



## Summary Paper

### VC 7: The Growth of Cities in East and Southern Africa – Opportunities and Threats for Horticulture November 30<sup>th</sup> 2010

#### Introduction

Five countries took part in the video conference (VC) on November 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 along with the issue paper author from the Netherlands; Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Tanzania and Uganda. The first section of this summary paper will introduce the context of the VC and the main issues presented in the issue paper produced by the expert on the subject. The second section will consider the current situations and challenges of each country as discussed during the offline national discussions and in the country National Position Papers (NPP). Section three will consider the future directions to be considered in regard to increasing regional trade. Finally, section four will conclude.

#### Context

Given the constantly increasing urban growth in the developing world and in Africa in particular<sup>1</sup>, it is estimated that half of the population in Africa will be living in cities before 2050. As an extreme example, Nakuru -Kenya, had a city growth rate of over 13% between 1996 and 2006. Not only capital cities are growing, all towns are in similar trends. The impact on poverty, living conditions, employment and the environment (water, soil, waste management etc.) is tremendous<sup>2</sup>. However, in terms of agriculture and food supply, particularly as regards peri-urban horticulture, little information is available, as there seems to have been little investigation to date on the subject. Although the effects of an urbanized population on food habits and behavior are known, little has been done to link cities to sustainable and safe food sources, in particular for the case of fresh and perishable produce such as fruits and vegetables.

This video-conference focused on the contrast between the well documented threats induced by urban growth in developing countries (pollution, high cost of living, competition for space and water, threats on human health etc) and the potential opportunities offered by peri-urban horticulture in many areas (employment and income generation, fresh supply, diversified food for good nutrition, landscaping and city beautification, sink for urban waste and recycling etc.).

#### Current national situations and challenges

##### *Ethiopia*

Ethiopia has a rate of 6% of migration to urban centers<sup>3</sup>. In Addis Ababa, 17.4% of the population is engaged in urban agricultural activities, 0.9% of which is used for vegetable production<sup>4</sup>. In Ethiopia, as

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<sup>1</sup> UN-Habitat statistics from 2008

<sup>2</sup> UN-Habitat has done a great deal of work on this subject.

<sup>3</sup> CSA 2010 quoted in National Position Paper Ethiopia, Pg. 5

<sup>4</sup> UAESCP 2010, quoted in NPP Ethiopia, Pg. 6



in many of the countries involved, the people generally involved in urban horticulture production are the poor and of those people the largest group is women. Producer households generally consume around 45% of their production and the rest is marketed for cash<sup>5</sup> which allows households in Addis Ababa to save 10-20% of their income<sup>6</sup>. Furthermore it is considered that urban and peri-urban horticulture is making a significant contribution to the diets of urban dwellers as the Addis Ababa Urban Agriculture Office records that 30% of total vegetable and 60-70% of leafy vegetable demand in the city are met by urban and peri-urban agriculture<sup>7</sup>.

The NPP states the following constraints: tenure and limited access to land; lack of urban agriculture policy; inadequate research and extension services; by-law restrictions; input requirements; restrictive urban planning; negative attitudes by some authorities towards the concept for urban horticulture; poor water, sanitation and environmental conditions.

### *Kenya*

Current rate of urbanization is 4% with current urban population of 22% in Kenya with 77% of urban farmers producing for their own consumption<sup>8</sup>. Unlike several of the other countries, Kenya has a National Urban and Peri Urban Agriculture and Livestock Draft Policy. However, this document is not yet fully approved and the enforcement of such a policy is another issue. In Nairobi, more than 650 hectares of land are urban and peri-urban production<sup>9</sup>. One of the major limiting factors for urban and peri-urban agriculture in Kenya is access to water for irrigation; 37% of farmers have limited access to potable water<sup>10</sup>.

### *Madagascar*

Madagascar's urbanization rate is 27% and by 2025 45% of the population will be living in cities. However, as evidenced in their NPP, there is little research and understanding of the urban and peri-urban horticulture sector in Madagascar.

### *Tanzania*

Tanzania has an annual urban growth rate of 4.6%<sup>11</sup>, second highest amount of the East African countries. The NPP admits that Tanzania has no history of urban agriculture and it appears to be an organic development due to demand and opportunity. As in many of the other countries women are the most numerous urban cultivators and make up around two-thirds of the group. Vegetable production is the most prominent in the capital with a clear focus on green leafy vegetables. These

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<sup>5</sup> UAESCP 2010, quoted in NPP Ethiopia p. 8

<sup>6</sup> Ibid p. 9

<sup>7</sup> NPP Ethiopia, p. 8

<sup>8</sup> National Position Paper Kenya p. 1

<sup>9</sup> Anonymous 2009; Kangethe et al, 2008, quoted in NPP Kenya p. 2

<sup>10</sup> Hide and Kimani 2000, quoted in NPP Kenya p. 2

<sup>11</sup> World Population Prospects 2009, quoted in National Position Paper Tanzania, p. 1



vegetables can be grown 10 months of the year and are sufficiently resistant to pest and disease. They have a short vegetation cycle and investments are reasonable. There is also little competition from outside the city as the vegetables are highly perishable and do not transport well.

Urban agriculture in Tanzania is very much governed by municipal by-laws that are formulated and enforced at local government level but conflicts of interest have tended to leave urban farmers as losers.

### *Uganda*

Kampala, the capital city, is growing at 5% yearly and is expected to double in size by 2025<sup>12</sup>. Several studies have reported between 41 and 50% of land in the city is under cultivation<sup>13</sup>. Given the current nature of urbanization in the city the demand for fresh fruit and vegetables amongst other things continues to grow as incomes grow, there has also been an observation of increased popularity of indigenous fruits and vegetables. The NPP points out six new market opportunities due to increasing urbanization: traditional wet and open air markets; small groceries, kiosks, roadside vendors and nurseries; supermarkets; mobile food vendors and catering services. Kampala does have an Urban Agriculture Unit set up in the Production and Marketing Department of Kampala City Council to look more deeply into these issues.

However, there are serious problems to take into consideration as well, for example research has shown vegetable samples grown around industrial areas taken from Kampala have high concentrations of zinc, lead and copper. Health hazards mentioned in the NPP are classed as physical, chemical, biological and psychological<sup>14</sup>.

### **Future directions**

After the online session, the countries continue with offline discussions partly guided by the online discussions. For this VC, as well as post-VC papers on the offline discussions some countries produced log-frames with an indication of what future steps/activities are required while others provided recommendations.

### *National level*

Of all the countries, Madagascar had the least information and understanding of the urban and peri-urban horticulture sector in the country and so the steps for the way forward were all very national in focus. Although it was noted from the post-VC papers that the majority of focus in this VC, unlike the majority of the others, was predominantly national in scope. Their focus ranged from identifying and understanding the motivation of urban and peri-urban producers/actors to developing a favorable

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<sup>12</sup> UN-HABITAT 2008, quoted in National Position Paper Uganda p. 1

<sup>13</sup> NPP Uganda p. 1

<sup>14</sup> Cole et al 2003, quoted in NPP Uganda p. 3



environmental policy and integrating the issues into the national platform. Their focus also centered geographically around Antananarivo the main location for urban and peri-urban agriculture in the country.

While urbanization is recognized in Uganda the VC participants highlighted the need to change the mindset of politicians among others to understand the opportunities that are presented by urban and peri-urban horticulture. They also brought up the issue of contradictions in the laws that govern urban agriculture and this was brought up by Ethiopia in regard to lack of clear policy and strategy framework in Office of Urban Agriculture.

Ethiopia suggested the following specific actions: Growers need to be properly trained and guided and programs need to be established for providing extension package services to urban producers. Ethiopia and Uganda both highlighted the opportunity to use the advantage of well-organized community structures such as producer and marketing co-operatives and women and youth associations to promote urban horticulture in cities and towns. There also needs to be increased support to basic services, extension, inputs, research, credit and market information. Kenya also pointed out the need for the country to inventory the number of different initiatives currently operating in the country in regard to urban and peri-urban horticulture. Tanzania interestingly touched on the need to improve food safety standards and GAP for urban horticulture farmers and to sensitize consumers to standards as well.

#### *Regional level*

Kenya and Tanzania were the only countries to come up with any sort of regional way forward and this is probably reflective of their more developed horticulture sector. They highlighted the perceived need for a regional network to share information among other things and reminded the participants of the recommendations on formation of an Urban Agriculture Network for Eastern and Southern Africa (UANESA) during an Urban Agriculture workshop in Nairobi, Kenya in 1998. In the absence of leadership and coordination, this network has never produced anything; it could however, be revitalized from this VC.

#### **Conclusion**

This is a cross-sectoral issue that requires a multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary approach. Urban and peri-urban horticulture was acknowledged as common but there is very little attention and support given to the subject as yet. All of the countries touched on the need to quantify and qualify the urban and peri urban horticulture, to better know the flows between rural and urban areas, and develop or better integrate urban and peri-urban horticulture into various policies including agricultural and land use. This was agreed by all and it could be derived from the VC that it is a subject that is becoming increasingly important and needs much more attention than it has been given thus far.

#### **Bibliography**



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