

# 35. CLIMATE-RESILIENT URBAN AGRICULTURE FOR VILLAGES & SMALL TOWNS BY SHORTENING THE PRODUCTION & CONSUMPTION SPACES & SUPPLY CHAINS

ACTION AREA	UNIVERSAL FOOD ACCESS TO BUILD RESILIENCE
SOLUTION CLUSTER	ENHANCE LOCAL PRODUCTION FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION
THEMATIC AREA	LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS FOR LOCAL PRODUCTION
SUBMITTED BY	UNEP, RUAF, RIKOLTO

## WHAT IS THE RISK, SHOCK, STRESS THAT THE SOLUTION IS TRYING TO ADDRESS?

Climate change and disaster risk and well as crises due to health pandemics, such as the COVID-19 which result in increasing poverty and food insecurity.

## HOW DOES THE SOLUTION IMPROVE OR ENHANCE RESILIENCE OF FOOD SYSTEMS?

Urban agriculture can help cities to become more resilient by reducing the vulnerability of the most at-risk urban groups and by strengthening community-based adaptive management through

- i. diversifying urban food sources, enhancing access of the urban poor to nutritious food;
- ii. reducing dependency on imported foods;
- iii. decreasing vulnerability to periods of low food supply from rural areas during floods, droughts or other disasters;
- iv. diversifying income opportunities of the urban poor, & providing a safety net in times of economic crisis; and
- v. being a source of innovation and learning about new strategies/technologies for high land- and water-efficient food production.

A survey conducted by the FAO between April and May 2020 based on 860 responses suggested that on average villages and small towns were less affected by covid-19 restrictions than cities (> 500,000 inhabitants), supposedly because of their proximity to production areas and short supply chains. Cities that had facilitated assessment of vulnerabilities of their food system to climate change under CRFS assessment, and supported multi stakeholder planning and joint learning, were able to coordinate response actions to the Covid Crisis, including urban agriculture and local marketing of vegetables.

## IS THE SOLUTION RELEVANT TO BUILDING FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCE?

Anticipate shocks/risks/stress and/or reduce vulnerability, manage risks, Prevent (reduce exposure), Absorb, respond/cope, Adapt to shock-affected scenarios and evolving risk scenarios, Transform the Food System when the current Food System is no longer sustainable

## IN WHAT REALMS OF INTERVENTION IS THE SOLUTION DESIGNED TO ACT ON RESILIENCE?

Individual, Household, Community, Land/sea-scape

## WHO ARE THE MAIN ACTORS THAT WOULD PUT THIS ACTION INTO PLACE?

Policymakers (government), Private (businesses), Civil (NGOs), Farmers, Scientists, Indigenous groups

## WHAT IS THE POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THIS IDEA? DOES THE IDEA HAVE ANY MEMBER STATES OR POLITICAL INTERESTS? ARE THERE ANY STAKEHOLDERS WORKING ON IT?

Several Mayors have been maintaining and managing agriculture projects as part of the urban and peri-urban green infrastructure (eg. Kampala, Uganda; Mumbai, India; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; etc). Others have been integrating urban agriculture into urban planning (eg. Curitiba, Brazil, Quito in Ecuador, Rotterdam, Netherlands; London, UK; New York, USA). Urban agriculture is being promoted by cities of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact and Rikolto's Food Smart Cities programme; cities networks such as RUAF, ICLEI; apart from UN agencies such as UNEP and FAO. FAO will soon publish a source book, and the World Bank/FAO publication on investment also asks for more attention to this. UNEP and International Resources Panel are developing a scientific report on urban agriculture, comparing the resources use and resilience building between different types. So there is movement and renewed interest in urban agriculture as key in building resilience.

Academic/Research support to this idea include: the FAO Report, several blogs at FAO and RUAF websites, and several publication, including at:

- [www.ruaf.org](http://www.ruaf.org)
- <https://www.institut.veolia.com/en/urban-agriculture-climate-change-and-disaster-risk-reduction-strategy>
- <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/13/3/1325>: City Region Food Systems: Building Resilience to COVID-19 and Other Shocks
- FAO. 2020. COVID-19 and the role of local food production in building more resilient local food systems. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb1020en>

## IS THE SOLUTION APPLICABLE AT GLOBAL LEVEL, OR SPECIFIC CONTEXTS & PARTICULAR COUNTRIES?

Global level. It is an important solution for contexts of both developed and developing economies.

## ARE THERE ANY FINANCIAL SOURCES/FUNDS THAT IS SUPPORTING THIS IDEA?

more financial support is needed thus there is a game changing solution submitted under AT1 to create a financial mechanism for food security that links with urban agriculture.

HOW DOES THIS SOLUTION CONTRIBUTE TO (A) EMPOWER WOMEN AND COMBAT GENDER INEQUALITIES, AND (B) THE FULFILMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND THE RIGHT TO WATER, (C) MAKE USE OF INNOVATIONS (TECHNOLOGIES, INSTITUTIONS, PROCESSES)?

Environmental disasters, such as climate change, and health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, mostly affect the urban poor, women, and the elderly and due to their vulnerability. Women play a crucial role in bringing food to the tables of their families. They represent 60 to 80 per cent of food production. Urban agriculture can support to close the gender gap by empowering women and giving them access to agricultural inputs and land, and by engaging them in urban food systems planning and governance. Urban agriculture is central as a solution for universal access to food. Household or community gardens can ensure that food is accessed by families and communities even during moments of crises or food price fluctuation.