

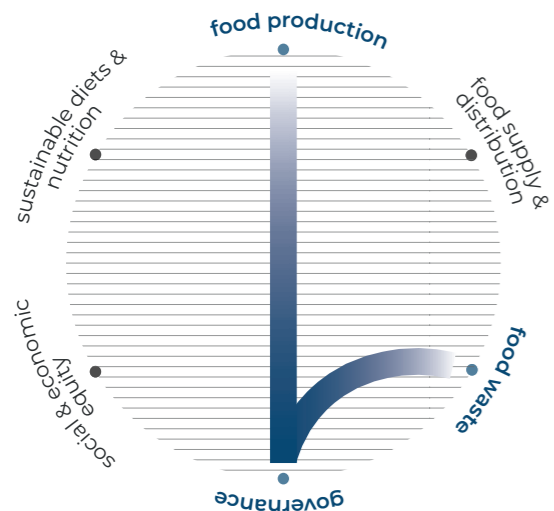


NAIROBI KENYA

NAIROBI: AN ACT TO PROMOTE AND REGULATE URBAN AGRICULTURE

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Category GOVERNANCE

Main impacts on other MUFPP categories



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Context

The promotion of agricultural activities in the City of Nairobi was a prerogative of the national government before devolution in July 2013. The local City Council did not have an Agriculture Department at the time and farming practices were regulated using prohibitive city regulations. The City Inspectorate and the Planning Departments were then still using the municipal by-laws to inhibit farming activities in certain areas, limiting the activity of urban farmers. The Urban Planning Department had also not incorporated agricultural activities for land use, which created conflict between local government and the provision of services to its citizens. These developed into serious issues, especially in informal settlements, which lack proper water and sanitation services, along with equally pressing concerns in relation to food security, hunger and poverty. In response to the situation, the Nairobi City County developed the Urban Agriculture Promotion and Regulation Act (known as "the Act"), providing a comprehensive regulatory framework in support of urban agriculture.

Overview of the food practice

Initial development of the Act began in 2013 with the participation of stakeholders from the agricultural sector, inspired by policies produced by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Act was produced, reviewed and approved by the County Assembly in 2014. The guiding regulations of the Act were subsequently developed and subjected to a wide public participation across the city. A carefully planned training for selected members of City County staff from the affected sectors followed. The civil society and private sector stakeholders involved in the process included the farmers as primary involved in production and standards implementation, traders and processors as well as public sector staff from extension services, enforcement, public health, surveillance and water management.

The Act, implemented in 2015, generally allocates various functions to the Nairobi City County government for the promotion of agriculture as well as regulating access to land and water for agriculture. The Act promotes food security, food safety, public health, environment conservation and organic waste management. It also includes the development of standards for urban agriculture and monitoring of sanitary conditions and other possible issues. The Act intends to provide the necessary regulatory framework for the practice of agriculture in the County and establish the Nairobi City County Urban Agriculture Promotion Advisory Board. A harmonizing approach with other existing city departments and agencies has been adopted in order to integrate agricultural activities across sectors such as environment, planning and land uses, urban renewal, trade and health. Partnerships have also been forged with non-gov-

ernmental organizations engaged in promoting urban agriculture, such as the Mazingira Institute and with other parts of civil society including farmers' organizations, such as the Nairobi and Environs Food Security, Agriculture and Livestock Forum (NEFSALF).

Results and lessons learned

The Act's primary objective is to increase agricultural production through the use of appropriate technologies, ensuring accessibility of resources for actors on an equal basis. Through the provision of extension services and appropriate technologies to urban farmers, the Act enhances sustainable food production and food security within the city. Furthermore, the Act addresses marketing standards related to processing and transportation of agricultural products, to help ensure food safety and improved access to local and international markets. Also, the regulations implemented by the Act contribute to food waste reduction, which is a big issue for the city. The Act covers and sets forth an organized approach to agricultural waste management such as disposing and recycling waste and promoting the introduction of other waste management technologies. The achievement of such comprehensive policy framework has been possible due to the creation of a transversal strategy involving different departments and stakeholders. Harmonizing across public authorities and agencies and collaborative strategy formulation contributes to elimination of conflict and unnecessary duplication in undertaking activities. The wide engagement of stakeholders is also a key element, which promotes acceptability and ownership of the new regulations. In turn, this fosters urban agriculture practices in the county and the correct implementation of the Urban Agriculture and Promotion Act.



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BENEFITS FOR URBAN FARMERS

Improvement of local food production

The environment provided by the Act has enabled extension officers to achieve greater diffusion of technologies among urban farmers who in turn have increased food production. The trend data has not yet been quantitatively analyzed, but there is evidence of greater production of vegetables, herbs, poultry and fish.

Greater access to food by residents

The residents of low income settlements are now able to practice aspects of urban agriculture such as wall gardens, sack gardens, and the keeping of small scale animals and multi-storey gardens, thereby improving their access to food and nutrition. The city government and partners have been using the environment created by the Act to support the small agricultural enterprises. This practice further reduces the level of vulnerability of residents.



- Nairobi City County. 2015. The Nairobi City County Urban Agriculture Promotion and Regulation Act. Nairobi, Kenya. https://bit.ly/2kOf3xK