

Workshop on Multi-stakeholder Action Planning and Policy Making marks start of RUAFF second phase

In the last issue of UA Magazine (December 2004), we informed you about the approval of the second phase of the RUAFF programme by the Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation. Meanwhile IDRC has also committed its support for the next four years of **Cities Farming for the Future (CFF)**, as the second phase is called.

The RUAFF partners met in the Netherlands in April for a two-week start-up workshop and subsequent coordinators meeting to officially kick off the new phase and prepare for the first year of the CFF programme. In the new phase the emphasis will be on capacity development and on facilitating policy formulation and action planning on urban agriculture. To that effect, in each of the RUAFF regions (Latin America, Francophone West Africa, Anglophone West Africa, Southern and East Africa, South and Southeast Asia, China and possibly a renewed initiative in the Middle East and Northern Africa) 3-4 pilot cities have been selected, 20 in total, which have shown a commitment to integrate urban agriculture into their local policies and planning. It is in these pilot cities that RUAFF-CFF will concentrate its main activities in the coming four years, including training of local stakeholders, provision of support for local diagnosis and participatory action planning, and monitoring of changes in policies and actions of local stakeholders, focusing particularly on impacts these have on the livelihoods of the urban poor. Aside from technical and training support each pilot city will receive some matching funds for one or more small pilot projects. In each of the pilot cities a multi-stakeholder working group will guide and facilitate the action research and planning process. For an overview of the selected cities see the box below. In addition, 6-10 dissemination cities have been selected in each region, 46 in total, that will participate in certain

capacity development activities, policy seminars, and in the exchange of the results with the pilot cities. RUAFF will also continue its networking and information dissemination activities, particularly through the regional resource centres on urban agriculture and food security.

The Start-up workshop focused mainly on the methodological aspects of the RUAFF-CFF programme, especially the training of local stakeholders and the facilitation of the multi-stakeholder processes for action planning and policy design. Representatives of the international and regional RUAFF partners as well as representatives of local partners from pilot cities

participated in the workshop. Different aspects of urban agriculture, policy development, project formulation and monitoring, gender, and other relevant issues were discussed, and at the end of the two weeks each regional group presented their draft work plan.

We will be sure to keep you informed of our progress in following issues of *UA Magazine* and on the RUAFF web site. If you would like more information on the workshop or on the Cities Farming for the Future Programme you are advised to visit the RUAFF web site www.ruaf.org

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RUAFF-CFF Cities		
Region	Pilot Cities	Dissemination Cities
China	Beijing, Fushun, Yuncheng	Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Jinan, Wuhan, Xi'an, Chengdu, Kunming, Handan, Tangshan, Benxi Datong, Linfen, Xingtai Banshan
S-SE Asia	Hyderabad, Bangalore, Kathmandu	Coimbatore, Bangalore, Mehsana, Pune, Indore Jaipur, Bhaktapur, Dhaka, Faisalabad, Bangkok
SE Africa	Bulawayo, Lusaka, Maputo	Mutare, Kabwe, Manhica, Msunduzi, Gaborone, Lilongwe, Blantyre, Manzini, Dar es Salaam, Addis Ababa
W Africa (Anglophone)	Accra, Ibadan, Freetown	Kumasi, Tamale, Lagos, Jos, Banjul, Bamenda
W Africa (Francophone)	Pikine-Dakar, Cotonou, Ouagadougou	Porto Novo, Bobo Dioulasso, Nouakchott, Niamey, Conakry Bamako, Yaounde, Kigali
Latin America	Lima, Neiva, Guanilhos, Guatemala City	Villa El Salvador (Lima), San Juan de Miraflores (Lima), Quetzaltenango, Bogota, Santa Maria, Cotacachi, Montevideo, New Amsterdam, Panama, Mar del Plata, Maracaibo
Middle East and Northern Africa (in preparation)	Istanbul, Beirut, Amman, West Bank Palestina (among other options)	To be selected