



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



ISHS
International Society for Horticultural Science

Urban and Peri-urban Production Systems for Improved Livelihoods

7 June 2022 | 14:00 –15:30 CEST



Fruit and Vegetable Small-Scale Farming Webinar Series

Programme

Time	Item and presenter
14:00 –14:05	Opening remarks by Jingyuan Xia , Director of FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP)
14:05 –14:20	Keynote speech by Dr. Francesco Orsini , Associate Professor, Research Centre for Agriculture and Biodiversity in the Urban Environment, University of Bologna, Italy, and ISHS Division Chair of Landscape and Urban Horticulture
14:20 –15:05	Panel discussion Mangiza Chirwa , Project Manager Healthy Food Africa, Hivos Zambia Ahmed Sourani , Co-Founder & General Coordinator, Gaza Urban & Peri-urban Agriculture Platform (GUPAP) Alexandra Rodríguez Dueñas , Coordinator of the Participatory Urban Agriculture Project, Municipality of Quito, Ecuador
15:05 –15:25	Q&A session
15:25 –15:30	Concluding remarks by Fenton Beed , NSP Team Leader - Rural and Urban Crop and Mechanization Systems, FAO

The webinar will be moderated by **Guido Santini**, Programme Coordinator, FAO

Concept note

Background

Rapid urbanization, population growth as well as shocks and stresses such as climate change, pandemics and conflicts are putting increasing pressure on urban food systems. Strengthening the resilience of urban food systems is essential for food security. Urban and peri-urban agriculture can contribute to food system resilience through short supply chains, enhanced rural-urban linkages and increased diversity in the food supply chain and distribution.

Especially the production of fruit and vegetables offers great opportunities for urban and peri-urban farmers due to their qualification as high-value crops, and many farmers depend on these for their livelihoods. However, in view of their high perishability, labour-intensity and investment, it is critical to ensure access to appropriate knowledge, skills and inputs for sustainable production, and to markets.

As part of the Fruit and Vegetable Small-Scale Farming Webinar Series, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) are hosting a webinar on **urban and peri-urban production systems for improved livelihoods** in low- and middle-income countries.

Objectives of the webinar

Sharing context-specific practical solutions can leverage the uptake of sustainable production in urban and peri-urban areas that harnesses current innovations and technologies adapted for use in low- and middle-income countries. This webinar will discuss challenges, opportunities and progress in support of the development of sustainable fruit and vegetable-based food systems, drawing on topics such as:

- Sustainable production and market access for smallholder farmers
- Simplified practices and technologies, including soilless cultivation, micro-gardening, vertical greenhouses, household and rooftop gardens
- Successful coping strategies of family farmers under protracted crisis conditions
- Development of food policies supporting urban and peri-urban agriculture

Speakers' biographies



Dr. Francesco Orsini

Dr. Francesco Orsini is an Associate Professor for urban farming, protected cultivation, vegetable crops and smart horticulture at the Research Centre for Agriculture and Biodiversity in the Urban Environment at the University of Bologna, Italy. He has previously worked with FAO and international NGOs on urban farming projects in Latin America, Africa and South East Asia. Dr. Orsini currently coordinates urban food system projects funded by the European Union and the Government of Italy. He also manages the research activities at AlmaVFarm, the first experimental vertical farm in Italy.

Title: Simplified soilless systems to promote and improve the production of vegetables in urban and peri-urban areas

Abstract

Simplified hydroponics (or simplified soilless cultivation, SSC), is gaining relevance as a tool to foster income generation, diet diversification and community building in urban and peri-urban areas of the Global South. While technical guidelines for micro-garden implementation are available, limited experimental evidence on their impacts have been, to date, released. Within the presentation, results from applied research on microgardening in different locations of Asia, Africa and Latin America will be presented.



Alexandra Rodríguez Dueñas

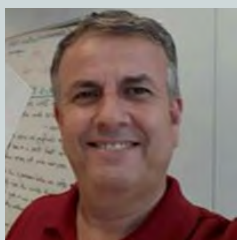
Alexandra Rodríguez Dueñas is an agricultural engineer and specialist in business administration and organic food production. She coordinates the Participatory Urban Agriculture Project for the Municipality of Quito, Ecuador, since 2005. Alexandra represents the City of Quito in the RUAF Global Partnership on Sustainable Urban Agriculture and Food Systems and the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, supported Quito's signing of the Glasgow Declaration and led the evaluation of the Quito City Region at the local level. She promoted the creation of the multi-stakeholder platform Quito Agri-Food Pact (PAQ), which resulted in the development of Quito's Agri-Food Strategy.

Title: From urban agriculture to food policy

Abstract

The Municipality of Quito has been implementing the Participatory Urban Agriculture Project (AGRUPAR) since 2002 to promote greater resilience and sustainability through agroecological production, social and gender justice, responsible consumption, as well as urban and peri-urban linkages with rural areas. The project targets the most vulnerable population and shows strong citizen participation, mostly by female heads of households. The main impacts have been improved livelihoods, food security and nutrition, as well as ecosystem benefits. AGRUPAR also served as an entry point to strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration and build an integrated territorial agri-food strategy for a sustainable, resilient, diversified and inclusive food system.

Speakers' biographies



Ahmed Sourani

Ahmed Sourani is the Co-Founder and General Coordinator of GUPAP, a multi-stakeholder space for policy influencing, networking and empowerment. He is an expert for organizational development, policy change and networking for agricultural resilient development, participatory learning and action research. He has extensive experience in agricultural policy and development with local and international NGOs like OXFAM-Gaza, ICRC-Gaza, Agricultural Development Association (PARC) and is actively involved in key local, national, regional and global agricultural development spaces such as the Arab Network for Food sovereignty and the Arab Network for Urban Agriculture.

Title: Urban and peri-urban agriculture: a strategy to enhance resilience of horticultural livelihoods in Gaza

Abstract

Palestinian farmers have developed technical coping strategies under protracted crisis conditions in Gaza, including vertical vegetable production in greenhouses, rainwater harvesting and drip irrigation systems as well as house and rooftop gardens. Moreover, there is a shift towards more resilient horticultural cropping systems and fruit trees as a result of increasing climate change. Farmer-led field schools facilitate informal horticultural extension and capacity sharing (from farmer to farmer). Other initiatives include micro horticultural seeds banking, multiplication of local indigenous fruit trees, and processing of fruit and vegetables. 95% of the urban and peri-urban horticulture activities in Gaza depend on family farming.



Mangiza Chirwa

Mangiza Chirwa is Project Manager (Healthy Food Africa) for Hivos Zambia. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in development studies and a Master's degree in Public Policy. Mangiza has expertise in urban food systems, the informal food sector, multi-stakeholder management and social inclusion in food systems in Southern Africa. Within Africa, she has worked on projects in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Uganda.

Title: Enhancing sustainable production and access to markets for smallholder farmers in Chongwe District, Zambia

Abstract

In Zambia, like many other countries in the Global South, smallholder farmers are key stakeholders to food security and nutrition and yet, they often lack important knowledge and skills on how to produce sustainably (with minimal environmental damage to ecology and climate) and still meet their basic needs from agriculture as an economic activity. Through the Healthy Food Africa project, Hivos is building capacity and self-reliance of smallholder farmers to produce sustainably and also access markets for their produce.