

World Urban Forum 2006 (Vancouver, Canada)*June 2006*

The World Urban Forum of 2004 was held in Barcelona, Spain, where an international panel on credit and investment for urban agriculture was organised by IDRC, CIGU and UMP/IPES and supported by the RUAF (see www.unhabitat.org/wuf/2004). On request of the Canadian Government, IDRC is organising a number of sessions on urban agriculture, food security and good governance as part of the official programme of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver in 2006. IDRC invited RUAF partners MDP and ETC to participate in the preparations of two of these sessions. A Steering Committee has been formed to maintain the relations with Canadian Government, UN- HABITAT, etc., to further develop the programme for the WUF 2006, to prepare the diverse materials and to develop linkages with municipal authorities, the press, NGOs and donor agencies. We will keep you informed of further developments. More information at www.idrc.org, www.unhabitat.org or can be obtained from Marielle Dubbeling; m.dubbeling@etn.nl

Nature at Your Service, 2005 National Conference on Urban Ecosystems (Charlotte, North Carolina, USA)*17-18 November 2005*

The urban forest is an untapped resource—one that can help cities meet regulatory requirements for clean air and water, revitalise neighbourhoods, and reduce the costs of building and maintaining infrastructure. The 2005 National Conference on Urban Ecosystems, Nature at Your Service, will show how to reconnect people to their city's natural resources. For more information contact info@amfor.org, or visit www.americanforests.org/conference/

First EMPOWERS Regional Symposium (Cairo, Egypt)*13-16 November 2005*

This symposium will be organised by The Euro-Med Participatory Water Resources Scenarios (EMPOWERS Partnership 1) under the title "Sharing Experiences on Involving Users in Integrated Water Resources Management at the Local and Intermediate Levels". It aims to bring together practitioners, researchers and policy makers to share practical experiences and promising tools, methodologies and approaches for implementing local level Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) that involves and empowers communities and other water users. An e-conference ran from 15 February to 31 March 2005. Please stay tuned at www.empowers.info

International Conference on Circular Economy and Regional Sustainable Development (Hangzhou, China)*1-4 November 2005*

The conference will be organised to discuss and express concern about the degradation of ecosystems as a result of resource exploitation, and industrial, agricultural and urban development activities. The government of China, a country with over 1.3 billion inhabitants, is currently adopting rapid development policies but it also realises and acknowledges constraints that may cause its interventions to backfire. This conference is a manifestation of the willingness of governments, higher learning institutions, NGOs, and industries in China and elsewhere in the world to challenge traditional economic values. For more information please browse the conference web site: www.2005cersd.org.cn

Socioeconomic - Environmental Issues and Interventions Addressing Urbanization in Developing Countries (Cagayan de Oro City, the Philippines)*2-30 November 2005*

This one-month training course is organised by SEARSOLIN, Xavier University College of Agriculture. The College of Agriculture is one of the member agencies of PUDSEA network, which is supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). This course is one of 10 modules related to agriculture. It will deal with urban and periurban development issues, participatory urban environmental planning and management tools, urban ecological sanitation, solid wastes management and planning and evaluation. For more information write to searsolin@xu.edu.ph or contact Dr. Robert J. Holmer, Periurban Vegetable Project, Xavier University College of Agriculture at puevp@philcom.ph, or visit the web site: <http://www.puevp.com>

Women in Sustainable Agriculture Conference (Burlington, Vermont, USA)*21-23 October 2005*

Farmers, educators, and activists and agricultural professionals involved in sustainable agriculture are invited to meet in this national event. Please contact Beth Holtzman, Women's Agricultural Network: beth.holtzman@uvm.edu or cowfan@metc.net

International Platform on Sustainable Urban Development (Geneva, Switzerland)*11-13 October 2005*

This conference, called "S-DEV Geneva 05", will have four main themes or "poles" (technologies, governance, civil society and enterprises), which will serve as focal points, bringing all stakeholders together to exchange innovations in these areas. Discussions will centre around issues such as health, nutrition, sanitation, waste, transport, energy, integration and housing, and focus also on urban agriculture and food security. For more information visit www.s-dev.org/

Farming Systems and Poverty: Making a Difference, A Global Learning Opportunity (Rome, Italy)*12-16 September 2005*

The Global Learning Opportunity (GLO) of the International Farming Systems Association (IFSA, with FAO and IFAD) will bring together development practitioners and many others to discuss, analyse and propose strategies and options, and to identify promising opportunities to attain the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those related to rural poverty, food security, gender equity and environment sustainability. The overall theme combines the IFSA mandate with the title of the influential FAO-World Bank publication on "Farming Systems and Poverty: Farmers' Livelihoods in a Changing World". For more information visit www.fao.org/farmingsystems/pdf/IFSA_18_announcement.pdf, or contact Dr. John Dixon at john.dixon@fao.org

ICESC - 2005 (Singapore)*5-8 September 2005*

The conference in Singapore will focus on all aspects of hydroponics (soilless culture) and will have feature sections on aquaponics, urban aquatic farming and organic hydroponics. The aim of ICESC-2005 is to create awareness about the increasing

importance of hydroponics and its associated aquaponics. For details about registering or participating visit www.icesc-2005.com or write to Dr. Mallick at icesc2005@singaporehydroponics.com

Training Course on Urban Agriculture in the Middle East and Northern Africa (Beirut, Lebanon)

4-26 September 2005

Food production inside and around urban areas is an ancient activity in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Urban agriculture in the MENA countries is at present a highly varied and widespread activity, yet it endures for the most part without recognition by planners, agriculturists, policy makers, researchers – even by its practitioners. After successful training events in Africa and Latin America, this year a Regional Training Course will take place in the Middle East and North Africa. This event is organised by the Environment and Sustainable Development Unit of the American University. Complete information about the training course and registration details are available on the web site www.ecosystems.org For additional information, please write to the course coordinator, Joe Nasr, at joenasr@compuserve.com or the course facilitator, Eng. Ziad Moussa at zm13@aub.edu.lb

IUFRO World Congress (Brisbane, Australia)

8-13 August 2005

The 22nd International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress will be held 8-13 August 2005 at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre. The theme for the 2005 Congress is Forests in the Balance: Linking Tradition and Technology. For more information contact iufro2005@ozaccomm.com.au or visit www.iufro2005.com

Fourth Training Programme on Urban Rainwater Harvesting

13-16 June 2005

The Centre for Science and Environment has launched its training programme on Urban Rainwater Harvesting as part of the Anil Agarwal Green College, which is currently being set up. The training course will cover, among other issues, the urban water setting, case studies of four Indian cities, rainwater harvesting systems, impact assessment, policies. The registration form is available online at: www.cseindia.org/misc/rwh_course.htm

IOBB is organizing the Internet Conference on Biotechnology and Bioengineering in Africa (<http://www.iobbnet.org/icbb-africa>) which will have 3 e-symposia.

* E-Symposium on Biological Nitrogen Fixation
<http://www.iobbnet.org/drupal/forum/84>

* E-symposium on Economic aspects on the use of Biotechnologies and Bioengineering in Urban Agriculture by African Households
<http://www.iobbnet.org/drupal/forum/102>

* E-Symposium on Phytoremediation and Water Purification
<http://www.iobbnet.org/drupal/forum/100>

All participants are recommended to create their user accounts at www.iobbnet.org (if you don't have one already) and then send a request to et-w7@segate.sunet.se for write permissions so that you can write comments and even upload images. Please go to <http://www.iobbnet.org/icbb-africa> for more information, or register

at: <http://www.iobbnet.org/drupal/user/register>

The 6th European Biennial of Towns & Town Planners (Copenhagen, Denmark)

9-11 June 2005

A unique example of new border-crossing regional and urban collaboration networks, The Biennial will be held as a large conference with exhibitions, lectures, multimedia presentations, etc., to discuss creative cities. The conference will be organised around three sub-themes: European Cities - Challenges in a Global World; European City Life and Living; Planning the Future European City. For more information visit www.cityliving-livingcity.org/ or www.planum.net/showspace/6thbiennial.htm

Urban Green Days 2005 (Europe)

31 May – 5 June 2005

European cities and towns have responded once again to the European Commission's invitation to celebrate the annual Urban Green Days. Urban Green Days is an initiative that takes place each year during May and June, in conjunction with Brussels European Green Week (31 May-3 June) and the UN World Environment Day (5 June). For more information on Green Week, visit <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek>.

Agricultural and Horticultural Aspects of Ecological Sanitation - Post-Conference Seminar (Durban, South Africa)

27 May 2005

The seminar was organised by Sida through EcoSanRes (www.ecosanres.org) in cooperation with CSIR (www.csir.co.za). The purpose of the seminar was to bring together persons with experience and/or interest in the reuse of urine and faeces for crop production, with a focus on networking and exchanging experiences on demonstration activities that promote reuse. For more information please visit www.buildnet.co.za/ecosan

Urban Forests: A different trademark for cities and forestry (Celje, Slovenia)

9-13 May 2005

The 8th edition of the EUFORIC/IUFRO European Forum on Urban Forestry (EFUF) was hosted by the Slovenian forest service and the city of Celje. The forum provided once again a very successful platform for European scientists and practitioners within urban forestry and urban greening to meet each other and exchange ideas. More information, including a summary of the main findings, will be available shortly at: www.efuf.org

Next year's forum will be organised in Florence, Italy.

CABERNET 2005 - The International Conference on Managing Urban Land (Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK)

13-15 April 2005

The International Conference on Managing Urban Land was organised by CABERNET (Concerted Action on Brownfield and Economic Regeneration Network www.cabernet.org.uk), Laganside Corporation (www.laganside.com) and the University of Nottingham, UK. The aim of the conference was to share "good practice" experience, problem-solving

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knowledge, and the application of new techniques and tools. For more information visit: www.cabernet.org.uk/conference2005

E-Symposium on "Economic aspects of the use of Biotechnologies and Bioengineering in Urban Agriculture by African Households"
1-30 June 2005

This e-symposium focuses on how African households use biotechnology and bioengineering methods in urban agriculture to increase income generation and to ensure their food security. The e-symposium has been organised so that you can interact with the authors of seven papers, which cover technological, economic and public policy aspects of urban agriculture in Africa. A second parallel activity of the e-symposium focuses on the end-users. It is being organised by the International Organization for Biotechnology and Bioengineering www.iobbnet.org

International Seminar: Building Sustainable Cities (Mexico City, Mexico)

28-30 April 2005

For more information on this fourth assembly of the Latin American network on urban agriculture visit www.ipes.org/aguila/

Third Urban Research Symposium on "Land Development, Urban Policy and Poverty Reduction" (Brasilia, DF, Brazil)

4-6 April 2005

This event was organised jointly by The World Bank Institute of Applied Economic Research and IPEA, Brazil. The conference took a long-term perspective on urban development as it relates to poverty reduction and economic growth both at the local and national level. See: www.worldbank.org/urban/symposium2005/

Emerging Issues Along Urban/Rural Interfaces: Linking Science and Society (Atlanta, Georgia, USA)

13-16 March 2005

This meeting highlighted approaches that focus on integrating socioeconomic and ecological research. See for more details: www.sfws.auburn.edu/urbanruralinterfaces/

Effective Land-Water Interface Management for Solving Agriculture-Fishery-Aquaculture Conflicts in Coastal Zones (Bac Lieu, Vietnam)

1-3 March 2005

Results from the conference contribute to the Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture (<http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/assessment>)

For more information contact Dr. Chu Thai Hoanh, IWMI, cchoanh@cgiar.org or Dr. Mark Prein (WorldFish), m.prein@cgiar.org.

NEWS AND PARTNERS

PRODWAT

The PRODWAT thematic group was established in 2003 in order to contribute to the reduction of poverty and increased gender equity through the better recognition of productive uses of domestic water supplies, and the improved delivery of multiple use water services at the household level. PRODWAT thematic group provides information on productive uses of domestic water and the provision of multiple use water services on its portal website <http://www.prodwat.watsan.net/>. The PRODWAT Case Study Award is open to researchers, practitioners and students working in the South on a theme within the areas of interest of the PRODWAT group. The AWARD of €1000 will support further research on the best case study submitted to the PRODWAT website.

KAMPALA ORDINANCE TO PROMOTE AQUACULTURE

Kampala City Council has budgeted Shs7 million to sensitise women and the youth to the importance of urban farming. KCC will encourage fish farming and educate communities near landing sites on proper fishing methods and marketing. The Secretary for Social Improvement, Ms Winnie Makumbi, said that "we want to create jobs, fight food insecurity but at the same time

protect the environment. The Kampala City Council is targeting the youth and women first". The KCC passed the Kampala Urban Agriculture Ordinance that allows residents to plant crops and rear animals in their yards. For more information visit <http://allafrica.com/stories/200505100811.html>

WORLD FISH CENTER PROMOTION IN MALAWI

WorldFish Center researchers have been working on the use of Integrated Aquaculture-Agriculture (IAA) technologies, systems of farming that support the recycling of nutrients by growing fish alongside conventional cropping regimes. In Malawi, WorldFish has been undertaking basic field research and helping to implement these IAA technologies since the mid-1980s in cooperation with the Department of Fisheries. On a national level, total annual fish production from all fish ponds combined has increased more than ten times, from 90 to more than 1,000 tonnes per year. These results from Malawi are very positive, and the new IAA technologies are now also being adopted by Cameroon, Mozambique and Zambia. For more information visit www.cgiar.org/eneews/march2005/story_05.html#