

# *Towards sustainable and resilient urban food systems*



## ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

# Foreword

The year 2015 marked the signing of the first international protocol by cities calling for development of more sustainable and resilient urban food systems. We are proud to say that RUAF Foundation, together with IPSA and UN-FAO, has been part of the technical team that supported the City of Milan and a large number of signatory cities in the participatory drafting of this document. The protocol, the [Milan Urban Food Policy Pact](#), was signed on 15 October by 115 cities. Signatory Mayors from cities in the Global North and South pledged to develop actions and strategies to improve their urban food system.

This initiative of the Mayor of Milan, illustrates the leading role of municipalities in determining their own food security and sustainable development and provides a very relevant new context for RUAF to continue and extend its support to local and city regional governments in the field of urban agriculture and sustainable city-region food systems. RUAF commits in 2016 and beyond to the actual follow up and implementation of urban food policies, projects and programmes in the signatory and other cities.

Through the City Region Food System Alliance, RUAF also contributed to international lobbying to call for attention for urban food security and city region food systems in the New Urban Agenda pledged in October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador. To this purpose, RUAF published two issues of its UA Magazine in 2015 on topics of the Agenda's interest: no. 29 on City Region Food Systems, and no. 30, with ILEIA, on Rural-Urban Linkages. RUAF, in collaboration with GIZ and FAO, also documented thirteen city region case studies that yielded recommendations for implementation of the New Urban Agenda at local territorial levels (see [www.ruaf.org](http://www.ruaf.org)).

We would also like to ask attention for RUAF's growing portfolio of work on city region food system assessment indicators and tools that will help understand the potential of localised systems of production, and will support strategy and action planning for more resilient food systems at local level. Also worth mentioning is RUAF's work on developing business models and new educational tools for a younger generation to engage in decent employment in urban agriculture.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that in 2015, RUAF Foundation, several of its founding partners and a number of new partner institutions renewed the RUAF Global Partnership on Sustainable Urban Agriculture and Food Systems. This new partnership replaces the RUAF member network that consisted of founding regional RUAF partners since the start of RUAF in 2000. The current members of the RUAF Partnership are a mix of municipalities, research institutes, and NGO's (see for a list of partners: Contact us)

The RUAF partners will strengthen RUAF and each other in joint and collaborative strategy development, research, benchmarking and upscaling, representation and networking, dissemination and awareness raising, and in implementation. We invite cities and other stakeholders to (continue to) collaborate with RUAF in the coming years to address ever increasing challenges of sustainable urbanisation and food systems in city regions around the world.

We sincerely thank all our project partner cities and organisations, strategic alliances and donors for the support provided and collaboration in 2015.

Bram Huijsman, Chairman of the Board  
Marielle Dubbeling, RUAF Director



# Contents

## Activities and achievements 2015 p4

The RUAF network contributes to the development of sustainable cities by facilitating programme development, action planning and research, capacity development and advisory services, policy design, lobbying and advocacy, knowledge management and sharing on urban agriculture and resilient and equitable city region food systems. Read our project highlights here.



New forms of urban agriculture enterprises

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## Financial report p10

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## Contact us p11

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## About RUAF p12

Community participation in land use planning



Mayors signing the Milan Urban Food Policy pact



# Overview of 2015/16 activities

## Strategic objective 1: Localised systems of production for more inclusive economies

### Project 1: Enhancing urban agriculture for food security projects (Liberia)

In 2015, RUAF's Liberia programme on urban and peri-urban agriculture, the [UPANI project](#), supported by the EU came to an end. RUAF collaborated with German Welthungerhilfe in supporting farmers and various actors in the Region of Greater Monrovia to integrate urban agriculture as a rehabilitation as well as development strategy. The project concluded that urban and peri-urban agriculture can contribute to increasing city resilience and reducing dependency on food imports. It also found that it is necessary to design urban development plans that impose specific rules for utilisation of land, banning unauthorised structures and creating areas for agricultural production. In this context, in 2015, UPA has been included in the draft National Urban Policy (developed by Ministry of Internal Affairs, supported by Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) and UN-Habitat).

In addition, a study on food safety of urban food production in Greater Monrovia and Tubmanburg has been implemented, focusing on the use of contaminated water and land. Based on the study, awareness was built, and training provided to 100 representatives of over 30 farmer groups and selected key institutions on risk reduction at farm and market levels. This participatory study assisted the Ministry of health (MoH) in operationalising its National Food Safety Guidelines (published in 2011) and further risk reduction measures.

### Project 2: Promoting resilient and market-oriented urban and peri-urban agriculture development in Gaza



*PTD field visit in Gaza @ Willem van Weperen*

RUAF's Gaza project is a good example of how our work aims to contribute to increasing the Right to Food and food sovereignty for a vulnerable population, by promoting localised systems of production. Since 2013, OXFAM Italy and the RUAF Foundation have been collaborating, under a Swiss Development Corporation- funded project, to [promote market-oriented urban and peri-urban agriculture in the Gaza Strip](#). In 2015, a policy review and analysis of main Gaza and Palestinian plans and strategies bearing on market oriented urban and peri-urban



agriculture was implemented with support from RUAF. Following, support is provided to the development of the three-year mid-term plan 2016-2018 of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of National Economy's Consumer Protection Department 3 years plan in 2016.

In parallel, local value chain actors have been supported to improve the palm dates and fodder/dairy value chain. Two processing units, one for dates and one for dairy, have been upgraded with solar powered cold storage systems (to increase shelf life and decrease transportation costs) and are supported in agribusiness enterprise development. Three more dairy processing units will be selected in 2016. RUAF also supports Participatory Technology Development in these value chains, with training of local trainers (15 trainees within 4 key extension institutions) and development of a number of farmer experiments with support from the local Oxfam staff team to test green fodder production and the effect on milk quantity and quality, and try new pollination technologies for date palm trees and control of Red Palm Weevil.

### **Project 3: The role of urban agriculture in post-disaster and emergency settings in Jordan**

RUAF, in collaboration with Spontaneous Cities (SpCiti), International Cooperation of the Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNGI), and the cities of Amsterdam (in Jordan) and Almere (in Lebanon), support both host- and refugee communities the Mafraq governorate and Al Za'Atari refugee camp in Jordan, with small scale agriculture initiatives linked to important issues of waste, water and land management. This programme will be further developed in 2016.



*Mission to the refugee camp*

### **Strategic objective 2: Strengthening resilience of urban systems and the urban poor/vulnerable groups**

#### **Project 4: Improving household water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and productive use of household wastes in local food and energy production**

RUAF has been a thematic partner in the MFS II programme of the Dutch [WASH alliance](#) (DWA), since 2011. The DWA officially ended in 2015, but will continue in 2016 under the name WASH Alliance International (WAI) after a positive evaluation of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Dutch Ministry, who supported the project, concluded that:

- The cooperation between the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the WASH Alliance has been of great value;
- The Alliance contributed substantially to the MDGs;
- Working in an alliance has created added value.

By the end of 2015 the WASH Alliance International received a bridging fund for 2016 to scale up the WASH experiences and diversify its funding.

Over the past five years, and together with WASTE, RUAF developed a number of innovations and businesses along the sanitation value chain, such as eco-san and public (and mobile) toilets, the use of urine and compost by peri-urban, and selected urban, households (with a rooftop or small garden), and integrated school WASH and gardening in Nepal. In Bangladesh, together with Practical Action Bangladesh (PAB) testing of the product of the sludge treatment plant was done with households in selected slum areas and with peri-urban farmers, while awareness-raising, multi-stakeholder facilitation and policy influencing resulted in high interest and demand. In Kenya, RUAF assisted Nakuru County in review of their current practices and policies related to WASH and urban agriculture and developed a draft Policy Framework. In Tamale, Ghana, RUAF supported the University of Development Studies (UDS) and URBANET in experimenting with and upscaling co-composting. Also a Policy Narrative on urban agriculture was developed.

### **Project 5: Creating and capturing value: CAPVAL**

RUAF collaborated in the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) managed project CapVal: Creating and Capturing Value: Supporting enterprises for urban liquid and solid wastes recycling for food, energy and clean environment. CapVal is funded through the Dutch Embassy under the Ghana Wash Window, and facilitates the development of three resource recovery and reuse businesses. The project is working towards the establishment of a co-composting facility (producing safe pelletized compost, “*Fortifer*”); a briquette producing plant (“*Jekora Briquettes*”); and (well-treated) wastewater-fed aquaculture (producing African catfish). RUAF supports CapVal with capacity building of the public sector, monitoring and evaluation and corporate social responsible business development.

### **Project 6: WABEF- Western Africa Bio-wastes for Energy and Fertiliser**

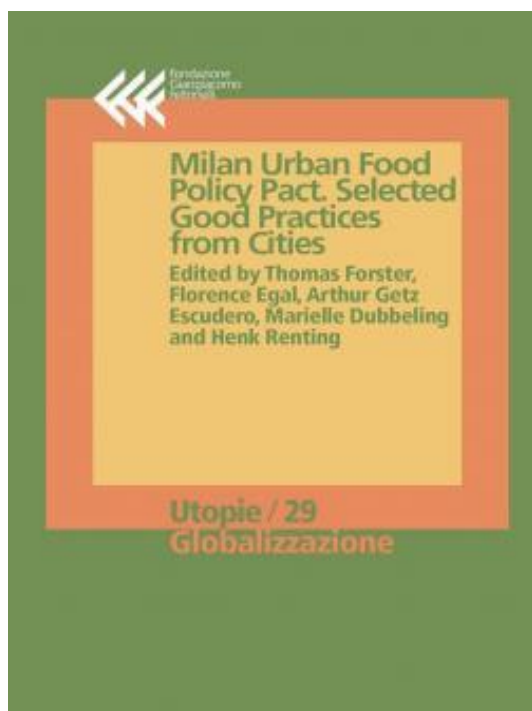
RUAF, in partnership with CIRAD and UCAD, IAGU, AEDR, SONGHAI, is executing the project Western Africa Bio-wastes for Energy and Fertiliser [WABEF](#), implemented in Benin, Mali and Senegal. The purpose is to develop and disseminate an innovative and participative approach to policy influencing bio-waste management through the implementation of viable anaerobic digestion (biogas; bio-fertilisers, other productive use of bio-slurry) technologies in the Sudano-Sahelian context. In 2015 RUAF implemented an inventory of similar practices in Europe together with CIRAD.

Furthermore, RUAF collaborated in the development of an educational package to analyse business models that seeks to define the generic conditions for access to energy and fertilisers. RUAF developed tools, including a business model canvas adapted for the biogas value chain, which were tested on the two sites in Mali and Benin. In addition RUAF coordinated with IAGU and CIRAD two preparatory workshops for multi-stakeholder events to be held in 2017 in all three countries, that will be aimed at harnessing local support and upscaling.

### **Strategic objective 3 : Developing key strategic tools for creation of resilient urban and peri-urban agriculture and city region food systems**

#### **Project 8: Milan Urban Food Policy Pact**

In 2015, The City of Milan led a process with over 100 partner cities to build awareness on urban food systems, policies and practices and harness political engagement from cities for future activities on related issues. The International Partners for Sustainable Agriculture (IPSA) in collaboration with RUAF Foundation and FAO Food for Cities acted as a technical advisory team to support this process, and drafting of the Urban Food Policy Pact and complementary “Framework for Action” and Good Practices Guide.



#### **Project 9: Urban Green Train**

As part of the Erasmus-plus-funded URBAN GREEN Education for ENTteRprising Agricultural Innovation project, RUAF analysed and systematised path-breaking business initiatives as a basis for educational development, knowledge exchange, and innovation among SMEs, policy makers and higher education institutions in several European countries.

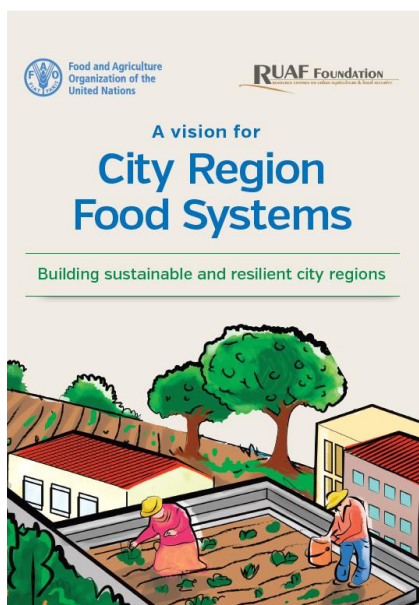
The project started in 2015 for a period of three years, and is led by the University of Bologna. With the other partners, RUAF will continue to be responsible for curriculum development activities, to equip SMEs, students, academics, NGOs and public authorities with the competences needed for the creation of new business-oriented initiatives in urban agriculture. The Urban Green Train project certainly has potential to grow its impact, given focus on training, youth and business.

#### **Project 10: CityFoodTools: Mapping of City Region Food Systems**

In 2015, RUAF’s recognition of the need to better operationalise the concept of “city region food systems”, in order to further plan for development of more resilient city regions in cities was supported. RUAF assumed the leadership of a three-year project, supported by the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation, that assists in developing and testing various mapping and assessment tools in three partner cities. For this, RUAF collaborates with the Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems in Canada, as well as with the UN-FAO which is coordinating a

similar project. The main aim of this project is to develop a full city region food system monitoring framework, that will assist cities in better understanding of and planning for a sustainable food system.

A city region food system narrative and rapid food scan have been developed for the following cities: Colombo (Sri Lanka), Kitwe and Lusaka (Zambia) and Medellin (Colombia), Quito (Ecuador); Toronto (Canada); Utrecht (The Netherlands). Further in-depth research and strategy planning will be guided by an indicator framework that provides outcome statements and indicators that help assess and monitor different dimensions and goals of a sustainable and resilient city region food system.



### **Project 11: Policy Analysis for the City of Windhoek, Namibia**

In 2014, the Windhoek Declaration on Food and Nutrition Security was signed by 51 Local Authority Representatives, recommending the establishment of food banks; the promotion of urban and peri-urban agriculture and the reduction of food loss and food waste. In November 2015, RUAF was supported by the World Future Council to implement a review of national and local policies and strategies impacting on urban and peri-urban agriculture and present the results in a 6-7 December workshop in Windhoek. The policy review showed key issues and further opportunities (for instance related to decentralisation and governance and water management). RUAF agreed to further support the work of COW in Windhoek and in Namibia.

### **Project 12: Cities and Agriculture, Developing Resilient Urban Food Systems**

This book was edited by Henk de Zeeuw (RUAF Foundation) and Pay Drechsel (International Water Management Institute) and published in September 2015 by Earthscan-Routledge London and New York. The book provides urban planners, local policy makers and urban development practitioners with an overview of crucial aspects of urban food systems based on an up to date review of research results and practical experiences in both developed and developing countries. By doing so, the international team of authors provides a balanced textbook for students of the growing number of courses on sustainable agriculture, food and urban studies, as well as a solid basis for well-informed policy making, planning and implementation regarding the development of sustainable, resilient and just urban food systems. The book can be freely downloaded from the RUAF website.



## Project 13: Urban Agriculture Magazine

In 2015, two new issues of the UA Magazine were produced and released. UAM 29 on City Region Food Systems, and UAM No. 30 on Rural-urban linkages. UAM 29 addresses the growing attention for policy and practice approaches that focus on food issues in urban areas from a city-regional perspective, taking into account possible contributions from urban and peri-urban agriculture and a strengthening of urban-rural relations. In UAM 30, RUAF and ILEIA document experiences from across the world where farmers and citizens engage to actively shape the way their food is produced and, in the process, bridge the rural-urban divide.



# Financial report

## Preparation, control and approval

The [2015 annual accounts](#) were prepared by the accounting firm Bos and Partners in Ede, the Netherlands. The financial accounts were controlled by external auditors of B&P Audit, resulting in a positive verdict of the auditors on the financial statements of the RUAF Foundation. The Board of the RUAF Foundation approved the annual accounts 2015, pursuant to their review of the Director's report and the auditors' assessment. The full auditors report can be downloaded from the RUAF website.

## Payments

Following Dutch laws and "Code Wijffels" members of the RUAF Board of Trustees did not receive any financial compensation for their time invested in 2015. Staff salaries of the RUAF Director and staff are based on salary scales that reflect the job responsibilities (senior programme officer, junior programme officer, programme assistant) and number of years of job experience. Their remuneration falls well within the maxima set by the Code Wijffels.

## Profit and loss account and balance sheet

RUAF's turn-over increased in 2015, compared to 2014. The year 2015 also resulted in modest positive results for the financial year, allowing RUAF to further invest in its new strategic partnership and social plan.

# Contact us

To find out more about RUAF, please contact its international secretariat or one of its Partners or Board members:

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# About RUAF

RUAF Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation, in operation since 1999, that seeks to contribute to the development of sustainable cities through awareness raising, knowledge generation and dissemination, capacity development and technical advice, research, policy design and action planning for resilient and equitable urban food systems. RUAF Foundation hosts and implements its activities together with the RUAF Global Partnership on Sustainable Urban Agriculture and Food Systems.

The RUAF Global Partnership is made up of a mix of municipalities, research institutes, and NGO's and include: the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) based in Colombo, Sri Lanka; The Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (IGSNRR/CAS), based in Beijing, China; The Wilfrid Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems in Canada; The Toronto Food Policy Council, Toronto-Canada, CONQUITO-Economic Promotion Agency of the Municipality of Quito, Ecuador; The Municipality of Ghent, Belgium and the NGO's Economia e Sostenibilita (ESTA) from Milan, Italy and the Mazingira Institute, based in Nairobi, Kenya. Together these organisations constitute a leading centre of expertise in the field of (intra- and peri-) Urban Agriculture and City Region Food Strategies.

RUAF and their many project partners see as their mission to contribute to more resilient and sustainable cities, the universal Right to Food, urban food sovereignty, reduced urban poverty and decent employment opportunities, improved urban environmental management, climate change resilience and more participatory city governance. RUAF contributes by enhancing the capacities of local authorities and other stakeholders and facilitating the integration of (intra- and peri-) urban agriculture and city-region food measures in the policies and action programmes of local, regional and national governments, civil society organisations and private enterprises, with active involvement of the urban producers and other relevant stakeholders.

Experiences of RUAF and its partners are systematised and published in the form of books, working papers, policy briefs, guidelines and training manuals, and disseminated to various types of users, through the RUAF website. RUAF is publishing the Urban Agriculture Magazine, reaching about 800,000 readers globally today (31 issues since 2000). All publications can be downloaded **for free** from [www.ruaf.org](http://www.ruaf.org)

RUAF acknowledges that its work could not have been implemented without the support of its member organisations, partner cities, project partners and donors. In 2015, RUAF has received support from: The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS), BMBF in Germany, the European Union, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation (France), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), The Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNGI), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH; Germany, the City of Milan, the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation, ICMA, The Van Eesteren-Fluck & Van Lohuizen Stichting (The Netherlands) and The World Future Council (Germany).