

Towards sustainable and resilient urban agriculture and food systems



Annual report 2017-2018

RUAF Global Partnership, May 2018



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About RUAF

RUAF is a leading Centre of Expertise and Global Partnership on sustainable Urban Agriculture and Food Systems. The Partnership is formed by strategically selected expert institutions with a significant track record in urban and peri-urban agriculture and urban food system solutions, and consists of cities, research institutes and NGOs. Partners include the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) with headquarters in Colombo, Sri Lanka and offices across Asia and Africa; The Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (IGSNRR/CAS), based in Beijing, China; The Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, Wilfrid Laurier University in Canada; The City of Toronto-Canada (represented by the Toronto Public Health for Toronto Food Policy Council and Food Strategy), The city of Ghent, Belgium; The city of Quito-Ecuador (represented by CONQUITO, its Economic Development Agency); and, the NGOs Economia e Sostenibilita (ESTA) from Milan, Italy and the Mazingira Institute, based in Nairobi, Kenya. The wider RUAF Partnership is supported by a small core staff team employed by the RUAF Foundation.

RUAF seeks to contribute to the development of sustainable cities by facilitating awareness, knowledge generation and dissemination, capacity development, policy design and action planning for resilient and equitable urban agriculture and food systems.

Since 1999 RUAF has engaged with over 100 local and international partner organisations and worked in 50 cities in over 40 different countries around the world. RUAF provides expert consultations to local and subnational governments, urban producer organisations, NGOs, CBOs, research centres and other stakeholders with training, technical assistance, action-research and policy advice. In addition, we enable a range of local, national and international knowledge exchange, advocacy and learning activities.

As a food policy/food systems think-tank, RUAF regularly synthesises its local, national and international knowledge exchanges, advocacy and learning activities; and it disseminates this synthesis on-line through the Urban Agriculture Magazine (UAM), RUAF papers and up-dates, as well as through partner publications and international meetings.

The RUAF Foundation and Global Partnership have received financial support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS), the EU, IDRC (Canada), UN HABITAT, Ministry of Environment Norway, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), CDKN (UK), the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), OXFAM, CARE (Netherlands), Welthungerhilfe (Germany), the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation and the CGIAR, as well as municipalities.

The RUAF Partnership is oriented towards the delivery of practical and high-quality results in action, research and planning projects, applying a demand-driven and participatory approach while remaining flexible and providing room for change and innovation. RUAF also seeks to respond to arising global agendas (SDGs, New Urban Agenda) through focus areas in which it has, or can mobilise, expertise, and through networks which can grow its impact.

"The City of Toronto has been a RUAF partner for many years. We greatly value this collaboration. The research, analysis and technical support from RUAF informs our work in promoting healthy, sustainable food systems through municipal government. The crucial role of cities in fostering sustainable food systems is building momentum world- wide and stakeholders throughout the food system recognize that local government has a key role to play. Of course RUAF has been a leader in this for decades, through their on the ground technical support and through policy and research initiatives. We look forward to our continued collaboration and to RUAF's ongoing guidance and support."



Barbara Emanuel, Manager Toronto Food Strategy

RUAF has played an important role already in global processes, for example as member of the Technical Advisory Committee supporting the drafting of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (2015), as well as through ensuring urban agriculture and food systems are included in the New Urban Agenda, the key outcome of UN Habitat III (2016) which is to guide global efforts around urbanisation for the next 20 years.

For more information, please visit:

www.ruaf.org.

Highlights 2017

Policy analysis and advocacy

Urban food strategy and policy dialogues were supported in over 20 cities across Europe, Asia, MENA, Africa and America.

- Dutch City Deal: Continued facilitation support to develop a national initiative, “Food on the Urban Agenda” signed by 12 cities, one province and 3 National Ministries.
- Policy narrative or Strategic Agenda on urban agriculture and food systems: Support to seven cities in drafting documents (Bamenda-Cameroon, Tamale-Ghana, Quito-Ecuador, Toronto-Canada, Colombo-Sri Lanka, Utrecht and Almere-The Netherlands)
- Policy and business innovations: co-facilitated multi-stakeholder meetings in food systems and resource recycling (Bamenda-Cameroon, Colombo-Sri Lanka, Medellin-Colombia-, Toronto-Canada, Nairobi-Kenya, Utrecht-The Netherlands, Quito-Ecuador).
- New policies: Design of 5 national urban and peri-urban agriculture policies in Gaza.

Assessment and data collection to guide and monitor urban food policy strategies

Pilot projects in Europe, Africa, Canada, South America and Asia enabled development and testing of methodology to create resources for other cities

- **Participatory city region food system assessment** implemented in collaboration with UN-FAO (Toronto-Canada; Utrecht-Netherlands; Colombo-Sri Lanka; Lusaka-Zambia; Kitwe-Zambia; Medellin-Colombia; Quito-Ecuador)
- A **city region food system data and indicator framework** tested and implemented in these cities to help understand their food system and provide baseline data for policy planning and monitoring.
- **Jointly developed on-line toolkit** for other cities to use (hosted by FAO).
- **Indicators:** Ongoing development of 44 food system change indicators and related methodological guidelines for the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact to be launched during the next MUFPP 4th Annual Gathering in Tel Aviv, September 2018
- Draft **urban food systems rapid assessment diagnostic framework** for the World Bank
- RUAF **co-leads the Research Flagship** on Sustainable Rural Urban Linkages of the CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE).

Capacity building and staff training

- Organisation of **webinars, city-city exchanges and staff training** for over 1000 staff from different cities and organisations, on city region food systems, urban agriculture programmes and policies, monitoring and indicator development
- Development of curricula and organisation of a regional school for 23 representatives of West African institutes in sustainable energy, bio-waste management and sustainable urban agriculture innovation.

Knowledge production and systematisation

- 29 expert contributions on **urban agroecology** and 17 cases on the **urban food waste energy nexus** presented in volume 32 and 33 of the Urban Agriculture Magazine
- A 25-chapter book on Rooftop UA, and a compilation of three city region case studies, and 19 smaller case studies on the role of the private sector in city region food systems, resulting in two policy briefs.
- **10 city experiences on the role of Dutch municipalities in city-region food system initiatives** have been analysed and documented.



Foreword

Coming up to celebrating 20 years since its formation in 1999, RUAF is charting its direction as a leading international community of practice, developing **innovative solutions to food system change and supportive policies** in towns and cities. **To stay at the cutting edge of developing and applying knowledge, the RUAF partnership works** with city and municipal governments that are adapting and changing their policies in the realisation that food can help realise multiple goals, as urban food systems evolve rapidly in the 21st century. These changes are both fast and ongoing; national and global institutions, as well as cities themselves, are realising and acting upon the need to make urban food systems work better.

Currently, the partnership consists of nine organisations: three international research organizations, three cities, and three non-governmental organisations. Together these represent a further dense network of partnerships in the global North and South. The partnership will continue to grow and to further intensify its networking in all regions. **Its strategic direction for 2018 to 2023 is to support and promote knowledge exchanges between cities and towns on specific issues of sustainable urban food systems** and to build on the partners' considerable expertise and experience in food systems and food policy for cities.

RUAF is guided by three principles:

- Food sovereignty and the universal right to food***
- Sustainable and resilient cities***
- Multi-stakeholder engagement***

And by its three strategic goals:

- 1: Promoting localised systems of production and consumption for more inclusive food systems***
- 2: Strengthening the resilience of urban food systems***
- 3: Strengthening the role of cities in food policy governance***

In relation to these principles and goals, RUAF and its partners have already developed a vast expertise captured in its knowledge base. **The RUAF partnership draws on this experience and shares it with associated cities and municipalities, through mutual learning and capacity building.**

We look forward to continued building in the coming years on partnerships with cities and municipalities, as well as local and international organisations and strategic partners, including ICLEI, UN FAO, The University of Buffalo, the WASH Alliance International, GAIN and many others, **in response to** the increasing urbanisation of poverty and **challenges that** cities and city regions in both the global north and global south, face in ensuring **secure access to food, productive livelihoods and resilient development** for their citizens.



Frans Verberne, Chairman of the Board



Marielle Dubbeling, RUAF Director

Summary overview of 2017-2018 activities

1. Leveraging change and support at the international level

RUAF champions the inclusion of urban agriculture and city region food systems in city and international agendas. It undertakes research, provides evidence and expert guidance, building knowledge and creating or connecting networks. RUAF also participates in international meetings, sharing examples of policies and projects, developing policy briefing papers and supporting cities with technical and policy advice and opportunities for collaboration.

ICLEI-RUAF CITYFOOD network

The ICLEI-RUAF CITYFOOD network aims to accelerate local and regional government action on sustainable and resilient city-region food systems by combining networking with training, policy guidance and technical expertise. CITYFOOD is open to local and regional governments, whether they are engaging with the issue for the first time or are at the frontier of innovative food systems work. CITYFOOD is active in both the Global North and South and will build a strong south-south-north exchange platform for learning among cities. It seeks to establish direct connections with people on the ground and staff engaged in policy development.

In 2017-early 2018, 19 cities from 14 different countries have signed up to the CITYFOOD network: Braga Municipality and Cascais (**Portugal**), Cagayan de Oro City, City of Santa Rosa and Local Government Unit of Catbalogan City and Municipality of Dumangas (**Philippines**), City of Malmö (**Sweden**), Colombo Municipal Council (**Sri Lanka**), Commune Urbaine d'Antananarivo (**Madagascar**), Gangdong-gu Municipal Government (**Republic of Korea**), Melbourne City Council (**Australia**), Municipality of Belo Horizonte and Sao Paulo (**Brazil**), Municipality of Ede (**The Netherlands**), Municipality of León de los Aldama (**México**), Municipality of the Metropolitan District of Quito (**Ecuador**), Quelimane Municipality (**Mozambique**), Rosario Municipality (**Argentina**), and Tokyo Metropolitan Government (**Japan**).

CITYFOOD facilitated participation of its member cities in various international events to enhance visibility of their work and engage in technical and learning events. A first CITYFOOD webinar on city-region food systems was

organised and can be accessed [here](#). A second webinar on food policy councils was organised in May 2018 and can be accessed [here](#). New webinars on topics of city interest will be organised later in 2018. For more information and subscription, please go to: <http://www.ruaf.org/cityfood>

"The ICLEI-RUAF CITYFOOD Network is built on the foundation of our excellent partnership with the RUAF Foundation. While their technical expertise is unmatched, it is the values that drive their work that truly set them apart. We work in very close collaboration and our priority, first and foremost, is having an impact on the ground. Sustainable and resilient food systems are essential for local and regional governments; I look forward to the development of the CITYFOOD Network and our ongoing partnership."

Gino Van Begin, ICLEI Secretary General

Urban Food Actions Platform

To support exchanges of best practices and collective learning processes between cities, a digital information platform has been launched in collaboration between FAO, C4o, ICLEI, UCLG, Milan Pact and RUAF.

<http://www.fao.org/urban-food-actions/en/>

City to City Food Partnership

RUAF and ICLEI collaborate in the City to City Food Partnership that provides technical guidance and support towards enhancing capacities of selected Southern and Eastern African city governments, to design, implement and monitor initiatives to improve food security and nutrition. The City-to-City Food Systems Forum took place from 18-20 April 2018 in eThekweni Municipality, South Africa and facilitated dialogue and sharing of lessons learned, good practices and challenges on how to transition food systems towards sustainability. Nine cities/city-regions from Eastern and Southern Africa joined the Forum including: Antananarivo, Madagascar; Arusha, Tanzania; Bulawayo, Zimbabwe; eThekweni, South Africa; iLembe, South Africa; Kitwe, Zambia; Quelimane, Mozambique; Tshwane, South Africa and Windhoek, Namibia.

The City-to-City Food Systems Forum was organised through a unique collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), eThekweni Municipality, the RUAF Foundation, C4o and ICLEI. You may find more information about the City-to-City Food Systems Forum at the ICLEI website: <http://africa.iclei.org>.

2. Building the political will and capacities to act

Dutch City Deal on Food and support to Dutch cities

In 2016, 12 Dutch cities, the Province of Gelderland and three national Ministries jointly developed an Urban Agenda on Food. The objective is to strengthen the Dutch food system by facilitating partnership and collaboration with the private sector, knowledge institutes and societal organisations. The partners worked on four themes: 1) Governance innovation; 2) Ecological and economic sustainability innovation; 3) Regional food systems and strengthening of fair and short supply chains around cities; 4) Food education, health and social inclusion. Cities engaged in sharing experiences, joint learning and piloting new innovations. Also, proposals for policy improvement at both the national and EU levels to strengthen urban food policies will be developed. RUAF supported the management of the network in 2017. <http://www.ruaf.org/projects/dutch-city-deal-food-urban-agenda>

"What surprised me was how we are more alike than we are different. Our cities differ in size, demographics and political leanings, yet the food policy positions and our strategies are very similar. The reason is, we are all working toward the common goal stated in the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) which is "to develop a sustainable local food system that is inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse." With RUAF's expertise and technical assistance, the City Deal helps to operationalise the MUFPP framework. I am impressed with RUAF in the development of the City Deal because an equitable local food system extends beyond city jurisdictions and the City Deal provides the unifying policy framework that is creating a strong national network of cities within the Netherlands. I look forward to applying the lessons I learned from my time spent in the Netherlands to Baltimore City and to the United States Conference of the Mayors Food Policy Advisor Network."



Holly Freishtat, Food Policy Director for Baltimore City visited RUAF and participated in a meeting of the City Deal Food on the Urban Agenda during World Food Day in Ede (14 October 2017).

Drawing from its decades of experience in urban food policy, RUAF has prepared a policy document for the **Municipality of Almere** in the Netherlands, which highlights the specific position of Almere and its ambitions; the local momentum, referring to the variety of initiatives ongoing, but also showing relevant national and international experiences; and suggesting a step wise approach to develop an integrated food policy framework.

Promoting resilient and market-oriented urban and peri-urban agriculture development in Gaza

The Project 'Facilitating development of Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture for the local market in the Gaza Strip' was funded by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and implemented by Oxfam Italia (Oxfam) and RUAF Foundation (RUAF). The project came to an end by the 30th of September 2017.

Given the UN, and world interest, in how to work effectively in areas of conflict, work in Gaza has been significant. The project successfully supported the development of inclusive value chains (for small-scale farmers and processors) combining support intervention strategies in service provision, quality control, and Value Chain platform facilitation, training of beneficiaries to sustain these interventions and more systemic changes in the areas of training/extension services, and an improved enabling policy and governance environment. The project proposed innovative and concrete interventions to support and enhance cooperation between different value chain actors (specifically producers and processors) in two selected value chains: the Date Palm and Dairy Sectors. This included piloting and demonstrating new ideas in an operational real life- environment (such as solar energy use for cold storage and improved production, processing and marketing techniques). The project has been implemented in the framework of Oxfam's market development programs in OPTI in collaboration with the RUAF Foundation. Synergies and coordination mechanisms were put in place with Oxfam's DANIDA-funded initiative, conceived to increase participation in user-driven market systems for small and medium-scale producers, processors and entrepreneurs in the Gaza Strip. The intervention has also established synergies with the wider development community in Gaza through the enactment of the Value Chain Platforms, the rolling out of extension systems strengthening plan, and the Gaza Urban and Peri-Urban Agricultural Platform (GUPAP).

The following 5 policies (100%) relating to local market-oriented urban and peri urban agriculture development have been designed based on recommendations of VC platforms and GUPAP:

- Ministry of National Economy (MoNE) assessment on protection national products, incl. dates and dairy products & published list of final products
- MoNE investigation on tariffs imported foreign dairy products and quota placement on imported powder milk
- Activation of Red Palm Weevil Cluster (incl. MoA, ICRC, FAO, Al Ahliya and Oxfam)
- WAC factsheet, following an advocacy campaign on women agricultural rights
- Reactivation of Consumer Protection

Integration of policies within the strategies is an important step, however several barriers restrict the actions:

- 1- Governmental strategies are designed regardless of available resources. It highlights the dependency on external funds to implement them.
- 2- Lack of resources limits the government's ability to enforce legislation
- 3- Political division with conflicting concerns and views by the governments in West Bank and Gaza

RUAF specifically supported GUPAP to design advocacy action plans to take actions on these issues and apply and inform on those decisions and policies integrated in the national governmental strategies.

<http://www.ruaf.org/projects/market-oriented-urban-agriculture-gaza>

3. Planning and facilitating local action

Development of innovations linked to multi-stakeholder policy and planning:

Improving household water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and productive use of household wastes in local food and energy production

RUAF has been a partner in the Dutch funded WASH Alliance International (WAI), since 2011. The WAI seeks to contribute to a shift towards integrated WASH sector development by working on three pillars: establishing a functioning market, strengthening the public sector, and empowering & organising citizens. In September 2017, WAI, Plan Netherlands and SNV, under the WASH SDG Consortium started a new collaboration with the Dutch Government to contribute to safe water and clean toilets for respectively 30 million and 50 million people. RUAF is developing, and strengthening existing, activities with partners in Nepal, Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Uganda. This work will contribute to sustainable and equitable access to and use of WASH by all by: improving behaviour change interventions leading to increased demand for improved WASH facilities and practices; improving WASH service provision leading to increased availability and affordability of WASH products and services; and strengthening of the WASH governance and institutional framework leading to governments enabling efficient and effective delivery of inclusive and sustainable WASH services.

<http://www.ruaf.org/projects/accelerating-sustainable-wash-%E2%80%93-wash-alliance-international-programme>

GlobE-UrbanFoodPlus

The German BMBF funded GlobE-UrbanFoodPlus project started in 2013 and seeks to increase resource use efficiency and improve food security of West African cities through urban and peri-urban agriculture. In the first phase worked with local partners in Tamale in Ghana and Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, facilitating multi-stakeholder involvement and joint learning. The second phase started in 2016 and will end in September 2018. RUAF continues to support the process in Tamale and with University of Goettingen and local partner SHUMAS started a similar process in Bamenda, Cameroon. In 2017 RUAF participated in the Summerschool in Goettingen and facilitated a multi-stakeholder platform meeting in Bamenda.

<http://www.ruaf.org/projects/globe-urbanfoodplus>

Support to private sector:

Creating and capturing value: CAPVAL

RUAF participates 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, which is funded through the Dutch Embassy under the Ghana Wash Window. CapVal is working towards the establishment of three businesses: a (co-)composting facility and a briquette plant in Yilo Krobo; and a wastewater-fed aquaculture business based in Kumasi. RUAF supports monitoring of Social Responsible business development, multi stakeholder involvement and capacity building of municipalities.

City Wide Public Private Partnership on Waste Recycling in Bangladesh

RUAF with Practical Action Bangladesh and local partners, started the inception phase of the Dutch RVO funded project City Wide PPP led Integrated Sludge and Solid Waste Management for Improving Water

Security and Inclusive Green Growth. The project will work in the cities of Gaibanda and Satkhira to develop social enterprises that take on this challenge.

WABEF - Western Africa Bio-wastes for Energy and Fertiliser
RUAF, collaborated with CIRAD and UCAD, IAGU, AEDR, SONGHAI, on the EU-funded project Western Africa Bio-wastes for Energy and Fertiliser WABEF, which was implemented in Benin, Mali and Senegal, and which came to an end in 2017. The purpose was to develop and disseminate an innovative and participatory approach to influencing bio-waste management and policy through the implementation of viable anaerobic digestion (biogas; bio-fertilisers, other productive use of bio-slurry) technologies in the Sudano-Sahelian context. In 2017 RUAF lead the development of a UA Magazine, a special issue on WABEF and a Policy Brief. In addition, RUAF participated in multi-stakeholder events in all three countries, and in the Regional School (see below).

<http://www.ruaf.org/projects/western-africa-biowastes-energy-and-fertilizer-wabef>

REGIONAL SCHOOL WABEF

In July 2017 a regional school was organised at Songhai (Bénin) gathering selected high-level actors from Bénin (10), Cape Verde (1), Mali (4), Senegal (7) and Niger (1). Twenty-three participants attended led by 6 WABEF trainers. The participants were trained in the use of the WABEF toolbox and are responsible for further uptake and dissemination. Development of a critical mass of specialists in biogas and related topics is key in the development in West Africa. This requires the development and dissemination of curricula including decision-making tools for the training of technicians at all levels (vocational schools, technological institutes, universities, etc.).



Capacity building and training:

Urban Green Train

The Erasmus-plus-funded URBAN GREEN Education for ENTteRprising Agricultural Innovation project, started in 2015 for a period of three years, and was led by the University of Bologna. The project partners, including RUAF, developed and delivered face to face training modules and resources on a Moodle platform to equip SMEs, students, academics, NGOs and public authorities with the competencies needed for the creation of new business-oriented initiatives in urban agriculture. The project received a score of 96/100 by the Italian National Erasmus+ Authority and was praised for “its effective strengthening of the synergies between the education / research / work systems”.

In 2017, RUAF has supported AERES University of Applied Sciences in Almere (The Netherlands) to incorporate the UrbanGreenTrain modules and resources in their already existing curriculum on urban food systems and made the Moodle platform accessible on their own server. The course is now available for anyone free of charge for self-learning.

<http://www.ruaf.org/projects/urban-green-education-enterprising-agricultural-innovation-urban-green-train>

<http://moodle2.ruaf.org/>



UrbanGreenTrain final video

Creating youth employment opportunities in EJOM Mali

RUAF and WASTE have partnered for the past 20 years in building synergies in waste, sanitation, energy and food and agriculture in urban settings.

As part of the fight against irregular migration, the European Union has set up an Emergency Trust Fund for Africa to help boost economic development and social stability by creating opportunities for youth employment. A SNV led consortium, with ICCO and WASTE/RUAF and APEJ started the project "Youth employment creates opportunities here in Mali" (in French EJOM), in 2017, working in the Kayes, Koulikoro, Gao and Bamako districts. In 2017, RUAF joined WASTE in one mission to agree on a number of studies on waste management and horticulture. WASTE and RUAF developed draft materials for the training of youth, which will start in 2018: A Catalogue, containing experiences of waste collection and re-use of inorganic and organic wastes in urban and peri-urban agriculture; a Training Guide; and various training materials.

Training and courses

Each year RUAF facilitates a half-day training session on The Role of Urban Agriculture in Building Resilient Cities, for the Course "Urban Management Tools for Climate Change", organised by IHS in collaboration with UN-Habitat.

<https://www.ihs.nl/en/education/post-graduate-diploma-courses/urban-management-tools-climate-change>

And with Wageningen University, Centre for Development Innovation (CDI), RUAF organises a yearly two-week training course: "Food Security in an Urbanizing Society":

https://www.wur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Research-Institutes/centre-for-development-innovation/short-courses/Short_courses_2018/CDIcourse_food_security_urbanizing_society_2018.htm

4. Building an evidence base to underpin policies and local action

CityFoodTools: Assessment and planning of City Region Food Systems (CRFS) RUAF Foundation, UN FAO and Wilfrid Laurier University with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation embarked in 2015 on **a collaborative programme to assess and plan sustainable city region food systems in 7 cities** around the world (Quito-Ecuador, Medellin-Colombia, Toronto-Canada, Utrecht-The Netherlands; Colombo-Sri Lanka, Kitwe and Lusaka-Zambia) as the basis for informed decision-making and action planning.

The CRFS assessment aims to help **strengthen the understanding of the current functioning and performance of the city region food system**. It forms the basis for further development of policies and programmes to promote the sustainability and resilience of CRFS. The CRFS assessment and planning approach advocated builds on a formalised process of identifying and engaging all relevant stakeholders from the start of assessment through to policy review and planning. This means that a CRFS process can not only result in revised or new urban food policies, strategies and projects, but also in the creation of new -or revitalisation of existing- networks for governance and policy development, such as urban food policy councils and in new institutional food programmes and policies.

Results of the CRFS process have led in all cities to a set of **key policy proposals and recommendations**. In some cities this has already led to **significant policy or project activity** (including new governance structures) while in other cities processes will be carried forward by local stakeholders or under new projects.

SOME EXAMPLES FROM THE CRFS CITIES

While policy uptake from the CRFS work in the **Toronto** Greater Golden Horseshoe (Canada) cannot be considered the sole contributor to food policy activity at multiple scales, the CRFS work has helped to shape other food policy initiatives directly or indirectly. The [Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe](#), 2017 that came into effect on July 1, 2017, explicitly calls to curb sprawl and protect farmland and green spaces: "*The finite supply of quality agricultural lands that feed the region and beyond must be protected to ensure a vibrant rural and productive agricultural economy and a secure food supply for future generations*" (Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2017: 3). As further outlined in the Growth Plan: Municipalities in the city region are encouraged to implement regional agri-food strategies and provide opportunities to support access to healthy, local, and affordable food, urban and near-urban agriculture, food system planning and promoting the sustainability of agricultural, agri-food, and agri-product businesses and infrastructure. In addition, the Canadian Federal Government is moving towards a National Food Policy and released a [Standing Committee report](#) in December that includes consensus on the importance of mid-level infrastructure for the future Canadian food system (the latter being one of the key recommendations of the CRFS project).

In **Quito** (Ecuador), the CRFS process has culminated in the design of a territorial food strategy that will be submitted to the city council for formal approval and adoption in 2018. Also a food policy council is being established. In Medellin (Colombia), the project contributed to an increased awareness amongst public authorities in the region that joint and concerted actions are needed to improve the city region food system, especially in the area of food provisioning. A new governance structure and institutional platform was set up in which different public authorities, including the Municipality of Medellín, the Metropolitan Area of the Valley of Aburrá (a collaboration of 10 municipalities with strong environmental competences and responsibilities) and the Provincial government of Antioquia collaborate.

>> [Watch the Mayor of Quito explain how this assessment has benefitted his city.](#)

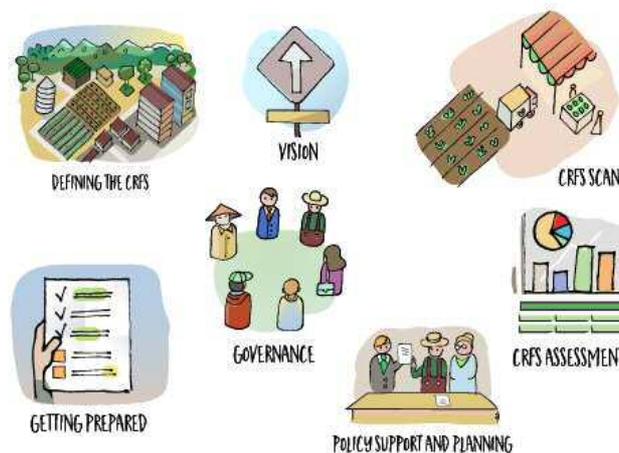
Following the CRFS assessment and policy revision, Colombo Municipal Council –CMC Sri Lanka) agreed to introduce local level by-laws to promote and regulate Reduction, Reuse and Recycling of food waste at

the CMC level. In **Colombo**, the CRFS work, implemented together with IWMI, informed the new Megapolis Project that plans for the development of a new Colombo city region (called Megapolis) with further support and training to include food and agriculture in these development plans.

Multi-stakeholder discussions organised in the context of the CRFS research and the Food Smart Cities for Development Project, the Utrecht Municipality, the University of Utrecht (Hub Future Food), the Economic Board, the local Rabobank, the programme Food and Health and the Province of Utrecht resulted in the creation of a regional food platform or network. This network will be a place to meet, exchange and get inspired. The goal will be to collectively develop a healthy, sustainable food environment in **the Utrecht Region**.

As part of the project, an **indicator framework** has been developed. The framework connects policy priorities to outcomes that cities may want to see in the future (i.e. changes that characterise a more resilient and sustainable CRFS) and defines possible indicators for each outcome. There are 210 possible indicators included in the full CRFS indicator framework that correspond to the different impact areas. The purpose of the indicators is to help measure the extent to which the desired changes are actually happening. Each city will need to identify the most appropriate indicators for their own priority areas. Indicators can also be used to establish a baseline from which to measure on-going progress/change over time. The full framework can be accessed [here](#).

A **project toolkit** has been developed, containing the final and validated methodology for CRFS assessment and planning with practical city examples and resources. The toolkit has attracted large interest from other cities interested in applying a similar project methodology.



<http://www.ruaf.org/projects/developing-tools-mapping-and-assessing-sustainable-city-region-food-systems-cityfoodtools>

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/food-for-cities-programme/toolkit/introduction/en/>

Sustainable Food System Indicators

The [Milan Urban Food Policy Pact](#) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - [FAO](#) are developing a [monitoring framework](#) with outputs and outcomes of city's strategic actions on the MUFPP to assess the progress made by cities in achieving more sustainable food systems, and therefore in the implementation of the Pact. RUAF won the contract to undertake this work and were therefore able to ensure that the results connect well with its other work on indicators.

In 2017 a refined **list of 44 quantitative and qualitative indicators** was developed by the RUAF team (Foundation staff and an associate from Toronto), backed up by the [FAO team of experts](#) in direct consultation with over 13 cities including feedback from the C4o network. RUAF played a leading role in

developing methodological guidelines, collaborating with multiple players, to help cities and partners collect and analyse the right data for the indicators. A guide has been drafted and will be available in Autumn 2018. For each indicator the guide will contain information such as an explanation on types of data required, level of data aggregation, definition of samples and examples of how some cities have already implemented the indicator.

<https://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/monitoring-framework/>

Water, Land and Ecosystems

The CGIAR Water Land and Ecosystem Program (WLE) and the Rural-Urban Linkages (RUL) Research Theme seeks to address challenges of urbanisation, improving the resilience of city food systems and sanitation services and waste management. RUAF co-leads WLE's research theme on Rural-Urban Linkages. In 2017, IWMI/WLE, FAO and RUAF supported a city region food system (CRFS) assessment in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The programme involved a wide variety of stakeholders that:

- proposed amendments to the National Food Act to strengthen food safety & hygiene across the entire value chain;
- made amendments to provincial policies through the introduction of the CRFS concept and the development of an implementable urban and peri-urban agriculture action plan;
- drafted new Colombo City Council by-laws to address resource recovery from food waste;
- and started working with the Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development to integrate food and agriculture in their policies, intervention strategies and specific projects.

In 2017, RUAF, WLE and the WABEF programme co-published a [special issue of the UA Magazine on the Urban Food-Waste-Energy Nexus](#), while RUAF, F&BKP as well as a [Policy brief on the Role of Private Sector in City Region Food Systems](#). The policy brief gives insights in the international agendas, private sector engagement and policy support with illustrations from three cities: Quito (Ecuador), Bristol (UK) and Rotterdam (The Netherlands).

Through its partner CIAT, WLE is also supporting city region food system analysis in the cities of Nairobi (Kenya) and Cali (Colombia). In 2018, further in-depth and focused food and farming system analysis will be implemented in a minimum of 7 cities and a minimum 3 cities will be supported in adopting a monitoring system for urban and peri-urban agriculture and food system related innovations, policies, and/or actions.

<https://wle.cgiar.org/research/themes/rural-urban-linkages>

Global Database for City and Regional Food Policies

This resource is a result of the partnership between the University at Buffalo Food Systems Planning and Healthy Communities Lab and Community for Global Health Equity, and RUAF. The database provides examples of policy - including legislation, plans, funding allocations, and more - as inspiration for sub-national governments seeking to better support their food systems.

<http://www.ruaf.org/news/new-global-food-systems-resource-sub-national-governments-and-support-organizations>

Governance of territorial food systems (GOUTER)

IUFN and RUAF collaborated in a project on Governance of Territorial Food Systems supported by the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation. The project worked with 4 French local and regional government administrations with the objective to strengthen food systems at territorial level. To support the French processes, RUAF was asked to contribute European experiences with territorial food governance. In order

to do so, RUAF reached out to local partners in 13 European cities to elaborate case studies covering different areas as stipulated in the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Framework of Action Food Governance.

<https://www.paysdeschateaux.fr/actions-du-pays/projet-alimentaire-territorial/projet-gouter-gouvernance-territoriale-des-syst%C3%A8mes-alimentaires/>

5. Influencing the debate and thinking about new and emerging topics

Undertaking the types of work below highlights the important role that RUAF plays in broadly influencing the debate. Writing policy briefs or producing research are just two examples of the way in which RUAF is able to maintain its position at the cutting edge of food system change and enable more people to engage with challenging issues.

Role of private sector in city region food systems

RUAF Foundation, supported by the Food & Business Knowledge Platform and the CGIAR WLE program synthesized lessons learned on the role of the private sector in building more sustainable and resilient city region food systems to provide suggestions for business and policy support mechanisms.

The policy brief highlights six pointers:

1. To feed growing cities in a sustainable way, both public and private actors need to speed up design and implementation of innovative food system strategies at a city region scale.
2. Business opportunities exist in traditional food services (production, processing, retail), and increasingly also in resource recycling, development of new products and services, and technological innovations.
3. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) seem to have the highest potential for supplying city region markets and providing or sourcing city region products, while at the same time ensuring local job creation and social inclusion.
4. Local small-scale farmers and SMEs need to be supported in adopting specific business strategies to be competitive, through product aggregation, sharing of infrastructure and resources, pooling of consumer demand, and/or integration of their products into mainstream distribution channels.
5. Interventions and policy instruments by governments and the larger and international private sector can vary from direct technical and financial support to creating favourable business environments in the city region. Local/regional sourcing and procurement possess potential for support.
6. The greatest impact is achieved when a food system approach is advocated and support is provided to the entire network of city region producers, wholesalers, processors, caterers and shopkeepers. Integration with other sectors (logistics, recycling, urban planning) and various innovations in food production and marketing will drive the biggest change.

<http://www.ruaf.org/publications/policy-brief-role-private-sector-city-region-food-systems>



The Food for Life Catering Mark is used by a significant number of public sector buyers (hospitals, schools and universities). Photo: North Bristol Health Trust

Participation in conferences and events

RUAF presented information, chaired discussion, facilitated other input and dialogue and organised international panels for sessions on urban and peri-urban agriculture in the following events:

- International Symposium on Urban Agriculture for Resilient Cities in Africa, 23-25 March 2017, in Antananarivo, Madagascar.
- Food First Vijverberg Session, on City Region Food Systems and Urban Agriculture; 12 April 2017, in The Hague, The Netherlands.
- Resilient Cities, ICLEI, 4-6 May 2017, Bonn, Germany.
- Food Security and Nutrition in an Urbanizing World, organised by SNV, IFPRI and WHH; June 6 2017, in Brussels, Belgium.
- LANDac Annual International Conference 2017, Leave No One Behind: Setting the Land Agenda to 2030; 29 June – 30 June 2017, Utrecht, the Netherlands.
- International Urban Farming Conference, 11-12 September 2017, Berlin, Germany.
- FAO-RUAF Programme's at the 3rd Mayors' Summit of the Milan Pact, 19-21 October 2017 In Valencia, Spain.
- Corporate gardening: When companies reconnect with nature, Luxembourg Sustainability Forum 2017, 21 November 2017, Luxembourg.
- Urban food systems and urban food security as levers for sustainable development and human well-being, at the 3rd International Conference on Global Food Security; 3-6 December, Cape Town South Africa.

RUAF Global Partnership

The RUAF Global partnership is constituted by the following partners:



International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Sri Lanka

IWMI is a global agricultural research organisation that operates at the interface of research and development to provide evidence based solutions to sustainably manage water and land resources for food security, livelihoods and the environment. IWMI is a member of the CGIAR, a global agricultural research partnership, with several offices across Asia and Africa.

IWMI is founding partner of RUAF, contributing experience in irrigated urban farming, informal wastewater use, organic waste composting and use, food safety as well as research work on business and institutional development. IWMI also supports the Foundation with linkages with other research institutes, universities and UN partners, while RUAF adds value through its urban network with implementation partners to achieve outcomes and impacts.

Contact: Pay Drechsel, E-mail: p.drechsel@cgiar.org

Website: <http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/>



Resource Recovery and Reuse

In 2017, IWMI's so-called 'Fortifer' Plant was successfully inaugurated in Accra. IWMI facilitated its set-up and operation through a Public-Private Partnership. The plant is turning human excreta into fertilizer. Also in 2017, the Sri Lankan Ministry of City Planning and Water Supply acknowledged IWMI's contribution to the new National Sanitation Policy. The contribution relates to the management of the ultimate food waste (septage) and will concern 97% of Sri Lanka's households, i.e. all those not connected to a sewer system.

Finally, after 4+ years of work, IWMI published its 800-page Resource Recovery and Reuse Business Model Catalogue www.routledge.com/9781138016552 which will soon be available as free pdf



Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, China

The Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), has its headquarters in Beijing, China. As the largest geographic research institute in the world with long history in China, IGSNRR has always been one of the vital and active think-tanks and academic institutions to various governments in China and international organisations in geo-science and applied research, making major contributions in the rational use of natural resources; ecological and environmental protection; comprehensive land consolidation; urban-rural linkages, sustainable urban and regional development; as well as resource and environmental information systems.

IGSNRR is founding partner of RUAF, bringing experiences on urban planning and coordinating the RUAF China Office. RUAF and IGSNRR have collaborated for over 15 years in various programmes.

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Eco-landscape in Peri-urban North part of Beijing



City of Toronto and Toronto Food Policy Council, Canada

Toronto is a municipal food policy leader, with a long history of working to ensure access to healthy, affordable, sustainable and culturally acceptable food. The Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC) was established in 1991 to advise the City of Toronto on food policy issues. The TFPC, a 30-member council, connects diverse people from the food, farming and community sectors to advocate for innovative policies and projects that support a health focused food system. In 2008, Toronto City Council launched the Toronto Food Strategy with a vision to champion and support a healthy and sustainable food system for all, through research, facilitation, partnership building and incubating and implementing projects. The TFPC is the community Advisory group for the Toronto Food Strategy.

Today, Toronto Food Policy Council and Food Strategy's initiatives, experiences and publications are followed internationally, and Toronto can serve as a model for other cities in the Global South. Several actors in Toronto, like Ryerson University are long time partners of RUAF.

Contact: Barbara Emanuel, E-mail: Barbara.Emanuel@toronto.ca

Website: <http://tfpc.to/about>



Toronto wins MUFPP Award

RUAF partner Toronto was awarded with Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Awards 2017 for the good practice "Community Food Works for Newcomers: Using food as tool for settlement and integration". The programme supports refugees and other newcomers to access employment in the food sector, helps them improve basic food and nutrition skills, and uses food as a vehicle for immigrant and refugee settlement and integration into their new community.

<http://www.milanurbanfoodpolicy.org/2017/10/20/the-cities-of-toronto-and-antanarivo-win-this-years-milan-pact-awards/>



Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at Wilfrid Laurier University

The Centre for Sustainable Food Systems (CSFS) at Wilfrid Laurier University is committed to fostering food systems that are socially just, ecologically regenerative, economically localised and that engage citizens. FLEdGE (Food: Locally Embedded, Globally Engaged), a five-year research and knowledge mobilisation project based at the CSFS, brings together partners from across Canada with international experts.

Contact: Alison Blay-Palmer, Director, Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, Principal Investigator, FLEdGE, ablaypalmer@wlu.ca

Website: fledgeresearch.ca



Locally Embedded, Globally Engaged

FLEdGE research explores territorial integration, scaling up opportunities, innovative governance, agro-ecology, and territorial food systems and assessment.

RUAF partners participate through their work on urban agriculture as well as City-Region Food Systems (CRFS).

FLEdGE contributed to this project by overseeing the Toronto CRFS research, supporting the consolidation and dissemination of findings across the CRFS projects and providing graduate student support to RUAF.

The conceptual context for this City Region Food System approach is available in the open access journal 'Sustainability'. New initiatives include research into gender and urban agriculture in Quito, as well as capacity building work in that city region.



City of Ghent, Belgium

The city of Ghent (Gent) in Belgium, with 250,000 inhabitants, launched its [food policy](#) in 2013, which includes five strategic goals to pave the way for a sustainable food system for Ghent. Inspired by a similar approach in Bristol and Toronto, the City of Ghent set up a 'food council', a group of key stakeholders advising on and co-creating a more sustainable local food system. They explore innovative ways of building networks amongst cities internationally.

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katrien.verbeke@stad.gent

Website: www.gentengarde.be, www.klimaatstad.gent,
www.stad.gent



Gent en Garde

In 2017, the City of Ghent focussed on 3 areas for further developing the city's food policy 'Gent en Garde'.

1. The **launch of a new network** working on better access to healthy and sustainable food to tackle the causes of food insecurity, such as affordability, availability and awareness.
2. Preparatory work and research on finding the **best possible scenario to scale up short food supply chains**. The city wants to launch a platform that delivers local food to restaurants, retailers and larger kitchens within the city. The pilot platform will be launched in the course of 2018.
3. The **governance of the food policy council** is further evolving. Through international exchange with RUAF partners and through local workshops, a new approach has been decided upon to strengthen the role and work of the food policy council.



EStà, Milan, Italy

EStà is a non-profit research and training centre that works in Italy and around the world with a participatory approach to foster development following the principles of sustainability, resilience, and circular economy. EStà is the technical and scientific support for the Milan Food Policy and provides technical assistance to the Secretariat of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.

Contact: Andrea Calori, E-mail: andrea.calori@assesta.it

Website: <https://foodcities.org/>, <http://www.assesta.it>



Urban food work by EStà internationally and in Italy

In 2017, EStà provided support to the implementation of urban food topics in the G7 General Summit agenda: proposal of a general strategy for food security, climate change, migrations and urban-rural divide in Africa with a focus on the role of cities.

EStà also developed:

Two projects in **Turin (Italy)**: support to the Municipality to establish a public-private foundation for supporting an Urban Food Commission and an on field research for mapping the activities and the actors working on food recovery and redistribution.

Cremona (Italy) support for combining the empowerment of the territorial solidarity economy network with school procurement.

Partnership in TellME: an EU Erasmus project to implement urban food analysis in metropolitan planning.



Mazingira Institute, Kenya

Mazingira Institute is a civil society organization based in Nairobi, Kenya. It is an active partner of Nairobi City County, a member of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP). Mazingira carried out research on urban agriculture in Kenya and hosts the Nairobi and Environs Food Security, Agriculture and Livestock Forum (NEFSALF) and its network of urban farmers. Through NEFSALF Mazingira carries out regular training for urban farmers. Mazingira also provides training support to Nairobi City County and is an active stakeholder in its Multi-Stakeholder Platform aimed at developing the Nairobi Food Strategy. Through its affiliation with Habitat International Coalition (HIC) was instrumental in forming the urban constituency in the Civil Society Mechanism of the World Committee on Food Security (CFS) which meets annually in Rome at FAO. RUAF and Mazingira have collaborated on various publications and trainings over the years.

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Website: <http://www.mazinst.org/>



Nairobi Food Strategy

In 2018-2019 Mazingira will be continuing its advice and support to Nairobi City County government, particularly on how to develop urban agriculture plots for residents of slums and informal settlements, especially women, as part of the Nairobi Food Strategy.

CONQUITO



CONQUITO, Ecuador

CONQUITO is the Economic Promotion Agency of the Municipality of the Metropolitan District of Quito. It promotes urban agriculture and related issues through its project AGRUPAR, including training, technical advice, and the promotion of entrepreneurship, among others. CONQUITO promotes and develops strategic projects focused on increasing productivity and job opportunities.

Since 2016 CONQUITO became RUAF partner, contributing with its experience for the implementation of urban agriculture projects, short marketing circuits and organic production, food security and sovereignty, social inclusion and environmental management.

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arodriguez@conquito.org.ec

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City Region Food System Assessment in Quito

Quito was one of the pilot cities in the RUAF-FAO CityFoodTools project. RUAF facilitated:

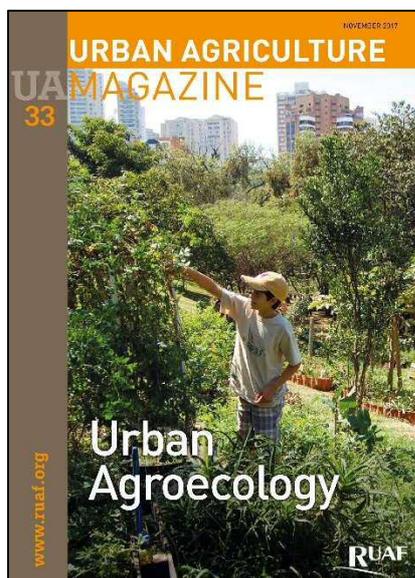
- a participatory stakeholder process that led to the **design of a territorial food strategy** (submitted to the city council for formal approval and adoption in 2018).
- the establishment of a **food policy council**.
- the identification of baseline and monitoring indicators to **monitor targets set in the food strategy**.
- the inclusion of food in Quito's resilience strategy.

In 2018, an action plan will be developed to enhance the availability and accessibility of diversified, safe and nutritious food to the entire population.

RUAF will support further assessment and planning of Quito's emergency food response and the building of more food resilience communities by supporting data collection and spatial/GIS data mapping.

Selected key publications

RUAF publishes the Urban Agriculture Magazine, books, technical and methodological guidelines and working papers on urban agriculture and city region food systems reaching about 800.000 readers globally today.



Urban Agriculture Magazine no.33

This issue has been a collaborative effort of the RUAF Foundation and the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR), Coventry University, UK. It aims to articulate and document the emerging field of urban agroecology and shares a diversity of perspectives from a wide number of geographical contexts. The Magazine was launched at the 8th AESOP conference on Sustainable Food Planning, titled "Re-imagining sustainable food planning, building resourcefulness: food movements, insurgent planning and heterodox economics", hosted at CAWR in Coventry, UK.

<http://www.ruaf.org/ua-magazine-no-33-urban-agroecology>



Urban Agriculture Magazine no.32

This issue of the UA Magazine discusses the urban-food-energy nexus with a focus on the role of the private sector. The Magazine shares experiences and cases from several sources:

- The West-African Bio-wastes for Energy and Fertiliser (WABEF) project
- A study done by RUAF for the Dutch Food Business Knowledge Network on the role of the private sector and social enterprises in enabling city region food systems.
- Experiences from the Resource Recovery and Reuse programme of IWMI (the CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems).
- Projects of RUAF and its partners on the safe recovery and use of energy, water and nutrients from waste streams, in Ghana, Gaza and Nepal.



Integrated development of biogas in West Africa

This policy brief (2017) was developed by the RUAF Foundation (Netherlands) in partnership with CIRAD (France), UCAD and IAGU (Senegal), AEDR Teriya-Bugu (Mali), and Songhaï (Bénin) under the Western Africa Bio-wastes for Energy and Fertilizer (WABEF) project.

The policy brief (available in English and French) makes 5 recommendations.

<http://www.ruaf.org/publications/policy-brief-integrated-development-biogas-west-africa>

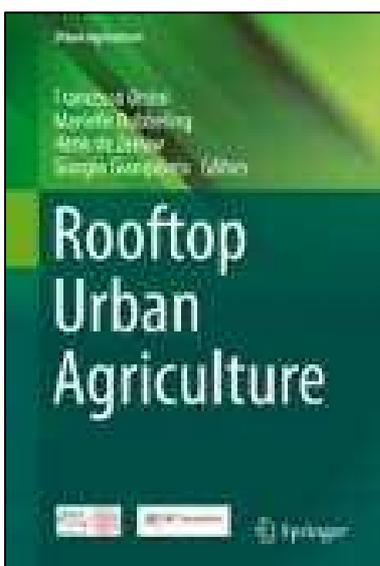


The role of the private sector in city region food systems

This policy brief (2018) reports on a recent study, implemented by RUAF Foundation and supported by the Food & Business Knowledge Platform (F&BKP) and the CGIAR Water, Land and Ecosystems Research Program (WLE/IWMI), on the role of the private sector in building more sustainable and resilient city region food systems. It gives insights in the international agendas, private sector engagement and policy support, with illustrations from three cities: Quito (Ecuador), Bristol (UK) and Rotterdam (The Netherlands).

The policy brief highlights six policy pointers.

<http://www.ruaf.org/publications/policy-brief-role-private-sector-city-region-food-systems>



Rooftop Urban Agriculture

The University of Bologna and RUAF edited a new Springer Urban Agriculture Book Series. This book guides architects, landscape designers, urban planners, agronomists and society on the implementation of sustainable rooftop farming projects. The interdisciplinary team of authors involved stresses the different approaches and the multi-faceted forms that rooftop farming may assume in any context.

By February 2018, the book has been downloaded over 4500 times.

<http://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319577197>

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Financial report

Annual accounts

The 2017 annual accounts were controlled by external auditors of Bos Accountants BV, 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 2017, pursuant to their review of the Director's report and the auditors' assessment. The full auditors report can be downloaded from the [RUAF website](#). Financial management of the RUAF Foundation follows strictly the Dutch laws and "Code Wijffels".

RUAF is registered at the International Aid Transparency Initiative. More information: <https://www.aidtransparency.net/>

Principal donors

Our principle investment partners in 2017 were:

- Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF) (Federal Ministry for Education and Research), Germany
- CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE)
- Coventry University, United Kingdom
- Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation, France
- Directorate-General for International Cooperation, Government of the Netherlands (DGIS)
- European Commission (EC)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Food & Business Knowledge Platform, The Netherlands
- The Municipality of Ede, The Netherlands
- The Municipality of Almere, The Netherlands
- Oxfam Italy
- Ryerson University, Canada
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

RUAF thanks all its partners for their financial support and contribution to its work in 2017, and looks forward to further strengthening its partnerships in the future.