

Urban Growth in Uganda, Opportunities and Threats for Horticulture

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By

James Ssemwanga

The Ssemwanga Centre for Agriculture and Food Ltd.



Present status of urban growth in Uganda and consequences for horticultural production to supply cities

- Uganda total area 241,038 sq. km (24 million ha)
- 75% suitable for agriculture
- Current population, 32.3 million, growing at 3.4% p.a.
- Urbanisation continues at 6% p.a.
- Kampala city
 - occupies 197 km² , growing at 5%, has 40% of total urban population, has 5% of the total population of Uganda, slum dwellers 85-93%, density can exceed 9000 persons per km², 10 times the min. req. for urbanisation
- 41% to 50% Kampala land under agriculture

Opportunities Presented By Urbanization for the Horticulture Industry

- Growing Demand for fresh fruit and vegetables (FFV), processed fruits and vegetables (PFV) and flowers and ornamental plants (FOP)
- Indigenous fruits and vegetables popularized
- Market segments increasing
- Six types of outlets/channels
 - Open air, wet markets
 - Groceries and kiosks
 - Informal food markets
 - Supermarkets
 - Vendors on wheels (mobile)
 - Catering and events

Constraints Faced By the Horticulture Industry in Meeting Urban Demand

- Scattered nature of production units - 37-58 hours to organize & collect a shipment
- Urban producers operate in hazardous environment e.g. former dumpsites, wetlands and abandoned waste land
- Vegetables accumulate zinc, lead and copper
- Floods wash away/submerge vegetable plots
- Food legislation not well enforced

Constraints cont'd

- High costs of value addition e.g. packaging and certification.
- Consumers more price sensitive rather than quality sensitive
- Kampala City Council (KCC) and other urban authorities are constantly under pressure from politicians to create more space for stalls and kiosks
- Poor Facilities at the markets are very poor, not conducive to volume trading
- Signed contracts are very rare for suppliers of FFV or FOP, whether large or small
 - arrangements back stream are unnecessary (risky??), therefore also rare.
- Wholesale prices fluctuate widely
- Cartelism on the verge

Present management of the impact of rapid urban growth at policy level

- UN-HABITAT supporting a Local Urban Knowledge Arenas (LUKAS) platform on climate change
- Horticulture is accorded rather low priority on the Agriculture Development Strategy and Investment Plan (ADSIP) of Uganda
- The population secretariat develops and implements
- National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) for coordinating, monitoring, regulating and supervising environmental management in the country
- Kampala City Council now has Urban Agriculture Unit
- IPC implementing “Urban Agriculture in Kampala City Uganda: Health Impact Assessment and Options for Improvement”, to carry out an environmental health impact assessment on urban households engaged in farming.

On-going strategy at national and regional level

- UN-HABITAT implementing the Lake Victoria Cities Development Strategies (CDS) to improve governance and management, increase investment, reduce urban poverty.
- NGOs are active in Urban Ag. e.g. Environmental Alert and Municipal Development Partnership for East and Southern Africa (MDP-ESA)
- Urban agriculture is very much on the research agenda at Makerere University and environmental studies are taught at other universities, including Mountains of the Moon University.
- EAC should coordinate the efforts of all agencies in the region