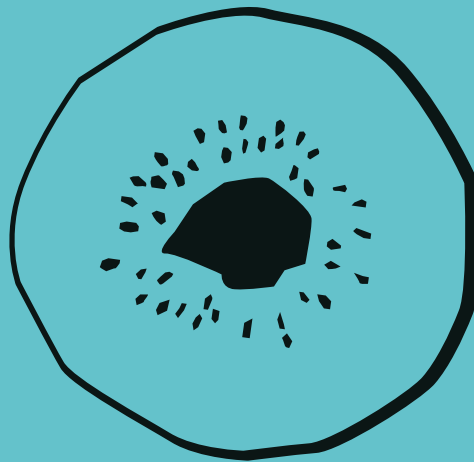


International Seminar

Local Urban Food Policies in the Global Food Sovereignty Debate



Ghent, 11–12 June 2015



2015
European Year
for Development



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Introduction

The City of Ghent partnered with 12 European cities in the Food Smart Cities for Development project, financed by the European Union. The project aims at fostering the role of cities in changing urban food production and consumption patterns by promoting inclusive, resilient and fair local food systems.

The cities involved work on the further development of local food strategies. They are also drivers of a global Urban Food Policy Pact that will be signed in October 2015 by the major cities of the world.

The first activity of this project organized by the City of Ghent is the international seminar Local Urban Food Policies in the Global Food Sovereignty Debate on June 11/12, 2015. This seminar will be an important contribution to the project by formulating recommendations and building concepts on sustainable local food strategies and the interrelation between cities' choices globally.

This international seminar takes the policy option to build urban local food systems as the starting point for analysis and debate. Its goals are:

1. to enhance the knowledge on how local food systems can contribute to sustainable cities worldwide and what role it can take in the global challenge to increase food sovereignty,
2. to build usable concepts to understand how local food systems are globally linked to the same objectives,
3. to gather inspiration and advice for policies at local, EU and global level that can maximize local urban food systems' contribution to food sovereignty and sustainability worldwide.

Central questions in the debates will be: How do these local options link to fair food systems and objectives on international solidarity and cooperation? How do food strategies relate to other dimensions of cities, such as the governance model or participation of citizens? How does one strategy for food safety impact other strategies for food sovereignty? How sovereign can an urban food system become?

"Eat fair and local, change the world"

With support from:



Methodological guidelines

Please take a few minutes to review these guidelines before coming to Ghent on 11/12 of June.

This international seminar brings together 40 experts in the field of urban food policies coming from research institutions, government and civil society. To take the most out of this one day seminar we will make it very intense and interactive. We will therefore not use a standard methodology.

The essays included in this document serve as the starting point for the discussions during the seminar. Not all of these papers will be extensively presented. Please take a few moments to read the papers before the seminar: it will make the exchange more effective.

Each track will have the same run-through:

- 1. 10 minute presentations by two key note speakers**
- 2. 5 minute response from one selected discussant**
- 3. 30 minutes open forum discussion between participants**
- 4. 2 minute “elevator pitches” by each of the participants that have submitted an essay in that track, responding to the discussions in that track and the central questions of the seminar.**
- 5. 20 minutes round-up discussion between participants**

If you have not been contacted as key-note contributor or discussant please do prepare for the 2 minute “elevator pitch”: what is the central message you want to convey from your paper and how does it relate to the central questions of this seminar? Except for key-note presenters we discourage the use of Powerpoint presentations.

The concluding session will start with insights from city representatives from the ‘Global South’ about what they can take home to their daily reality. All participants can respond to these insights and formulate key messages to take to (1) the Urban Food Policy Pact and (2) the follow-up process in the Ghent Food Policy.

The main conclusions will be presented in the conference report that you will receive a few weeks after the seminar.

The seminar will be facilitated by dr. Joost Dessein (ILVO and Ghent University)

Track 1



Governance of Local Urban Food Systems



Food	Smart
Cities	For
Development	

Jane Battersby,
African Centre for cities,
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Governance of urban food systems in southern Africa.

This paper presents the experience of AFSUN (the African Food Security Urban Network) and the African Centre for Cities at UCT in attempting to establish a space for cities to consider urban food system and food security governance in cities in Southern Africa.

AFSUN has been conducting research on urban food security in Southern Africa since 2007. Our early work focused on household food security, but with an explicit focus on questions of how cities were designed and governed and how this shaped household food security. It therefore asked questions about what the governance responses to this food insecurity should be. More recently our work has turned its attention to analysis of the food system that shapes and drives food insecurity.

Throughout the process of our research we have self-consciously engaged with municipal officials to help them think through local government responses to food insecurity. This paper reflects on these engagements, but focuses specifically on the experience of Cape Town. AFSUN and the ACC were commissioned to conduct a food system and food security study for the City of Cape Town in 2013. This paper provides an overview of the context of this study, and the outcomes and recommendations of the study.

Central to this paper is a discussion of the framing of food security and food systems in the African context and the consequent lack of political mandate for African cities to engage in food system governance. This paper uses the case study of Cape Town to suggest an approach that brings food system governance under local government's mandate. The report for the City of Cape Town argues the following, which will be the basis for the discussion presented:

“While the City has no direct mandate to address food security, it plays a number of important roles in the form and functioning of the food system within Cape Town. The City plays a direct and indirect role in many components of the food system, including production, processing, distribution, sale, waste management and safety. Additionally, the City's existing policies and programmes impact upon the household's ability to access and utilize food. If this wider view of the causes of food security is accepted, it is essential to examine the existing and potential role of the City in governing a food system which is designed to enhance food security.”

Food banks and urban food policy: A Canadian case study

The combined issues of climate change, food price volatility, and urban population growth indicate the need for more resilient food systems in cities. Two most prominent policy approaches—wealth redistribution and market deregulation— are by themselves insufficient in guaranteeing food sovereignty on a local level. While welfare schemes may support low-income people financially, it does little to address people’s food needs—which are social as well as economic. Free trade policies have historically eroded local food systems and increased food waste through centralization of the profit-oriented food retail system.

Furthermore, most municipal governments advocate highly contradictory policies. For example, while agri-businesses are supported legally and financially, cities will also build expensive infrastructure to process food waste—most of which is generated by food retailers. In addition, even though cities may in many cases support local food initiatives through funding, it is often very difficult for these organizations to survive due to legal limitations at other governmental levels.

On the whole, issues are often related to a misalignment and poor integration between governance institutions, both horizontally (types of departments and organizations) and vertically (scale). In order to scale up local food system efforts, new governance approaches are necessary that do not only rely on welfare redistribution or free market orthodoxy, to provide institutional support to urban food sovereignty efforts.

We wish to introduce two frameworks that can provide some theoretical tools to understand the governance structures needed for supporting local food projects. Joinedup food policy, originating in alternative food and anti-poverty movements, provides an analysis of what steps are needed to make cities more food secure, and how barriers between governance structures can be broken down (MacRae 2011; Barling et al. 2002).

A nested institutions framework, coming from the field of ecological economics and resource management, provides methodological tools to analyze food systems at different scales, identifying the legal, financial, and governance misalignment that impedes growth of local food systems. In addition, in emphasizing the need to approach unequal power dynamics through participatory governance structures, it provides the theoretical basis for alternative urban food policies (Yashiro et al. 2013; Kolinjivadi et al. 2014). While the joined up food policy approach provides a road map of appropriate and

responsible forms of food governance, the nested institutional approach can leverage and analyze property regimes (public service, private good, common pool resource & club good) of institutional, legal and financial arrangements.

To illustrate the application of these frameworks, we discuss a case study of the history of food banks in Canada, as well as an in-depth study of one food bank in Montreal, Quebec. Over the span of two years, we conducted interviews of 14 food bank experts, an extensive literature review, and on-site research. We found that food banks, which redistribute food waste from retailers, were institutionalized in Canada due to poor legal frameworks around food waste, favoring food retailers rather than citizens, and inadequate government support of local food initiatives. Large food retailers could shift food waste processing costs on impoverished citizens, while anti-poverty movements were forced to rely on food waste and charity structures because there was inadequate legal and financial support of alternative urban food systems (see Table 1 below).

To address both food waste and poverty, municipal governments must move from highly centralized or profit-oriented approaches toward identifying the institutional barriers that exist for marginalized groups to develop their own food systems. In the case of food banks, this would require charging food retailers for food waste, formalizing food waste property regimes in favor of community groups, providing legal and financial support to facilitate the move from charity toward cooperative structures, and encouraging participatory networks to manage and distribute corporate food waste while using that resource to build, in the short term, social centers focused on food, and in the long term, the shift to alternative urban food systems through making links with local farmers and providing employment for marginalized communities.

Our research has several implications that may be of benefit to policy-makers, researchers, and food activists. First, it stresses how distinct problems such as food industry centralization, poverty, and isolation between governmental departments may result in the institutionalization of unique organizations such as food banks, in turn presenting further barriers to achieving sustainability goals. Second, it highlights how food banks, despite their poor reputation, can have an important role in urban sustainability transitions, provided they have adequate institutional support. Third, it provides an outline of a framework that can help understand barriers to urban food sovereignty, as well as suggest recommendations for alternative policy approaches that meet the 21st century challenge of multi-actor and multi-level governance. Finally, it suggests a novel approach to interlinked challenges of global food insecurity, an unsustainable food system, and urban change through linking food waste management with community-level initiatives.

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Local urban food policies in the global food sovereignty debate

How can local food systems contribute to food sovereignty?

As a crucial and central principle local food systems are interwoven in the origin and development of food sovereignty. While food sovereignty is a reaction to an globalised industrial food system (McMichael, 2009) the value of local food chains lies in the creation of a space where the de-personalisation of the contemporary food supply chain can be reversed. Local food systems cross the producers-consumers divide, in which the former is driven by market demands by the latter whom is detached from the reality and processes of food production. The local space enables the system to make both producers and consumers humane in their relationship with each other.

Will establishing local food systems help the creation of fair food chains?

Local food chains do not intrinsically lead to fair food chains nor to food sovereignty. It is the actions and objectives of the local actors involved that shape the direction of that regions food chain, to harness the potential of local food system's and its contribution to food sovereignty, or to fill in the space with a local copy of industrial agriculture. One can imagine a situation where locally produced foodstuffs are locally traded but where wasteful techniques are still placing their externalities on society and nature. A situation where diminished 'food miles' might not be enough to offset intensive productions 'footprints'. Local food systems potentially allow food sovereignty's transformative perspective of shifting the commodified value of food from a (mere) exchange value to a use or user value, e.g. the 'food for people' principle in a solidarity economy (La Via Campesina, 2007). It is a choice for the actors involved.

Do choices to establish local food systems in one region have a positive impact on opportunities for cities in other regions or are global trade relations more defining?

It is difficult to foresee the consequences on the interdependent international food trade regarding Gent, or Belgium, becoming food sovereign. Alas underdeveloped, international trade is heavily debated in the food sovereignty movement (Burnett & Murphy, 2014). The specialisation tendency of globalisation drove regions into concentrating on production where its relative advantages were highest, eroding the

resilience and capacity of a country to feed its inhabitants on a range of produce. The resulting interconnected global food chain (McMichael, 2005) is linking us with soybean producers in Brazil, palm oil plantations in Borneo but also with smallholder green bean producers in Kenya. Increasingly replacing international trade with local produce put millions of smallholders depending on export production at risk (Edelman, 2014). While, for example, coffee producers will still find access to Northern markets, the food sovereignty development in Northern countries must allow a sense of 'Southern food sovereignty' to develop by halting the selling (dumping) of subsidised Northern Staples on markets that have their own production potential. Embracing food sovereignty in the Northern hemisphere by replacing produce with high food miles where possible - a form of Local Ownership Import Substitution - and abruptly discontinuing trade relations can result in worsening livelihoods for small export producers. Narrow might be a synonym of local, nonetheless it is linking of people in solidarity across sectors and countries that gave food sovereignty much of its mobilising power and success.

The fact that Gent and Europe as state actors become interested in food sovereignty can show the recapturing of government from the market by civil society (Vishwas, 2014). Food sovereignty as a community project (Beauregard, 2009) opens the question on how Gent define their role regarding community control. The 'second generation' of food sovereignty (De Schutter, 2013) can build on experiments and successes such as Community Supported Agriculture, farmers markets, urban food schemes, community gardens and so forth, also active in Gent. Will Gent bypass these initiatives with their own scheme or support existing programs? Gent can aspire to create a sustainable urban zone through 'agricultural urbanism', meaning to socially, environmentally and economically incorporate an agrifood system within the planning, governance and function of the city (Mullinix et al., 2008). A Gent where urban waste is recycled, idle land utilized and energy conserved by substituting less sustainable practices associated with importing food (Colasanti & Hamm, 2010).

Food sovereignty is as well about democracy

Gent should aspire to co-design the food system with citizens by creating emancipatory food democracy, resulting in processes that strengthen social links through interaction. The reduced dependency on imported food should not be substituted by efficiency, rather it is diversity through agroecology that will result in a more resilient food system. At the end, food sovereignty is not a binary position between being food sovereign or not, it is a process of co-creating a more balanced and fairer food system through respect of its eco-system, through respect of the people producing and for respect of the people consuming.

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Promoting Value Chains in Urban Agriculture for Local Development in Quito.

**(extract of article previously published in Urban Agriculture Magazine,
nr 24, September 2010)**

Local government support to urban agriculture in Quito was born as a response to food insecurity in the poorest areas of the city, and was later expanded to the entire Metropolitan District. The production technology used has been adapted to the diverse climatic zones (between 500 and 4,800 metres above sea level).

The Participatory Urban Agriculture Project, AGRUPAR, has been working in the area since 2002, focusing on food security and promoting food processing, access to microcredit, microenterprise management and marketing and sales.

At first, the various products grown by the productive units promoted by AGRUPAR provided fresh and healthy foods to the producing families and generated surpluses that encouraged solidarity-based exchange processes and small sales at the gardens or in the neighbourhood. Over time, some urban farmers began to sell in specialised areas called Bio Trade Fairs, set up by AGRUPAR, or formed networks of farmers to deliver organic produce baskets.

In this way, a process of adding value to urban agriculture started. In addition to facilitating the Bio Trade Fairs, this includes the following aspects:

- Improved harvesting and post harvesting activities, to meet the quality standards for commercialisation, thus involving farmers in further processing and marketing. These activities include cleaning, washing, shelling, sorting, drying, processing and milling of the surplus product, as well as taking into account that a certain percentage of the product will not qualify for sale in the fresh market, due to its shape, size, colour or ripeness.
- The use of containers, packaging and labels identifying the enterprise, and business cards, price lists and recipes.
- The use of appropriate slaughter techniques (for animals) with emphasis on the application of good manufacturing processes, the cold chain and marketing controls.

- Obtaining organic certification for those production units that generate more surpluses and improved access to other markets (sales to embassies, private and public institutions). The cost of this is shared equally between AGRUPAR and the farmers.
- Supplying meals prepared with organic foods and animals from the farms in the productive unit, which contributes to the cultural recovery of certain foods.

Experience so far shows that there is a need to focus more on capacity building and supporting the value chain (development) processes: you cannot demand that the farmers “do well” at something that they “know nothing about” with resources “they don’t have”.

For this reason, it is important to consider the adoption of alternative technologies that reduce or eliminate dependence on external resources. AGRUPAR encourages productive units to rationalise the use of labour throughout the year by horizontally diversifying production and vertically integrating the agricultural process. This involves all stakeholders from the family, association or solidarity group that is in charge of the activities prior to the production process and the post-harvest activities, such as processing and marketing.

Microcredit

A critical factor that was incorporated in the value chain is access to microcredit for the urban farmers who had no credit to meet their specific needs. Starting in 2009, AGRUPAR implemented a self-managed microcredit scheme in the form of the Grassroots Investment Societies (Sociedades Populares de Inversion, or SPIs in Spanish)¹. This is adapted to the needs and characteristics of the urban farmers and gives an additional push to their business activity. To join the 35 SPIs currently in operation in Quito, the urban farmers each contribute between \$10 and \$20, depending on their financial situation. However, thanks to the high profitability of the sale of organic vegetables (especially the greenhouse-grown kidney tomatoes), the SPIs were able to raise enough capital themselves. A study carried out in 8 SPIs, which have 120 urban farmer members, shows that their accumulated capital for 2009 amounted to \$50,800.

Looking to the future

The use of alternative and appropriate technologies made it possible to process the surplus products, keep food longer, decrease losses and extend the sales period. The organization of promotional events, such as trade fairs and business meetings, has allowed the producers involved in the value chain to learn about businesses, establish contacts with key members, and to make their own decisions.

The kidney tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) delivered the highest value addition, and was therefore considered the most promising product by the farmers. The productive enterprises supported by AGRUPAR include various certified vegetables such as carrots, radishes, beetroot or beets, lettuce and broccoli. These are marketed in organic produce baskets and at Bio Trade Fairs. In addition there is now a wide range of processed products, such as pickles, jams and jellies, sauces, tarts, sweets, nutritious cakes, snacks (such as broad beans, banana and potato chips), glazed fruit, toasted corn, granola, honey by-products, natural condiments, cookies, bread, cheese, yogurt, slaughtered or roasted guinea pigs, free-range slaughtered chickens and a healthy food catering service.

In 2009, the Bio Trade Fairs marketed 28,675 kg of produce valued at \$69,500 and distributed 722 organic produce baskets worth more than \$5,000. To date, 56 productive enterprises have been created, involving 228 urban farmers (165 women), who have gained recognition and consumer loyalty by diversifying the range of products available at the Bio Trade Fairs.

By looking for ways to add value to their production, they have innovated and strengthened their organisation, and have overcome many problems, such as the acquisition of sanitary registration certifications (these are very expensive) and occupancy permits for spaces where they can establish points of sale in secure areas. However, these types of problems require continued support from AGRUPAR and other authorities, in order to ensure the continuity of an activity that represents an important source of income for the urban farmers who, in a traditional and small-scale manner, process and market their production surpluses.

Local food strategies as a stepping-stone in global sustainability: applying Hajer's sustainability perspectives to Ghent

In this essay, we will explore how the city of Ghent can deploy a local food strategy, which is aligned with important objectives and rationales related to the agenda of sustainable development. In a recent contribution to the journal *Sustainability*, Hajer et al (2015) elaborate a nuanced critique on how to re-describe the potential of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): a set of globally binding targets and goals that will be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. They warn for what they term 'cockpit-ism', i.e. the illusion that top-down steering by governments alone can address global problems. They argue that multiple perspectives on sustainable development are needed in order to engage civil society, business and local actors and respond to their needs, interests and capacities. They propose four connected perspectives that can strengthen the transformative potential of global sustainability: (1) planetary boundaries; (2) the safe and just operating space; (3) the energetic society and (4) green competition.

While the authors focus on a scale and dimension of global governance, we would like to strengthen the importance of the local level and bottom-up initiatives and also argue that similar challenges and opportunities play at this local level. We aim to show that in the context of local food strategies and urban agriculture (UA), 'cockpitism' is a similar danger. We show how the City of Ghent - as any other city in Belgium/ understandable due to its intrinsic complexity - is searching to find its position as mediator, facilitator and innovator in the deployment of a local food strategy. By adopting the proposed four perspectives to the case of local food strategies we hope to overcome overly abstract or technical approaches to sustainability and provide policy makers, stakeholders and citizens with a renewed focus on the potentialities of UA. In a discussion we reflect on each of the four perspectives in relation to the city's local food strategy and its governance of UA, by referring to the concept of food sovereignty as an overarching concept. In addition we point out the relevance and importance of acknowledging mutual influence of different local food strategies all over the globe, showing how the 'local' is anchored in global dimension of sustainable development. We conclude by offering a series of insights for local policy makers.

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MADRIDAGROECOLOGICO

The power of civil society to foster food sovereignty

What happens when governments fail in their roles as enablers of sustainable food systems? In Madrid, the firm political will necessary for the promotion of Sustainable food systems is completely absent from the Regional Government of Madrid and from most of the municipalities in its metropolitan area. Therefore, during the last fifteen years, the generation of alternatives linked to food sovereignty has emanated from grass-root movements in response to the lack of institutional plans and strategies.

In January 2015 a consistent number of farmers, consumers, cooperatives, trainers, researchers and ecologists started a process in which the collaborative planning strategies and the management tools developed by these social movements has been applied to:

- influence on the political agenda, with the incoming local and regional elections;
- improve the activity of social movements, costumers, producers, educators in the agroecological transition and in the progress towards food sovereignty

The process is called Madridagroecologico, an absolutely bottom-up and participative process trying to foster agroecology and sustainable food systems in the urban region.

Now the foundations have been laid to scale up ongoing initiatives of local food networks that link producers and consumers under the principles of food sovereignty, common responsibility and solidarity. The process has shown that there is a huge wilingness to share knowledge and experience. Once the main problems and opportunities have been identified, Madridagroecologico has translated them into proposals to the regional level, as well as to the municipal level.

Some of the factors that enabled this process possible shall be highlighted:

- Lack of legitimacy of traditional political institutions. The growing interest of the citizenship for the re-establishment of sovereignty resulted into participation in the construction of political alternatives.
- Under the umbrella of the 15M movements, new formulas emerged (economy demonetisation, solidarity networks...). Crisis also brought a vivid social reactivation, while food was set in the agenda of social movements.
- Since 2000 there have been a bundle of innovative succesful projects of new

farmers and consumers committed to agroecology and food sovereignty. They were and still are a reference with a high symbolic impact, albeit their very small dimension.

- The severe economic downturn resulted in high unemployment rates, especially for the young (youth unemployment rate lies for years above 50%). Business as usual economy (based in the construction sector) is failing seriously. Urban unemployed are leading the process and agriculture is promoted in peri-urban through direct circuit with high trust distribution systems and Participatory Guarantee Systems.
- Flourishment of small projects of organic production and more conscious groups of organized consumers. Changes in the food system are not coming from conventional or professional farmers, but from emerging alliances between a new generation of small informal gardeners and farmers and groups of urban consumers. As IFOAM observatory recognizes, Spain is a typical customer initiative case, <http://www.ifoam.org/en/pgs-map>.

For quite a long time, these new farmers, gardeners and committed consumers had very low expectations of an impact in public policies, left alone in the established globalized food system. Given the adverse context, some of them even refused to formulate demands. Now, with a new political landscape in front, time has come for these movements to take a qualitative step forward and to generate a political impact.

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Local food systems in Belgium, the networks behind the system.

Summary

What are the roles of social learning and personal motivation inside local food networks, which are involved in the creation of an alternative food system? In the project Food4Sustainability a research consortium joined forces to investigate the network characteristics, learning processes and motivations present in these local food networks in Belgium. A conceptual framework was developed reflecting the transdisciplinarity of the consortium and aimed at analysing the different levels of the network. The hypothesis in the first part of the project is the importance of the contribution of converging strategic policy beliefs to a collaborative atmosphere amongst the different actors in the local food network. This was assessed by a social network analysis through a series of semi-structured interviews with key players in the local food network.

Abstract

At the core of the current agricultural system is a clear focus on increased production, with increased intensification as the answer to current global societal and environmental issues. It is clear to many however that following a business as usual path will put increased tension on the already stressed planetary boundaries. Climate change, economic and demographic evolutions will even further increase the pressure on the global and local food system which will challenge its resilience. In parallel to the mainstream, dominant system, alternative food systems exist and develop with different beliefs and goals. There is a growing interest in the promises of these alternative food systems, which among others aim at re-joining producers and consumers, and this growing interest can be seen throughout the world. In Belgium, systems like Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), food basket schemes and urban and peri-urban agriculture enjoy increased attention from citizens, academics and local authorities.

In order to assess the strengths and weaknesses of different alternative food systems in Belgium, a research consortium was established between three universities representing the three regions in Belgium; Wallonia, Brussels and Flanders. The project set out to analyse the constraints and opportunities of different components of the alternative local food systems and to compare them between the different regions under study, in order to learn the crucial characteristics for success. The specific aim of this study is to analyse the local food networks in 7 geographic and city regions in Belgium, focussing on the governance mechanisms, motivations and network

organisations which lead to thriving bottom up initiatives aiming at an alternative food and agricultural system. The following regions were chosen; Ottignies, Brussels, Liege, Leuven, Antwerp, Limburg and rural Wallonia.

An initial network mapping of the main actors surrounding local food basket schemes in 5 city regions in Belgium was undertaken to identify key influential actors as a first part of a social network analysis. The resulting network nodes identified key actors and potential network bridging organisations with a role in social learning processes. Following this mapping a semi-structured series of interviews was carried out with leaders of different food basket initiatives (n 100). This first series of interviews aimed at completing and enriching the social network analysis and assessing the organisational collaborations and knowledge transfer between different initiatives. As mentioned before, the associated hypothesis in this phase of the study phase is the importance of the contribution of converging strategic policy beliefs to a collaborative atmosphere amongst the different actors in the local food network.

This study combines different research fields to assess the various organisational, social and economic components of successful transition initiatives in the agri-food system. This project, Food4Sustainability, is funded by the federal science policy office (BELSPO) in Belgium and should lead to policy and organisational recommendations, through the provision of organisational tools and insights which could be used and implemented by government agencies, local authorities and the local food initiatives themselves.

Developing an Urban Food Policy for Manchester.

The most comprehensive policy statement for the City of Manchester is the **Sustainable Food in Manchester Final Report** (75 pages) produced by Small World Consulting in November 2013. (Page and paragraph references below relate to this document).

The report was commissioned by Manchester City Council to develop recommendations for a new strategy for sustainable food growth in Manchester.

The report adopts six core criteria for sustainable food:

- environment;
- health;
- building social capital;
- assisting the most vulnerable;
- food security
- job creation (paras 1.3; 5.0).

The report makes ten recommendations (pp 36-41). These are

- 1 Support and value volunteers.** The public and third sectors should work together to develop projects (9.1; 4.6).
- 2 Support Community Food Initiatives.** – growing, cooking and eating schemes have great value in building social capital, keeping people healthy and providing purposeful activity for unemployed people (9.2; 4.7; 7.2 – summary of academic research)
- 3 Education and skills in healthy and sustainable food.** – eg cooking, horticulture, nutrition – are important both for children in school and for adults in the community (9.3).
- 4 Trialling healthy, sustainable fast food outlets.** Retailing in Manchester's disadvantaged residential areas is dominated by fast food outlets offering costly, unhealthy and environmentally unfriendly food. It is recommended that the public sector promote fast food outlets which offer food which is affordable, tasty, healthier and more environmentally friendly (eg less beef and lamb). This could take the form of new social enterprises, supporting transition of existing

catering outlets or encouraging public sector catering to expand into this market (9.4; 4.1; 4.3).

5 Support existing healthy and sustainable food enterprises in nurturing similar initiatives. Help initiatives like Unicorn, Kindling or Glebelands City Growers to mentor start-up initiatives (9.5; p.34)

6 Sustainable Food Procurement for public sector catering (9.6).

This should include:

- Moving from beef and lamb to either vegetarian food or less carbon-intensive meats such as chicken
- Favouring local, regional or UK food
- Avoiding air-freighted food and produce grown in heated greenhouses
- Buying sustainable fish
- Favouring organic and Fair Trade.

7 Supporting the expansion of schemes that divert food from waste to people in need. Eg Fareshare (paras 9.7; 4.8).

8 Metrics – It would best to measure progress by monitoring the impacts of specific schemes rather than devote large resources to comprehensive measurement of all aspects of sustainable food in Manchester (9.8).

9 Leadership and Governance: a Food Board for Manchester should be established to provide stronger leadership, with representation from the local authority, universities, NGOs and the food industry (9.9)

10 Lobbying and influencing national policy – Manchester City Council has scope to lobby government eg to ban advertising of sugary drinks or promote better food labelling (9.10).

The report emphasises that Manchester has a serious nutrition problem, particularly in deprived areas, promoting obesity and ill-health (paras 4.1 to 4.4).

The report stresses the desirability of reducing meat consumption to improve health and reduce carbon footprint (para 4.5; reiterated in 7.7, pp. 30-32)

Organic food? The report notes that many sustainable food initiatives in Manchester are committed to organic food, which is favoured by the city's aspirational middle class but not in poorer districts. The level of emphasis for organic food has been a contentious issue (4.9). The existence of substantial academic research supporting the environmental benefits of organic food is emphasised in para 7.3; see also pp 51-54.

Local Food: In terms of access to locally produced food Greater Manchester has been ranked 59 out of 61 counties in England and Wales (4.10). The very limited amount of green space in Manchester is such that it is probably cannot grow more than 1 per cent of its food. Greater Manchester could conceivably grow 3% of its food (4.10). However if the definition of local were extended to a 50 mile radius around Manchester and the population switched to a largely vegetarian diet and eliminated waste, Manchester could feed itself locally (4.10). This may be important in the context of future global food insecurity (7.1)

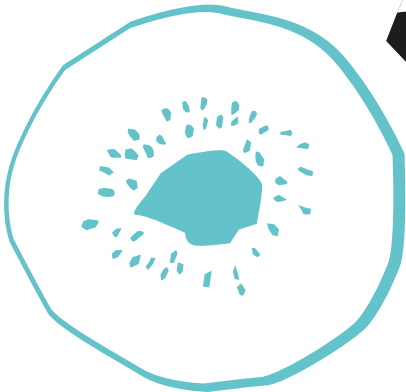
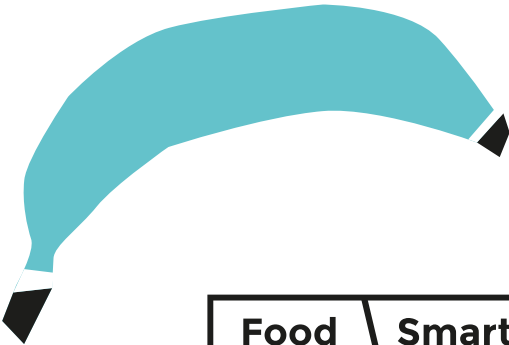
The report can be found at:

<http://www.foodfutures.info/www/images/stories/pdf/ManchesterSustainableFood131122Final.pdf>

Track 2



Urban-Rural Continuum



Food	Smart
Cities	For
Development	

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Successful linkages between peri-urban food production and urban market in Lisbon Metropolitan Area.

Abstract:

Considering the multidisciplinary nature of Urban and Peri-urban agriculture - UPA, our contribution to UPA is centred on the access to urban land and space, by introducing the discipline of Land Use Planning - LUP as a facilitator. The methodology used consists in setting out the different concepts involved, and their areas of intersection, as a starting point for identifying opportunities and barriers to developing a policy of UPA and LUP in Portugal.

Two case studies are presented to exemplify the upscale of short local food chains in Lisbon Metropolitan Area. These experiences provide a starting point to foster urban planning policies contribution to the emerging crisis phenomenon of small entrepreneurs that are nourishing the local urban food circuits. They illustrate good practices as e.g. to enlarge future policies.

The background:

There have been several governmental strategies to support short food circuits – SFC in Portugal. PROVE formally began in 2004. The LEADER+ networking developed a methodological guide of “Citizenship relationship between producers and consumers” – RE.CI.PRO.CO (2007). In 2012 the Government build a Strategy to enhance agriculture local production. A report was made with operational proposals. In 2013 a governmental commission was nominated to implement it however at the same time the government changed and the process stopped.

The case studies:

These case studies are not representative of all the experiences happening nowadays in Portugal, however they testify an enormous potential of the local food system, and the need to push for more friendly LUP policies to shorten and proliferate SGC.

Our hypothesis is that the crisis has stimulated a more sustainable food production and urban market consumption in SFC that can be empowered and replicated using LUP policies as a mediation tool.

1. Ugly Fruit¹ (UF): Adding social value and reducing food waste in SFC

UF arises from the need to overturn the standardization trends regarding food. It aims to fight the market inefficiency by changing consumption patterns and creating an alternative market to “ugly” fruits and vegetables preventing food waste as well as the unnecessary use of resources to their production.

Every week the team (3 young women) work directly with local producers, gathering from their farms the small, big or misshapen products that they cannot sell. Two types of boxes are settled. UF only works with local farmers whose agricultural practices are not aggressive to the environment.

The UF has 2 delivery points. The first opened on November 2013 in the second opened on April 2014 both in Lisbon. Each delivery point has now 250 associated consumers and avoids about 2 tonnes of waste every week. Two new deliver points should open soon.

Fruits and vegetables are collected and assembled by volunteers and later picked by consumers. No more than 70 Km are covered between the farmer and the consumers what makes possible to eat the vegetable in the same day it was harvested.

2. “Basket at your door”² (BD): Social employment and consumers’ trust in SFC

João is a young farmer, which used to work in civil construction until the crisis hit and he lost his job. With a background in agriculture he leased some land and began working. He started selling baskets to his neighbors but rapidly the number of consumers raised. Nowadays he has more than 160 consumers with average weekly deliveries of 80 baskets, containing vegetables, potatoes, fruit, eggs, herbs, etc.. João works with local manure and not environment aggressive practices.

The system is supported in two-land plots (13.000m² + 1.500m²); house storage close to home. All the productive system is not far than 8 km, including the seeds place and the manure. João lives less than 10 km away from Lisbon, enabling him to deliver at consumers doors vegetables and fruits baskets that were harvest less that 4 hours before.

1 <http://www.frutafeia.pt/en>

2 <https://pt-br.facebook.com/pages/Cabaz-à-Porta/213252385504146>

Limitations:

UF reports as the main limitation finding housing space as deliver point. According to UF experience, they need large spaces, on the ground floor, close to public transports and parking.

BD reports as main limitation lack of productive land near home, and land lease price.

Debate:

UF and BD testify successful linkages between peri-urban food production and urban market. Land use planning policies can add: **Space for urban farming** – public policies to allocate vacant urban land as productive spaces (e.g. land bank approach); 2) **Temporary usage of empty buildings** – to social entrepreneurship as storage or/and deliver points (e.g. municipal taxes reduction).

In conclusion, LUP policies can reinforce SFC, freeing urban space to farming and market urban consumption. Mapping those spaces will be the first step to drive decision makers.

Sustainable and safe vegetable supply to Tegucigalpa

Tegucigalpa, the industrial capital of Honduras has grown in the past 50 years but the infrastructure has not kept pace. The lack of adequate planning, dense and uncoordinated urbanization, combined with socioeconomic phenomena, like poverty and crime, make it an insecure city with deep inequality.

Tegucigalpa is surrounded by a mountain range between 935 - 1463m above sea level; traditionally this is where fresh vegetables supply comes from for its population. The capital's population used to buy mainly from informal markets but during the past few years, so-called Farmer's fairs have been permanently established. Most of the population, especially the middle and the lower class, assists to these fairs to procure their vegetable supply produced by farmers from surrounding areas. The rest of the population: middle and upper class often make their purchases in supermarkets, of which Walmart (19 stores) and La Colonia (17 stores) are the biggest chains accounting between 30% and 40% of the vegetables demand in the capital.

The requirements of these chains in terms of supply, consistency, safety, price and quality has forced horticultural farmers' organisations to organize themselves and search for more efficient and sustainable mechanisms for the trading of their products, to comply with the requirements and to obtain better or at least more stable prices.

The most common procedure in organisational terms has been that small producers gather with cooperatives, farmers' associations, and associative companies for multiple services. The Private Fund for Rural Companies' Development (*Fundación Privada para el Desarrollo Empresarial Rural, FUNDER*) chose to organize 8 small farmer producer companies under an entity called "Agribusiness Consortium of Honduras" (*Consortio Agrocomercial de Honduras*).

Originally, it was created to solve problems FUNDER's companies may have, like stakeholders related with trade established with supermarket chains: the loss due to delayed reception of the product that resulted from poor care of the product and because the buying party does not take responsibility; the constant delay of payment for their products; concurrence between chains to sell their products; the lack of storage; inadequate logistics to deliver the products, etc.

This organisation is relatively new and on its consolidation and positioning stage, the priority has been to improve the producers' income, followed by quota management and offerings for their own products, broadening their commercialization services for vegetable farmers from the same integrated producers, ...

In the Inclusive Modern Markets programme (Programa Mercados Modernos Inclusivos), VECO MA has taken this consortium as their beneficiary partner since 2014. Given the importance of (social, economic, environmental...) sustainability, VECO MA has managed to implement strategies and actions allowing the consortium to supply markets of Tegucigalpa on a sustainable basis, to guarantee safe and innocuous products and implementing sustainable productive models that blend good agricultural practices and integrated pest management.

A very interesting element regarding sustainability is the private initiative called "Resources for my land" (*Recursos para mi tierra*), in which the FICOHSA bank, the supermarket chain La Colonia and FUNDER, have established a deed trust to attend these producers. FICOHSA bank provides production credits (and an agricultural insurance), FUNDER offers technical assessment services and La Colonia procures up to 80% of its vegetable needs. With this, producers obtain a safe market and good prices.

After a year of intervention, VECO MA sees a few challenges:

- Defining a clear strategic plan for the next 5 years
- Preparing better trading strategies
- Organising technical, productive and logistic aspects in the production plan
- More precise analysis regarding costs along the chain
- Greater emphasis on sustainability within this chain and its environment.

Furthermore, since 2014, a better understanding has been reached with the supermarket chain La Colonia, which has provided a space for discourse between producers and support organisations, such as VECO MA and FUNDER, to find sustainable solutions for problems encountered in the chain and the surroundings.

Among the opportunities to seize in the upcoming months is:

- The implementation of a more sustainable productive model
- The use of protected agriculture
- The use of technology in irrigation systems that enable a more efficient water use
- The implementation of good agricultural practices
- A better organisation in the processing storage centres
- The implementation and certification in good manufacturing practices
- The adequate solid and liquid waste disposal

- The added value, especially for those products that do not comply with the quality standards of the supermarkets
- To improve the global entrepreneurial logistics in the consortium: this is of vital importance, as the expenditure on fuel is excessive (transport is not centralized and sometimes each producer has to find it by their own means)
- To lower the production and commercialization costs, so their products can be affordable for the rest of the population
- To increase the trading volumes (not only to supermarket chains La Colonia and Walmart) in order to supply the demand of Tegucigalpa and to have an operational volumes with economic sustainability and a business model granted by the organization.

So far 'Resources for my land' has been implemented by the private sector and supported by FUNDER and VECO MA. However, the model type and the way small producer have organized helped to respond to the vegetables demand, the public sector and in particular, the municipality of Tegucigalpa could play a very important role to enforce this initiative and to make these products available for the poorer segments of the population.

This model can generate schooling, successful factors and a lesson that can guide the public and private sector in the moment of designing strategies for the food provision to larger cities and to improve the food security for the poor.

Agrarian Parks as catalyzers for food sovereignty and sustainable urban development: case study of Rivas Vaciamadrid

In recent decades, farming located in metropolitan regions has suffered an obvious and significant decline due to the expansion of a territorial model based on the commodification of land (transforming agricultural land into building land) and globalization of food markets prioritizing product price versus quality, its origin or production systems. This dynamic has led to the virtual disappearance of farming in peri-urban areas to make it a marginal activity, which can hardly meet the demand of the closest urban environments. Also this has led to widespread ecological degradation of the territory with the destruction of much of fertile soil and its cultural heritage and landscape.

This situation challenges us to develop territorial proposals that promote a paradigm shift according to the paradigm of food sovereignty, and to address the challenges of climate change and the crisis of the current economic system. A change of model based on the principles of territorial multifunctionality, where environmental services from farming pass to the fore, while fostering improved food quality, and a better income and quality life of peri-urban farmers.

In this sense, the city of Rivas Vaciamadrid, adds to the initiative of several local and regional governments to promote public policies aimed at creating sustainable food systems, and a more cohesive territorial model. The local administration has promoted the creation of an Agroecological Agrarian Park “Parque Agroecológico Soto del Grillo” whose main objective is to recover the link between urban and peri world through the enhancement of local, organic and seasonal produce.

In this paper, we focus on analyzing the strategies pursued, and to analyze the challenges that the local administration faces, with a young agricultural sector with no financing capacity or agricultural tradition.

Parque Agroecológico Soto del Grillo: Agroecological Park Soto del Grillo

Through this initiative a series of holistic actions are being promoted that take into account social, economic and environmental aspects of the periurban agricultural area:

The economic perspective is the most important, as one of its main objectives is to facilitate the establishment and consolidation of new entrepreneurial initiatives of agriculture and agro-ecological farming, with the consequent creation of jobs and wealth of the productive fabric in the town.

From the ecological perspective, it, aims to promote agriculture and livestock proximity -based environmental management, to strengthen the ecological functionality of space and conservation of biodiversity and landscapes of quality.

And in its social aspect, is aims at producing organic food, seasonal and fresh, and improving the access of them through the alternative short circuits.

Protection and land management tools and food governance policies:

- **Public Land Bank (Banco de Tierras):**

The Municipal Land Bank aims to facilitate the establishment, start-up and consolidation of new entrepreneurial initiatives in agriculture and livestock for subsequent insertion into the market, thereby creating jobs and wealth of the productive fabric in the town. There is certain criteria established one access to land. There is a social cost of the lease, and the Park has a number of common infrastructures to facilitate the entry of new young people.

- **Local ecological Market:**

It is organized twice a month with local produce from the Park. The target market is to promote a different model of consumer options, with a more direct and trusting relationship between producers and consumers of the municipality.

- **Local Certificate:**

A local certificate has been created, in order to give added value to products produced within the Park, and which certifies that are being produced under certain criteria. This enables consumers to recognize and have more information about the production process of the local products.

- **Cooperative and agroecological training program:**

Young people entering these municipal plots have little business training. In this sense there is a continuous training program that promotes the creation of social economy business and the commercialization of product through alternative circuits. Also there is local Network of Social and Solidarity Economy, where farmers will find new opportunities for networking with different local actors and stakeholders.

- **Technical support in agroecological practices:**

The transition to local food systems must be compatible with the conservation of natural resources and this forces that the viability of farms must not be at the expense of depletion of natural resources. In this regard, there is a free technical support for producers to improve their handling of the park.

Envisioning opportunities for agriculture in peri-urban areas

Europe is a highly urbanized continent. Today, over 75% of the population lives in urban areas, with a projection of 80% by 2020 (Ravetz et al., 2013; EEA, 2006). In this urban growth, we also notice an increase in the surface of the so-called rural-urban fringe (RUF). Scott et al. (2013) refer to the RUF area as 'that messy space where town meets countryside'; 'the jigsaw of land-use, development, environment and community'. Traditionally the RUF has been viewed as a space to meet the needs of an ever-increasing urbanised society. As such, policy in the RUF is often conceptualised from a very urban perspective (Qviström, 2007). This urban-centric perspective hampers the development of the RUFs to their full potential. The peri-urban should not be seen as merely a fringe in between city and countryside, a zone in transition. It should rather be conceived as a new type of multifunctional territory (Ravetz et al., 2013). Therefore, we need to develop visions, plans and strategies that approach peri-urban areas as distinct entities with their own unique characteristics, assets and challenges.

We want to focus more specifically on the position and role of agriculture in this ever changing rural urban fringe. Within peri-urban areas a two-folded pressure on agricultural land is identified (Primdahl, 2014; Zasada, 2011; Kerselaers et al., 2013, Verhoeve et al., 2015). First, land is being irreversibly converted to urban -often sealed-surface. Secondly, agriculture also experiences a strong pressure from counter-urbanisation. In response to this challenge of an ever-increasing pressure on agriculture in peri-urban areas; both a 'positive' and a 'negative' narrative has been developed (Paül & McKenzie, 2013).

According to the positive narrative, the proximity to urban centres as nuclei of societal and lifestyle transitions provides an opportunity to restructure farming beyond the industrial model that is based on pure commodity production (Zasada, 2011). Increased standards of living and extended leisure time of urbanites are mirrored by a tendency to purchase regional organic food, spend leisure time in the near countryside, or even to permanently settle down in the countryside around towns (Zasada, 2011). This context provides the possibility to establish new, mutually beneficial relationships between neighbouring land uses e.g. by providing new sources of income for farmers through the production of food, water, energy and recreational spaces for city dwellers (Nilsson et al., 2013). Several authors (van Huylenbroeck et al., 2005; Gilg and Battershill, 1998; Buciega et al., 2009) specifically highlight the importance of and the possibilities for short food supply chains in the rural-urban fringe. Seen from the urban

perspective a well-functioning peri-urban agriculture is more and more considered as an advantage, because it can create ecological quality, recreational opportunities, attractive living environments, play a role in climate adaptation and reconnect urbanites to food production (Zasada, 2011).

Despite these potential advantages of the vicinity of the city, we can also distinguish a negative narrative. First of all, urbanization and counter-urbanisation lead to an inevitable loss of prime agricultural land (Kerselaers et al., 2013; Primdahl, 2014), a de-activation of agricultural buildings (Primdahl, 2014; Verhoeve et al., 2015) and an increase of land prices beyond levels which can be paid back through profits from food production. Moreover, the possibility of unpleasant farm noises, sights and smells for urban dwellers causes frictions in the coexistence of farmers and the “new” residents of the countryside (Alig et al., 2004; Daniels and Bowers, 1997; Paül and McKenzie, 2013).

Taking into consideration both the opportunities and threats for agriculture in peri-urban areas, Paül and McKenzie (2013) conclude that cities today face two irrevocable challenges: their disconnection from food production areas and the destruction of farmland. Finding ways to deal with these challenges and to seize the opportunities of peri-urban agriculture is not limited to an academic debate as policy makers, farmers, spatial planners and other actors are struggling with these issues on a day-to-day basis. Awareness is growing that a better coordination and integration of objectives and measures is needed to attain a sustainable management of a multifunctional peri-urban space. Furthermore, there is a growing awareness of the necessity to involve all stakeholders in the development of such plans and visions. Local authorities are thus faced with the challenge of developing coordinated and integrated visions on their RUF-area in a participatory style. We made a comparative analysis of two cities in Flanders, Ghent and Kortrijk, in which the local authorities initiated such an envisioning process on the future of agriculture in (and around) their city. The threats and opportunities for agriculture in the rural-urban fringe as well as the organization of a participatory envisioning process are studied and compared.

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Straight from the farmer: an exclusive view behind the scenes of short supply chain farmers in Flanders

8,5% of Flemish farmers sell their products directly to consumers through different short supply chain channels. Although a lot of Flemish and European research has been published in the past few years on these short supply chains (SSC), little was known about the economic impact on farm income. Moreover as research on SSC often focused on case studies, there is little data available covering a substantial number of farms in this specific area.

A survey conducted in 2014 among 1095 Flemish farmers with direct selling fills this knowledge gap by shedding light on different aspects of short supply chains on a farm level: the product range, the distribution channels, the average amount of customers, the required investments (financial and labor), the strategic decisions, the average turnover, the most important drivers and barriers, the impact on the farming, the different kinds of support, etc.

With 130 useful questionnaires (a response rate of 12%), the following key issues and features of Flemish SSC are defined (bearing in mind the fact the representativeness of the sample could not be investigated):

- Flemish SSC are very diverse: from fruit to dairy, from small to large, from starters to more experienced direct sellers, from farm shops and farmers markets to catering and collaboration with colleagues.
- SSC is an important income strategy for Flemish farmers. Although the turnover is quite diverse among the 130 farms, 70% have a minimum yearly turnover of 20.000 euro. The majority indicates that their direct selling contributes significantly to the household income. There is however a minority in the sample who (currently) experiences problems of profitability.
- Flemish SSC experience positive dynamics on different levels: a clear investment dynamic (88% have invested the past five years in their SSC), very optimistic future expectations (2 out of 3 expect their direct sales to grow) and SSC as a growth strategy (50%). This also means that SSC can go hand in hand with growth, countering the general perception that it is either growth or SSC.
- Selling (part of) the farm produce directly to the consumer usually does not

come at the expense of traditional farming (90% agree). They are not mutually exclusive, on the contrary: 60% state that the SSC provides more opportunities for their tradition farming activity (only one out of ten farms is experiencing a negative impact of SSC) and an almost equal share of the farmers see SSC as a strategy to continue their traditional farming. An important issue though is the work pressure when combining the traditional farming activities with direct selling.

The government and other organizations certainly have a role to play in supporting SSC in Flanders, but not necessarily financially: removing regulatory barriers, diminishing red tape and the simplification and the provision of licenses are indicated as the most important enablers. Only 50% indicate that a lack of financial support is an important barrier. Besides eliminating regulatory bottlenecks, other supporting actions are needed, as well as a change in thinking about SSC:

- Changing the general perception: SSC are not just a friendly niche, they are a substantial part of the Flemish agriculture and horticulture with strong investment dynamics, significant revenue and growth prospects, creating more opportunities for the farm.
- Considering the diversity in policy or guidance. Local food strategies are important because they are able to take into account this diversity, providing a more tailored policy framework.
- Raising awareness among farmers: about the need for a professional approach of SSC (increasing the profitability of direct selling), about the importance of individual and collective promotion in order to avoid demand problems and about the impact of SSC on farm labor (and compensation), with a focus on time management, stress prevention and work organization.
- Providing training and information.
- Exploring the possibilities of alternative financing.

The survey report has provided a solid base for policy makers and supporting organizations to further develop the right framework for short supply chains in Flanders. The effort of collecting accurate and reliable data on SSC has to be continued in order to monitor the growth of direct selling as a business strategy for farmers.

Agriculture in a green and dynamic urban region

The aim of this report is to examine the role of agriculture in a green, dynamic urban region, and how that role can be reinforced in the policy and in practice. The main messages of this report are:

- Peri urban agriculture has been forgotten in government policies. It is absent in spatial policy, urban policy and rural development policy.
- Peri urban planning has a lot of opportunities: food security, environmental benefits, social benefits, economic benefits.
- A sustainable, experiencing agriculture in the urban fringe can answer the demands from the city.

Today, peri-urban areas in Flanders are the principal context for rural land use. One quarter of the agricultural area and businesses are located in a city region. Due to the limited possibilities of further scaling-up, rising land prices, increased environmental pressure, pressure from residents and a strict licensing policy, agriculture in suburban areas is under pressure. Nevertheless, agriculture in peri-urban areas can also offer quite a few advantages as to local food security, social employment, integration, quality of life, education, leisure activities, waste processing, etc. The research of Van Huylenbroeck et al. (2005) has also shown that in an urbanised environment there is a clear social demand for a more sustainable and multifunctional agriculture. Both cities and rural areas can benefit a lot from each other's proximity, and this creates opportunities for peri-urban agriculture. Peri-urban agriculture connects cities to their surroundings and can therefore be an acceptable, affordable and effective instrument for sustainable urbanisation. Urban agriculture can be regarded as a transition process in which the speed of the transition is determined by the organisational and institutional framework, the type of business organisation and the farmer's spirit of enterprise.

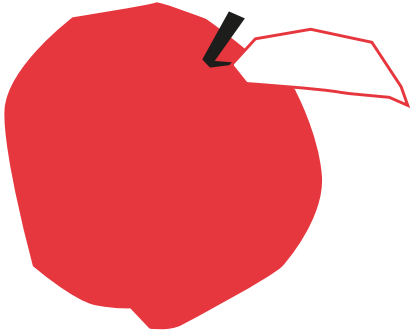
The contrast between city and rural area is quite institutionalised in the policy. In the European policy a distinction is made between the European rural policy with a RDP fund and the European territorial cohesion policy with EFRD and ESF resources. In Flanders we can see an urban policy with an associated urban fund and a rural policy with a co-financing fund for rural development. In spatial planning in Flanders there are also planning initiatives that are aimed at demarcating and reinforcing cities and countering new developments in the rural area. The incorrect subdivision between city

and rural area also conflicts with the sectoral policy, which is clear from the granting of licences to farmers. Currently, in all areas of policy little account is taken of the many transition areas between cities and rural areas, which are nevertheless characteristic of peri-urban Flanders. However, a look through the documents that offer an insight into the desired policy for the future has shown that the interaction between city, suburban area and rural area is increasingly on the agenda of the different authorities and partners, and that the objectives of urban policy documents overlap with a number of advantages of urban agriculture. From this we can deduce that urban agriculture can contribute to the realisation of urban objectives.

City-country relations can be reinforced by responding to social demands from the city and thus broadening and deepening agriculture. In this study we have tried to demonstrate that an integrated approach in the suburban areas is necessary. To this end, the institutional framework must be adapted and agriculture and horticulture must be made acceptable again in the urban area. A coherent policy is required. We need a made-to-measure strategy and we can invest in cooperation and knowledge exchange and reinforce the structures (distribution, marketing, networking). Political commitment is also essential. This commitment will only exist once city dwellers consider agriculture as a necessary element in the sustainable development of cities. To reach that point, additional communication and awareness campaigns are necessary. We need to create emotional involvement; farmers and city dwellers must get back in touch with one another. Making existing initiatives visible and supporting them can help start up new initiatives. We should also look for new sources of financing to keep agriculture near urban areas affordable.

These recommendations can contribute, on the one hand, to the recognition of the role of agriculture in a green and dynamic urban region and, on the other hand, to the consideration of agriculture as a real option, from an urban perspective, to help realise the breakthrough.

Track 3



Food Security – Food Sovereignty



Food	Smart
Cities	For
Development	

Krishnadasan Palaniswamy²,
Mieke Uyttendaele¹, Selvan Ponnuraman²,
Liesbeth Jacxsens¹

Food of the cities: ensuring quality and safety of street foods in India and beyond

Street foods are usually defined as ready-to-eat food or drink sold in a street or other public place, such as a market or fair, by a hawker or vendor, often from a portable stall. In many countries, street foods make an important contribution to employment, household revenue and food security, and help to meet the challenge of feeding urban populations, particularly in low and middle-income countries. The demand for street foods has increased due to rapid urbanization, population growth and associated social and structural changes. Street foods are especially known for their flavors, convenience and reasonable price. Millions of people consume street foods every day in India, but also in many other countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America or the Caribbean they represent a significant part of urban food consumption. An FAO study in Calcutta (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/w3699t/w3699t06.htm>) found that street foods may be the least expensive and best method of obtaining a nutritionally balanced meal outside the home. But as an 'informal' sector street foods often escape formal inspection and control. They can therefore be both the source of food safety problems and contribute to the deterioration of environmental hygiene.

People who are regular customers of street foods have been reported to suffer from food borne disease such as diarrhea, cholera, typhoid fever and food poisoning (Rane 2011). This is mainly because vendors are often poorly educated, unlicensed and untrained in food hygiene, and they work under unsanitary conditions without having awareness about the causes of food borne diseases. Besides, foods are often unprotected from the flies which may carry food borne pathogens and subjected to poor storage temperatures (Tambekar et al. 2008). Also there may be lack of access to potable water for cleaning purposes. High ambient temperatures in tropical environments have also been described as the major factor responsible for multiplication of bacterial contaminants (Ganguli et al. 2004). Tambekar et al. (2009)

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conducted a study on quality and safety of street vended fruit juices. A total of 52 samples were analysed often found to be contaminated with unacceptable levels of *E. coli*, *Salmonella* or *Staphylococcus aureus*, with higher likelihood of finding pathogens in crowded sites and sites with unhygienic surrounding. Ghosh et al. (2007) reported detection of pathogens in ready-to-eat salads, including *Shigella* sp. referring to infected food handlers with insufficient hand hygiene. Poojara and Kristmas (2012) in studying the microbiological profile of street vended foods in Kerala, India did reveal less likelihood of contamination in processed foods due to heat treatment of these foods. Still for example poultry based street foods such as chicken fried rice, due to post-contamination and long term storage (5-6 hours) at ambient temperatures (ca. 30°C) enabled multiplication of enterotoxin producing organisms such as *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus cereus* posing a threat to food poisoning upon ingestion of these type of street foods (Sudershan et al. 2012).

This year World Health Day 2015 (<http://www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day/2015/event/en/>) focused on Food Safety and took the opportunity to highlight the role to play by both public authorities and private businesses but actually by each involved in food handling in ensuring that the food on people' plates is safe to eat. As with all food preparation activities, also for street foods basic food hygiene rules must be applied. The Codex Alimentarius Commission (AGNS FAO) has adopted regional guidance documents (e.g for street foods in Africa <http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/a0740e/a0740e00.htm>) and a fact sheet (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/ak003e/ak003e09.pdf>) to raise awareness and to help achieve the elaboration of codes of practice for street-food vendors. The Food Safety and Standards Authority in India (FSAI) has laid down sanitary and hygienic requirements for street food vendors and also released a guidance document for food safety for small and medium establishments including street vendors in 2011. It is believed that creating a favorable enabling environment, providing infrastructure, providing training and capacity building to transfer the "best available knowledge" is a key issue for local development in the field of food safety of street foods. In addition, ensuring food produced and consumed is safe, and ensuring a swift response to hazardous food safety situations have very positive impacts on food security.

Street food vending is found around the world, but has variations within both regions and cultures. In addition street foods are re-emerging also in European and North American society as also in our Western world, we eat more out of home and on the go. Also buying food at farmer markets, from big or small food trucks and "meals on wheels" at festivities, or any other small or big events is getting increasingly popular. This type of food markets and food cards bring the agri-food chain and food culture

again closer to consumers in an urban environment and new initiatives to promote this are taken. For example in Rotterdam a new market hall opened in October 2014 in a modern designed building, holding not only many food shops but also food stands on terraces. As another example, Portland, Oregon is a top 10 hipster city in America known for its food trucks representing a collection of micro-eateries with a wide choice in international eating (<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/street-food>). And of course every festival or festivity has its own line up of street foods being served. As such street foods and the challenges linked to food for the cities (<http://www.fao.org/fcit/fcit-home/en/>) is not only an issue in India or low or middle-income countries but also concerns high income countries. The bottom-line is the same, food safety and food security should be there for all, in whatever format the food and to whom the food is served.

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The people, the agriculture and food in the urban and rural context – insights from Havana, Cuba.

In its evolution, the city and the people that build it have evolved to distance themselves more and more from the sources of its sustainability: natural resources and human relations. The concept of “urban development” had neglected this problematic. On the other hand concepts of richness and poverty have been generally associated to the economy. Indicators that define a territory based on its levels of liveable soil, clean water, plant and animal diversity, food security, health and resilience are lacking.

Changing this reality is not the sole responsibility of decision makers, specialists, competent institutions, it needs to be taken on by each individual person. The urban agricultural production, the processes related to it and the its complementary relation with the rural area have a real potentiality to stimulate these changes. They need to be considered in public policy development, territorial planning, community building projects, etc. This will create the possibility to bring the sustainability discourse to daily practice and create a culture that is apt to the needs of these times.

In Cuba the urgency of the economic crisis in the 1990's created opportunities for change. Urban agriculture became of the last 20 years an option for subsistence that you can find in all human settlements in the country. This new urban function, despite its challenges, has been institutionalized and integrated in territorial planning strategies. Family and community practices have been integrated into the process so to push production, consumption and commercialization of healthy products while at the same time increase efficient use of resources, augment quality of urban green spaces, limit energy loss, ...

Individuals, families and community groups are creating networks that create a stronger link between city and its rural surroundings, increase respect for the environmental context and stimulate small food processing companies. These networks also increase potential to formulate shared solutions to local problems that are related to the adoption of new lifestyles based on consumerism that degrade our planet.

Food sovereignty in fresh produce supply chain: Kenya versus Uganda

The demand for fresh produce has led to an increase of the types of produce and year-round availability of fresh produce on the shelves in developed countries. Developing countries, especially those from Sub Saharan Africa, are increasingly exporting fresh produce products to high-income countries.

In return, this has fundamentally changed the fresh produce supply chain by a greater globalization of markets and more stringent food safety regulations. To tackle this, companies exporting to Europe need to comply with stringent public and private standards due to the concerns about the microbiological contamination of fresh produce and violation of levels of pesticide residues that have been revealed by several monitoring and surveillance studies. The effective management of food safety in this ever more complex global fresh produce sector will require the implementation of robust food safety management systems (FSMS) by chain actors in the whole supply chain including the small or medium scale farmers and trading companies in Sub Saharan Africa.

However, the managerial and/or technological capacity of different countries and producers or companies in setting up such systems are quite different. Farmers at the beginning of the supply chain are confronted with many standards and certification requirements from downstream buyers such as traders, retailers or processors. These demands are also continuously changing and increasingly complex. Producers wanting to penetrate or maintain access to high value (European) fresh produce markets face many interrelated standards that can be of private or public nature and also be voluntary or obligatory.

The question then arises as to how various actors from the concerned countries within the fresh produce supply chain designed and operate their FSMS to guarantee the safety and quality of their products, especially when these actors have differences in access to resources, technological development, and food safety legal frameworks.

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Kenya and Uganda are among the East African production and exportation countries of fresh produce to the EU but with contrasting market destinations. Kenya's green bean export value for 2013 was US\$ 55.8 million (1) while Uganda's hot pepper export value totals about US\$ 0.5 million. (2) Kenya has the longest experience with exports to EU while Uganda, whose hot pepper exports were almost zero in the 1970s, is still a minor exporter to the EU fresh produce market. (3, 4) Identified differences in the FSMS for green bean farms in Kenya and hot peppers in Uganda suggested that food safety standards certification affects the level of maturity in the set-up and operation of FSMS and their company specific FSMS contexts. (5).

It was also exemplified whereby the pressures of the high demanding EU retailer customers in Kenya resulted in more mature and elaborated FSMS along the fresh produce supply chain than in Uganda.

In most of the fresh produce export supply chains in Sub-Saharan Africa, exporters greatly rely on farmers especially smallholders for their supplies. This means that if the implemented FSMS is basic or low at farm level then the whole sector would be vulnerable in case of a food safety outbreak. (6) In both Kenya and Uganda, 15 respondents were interviewed during 2013-2014 exploring the various individual experiences and opinions about food safety standards for the fresh produce sectors in developing countries and East African Community in particular. The demanding role of private standards and EU legislation was highlighted from this study: they were perceived as the most costly and difficult to implement by both Kenyan and Ugandan stakeholders although higher perceived by Kenya than by Uganda because of the different export destination markets in the EU.

This situation is seen to have a profound effect on the structure (e.g. consolidation, vertical coordination) and the organization (e.g. third party certification) of the fresh produce supply chain between both countries (7). Standards were also seen both as non-tariff barrier to trade as catalyst to trade. International harmonization of food safety standards was highlighted as a measure to reduce the effect of standards as non-tariff barrier to trade. Complying with food safety and quality standards may be often perceived as a strong burden but advantages, besides assurance of food safety and quality, such as spill-over of knowledge, better worker health and increased environmental sustainability were also acknowledged in this study.

African countries' agricultural policy agenda would have a duty to include partnership and alliances with national, regional and international institutions in order to support and assist in improving technology, institutions and human capacity for standards

compliance, particularly among the commercial and smallholder farmers. Our studies (5, 6 and 7) reveal that although Kenya has advanced FSMS in their fresh produce supply chain and is able to export with EU high demanding retailers, Uganda has chosen to supply more local markets with fresh produce and only a restricted supply chain to less demanding EU markets is present contributing at the end to food security and food sovereignty for Uganda's population.

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