

Towards sustainable and resilient urban agriculture and food systems



RUAF Global Partnership, June 2017

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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 farming or work on urban food system solutions, and consists of cities, research institutes and NGOs. Partners 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 Centre for Sustainable Food Systems, Wilfrid Laurier University in Canada; The City of, Toronto- Canada (represented by the Toronto Food Policy Council and Toronto Food Strategy), The municipality 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.

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 supports 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 support local, national and international knowledge exchange, advocacy and learning activities.

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. For more information, please visit: www.ruaf.org

"The Quito-RUAF Foundation alliance has inspired our city to advance in issues related to urban food. Supported by the RUAF Foundation, the Municipality of the Metropolitan District of Quito joined the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact in 2015, and became one of the 8 cities throughout the world that tested and implemented a methodology for city region food system assessment. Currently, Quito is working on an urban food policy with the technical assistance of RUAF, who constitutes a key ally for the strengthening of our initiative given its vast experience and record on the matter. RUAF has contributed to developing and sharing Quito's 15 year old urban agriculture experience and making it visible on an international platform, while simultaneously allowing the city to join important global alliances regarding sustainable food systems. We believe that the Quito-RUAF alliance has shown and made evident our serious commitment to build an urban food policy that contributes towards making Quito a sustainable and healthy city".



Mauricio Rodas, Mayor, Municipality of the Metropolitan District of Quito

Policy Influencing

- Support for **inclusion of urban agriculture and food systems in the New Urban Agenda**, the UN Habitat III outcome (2016) which will guide global efforts around urbanisation for the next 20 years.
- Support to development of a **Dutch Citydeal “Food on the Urban Agenda”** signed by **12 cities, on province and 3 National Ministries**.
- Support to **five cities** (Ouagadougou-Burkina Faso, Tamale-Ghana, Nakuru-Kenya, Quito-Ecuador and Almere-The Netherlands) in **drafting a policy narrative or Strategic Agenda** on urban agriculture and food systems.
- Support to multi-stakeholder revision and design of **5 policy documents** in Gaza: the new Mid-Term Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture, The Consumer Protection Plan of the Ministry of National Economic and policies on food imports and tariffs. Also **three policy campaigns** implemented.
- **Multi-stakeholder meetings** (co)facilitated in **8 cities** (Surkhet-Nepal, Satkhira-Bangladesh, Colombo-Sri Lanka, Medellin-Colombia-, Toronto-Canada, Nairobi-Kenya, Utrecht-The Netherlands, Quito-Ecuador) resulting in **policy and business innovations** in food systems and resource recycling.
- **Two food strategies and programmes evaluated** to support learning and improvement.

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

- **Participatory city region food system assessment** implemented in **seven cities** in collaboration with FAO.
- 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.
- RUAF co-leads the **CGIAR-WLE Research Flagship** on Sustainable Rural Urban Linkages.

Piloting innovations and support to business start ups

- **Six WASH innovations** tested and documented in three cities (Tamale, Surkhet, Satkhira), including co-composting, EcoSan, urine use, integrated school WASH and faecal sludge management.
- Support to **sixteen business** start-ups in productive use of organic waste (Ghana, Bangladesh), biogas (Mali and Benin), urine (Nepal) and improved food storage and processing (Gaza).
- Innovations on small-scale food and gardening activities piloted in **host and refugee communities** in Jordan.

Capacity building and staff training

- Municipal officers in **5 cities** trained on urban food systems, together with Ryerson, Mazingira, the city of Toronto and Rooftops Canada.
- Over **300 staff** of local organisations and governments trained in co-composting and safe water use in (peri)urban agriculture in 5 different countries.
- Over **650 farming households** in Nepal and Bangladesh trained on (a) productive use of urine and composting and (b) backyard and rooftop gardening. In Gaza, **15 representatives of extension institutions** trained in participatory technology development, and **415 farming households (majority women)** in improved production, processing and marketing techniques.
- **Five (distance) education modules** on employment creation in urban agriculture have been developed. Over **200 students** trained.

Knowledge production and systematisation

- **5 factsheets or policy briefs** on WASH and city region food systems have been produced.
- **20 city experiences in CRFS/food waste** have been analysed and documented, **19 private sector innovations** and **17 community experiences** with use of urban space for food and agriculture.

Foreword

Over the past two years, nations have adopted a series of key global frameworks, from the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Agreement to the recent New Urban Agenda. All these frameworks have acknowledged and call for more sustainable urban development, recognising the important role to be played by cities in ensuring urban food and nutrition security. RUAF and its partners, through direct participation, collaborative partnerships and our various networks, have contributed to getting urban food security and urban agriculture explicitly included in the New Urban Agenda, the official outcome document of the UN Habitat III Conference organised in Quito, Ecuador October 2016. The New Urban Agenda was signed by 167 countries to serve as the main guiding document on sustainable urbanisation for the coming 20 years. We are proud to have contributed, along with many other organisations, states and cities to this important achievement. This work formed a crucial part of RUAF's aim and first pillar of work to **leverage change and support at the international level**.

At the same time, we recognise that the commitment of local and subnational governments to these agendas are vital to their successful implementation. For this reason a second pillar of RUAF's work over the last year focused on helping to **build political will and capacities to act** at local and subnational level. In this context, RUAF has supported the development of a Dutch City Deal "Food on the Urban Agenda" that brings together 12 Dutch cities, one Province and three National Ministries to strengthen the contribution of cities to a more sustainable Dutch food system. RUAF has undertaken management of this network for an initial one-year period beginning April 2017. Related activities implemented with Dutch cities included the elaboration of a policy note for the city council in Almere, support to 5 multi-stakeholder dialogues in Utrecht and a formative evaluation of the Ede food strategy.

Further capacity building efforts included the joint organisation of municipal staff training on urban food systems together with Mazingira, Ryerson University, The City of Toronto and Rooftops Canada. RUAF has also supported Oxfam and the Gaza Urban and Peri Urban Agriculture Platform (GUPAP) to identify policy gaps that affect the development of the Gaza urban agricultural sector. It consequently supported GUPAP in the design and adaptation of 5 policies relating to local market-oriented urban and peri-urban agriculture development.

A third pillar of RUAF's work involves the **planning and facilitating of local action**. This is done through synthesising learning from individual projects, experiences and innovations for robust guidance to new initiatives, on issues such as "City region food systems and food waste management as a strategy for urban-rural linkages" (in collaboration with GIZ and FAO) and "Inclusive Use of Urban Space, community engagement in urban food policy and planning" (Urban Agriculture Magazine 32) and on "Private sector participation in city region food systems" (in collaboration with FBKN and IWMI/WLE). Local governments and other stakeholders can learn from these examples and use these innovations to quickly advance and scale up their sustainability actions.

Work in this area also involved multi-stakeholder planning and policy formulation around urban agriculture, urban food systems and improved resource recycling in cities and countries like Tamale (Ghana) and Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), in the context of the UrbFood project implemented together with IWMI, Nakuru (Kenya) in the context of the WASH programme and Gaza.

Local action is also supported through training and capacity building of students, technical staff and decision-makers and the elaboration of training modules on key topics of relevance such as employment creation in urban agriculture (see Urban Green train project) and through provision of technical assistance and support to cities in areas such as city region food system assessment and planning (see

CityFoodTools) or in the field of resource recycling (WASH project) or in the field of urban agriculture as a disaster or post-emergency strategy (Jordan project) . This also includes development and testing of innovations with producers and private sector and business support to 16 businesses in 2016. The Gaza project, CapVal, WASH and WABEF programme are examples. Field activities and support is always linked to further research and systematisation, institutional capacity strengthening and policy uptake.

A fourth pillar of RUAF's work can be characterised by **building an evidence base to underpin policies and action**. Key to this work was RUAF's engagement in the City Region Food System project implemented by RUAF in Quito (Ecuador), Toronto (Canada) and Utrecht (The Netherlands) and by FAO in Colombo (Sri Lanka), Lusaka and Kitwe (Zambia) and Medellin (Colombia). An assessment framework, a data framework and an indicator framework have been developed and implemented in all the cities. Results will be used in 2017 to design, monitor and evaluate urban food policies and strategies.

RUAF support to (formative) evaluations of urban agriculture and food programmes and policies also supports policy and programme review and improvements (see the Gorakhpur programme and Ede food policy evaluations).

RUAF joined the CGIAR Water land and Ecosystems Programme (WLE) led by IWMI as a co-lead for activities on urban-rural linkages and city region food systems. Further support to 20 cities by 2020 will include research, capacity building and food systems monitoring.

Finally, RUAF sought to continue to **influence the debate and thinking on new and emerging topics**. The implementation of case studies and elaboration of a synthesis report on the Role of private sector in city region food systems is just one example.

RUAF's work in the past year contributed to its current strategy and mission, while based on new learnings and reflections RUAF will embark on the elaboration of a new strategy plan for the period 2018-2023. This new strategy will seek to address new challenges for the future, including rapid rural urban transformation, an increased focus on small and medium-sized towns, efforts to enhance the climate resilience of urban food systems, implementation of the New Urban Agenda and localisation of the SDGs. The next two years will be critical in building a strong architecture to implement all global commitments on urban sustainability and food security. This will require RUAF to continue to support cities and other stakeholders with research, knowledge production, technical and policy support. The launching of the ICLEI-RUAF CITYFOOD Network in 2017 is one strategy that will be employed to continue to provide these important services.

We sincerely thank all our project partner cities and organisations, strategic alliances and donors for the support provided and collaboration in 2016.



Bram Huijsman, Chairman of the Board



Marielle Dubbeling, RUAF Director

Summary overview of 2016 activities

1. Leveraging change and support at international level

RUAF advocates for inclusion of urban agriculture and city region food systems in city and international agendas by participating in international meetings, sharing examples of policies and projects, developing policy briefing papers and supporting cities with technical and policy advice and networking. In 2016, through its participation in the City Region Food System Alliance and several international workshops, RUAF has contributed to the inclusion of urban agriculture, food security and nutrition in the New Urban Agenda. In the coming years, RUAF will actively contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the localisation of the SDG Agenda by facilitating cities to come together to exchange ideas, co-design projects and hold each other accountable in implementing food-focused solutions.

2. Building the political will and capacities to act

Dutch City Deal on Food and support to 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 will specifically work 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 will engage 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 will take on the role as network manager for the coming year.



(Photo: Citydeal)

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

RUAF collaborates with OXFAM Italy in a SDC funded project to promote market-oriented urban and peri-urban agriculture in the Gaza Strip. In this project, local value chain actors are supported to improve the date and fodder/dairy value chain. In 2016, the Gaza Urban and Peri Urban Agriculture Platform- GUPAP -with participation of over 80 local organisations, financing, producers and government representatives- was supported by RUAF to develop its 3-year strategy document. RUAF also provided support to the development of the new Ministry of Agriculture mid-term plan and to a new consumer protection plan, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Economics. The intent is to support local market-oriented urban and peri-urban agriculture. In addition, 2 policies were revised/designed: (1) the Ministry of National Economy policy on protection of national products; (2) review of tariffs for imported foreign dairy products and quota placement on imported powder milk as well as implementation of 3 policy campaigns: (a) the activation of the Red Palm Weevil Cluster; (b) design of an advocacy campaign on women agricultural rights, and (c) the reactivation of the Consumer Protection Association and launching of a Buy-local campaign.

In 2016, innovative production technologies and marketing models have been stimulated in both dairy and palm date value chains. In total, one palm date and six dairy processing units have been equipped with improved solar energy for cold storage and with processing equipment. This has enabled the increase of the shelf life of date and dairy products and reduced energy costs by 60%. The businesses have also improved the use of quality and safety standards and testing equipment. Farmers producing green fodder have increased their knowledge of new varieties and production techniques.

The project brokered and facilitated linkages between value chain actors in the value chain platforms, and between farmers and processing units through contracts and agreements. A women shareholder company for palm date products was established and linkages with micro credit programs facilitated. Capacity building and support has been provided to over 120 women processors.

New techniques and practices have been tested with farmers, by a local Participatory Technology Development (PTD) team of 15 trained extension staff from various institutions. 135 women palm date processors, 120 palm date farmers and 100 cow breeders were trained. This has resulted in an increase in quantity and quality of milk and fresh wet dates. Through PTDs experiments 60 green fodder farmers familiarised themselves with the benefits of a new green fodder (Moringa) that is enhancing milk quality and production. Experiences have been published in a Training Booklet.



(Photo: RUAF)

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

3. Planning and facilitating of 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 2016, RUAF collaborated with local partners in Nepal, Bangladesh and Ghana on safe and productive use of waste and wastewater for urban and peri-urban agriculture. Multi-stakeholder meetings were facilitated in Surkhet-Nepal and Satkhira-Bangladesh, resulting in increased awareness of resource recycling in urban agriculture, broad stakeholder involvement, and discussions on standardisation and business innovation. This contributed to systems change and acceleration not only by mind-set changes, but also by piloting innovations and inclusion of policy strategies in city agendas.

Together with key partner in WAI: WASTE, RUAF stimulated the development of 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 with ENPHO. Business analysis and support to value chain actors resulted in a functioning urine market (2 larger farmers are currently buying from a school), while various households make use of compost and urine at household level, and are able to sell their produce. In total 106 households (majority women) have been trained in productive re-use and rooftop and backyard farming (including use of urine); 45 households in using EcoSan and 199 peri-urban farmers in use of urine and composting. In Nepal, with ENPHO, also a curriculum has been developed and is currently being used in 3 schools, and further disseminated. Almost 100 students are involved in water harvesting, urine separation, composting and gardening activities as part of their regular curricula.

In Bangladesh, together with Practical Action Bangladesh, testing of compost was done with 210 households in selected slum areas and with 71 peri-urban farmers. Also, a biogas/co-compost and faecal sludge co-composting unit and a farmers centre for information and service supply on co-compost were set up. The focus has been on small-scale businesses and social entrepreneurship. Ongoing business support is provided. Practical implementation was coupled with awareness-raising, multi-stakeholder facilitation and policy influencing - resulting in increased interest, analysis of demand, stimulation of service provision (both in research as private sector), and discussion of policies and legislation (creation of an enabling environment). In that context for example, RUAF assisted Nakuru County, Kenya in a review of their current practices and policies related to WASH and urban agriculture and developed a draft Policy Framework.

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

The role of urban agriculture in post-disaster and emergency settings

In 2015 RUAF started a collaboration with the Spontaneous City International (SPciti) on the subject of urban agriculture in post-disaster and emergency settings, in the context of the Syrian Refugee crisis. In 2016 a second mission was implemented to the region of Mafraq in Northern Jordan, for the International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNGI) under its LOGOREP Programme and the city of Amsterdam. The mission suggested a number of small-scale, integrated food and gardening activities for host and refugee communities residing in urban and rural areas as well as in and around the refugee camp areas. The intent is to create connections between people, nutrients, water, products and services to bridge the gap between short-term humanitarian aid and medium- to long-term sustainable development.

With Coventry University, CAWR, and local partners in Northern Jordan, RUAF started a further study of the local food system of Mafraq in Northern Jordan, that examines the consequences of humanitarian interventions on urban food markets and supply chains. The aim of the IIED funded research project is to contribute to the development of a city-region food system that brings resilience to local food systems through the integration of local food markets with the humanitarian response in Mafraq Governorate.

<http://www.ruaf.org/projects/impact-syrian-crisis-urban-food-markets-mafraq-governorate-northern-jordan>



(Image: Lemon tree Trust)

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 2016 RUAF and partners (including IWMI) finalised Policy Narratives on Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture for Tamale, Ghana, and for Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, while UDS and URBANET in Tamale in collaboration with WASH partners facilitated uptake of a City Strategic Agenda on urban agriculture. In the coming 2 years, RUAF will support a similar process in Bamenda, Cameroon, while continuing to support the project in Tamale, Ouagadougou and Bamako.

<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. RUAF supported CapVal in monitoring and evaluation and corporate social responsible business development. So far one larger business and two smaller businesses have been supported in testing and using organic waste for urban and peri-urban agriculture. In 2017, CapVal will continue to work 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).



(Photo: IWMI)

WABEF- Western Africa Bio-wastes for Energy and Fertiliser

RUAF, in partnership with CIRAD and UCAD, IAGU, AEDR, SONGHAI, is executing the EU-funded 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 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 2016 RUAF supported the finalisation of the Compendium of relevant practices in Europe and Africa, together with CIRAD, and developed a framework for analysis of businesses. Biogas installations in AEDR, Mali and with Songhai were improved, while business performance of AEDR and Songhai was analysed. Furthermore, RUAF collaborated with CIRAD in the development of an educational package and a policy brief, to be presented at multi-stakeholder events in 2017 in all three countries.

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

See also the Gaza and WASH programmes above.

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 is led by the University of Bologna. In 2016, RUAF analysed and systematised innovative business initiatives as a basis for educational development, knowledge exchange, and innovation among SMEs, policy makers and higher education institutions in several European countries (Italy, France, Germany and the Netherlands). A report "New Urban Agriculture initiatives towards a mind-set change" presents the results of a comparative analysis of 27

case studies, including information on new entrepreneurial models, training opportunities and an analysis of skills and competences needed to develop an urban agriculture initiative.

The project partners developed training modules and resources to equip SMEs, students, academics, NGOs and public authorities with the competencies needed for the creation of new business-oriented initiatives in urban agriculture. Urban Green Train launched its pilot course on urban agriculture and entrepreneurship on the 1st of August, with 121 registered participants who had access to the Moodle platform hosted by the University of Bologna. The e-learning course includes 5 Modules with a total duration of 70h. A selected number of participants took part in the face to face course organised in Bologna, from 14 to 25 November 2016, which included plenary lessons, group work and study visits.

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

http://www.urbangreentrain.eu/en/?id=Pilot_Course

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

CITYFOOD Tools- Mapping of City Region Food Systems

Local assessments of city region food systems and their food value chains give cities and city region insight into their food systems (where does the food come from; how many jobs are created in the food system; what are the levels of food poverty among different population groups), its vulnerabilities and priority areas for improvement. RUAF and FAO have joined efforts to assess city region food systems and design a set of (SDG aligned) indicators in 8 cities (Quito-Ecuador, Medellin-Colombia, Toronto-Canada, Utrecht-The Netherlands; Dakar-Senegal, Colombo-Sri Lanka, Kitwe and Lusaka-Zambia) as a basis for informed decision-making and action planning. The project is funded by the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation and the German Federal Ministry for Agriculture.

A data framework includes over 200 metrics in different components (from production to consumption) and sustainability dimensions (economic, social, environmental, vulnerability and governance) of a City Region Food System. The framework provides guidelines on possible data sources and survey tools.

A further metrics framework provides 45 key indicators that can be used by cities to monitor their urban food policies and programmes according to specific desired policy outcomes.

Using these frameworks, rapid assessments of different aspects and sustainability dimensions of city region food systems have been completed in 2016, followed by in-depth assessment of key issues of local interest. Cities have drafted policy facts sheets, developed maps and dashboards on their food system and organised multi-stakeholder meetings among city representatives and other urban stakeholders.

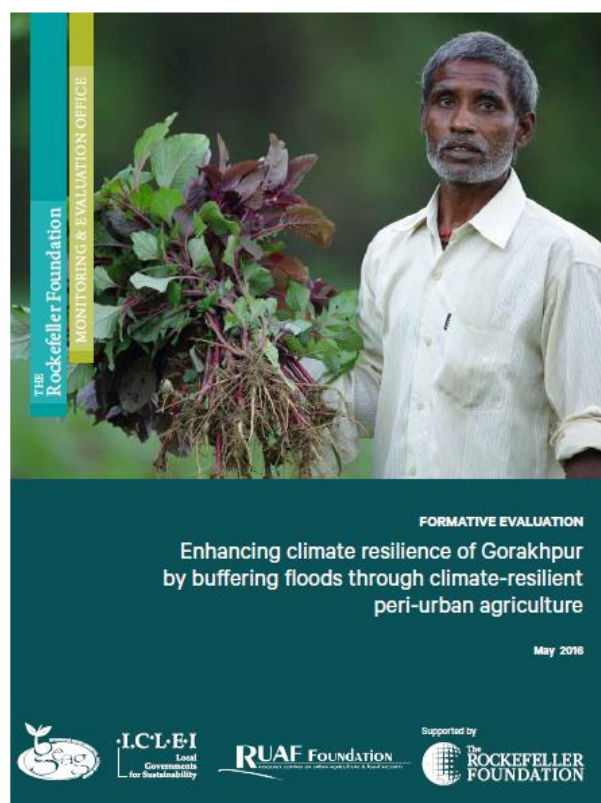
This forms the basis for strategy and policy planning and (baseline) monitoring in 2017.

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

Gorakhpur evaluation

The project “Enhancing climate resilience of Gorakhpur by buffering floods through climate-resilient peri-urban agriculture” is part of the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN). Funded by The Rockefeller Foundation, it was implemented by the Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG) from June 2012 to May 2016 to demonstrate the importance of ecosystem services –such as the flood buffering provided by peri-urban agriculture – in addressing climate change impacts in Gorakhpur. The RUAF Foundation, in collaboration with ICLEI South Asia, undertook a formative evaluation of this project in April–May 2016, at the request of The Rockefeller Foundation. This concluding report importantly documents the tangible impact the project is having on farmers, and contributes to the broader evidence base for urban resilience.

<http://www.ruaf.org/projects/enhancing-climate-resilience-gorakhpur-buffering-floods-through-climate-resilient-peri-urban-agriculture>



"I want to thank the authors for their invaluable contributions toward producing this report. The report importantly documents the tangible impact the project is having on farmers, and contributes to the broader evidence base for urban resilience".

Shawna A. Hoffman, Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist , The Rockefeller Foundation

Evaluation Ede food strategy

From December 2016 to February 2017, RUAF supported the Municipality of Ede with an external assessment of their [municipal food policy](#) which has been implemented for the past 2 years. Part of this policy development review included learning from other cities. Therefore, on December 15th 2016, the Dutch food team of Ede visited the city of Ghent. Ghent aspires to be a climate neutral city and developed a food policy called "[Gent en Garde](#)". The Dutch food team learned more about the five strategic goals of the Ghent policy and their operationalisation, especially short food supply chains, sustainable food production and more social value for food initiatives. Ede showed strong interest in the strategy development, facilitating and awareness raising role a city can play.

<http://www.ruaf.org/projects/food-policy-review-municipality-ed-netherlands>

"We considered the evaluation of our food policy that was implemented by RUAF as very positive. It has yielded new insights and more importantly, the research has had real impact on our organisation. For example, our council of the Mayor and aldermen decided to set up a food council in Ede, one of the recommendations literally taken from the evaluation report. The RUAF report also included a "barometer", which clearly visualised which implementation aspects of our food policy were considered good and where there were still issues for improvement. This was a very useful tool for us as a municipality. The combination of a substantive report and the practical translation into practice, is one of RUAF's strengths. Cooperation with RUAF was enjoyable and positive and we observed that RUAF's staff has a lot of experience and expertise in the area of local food policy."

Froukje Idema, programme manager Food, city of Ede, The Netherlands

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

Role of private sector in city region food systems



Little is known about private sector engagement, roles and initiatives in building more sustainable and resilient CRFS. Therefore, RUAF Foundation, supported by the Food & Business Knowledge Platform and the CGIAR WLE program undertook a study in order to better analyse 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 and to identify key lessons learned. Based on three city region case studies (Quito, Rotterdam and Bristol) and 19 smaller cases highlighting private sector innovation, the study provides an oversight of private sector involvement and highlights recommendations for private sector, governments and research. Results were discussed with Dutch government and key actors. RUAF will continue to work with Dutch and local private sector (both larger processing and retail as well as SMEs) and public-private partnerships to promote sustainable urban food systems.

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

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.

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.

RUAF and IWMI have collaborated for over 15 years in various programmes, including in 2016 the CapVal and UrbanFoodPlus projects and CityFoodTools, while working also on a number of joint publications (e.g. [Cities and Agriculture; developing resilient urban food systems](#))

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WATER, LAND AND ECOSYSTEMS

Within the CGIAR, IWMI leads the Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE). RUAF collaborates with IWMI in this program which started its second phase in 2017, by co-leading the Research Flagship on Sustainable Rural Urban Linkages. On 14 June, WLE and UNESCO-IHE organised a roundtable for Dutch organisations, discussing the role of WLE and possible partnerships in sustainable agriculture in relation to issues as climate change, migration, population growth, urbanisation, food production, energy and natural resource management. The roundtable brought together representatives from WLE and other CGIAR research programs, UNESCO-IHE, Dutch organisations as well as guests from Europe for a dialogue on the topic of sustainability and agriculture.

URBAN PLANNING IN CHINA

IGSNRR is engaged in several research projects on sustainable urban development in the perspective of food security and safety, recycling of resources, inclusive social integration, ecological friendly environment protection and sustainable urban-rural linkages.



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, and in 2016 working on the EU-China proposal on innovation intra-urban agriculture towards a sustainable urban development.

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TORONTO FOOD STRATEGY

The **TFPC and Food Strategy team** implement a number of key initiatives all promoting food systems change. These include: the Toronto Agriculture Program; FoodReach, an initiative to combine the food purchasing power of the not for profit sector to leverage wholesale pricing and improve nutritional quality; Community Food Works that integrates food skills, food safety and employment skills training;



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. RUAF works with Toronto in the CityFoodTools project and with Toronto and Nairobi in the Municipal Food Policy Practice Capacity building and training programme. Several actors in Toronto, like Ryerson University are long time partners of RUAF.

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



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. 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 contributes 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.

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

Website: fledgeresearch.ca

Grab Some Good initiatives that promote access to good food through pop up markets in the subway system, mobile good food markets that serve low income communities and the healthy corner stores initiative. In addition the TFPC in collaboration with the Toronto Youth Food Policy Council has developed the Food by Ward project that maps all food related initiatives across the City which in turn has led to the Food Champions network.

FOOD: LOCALLY EMBEDDED, GLOBALLY ENGAGED

FLEdGE researchers are involved in a number of community-defined projects in Canada as well as internationally as illustrated by the following examples. In the Northwest Territories we support First Nation communities as they explore adaptation options at the crossroads of traditional food access and climate change. We are the Canadian branch of an international online platform to connect farmers to consumers and support more resilient food communities (<https://openfoodnetwork.ca/>). Federally, we are engaged in the emergent National Food Policy process. And, our researchers facilitate agro-ecology knowledge sharing from the Global South to the Global North to help enhance growing methods across diverse communities.



**GENT
EN
GARDE**

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. In 2016 RUAF and Ghent jointly had a stand at the EU Food 2030 conference and joined forces on European calls. They explore innovative ways of building networks amongst cities internationally.

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Website: www.gentengarde.be, www.klimaatstad.gent,
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**Economia e
Sostenibilità**

Milan, Italy

ESTà is a non-profit research and training centre that works 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. Together with CIRAD it is co-leading the international research project on "urban-driven innovations" for more sustainable food systems and it is analysing the connections between urban food initiatives, access to water, migrations and climate change in Africa. As part of the University of Sustainability (UniSost), coordinated by ESTÀ, an international workshop: "Sustainability Schools: organisation, management models and contents" took place in February 2016 in collaboration with Centro de Estudos Sociais, Universidade de Coimbra, RUAF and Schumacher College. The aim was to strengthen the management skills and communication of the UniSost staff and to create the foundation for a long-term partnership on sustainability training.

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

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

GENT EN GARDE

Within the **Ghent Food Policy Council**, a core team was put together to refine the Gent en Garde global goals and to translate them into concrete operational goals. The output document contains a set of guidelines for the development of the City of Ghent's food policy. It is an open invitation to companies, organisations, citizens, associations, knowledge institutions, cultural centres and governments to jointly and creatively develop innovative, local and sustainable food strategies. This document does not mark the end of the process, but rather a step towards a sustainable future for the City of Ghent in a society where sustainability and equity take centre stage.

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVISM

ESTà is co-managing this School together with Italian NGOs, farmers and research groups. The School was designed and created to support territorial activities and promotion of agro ecological approaches in a periurban context in Region Lombardy. The school aims to train people to start new economic activities that could be linked to the different components of a local sustainable food system. The school is connected to the experience of UniSost and will be consolidated and replicated in other contexts as part of local development policies.

Mazingira Institute, Kenya

Mazingira Institute is a civil society organization based in Nairobi, Kenya. Mazingira carried out the first national survey of urban agriculture in Kenya in 1987 and has hosted the Nairobi and Environs Food Security, Agriculture and Livestock Forum (NEFSALF) since 2003. NEFSALF brought together stakeholders and has held urban farmers' training in collaboration with Kenya Government extension services for over a decade. Mazingira, 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, where it continues to represent urban farmers. RUAF and Mazingira have collaborated on various publications and trainings over the years.

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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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MUNICIPAL FOOD POLICY AND PRACTICE TRAINING

As part of this project, funded by IDRC and Rooftops Canada, and coordinated by Ryerson University, a network of trainers on urban agriculture and food systems developed a set of resources and case studies as part of a curriculum and set of modules that have been tested in Toronto and Nairobi. In 2016 RUAF, Mazingira and the project members developed a set of guidelines for cities to set up their own training process for their staff. RUAF and its partners will further facilitate providing support to cities on city region food systems training.

CITY REGION FOOD SYSTEM ASSESSMENT IN QUITO

Quito is partner in the RUAF-FAO CityFoodTools project. Based on a City Region Food System assessment, Quito is currently drafting a territorial food strategy with support of RUAF.

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.



The Urban Agriculture Magazine no.31

In 17 articles, this magazine explores the, formal and informal, role of community in urban food policy and planning, innovative planning practices and community engagement in (urban) food policy and planning through case studies across the globe. Urban agriculture and food systems are fast gaining the attention of planners and policy makers across the global south and north. <http://www.ruaf.org/node/4598>



WASH Fact sheets

In 2016, RUAF continued to collaborate as a WAI partner in Nepal, Bangladesh and Ghana with local partners on safe and productive use of waste and wastewater for urban and peri-urban agriculture. Three fact sheets have been produced, and another three will be published in the next months.

Please visit the [RUAF website](http://www.ruaf.org) for the following fact sheets:

- Integrated School WASH in Surkhet, Nepal
- Monitoring sustainability of safe and productive use for urban and periurban agriculture
- Safe and productive use of waste for urban and periurban agriculture - RUAF experiences in WASH



Call for Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages

The challenge of ensuring food and nutrition security for all is becoming an urban one. Rapid urbanisation, increasing vulnerability to food price hikes and climate impacts, changes in consumption patterns and the related increase in diet-related health problems – all call for increasing attention to providing the world's growing urban population with adequate, safe, balanced, and affordable food. Urban growth is also directly related to increased demand for natural resources (land and water) that provide vital food and ecosystem services. In this context, sustainable urbanisation, food and nutrition security, environmental and natural resource management – including the preservation of ecosystems – rural development and agricultural production, and distribution and marketing have become intrinsically linked.

In order to respond to these challenges, integrated territorial development and balanced urban-rural linkages must be pursued for the benefit of both urban and rural populations alike. City region food systems (CRFS) offer concrete policy and programme opportunities within which multiple development goals can be addressed and through which rural and urban areas and communities in a given city region can be directly linked.

It is for these reasons that integrated territorial approaches and urban-rural linkages are included in the Agenda 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These specifically address SDG target 11a, to support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas, and are instrumental in linking SDG 11 with SDG 2 (on sustainable agriculture and food and nutrition security) and SDG 12 (on sustainable production and consumption).

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) will set out goals and guidelines for sustainable urban development that will be applicable to all UN member countries. It recognises that urbanisation has increasingly linked cities with their peri-urban and rural hinterland, spatially as well as functionally.

Although contexts differ across cities and regions, in all situations, functional linkages and flows among people, goods and services extend beyond traditional administrative boundaries. This calls indeed for new strategies of planning and management of urban, peri-urban and rural areas in an integrated way and for new forms of multi-level and horizontal governance.



Erasmus + URBAN GREEN TRAIN

Education for Urban Agriculture and Urban Green Entrepreneurship

Education for enterprising urban agricultural innovation

URBAN GREEN TRAIN (URBAN Green Education for ENTERprising Agricultural Innovation) aims to encourage pioneering business oriented initiatives in urban agriculture based on knowledge exchange and cooperation among SMEs, policy makers and Higher Education Institutions as to meet the global demand for urban green innovation. URBAN GREEN TRAIN wants to provide lifelong learning opportunities to adult learners through a flexible path that can be entered at different life stages. The project's general objective is to strengthen the knowledge triangle between Education, Research and Business in the field of urban agriculture and more specifically:

- To raise awareness of potential employers and entrepreneurs for enabling the environment for green economy
- To innovate curricula and learning methods in Higher Education, expanding existing forms of University-Society-Business Cooperation and crossing sectoral, disciplinary and national boundaries
- To build capacity of youth to create their own business
- To respond to the EU labour market need of highly qualified and entrepreneurial graduates in this field
- To increase awareness on the role of new green enterprises in creating more sustainable cities from the side of local governments, consumers and other actors.



Her-Go Prototype Vers. 1.0 Home-Aquaponics

URBAN GREEN TRAIN curriculum

The aim of the URBAN GREEN TRAIN curriculum is to respond to the global demand for urban green innovation (environmental technologies, eco-friendly products and services, sustainable design and healthy food) by equipping actual and future entrepreneurs with the set of useful skills and competences needed to start business oriented initiatives in urban agriculture. Innovative, sustainable urban agriculture entrepreneurship initiatives are needed by EU member states to deal with the 21st century challenges of food and nutrition security, human prosperity and employment, climate change, environmental and energy issues as well as natural resource scarcity. Urban farms, green enterprises and many other initiatives covering the so called "farm to fork" linkages connecting rural to urban areas as well as all non-food agricultural production and activities are growing all over EU, and so is the need for highly qualified and entrepreneurial graduates, able to make them innovative and sustainable. The course content and structure have been defined based on an analysis of the training needs of relevant key actors in urban agriculture, carried out by project partners in their respective countries.

The document 'New Urban Agriculture initiatives towards a mindset change' presents the project methodology and shares the results of a comparative analysis of 27 international case studies, the current educational offer on urban agriculture entrepreneurship as well as the results of a survey on training needs of future entrepreneurs in Italy, France, Germany and the Netherlands.

The main URBAN GREEN TRAIN course areas and the overall course structure, have been defined and designed according to the results of the training needs assessment. The course is structured into 5 Modules with a total duration of 150h.

Pilot course

The course has been tested from August 2016 to January 2017 into two different modalities: full eLearning (at distance learning delivered through Moodle) and blended (combining online activities and face to face lessons). Participants were requested to actively participate in the testing of educational materials and activities and to provide their feedbacks to the URBAN GREEN TRAIN partners, with the

City Region Food Systems and Food Waste Management: Linking urban and rural areas for sustainable and resilient development

This publication, by GIZ, RUAF and FAO, documents 13 case studies from city regions around the world which are developing City Region Food System (CRFS) projects, programmes, and policies, including those related to the prevention, reduction and management of food waste. The report e provides lessons learned from the case studies for sustainable development of CRFS and offers a large number of strategies and tools that can be applied by city regions around the world, including the promotion of (peri)urban agriculture, preservation of agricultural land areas and watersheds through land use planning and zoning, development of food distribution and social protection programmes for vulnerable groups, support for short supply chains and local procurement of food, and promotion of food waste prevention, reduction and management, as well as the recovery and redistribution of safe and nutritious food for human consumption.

<http://www.ruaf.org/projects/city-region-food-systems-and-food-waste-management-linking-urban-and-rural-areas>

Education for Urban Agriculture and Urban Green Entrepreneurship

The following reports and materials have been produced:

- Model and recommendations for a Curriculum in Urban Agriculture Entrepreneurship
- New Urban Agriculture initiatives toward a mindset change
- Inventory of innovative UA businesses in Europe
- Inventory of UA Educational Offer
- Urban Green Train modules and resources

All resources are available at:

www.urbangreentrain.eu

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Financial report

Annual accounts

The 2016 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 2016, 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".

Principal donors

Our principle investment partners in 2016 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 International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNGI)
- Rockefeller Foundation
- 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 2016, and the Institute looks forward to further strengthening its partnerships in the future.