

International Symposium on Urban and Peri-Urban Horticulture in the Century of Cities

December 5-9, 2010, Dakar (Senegal): International Symposium on Urban and Peri-Urban Horticulture in the Century of Cities: Lessons, Challenges, Opportunities.
Info: Dr. Remi Nono-Womdim, FAO-AGP, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153, Rome, Italy. Phone: (39)0657052772, Fax: (39)0657056347

E-mail symposium: uph-symposium@fao.org

Web: <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/hort-indust-crops/isd/en/>

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

The long-awaited century of cities has begun: in 2008, the world's urban population surpassed, for the first time, the number of people living in rural areas. Within 15 years, almost 60% of world population – or 4.5 billion people – will be urban. Cities in low-income developing countries are growing at an especially rapid rate. In West Africa, city populations grow by 6% each year, twice as fast as total population. The estimated number of urban dwellers in sub-Saharan Africa will rise from 320 million to 540 million by 2025, and will triple by 2050.

Urbanization in the 21st century is often accompanied by high levels of poverty, unemployment, food insecurity and malnutrition. Already, more than one billion people worldwide live in urban slums, with limited access to even basic health, water and sanitation services. The ongoing world economic downturn and the persistence of high food prices affect particularly the urban poor, who spend 60% or more of their income on food.

To help developing countries meet the challenges of massive and rapid urbanization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) decided in 1999 to establish a comprehensive programme for urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA), which aims at improving access to safe, quality food and enhancing livelihood opportunities for the urban poor.

A major component of UPA is intensification of horticultural production. Urban and peri-urban horticulture (UPH) cannot meet, by itself, cities' exponentially growing demand for fresh vegetables, fruit and other horticultural produce, and should not divert resources from horticulture in rural areas. But FAO experience indicates that, where farm-to-market systems are inadequate, horticulture in and around cities can fill critical gaps and make a significant contribution to urban food supply and livelihoods.

Through multidisciplinary programmes and projects implemented in developing and emerging countries over the past decade, FAO has fostered the policies, institutional frameworks, farming practices and support systems needed to optimize the sector's contribution. It has opened a dialogue with national policymakers and municipal authorities on UPH issues and, through synergies with partner organizations, helped

develop policies, strategies and technical guidelines for sustainable urban and peri-urban horticulture.

Symposium objectives Together with partner organizations, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Senegal have convened this international symposium in order to:

- * review experiences and lessons learned
- * assess UPH's contribution to urban food supply, nutrition and livelihoods
- * capitalize on current experiences and knowledge
- * foster UPH initiatives and networking
- * lay the foundations for increased policy and institutional support for UPH

The symposium will cover key links in the production, supply and value chain, from secure access to natural resources and integrated plant production and protection, to post-harvest handling and processing technologies, product quality and safety, and marketing. The symposium is also expected to provide guidance for the preparation of FAO's report on the State of Urban and Peri-Urban Horticulture in Africa (SOUPHA), to be published in 2011.

- * Session 1: The impact of urbanization and the role of UPH
- * Session 2: Characterization of urban and peri-urban agriculture
- * Session 3: Measuring the contribution of UPH to urban food supply, nutrition, income generation and livelihoods
- * Session 4: Management of natural resources and waste for UPH
- * Session 5: Safeguarding food quality and safety and growers' health, safety and welfare.

Convenors

- * Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Senegal
- * Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Partner organizations

- * Global Horticulture Initiative (GlobalHort)
- * International Cooperation Centre of Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD)
- * International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS)

Other symposium partners will be announced.

Venue: The symposium will be held at the Hôtels Ngor Diarama complex, Route de Ngor, Dakar.

Further information Information on keynote speakers, submission of abstracts and papers, the organizing and scientific committees, and logistical arrangements will be published

soon.

Contacts

Remi Nono-Womdim
FAO Plant Production and Protection Division
uph-symposium@fao.org
tel: +39 06 570 52772
fax: +39 06 570 56347

Ababacar Sy Gaye
Directeur national de l'horticulture du Sénégal
sygaye@yahoo.fr
tel : +221 33 8670994