

Forthcoming Issues

The second phase of the RUAF programme started in January 2005 under the title: **Cities Farming for the Future**. The RUAF partners decided, in their meeting in April 2005, to publish two issues of the *UA Magazine* each year as well as a series of regional and international working materials. Thus, in addition to the current issue, one more regular issue will be published this year (see below). The RUAF partners have also decided on a list of issues to consider for the forthcoming year, and of course you are cordially invited to start submitting your contributions

No. 15: Multifunctional Land Use: building food secure neighbourhoods

November 2005

Deadline for submissions is 15 September 2005.

Growing cities that are expanding their borders and absorbing rural areas have to cope with the diversity of claims of their citizens. In many of these cities urban policy makers and planners still view the surrounding rural areas merely as a reserve for future expansion. But modern urban policy makers and planners have come to realise the importance of open green spaces in and around the city for a variety of urban needs. They realise that such urban open spaces, and the farmers who live in them, are crucial not only for securing a daily supply of fresh perishable food (e.g. vegetables, milk, meat) but also for creating a better urban living environment that provides opportunities for citizens' leisure and sports and a connection to the rural and natural environment (so that their children can know where milk comes from, for example). Municipal authorities in developed countries as well in developing countries have come to understand the role urban and periurban farmers can play in maintaining green zones in the city, keeping areas that are less suitable for building (like flood plains) free from construction, managing parks and periurban areas that hold important natural resources, etc.

Likewise, innovative farmers in and around cities are increasingly aware of the needs of the urban population and have started to come up with creative responses to the city dwellers' demands by offering recreational services to urban tourists (lodging, meals, participation in farm work, horse riding, guides), food and educational services to schools (school milk/meals, environmental education), health services (on-farm care and remedial activities for people with psychological or physical problems), and nursery facilities that grow ornamental plants and tree seedlings for urban home gardens, streets and parks.

As a consequence, in the open urban spaces of such cities the traditional agricultural function of food production is combined with other functions of importance to the city and the citizens, which has been labeled **multi-functional land use**.

We welcome your contributions describing examples of multi-functional land use, the diverse functions of urban open spaces, innovative planning and design approaches, new alliances among farmers and other stakeholders, financial mechanisms to realise such multi-functional use and lessons learned regarding the management of such multi-functional open urban spaces.

A call went out already last year for this theme but the issue was cancelled last year due to the ending of RUAF phase 1. Those of you who already submitted an article will be notified and your article will be considered for this new issue.

Future issues of *UA Magazine*

Thanks to the limited but sufficient number of responses we received to the question posed in the last issue: "What are the major topics or questions that you would like to see discussed in *UA magazine* in the coming years?", as well as the contributions of the RUAF Regional Partners regarding what themes they would like to see addressed in the future, we have been able to plan the following three future issues of *UA Magazine*.

2006

- 16: Policies, Norms and Regulations (which will focus on the World Urban Forum 2006 in Vancouver, Canada)
- 17: Optimisation of Water Use for Urban Agriculture: collection, storage, nutrients, treatment, etc.

2007

- 18: Micro-enterprise development, processing, marketing and farmer organisation: the role of private initiatives and involvement.

Topics for special materials and possible future issues:

HIV/Aids and urban agriculture; Institutions; Children and Youth; Health and Food Security; Education; and Economic Impacts.

We welcome articles on urban agriculture that consist of approximately 2,500 words (three pages), 1,700 words (two pages), or 800 words (one page), preferably accompanied by an abstract, references (maximum of 5), figures and digital images or photographs of good quality. The articles should be written in a manner that is readily understood by a wide variety of stakeholders all over the world. We also invite you to submit information on recent publications, journals, videos, photographs, cartoons, letters, technology descriptions and assessments, workshops, training courses, conferences, networks, web-links, etc.



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