of organic food in school feeding in São Paulo. This measure aims to guarantee the human right to healthy school feeding, and to contribute to the transformation of productive systems in rural areas, using institutional procurement as a stimulating tool.

Similarly, the new Strategic Master Plan of the city of São Paulo defines the composition of the land, offering the opportunity to increase food production in the town. In addition, São Paulo ratified the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact; among recommended actions the reorientation of school feeding programmes and other institutional procurements, in order to provide healthy, local, seasonal and sustainably produced food, is particularly highlighted (Milan, 2015) [i].

Focus/Objectives

To ensure compliance with this Act, giving preference to family farmers and creating favourable conditions that enable the consumption of healthy, local, seasonal and sustainably produced food by the entire municipal school system, by 2026.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

This policy is built on the institutional dialogue with the civil society and the executive and legislative branches, making it an innovative experience in terms of social participation.

To guarantee an effective implementation of the Act, a monitoring committee was established to control policy management and to ensure social participation at this stage of the process.

Currently, about 90 food items are consumed in the city of Sao Paulo. This includes 12 family farming products, such as organic rice. By 2017, it is expected that the city of Sao Paulo will allocate 3 percent of its budget (nearly US\$3 million) to the procurement of organic food products.

Key actors involved and their roles

The executive branch (Municipal Departments of Education, Health, Environment and Labour), the legislative branch (City council with multi-party representation) and the civil society represented by delegates of the main municipal councils involved in this topic.

Key changes leading to an improvement of food security and nutrition

Democratizing access to organic food in schools guarantees an improvement in the nutritional quality of diets and promotes better health for farmers. On the other hand, organic agriculture provides several environmental services, such as the preservation of water sources and the establishment of protected areas. Another important contribution is the minimization of detrimental external impacts that do not affect the costs of conventional food products. Finally, organic agriculture contributes towards mitigating the impact of climate change, as it makes a rational and sustainable use of natural resources.

Challenges faced and how they were overcome

After facing major challenges of the Municipal Act 16 140/2015 – a noteworthy participative achievement – difficulties in various fields are currently being addressed. One example is the adapting of tender documents for family and organic agriculture, which requires modifying the procedures. Little by little, with the broad participation of civil society, substantial changes have been achieved: the necessary technical discussions have begun; pricing has been discussed reflecting the reality of family agriculture; and a network including other public bodies with similar policies has been coordinated for a beneficial exchange.

With respect to the changes in the food production process in the field, the preferential procurement of agro-ecological family agriculture acts as a major incentive for the agro-ecological transition. In our productive context, which is highly conventional, any divergent approach poses a challenge. To guide this process, the São Paulo Coordinating Body signed the protocol on good practices, developed by the body responsible for protecting the environment, and which is applicable to all city farmers. Furthermore, with the aim of optimizing the utilization of local production, mechanisms to promote production design and meet large-scale procurement demand will be developed in cooperation with technical assistance and local agencies dealing in rural extension.

Another challenge is related to the diversity of the city's population. The strong presence of migrants, refugees and indigenous people requires developing a school feeding programme that respects the different food habits. Apart from the recommendations of the 2014 Food Guide for the Brazilian Population, educational gardens are still one of the solutions foreseen in food and nutritional education. From this optic, the participatory ownership of the production chain is both feasible, and capable of fostering a context of greater respect for food and adequate eating habits.

Lessons/key messages

The formulation of food and nutrition security policies needs to be a participatory process. Organic food can be made accessible to many people if it is included in public procurement programmes. Cities should promote organic production in rural and urban areas, and community gardens can be a

suitable driver. Food and nutritional education is an essential part of this process, and its promotion is linked to the success of a process of this nature.

Finally, we would like to stress that Municipal Act No. 16 140/2015 is pioneer in regulating school feeding in Brazil, as it stipulates that 100 percent of school meals in Sao Paulo will be organically produced. The Act is also innovative as it outsources this challenge to foster a wider intersectoral discussion, enabling the opening of the executive branch and facilitating the approach between hitherto unrelated parties.

A proposal for food based on indigenous products, Peru – CHIRAPAQ

Main responsible entity

CHIRAPAQ, Centre for Indigenous Cultures of Peru

Date/Timeframe

The process covers the period 1999 -2017, which includes different stages.

Source of funding

Bread for the World

Location

Peru, Ayacucho department, urban fringe of the city of Huamanga and communities from the river basin of Pomatambo, mainly from the district of Vilcashuaman.

Background/Context

The proposal for food based on indigenous products began around 1986 in the city of Huamanga, Ayacucho, during the internal armed conflict that affected Peru from 1980 to 2000.

During this time, indigenous communities were displaced to the outskirts of the cities, including Huamanga in the Andes, and Lima, the capital city of Peru located on the coast. Displacement went hand in hand with poverty, discrimination and malnutrition, mainly affecting children and the elderly, leaving indigenous women responsible for sustainability in households.

Against this background, CHIRAPAQ began its proposal for food based on native products of proven nutritional value, but socially spurned because they were regarded as “Indian food”. The results were immediate, and led to recognition and research by several entities that witnessed a sustained emotional and physical recovery in both children and the elderly members of the indigenous population. This initiative diversified into different food education programmes to take advantage of the original local produce.

In 1999 a second phase was begun, which incorporated agricultural production based on indigenous knowledge of farming technologies, biodiversity, organic fertilizer and the recovery of indigenous flora and fauna. It is this second phase that is ongoing within the food sovereignty framework in the context of climate change and the cultivation of plants that are resistant to climate extremes.

Approach/Objectives

The approach is based on the right to food and identity, which recognizes land rights and awareness of the cultural, economic and social heritage of indigenous women for their economic empowerment and impact on many areas of decision-making.

Some of the objectives from the current proposal on food sovereignty include:

- 29) Recovering seed diversity and varieties.

- 30) Recovering, recording and using indigenous knowledge, especially agricultural technology for organic farming.
- 31) Strengthening family and communal farming.
- 32) Improving the use of soils in accordance with ancestral indigenous technologies.
- 33) Recovering native flora and fauna.
- 34) Having awareness of, strengthening and valuing the contribution of indigenous women in farming knowledge, the development of supplementary production activities etc.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

- 35) The foundation is based on community knowledge and experience, but this knowledge is often fragmented, and therefore the work consists in trying to recover it from different towns and articulate it as common knowledge.
- 36) The relationship is horizontal as it is not a case of “teaching” but of moving forward together.
- 37) Complementarity is maintained, in other words, the exchange between different areas, obtaining from some what is missing from others and vice versa.
- 38) We are not looking for self-sufficiency but instead autonomy, in other words the capability of developing one’s own capacities and making the proposal sustainable.
- 39) We are looking to preserve the greatest number of lands in the face of the advance of extractive industries, in particular mining, agro-industry and overexploitation with no land rotation due to the demand for native products for foreign markets.
- 40) Re-evaluation of indigenous products as food that is highly nutritious and capable of reversing malnutrition.
- 41) To view the geographical area as a unit, where each element forms part of a whole, which is why it is necessary to recover “indigenous geography” and the natural environment with native flora and fauna.
- 42) Incorporating new technologies that boost traditional knowledge and that do not undermine it.
- 43) Focusing on experience as a continuous process, for permanent improvement and research, where the impact of climate change in adjusting the seasons serves as a platform for identifying and experimenting with plant varieties that are better adapted to the changing climate conditions.

Key stakeholders involved and their roles

The communities, as an area of knowledge and production.

Indigenous women, as organizers of the family economy and custodians of knowledge in terms of diversity and seed selection.

The Yachaq (a Quechua term for a specialist or a savant with specific knowledge, understanding, or ability in the use of technologies) are responsible for managing and training members of the community in the construction of irrigation canals, building terraces, preparing fertilizer, developing natural insecticides, etc.

Authorities who are being brought into play to help support food processing initiatives by indigenous women, as well as to construct greenhouses and canopies for plants, are important, but this has still not been translated into concrete support.

The main changes observed that result in improved food security and nutrition

- 44) Higher yields from farmland, with a greater capacity for storage and food processing
- 45) Increase in associated crops, such as maize with beans
- 46) Greater diversity in food availability by using agricultural production on family gardens.
- 47) Incorporation of better nutrition practices, through nutritional education on how to ration food adequately in accordance with age.

- 48) Improvement in the height and weight of indigenous boys and girls. It was not possible to verify if this equated to improved school performance.
- 49) Identification of plant varieties called “food of the future”, because of their capacity to adapt to climate change and because they require less water for cultivation.

Challenges faced and how they were overcome

The challenges were constant and permanent. Given that this is a proposal that involves several communities and not a full programme coordinating regions or water basins, the need for money to purchase products necessitates the frequent use of chemical fertilizers. The situation is being remedied by national food fairs, where it is clear to see a greater demand for products that are organic and free from agrochemicals. Nevertheless, these markets and fairs are not held regularly and are not a reliable alternative for indigenous producers.

Another challenge is racism and discrimination, as people treat indigenous products, ways of life and production as something inferior with less value. In the case of food, industrial products benefit from greater prestige. Consequently, a major challenge is to build a domestic market for indigenous products and incorporate this food into state-run food support programmes for educational centres and social programmes.

An added challenge is the pressure on greater food production due to rapid and sustained urban growth, where demand for food is determined by taste and urban perspectives, resulting in the loss of several highly nutritious native products.

Lessons learned/key messages

- 50) The knowledge and the products exist, the only things required are support and prioritization policies for local, family and communal production.
- 51) Biodiversity is the best laboratory to respond to the challenge of climate change.
- 52) It is necessary to massively transform indigenous products in accordance with traditional indigenous practices.

250,000 Families! Mobilizing Responsible Consumption for Sustainability, Health and Equity in Ecuador

Proponents and main responsible entities

Colectivo Agroecológico and the Movimiento de Economía Social y Solidaria del Ecuador (MESSE)

Date/Timeframe

Open-ended, beginning October 2014

Funding source

Largely self-funded. In 2014-15, the AgroEcology Fund and the Swift Foundation financed a public encounter and communication strategy. Canada's International Development Research Centre is presently funding impact assessment.

Background/Context

The Colectivo influenced Ecuador's ground-breaking 2008 Constitution, stipulating policy transition from food security (basic caloric needs) to food sovereignty (food as democratic practice). Leaders drafted subsequent legislation, including bills for food sovereignty, agrobiodiversity/seeds, and

responsible consumption. Nevertheless, five years on, it was observed that little family-level change has been achieved. In some ways, the food sovereignty agenda has lost ground.

The Colectivo concluded that industrialized food had become so influential in national politics that it was no longer realistic to expect government officials to represent the public interest, so in 2012 it decided to place responsibility for the transition in the people's hands, leading to the Que Rico Es! Campaign. In 2014, the Colectivo launched its 250,000 Families! Challenge (a sub-campaign, www.quericoes.org), which sought to involve a critical mass of 5 percent of Ecuador's entire population. The Colectivo estimated that the present-day combined food and drink investment of these families represented some USD 600 million/year. Participants invest at least 50 percent of their food expenses in "responsible consumption" (i.e. agro-ecological production, direct purchase and Andean crops), or USD 300 million/year.

The Campaign does not necessarily seek to 'educate' these 250,000 families on responsible consumption; rather it believes this untapped resource already exists. As a result, the Campaign is helping to identify and connect these families and inspiring them to share grounded, time-proven experiences, achieved through food fairs, gastronomic events, creative communications and sensorial workshops.

Two years following the start of this initiative, tens of thousands of families have joined. Once dependent on the politics of the state, an increasing number of families are now working together to eat well, healthily and locally - a growing example of responsible consumption and democratic food.

Focus/Objectives

This citizen-led initiative exploits existing positive experience, utilizing it for strengthening public food policy, in particular through greater investments in: Andean crops, direct farmer purchasing and agro-ecology/organic production. Participants strategically have linked up with policy activity in the Ministry of Health (to address concerns over overweight/obesity), the Sub-secretary of Cultural Heritage (promoting national cuisine), and the Ministry of Agriculture's initiative for direct-purchase markets.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

In order to become part of the challenge, participants ask two questions: What does "responsible consumption" mean for me? and How does my family (business or community) practise it? The Colectivo has organized networks of volunteer promoters who record responses to these questions and upload them into database. Different families have richly diverse, yet complementary experiences about what constitutes responsibility.

The campaign promotes eating fresh, agro-ecological food brought in from the countryside for sale in urban areas. Most of these foods are considered indigenous and therefore contribute towards strengthening local culture and social organization of both producers and consumers. Only smallholders, and their cooperatives are permitted to sell directly to the public, minimizing final costs to the consumer. These agro-ecological markets have quickly caught on nationwide; there are now more than 210 such markets in Ecuador. The population learns about the advantages of eating local produce thanks to the media campaign 250,000 Families – we eat healthy, delicious food from our land.

The campaign relies on mass media and the social media. Forty 8-minute radio programmes and two radio shows once a week (bringing in experts, farmers, chefs, and consumers; both geared toward linking rural and urban areas) are aired over the entire country, an online bulletin is posted periodically, many WhatsApp groups bring together food producers and consumers around food issues. For example, a new smallholder learned of the movement and now has found markets for his Andean product (amaranth, both beige and black) through Facebook and the WhatsApp group he is now part of.

Key actors involved and their roles

Volunteers from urban-based families (“consumers” or “people who eat”), university students and rural people’s organizations, with the support of CSOs and in coordination with selected state-supported programmes (MAGAP’s Direct Purchasing Department, the Sub-secretary of Cultural Heritage, and the Ministry of Health’s Nutrition Promotion Programme).

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

Given the limited government interest in agro-ecology and family farming, the initiative seeks to recruit a critical mass of practitioners as a political force. So far, about 10 thousand families have enlisted – representing arguably USD 24 million/year. An IDRC-financed project is studying the impact-to-date of this activity.

Challenges faced

Despite pioneering food sovereignty legislation, little meaningful family-level change has taken place over the last decade. Modern food (estimated as representing USD 20 billion per year in Ecuador) had become so influential in public policy that it was no longer realistic to expect officials to represent the public interest. Families needed to take the responsibility to make change happen.

Lessons/Key messages

“People who eat” live in urban and rural sectors and are involved at multiple levels of education, science, industry and government. While consumers carry some of the responsibility for the ills of modern food, by “eating well” they can utilize food as a means of advancing “public goods”.

Montespertoli Ancient Grain Association, Florence (Italy)

Proponent

University of Florence

Main responsible entity

Associazione Grani Antichi di Montespertoli

Date/Timeframe

2008-2017

Funding source

Grassroot collective action mostly self-financed by local actors and consumers; limited funds and a favourable public food procurement policy, provided by the Municipality of Montespertoli

Location

Tuscany - Italy - Southern Europe

Background/Context

Montespertoli is a rural settlement located some 30 kilometres from Florence (Italy), which, during the 1950s was considered the granary of Florence. Its bread-making tradition was very well known all over central Tuscany. However, during the 1960s its importance began to decline with the migration from agriculture towards non-agricultural sectors, and from rural areas towards urban areas. In 2008, a local miller and a baker decided to differentiate the bread produced in Montespertoli by switching to the ancient wheat landraces that had made the local bread so well-known both in Florence and the surrounding areas until the mid-twentieth century. With the help of the University of Florence, they managed to involve a few farmers in cropping ancient varieties, and to enlist another baker. Long

forgotten traditional techniques at every level of the production chain (cropping, milling and baking) were reintroduced, assuring the conservation of local agro-biodiversity and soil fertility as well as the production of healthy, high quality bread.

Ancient varieties of wheat require appropriate cultivation techniques. These varieties were cultivated over the first two decades of the twentieth century, when few, if any, chemical and mechanical inputs were available. They are taller than modern varieties, more prone to fungal infections, more variable in both genotype and phenotype and significantly less productive, at least from a purely quantitative point of view. As such, they can be considered a rather different crop from conventional, modern wheat – akin to an innovative minor crop. As with other innovative minor crops, ancient wheat varieties suffer from lack of codified technical knowledge, absence of market data, and uncertain economic perspectives.

Lack of codified knowledge is shared by the subsequent food chain actors: miller, baker, makers of pasta, and even consumers. To preserve all its nutritional characteristics wheat must be stone-ground, a practice since long abandoned. Furthermore, the bread must be made with sourdough and requires specific techniques and longer rising times due to the peculiar technological properties of the flour.

Focus/Objectives

The aim of the food chain is to produce high quality products at a fair price, both for the local community and for the nearby town of Florence, where bread and pasta are sold in selected outlets which assure a fair price policy. Healthy bread and pasta are also delivered to the local school canteen.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

In 2013, a non-profit association was created: the Ancient Grains of Montespertoli Association. The Association has the objective “to protect and help producers comply with the association guidelines and promote ancient grain products”. It also has a political role acting as a stakeholder between the chain and local government levels (mainly the Montespertoli municipality). Issuing specific technical guidelines for cultivation, milling, bread-making and pasta-making, the association regulates the behaviours of chain actors in order to maintain a high level of quality along the chain. This is the set of rules which governs the common values/resource.

In addition, the distribution of the added value generated by the chain is also negotiated within the association, which “makes sure that higher prices paid by consumers are transferred to the farmers”. Indeed, the Association board decided to fix the price of wheat at a level able to ensure that most of the costs incurred by farmers were covered. It appears that the arrangement has worked quite well so far in assuring fair prices to farmers. Lastly, the Association provides processors with a sticker that identifies their products as made from ancient grains of Montespertoli.

Key actors involved and their roles

The Montespertoli bread chain is based on the work of a relatively small number of actors. If we exclude local consumers, there are no more than 30 actors, among whom 20 farmers, one miller, two bakers, two pastry-makers, one pasta-maker, the local municipality, an agronomist and a small group of researchers from the University of Florence. All of them joined the Association.

The leadership of the bread chain has been jointly exerted by the miller and one of the bakers, at least in the start-up phase. Acknowledgement is also due to the role played by researchers at the University of Florence, who provided the initial inspiration and technological knowledge necessary to switch to the ancient wheat varieties. Similarly, a key role was played by an agronomist who provided technical assistance to the farmers from the start of the initiative.

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

The Montespertoli ancient wheat supply chain is a success story. Over 450 hectares are involved in the chain; more than 800 quintals of ancient grain are milled by the local miller and 600 quintals of bread baked by the two bakers of the chains. Quantities have been steadily rising since the beginning of the initiative and have soared in recent years.

Challenges faced

There are two types of concerns with respect to quality assurance: compliance with the technical guidelines and brand reputation. The former is perceived as less relevant because farmers know each other personally and reputation mechanisms operate within the social network. However, a form of participatory guarantee has been put in place. The system is associated with social processes, such as: sharing information, techniques and traditional knowledge, collective seed management and conservation, and socialized prices. Conversely, brand reputation is rather a sensitive issue as it concerns the behaviour of a few retailers outside the boundaries of the local community and of the local food chain. Brand reputation challenges arise when producers of Montespertoli contract with an outside retailer: they have to make sure that whenever and wherever the bread is sold, its distinctiveness and the values that underpin its production are safeguarded, and also that it is sold at a fair price.

Lessons/Key messages

This is a case of a successful grassroots collective action which has managed to revive an ancient tradition providing healthy and quality food to local communities and the neighbouring city. The group of chain actors have allotted themselves a set of simple and effective rules to set the price level, whereby the miller and bakers share the farmers' production risk, assuring the continuity and viability of the whole chain. In return, farmers have agreed to have their fields controlled by other members of the group in a sort of participatory guarantee scheme, and to adopt new farming techniques and practices. A high level of trust and reciprocity over time, as well as the autonomy to decide at least some of the rules, have provided the key ingredients for the successful management of a complex, high quality food chain.

Another key to the project's success was the strong tie with the local university which provided scientific advice, and characterized the nutritional properties of the food produced.

Farm to Head start initiative, Minnesota (USA)

Proponent

IATP (Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy) through the CFS Civil Society Mechanism

Main responsible entity

Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties (CAPRW) in collaboration with:
IATP

HAFA (Hmong American Farmers Association)

Russ Davies Wholesale Processor

and with the support of:

- United States Department of Health and Human Services and Head Start centres in Minnesota
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)
- Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)
- Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
- New Horizon Academy

Date/Timeframe

2013-2015

Funding Source

Federal funding

Background/Context

Head Start is a federally funded anti-poverty programme of the United States Department of Health and Human Services that provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition and parental involvement services to low-income children and their families.

The Farm to Head Start initiatives are a relatively new outgrowth of the more familiar “Farm to School” initiatives operating in kindergarten through grade 12 settings. They aim to ensure reliable markets for small-acreage farmers (who have previously relied primarily on farmers’ markets or direct-to-consumer sales), while providing fresh, healthy foods in Head Start childcare meals, and teaching children where that food comes from.

In 2013, the IATP initiated planning the next iteration of their Farm to Childcare model and were interested in adapting their Farm to Childcare model to include more a culturally responsive content, a stronger family engagement component and a strong focus on serving vulnerable children and families with more limited access to healthy local foods. Head Start’s expertise in these topics made the programme an ideal partner to learn from. Because of their previously established relationship with HAFA, a member-based non-profit organization committed to advancing the prosperity of Hmong American farmers and their families, the IATP was particularly interested in partnering with a Head Start programme that had a large population of Hmong children and families in their community. Coming from an immigrant community, many Hmong American farmers are not able to read and write in English and now rely on HAFA’s support to navigate complex systems they may not fully understand.

Focus/Objectives

Farm to Childcare initiatives have a dual purpose:

- To provide fresh, healthier food options to three- to five-year old children in the childcare centre, orient their taste preferences and build their farm and food knowledge;
- To provide a reliable market to small and mid-size farmer households, and in particular to smaller acreage farmers.

Key characteristics of the experience and stakeholders involved

CAPRW worked closely with HAFA, which supplied food to CAPRW and helped develop culturally responsive content for the curriculum; and with the IATP, which provided training and technical support and experience from implementing Farm to Childcare with the New Horizon Academy.

IATP’s Farm to Childcare model and curriculum were adapted. HAFA provided infrastructure and equipment for farmers to wash and pack their produce and store it in a cold, climate-controlled environment until it is ready to be shipped, and coordinated multiple farmers to pool their crops and arrange for the produce to be cleaned and delivered to a processor to be chopped/sliced, etc., and then delivered to be cooked on schedule.

The initial planning for the pilot was the most time-intensive period. CAPRW integrated Farm to Head Start themes easily into their already scheduled staff training and family engagement events. Farm to Head Start curriculum activities – specific to a given local food – were highlighted in the classroom on

Mondays and Tuesdays, and that same food (produced with HAFA assistance) was featured in children's meals on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Incorporating culturally responsive recipes drawn from the cultural backgrounds of the Head Start children—including those from Hmong backgrounds—also helped instill a sense of pride about their communities' food culture. By the end of a two-week period, the children had taken part in at least eight exposures to that season's featured food. Recipes focused on simple menu preparations to make the food visible to the children, and to help keep the food preparation straightforward for cooking staff. Activities designed to teach young children about local foods and farming ranged from maths and science to art and sensory play.

Another major task in this pilot phase was to build the supply chain to connect HAFA's produce to CAPRW's catering company, CKC. A local processor, Russ Davis, introduced internal systems to support purchasing from local producers, and developed a tracking system to provide their customers with transparent information on which farms grew their produce. They also hired a food safety consultant able to do on-farm site visits and provide advice, and to assist local farmers in understanding institutional food safety protocols.

Challenges faced

The biggest challenge for HAFA was that of working within a food supply system that is scaled for much larger producers. It was initially difficult to find a processor willing to work with relatively small volumes.

CAPRW Head Start, CKC Catering and the Russ Davis Wholesale Processor indicated that it was challenging to partner with local farmers like HAFA as this was different from their usual way of doing business.

The project coordinators had to work outside the standard procurement and processing system that is set up for large-scale orders of processed foods. CKC does not usually receive the whole product directly from farmers, but rather from a processing company that does the chopping, peeling or cutting to turn whole foods into useable ingredients that can be measured out and used to prepare meals. In addition, the processor serves as third-party verification for the safety of the food, which lessens caterers' liability. Processing companies, too, are set up to handle large amounts of food and it was difficult to find one willing to take orders for the relatively small amount of product needed for the programme each week.

In organizations like the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)—both of whom are very supportive of Farm to Head Start initiatives—there are bureaucratic constraints that prevent the agencies from working outside their own designated areas. This can be a problem for initiatives like Farm to Head Start, which span across multiple sectors.

Key changes observed/Lessons/Key messages

One of the most positive impacts of this Farm to Head Start initiative has been the development of a supply chain to work with small-acreage farmers and reduce the barriers to entry on their own terms, therefore paving the way for similar initiatives in the future. Flexibility is key to engaging with small farmers.

Making the transition from selling at farmers' markets to institutional markets has been challenging for small farmers. They had to go through additional food safety training, and shift their mind-set from harvesting whatever produce happens to be ripe, to planning ahead and planting crops to be ready for harvest at a specific time. These vulnerable farmers eventually transitioned from an uncertain market to one that they will be able to count on and plan around, ultimately creating a more stable overall economic situation for them.

Standard procedures and bureaucratic constraints from different institutions need to be revised and overcome to ensure effective inter-institutional and inter-sectoral collaboration. Joint programming is needed to help prevail over these obstacles. The alignment of values and commitment which has guided partner relationships has been essential to the success of the implementation of CAPRW's Farm to Head Start pilot initiative.

III. KNOWLEDGE GAPS AND AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

49. Much investment has already gone into advancing research in order to understand and document the profound transformations outlined in previous sections of this document. While progress has been made with regards to analysing a number of connections (for example, between urbanization and diet change and urban area expansion and loss of crop land), more investment in research is needed to further our understanding of the interplay between urbanization, rural transformations and food security. Specifically:

- The future vision for food systems within a context of changing rural-urban dynamics is not well understood. It is likely that food demand will be mostly driven and shaped by urban populations, though a significant share of production will remain rural. It is not known to what extent the changing dietary patterns and the demand for processed or fresh foods, will be able to mobilize rural areas and local agriculture, and what the ideal conditions are for this to occur;
- There is no agreement on the expected evolution of economy-wide structural transformation, although there is recognition that it will probably look very different from the classical model of today's agricultural-based economies. The possibility that agriculture and downstream links of the food system will play a larger role in employment generation as today's low-income countries develop, is a topic that requires additional evidence;
- There is a need to frame the emerging and critical issues related to youth employment, inter or intra-national migration, women's participation in the labour force, and the sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystem services within the wider context of the social and economic transformations taking place across spaces and territories, in developing as well as in developed countries.

50. Further research is also needed to assess:

- the impact of agricultural and trade policies on both urban and rural food consumption and local agricultural production;
- the role of small cities and rural towns in linking producers to wider markets, and in providing local opportunities for income diversification; and
- the impacts of urbanization and rural transformation on lower income groups (smallholders, landless, net food buyers, informal sector traders, low-income urban consumers).

IV. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

51. Based on the analysis of the experiences illustrated in the matrix below (page 53) and the analysis of the key messages presented under each of the three thematic areas, seven categories of policy implications can be identified to guide CFS discussions, as well as to facilitate linkages to both existing policy tools /recommendations and ongoing CFS workstreams.

52. While the categories identified are not new ‘per se’, the range of issues and dimensions they cover are intended as providing a rural-urban linkages lens into the design/adjustment of food and agriculture related policies/investments that meet the needs of people across the rural-urban continuum.

Integrated approaches

53. A strong theme emerging from the review of the experiences relates to the need for policies and research that address inter-sectoral linkages, to analyse interacting systems and the implications for rural and urban areas. Considering the greater dynamism, connectivity and interdependencies across rural and urban areas, in particular among the related agri-food sectors but also in the growing non-farm sectors, this need is arguably greater than ever before.

54. There is substantial experience to support the adaptation of integrated approaches to respond to the challenges brought about by changing rural-urban dynamics. With the agreement on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)³¹ (particularly 1, 2, 11 and 10), and the 2030 Agenda, the Second International Conference on Nutrition³², the signing of the Milan Urban Food Pact³³, the New Urban Agenda³⁴, the proclamation of the UN New Decade of Action on Nutrition³⁵ – and the lessons learned from ongoing work related to urban-rural linkages, ‘city-region food systems’ and territorial approaches³⁶ – there is an evident need for integrated approaches which address the specific food security and nutrition challenges and opportunities arising from urbanization and rural transformation. These processes require strong, inclusive governance, bringing together different sectors and relevant stakeholders, and the integration of actors in local, national and international levels. The former processes are referred to as horizontal policy integration, while the latter are described as vertical.

See for example: Medellin, Vancouver, Quito, Peru, Toronto

Institutions and capacity development

55. The majority of the experiences reviewed included a strong element of capacity development. While decentralization processes are occurring in many countries, institutional capacity at local level is still limited in most places.

56. Institutions operating in rural and urban areas will have to learn to act together across sectors and institutional backgrounds. They will need to work in close collaboration with other institutional levels in similar contexts. Capacity development and knowledge management of local practices will therefore be essential. There are implications for procedures, regulations and legislation – often evolving from globally and centrally driven sectoral processes – that may need to be reviewed and harmonized. Institutional capacity for vertical integration will also be needed.

³¹ Sustainable Development Goals

³² Second International Conference on Nutrition

³³ Milan Urban Food Policy Pact

³⁴ UN Habitat III Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda 18 June 2016

³⁵ <https://www.unscn.org/en/topics/un-decade-of-action-on-nutrition>

³⁶ As a result of the growing awareness of the need to address rural-urban linkages in a more integrated and holistic way, there are a number of initiatives which are covering this topic in different ways. Examples include:

- **FAO’s Food for the Cities Program**, www.fao.org/fcit/fcit-home/en/
- **City-region food system Collaborative Platform**, www.cityregionfoodsystems.org
- **IIED’s Reframing the debate on urbanizations, rural transformation and food security**, <http://pubs.iied.org/17281IIED.html>
- **International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES)** Workstream on ‘The Role of Cities in Building Sustainable Food Systems’; <http://www.ipes-food.org/reports>
- **IFAD’s work on territorial approaches**, rural-urban linkages and inclusive rural transformation, <https://www.ifad.org/pub/thematic>

See for example: Nairobi, UN Habitat, Lusaka

Nutrition education and consumer awareness

57. Nutrition education and consumer awareness stands out as a recurrent theme across many of the experiences reviewed, both in developed and developing countries. The role of consumers in shaping demand and therefore evolving food systems - including urban-rural linkages - has been underestimated to date. Whether or not they are vulnerable, they are the first to be affected by unhealthy diets and lifestyles, and must be able to make informed decisions. Raising awareness of the relevant institutions on their possible role in protecting and improving food security and nutrition – and in particular on nutrition-sensitive food and agriculture - of both rural and urban population groups (leaving no one behind) is equally important.

Cross cutting

Inclusion

58. The vast majority of the experiences reviewed also showed a sharp focus on economic and social equity issues. While increased commercial opportunities in farm and non-farm sectors, public and private investment in agri-food sectors, more exacting quality standards and increased consumer awareness all translate into new opportunities for rural and urban people, not all will be in a position to benefit.

59. Marginalized individuals and groups, individuals lacking necessary skills and capacities, and those working in poorly connected, degraded and/or informal settlements in rural and urban areas risk being further excluded from the potential gains associated with rural transformation and urbanization. In particular, vulnerable individuals in rural and urban areas often include individuals employed in informal sectors, newly established settlers (including refugees and displaced people), landless or land-scarce households, female-headed households, youth and children, the elderly, the disabled, and the sick, and low income and resource-poor households. Each of these individuals/groups are made more vulnerable by crises which include natural disasters, civil unrest, and the outbreak of disease.

60. From a policy perspective, identifying vulnerabilities of groups and individuals, understanding how they differ in rural and urban areas and how they are likely to evolve in the context of ever-changing rural-urban dynamics, is essential to designing policies to address their needs (SDG 10). It is also fundamental to include these populations in the policy-making processes, and in the design on implementation strategies at local, national, regional and international levels.

See for example: Slovenia, Bishkek, Argentina (Pro Huerta and “the market in your Neighbourhood”), Bogota colectivo SALSA, Kenya Home Grown School feeding, Minnesota Farm to Headstart initiative, Peru indigenous food

Innovation

61. One of the recurring traits of the experiences reviewed is the element of innovation. Innovation encompasses technological changes, including information and communications technology (ICT), as well as social innovation.

62. In a context of rural transformation and urbanization, these innovations will be key in promoting connectivity, mutually beneficial information flows and in providing rural and urban people with opportunities to leverage emerging economic, political and social spaces to advance their livelihoods. From a policy perspective it is important to promote interventions in support of bottom-up social innovations that are based on the capacity of local communities to share knowledge, value local entrepreneurship, and develop social networks and social capital – all of which will in turn help those communities to develop new knowledge, and ideas and projects that are culturally acceptable, environmentally sustainable and technically feasible.

See for example: Slovenia, Bishkek, Santiago ICT platform, Bangladesh-Nepal, Tuscany 100,000 gardens, Tuscany Parco Agricolo Fluviale, Milan Martesana consortium,

Infrastructure/Investments

63. One of the gaps emerging from the review of the experiences relates to the absence of an investment component. Most experiences highlight insufficient/unpredictable funding as a major constraint. Investments in infrastructure targeted to local needs bring among the highest returns to development and poverty reduction and contribute to employment creation both in and out of agriculture. From a policy perspective, infrastructure is a high priority in support of positive rural-urban linkages. However, this should not be limited to connecting rural areas to large urban centres but should also be extended to supporting small cities and rural towns which will play an important role in the future (both in demographic and economic terms) development of their rural regions.

Cross cutting

Information

64. Another gap emerging from the review of the experiences relates to the need for rigorous evaluations to understand the impacts of the interventions presented in this document. Information and decision support systems are needed to tailor inclusive policy interventions.

65. Unfortunately, many countries lack localized data and information; others have the information but it is not organized in such a way as to support spatial analysis of food systems in all its components. Furthermore, the lack of disaggregated and localized (fine-scale) data and the growing mobility of people between/within rural-urban areas makes it difficult to identify and target interventions to the most vulnerable. Existing analytical tools and methodologies are often ad hoc, and there is a need to develop indicators for rural-urban food systems that are able to capture their multi-dimensional nature, generate sound and comparable evidence on the various aspects (labour, flow of food, flow of services, use of natural resources), and diversity of food systems. The information generated should be shared widely among stakeholders, from citizens to policy-makers for a transparent decision-making. Lastly, it is important to develop standard and accepted analytical methods that will allow for cross-country comparisons.

Cross cutting

Matrix of selected experiences against themes and cross-cutting issues

| Rural-urban linkages | | | | | | Cross-cutting issues Thematic areas |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Experience/ Policy approach | Health Nutrition | Environment Climate change | Resilience to risks and crises | Social and economic equity | Capacity development Consumer awareness Education | |
| Medellin - FAO - "Good living Alliance" | x | x | x | x | x | Governance, food systems and territorial planning |
| Nairobi - Mazingira Institute, Training for sustainable, resilient cities | x | x | x | x | x | |
| Vancouver - Regional food system strategy | x | x | | x | x | |
| Peru - IFAD - Territorial development | | x | x | x | | |
| Quito - FAO - Integrated territorial planning | x | x | x | x | x | |
| Toronto - FAO - Integrated food planning | x | x | | x | x | |
| Bolivia - FAO - National Food production support company | x | x | x | x | | Labour, flows of people, goods and services |
| UN Habitat - Integrating rural-urban linkages into National Urban Policies | | | | | x | |
| Bishkek - Social innovation/inclusion | x | x | x | x | x | |
| Slovenia - Social innovation/inclusion | | | | x | x | |
| Blangladesh Nepal (IIED) - Organic fertilizer value chains | | x | | | | |
| (Global) Mercato Metropolitano | x | x | | | x | |
| Lusaka City Council - training for responsible waste management | x | x | | x | x | |
| Argentina - ProHuerta programme | x | x | x | x | x | |
| China - National strategy | x | | x | x | | |
| Milan Martesana consortium | | x | x | x | | |
| Argentina - "The market in your neighbourhood" programme | x | x | x | x | x | Sustainable food systems for healthy diets |
| Santiago - FAO - ICT platform | | x | x | | x | |
| Tuscany - 100,000 gardens initiative | x | x | x | | x | |
| Kenya - Home grown school feeding WFP | x | | x | x | x | |
| Tuscany - Parco Agricolo Perifluviale | | x | | x | x | |
| Somalia - Informal dairy markets | x | | x | x | x | |
| Rome - Multi-functional farms | x | x | | | x | |
| Sao Paulo - Organic school feeding | x | x | | x | x | |
| Peru - Indigenous food | x | x | x | x | x | |
| Bogota - Colectivo SALSA initiative | x | x | | x | x | |
| Ecuador - 250,000 families campaign | x | x | | x | x | |
| Montespertoli Ancient Grains Association | x | | | | x | |
| Ljubljana - Short value chains | x | x | | | x | |
| Italy - "Friendly countryside" initiative | x | | | | x | |
| Minnesota - Farm to Head start initiative | x | | | x | x | |
| Addressing food security and nutrition | | | | | | |



ADDRESSING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN THE CONTEXT OF CHANGING RURAL-URBAN DYNAMICS: EXPERIENCES AND EFFECTIVE POLICY APPROACHES

ANNEX

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Quito – Agrupar Programme

Proponent

RUAF Foundation; FAO

Main responsible entity

CONQUITO-Economic Development Agency, Municipality of Quito

Date/Timeframe

2002-ongoing

Funding source

CONQUITO and a variety of local, national and international organisations

Location

Metropolitan District of Quito

Background/Context

Quito District has a population of more than 2.5 million people. Since the late 1980s, Quito's urban and industrial growth has been characterised by low-density extension and dispersion into the peri-urban and rural valleys surrounding the city. Its urban population doubled between 1980 and 2000, and current projections are that the city's population will grow from the current 2.5 million to more than 2.8 million by 2022. The urban demand for food will only increase, while urban food security may be challenged by a lack of food access and potential supply problems. Already, many families are resorting to small-scale food production on Quito's hillsides, open spaces, and remaining agricultural land areas to feed their families. In 2010, 88% of Quito's population lived in urban areas, while 22% lived in areas that were still considered to have a rural character (Plan de Desarrollo y Ordenamiento territorial del Distrito Metropolitano de Quito 2015 – 2025).

Since 1988, the District of Quito provided more integrated land use and growth planning as well as coordination across governments and institutions. This has also allowed for a regional perspective for the territorial food system. It has facilitated urban-peri-urban-rural linkages through AGRUPAR, a participatory urban agriculture in programme begun in 2002, that now includes 87% of urban and 82% of rural parishes. AGRUPAR promotes agro-ecological production and marketing. In addition, new organic/ecological markets have been established that provide organic/ecological producer groups from areas surrounding the DMQ the opportunity to sell their produce to Quito's population.

Since 2015, Quito participates in the City Region Food Systems (CRFS) project jointly lead by RUAF and FAO. The research assesses and develops CRFS as a planning and information-based decision making methodology and tool. It provides guidance for investment, policy and strategy prioritization to improve the resilience and sustainability of food systems. As result from increased awareness and priorities, the

Quito Metropolitan District committed to development of a territorial food policy, building on its urban agriculture programme and strengthening linkages between Quito and surrounding municipalities.

Focus/Objectives

The goal of the AGRUPAR programme is to: 1. Improve food and nutrition security; 2. Farmer income; and 3. Enable the participation of youth, elderly and women, across rural and urban parishes in the Metropolitan District.

The goal for city region food systems is to strengthen connections across the city region to enable food system resilience and sustainability. This starts from a vision where “The Metropolitan District of Quito promotes sustainable production and responsible production, with increased food self-sufficiency within the framework of inclusive and equitable economic development, and territorial resilience, in which healthy, nutritious, balanced and sufficient food is a Right of the population, while strengthening links with its food system”.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

Within the AGRUPAR programme, together there are 2500 gardens covering 27 hectares that produce more than 105 food products. Nearly half of the product are sold through local bio-markets in both urban and rural locations. As part of building city region food system linkages, markets have been established in urban areas for producers from the nearby Pichincha province of that lies outside the District of Quito. Aggregation of rural (from inside and outside the DMQ) and urban production is the key to offering consumers a diversified and sufficient supply of produce. Rural production allows increased diversity of supply, adding to the horticulture produce from AGRUPAR’s urban gardens other products which require larger growing areas, such as pork, trout, honey, eggs, grains, and beans.

Future activities planned to promote a more sustainable and resilient city region food system include:

Strengthening of short food chains, better linking producers from rural areas around Quito to Quito consumers

Reducing food loss and waste along the chain

Development of a territorial food strategy

Establishment of a territorial food council

Key actors involved and their role

The key actor in the Quito city region food system project related to local production and consumption is AGRUPAR as part of CONQUITO, a district level economic development corporation. AGRUPAR has its own operating budget that provides programme stability and enables AGRUPAR to contribute to enhanced and increased ecological production. Nationally, the Strategic Development Plan (2015-2025), through its efforts to improve livelihoods, aims to tackle challenges at the intersection of food coupled with: health including food and nutrition insecurity and diet-related disease; income and employment through support to sustainable, local value chains across the urban-rural spaces; and, land use planning

to protect agricultural land and water resources. This is aligned with the National Plan for Good Living and The Food Sovereignty Law.

CONQUITO integrates its actions with other municipal entities, such as: Health, Territory – Habitat and Housing, Environment, Culture, Social Inclusion and the District Agency of Commerce, Fundación Patronato Municipal San José and the Fundación de Museos de la Ciudad.

Through such collaboration, AGRUPAR's expertise has, for example, been used to help establish school gardens in support of the municipality's programme for 'healthy schools'. In more recent years, and with the topic of healthy food consumption and healthy lifestyles emerging as a new area of political interest, CONQUITO and the Secretary of Health are including healthy food promotion in the health education programme and outreach stations 'Health by Step' (Salud al Paso) and through the promotion of responsible consumption.

The Fundación Patronato Municipal San José manages Child Development Centres for children from 1-3 years of age and is reaching out to AGRUPAR to establish nutrition gardens in their centres to support the healthy food consumption training provided to the children's parents and caretakers. The collaboration with the Museos de la Ciudad has helped integrate the cultivation of food and medicinal plants with awareness-raising on sustainable consumption in public social meeting spaces.

In collaboration with the Secretary of Environment, a new project on 'farms adapted to climate change' is being set up in the DMQ's rural parishes, seeking to develop and promote new climate-smart production technologies that can be easily adopted by local farmers.

The private sector may start to play a more important role in future. New market opportunities may arise with 'Ecuador's inclusive business movement', which encourages the larger private sector to link with small-scale suppliers, such as farmers' organisations, provided their produce meets quality standards, is delivered on time, and is accompanied by an invoice. This may offer AGRUPAR farmers new possibilities to directly supply supermarkets and specialised outlets (hotels and restaurants). Such commercialisation was unsuccessful in the past, however, as prices paid to producers were lower than prices that could be obtained at the bio fairs.

CONQUITO has also established links with the National Government through its Ministries of Agriculture; Social Inclusion; Justice; Industry and Productivity; and Health and Education. From 2010-2012, the Ministry of Agriculture partnered with AGRUPAR in implementing the national nutrition strategy in areas with high levels of child malnutrition in Quito. Collaboration with the Ministry of Justice allows AGRUPAR to intervene in institutional detention and rehabilitation centres. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Inclusion, Industry and Productivity, urban producers were certified for their working expertise, recognising their contribution and thus providing an incentive for their further development. School gardens and food and cooking education have been set up in 142 schools in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Education.

International cooperation has played an important role in the start-up and expansion of the programme and support to training, infrastructure investment, research and impact monitoring. UN Habitat was a key supporter to the start-up of AGRUPAR. RUAF through the joint RUAF-FAO CRFS programme, is supporting the CRFS assessment and development of territorial food policy strategy. This will seek wide coordination among municipal departments as well as coordination with municipalities located in the city region and the Province of Pichincha.

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

The AGRUPAR program includes more than 12,000 households, and provides set-up infrastructure and technical training producing: more than 400,000 kilos of food and increasing household food security through access to healthy, organic food; improved income stability for marginalized households through more than 1050 community, household and school gardens and over 300 small livestock production units; more than 100 micro-enterprises that grow and process food.

Production has helped strengthen food security and diversification of the diets of the 12,000 involved urban farmers and their families. In addition, and on average, producer families earn USD 55/month from product sales and save another USD 72/month on food purchases. Total savings are 2.5 times the value of the governments' human development voucher, which provides USD 50 a month to vulnerable households. 17% of involved households engaged in more commercial enterprises report supplementary income of 300USD/month.

Direct sale of approximately 100,000 kilos of food through bio-markets served over 17,000 consumers across a range of income levels in urban and peri-urban settings and provided opportunities for rural vendors.

The examples provided earlier of AGRUPAR's collaboration with other strategic programmes (health, education, and environment) have given outreach and legitimacy to the programme. AGRUPAR's policy influence has also led to the recognition of the role of urban and peri-urban food production in the DMQ's climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. The Department of Environment of the DMQ has been strongly involved in establishing indicators for measuring and reducing environmental impacts, including for example carbon and water footprints. Climate change mitigation and adaptation has been incorporated as one of the key sustainability indicators in the Development Plan of the city, and urban and peri-urban agriculture is highlighted as one of the relevant carbon compensation mechanisms and included as an 'Indicator of a Sustainable City'. The AGRUPAR programme already promotes specific production techniques to adapt to a changing climate, including small greenhouses, drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and reforestation, amongst others.

Challenges faced

While acknowledging the remarkable achievements with the AGRUPAR programme through the Metropolitan District of Quito, the CRFS research points to opportunities to extend this work by creating connections between the District of Quito and neighbouring municipalities and provinces. This is a key challenge to creating a more coherent city-region food system. It has been difficult thus far to include the practice in provincial legislation and operational programmes. As well, finding ways to include more

rural communities and to protect peri-urban land are on-going challenges to realizing the multiple benefits of city-region food systems.

Other challenges still remain in order to expand the area covered by the AGRUPAR project. So far, the concept of urban and peri-urban agriculture (or metropolitan agriculture) is still not explicitly recognised/mentioned in Quito's land use plans. This constrains, for example, the development of an affirmative policy and legal framework to allow farming households access to and use of open and vacant spaces for urban agriculture, without requiring previous legalisation by its users. Since an estimated 30% of urban Quito is vacant land, development of agriculture in the urban parishes will also require a review of its cadastre to identify municipal areas that could be allocated for agricultural use, and measures put in place to extend the concession of urban space to producers. A draft ordinance on urban and peri-urban agriculture is currently being developed that seeks to tackle this gap.

Lessons/Key messages

Integrated territorial planning: Working across the Metropolitan District of Quito has facilitated integrated territorial planning that protects land used for food production and ensures compact efficient land use as well as providing nature conservation areas.

Increased food producer incomes and improved access to healthy food for low income consumers fosters the capacity to ensure food sovereignty.

Scaling up planning: District of Quito has committed to developing a more integrated city-region food policy approach as demonstrated by, for example, signing on to the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. While this is a positive step to develop human, resource and technical capacity needed especially in rural communities, financial resources and devolved power from the national and provincial authorities are required to facilitate and scale out successes. The work now in progress to develop national agro-ecological food production standards would facilitate increased coherence. The official recognition of urban and peri-urban food production as a form of agriculture would enable support through agricultural programmes as well as open the doors to public procurement opportunities. Food focused land use planning as well as a broader consideration of the CRFS to include the surrounding Pichincha province are also recommended.

City region food system is an integrative mechanism to achieve economic development, food and nutrition security, environmental management including water quality and biodiversity protection as well as climate resilience. The Quito example points to and reinforces the importance of having CRFS projects embedded in and supported by cross-cutting technical teams with needed core programmatic financial support; that the goals for regional food system production in urban and peri-urban areas be articulated so that they are in line with other programmes such as food security and economic development; and that there is good baseline and on-going data collection to track and assess successes and areas for improvement.

Toronto city region food system

Proponent

RUAF Foundation, UN FAO

Main responsible entity

RUAF Foundation; Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, Wilfrid Laurier University

Date/Timeframe

1993-ongoing

Funding source

Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation, Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, Wilfrid Laurier University

Location

Toronto City Region Food System, Ontario, Canada

Background/Context

Toronto and the surrounding Greater Golden Horseshoe

Toronto is located within the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH). The 32,000 square kilometers incorporates 41% of Ontario's farms, over 50% of food manufacturing, 21 upper and single tier municipalities, 89 lower tier municipalities, and around 65% of agri-food jobs including 35, 584 primary agricultural jobs. Over 200 different agricultural products are grown or raised in the GGH. Toronto is known internationally for its progressive food policy environment. A leader in urban food policy, the Toronto Food Policy Council first convened in 1991 following the 1986 WHO gathering that established good health as requiring peace, shelter, education, food, income, a stable ecosystem, and social justice and equity. This active stance continues to the present as the TFPC, still housed under Toronto Public Health, uses food as a lever for change across a range of issues including food access, planning, food distribution, youth and rural issues that include conservation, farmland preservation, agriculture and animal resources and agricultural value-added opportunities. The TFPC contributes to initiatives that include urban and rural considerations. A key outcome of this interaction is the 'Food and Farming Action Plan 2021' (2011). The report recognizes the opportunity to provide more healthy local food to local consumers and points to the high rates of food imported into the region. There is a parallel process integrating regional land use planning tools. The need for improved land use management that includes agriculture is recognized with agriculture situated within the broader context of urban population growth, housing, transportation demands, water quality and quantity, and air quality.

Focus/Objectives

Toronto, Canada has a long history of food policy and programmes. These include programmes and policies oriented at improving access to healthy food; urban, local and regional agriculture production; food markets, nutrition education and food skills, food business promotion, food asset mapping, and localised consumption. As Toronto began to realise that its food security was also dependent on preserving rural farmland in surrounding areas, since 2012 the Toronto Food Policy Council has expanded its area of intervention to include the Greater Golden Horseshoe area surrounding the city – an area of rapid population growth and diminishing agricultural lands.

As part of this increased city region focus, Toronto felt the need to better map and understand dynamics of the city region and adhered to the Toronto city region food system research, part of the joint RUAF and FAO City Region Food System programme implemented in 7 cities (2015-2018).

As part of that programme, it defined its vision to provide healthy food for all, sourced as regionally as possible, and as sustainably produced, processed, packaged, and distributed as possible.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

Next to its own Toronto city food programmes that are extensively documented elsewhere , and as part of its regional work, Toronto and other actors implemented the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance, Asset Mapping Project in 2015. The Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance is comprised of the Niagara Agricultural Policy and Action Committee, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, the Friends of the Greenbelt, the Ontario Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, Holland Marsh Growers' Association, Durham College, Country Heritage Park, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Ecosource, Food and Beverage Ontario, the Regions of Durham, Halton, Niagara, Peel, York, and the Cities of Hamilton and Toronto, as well as local representatives from the food and farming value chain. The Alliance was developed to oversee the implementation of the Food and Farming Action Plan 2021. Municipalities were approached both to support the Action Plan and to contribute financially to the Alliance. This funding leverages other funding from the province and other partners. The Alliance has developed a tool that helps municipalities in the region gather data and map the agri-food value chain. The Food Asset Mapping project was piloted in the Golden Horseshoe and expanded in 2015 to the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Food assets include the local food infrastructure that ensures food-secure communities and region – farms, processing and distribution capacity, food enterprises, markets, retailers, community gardens, urban farms, community kitchens, student nutrition programmes, emergency food distribution, and community food organisations or centres. The food asset mapping undertaken by the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance will reveal how a regional food systems governance body can assess and track local food assets as a way to connect farmers with processors, manufacturers, and new markets. Planners involved are using the information to understand how land use policy and economic development programmes can best support the agri-food sector and support the implementation of the Food and Farming Action Plan 2021. This tool is available to municipal staff in participating municipalities (<http://www.foodandfarming.ca/research/>).

From 2015 Toronto developed further city region food system (CRFS) analysis. This process built on existing data and the engaged food community. The CRFS assessment consists of a descriptive assessment of the local context and CRFS, based on secondary data, case studies and stakeholder consultations. It followed with further in-depth assessment and definition of policy priorities and interventions around the subject of food hubs/logistics.

Key actors involved and their role

Active engagement throughout the process with members of the: Toronto Food Policy Council; Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance; Greater Toronto Area Agricultural Action Committee; City of Toronto Economic Development; academic practitioners from York University, University of Toronto and Ryerson University with experience in nutrition, public health, policy; Ontario Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Rural Affairs. In addition, primary data gathering involved more than 80 key informants and more than twenty public meetings.

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

As reported by Hoekstra and Baker in a recent report on city-region food systems, impacts of food policies and programmes in Toronto region over the past years include:

- an additional 38 farmers' markets in public parks and 248 school & community gardens;
- with FoodShare, 160,257 students fed through 724 student nutrition programmes;
- 1.8 million acres of farmland protected by the Greenbelt;
- 2 mobile good food market trucks;
- 23 community food agencies supported;
- 116 kitchens available across Toronto for community use;

- 10 CAD million per year for local food businesses and projects funded through the provincial three-year initiative;
- Setting food literacy goals to increase knowledge about local food;

Building on this work, the CRFS research included food flow analysis within the GGH as well as wide consultation across the study area. The CRFS process resulted in the identification of eight policy gaps for further action: 1. Develop and support for transition to mid-scale infrastructure (regional processing, distribution, marketing) 2. Establish financial resources that support a range of scales and stages 3. Establish scale-appropriate regulations and feasibility assessments for midscale infrastructure like regional food hubs. 4. Increase research and educational opportunities directed at regional agriculture and regional infrastructure needs linked to shorter supply chains 5. Provide sufficient social assistance, through a guaranteed income or other measures, to ensure that everyone can afford to eat healthy food. 6. Establish a national food policy and a national school food policy. 7. Ensure widespread formalization and implementation of public procurement policies for local food (with percentages and budgets to meet policy goals) 8. Revise the labour practices, government support and subsidy programs to ensure the necessary skilled labour for all food system areas with tenure security and fair compensation for work.

The first four areas cluster around the need for mid-scale infrastructure such as food hubs for distribution and food processing to provide the missing middle needed to support local food. As a result, these are the focus for Phase 3 of the CRFS project. In addition, the province of Ontario has launched a three-city pilot project for Basic Income. As well, preliminary consideration is underway to develop a national food strategy.

Challenges faced

Data availability from certain municipalities within the GGH was a limiting factor in developing a more comprehensive and detailed quantitative assessment for the GGH. Fortunately, there are robust existing data sets and a long and deep understanding of food system and policy issues in the GGH, which enabled the CRFS assessment to make a significant contribution to better understanding the opportunities and gaps within the GGH.

Lessons/Key messages

Key mechanisms that enable CRFS:

1. Realize policies and programs through:
 - a. Institutional, financial and human resources stability, ideally with legislative support food system goals embedded in city-region planning initiatives
 - b. Inclusive multi-stakeholder governance structures
2. Facilitate and support horizontal and vertical government integration, cooperation and dialogue:
 - Promote knowledge exchange across jurisdictions and scales of government especially urban and rural
 - Facilitate multi-actor/stakeholder engagement
3. Provide human and financial resources to enable integration and coordination
3. Develop food centred policies and programmes to support sustainability
 - Foster production in rural, peri-urban and urban settings
 - Use land use planning to protect water and land resources
 - Facilitate short food supply chains.

The on-going GGH CRFS research has provided insights into opportunities for realizing the objective to provide healthy food for all, sourced as regionally as possible, and as sustainably produced, processed, packaged, and distributed as possible.

[UN Habitat – Integrating urban-rural linkages into National Urban Policies](#)

Proponent

UN-HABITAT in partnership with United Nations Economic Commission of Africa (UNECA) and United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), associated partners include the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and other international development partners.

Main responsible entity

UN-Habitat, Urban Planning and Design Branch, Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit

Date/Timeframe

2018-2019 (tbd, the project might start late 2018 only)

Funding source

UN Development Account

Location

4 African Countries (countries to be defined, proposal: Cameroon, Nigeria, Tanzania (Zanzibar), Guinea Conakry)

Background/Context**Leaving No Place Behind: Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa: National Urban Policies for strengthened Urban-Rural Linkages.**

One component for changing urban-rural dynamics is enhancing rural urbanization and strengthening the role of small and intermediate cities for a balanced territorial approach. Small and intermediate cities play a crucial role as market point and are therefore strongly linked to Food Security Chains (both being entry points to the theme of Urban-Rural Linkages among several others such as flows of people, products and information; migration and mobility; regional and territorial spatial planning, etc.).

Progress on SDG 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) can, according to FAO, only be achieved by progressing on other SDGs. SDG 11, target 11.a. aims for Member States to “Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning” and by adopting the New Urban Agenda (para 95) Member States committed to “...support the implementation of integrated, polycentric and balanced territorial development policies and plans, encouraging cooperation and mutual support among different scales of cities and human settlements; strengthening the role of small and intermediate cities and towns in enhancing food security and nutrition systems;...”

Most National (Urban) Policies are yet to combine food security issues with spatial planning. UN-Habitat therefore proposes to support countries to develop and implement “integrated, polycentric and balanced territorial development policies and plans”, aiming to enhancing food security by making small and intermediate cities a strong element in National Urban Policies.

Focus/Objectives

One strategy to foster a balanced territorial development is integrating it into a National Urban Policy. With this proposal for UN Development Account funds, UN-Habitat aiming to support 4 African Countries in developing and integrating Urban-rural linkages into a National Urban Policy.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

Main objective of the project: To build and strengthen capacities of policy makers and change agents at all levels to collect and use evidence for fostering cross-sectoral, multilevel frameworks and action plans for integrated and inclusive territorial development that promotes urban-rural linkages and reduces the

development gap. One strategy for integrated and balanced territorial development is changing the urban-rural dynamics and enhancing capacities of key actors in small and intermediate cities, in their role as market places as well as first access points for the rural population for administrative, economic, finance, educational and medical services. Promoting the rural urbanization will have a strong impact on food production chains and food security for both, rural and urban population.

Key actors involved and their role

UN-Habitat and our partners to provide advisory services to the African Countries selected in regards

- Enhanced the capacities of policy makers to collect evidence needed to develop national and regional urban development frameworks that support the integration of urban-rural linkages;
- Enhanced capacities of policy makers to utilize this evidence for developing policies that strengthen urban-rural linkages; Specific roles of the partners within the project need to be defined.

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

Strengthened urban –rural linkages will enhance the connectivity and flow of people, information and products (such as agricultural products). Due to changing diets and as well as a higher demand for processed food, new priorities need to be set – and planned for also in the spatial context. National urban policies with a focus on urban-rural linkages will support a balanced territorial development and have an impact on food supply chains and food systems.

Challenges faced

(The project has not yet started).

Assumptions for challenges that will be faced:

- Available data
- National governments need to promote decentralization
- Integration of all stakeholder in the process
- Governance issues –
Long-term process

Lessons/Key messages

Lessons: ...The project has not yet started.

Key messages:

- Enhanced urban-rural linkages impact Food security for both, urban and rural population.
- Strengthened Urban-rural linkages will help to bridge the development gap and promote equality.
- Changing urban-rural dynamics need to be linked to national frameworks and can not only be addressed by local governments.
- National Urban Policies are one tool for ensuring and promoting a balanced territorial development.

Slovenia – rural-urban linkages through inter-generational cooperation

Proponent

InTeRCeR

Funding source

Limited donation from Austria which covers office rent, accounting costs, and allows for further development of the project through national and international calls for funding. However, all team work is done on a voluntary basis.

Location

Maribor and rural area around the town. There are plans to extend implementation to other regions of Slovenia and abroad.

Background/Context

There is dramatically high unemployment in the town of Maribor, and a large number of socially endangered people whose salary is nowhere near sufficient for a decent livelihood. The population would like to eat healthy food but they cannot afford it; they would also like to grow their own food but have neither the land nor the necessary expertise. In the surrounding countryside there are many elderly farmers who cannot work on the land due to their age and cannot earn a living from agriculture. Their small pension is not enough to even live decently. Consequently, the land is overgrown and both landscape diversity and biodiversity of traditional cultural landscapes are disappearing fast. Both these groups are socially isolated and suffer from serious psychosocial conditions. Depression and apathy are rife among the population of Slovenia. Those who are employed live in fear of losing their jobs – many workers earn minimum salaries which do not provide them with a decent living; they too live at the constant risk of poverty. Domestic food production in Slovenia offers the lowest level of self-sufficiency. The situation is worsening and the Ministry of Agriculture has done nothing so far to halt this trend. Experience to date has shown that there is no will to implement the present project despite the fact that there are negative demographic trends in the rural areas, overgrowing of agricultural land and low food self-sufficiency.

Focus/Objectives

Connect these two socially endangered groups from different environments (rural and urban) under the umbrella of a food-producing cooperative with the aim to improve their social and economic situation. Elderly farmers can teach people from towns to grow food, and they themselves can share in the harvest. During this process people will also learn the traditional knowledge of food processing, crafts and skills which will provide them with a basis for future employment. This approach will also function as a process of integration: the ultimate aim of the project is to establish Work Integration Social Enterprise for the benefit of both groups, and extend this model to other regions of Slovenia and abroad.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

Empower people to engage in intergenerational cooperation; establish common practices (cooperation, cooperatives, inter-generational transfer of knowledge) which are relatively unknown in today's society, but were common until 1991. Experience has shown that people are often unwilling or afraid to reintroduce these practices, but both the knowledge and experience is still present among the older generation. The present situation is partly due to a legislation which punished people financially who helped each other to develop community practices (which have been present throughout history in this

area, and which enabled people to survive in the past). One could say that people are still living in a fear which is greater than that experienced in the former Yugoslavia.

Key actors involved and their roles

- Elderly farmers: allow them to recommence farming on their land; to teach other people how to grow food (transferring the knowledge of the older generation to the younger), imparting insights into the possibilities of earning income from agriculture, traditional crafts and skills.
- Unemployed and social endangered people in towns: provide them with the opportunity to learn how to grow food, and how to exploit traditional crafts and skills which can help improve their social and economic condition.
- Members of the Institute InTeRCeR team: connecting people, helping them through cooperation with experience and knowledge, management and coordination of processes.
- Founders: enabling the implementation of the entire process.

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

The biggest change in agriculture in Slovenia took place in 1991. Up until this time, Slovenia was self-sufficient and the entire food-processing chain was founded in domestic production. Agricultural policies were based on the approach of cultivating agricultural land, and all those who owned land could earn an income from cultivation. There were also a large number of direct contacts between farmers and consumers, with direct buying from farmers: know your farmer. Slovenia then entered the “free market” era, and the problems began. The change in the system brought with it mistrust: there was no corresponding legal protection against criminal behaviour such as non-payment and fraud. The current policy of subsidizing agriculture does not favour small farmers who live in areas with limitations to agriculture; consequently, small farmers are abandoning agricultural production.

Challenges faced

The biggest hurdle which has prevented project implementation is Slovenian legislation. The approach used in the project is considered as illegal. The problems addressed by the project are mixed and diverse; there is a need for interdepartmental coordination but the relevant ministries are not willing to cooperate among themselves to support the project. The WILSE (Work Integration Social Enterprise) initiative needs funding due to fact that the most important impact is work integration of long-term unemployed and socially endangered people. Yet there is no interest among the relevant ministries to support the project’s application for national and international calls for funding.

Lessons/Key messages

Slovenia is not ready yet for the social innovation described here, even though the project has received awards abroad, the most important being the selection from among 30 semi-finalists in the European Social Innovation Competition 2015. Because of legislation problems in Slovenia, the project was not allowed to receive one of the awards, despite the fact that it showed the biggest social impact among all selected projects. We need to take a different approach to legislation: an integral approach, from the southern hemisphere – favouring nature and the community; legislation on the protection of nature; social legislation and that involving human rights, especially legislation for an acceptable standard of living for citizens. The right to live in a natural environment, to have access to clean drinking water, to eat healthy food and to live with dignity should be accorded to every citizen of Slovenia. In this situation the only viable possibility is to go abroad and to start work there with the implementation of the project – in the international environment.

Mercato Metropolitano

Main responsible entity

Mercato Metropolitano ltd
The FarMM ltd

Date/Timeframe

May 2015 – ongoing

Funding source

Private

Location

Two pilots have been launched in Milan and Turin in 2015. Since July 2016, the initiative is active in London. The program targets urban and associated rural areas across the world in need of regeneration (from Miami to Tokyo, from Manchester to Nairobi, Teheran, Tel Aviv and Cape Town).

Background/Context

In a context of broken food systems, data show:

- A convergence towards a diet high in fat, sugar and processed food, often associated with sedentariness and high levels of Non-Communicable Diseases;
- The exacerbation of the Double Burden of Malnutrition, which encompasses both undernutrition and over-nutrition
- Limited access of small producers to national and international markets due to:
 - Scarce education and use of ICT
 - Infrastructure gaps
 - Fragmentation related to small/micro business dimension
 - Lack of business capacity to organize into integrated, result-oriented structures
 - Limited capacity to find appropriate marketing channels and access to appropriately priced local financing
 - Global competition from big industries, which can reach all markets at low prices
- Scarce customer education on value of natural, sustainable products, compared with low-price, easy-to-prepare “junk foods”.
- Rise in urban agriculture (UPA), now responsible for 15/20% of global food supply. Still illegal in some countries, it provides a significant contribution to household food security and valorizes the nutritional and social value of food.

In this complex and emerging context, the project celebrates food as an important catalyst for conviviality and social cohesion. At the same time, it helps build inclusive development in local communities and contributes to economic development by supporting the regeneration of declining urban areas. Mercato Metropolitano acts as magnets for education around food and nutrition, community led gardens and sourcing ventures, as well as other community development activities, embracing the arts and focused on young people. Food is put at the center of culture and community in a sustainable way.

Focus/Objectives

The initiative aims to:

- create a sustainable community market concept, which targets urban and rural areas in need of regeneration. Working with local governments and strategic partners, it generates business and social ecosystems, where neglected metropolitan areas need it most, thereby stimulating private investments with the initiative providing an anchor for sales and marketing.
- bring natural, sustainable food producers and consumers closer together. Acting as an aggregator, the initiative reduces supply fragmentation while providing a reliable marketing channel for small-scale agri-food actors.
- raise awareness about sustainability, environmental, economic and social issues. To educate adults and children on the nutritional, cultural and social value of food.
- boost sustainable and inclusive economic growth by creating new jobs for low-skilled workers. The initiative is able to offer opportunities across the community and encourages social engagement, involving individuals and organizations independent of their political, religious or social status. Simply put, in the communal experience of eating and preparing food together acts as a foundation for integration helping people to meet in a place where they can experience the taste of simple and authentic beliefs.
- promote research and innovation, inside and alongside the agri-food sector. To promote start-ups and cooperate with educational institutions, providing support to talented students in developing their career in the field of food, nutrition or environment.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

The experience is characterized by a holistic approach to food and nutrition security, embracing a multitude of factors such as food availability, food access, education, social inclusion, innovation, and urbanization.

This approach is combined with a Quadruple Helix model: the program is designed and implemented in a continuous dialog with public authorities, business actors, universities and communities.

Food becomes part of a broader intervention, a means of stimulating sustainable and inclusive development in challenging and declining environments. This is a flexible model that adapts itself to specific conditions: there are no rules, but values that aim to empower traditions, while enhancing local food security.

Key actors involved and their role

Participation is at the basis of the present initiative, which involves several key actors:

- Local communities. A first contact is established to present the program, set up conditions for project's acceptance and understand local needs.
- NGOs and non-for-profit. This collaboration ensures the participation of the most vulnerable people to the project
- Farmers and small-scale producers. They act as project's partners for the supply of high-quality food, which complies with sustainable production standards
- Customers. Direct customer feedbacks help to shape the program and adapt to changing necessities.
- Public and private institutions (governments, international organizations, universities). This cooperation aims to create a highly collaborative environment where academics, policy-makers, professionals and entrepreneurs work together to address issues such as food security, sustainability and traceability, sharing vision and principles for coordinated intervention.

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

The success of a retail concept, which does not commercialize any industrial mass products (e.g. Coca-Cola) but only natural and locally owned ones demonstrates that people are naturally attracted to healthy, nourishing food and to food education. In a low/middle-income residential area in South London, a vibrant melting pot of ethnic groups (the highest number of Colombian and Congolese residents in London), MM captivates 150.000 people/month.

Children participate in cooking classes; families, young adults and the elderly populate the whole place. The multi-generational space, rare in modern city life, is centered around healthy food and brings people into contact with food and nutrition security in a way that allows them to engage with issues naturally. It is offering a demonstration of how food security is a cross-cutting issue which concerns people of all ages, sex and social status.

More than 100 local producers have found in MM a platform for internationalization and aggregation, an opportunity to try their hand at direct marketing with minimal upfront investment. National and international institutions have shown their interest in the project and universities are in contact with MM's board of directors to present and study the project as a Sustainable Business/Policy Case (Harvard Model). Mercato Metropolitano is now recognized to be a movement, a complex structure of highly passionate professionals, who share a vision for a world without hunger, poverty and social injustices.

Challenges faced

One of the main challenges of the project is the current level of underfunding, which creates constraints for development. Nevertheless, the management has been able to implement an innovative approach with a solid basis for further expansion. A closer collaboration with the public sector might help to overcome this limitation. Expressions of interest are multiplying from cities around the world, and depending on the city, the possibility for redevelopment of large tracts of land in marginal urban areas offers public sector leadership that would allow the initiative to move forward more swiftly. Scarcity of well-performing small artisans needs a structured approach to vendor onboarding and start-up. Suppliers evaluation and selection, combined with education and training is fundamental to achieve project objectives.

Lessons/Key messages

The FarMM and MM profess the following values:

- Food excellence
- Craftsmanship
- Urban renewal
- Sustainability
- Short food value chain
- Engagement
- Consistency
- Glocal approach
- farm-to-mouth CSR

This experience shows that people care about social projects focused on local and global issues that affect present and future generations. In Milan, more than 2 million people came to visit the site in 4 months, about 28.000 micro and small farmers have been involved in the project, and more than 300 new jobs have been created.

An effective policy should be based on participative processes. Public/private initiatives must be presented beforehand to target communities, which share opinions, express doubts and specify needs. This step eventually brings to adjustments before implementation.

Finally, recognizing the multiple dimension of food security is a key element to success. A comprehensive public/private program is not sector-specific. Instead, it analyses and tackles direct and indirect causes of food security.

Lusaka (Zambia) – Responsible waste management

Main responsible entity

Lusaka City Council

Date/Timeframe

The project is still at conceptual stage. The pilot will be done for a period of three years from July 2017-June 2020

Funding source

The project will be co-funded by Lusaka City Council and Kasisi Agricultural Training Center

Location

Lusaka, Zambia

Background/Context

Lusaka is the capital city of Zambia and is experiencing one of the fastest urbanization rates in Africa. The city covers an area of 360 square kilometers and is not only the most populated but most densely populated city in the country. It had a population of 2,191,225 and density of **100 persons per km²** as of 2010. This characteristic of the city implies that the city's expanding population cannot be supported comfortably due to insufficient land to support agriculture activities. The situation is worsened by the growing need for housing development which seems to be a more lucrative investment than agricultural production. Thus Lusaka relies on nearby peri-urban areas for supply of fresh foods to the city. An on-going project by the Food and Agriculture Organization in Zambia called "City Regions Food Systems" reports that food losses and food waste have been observed to be major concern for the city region food system, especially at the market level. This is as a result of poor transportation facilities, bad road network and lack of storage facilities to mention but a few. This negatively impacts farmer incomes as a good amount of produce is lost before it reaches the market. It also creates a challenge for waste management for the city council due to huge amounts of waste that has to be disposed.

The Lusaka City Council therefore intends to partner with organic farming institute called Kasisi Agriculture Training Centre which requires a huge tonnage of organic waste to make manure. This will help the local authority with waste management as well as promote better nutrition for the city through promotion of organic farming products. It is hoped that after the pilot project, the council may be able to assess the projects viability and demand for organic waste such that farmers from the nearby Peri-Urban areas may not entirely lose out when their produce goes to waste but can sell their damaged produce at a minimal fee. It is also hoped that through this project, demand can be created for organic waste and other large scale farmers can partner with the council. The project also hopes to train

underprivileged women in organic farming to increase their incomes given that organic produce fetches more monetary value as compared to conventionally grown produce.

Focus/Objectives

The major objective of the project will be to alleviate the problem of food losses and food waste by getting economic value out of food that does not make it to the table. More specific objectives will include:

1. Assess the possibility of increasing farmer incomes by buying off wasted produce
2. Increasing possible incomes for women who will be trained by Kasisi Training institute in organic farming as they will get higher incomes by producing organic agricultural produce
3. Supporting the production of more organic food stuff as it is healthier and has friendlier environmental impacts
4. Improve waste management in the city
5. Improving the culture of waste separation which the city is struggling with at the moment

Key characteristics of the experience/process

Lusaka City Council manages all markets within the city and is consequently responsible for waste management in the markets. Currently, waste collection is a challenge because waste management fees charged by the council are insufficient to collect all the generated waste and the council usually has insufficient resources and collect and dispose of waste generated in the markets. Much of the waste results from food coming from the nearby towns due to lack of storage facilities and poor infrastructure to get the produce to market in time. On the other hand, Kasisi Agriculture training center is an agriculture training institute for Jesuits of the catholic church and it trains students in organic farming. The training center also has a large farm where they grow organic produce.

The project will therefore aggregate food waste from the markets and supply it to Kasisi Agriculture Training Center to be used in the institute's farm. While the council will be responsible for separation of waste at source and aggregation of the waste, the training institute will be responsible for collection thereby enhancing council's efforts in management of waste. The council will also sponsor a selected number of women (from its existing women groups engaged in gardening) to the agriculture institute to be trained in organic farming. During the project, assessments will be done on how to economically value wasted fresh foods so that eventually, the farmer can sell wasted food at a small fee thereby improve farmer incomes. This will reduce the amount of food that goes to waste and make better use of the wasted product.

Key actors involved and their role

The project will involve four major actors:

1. The local authority whose role will be food waste aggregation in the market place
2. Kasisi Agricultural Training Institute whose role will be to transport the waste from points of aggregation to the their farm as well as to train the less privileged women that will the local authority will sponsor
3. Women groups that will be sponsored to be trained in organic farming
4. Selected researcher to assess the amount of food waste generated, amount of organic fertilizer generated from the waste and possible value for the farmer as well as cost sharing mechanisms in the aggregation and transportation costs for future pricing of the wasted food staffs.

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food

systems

This project is still at conceptual stage but it is hoped that the following results will be achieved at the end of the project:

1. Reduced economic losses (improved economic muscle and food security) for the farmer as a result of reduced food waste
2. Improved nutritional status of the city due to improved farming methods through increased production of organic farm produce
3. Improved incomes of women who will be trained in organic farming thereby improving their food security status
4. Promotion of sustainable agriculture systems through increased organic farming

Anticipated Challenges

Anticipated challenges on the project include:

1. It is expected that the women who will be trained in organic farming might have challenges in marketing their produce in the local markets as organic products are usually sold in local super markets which require large quantities in order to purchase from the farmer. It is hoped that since Kasisi agriculture training institute produces organic farm produce on a large scale, they can buy the produce from the women and aggregate with what they produce.
2. Once the pilot project is over and the farmer can sell wasted produce. The challenge anticipated is that who will bear the cost of aggregating the food waste to make it easy for Kasisi institute to collect large amounts of the waste. This is a concern because during the pilot project the food waste will be free but it is hoped that eventually the farmer can get a return on the wasted product. This has an implication on attaining the objective of the project to increase the farmer's income. It is hoped that the researcher to be engaged will clearly show how all parties can benefit from the project.

Key messages

1. Food waste can be useful and has economic value
2. Promotion of organic farming can increase incomes for poor households
3. Challenges that result in food losses faced by farmers from rural and peri-urban areas such as poor transportation and inadequate storage facilities can be alleviated by making use of the wasted products

Argentina – ProHuerta Programme**Main responsible entity**

Ministry of Social Development - Argentina

Date/timeframe

Since 1990 to date

Funding source

National

Location

Argentina - National scope

Background/Context

The Pro Huerta programme was launched in Gran Buenos Aires, Rosario, Santa Fe and Mendoza on 3 August 1990, and further expanded throughout the country.

The programme promotes the development of agroecological fruit cultivation in small farms, supplementing the diet with the inclusion of hens and rabbits. It also features special projects to facilitate the access to water to highly socially vulnerable communities, and to support local and personal capacities to develop technologically appropriate tools.

Focus/Objectives

Overall objective:

Contributing to guaranteeing food security of socially vulnerable populations in rural and urban areas by increasing the availability, accessibility and variety of food products. And promoting and developing the marketing of surpluses, through the self-production of fresh food complementing their dietary needs in agroecological gardens and farms, according to the distinctive features and habits of each region.

Specific objectives:

1. Promoting joint management and inter-institutional coordination mechanisms that contribute to guarantee the right to work and the right to food of the socially vulnerable population in urban, peri-urban and rural areas.
2. Fostering, strengthening and establishing local food production and marketing systems within the framework of social economy.
3. Facilitating the access to safe water for consumption and irrigation.
4. Strengthening the local and regional production of local crops and native seeds, increasing the value of indigenous food products.
5. Raising awareness of the importance of following a healthy diet and protecting the environment.
6. Contributing to promote work-related creativity, skills and crafts, and homemade manufacturing of facilities and tools to produce healthy food.
7. Strengthening the teams of institutional technicians and local volunteer promoters, through training and information, for community work related to the programme.
8. Promoting the coordination between the general public, family producers, promoters, technicians and focal points by strengthening communication.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

The territorial scope of the programme is broad, mobilizing a federal network of 7 500 volunteer promoters. Its activities involve 3 000 organizations and institutions, and 465 thousand family gardens, 6 000 school gardens, 1 000 community gardens and 2 700 gardens in institutions. Furthermore, special projects are implemented in coordination with diverse groups, organizations and institutions as well as local governments. These features demonstrate that institutional networks and their continuous community engagement stand out as a social inclusion policy.

The participation of volunteer promoters supporting technical teams in everyday tasks undoubtedly reflects a key and unique feature explaining the support of this programme. These volunteers collaborate on a daily basis as social agents, who do not only support the programme, but also solve everyday challenges.

All these features and background have made this programme a model experience, globally acknowledged for its interventions in countries like Haiti and Angola, as well as other countries in Latin America. This international scope is supported by the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

Key actors involved and their role

The programme was implemented by the Ministry of Social Development and the INTA (National Institute of Agricultural Technology)

Key changes observed leading to an improvement of food security and nutrition

Pro Huerta works with more than 4 million people and 10 000 institutions and organizations, and participates in more than 600 agroecological fairs, guaranteeing an improvement in the dietary habits, developing technologies focused on food self-production, strengthening families, communities and organizations, promoting a fair and supportive economy, improving the environment and raising awareness of civil rights.

Challenges faced and how they were overcome

The programme has faced multiple challenges during the last 24 years. Featuring a distinctive production model addressing the needs of family agriculture on a agroecological basis and involving a national policy targeting socially vulnerable households, it had to overcome difficulties to be institutionally acknowledged. Over the years, the programme has built its own identity and has been distinguished by its innovative production of agroecological food and the support it has provided to the disadvantaged groups.

It should be noted that these challenges strengthened the foundations of the programme by promoting the integration of technical, management and civil teams: a sign of the empowerment of the capacities that have been built and developed during so many years.

Lessons/key messages

Fostering actions that strengthen food security and sovereignty is essential. In this way, social rights are promoted and enforced, developing as a result enhanced individual and community capacities.

The approach based on participation and community action, involves multiplier agents who solve everyday situations. The State facilitates all the changes but the people make their own decisions about their lives.

The Pro Huerta programme protects nature and the environment and promotes care and solidarity. It enables the transformation of local and everyday realities towards sustainable development improving the quality of life.

Hence, the programme avoids welfare-oriented and unilateral actions, becoming itself a State policy that turns a need into an opportunity to build active citizenship.

Santiago (Chile) – bridging the gap between urban and rural areas through Information and Communication Technologies (ITCs)

Proponent

FAO

Main responsible entity

Public Policies Training Unit – Urban Agriculture Information Platform

Date/Timeframe

2009 - 2016

Funding source

FAO

Location

Santiago, Chile

Background/Context

Information and communication technologies (ICT) are offering more opportunities for meeting, whilst enhancing closeness, access to information, and knowledge as a result. In this way, new educational scenarios and environments are enabled, bridging the gap between urban and rural areas, and facilitating knowledge sharing.

The platform “Urban and peri-urban agriculture as a tool to achieve food security and to fight against hunger at the local level”, within the framework of the Public Policies Training Unit, is a successful example in this field.

In this platform, urban and peri-urban agriculture emerges as a link between urban and rural areas, acting as a gateway to address the sustainability of the current food system, interrelating processes like the responsible management of natural resources with consumption, but also with governance and institutional capacities, especially of local governments, with the aim of introducing and integrating new agents to address the migration, food insecurity, marginality and urban growth issues.

In such a heterogenous region, the digital gap is evident. Since 2009, approximately 800 people have participated in this platform. 65% of them completed the programme whilst the remaining 35% didn't, due to the lack of connectivity, access and infrastructures in the rural or peri-urban areas that would allow them to participate and exchange their experiences in a virtual environment.

Focus/Objectives

This model focuses on the participants and the creation of a collaborative learning process.

Collaborative learning using ICT highlights the importance of joint participation through dialogues, forums, thoughts, discussions, group work, readings, recommended literature and real case studies among others.

The focus of this platform is based on the need of approaching issues from the perspective of those involved and their environment to address the divergences between current trends and real experiences. Therefore, the platform entails active participation, not only in the achievement of a target, but also in feedback and networking.

The overall objective of the virtual platform is to “Contribute to the improvement of urban food security and the sustainability of local food systems by integrating urban agriculture as a municipal and territorial development tool in Latin America and the Caribbean “. This is achieved by:

- 1) Using appropriate methodological tools to inform, transmit and transfer all the knowledge gained, related to urban and peri-urban agriculture at the municipal level.

2) Formulating and implementing public urban and peri-urban agricultural public policies at the municipal level, with a participatory and multi-stakeholder approach, and sharing experiences and knowledge.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

The outreach of ICT aims to improve urban food security by implementing tools that strengthen local food systems. In this way, the rapprochement between producers and consumers is facilitated, food needs of the most vulnerable urban populations are met, community bonds are created, public spaces are recovered, and entrepreneurship is broadened.

For this purpose, several conceptual, methodological and policy elements are made available to mainstream this production system in the municipal and territorial development plans.

Networking between stakeholders is voluntary and lasts for 11 weeks with the support of a mentor and regular meetings in virtual forums. Each participant describes his experience, provides information about its context, obtains the tools and completes practical exercises ranging from production itself to municipal management. The final product is an urban agriculture project, with a holistic approach ranging from production, capacity building and advocacy to public policy management or the creation of interest groups.

Key actors involved and their role

Active participants: Local government officials, central government officials (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Education), civil society, academia, facilitators

Technical team: FAO officials, platform technical support team and a mentor/facilitator/expert

Key changes observed involving an improvement of food security and nutrition

Some of the participants trained in urban and peri-urban agriculture are still linked to projects related to food systems and food security, with topics like urban and peri-urban production, food cooperatives, education projects, local management, or the establishment of inclusive markets, among others.

Challenges faced and how they were overcome

These platforms face a broad digital gap at the regional level. Although many countries have improved their connectivity in rural areas, there are significant differences at the territorial level. Some of the challenges are:

- 1) Monitoring the participants and consolidating future cooperation.
- 2) Enhancing the sustainability of the platform.
- 3) Strengthening intersectoral work.
- 4) Reassessing the architecture of the information included in these platforms.

Information is currently being collected with participants from all versions of the course, seeking information on ongoing experiences, new areas of interest, in such a way to strengthen the platform as a meeting place and an opportunity to reduce knowledge gaps between urban and rural contexts.

Lessons/key messages

These communication forums favour networking and cooperation between diverse stakeholders and experiences, with the objective of integrating new approaches to institutional arrangements in a regional community where information, knowledge and initiatives are provided on a regular basis. The challenge is empowering and envisaging a more effective environment where participants can develop, integrate and maintain their contextual knowledge. And boosting collaborative networks based on local experiences.

One hundred thousand gardens in Tuscany (Italy)

Proponent

Anci Toscana

The Association of Municipalities of Tuscany, ANCI Tuscany (www.ancitoscana.it), is a non-profit association established to achieve the system of local and regional Tuscan autonomies founded on the principles of freedom, democracy and citizen participation. ANCI Tuscany represents 269 Municipalities (99% of the Tuscan Municipalities and 98% of total population) and constitutes the regional branch of the National Association of Italian Municipalities that represents 7318 Italian Municipalities (90% of the Italian population). The Association's main aim is the promotion and strengthening of institutional, regulatory, financial and organizational autonomy of municipalities and other Tuscan autonomies derived by the municipalities through continuous action aimed at promoting and supporting the effective implementation of the principles established by the Constitution of the Republic, the Statute of the Tuscany Region and European Charter of Local Autonomies. The Association represents the system of Tuscan municipalities, promotes development and growth of local autonomies system, protects and represents its interests, even in relations with other institutions and administrations, with economic, political, and social organizations at regional context. The Association takes care of the collection, analysis and dissemination of data and information concerning Tuscan municipalities and delivers support, technical assistance and provision of services to Tuscan municipalities. It promotes the coordination of activities of municipalities and associated bodies and organizational integration in areas where it can achieve the same levels of greater efficiency, effectiveness and economy, the decentralization of the functions of public interest at every level in a logic of institutional subsidiarity and simplification of administrative procedures, forms of coordination among the entities associated at level of territorial areas and on specific thematic needs. Thanks to its high experience designing, managing and implementing EU projects and its high-skilled staff, ANCI Tuscany is very active in the field of EU funded projects, both as Lead Partner that Partner. Through its subsidiary company, Anci Innovazione, ANCI Tuscany supports local public administrations in the management of innovation at technical and organizational level alongside the Tuscany Region and other Italian public administrations in the realization of innovative projects and services to citizens. It participates and supports proactively initiatives related to the Europe 2020 strategic pillars and in particular to the Digital Agenda at a regional, national and European level.

Main responsible entities

Regione Toscana through Ente Terre Regionali Toscane and Anci Toscana

Date/Timeframe

From 2015 to 2018

Funding source

The main funding sources are public, they comes from Regione Toscana and from municipalities who participates to the initiative.

Location

Tuscany and in particular 6 pilot municipalities and all Tuscan municipalities who took part in the initiative

Background/Context

The urban gardening phenomenon began to develop around the 80s, experiencing a strong growth in the last decade. Urban and community gardens have become more and more common in international

metropolises. They can be considered as an important tool to trigger urban regeneration processes, promoting socialization among citizen and the recovery of abandoned areas. The development of activities for the creation of gardens in urban and suburban areas reduces the gap between citizens and agriculture, enhances local food productions and traditions and a new policy that take into consideration the changing relationship between rural and urban areas.

Urban gardens are mainly located in slummy suburban areas in Tuscany and they are managed by old people who usually grow vegetables and fruit for their family needs. Urban gardens have unevenly spread over the territory, due to the lack of a common strategy and guidelines for the homogeneous development of such spaces.

Some Tuscan municipalities such as Florence, Livorno, Grosseto, Bagno a Ripoli have introduced innovative elements regarding the cultivation and management of such spaces, creating models for social inclusion and for the distribution of food to the most vulnerable social groups. Urban gardens have thus started to be perceived not just as a resource for individuals but rather as a tool which can be used to improve life quality, urban sustainability and the relationship between citizens, nature and the environment.

Focus/Objectives

The key aim of the project was to define a Tuscan urban gardening model, allowing municipalities to recover available areas or to improve the ones which are currently used for such purposes. This aim matches the goal of radically change how these areas are perceived, turning recreational areas for elderly people into modern community centres for people of all ages which allow cultural exchange among farmers, youngsters and provide food for disadvantaged citizens. The new urban gardening model includes a series of guidelines which must be followed and respected by all structures on the regional territory.

The management of urban gardens has been assigned to charities in order to promote integration between agricultural, social, cultural and educational activities. Urban gardens represent a great resource for the community, especially in urban areas, since they can be used as a powerful tool to counteract isolation by fostering social bonds and to trigger urban regeneration processes.

Small-scale types of local and solidarity economy can be developed using urban gardens as means for sharing objectives and values. The meeting of different generations enables the exchange of experiences, thus becoming a key element for social development and for the enhancement of agricultural and environmental culture of the territory. Such model also disseminates education practices and information systems on agricultural traditions, the environment and on solidarity economy among communities that are often affected by individualism, with limited activity sharing among citizens.

The urban gardening model mainly targets young people, aiming to create opportunities for growth in the agricultural and social sector. Youngsters can indeed be regarded as a thriving source for innovative initiatives in which vegetable gardens, a fundamental element of rural cultures, can turn into a tool for aggregation and for the development of new shared management models of soils and activities.

Key characteristics of the experience/Process

The initiative “Centomila Orti in Toscana” (one hundred thousand gardens in Tuscany) is a regional governmental initiative for the 2015-2020 programming period. A working group established through a memorandum of understanding signed by Regione Toscana, Ente Terre Regionali Toscane, Anci Toscana and six pilot municipalities (Firenze, Bagno a Ripoli, Siena, Lucca, Livorno and Grosseto) launched the

initiative. A set of guidelines and project methods for the implementation of interventions on private or public areas was designed, together with a series of regulations for the horticultural spaces' management by those in charge. Various methodologies have been adopted in order to involve the citizens and the voluntary associations in the management of such spaces. The initiative was launched through a call for expressions of interest open to municipalities and an experimental call for the six pilot municipalities. A general call was prepared and the delivery of a guide was assigned to the Accademia dei Georgofili which provided information and advice for the implementation of the interventions to all actors involved in the initiative for each role.

Key actors involved and their role

Regione Toscana, Ente Terre Regionali Toscane, Anci Toscana e the six pilot municipalities with experience in this sector have established a working group for the definition of the Tuscan urban gardening model.

Regione Toscana has funded the initiative and issued a public call, originally open only to 6 municipalities for an experimental phase, then extended to all municipalities for the design and implementation of new gardens and the enhancement of the already existing ones.

Anci Toscana has promoted the initiative by getting all Tuscan municipalities involved, inviting them to express their interest and to take part in the public call for the realization of the interventions. Anci Toscana has organised and delivered a series of workshops and events targeting local authorities and aiming to gather innovative ideas and proposals in accordance with the identified model. It has also collected the instances and proceeded to a selection of them through a special committee composed by the main actors of the initiative.

62 municipalities, from urban and mountain areas, took place in the initiative with specific projects.

Key changes observed The new concept of urban garden has a strong aggregative, social and educational value which can be used to recover traditions, foster sustainable farming practices, and promote environmental education.

The recycling of waste and the rational use of natural resources are two concepts at the core of municipal planning. Such urban gardens also promote local food productions and the cultivation of local varieties of germplasm. The close tie between urban gardens and voluntary associations represents a baseline for the development of a new culture, where vegetables and fruit grown in urban gardens can be shared with disadvantaged citizens in soup kitchens or through the food bank and charities, in accordance with the provisions of law 155/2003 "Regulations governing the distribution of foodstuffs for purposes of social solidarity" and with regional law 32/2009 "Measures to combat poverty and social hardship through the redistribution of surplus food" which aims to foster the relationship among companies in the food sector, big food retailers, companies active in the catering sector and voluntary associations in order to ensure the goods which are no longer marketable but still edible are not wasted but transferred to soup kitchens and so on. The distribution phase is also included in specific aid and development projects. This represents an element of great importance in the municipalities' projects.

Challenges faces

The main challenge is to define a new policy to organized these areas in different urban and rural contexts. The new concept of urban garden has a strong aggregative, social and educational value which can be used to promote new approaches in environmental education, recover traditions, foster sustainable farming practices, rural responses to urbanization and promote nutrition issues and poverty reduction.

Lessons/Key messages

Over the last 50 years, urban gardening has been perceived as a pastime for the elderly or for hobbyists

but this activity is destined to become increasingly useful for a growing part of the population living in urban areas since the citizens will enjoy its environmental, social and economic benefits. If implemented properly, urban gardening in central areas or in the outskirts can considerably improve the quality of life, both in technical and scientific terms: this activity is closely linked to the improvement of the air's quality, of the management and storage of excess storm water to slow down the surface runoff, of the increase in biodiversity; the economic revaluation of properties and of neighborhoods adjacent to urban gardens is also a phenomenon which must be taken into account, as many experiences in Germany and USA clearly show. In many areas, urban gardens have indeed become interesting sites visited by curious people and specialists.

Another key aspect to be considered is the social impact of urban gardens: these areas can become community gardens (this is the case with many cities in Northern Europe) with benefits also in terms of integration of migrants who can be involved in such activities, developing a better knowledge of local traditions and sharing their experiences. According to law 166/2016 "Provisions concerning the donation and distribution of food and pharmaceutical products for social solidarity and for limiting waste", a portion of the annual harvest is to be donated to charities and to be used in soup kitchens or for other charity purposes.

This is the reason why the Tuscan urban gardening model also includes the management of "complex of gardens", granting free use to a third party that is to say charities, foundations and other institutions of private nature recognised under the 361/00 DPR, voluntary organization (L 266/91), social cooperatives (L 381/91,; non-profit organizations of social utility (Dlgs 460/97), social promotion associations (L 383/00), social enterprises (Dlgs 155/06), with priority for TAP (Temporary Associations of Purpose) which can ensure a sound management for the preservation of the areas' functionality and goods.

Urban gardening also allows the recovery of green areas, especially of public ones which need renovation: this activity represents a great chance for municipalities to start urban regeneration processes in their territories, boosting the attractiveness of certain areas while improving their management. Urban gardening thus becomes a powerful tool for landscape planning, with great potential for the tourism sector as well, and a new model of rural economy.

Kenya – WFP: Home Grown School Meals

Proponent

World Food Programme

Main responsible entity

- Government of Kenya, Ministry of Education
- WFP Kenya Country Office

Date/Timeframe

Since 2009

Funding source

- Government of Kenya
- Various international donors

Location

Kenya

Background/Context

School meals

Every day at least 368 million children across low-, middle- and high-income countries are fed at school by their governments. There are good reasons for this: school meals provide children with nutritious food that is essential for their development and learning and, where children or communities are in difficult or disrupted circumstances, can help children find regular support for their daily needs in the classroom.

School meals in Kenya

WFP started school feeding in Kenya in the 1980s, but since 2009 the government has been implementing a government-led home-grown school meals programme (HGSMP). The home-grown school meals programme provides locally produced and purchased food to children in school, with the dual objective of increasing local food production and ensuring school attendance.

Home-grown school meals in Kenya

In 2016, the government-led HGSMP targeted 950,000 children in both arid and semi-arid counties. In parallel, WFP continued to provide school meals for 430,000 children in the arid lands and targeted schools in the informal settlements in Nairobi, that are not yet covered by the HGSMP, where national capacities are still constrained, enrolment and attendance disparities significant, and food insecurity and malnutrition high. To support the sustainable expansion of the HGSMP, WFP also prepared schools in Nairobi, Tana River and parts of Turkana for inclusion into the national HGSMP; this involved another 152,000 children.

In Kenya's HGSMP model, funds are transferred from the National Treasury to the Ministry of Education and then to school accounts. The schools announce a call for tenders and buy food from local suppliers (traders or farmers). This model is used in both rural and urban areas, linking smallholder farmers to schools in both contexts.

WFP provides capacity development support to smallholder farmers, small-scale traders and food processors throughout the country. This is done through training and coaching, food purchases, donation of equipment and facilitation of access to structured markets. The training modules focus on post-harvest handling, agribusiness, financial literacy, gender and procurement processes for the home grown school meals programme (HGSMP) and other structured markets. As a result of these training and market linkage forums, targeted farmer organizations are now aware of the business opportunity offered by the HGSMP market and other markets.

With the support of WFP, the State Department of Agriculture, in consultation with other national and county government ministries, is developing a policy document to provide the basis for guaranteed mechanisms for at least 30 percent of foodstuffs for public institutions to be purchased from smallholder farmers.

Fresh food in Nairobi county

In 2016, WFP and the Government of Kenya also started looking at options to introduce fresh foods into school meals. Several models were initiated to test efficient and effective ways to incorporate locally sourced fresh foods in the school meals in Nairobi County. Three models are tested:

- an additional transfer to schools to cover the cost of fresh food

- using an off-site kitchen that aggregates fresh foods from the export market to deliver to schools
- repurposing cosmetically unacceptable fresh foods

These pilots are active in 88 schools in Nairobi county, reaching almost 80,000 students daily.

Focus/Objectives

- The objective of the HGSMP is to contribute to equitable access to quality education, improved retention, completion and transition rates, and provide a market for farmers.
- The plan is to have a fully government-led school meals programme by December 2018. In the long term, at least 30 percent of the food should be purchased from smallholder farmers.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

- The programme is transitioning from a WFP-led to a government-led programme and in 2016 over 60% of the served school meals were managed by the government.
- Both the government and WFP transfer cash to the schools, who are in charge of procuring locally the food for the school meals.

Key actors involved and their role

- Government of Kenya, Ministry of Education: responsible for the government-led home-grown school meals programme
- Government of Kenya, Ministry of Health: inspection of food quality
- School Meals Committee: administers and manages, at the school level, all facets of the HGSMP implementation, including procurement, food preparation and reporting
- Local traders: participate in tenders
- Farmers' organizations: inform farmers about market opportunities; aggregate supply
- WFP Kenya Country Office: responsible for the implementation of the WFP-led school meals programme and home-grown school meals programme; capacity strengthening of the farmers and farmers' organizations

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

The HGSMP was evaluated by an external evaluator in mid-2014 and the evaluator found that schools had received a total of Ksh 2.2 billion for local food procurement between 2009 and 2014 under the HGSMP, effectively turning school meals into a major market opportunity for the local farmers.

The evaluation did not measure the changes in food security and nutrition. However, a meta-analysis of 42 studies of school meals programmes around the world found a positive effect on the weight-per-age of the school children: +0.24kg/child/year in pre-school feeding and +0.37kg/child/year in school feeding (Kristjansson et al., 2016).

A Local Economy Wide Impact Evaluation (LEWIE) of the Kenyan HGSMP is scheduled in 2017.

Challenges faced

In some regions of Kenya the access of local farmers to the market of home-grown school meals remained limited in scale because of: irregular transfers of funds to schools; inadequate communication; low awareness amongst potential suppliers during procurement processes; low preference of some schools for locally produced foods.

Lessons/Key messages

By 2019, with sufficient funding and the required legal frameworks in place, Kenya could have one of the largest locally procured and fully government-financed school meals programmes in Africa.

Tuscany (Italy) – Parco Agricolo Perifluviale**Proponent**

Department of Architecture of the University of Florence
Metropolitan City of Florence
Municipality of Florence
Municipality of Scandicci
Municipality of Lastra a Signa

Main responsible entity

Department of Architecture of the University of Florence

Date/Timeframe

May 2015- September 2016

Funding source

Regional Authority for the promotion of participation of Tuscan Region (L:R: 46/2013).

Location

The project area coincides with the periurban area among Florence, Scandicci and Lastra a Signa. More specifically, the site covered by the project is the rural/agricultural area of these three municipalities included among the rivers Arno, Greve and Vingone.

Background/Context

The plain between Florence and Lastra a Signa, covered by the project, is strongly urbanized (in 1954 the urbanized surface was 23% of the total, passed to 60,5% in 2007). Nevertheless, the territory situated on the left side of the Arno river preserves a rural connotation, hosting proximity agriculture and horticulture. In some riverfront areas (Mantignano, San Colombano) and on the lower hilly slopes of Scandicci, there are small or medium plots of land creating an agricultural mosaic. This kind of fabric is characterized by the association of arboreal and herbaceous crops (mostly vineyards and olive trees) and by a traditional texture which is still dense or medium-dense. There are also little fields of mixed crops (herbaceous and grapevine), which are really valuable for their meaning in terms of historical and cultural heritage. The level of ecological diversification is generally quite high.

Focus/Objectives

The main goals of project were:

- protection and regeneration of the periurban agricultural area;
- promotion of food security through the construction of local networks of farmers, citizens and public institutions;
- support of agricultural practices inclusive for the empowerment of vulnerable individuals and groups (disabled, indigenous people, migrants, prisoners).

These objectives have been pursued through the tool of 'Parco Agricolo Perifluviale'.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

The project addresses a participatory management of the territory aimed at inclusiveness, at food security and at well-being of the community. Particularly it aims to build of the 'social pact' consist of networks of local actors. These pact are real sites of self-construction and care of rural areas, whit benefits in the security food of populations involved.

Key actors involved and their role

The project has involved many actor: public institutions, associations of citizens, farmers through various modalities of interaction and negotiation addresses at building 'social pacts' for the care and development of rural areas and promote food security.

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

The main changes observed are:

- a growing of awareness in the local population of the importance of the provenance of their food. Consequently increased their attitude a to turn to agricultural markets supported by local producers to meet their basic food needs.
- a growing of experiences of social farming. The social farming is a farming practice that uses agricultural resources to provide social or educational care services for vulnerable groups of people. Particularly the social farming experiences observed in the area of the project concerns the work involved migrants and ex-prisoners.

Challenges faced

The main challenge faced is the institutional recognition of the 'Parco Agricolo Perifluviale'. The institutional recognition of the Park to increase the possibilities of access to funding and to the protection of agricultural practices action.

Lessons/Key messages

The food security can only be guaranteed through the active involvement of local actors.

Rome (Italy) – Multifunctional farms

Main responsible entity

Municipality of Rome
Lazio Region

Date/Timeframe

From 2014 and further on

Funding source

Municipality of Rome
Lazio Region
For further on, European funds for farmers support

Location

Municipality of Rome, Italy

Background/Context

In the municipality of Rome the relationship between the city and its surrounding countryside is given by the presence of large green areas characterized by significant historical and environmental values that coexist with a massive extensive urbanization. In several cases farming activities play an essential role for the preservation of those green areas. The decree “Terre Vive” (living lands) -Article 66 of DL 1/2012 - adopted in 2014 has allowed 5510 hectares of land for agricultural use to be sold or leased to new farmers of less than 40 years of age in all Italy (Ministero delle politiche agricole, alimentari e forestali, 2014). The same year and following this decree two programs have been launched in Rome, one directly from the Municipality “*Roma, città da Coltivare: terre pubbliche ai giovani e agli agricoltori*” (Rome cultivating the city: public lands for the young and the farmers)” and the other from the Lazio Region “*Terre ai giovani*” (Lands for youth), which also includes lands inside the borders of the municipality. Those special programs allow young farmers to benefit from arable lands and historical farms within the city borders.

Focus/Objectives

Those agricultural projects are directly addressed to young farmers by loaning them city lands in order to help them to start multifunctional farming in order to protect and regenerate the Roman campaign i.e. Ager Romanus. By providing a wide range of services and activities such as agri-tourism and recreational activities, those new managerial approaches may consequently contribute to stop the countryside’s abandonment and to reduce youth unemployment, a major social issue. They represent an investment of different administrations into an innovative way of cultivating, investing in offset neighborhood and regenerating abandoned lands.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

The understanding of the program’s tenants lies behind the city’s socio-economical context, policy measures and agriculture’s particular importance (youth unemployment, land compensation policies of the city). All these factors led to a societal activism asking for the access to farming lands held by the administration. Diverses agricultural cooperatives of Rome funded the CRAT (Coordinazione Romana per l’Accesso alla Terra) (Roman Coordination for Access to Land) in order to express their suggestions and advices in the campaign for public space. They also organized several demonstrations and occupations, which led to the results of the decree “Terre Vive”.

Key actors involved and their role

The administrations play the role of the projects manager since they have a report to furnish every year. The farmers play their role but are also involved in a teaching and communication role of their practices. The last one concerns all the experts and researchers, who follow those projects either as advisers or as observant.

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

The farms are involved into local selling activities of their products through a regular realization of events, local selling points, dominical sales and the participation to some food and agricultural local events.

At the moment the food production is constituted by a very common range of vegetables and transformed products issue of a strict controlled organic production. They also share the wish to

reintroduce diversity amongst the aliments produced with the use of old species.

In those suburban contexts, where the majority of these farms are located, are composed of local communities which are usually used to buy low- cost industrial food because they cannot afford the organic one. The production of local food available at a very competitive price allows them to benefit from products of high quality

Challenges faced

The state of abandonment and deterioration of the land areas belonging to previous management of non-agricultural activities has seriously slowed down the starts of the activities. Moreover, the farms cannot guarantee, at the moment, complete accessibility to public attendance, except for extraordinary events, due to the lack of essential services. Financial opposition represents probably the most problematic factor since the credit access has been often denied due to very restrictive regulations that do not favor young farmers with entrepreneurial objective at all. Finally, the division of the farms within protected areas and natural parks involves several problems regarding the funding through the Rural Development Plan which cannot be applied to any intervention performed in the public green areas.

Despite all the problems concerning the states of the farms and decelerating the realization of the activities planned, none of the initiative have been suppressed, demonstrating the possibility of overcoming these structural difficulties.

Lessons/Key messages

This program aims to the use of public lands for the development of multifunctional farms located at strategic points within the green grid of the municipality like in close proximity to regional and municipal parks where they play both the role of a park entrance and green connector. Looking at the bigger picture of this initiative it goes well beyond the perspective of multifunctional farms by bringing a solution against urban sprawl problems and valuable landscape services. This plan plays the role as a first experience for state investment directly aimed at the development multifunctional urban farms as well as to youth employment and the participation to the food system and could definitely be seen as a model for further development of similar initiatives.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS FOR HEALTHY DIETS

Bogotá (Colombia) – SALSA collective initiative

Proponent

FAO

Main responsible entity

SALSA (Food sovereignty and self-sufficiency) Regional Integration Committee, Bogotá, Cundinamarca.

Date/Timeframe

2014 - 2022

Funding source

Belgian Cooperation - Socialist Solidarity

Location

Province of Sumapaz, Province of Oriente, Province of Occidente in the Department of Cundinamarca and Capital District of Bogota, Colombia

Background/Context

SALSA collective formed by 30 local organizations

Focus/Objectives

Propose the creation of inclusive markets based on the reactivation of short distribution circuits, bringing family agriculture closer to urban consumers, prioritizing GAP and agroecological production.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

Local municipal markets.

Coordination of markets and virtual commercial platforms to improve marketing actions.

Restoration of short distribution circuits between peri-urban areas in Bogotá, maintaining the natural buffering corridors.

Conservation of healthy food products and protection of areas of ecosystemic importance.

Creation of conscious and supportive consumption groups with the purpose of enhancing the demand, sustainability and economic access to healthy food. Popular urban economies based on the exchange of trades, inputs and knowledge between rural agricultural producers and urban suppliers (processing machines, technology, services) (Reference: roasted coffee produced by Agrosolidaria Seccional Vianí, one of the organizations in the Committee,))

Key actors involved and their role

Rural food producers organizations, training organizations (focused in social and supportive economy, food security and sovereignty, local public policies, decent employment of young people in the outskirts of the cities), supportive shopping groups and cultural houses in Bogotá.

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

Rapprochement between producers and consumers based on trust building initiatives like agro-tourism visits and joint workshops fostering healthy and local food. Transition from temporary fairs to stable markets with continuous periodic initiatives and progress towards self-management / use of new technologies and the consolidation of new platforms and brokering means.

Reinforcement of mindful and supportive consumption, with the aim of enhancing the diversification and sustainability of the markets for the producers, as well as reducing prices and increasing demand.

Challenges faced

Search of sustainable production schemes linked to stable markets. Reinforcement of participatory guarantee systems. Networking with organizations like the Family Farming Network in Colombia (known in Spanish as RENAF). Addressing the challenges and conflicts related to the use of rural land in the outskirts of the cities with touristic initiatives, high impact agricultural monocultures, urban expansion and outsourcing of services.

Lessons/Key messages

Fostering proposals related to local and regional food policies that functionally coordinate rural and urban organizations is essential.

Ljubljana (Slovenia) – Short value chain approach**Proponent**

City of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Department for Environmental protection – Section for rural development

Main responsible entity

Rural development in Ljubljana – short food chains

Date/Timeframe

Constant – for programming period 2014-2020 and further

Funding source

Public funds – Municipality of Ljubljana

Location

Ljubljana – the capital of Slovenia – urban areas as well as the rural areas around the city centre.

Background/Context

The City of Ljubljana (hereinafter referred to as MOL) has set an operative goal in self-sufficiency in the Rural Development Strategy of the City Municipality of Ljubljana in the programming period 2014-2020, i.e. increasing recognisability of rural areas and creating a comprehensive approach in marketing of rural goods. MOL has a varied rural area with 826 farms, which sell their products to consumers in Ljubljana in different ways. MOL helps them develop their primary agricultural activities and helps them enter the market with different actions.

For this purpose, MOL has designed some measures to shorten sales channels and citizens of Ljubljana can access locally grown food easily. The measures were prepared so that they encompass as many target groups as possible:

1. Promotion events – within Ljubljana's rural area festival Zeleni prag, which takes place every year in October and presents different food suppliers in MOL to the citizens of Ljubljana; every Saturday Organic market takes place at the Ljubljana Central Market;
2. Doorsteps sales – we are aware that it is best to see where food was grown, therefore we encourage cultivators, also financially, to arrange sales areas on their farms and offer buyers completely fresh locally grown food;
3. Market areas – in MOL there are currently four marketplaces. Additionally, eight marketplaces are being prepared in city communities where citizens will be able to buy locally grown fruits and vegetables;
4. Basket of Ljubljana – it is a standard defining how food must be grown in the City Municipality of Ljubljana according to the principles of organic or integrated production. There are currently 70 food suppliers included in the Basket of Ljubljana;
5. Stimulating new forms of sales (e-marketing etc.)
6. Establishing short food supply chains – we are aware of the importance of cooperation between caterers, hoteliers and other providers of catering services with local cultivators. In this way, the quality of catering services has been increasing in MOL.

Categories 1-5 have been developed together by MOL and the food growers. In order to implement category 6, cooperation of larger number of participants is crucial. Firstly, MOL and the restaurant Druga violina (founded by Dolfka Boštjančič Centre – centre for people with special needs, also employing people with special needs) launched Apple Week in Ljubljana. In the framework of this programme, Druga violina has included apple dishes into their offer; from apples grown in MOL. Today other providers participate in the programme – hotels, shops and restaurants, which offer either apples or apple dishes from apples grown in MOL. At the same time, an educational programme was designed, aimed at raising awareness of local food growing.

Public institute Ljubljana Tourism, MOL and Jarina Cooperative formed a programme Green Supply Chains within the European Green Capital 2016. It is an initiative to increase locally grown food in the gastronomic offer of the municipality (<http://zelene-verige.si/>), project developer is Ljubljana Tourism.

Focus/Objectives

Strategic goal No. 1: Ensure quality agriculture and forestry goods from a preserved environment, with the aim of self-sufficiency of the MOL, by improving the supply of the MOL population with quality food, sustainable forest management and protection, conservation and development of functional capacity of agricultural holdings;

The strategy determines methods of production, taking into account natural and climatic conditions. A special chapter is devoted to monitoring climate change:

- Encourage the introduction of more resistant fruit and vegetable varieties – replacement of the range of products;
- Introducing new technologies in indoor production facilities, allowing the monitoring of or elimination of pests;
- Promote organic farming with the aim of the sustainable preservation of the environment;
- Promote the sustainable use of agricultural land - preservation of the cultural landscape with grazing;

Key characteristics of the experience/process

Long-term development, bottom-up approach.

Key actors involved and their role

Local government, schools, farmers, Agricultural and Forestry Institute, National institute for Agriculture.

Education, networking, producing food...

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

Trust that was built between producers and consumers created good and long term connections.

Challenges faced

Maintaining good communication and support system for creating short food chains beginning in kindergartens.

Lessons/Key messages

Constant presence of support – logistic, financial, educational, advisory.

Italy – Friendly Countryside initiative (Campagna Amica)

Proponent

Campagna Amica Foundation

Main responsible entity

Confederazione Nazionale Coldiretti – Coldiretti National Confederation

Date/Timeframe

The Italian law n.228/2001 introduced the concept of agricultural multifunctionality and allowed direct sales from farmers. The foundation “Campagna Amica” (Friendly countryside) was founded in 2009 and coordinates the activities of the project.

Funding source

Own resources of farmers. Furthermore farmers can invest on multifunctionality and direct sale by accessing the resources of rural development, which is a part of the Common Agricultural Policy (EU)

Location

Italy

Background/Context

With the reorganization of the large-scale retail distribution and a vision of agriculture as a simple provider of raw materials for the industry, the presence of farmers in local markets seemed a leftover from the past and was becoming increasingly marginal. But such a model began to show its limits both on the producers side, with inadequate compensation that did not cover their production costs, and consumers, forced to pay an excessive mark-up for the products on sale.

The production's surpluses drove the agricultural enterprises to diversify and to seek new markets as not to close down. Direct processing and sale was revalued, and a new relationship with consumers started, centered on transparency, quality, link with the local community and freshness of the products sold, at a price that is fairer for everyone. In this way, farmers managed to reach the final consumer, obtaining a more equitable remuneration for their work and improving the knowledge of their reality among consumers. In some cases, as for example in the hinterland of Rome, these farmers successfully managed to sell their products in local markets and shops of the city, but the lack of organization and self-regulation to guarantee consumers, made those initiatives fail.

Focus/Objectives

The aim of the Campagna Amica initiative is clearly to give strength and continuity to experiences that would have otherwise remained isolated and little lasting in time, by offering a comprehensive and coherent approach to direct sales, thanks to a single brand to be implemented throughout the country. A political and economic plan, built by the producers themselves and shared by the community, capable to offer: a fair price and an effective guarantee of quality and transparency of foods, the enhancement of leading products and the distinctiveness of our territories and of those who live and work there, a general growth of the heritage of our Country.

Key characteristics of the experience/process

Within this context, the farmers association Coldiretti promoted the creation of a self-regulated organization of producers, sharing common principles and rules for the protection of consumers and producers themselves, adhering to farmer markets: the “Fondazione Campagna Amica”. Over the years a network of farms involved in direct sales has grown, creating many Campagna Amica markets, selling

genuine farm-to-table products, with transparent and fair prices. Farms that adhere to the network and want to use the brand “Campagna Amica” accept to undergo periodic checks that ensure the agricultural and Italian origin of the products sold, in order to protect and safeguard the consumer. The Campagna Amica network has become a real commercial network of more than 10,000 points of sales, including over 1,000 Campagna Amica farmers markets, almost 7,000 that on farm points of sales, more than 2,000 agritourisms and 170 Italian shops. It also brings together entities not directly linked to the agricultural world, such as no food companies and restaurants that are an integral part of the Italian value chain and ambassadors of "Made in Italy".

Key actors involved and their role

- Family farms and cooperatives that have converted their production to sell directly, reprocessing and rediscovering methods of production and traditional varieties.
- Fondazione Campagna Amica, the organizational reality in which farmers gave themselves a regulation to ensure consumers, and collaboration with the local authorities, consumer organizations, schools and the civil society, in order to jointly develop the role and the purpose of this type of food production.

Key changes observed with regards to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture and food systems

The development of Campagna Amica farmers’ markets occurred in parallel and in dialog with the spread of the “from farm to fork” idea for a more sustainable consumption that also gives attention to the working conditions at the production stage, together with nutritional campaigns on the effects of junk food, promoting the consumption of fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables. All these nutritional, environmental and cultural considerations come with the citizens/consumers awareness of their power to influence the model of development that the country follows, through their purchase choices. It is also clear that Farmers Markets encourage the consumption of healthy foods and an informed consumption of traditional products, allowing the conservation and development of a network of agricultural enterprises in the suburban areas of the cities. They generate a connecting link between city and countryside, while guaranteeing biodiversity and diversification of food, involving enterprises increasingly sensitive to the protection of the environment, and often active in rural tourism.

Challenges faced

Over the years, many results have already been achieved, going from the creation of an economic alternative for many family farms to the creation of a new awareness among consumers. From a quantitative point of view, the number of farmers markets has significantly increased. Furthermore, a strict control system promoted by Campagna Amica ensure consumers that they will find an authentic agricultural Italian product on sale. New challenges have to be faced: Farmers Markets must become even more a meeting and exchange point for all those actors who are interested in good food, both in business (restaurants, canteens, buying groups, etc.) and cultural terms.

Lessons/Key messages

Even within the traditional retail system of cities, it is essential to create a space for the direct sales of food. This has positive consequences from the point of view of nutrition and environment, and for the planning of cities and their hinterland. It favors a more fruitful relationship city-countryside, creates opportunities for qualified employment in the food sector, and a closer and more equitable and inclusive relationship between consumers and producers, even in a context of "Circular Economy". The presence of farmers markets and the selling of their products in the markets, also contributes to improved behavior and sensitivity of large-scale distribution that, after a phase of obstruction, can find

spaces of collaboration with farmers. The key message is the ability of organization and self-regulation of the farmers who can and intend to undertake this journey, the dialog and confrontation with the civil society that can share it and sustain it, the advocacy in public institutions and the political world.