Joëlle Salomon Cavin

COST Action Urban Agriculture Europe: Documentation of the 5th Working Group Meeting

Lausanne-Geneva 10-13/09/2014

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Documentation of the 5th Working Group Meeting

Lausanne-Geneva, 10-13 September 2014

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Introduction

1. Meeting setting and general overview of the Lausanne-Geneva meeting

Dr. Joëlle Salomon Cavin

The Lausanne meeting

The COST Action TUD 1106 on Urban agriculture held its 5th working group meeting, 10-13 September 2014. Delegates were based at the campus of the University of Lausanne located nearby the city of Lausanne.

As the Vice rector of the University recall us in its welcome speech, the University of Lausanne and more specifically the Faculty of Geosciences is supporting project dealing with urban agriculture.

The aim of the meeting was to continue the Action's work toward a development of a common and specifically European approach to urban agriculture that will influence European, national and regional policies on urban agriculture. In addition, it aims to develop a closer alignment between the CAP and innovative forms of sustainable development.
The meeting as gathered 52 participants.

The working groups' sessions were dedicated to specific tasks which had been agreed before meeting among the Chairs and WG participants. Results of the discussions as well as plans for future steps were presented during closing session. This closing session took place in Geneva, at the School of Technology, Architecture and Landscape of Geneva (Hepia). The session was introduced by a welcome speech of Prof. Sophie Rochefort (Head of the Agronomy Department, Hepia).

The meeting was the occasion for the participants to discover Carrot city, an international exhibition created in Toronto -Canada that took place at Lausanne University from May to December 2014.

The occasion was also given to the participants at the end of the meeting to have a guiding tour of the exhibition Lausanne Jardin "landing" whose ambition is to bring together the world of plants and flowers and the truly urban environment.

At the end of the first day, we have had the great pleasure to listen to a public Conference of Jorge Peña Diaz, professor at the Politechnic University José Antonio Echeveria in Havana for a talk on Urban agriculture in Cuba.

Acknowledgements:

We are grateful to the following people for their help and support in planning and executing the 5th Working group Meeting:

- Carole Oppliger and Marcia Curchod, secretaries at the Institute of Geography and sustainability

- Cyril Mumenthaler : PhD student in Urban agriculture at the Institute of Geography and sustainability

- Tatoun Rogenmoser and Barbara Pellaton: master students in Environmental Social Issues (Faculty of Geosciences and Environment).

- Emmanuel Ansaldi from the Agriculture Department, Geneva.

The greater Geneva Region

The focus of the meeting was on urban agriculture in Switzerland and in the Greater Geneva Region. During the plenary session, David Bourdin (Swiss centre for agricultural and rural development) gives us a general presentation of The Swiss agricultural policy and its links with urban agriculture. Then Craig Verzone has presented the Swiss research project Food urbanism Initiative.

Two local stakeholders were then invited to present the current situation in Geneva : Alain Bidaux (Head of the agricultural Department) made a portrait of agriculture in the canton and Mark Olivier (private consultant, under a mandate from the Geneva canton) has presented the agricultural regional development project that aims to improve agricultural infrastructures in the canton of Geneva.

The Greater Geneva region is a transnational (partly French) urban area of 2000 km2. In the Swiss part, there is 1.6 hab/km2.

Geneva is a global city that serves as a financial hub, and a worldwide center for diplomacy and international organizations. It is a relatively small city: the Canton of Geneva, which includes the city, has 464,677 residents and the Great Geneva urban area (that extends on the canton of Vaud and France) counts 915 000 residents. Geneva is a very dense city surrounded by a relatively well preserved green belt. 200,000 new inhabitants are expected by 2030.

In Geneva, most of the agricultural land is located in the plain. 43 % of the area of the Great Geneva is dedicated to agriculture (46 % of the area of the Canton of Geneva). Family farms of small and medium scale. Average size 40 hectares (larger in France than in Switzerland).

In the Swiss part, family farms are mostly specialized in vegetal productions (cereals, oilseeds, wine, fruits, and vegetables). Many vegetables are grown in greenhouses. There is a majority of animal husbandry in the French part

Direct marketing (like Community supported agriculture, markets on farm, etc.) is well developed.

the main problem for agriculture in Geneva is land pressure: How to urbanize the region with the smallest impact on agriculture (agricultural land, viability of the existing farms, enclosing of allotments)? How to manage the limits / borders between agricultural land and urbanized land? Agriculture has been protected until recent years, both as part of Federal policy (subsidies, protection of agricultural land) and in the context of the Geneva urban region (protection of the green belt). This protection is significantly challenged due to the development needs of the city of Geneva. The farmlands on the edges of town are virtually the only ones available for the development of compact urbanization.

Fig 1.1 Location in Europe

Some specificities of agriculture in the Geneva region make this region particularly relevant as a reference region for this COST Action :

- Diversity of urban agriculture forms from traditional farms to community based initiatives, located in the suburbs or in the city.

- Agriculture begins to be strongly integrated in planning through the agglomeration project at different levels: urban planning, landscape management, biodiversity management, supply chain management etc.

- The label « Genève Région Terre Avenir » certifies local food products. The State of Geneva owns and manages the label.

- Numerous examples of Community supported agriculture (the first Swiss project was created in Geneva in 1978).

- Brownfield lands are made available by local authorities to community gardeners.

- Long experience in projects that facilitate the cohabitation of nature / landscape / leisure time interests and practices with farming.

The field trip organized in the peri-urban agricultural area of Geneva was the occasion to present particularly innovative examples of agricultural profesionnal practices in an urban context.

Fig 1.2 Logo of GRTA label

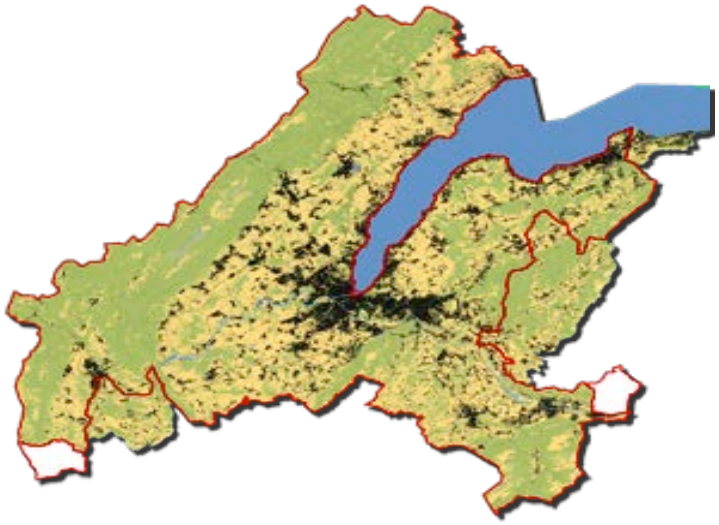


Fig 1.3 Satellite map: Great Geneva region

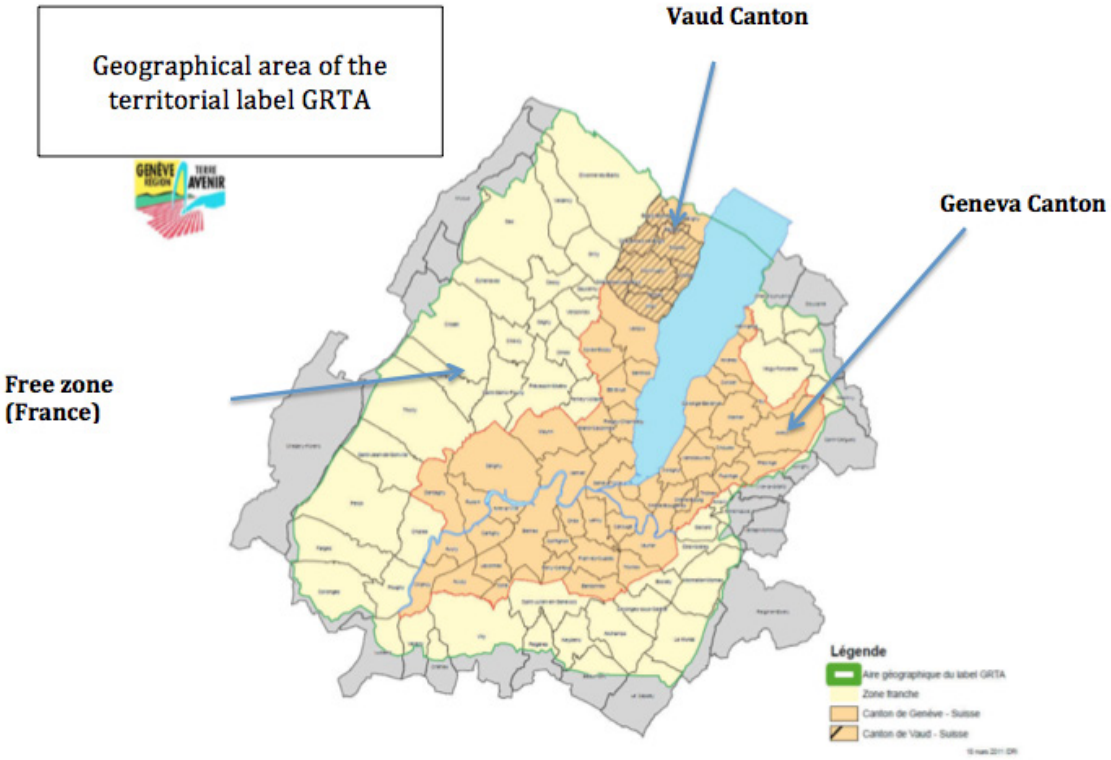


Fig 1.4 Geographical area of the territorial label GRTA

2. Programme of Lausanne - Geneva meeting

Wednesday 10th, Building Geopolis (University of Lausanne)

Time	Place	Activity
12h15-13h30	Hall	Registration and Welcome lunch at Geopolis
13h30-14h30	1612	Opening Session: Welcome address: Benoit Frund (Vice rector, University of Lausanne) Introduction to the meeting: Frank Lohrberg and Joëlle Salomon Cavin
14h30-17h	WG1: 2207 WG2: 2208 WG3: 2224 WG4: 2230 WG5: 2235	1st Working groups meet and work (Coffee break outside the room)
17h-18h	In front of Geopolis	Presentation and free visit of the exhibition Carrot City
18h-19h	1612	Public Conference: Urban agriculture in CUBA Prof. Dr. Jorge Peña-Diaz, Polytechnic University José Antonio Echeverría, Havana
19h		Possibility to have dinner together in Lausanne

Thursday 11th, Building Geopolis (University of Lausanne)

Time	Place	Activity
9h-10h45	1612	Local Presentations on UA, part 1: - David Bourdin (Agridea) : Agricultural Policy in Switzerland. - Craig Verzone (landscape planner): The Food Urbanism Initiative.
10h45-11h15	Hall	Coffee break
11h15-12h45	1612	Local Presentations on UA, part 2: -Alain Bidaux (Head of the Agriculture Department, Geneva): Agriculture in the Geneva region. - Olivier Mark (Consultant, Geneva): The Agricultural regional development project in Geneva
12h45-14h	Hall	Lunch
14h-17h	WG1: 2207 WG2: 2208 WG3: 2224 WG4: 2230 WG5: 2235	2nd Working groups meet and work (Coffee break outside the room)
17h-18h	1612	MC meeting
19h30	Unithèque	Symposium Dinner in Lausanne University

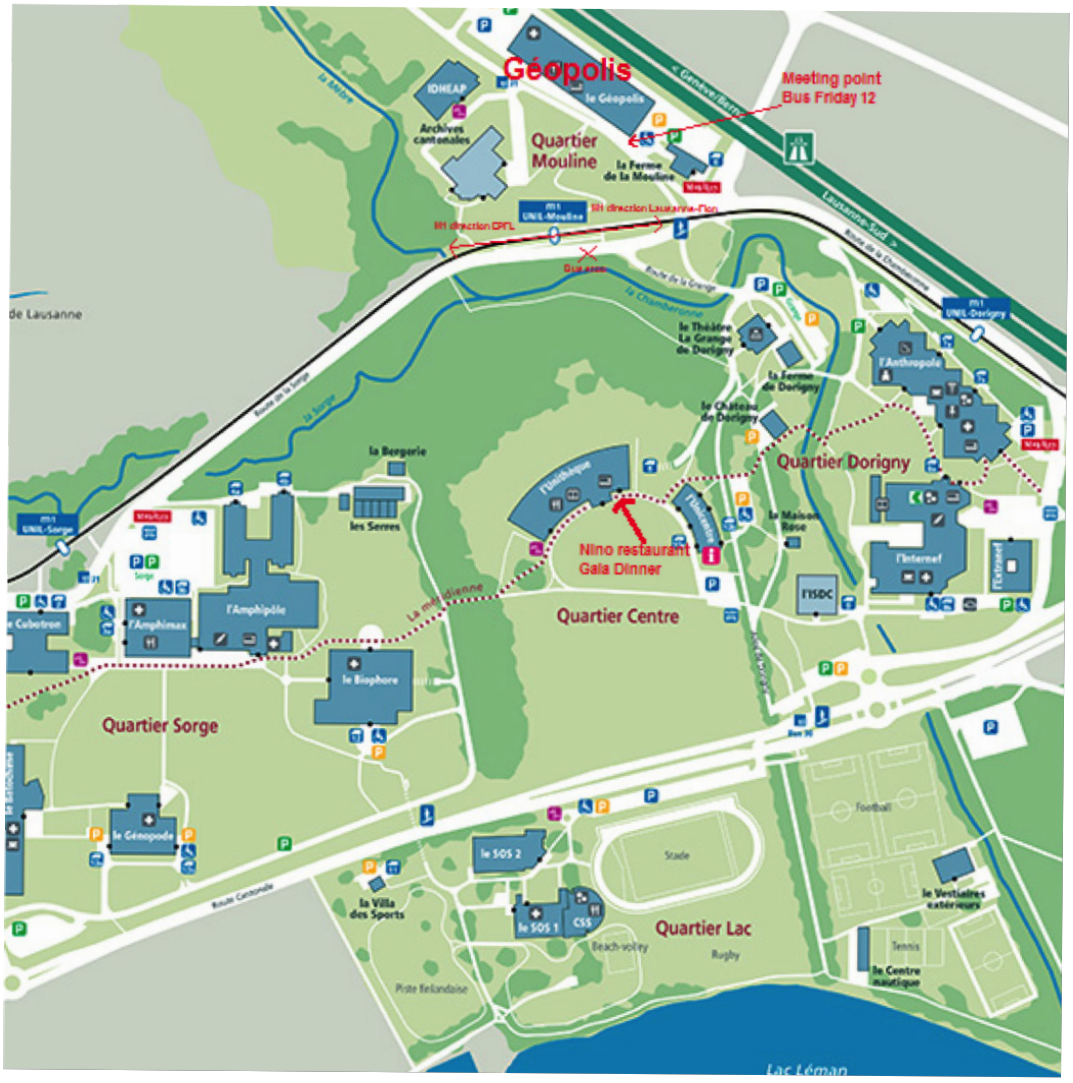
Friday 12th, Day in Geneva: Field trip in the Geneva region, working groups meeting at the School of Technology, Architecture and Landscape of Geneva (Hepia)

Time	Place	Activity
8h30	Beside Geo-polis	Departure for the field trip by bus
9h30-13h	Geneva region	Visit of three farms : Three entrepreneurial and production models in Geneva - Farm of Lilian and Marc Graf - Farm of Michel Bidaux - Farm of Antoine and Thomas Descombes: Farm and Mill "Verpillères", "Les Ares et Vous"
13h-14h30	Hepia (Lullier)	Lunch at the School of Technology, Architecture and Landscape of Geneva (Hepia)
14h30-17h	Hepia (Lullier)	3rd Working groups meet and work
17h-17h30	Hepia (Lullier)	Aperitif offered by the Hepia Welcome speech of Prof. Sophie Rochefort (Head of the Agronomy Department, Hepia).
17h30-18h15	Hepia	Closing Plenary Session
18h15h		Return to Lausanne University or to Geneva airport.

Saturday 13th, Optional visit of Lausanne Jardin

Time	Place	Activity
9h	Lausanne city (Flon)	Departure of the guide tour
9h30-12h	Lausanne city (Flon)	Visit of Lausanne Jardins 2014 (Optional, NO COST reimbursement)

Géopolis Building, University of Lausanne



Campus Map

3. Welcome adresses

3.1 Benoit Frund, Vice rector (University of Lausanne)

Benoît Frund
Vice-rector for sustainability and campus
University of Lausanne

Dear Participants,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me to warmly welcome all of you here in Lausanne on behalf of the Rectorate of the University of Lausanne.
There are two good reasons to choose Lausanne for a COST meeting about urban agriculture:

1° Lausanne is a green city.
2° The University of Lausanne is a green university.

I was told that Lausanne was one of the first places in the World where the concept of “nature in the city” appeared as a crucial part of the urban policy. In Lausanne, parks and forests cover 40% of the municipal territory. The boundaries between nature and city seem to be especially permeable here.

Since the Middle Ages, the Town of Lausanne has pursued a policy on land management that aims to retain the ownership of large areas of agricultural and viticultural land. These lands are located all over the Canton Vaud, outside the municipal boundaries. The goal was to feed the population. It became impossible today to feed the people with this land only, but it helps.

Nowadays, there are also many initiatives to green the City itself. For example, at the end of the last century, the municipal authorities decided to create an original exhibition called “Lausanne-Jardins” that part of you will have the opportunity to visit on Saturday.

Considering the city as a landscape, the organizers of “Lausanne-Jardins” want to make people from Lausanne love their city. Every four or five years, during 4 months, they “bring together the world of plants and flowers and the truly urban environment”. Let me quote the website of Lausanne-Jardins: “Each garden is much more than a merely utopian, conceptual exercise; it must also be able to become part of city life and make a place for itself, whilst accepting the constraints at the heart of the concept- a garden both in and with the town.” End of quote.

Now, what about the university in this green city? You probably have noticed that we are on a beautiful campus. It was designed in the 60s relatively on former agricultural and market garden land. On campus we have a 11ha forest, a little vineyard, a lot of fruit trees, a permaculture garden, two fields and of course our famous sheeps. So you see, Ladies and Gentlemen, even if we do not train agronomists, we make urban agriculture here.

The campus is green, but as an academic institution we try put the green forward: the University of Lausanne decided more than ten years ago to stop trying to explore all scientific domains, in particular to stop doing some basic sciences, and to concentrate its activities to three main orientations: social sciences and humanities, life sciences and medicine and finally Earth and environmental sciences.

Since 2003, this new scientific profile of the University of Lausanne was constantly developed. Our goal is not to be able to conduct high level research and attractive teaching in all domains, but to strictly work along these three axes and of course to meet the best possible international standards.

The great idea, which was generously accepted by the State of Vaud, was to do this dramatic change not in order to save money, but in order to increase the quality of education and research.
Under these conditions, it was possible to create in 2003 a new Faculty of Geosciences and Environment, which was based on former institutes in Geography and Earth sciences. This 10 years old Faculty is now focused on planetary

changes in general, of natural or anthropic origin. The Faculty of Geosciences and Environment is essentially an inter-disciplinary faculty, since the disciplines studied include pure, experimental, and social sciences.

The Faculty of Geosciences and Environment is divided in three Units:

- the Institute of Earth Sciences, which is focused on geochemistry, mineralogy, sedimentology, etc.
- the Institute of Geography and Sustainability, where you will find geographers, but also philosophers, sociologists, economists, who are working together on politics and natural resources management, urban studies, sustainability and environmental humanities, etc.
- and at the intersection of natural sciences and social sciences, the new Institute of Earth Surface Dynamics, which focuses its research on Earth surface and Near-surface processes (the so-called critical zone).

Here you have one of the few examples in Europe where the environment is studied in the same Faculty by natural sciences and humanities. It is not always easy to make such different disciplines work together, but after ten years, it seems that we begin to get some good results.

In the strategic plan for the 2012 to 2017 period, among ten strategic objectives, the Rectorate of the University of Lausanne decided to make sustainability one of the UNIL's key concerns.

Our lifestyles do not take sufficient account of the limits of natural resources and are the source of many social, environmental and economic imbalances. The Rectorate believes that it is the responsibility of a teaching and research institution such as the UNIL to analyse in depth the mechanisms that lead to these imbalances and to contribute to the emergence of innovative solutions. While technologies will play a role in providing new solutions, it is obvious that they alone cannot meet this challenge. The contribution of human and social sciences, very well represented at the UNIL, is therefore crucial!

Through its sustainability strategy, the UNIL intends to propose examples of new lifestyles that respect local and global limits and balances. By stimulating research and teaching on sustainability issues, becoming a hub of reflection in this area, reinforcing the culture of sustainability within the University community and managing its infrastructures and its functioning in a sustainable manner, the Rectorate of the UNIL intends to make sustainability a focus of its daily concerns.

For three years now, as a vice-rector for sustainability and campus, I have been working with my team to implement this policy. I am now pleased to see that our work is beginning to be rewarded: teachers and students understand our strategy and propose projects that are in line with our efforts.

Let me give you two examples :

- A group of students from different faculties have approached us for our help in creating a permaculture garden. We not only found a field for them on campus, but we have also supported their request for funding from a program of the Swiss Confederation. Since the aim is not just to grow vegetables, permaculture courses are now organized, researchers are following the project and collaboration is planned with a new master's program in ecological transition.

- When Joëlle Salomon Cavin has offered to host the Carrot City exhibition at UNIL, I immediately supported the project. The Rectorate provided funds to cover the cost of the posters and the staff of the University prepared the ground. Carrot City shows how urban agriculture projects are popping up all over the World. This is definitely a track to make the city more green.

I hope this workshop will be an opportunity to discover new projects to green the city. And I want to thank you for coming here in a green University and for helping us realize our strategy, by contributing to the emergence of innovative solutions for a more sustainable world.

I hope you'll enjoy your stay here.
Best wishes for your work and thank you for your attention.

3.2 Prof. Dr. Frank Lohrberg, Action Chair

Welcome address and information on Action's progress.

Prof. Dr. Frank Lohrberg, Action chair

Information on ongoing activity:

1 .1 - Short Term Scientific Missions:

Finished

- Chiara Tornaghi-Rotterdam
- Raffaela Laviscio-London

On their way

- Sonia Callau-Sweden
- Julia Haun-Barcelona

Spring 2015:

- Bernd Pölling-Norway
- Chiara Briaticoin Norway

1 .2 Annual Progress Meeting in Paris- April 2014

The action is progressing well with good working group meetings and much work being done. Good management of meetings and overall administration. Attention should be paid to the risk of potential overlap with allotment gardens action (TU 1201). Synergies should be created.

There is a risk of misunderstanding the economic significance of urban farming in terms of food supply.

There is a need to continue to address the definition of urban farming and where its main benefits can be expected.

1.3- Steering Group Meeting in Brussels

Discussion of evaluation and further work with the WG leaders.
Agreement on a concept for a final book on UA.

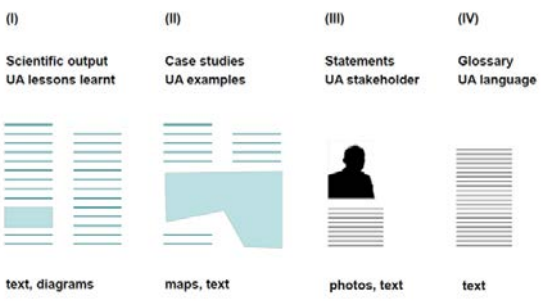


Fig 3.1 Concept for a final book

Fig 3.2 Concept for a final book

1.4 - Book activities:

		contributions	publishing
2014	September	1st call completed Using Lausanne meeting for allocation of contributions	Interested publishers are identified, MC voting on a choice
	October	Formalizing of proposals Guideline for contributions, esp. case studies	Involving COST units
	November	Go for writing	Making contract
2015	March	Review by WG leaders	
	April	Using Sofia meeting for a synopsis of contributions	
	June	Finishing, sending the final concept to the publisher	
	September		Making a product flyer for the EXPO Milano
2016	February		Printing, copies for officials and members ready at the final conference

Fig 3.3 Time plan for the book

For the 1st call for contributions, more than 30 contributions already indicated. Now, there is a need to match the topic-related contributions with our MoU-deliverables. There is also a need to streamline the cases-related contributions.

Lausanne meeting is the right time to allocate the working groups work, especially concerning the contributions for the book. Part of the deliverables will be covered by the book on UAE, others are already done (part of the Atlas of UA) and yet others will be realized via the wiki or other formats.

A road map indicating WGs' output, the formats and responsibilities should be now elaborated.

Upcoming events

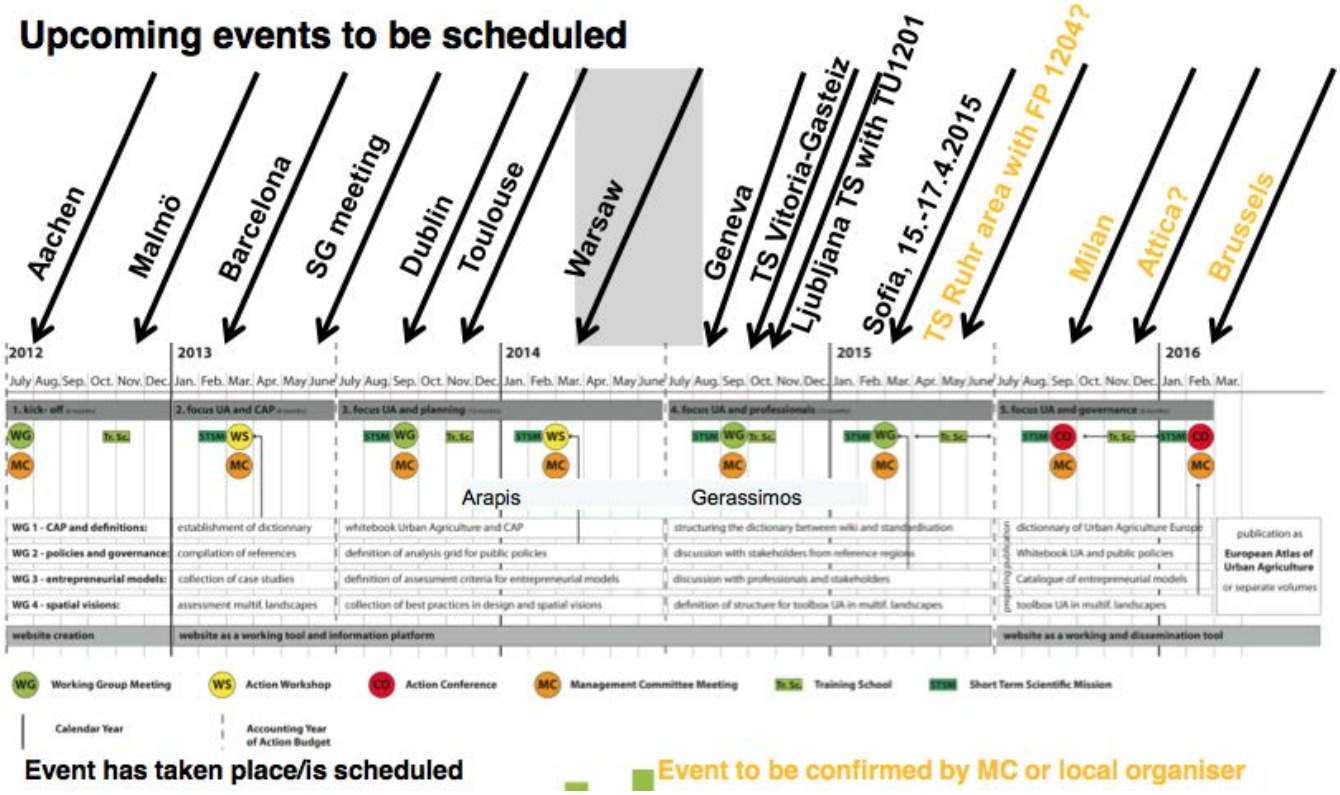


Fig 3.4 COST Action 'Urban Agriculture Europe' timelive

Flyer produced for the COST Urban Agriculture Europe

Structure

Work in COST action UAE is based on 5 working groups (WGs). While WG 1 is working on a general approach, definitions and typologies the other WGs concentrate on the interaction of Urban Agriculture with the urban society (2), markets (3), space (4) and metabolism (5).
WGs meet twice a year at the COST UAE meetings or conferences to discuss their research methods and to bring together the results of national and individual work on the WGS subject.

Working Group 1
UA definitions and European Policies
Definition, types of UA, dictionary of UA, policy recommendations

Working Group 2
UA and governance
Analyse of existing public policies on UA, community activities, education, food policy

Working Group 3
Entrepreneurial models of UA
Specialisation to urban needs, sale to local markets, economic diversification

Working Group 4
Spatial visions of UA
Open space access, public infrastructure, cultural heritage

Working Group 5
UA metabolism
Waste recycling, CO_2 sequestration, soil and climate

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COST Members during study tour in Warsaw Metropolitan Area, April 2014.

www.urban-agriculture-europe.org

COST Action TD1106

URBAN AGRICULTURE EUROPE (UAE)

COST-Action Urban Agriculture Europe

Why urban agriculture?

Urban Agriculture (UA) plays a key role in two global challenges: urbanization and food security. It can provide an important contribution to sustainable, resilient urban development and the creation and maintenance of multifunctional urban landscapes. In the globally emerging research field of UA, a European approach to the subject needs to be created. It has to integrate the unique European context regarding its urban and landscape pattern, the important role of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) and the needs of the European society. The COST-Action Urban Agriculture Europe (UAE) will initiate this European approach on the basis of existing research projects and reference regions in the partner countries. The outcomes of the Action will help to focus future research on UA, modify the European policies and stimulate private and public activities in UA projects and planning. The action uses an innovative approach crossing bottom-up and top-down methods using the method of research by design. By working in close cooperation with regional stakeholders from the domains of urban development and agriculture the Action contributes to sustainable, resilient territorial development in Europe.

Key Facts

Start of action 14/03/2012
End of action 13/03/2016
Budget 600 000 €
More than 120 researchers and practioners
61 universities
25 European countries
4 international experts
from Canada, Cuba, Ghana, Japan

COST Members in Action

Participating countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zeland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

COST Action Activities

Working Group Meetings and Workshops
1st Aachen, 09-12/07/2012
2nd Barcelona, 12-15/03/2013
3rd Dublin, 11-14/09/2013
4th Warsaw, 02-04/04/2014
5th Lausanne / Geneva
6th Sofia spring 2015
7th Milano autum 2015

Training Schools
„Understanding Participation"
Malmö (Sweden), 26-28/11/2012

„From farming near the city to farming with the city"
Toulouse (France), 25-28/11/2013

„Urban Agriculture inside the city: alternatives for vacant lots and public space"
Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain), 24-26/09/2014

„Urban Food Production"
Ljubljana (Solvenia), 21-24/10/2014

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)

Mission Statement

Urban agriculture is a hidden champion. It has been neglected for decades by both, urban and agricultural policies. City planners treated the agricultural land as potential building ground, agricultural policies focussed on the rural areas. But due to worldwide megatrends as urbanisation, food security and the need for a sustainable development Urban Agriculture is back on the global agenda. Urban Agriculture is of high relevance for European policies, too. It is not to be treated as a rural leftover, but as something growing with the cities and thereby integrating into its social life and spatial fabric, its markets and material flows. In this perspective Urban Agriculture becomes a fascinating tool to achieve the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy. Based on a long tradition of direct customer orientation Urban Agriculture provides a high knowledge and innovation potential. Its products aim at high quality, specialization and services and therefore are trendsetting for the whole agricultural sector. Urban Agriculture can contribute to resource efficiency by linking material flows and shortening supply chains resp. production miles (smart growth). In addition it is an excellent tool for building up, designing and maintaining the cities green and climate active infrastructure. It can provide the urban dwellers with high quality recreational experiences, especially if it is addressed as part of the cities' tangible and intangible cultural heritage (sustainable growth). Urban Agriculture is actually on the agenda of most European cities because it offers among others benefits for health and well-being, food consciousness and food sovereignity and especially for social inclusion and job creation on a low threshold (inclusive growth).

The COST action recommends to regional, national and European institutions to:
- recognize UA as a cultural resource for quality of urban life and wellbeing
- recognize UA as a driving force for innovation in the whole agricultural sector
- raise awareness for UA and its special conditions, potentials and demands
- promote research and strategic development on UA

Source: http://www.urbanagricultureeurope.la.rwth-aachen.de/files/cost__uae_missionstatement_2014.pdf

3.3 Dr. Joëlle Salomon Cavin, local organizer

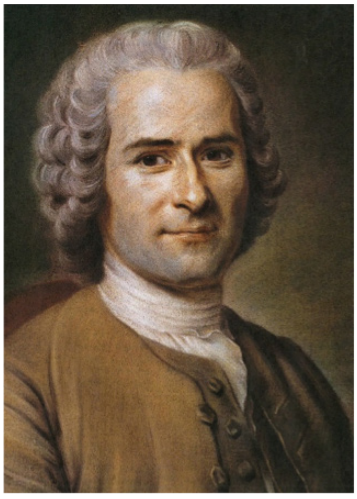
Urban agriculture in Switzerland ?

The purpose of this short introduction to the COST meeting in Lausanne is to give a quick insight of the controversial dimension of urban agriculture in Switzerland.

Urban agriculture : a controversial definition

In Geneva, we have a recent example of the controversial dimension of urban agriculture. In 2012, the Direction of Agriculture drafted a “Glossary of Urban Agriculture” elaborated for agricultural and urban actors. In this document, Urban agriculture included peri-urban agriculture, intra-urban agriculture, urban gardening and gardening in residential private gardens.

Submitted to farmers and planners, the lexicon was quickly transformed into “Glossary of Agricultural production in urban region”. Indeed, it has faced important criticisms from farmers that were against the idea that their agricultural practices could be qualified of “urban”; The criticisms came also from city planners. For most of them, agriculture literally cannot be done in urban areas where only gardening is supposed to be.



Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The definition of urban agriculture is notably controversial because it commonly gathers two antithetical processes: the urbanisation of agricultural areas and practices and the “agrarisation” of urban areas by the development of divers types of gardens within Swiss cities.

City and agriculture : Two opposite categories

In Switzerland, Urban agriculture challenges the traditional opposition between city and agriculture.

The concept of urban agriculture questions the relationship between the categories of city and agriculture. In the Swiss urban imaginary, the reference to agriculture has always been used to depreciate the city; first by referring to cities as parasites unable to support themselves and forcing people away from rural healthy occupations; this idea is well illutrated by this famous quotation of the Genevian Jean-Jacques Rousseau :

*“Men are devoured by our towns. In a few generations the race dies out or becomes degenerate; it needs renewal, and it is always renewed from the country. Send your children to renew themselves, so to speak, send them to regain in the open fields the strength lost in the foul air of our crowded cities”. (*J.-J.Rousseau, Emile, 1763)

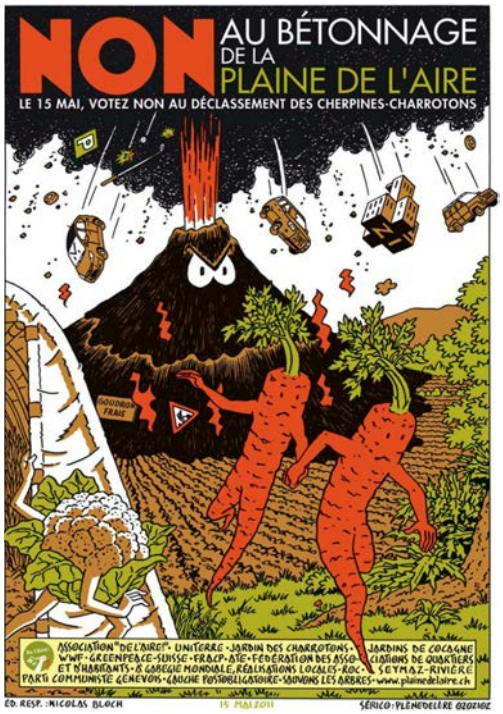
Second, by referring to urbanization as a destructive force of agricultural land

Jörg Müller, the annual round of pick hammers, children book (1974)

Urban agriculture : Toward a reconciliation between city and Agriculture?

Currently, in the Swiss context, the categories of city and agriculture remain largely distinct and opposite in mental conceptions and in practices.

The negative images of the city in regard to agriculture remain also very vivid



Board against the urbanisation of an agricultural area in Geneva. (Exem 2011)

But, in contrast, current experiences of urban agriculture are connected to discourses that highlight the perfect merging of city and agriculture and help foster a positive image of the city.

Logo of a CSA.
An happy wedding between the agriculture and the city.
source : www.affairetournereve.ch

Reference :

Salomon Cavin, J. (2012). Entre ville stérile et ville fertile, l'émergence de l'agriculture urbaine en Suisse/Between sterile and fertile city, the rising of Urban agriculture in Switzerland. Environnement urbain, 6: 17-31. http://www.vrm.ca/EUUE/Vol6_2012/EUE6_SalomonCavin.pdf

Keynote presentations

4. Keynote address: Urban agriculture in Cuba.

Prof. Jorge Peña Diaz, Polytechnic University José Antonia Echeverria, Havanna.

Prof. Jorge Peña Diaz

The conference is inspired from a chapter published by Jorge Peña Diaz in "Farming Cuba" (2014).

After more than two decades, Cuba's urban and peri-urban (suburban) agriculture movement remains strong and has shown signs of positive growth. The Cuban food crisis has practically disappeared, yet citywide production and yields continue to grow e.g. the production of vegetables grew 106% between 2009 and 2008[1]. Moreover, the territory allocated to urban agriculture—in all its forms—has continued to steadily grow. All municipalities have developed a solid urban farming program in spite of the pressures of urbanization. The amount of people earning their income from urban-agriculture-related food production has increased and the share of the contribution of these farms to daily diets continues to grow. Meanwhile, the particular arrangement of raised beds associated with organopónicos—the most visible and recognizable form of urban agriculture—have become a natural part of the urban landscape.

Cuba's urban agriculture has become one of the most well-known and respected models for food security and has had a tremendous impact abroad[2]. Many aspects of this process have affected individuals from a wide variety of disciplines, from scholars to social and environmental activists. Not surprisingly, many research and design projects have found inspiration in this initiative, yielding a host of rich and varied proposals for the future city.

In the case of Cuba, however, this spatial output was not the result of conscious urban landscape strategies coming from the practice of urban design offices. Rather, it was derived from the disciplined implementation of agricultural practice and dictated by the functional requirements of food production in such a setting. Design decisions—such as appropriate bed width—came from the need to provide access to farmers and to accommodate the rotation of specific vegetables throughout the year. Orientation of the beds ensures sufficient sunlight, the location of protective plants reveals a strategy to trick pests, and the arrangement of trees provides shaded areas for the production of worm humus. All of these technical considerations have generated a specific kind of urban farming landscape that has been replicated all over the country—namely because these standardized design suggestions have been distributed by a state-led network[3].

However, despite the comprehensive development of urban agriculture in Cuba, planning and design have had a different and somewhat secondary position. In order to comprehend this distinctive role, it is necessary to understand two driving forces that directly relate to the specificity of the urban in such a country in which more than 75 percent of the population lives in urban settlements. First, the extraordinary food-production model generated by urban agriculture was actually one of the reactions to the disorder of the entire urban food system after the crisis of the 90's. Secondly, the socialist revolutionary development has generated a peculiar way of dealing with the urbanization and the production of the built environment processes and its very specific typo-morphologic, aesthetic and functional patterns. Then the responsibility of planners and designers towards Urban Agriculture is framed _among other _by these two elements.

1 INIFAT Grupo Nacional de Agricultura Urbana, "Principales tareas desarrolladas en el año 2009", AGRICULTURA URBANA BOLETIN INFORMATIVO, 1 January 2010, 2.

2 Andre Viljoen, ed., Continuous Productive Urban Landscapes: Designing Urban Agriculture for Sustainable Cities (Architectural Press, 2005).

3 INIFAT Grupo Nacional de Agricultura Urbana, "Lineamientos para el subprograma de control, uso y conservación de la tierra", in Linemientos para los subprogramas de agricultura urbana (La Habana: Ministerio de Agricultura, República de Cuba, 2001).

Necessity pushed Cuba to adopt a largely agroecological approach, within which urban agriculture emerged as a response to urban food insecurity. The crisis not only affected agricultural production in the countryside but all other components of the food system e.g. transportation into cities. Support facilities became inoperable, and the extreme lack of energy limited processing capacities. Even the consumer's ability to reach specific selling points was affected by this resource scarcity.

A combination of social awareness, scientific innovation and political will has allowed for the development of urban agriculture. The latter seems to be one of the strongest key factors in guaranteeing the continuity of this program, triggered by the need to reduce the oversized food-importation bill. While the government has supported urban agriculture efforts since even shortly before the early days of the food crisis, this attention continues to evolve and inform efforts even today[4]. The creation of a new economic program to specifically address peri-urban agriculture in 2009 is an example of the continued political support that buoys urban agriculture in new and innovative ways. Within this program, the government has facilitated even more land access at the peripheries of municipalities, through new laws promoting the conversion of idle lands into a more productive capacity[5].

This support was exemplified by the inclusion of urban farming within the guidelines for the economic and social development of the country. In this update to the socioeconomic Cuban model, approved by the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party in 2011, the chapter devoted to agriculture is the single largest one, making up more than 10 percent of the total guidelines. Within this chapter, two specific guidelines have been devoted to urban agriculture[6]. Moreover, the presence of urban agriculture in the Cuban media has guaranteed its visibility to the average citizen as well, which results in increased accountability of officials. Regular evaluations by the National Urban Agriculture Group for each municipality are broadcasted on television and reported in detail by the most important newspapers. Municipalities and popular councils with poor integral performances are given a negative mark and encouraged to improve their performance.

The adoption of urban farming into the economic and planning frameworks of the country points to an important factor in Cuba's food landscape: the favorable political climate that has nurtured urban agriculture during the last two decades.

Planning has made significant contributions to urban agriculture in Cuba throughout the years, since planners were instrumental in the original identification of suitable locations for farms. These decisions impacted the development of a wide variety of food landscapes, particularly where urban planners selected farming ventures over other types of development programs. Also, with the insertion of urban agriculture as a permanent function in Havana's master plan in 2000, the government confirmed its support of the practice. The city planning team remains responsible for identifying, evaluating, and dispersing agricultural land. In spite of this critical supporting role, the planning milieu has remained essentially reactive toward urban agriculture, and control-oriented approaches have prevailed[7].

Today there is an intensive ongoing debate between planners, urban designers, and architects on the role of cities in Cuba's future socioeconomic scenarios. The adaptation of agriculture into Cuba's urban planning has been caught in the same dialogue, without sufficient design precedents to inform the discussion. Aside from identifying suitable agricultural sites on a zoning map, very few examples have materialized or have even been proposed by planners, urban designers, or architects in which urban agriculture forms a part of landscape design strategies. During these two decades of urban agriculture development, there have been very few proposals promoting synergies with other components of the urban realm, such as living walls, new architectures of production, or productive infrastructures.

The level of discourse between design and productive urban landscapes lacks insights, where, the relation to the urban sometimes merely addresses the quality

4 Gustavo Rodríguez Rollero, "Discurso de clausura del ministro Gustavo Rodríguez Rollero en el balance 2010 del programa integral de agricultura urbana y suburbana", AGRICULTURA URBANA BOLETIN INFORMATIVO, 1.
5 Rodríguez Rollero.
6 Partido Comunista de Cuba PCC, "Lineamientos de La Política Económica y Social de La Revolución y El Partido" (PCC, Cuban Communist Party, 2011).
7 Jorge Peña Díaz, "Conntribución a la integración de la agricultura urbana y peri urbana en el plan de ordenamiento territorial y el urbanismo en los municipios de Ciudad Habana" (Havana: Instituto Superior Politécnico José Antonio Echeverría, 2005).

of garden fences. This is true for both territorial planning and for the inclusion of agriculture into other types of urban-design schemes, despite the relevant Green Belt (Cordón de La Habana) antecedent, built during the 1970s in the outskirts of Havana that integrated food production, leisure, and landscaping.

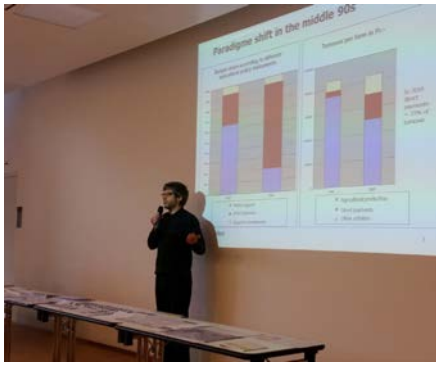
This disconnect between design and agricultural practice reflects the perceived professional risks associated with urban agriculture, independent of its positive impacts. Planners, architects and landscape architects deign to get involved with a program that has historically been considered part of the discipline of agriculture. It also demonstrates that architects and planners feel unfamiliar with the technical aspects of urban agriculture, which might serve as a barrier to engagement[8].

Globally, planners and landscape architects have established many innovative design approaches for urban agriculture, usually in cities with far less experience with this mode of production. Yet in Cuba this relationship between design and agriculture remains almost unexplored. Instead, the demands and technical requirements of the urban food system have served as the driving forces for generating productive landscapes.

Source: Peña Díaz, Jorge, “Evolving Design Roles”, in Clouse, Carey, *Farming Cuba*, Princeton Architectural Press, Massachusetts, U.S.A, 2014.

8 Peña Díaz.

5. Presentation of the Swiss and genevian case study by local stakeholders



David Bourdin, Agridea

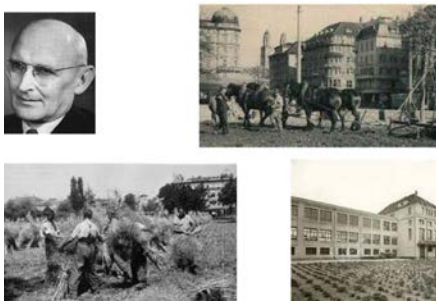
5.1 The Swiss agricultural policy and urban agriculture

David Bourdin, Swiss center for agricultural and rural development (Agridea)

The agricultural policy in Switzerland does not mention and consider directly urban agriculture. But as Switzerland in getting more and more urbanised, federal policies adapt themselves regularly to the pressure of cities and urban way of life. In addition, urban agriculture projects are emerging in very different contexts. In some cases stakeholders showed the capacity to mobilize instruments from the agricultural policy. The aim of this presentation is to give an overview of the agricultural policy as well as other federal policies in Switzerland and to illustrate the existing links with urban agriculture.

Historical background of the agricultural policy in Switzerland

The efforts to provision food for the country through the Wahlen plan during the Second World War still influences the relation between Switzerland and its agriculture. Farmers played an important role for the country and it resulted in a strong agricultural policy at federal level aiming at ensuring that swiss farmers produce food for the country. The policy was based on guaranteed prices, import taxes and state organised markets. The first direct payments were intro- duced in 1959 for mountainous areas. This illustrates the spatial vision of agriculture of the agricultural policy which is still existing today with three types of regions: hills, mountains and lowlands.



The Wahlen Plan (1940)

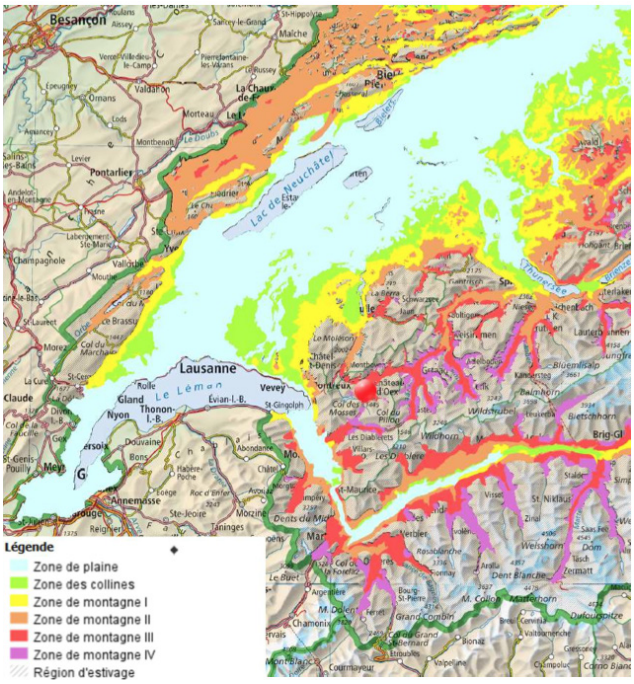


Fig. 5.1
Geography of agricultural zones in Switzerland

In 1996, the art 104 of the constitution which is defining the role of agriculture was accepted through a federal votation. The objectives that are still valid today are: (1) the reliable provision of the population with foodstuffs; (2) the conservation of natural resources and the upkeep of the countryside; (3) decentralised population settlement of the country and (4) Encouraging methods of production that are specifically near-natural and respectful of both the environment and livestock.

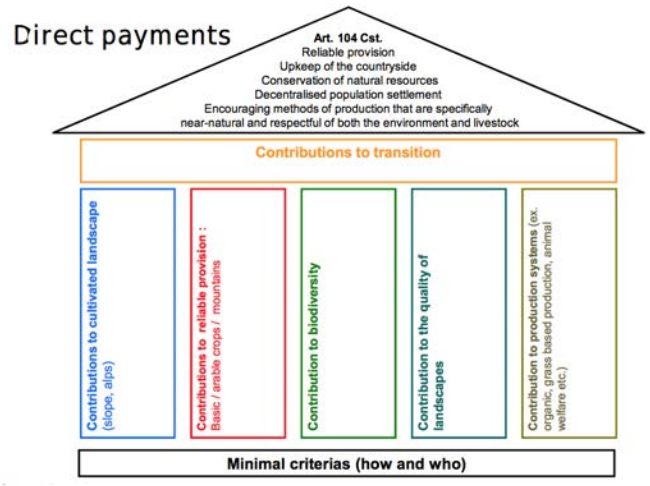


Fig. 5.2 Direct Payments

Besoins financiers paiements directs

(en millions de francs)		2014	2017
Contributions to reliable provision		1 111	1 111
Contributions to cultivated landscape		501	529
Contribution to biodiversity	« optional »	307	352
Contribution to the quality of landscapes	« optional »	35	110
Contribution to production systems	« optional »	390	417
Contribution to the efficiency of resources	« optional »	48	74
Contribution to transition		417	220
TOTAL		**2 809**	**2 813**

Fig. 5.3 Direct payments financial needs (Federal Office of Agriculture)

This article embodies the paradigm shift of the agricultural policy in Switzerland and introduces the concept of multifunctionnality of agriculture. It resulted in the development of the direct payments and a progres- sive liberalization of the agricultural markets.

Agricultural policy 2014-2017

One of the objective of the reform was to make a more direct link between the direct payments and the objectives mentioned in the art 104. Different contributions are available for farmers under certain conditions: contributions to cultivated landscape (slope, alps), contributions to reliable provision (cultivated land / arable crops / mountainous land), contribution to biodiversity, contribution to the quality of landscapes and contribution to production systems (ex. organic, grass based production, animal welfare etc.).

Other measures of the agricultural policy are supporting markets: marketing, geographical indications, support to cheese production, import taxes. The policy provides also support to investments at farm level or in the value chain as Research institutions and advisory services active at national level are supported through the federal policy.

A recent trends is the possibility to develop « bottom-up collective projects » to promote biodiversity, to support value chains or marketing, to improve the management of water, soil and other resources, to reduce costs, to support the development of quality- sustainable products. Those instruments can be used to develop urban farming projects or to strengthen the links between cities and the countryside.

Link to urban agriculture

As mentioned in the introduction, no policy instrument is targeting explicitly urban agriculture. But some urban agriculture projects and initiatives are strongly supported or influenced by the agricultural policy and the land planning policy. Three questions can structure the analysis of this influence: who is cultivating, how it is cultivating and where it is cultivating.

Who is cultivating? A set of criteria define the persons that can benefit from direct payments and other state support: different size thresholds (« manpower unit ») are used, more than 50% of the manpower must be from the farm, the maximum age is 65 years, the beneficiary must be a trained farmer and companies/public authorities cannot benefit from direct payments. Family based farms have clearly a priority. Considering the typology of urban agriculture devel- oped in the cost action, urban food gardening cultivators cannot get support, urban farming cultivators can in some cases benefit from support, and almost all non-urban adapted farming cultivators fulfil the criteria to get support.

How it is cultivated? The direct payments are based on the principle of eco-conditionality with conditions in terms of animal welfare, agronomy (rotation between several crops), biodiversity promotion, etc. The urban food gardening cultivators are not concerned by those conditions as well as some urban farming cultivators. Most of the non-urban adapted farming cultivators are fulfilling the criteria.

Where it is cultivated? This question is the result of two different policies: the rural land right law and the land plan- ning law. The rural land right law defines how it is possible to access agricultural land. Its objectives are to encourage rural land property; maintain family farms and fight against overestimated prices of agricultural land. It results in a protected land market for agricultural land and in a preference given to existing farmers. For non-family farmers the access to agricultural land is very difficult. Urban food gardening is therefore not taking place on agricultural land, urban farming can in some cases take place on agricultural land and most of non-urban adapted farming takes place on agricultural land. The land planning law distinguish very clearly the constructible zone where buildings can poten- tially be constructed and the agricultural zone which is dedicated to agriculture and where building constructions are very restricted. Most of the urban gardening initiatives and some urban farming initiatives are taking place in the con- structible zone (some types of constructible zone are dedicated to gardens or city parks). Some urban farming initia- tives and most of the non-urban adapted farming are taking place on constructible zone that is not constructed yet or in the agricultural zone. It results in a certain unsureness when the land can be con-structed and cultivators located on agricultural land have to fulfil some conditions to develop certain activities: building permit are given if the farm has a minimal size (manpower unit), there are some restrictions in terms of activities allowed (no industrial agriculture, no competition with other businesses). Therefore depending on the type of land cultivated (constructible zone or agricul- tural zone), the type of activities allowed are different and the cost of the land are very different. In addition, recent adaptations of the land planning law are increasing the protection of agricultural land.

Conclusion

The agricultural policy through the direct payement rewards farmers for the multifunctionnality of agriculture and through other instruments supports Swiss and regional products. Agricultural land is relatively well protected and fami- ly farmers have a privileged access to it. The present situation enables the development of an agriculture adapted to an urbanised country and the different possibilities for bottom-up collective projects to get support enable also agricul- ture to adapt itself to an urbanized context at a more local level. But specificities of urban agriculture in terms of types of cultivators, alternative business models are in some cases restricted by the current legal system.

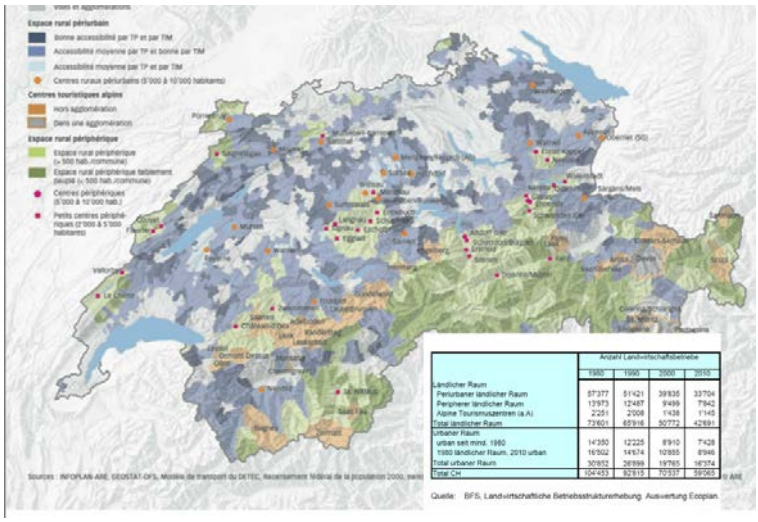


Fig. 5.4 Typology of rural areas in Switzerland

David Bourdin, AGRIDEA

5.2, The food urbanism Initiatives

Craig Verzone, Verzone Woods Architects

Graig Verzone
http://www.foodurbanism.org/author/craig-verzone/

The Food Urbanism Initiative (FUI) addresses three contemporary urban problems: the space inside a growing city, the well-being of its inhabitants, and the food which sustains them. First, the Swiss city needs to grow upon itself, resulting in more people occupying less space, with an associated risk of loss to the quality of space and life. Second, urban residents have become disconnected from the source and provenance of their food, with the associated risks of decrease in the quality of nutrition and health as well as social alienation between food growers and consumers. Finally, the existing cycle of food production-distribution- consumption is taking an increasingly higher environmental toll on the planet with a risk of depletion of natural resources. In addition, as urban food production has begun to occur inside the city, it risks to compete with other urban needs as well as with traditional farming.

Considering these issues, FUI aims to investigate how new urban quality can be attained by the thoughtful integration of food production into urban design and planning. To achieve this, FUI investigates the overall impact of urban agriculture on urban design and studies the potential of new agricultural, landscape and architectural strategies for food production, processing, distribution and consumption in the city. From this understanding, FUI develops design strategies and policies for future urban development that integrate both city life and food production cycles into a more harmonious coexistence, socially, economically, and environmentally responsible. The research specifically examines conditions within its case-study area of Lausanne.

FUI assesses the benefits, costs, risks and potential returns of different initiatives and their implications and opportunities for the urban population. By focussing on the cultivation of vegetables, fruits and berries, all suitable for small plots, while excluding larger livestock and « staple » crops, FUI identifies and describes the vast range of urban food production methods, motivations, producers as well as potential urban sites. In doing so, the research increases awareness among the urban population of the obstacles and benefits. Specific research objectives and results include the following;

- Identify and describe the processes of urban agriculture as they relate to urban design
- Codify an interdisciplinary language for urban agriculture and design (typologies)
- Establish connections between food production, urban design and urban quality
- Explore the possibility of spatial / functional combinations between food and urbanism
- Create transferable knowledge

From its findings FUI puts forth 10 urban strategies that summarize the lessons learned through the project's design research. These strategies include guidelines and measures that can be applied at both the city and garden / building scale to help guide the creation of new urban quality through the process of planning, urban design, landscape architecture and architecture. They are as follows:

1. Amplify the Identity of Place - Fruits and vegetables stimulate our senses: smell, sight, touch and taste. They link us to cultures, our history and to other people.

2. Assemble Alternative and Diverse Concerns - Participation in the rich dynamics of citizen initiatives encourages a sense of neighborhood belonging.

3. Link Knowledge with Practice - Existing networks serve to spread knowledge especially at points of exchange: schools, hospitals, community centers, etc..

4. Create Social Opportunities - Community and micro-plot gardens favor diversity by reinforcing the bonds and exchanges between neighbors and citizens. They can serve as a form of basic public infrastructure to enrich social dynamics.

5. Guarantee Ecological Benefits - Water supplies can be locally sourced and the protection of this resource in conjunction with the reinforcement of the city's biodiversity and ecological networks are essential to increasing the city's urban quality.

6. Extend Urban Economies - Connectivity reinforces access to centers of food production thus welcoming further economic development around these poles of urban quality.

7. Manage Urban Mutation - Evidence of urbanization provides rich opportunity for food urbanism initiatives to fertilize healthy growth on strategic sites.

8. Blitz-Actions! - Impact Neighborhoods Quickly - It takes one day to change a place and encourage long-term bonds between individuals. Un- or under-used sites across the city, close to public transport, can benefit from blitz actions related to food production.

9. Develop Landscapes of Well-Being - Cultivation sites provide physical activity, stimulate social interaction, encourage healthy nutrition and reinforce our connection to the earth. They are landscapes of well-being.

10. Make the City Fertile - One makes the city more fertile by taking into consideration the vacant surfaces available for planting, encouraging local production, heightening the awareness of residents and gardeners while incorporating regular composting efforts.

FUI
food urbanism
initiative
lausanne

Fig. 5.5 The urban Agroparc Project of Bernex, Geneva

FUI research targets a broad audience ranging from politicians, civil servants, professionals in the fields of design and agriculture, citizen groups and activists to the general public. Such diversity in interested audiences requires solutions that favor popular understanding. FUI communicates this information in two formats, a website and a toolkit. For the general public, FUI diffuses its case-studies and basic research findings via www.foodurbanism.org.

For workshop-based audiences that are equally committed to making new urban quality, FUI proposes a toolkit offering organized and well-described typologies, urban strategies and urban quality evaluation criteria. The toolkit is created to further test proposals and to provide solutions on how to integrate urban food production within the administrative, planning, design and agricultural communities as well as among the general public.

FUI believes that project implementation is facilitated by urban investigation and design processes. This methodology begins with the knowledge of an archive of typological possibilities. It includes a rigorous multi- faceted mapping of place (to identify the most appropriate sites and synergies) and is followed by an iterative process of design research and project testing on specific sites in the city. Reinforcing this process, an evaluation method assists in stakeholder discourse and project assessment.

FUI addresses three main topics and their overlap: the city and its densification, the quality of life of the urban resident, and the food cycle. The purpose of FUI is to better understand these topics and their associated challenges and to propose and demonstrate ways in which these issues may be managed through an interdisciplinary process that informs urban planning and design.

Craig Verzone
Landscape Architect, Urban Designer
FSAP, ASLA, FAR, RLA
Pilot - The Food Urbanism Initiative
www.foodurbanism.org

COST participants watching FUI tool kit

Fig 5.6 FUI documentation

5.3 Features of Agriculture in the Geneva Region

Alain Bidaux, Head of Agriculture Department, Geneva

Alain Bidaux

Key datas

The Canton of Geneva represents :

~ 6% CH population
~ 1% CH territory
~ 1% CH agriculture

Land use	CH	GE	+/-
Urbanization	8%	36%	+450%
Farming	36%	36%	=
Nature	56%	28%	-50%

Fig 5.7 Land use in Geneva

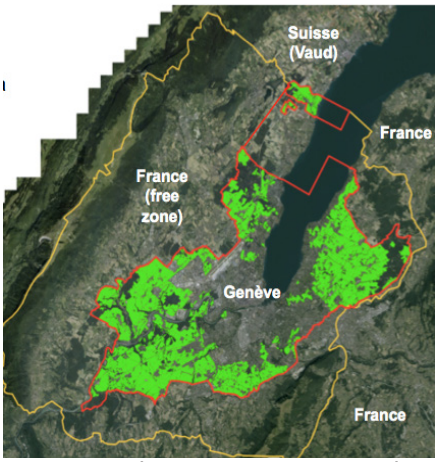


Fig 5.8 Geneva, canton-city

The Farming Population represents less than 1%

Nb of farms : 435 (76% full time)

Cultivated surfaces (in green) : 11‘290 ha with CH: 10‘109 ha (90%) and FR: 1‘181 ha (10%)

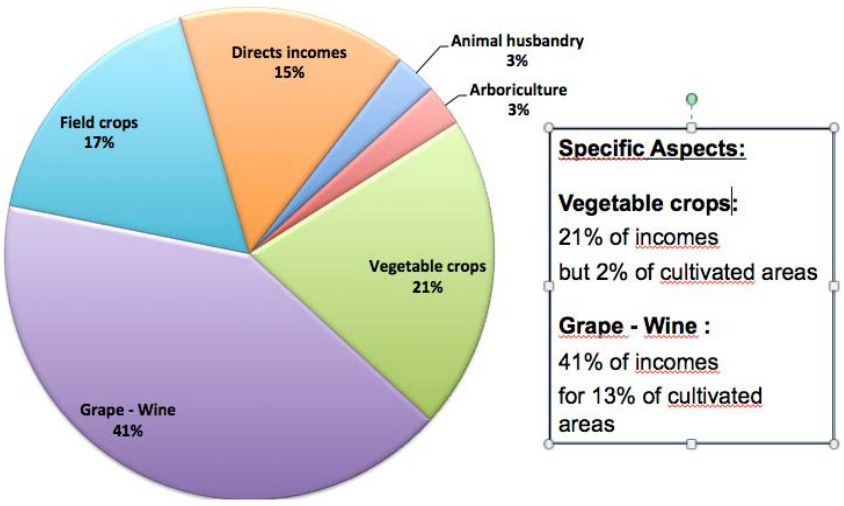


Fig 5.9 Agriculture in Geneva – Incomes (total 145 mio CHF)

Challenges	Strategies
Withstand competition • High production costs • French supermarkets nearby	Territorial Label «Genève Region Terre Avenir»: - Quality - Proximity - Traceability - Social Equity
Withstand the land pressure • Urban sprawl • Low density development • Difficult access to land ownership	Managment of the territorial development ➔ Great Geneva (Geneva, Vaud, France) Strengthening legislation ➔ Town and country planning act Strengthening rural land tenure ➔ since 1992, priority to farmers
A sustainable agriculture	Public support for the development of sustainable agricultural infrastructure ➔ Funded in part by a tax on land tenure capital gains

Fig 5.10 Challenges and strategies

Promotion of local farming:

In the region : 45% of farms practice direct marketing.

The canton of Geneva has created and is the owner of a territorial brand : GRTA (Genève Région – Terre Avenir).This label includes 500 products.

Fig 5.11 The territorial brand

A project of urban farm :

The canton of Geneva has launched a project for an urban farm in a new urban development area. With its fields, its farm, its sale's point and public park, the project of Agro-park seeks to address both the needs of the population and the agriculture. It is defined as a place of exchange between farmers and consumers and a place to promote local products which complements the network of farms selling directly to consumers.

Fig. 5.12 The urban Agroparc of Bernex

Fig. 5.13 The Budé farm: an urban farm already existing

Agriculture in Geneva : main challenges

5.4 The Agricultural Regional Development project (PDR) of Geneva

Olivier Mark

Olivier Mark, Consultant, Geneva

The agricultural regional development project (PDR) is the agricultural part of the agglomeration project that concerns mostly urbanisation, transport and environment. The PDR aims at improving agricultural infrastructures in a concerted manner.

Several project leaders come together, establish a common project, and ask for funding to the federal state and the cantonal state. 115 PDR have been submitted or are in progress in Switzerland. Geneva is the largest.

The main objectives of this tool are :

- To create agricultural value in the region
- To bring an ecological social and cultural contribution
- To stimulate entrepreneurial spirit, farmers autonomy and the faculty to collaborate.
- To foster the integration of farming in the economic regional network and other synergies.

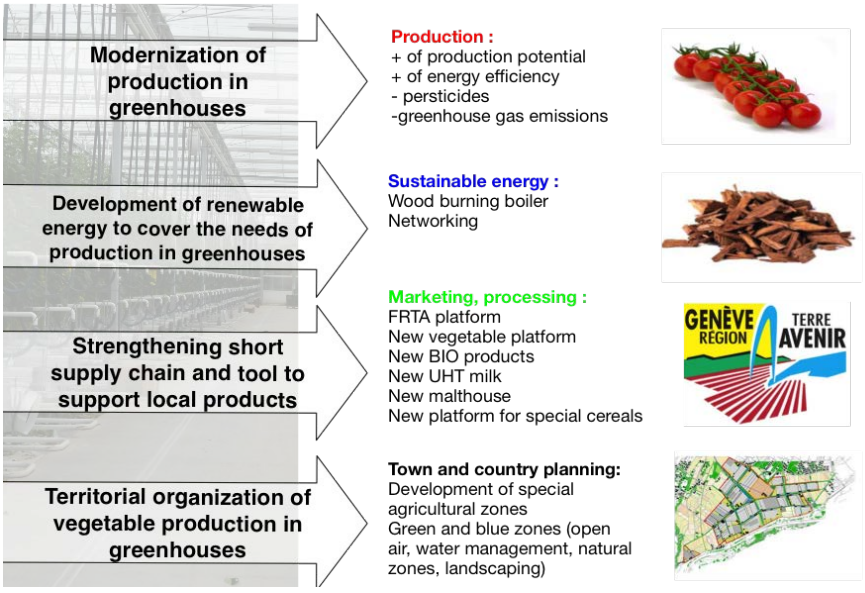


Fig 5.14 PDR main objectives

The key partners of the projects are projects leaders, the steering body composed of the project owners , the canton (regional authority), that co-subsidises the projects with the federal state and the federal state, via the federal office of agriculture, that makes sure projects fit to standards and allocates federal funds. The project represents an investment of 63 millions CHF. The Agreement has been signed with the State in may 2012.

It is important to recall that Geneva is not a farming region. The territorial growth of the city limits the scope of agricultural activities and urban problems have priority over those of agriculture. However, urbanites are sensitive to local supply, quality of food, environmental and social aspects of agricultural production

In targeting convergence of rural and urban interests, the PDR improves the framework conditions of the remaining regional agriculture.
Examples of implementation:

1 - Valorisation of organic and special cereals

The objective is to meet the varied tastes of consumers (special breads made from various grains), to Improve market shares of GRTA grains to promote and expand organic productions and eventually, to Improve the value of cereals products.

2 - Green houses of the Marais

The aim is notably to improve the energy efficiency of 6 Ha. of vegetable by the Management of runoff water and full recycling of irrigation water.

3 - Greenhouses heating with wood

The aim is to develop the use of a renewable energy source for Greenhouse heating and to have Pollutant emissions in conformity with the most restrictive standards.

4 - Promotion and distribution Platform

The aim is to create sustainable links between regional producers and catering professionals in encouraging short distribution channels, increasing the proportion of local produce in menus. This implies the adaptation of the range of products and services via a virtual platform and through direct contacts.

5 - « Green and Blue zones »

The objective is to handle the run-off water from greenhouses through progressive restitution into the soil and to improve the integration of greenhouses into the landscape and open spaces around the constructions.

6 - Local brand for UHT milk

The purpose is to promote the regional milk and to meet the demand of consumers that prefer the long-life milk. Concretely, this project intends to avoid milk losses during periods of high production and to pay the producer a higher than average market price.

7 - Transformation of organic vegetables

To support short distribution channels and organic products and also to increase the value of regional market garden produce, this project consists in processing organic vegetables to make them ready to use: pasteurized vegetables, grated, cut salads or soups.

Working groups reports

6. Working Group 1 - Results of the 5th WG meeting

Urban Agriculture Typology

- **Urban Food Gardening** Gardening activities with mostly low economic dependence on material outputs but making use of agricultural procedures for achieving other, mostly social goals. Includes

  - Family Gardens

Location may be intra-urban, sub-urban or peri-urban. Family gardens are not on the political agenda, but are developed as individual activities. There are huge differences from country to country resulting from different housing typologies and different needs/costs of food.

  - Allotment Gardens

General common characteristics: Located both within the city and on the urban fringe. Medium size, subdivided in small plots that are rented under a tenancy agreement. In some cases administration is undertaken by an allotment gardens association.

Usually they stem from municipal initiatives on public land and their regulation is highly formalized and precise, sometimes even following specific regional or national laws. In some countries allotment gardens have a long tradition and are widespread. In general the functions have shifted from self-provision to leisure, although legislation may establish minimum criteria for production.

  - Educational Gardens

Developed by an educational institution, their location depends on that of the hosting institution (within the city or on its fringe). There are two subtypes: those gardens located in educational institutions (schools. kindergartens, etc.) and those for educational purposes, open to visitors.

The first ones can be embedded in public policies at municipal level. The spread of these gardens depends primarily on the public support/framework and also on the personal involvement of teachers.

  - Therapeutic gardens

Usually located at health care institutions such as hospitals or homes for elderly people.

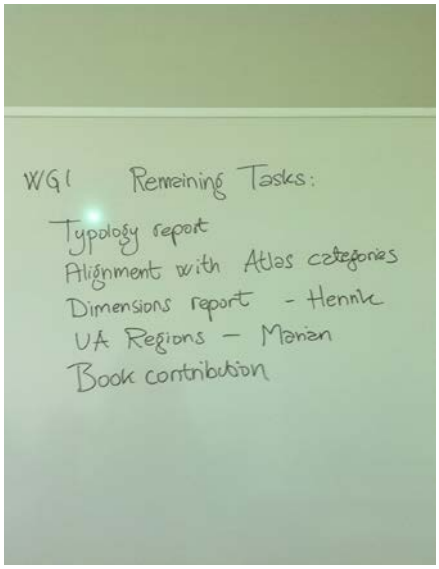
  - Community Gardens

General common characteristics: Small, mostly within the city, relatively recent phenomenon. They emerge as bottom up initiatives and are tended collectively. Usually located in public spaces. An agreement with the authorities/property is negotiated, nevertheless are not always legalized. Rules and organization are established by the community, which are open and usually (not always) integrated in a network to share experiences and learn together.

Their main functions are social: meeting places to build a sense of community. Their educational and cultural activities are very relevant too.

  - Squatter gardens

Use of idle land for growing fresh food. They may be driven by individuals or by social communities.



Working group 1, 10 September 2014

- **Urban Farming** Intentionally materialized business models taking advantage of the proximity to the city by offering local/regional agricultural products or services
    - Local Food Farms

These farms intentionally orientate their production to local markets and foster a more direct relationship with the consumers. They range from direct retail to cooperatives of consumers-producers or community-supported-agriculture (CSA)

- Leisure Farms

Agrotourism/ Gastronomic tourism/ Equestrian activities in the suburban or periurban area, intended to meet the urban demand for leisure. (and wellness, like SPA?)

- Educational Farms

Farm-schools, pedagogic centres (and trainning centres?). Quite often they offer specific learning programs for visiting schools.

- Experimental Farms

Includes agricultural experimental/research centres in and around the city which are intentionally localized in proximity to the city, to utilize the pool of expert knowledge in academic institutions.

- Social Farms

This subtype refers to «farming practices aimed at promoting disadvantaged people's rehabilitation and care and/or towards the integration of people with 'low contractual capacity' (i.e.: psychophysical disabilities, convicts, drug addicts, minors, emigrants)» (http://sofar.unipi.it/). They are intended to solve deep social problems, and are often driven by social engagement.

- Therapeutic Farms

Includes farms with proper physical / mental treatment facilities. «The animals, the plants, the garden, the forest, and the landscape are used in recreational or work-related activities, for psychiatric patients, mentally disabled persons, people with learning disabilities...» The COST action 866, Green Care in Agriculture, speaks about «Care farming» when addressing therapeutic approaches on the farming level.

- Cultural Heritage Farms

This type covers farms that intentionally contribute to preserve and transmit the tangible and intangible cultural heritage related to agricultural practices. It carry out activities of awareness raising and promotion of the cultural heritage and activities of conservation of tangible heritage and of innovation of farming practices in a way appropriate to the features of the places. Some incomes comes from cultural heritage national and/or local policies.

- Agri-Environmental Farms

This type covers farms that contribute to biodiversity conservation and have some kind of interaction with the urban (i.e. they are considered as part of the urban green infrastructure) and also those farms involved in streamlining material flows from cities (i.e organic waste) (and those periurban farms integrated in schemes for flood prevention, climate change adaptation etc?).

- **Non urban oriented Farming** (equivalent to the previous "Fringe farming" category) Includes farms being located in urban areas, but whose business models have not been (yet) deliberately adapted to the proximity of the city. (Business as usual)

Present parcipants Lausanne-Geneva meeting WG 1 : Henrik Vejre (DK), Patricia Kettle (IR), Rafaella Laviscio (IT), Frank Lohberg (DE), Lionella Scazzosi (IT), Xavier Recasens Gracia (ES), Dona Pickard (BG), Marian Simon Rojo (ES),

Reference: http://www.urbanagriculturee europe.la.rwth-aachen.de/mediawiki/index.php/Types_of_Urban_Agriculture#Urban_Food_Gardening

Working group 1, 10 September 2014

7. Working Group 2 - Results of the 5th WG meeting

Governance and Public Policies

Aide memoire and minutes of meeting held Geneva, September 11-13, 2014

Three presentations were made to the group: one on public policies grid by Sofia and Cyril, one on governance by Salma, Charlotte and Denise, and one on the findings of aspects of the WG3 survey of farming entrepreneurs by Denise. There was discussion and feedback by the group to each of these presentations. The two sub-committees were thanked for their work since the last meeting in Warsaw. In the final meeting at Geneva the following action points were agreed:

1. Action: to merge the public policy grid information into the synthesis governance model and populate with the relevant information for the core 11 case studies. (The two sub- committees to work on this).

2. Action: Joelle and Mary to circulate an updated version of the powerpoint presentation presented at Geneva on governance (now to include section public policies) to the wider WG2 group members. Members invited by Joelle and Mary to develop and submit additional case studies using the combined template circulated. The information collected can be incorporated into the white book (see below). Invitation to issue from Joelle and Mary with a final deadline of October 31, 2014 as submission deadline. Reminders to be send out in advance of that date. After October 31, 2014 no further case studies, or case study information will be collated. deadline,

3. As requested by the MC chair, WG2 noted the propositions for inclusion in the (Frank) book . It is the intention that a first draft of this book will be ready in January 2015 at which point contributions will be reviewed by Working Group Leaders. Feedback will be provided to authors who will make presentations on their papers at Sofia in April 2015. After the Sofia meeting there will be a final edit of the book with a July 2015 deadline for sending the manuscript to the publisher. Book to be ready for launch at final conference in Brussels in Feb 2016. List of WG2 propositions for the book:

    a. Chapter on continuum model (Giulia, Olivier, Joelle, Sylvia, Salma and Cyril, etc.). Full reports are on the WIKI demonstrating methodological reports plotting cases on the continuum. Open to others in WG2 to add material or widen the reach of that paper if they wish.

    b. Governance and public policy analysis (Salma, Charlotte, Denise, Cyril and Sofia). This chapter will focus on the 11 case studies for which material has been gathered- (see above).

    c. Transversal working groups on food sovereignty (Alberto Mataran)

    d. WG2 case study of the Southern European region-Spain. (Alberto Mataran and others)

    e. Italian national policies and tools and Italian Urban Agriculture (Paola and Guilia)

    f. Case study of UA in Warsaw, indirect influences on the development of such initiatives, (Barbara, Agata and Charlotte)

    g. Community garden initiatives in Nitra: bottom up initiatives in Nitra City(family gardens have an important economic function in this context) (Maria B),

Working group 2, 10 September 2014

h. Farm schooling and community gardens in Denmark: case studies (Beat) .

We think it is good idea to encourage all of these proposers to submit for book, and if not able to be incorporated in book to be sent out as journal articles or collated into a special issue journal on UA in Europe.

4. Combine white book draft (Mary ppt. and white paper template (to be circulated by Alberto) to come up with structure for white book with a view to producing it by April 2015. Mary and Joelle to circulate revised format for approval and to take the lead on collating material for white book. , Mary and Joelle to circulate a draft of white book to all working group members for input. This should be done at intervals and with deadlines. Mary and Joelle to meet before Sofia to work on finalising the white book with a target of having an advanced draft by April 2015..

5. Group members stated that it was important to develop a dialogue model of engagement in which we –individually and collectively can respond to the findings of WG2 and tease out the implications.

6. The question of the WG3 and its usefulness for the analysis of governance and policy issues should be put on the agenda for the Sofia meeting as more surveys will be completed by then. The group feels that a more broad based sample of respondents is required before we can consider using the data in our own governance/public policies analysis.

7. Thinking further ahead, group members can be invited to develop more case studies using the template developed by the two WG2 subcommittees. Such case studies can add to the collective material and could form the basis of further articles. Working group members can be invited to make proposals for prospective journal papers.

8. It was clarified (by the MC committee) that where WG participants have worked on data collection, directly provided data and contributed to discussions they should be listed as co- authors on any publications arising.

9. It was suggested that we ask Chiara Tornaghi to contribute something to White Book on ecology governance and UAE.

Present parcipants Lausanne-Geneva meeting WG 2: Charlotte Prove (BE), Denise Kemper (DE), Sofia Nikolaidou (GR), Cyril Mumenthaler (CH), Salma Louidyi (FR), Mary Corcoran (IE), Joëlle Salomon-Cavin (CH), Alberto Matarán Ruiz (ES), Salvor Jonsdottir (IS), Denise Kemper (DE), Carlos Verdaguer Viana-Cárdenas (ES), David Bourdin (CH).

Working group 2, 10 September 2014

8. Working Group 3 - Results of the 5th WG meeting

Entrepreneurial models of Urban Agriculture

Wolf Lorleberg, South Westfalia University of Applied Sciences and Pedro Mendes-Moreira, Escola Superior Agrária de Coimbra (ESAC)-Instituto Politécnico de Coimbra

Working status. Lausanne meeting of WG 3 “Entrepreneurial models of Urban Agriculture” started with a general update of the working program and the actual status of case studies. The main outcome of WG 3 - a catalogue of different entrepreneurial models of European urban and peri-urban agriculture - is getting more and more shape; with status of September 2014 up to 90 case studies based on the WG 3 standard questionnaire from ten countries are in work. The majority of them is presented in the online atlas of UA, and more than 10 single case studies are already completed (pdf-File attached to the online Atlas case study prescription). Like defined by the working plan, these single case analysis include the enterprise’s or project’s entrepreneurial strategy based on the CANVAS business model, the success factors and the societal benefits generated by the enterprise / project (all tools - questionnaire and methodological papers - are available at the wiki of the COST action website urbanagricultureeurope.la.rwth-aachen.de.)

Classified by the UA typology developed by COST UAE WG 1, the majority of WG 3 interviews were made on urban farming enterprises (see **table A**), but entrepreneurial models were identified in nearly all cases.

Working group 3, 10 September 2014

28 Projects		**61 Farms/Enterprises**
24 Urban Food Gardening cases	*45 Urban Farming cases*	*17 Non urban oriented Farming cases*
11 Community Gardens (including Social Garden Projects)	23 Local Food Farms	17 Non urban oriented Farms
	11 Social Farms	(but in urban or peri-urban situation)
5 Educational Gardens	3 Educational Farms	
5 Family Gardens	3 Experimental Farms	
5 Allotment Gardens	2 Leisure Farms	
	2 Agri-Environmental Farms	
	1 Cultural Heritage Farms	

Fig. 8.1 WG 3 Case studies completed and in work following urban agriculture typology developed by COST UAE Working group 1 (Sept. 2014)

Important remark: *Farms and projects were classified here by their most important characteristic, but in reality most of them are mixed types of two, three or more types. For example enterprises of the group “Non urban oriented Farms” often diversify to have urban related activities, but were classified to this type, if they generate the main share of their income or sales from national / international trade partners.*

Focus on innovative technologies in UA. For covering the whole range of urban agriculture, the group discussed the concepts and perspectives of new soilless (“zero acreage”) production systems, like vertical farming, rooftop farming and aquaponic systems. *Wolf Lorleberg* gave an overview over aquaponic development activities in Germany, and *Jan-Willem van der Schans* reported from Dutch projects. If building space and energy - for example as byproducts from actual or former industrial activities are available at low costs and consumers can be convinced to pay products with “premium prices”, such new concepts may have a certain chance and can serve as technical laboratories for the future.

Joint conference paper. As decided at the last WG meeting in Warsaw, *Bernd Pölling* prepared as leading author a joint paper with the title "Empiric survey of business models and success factors of urban agriculture in Europe - first results from Metropolis Ruhr" for 6th AESOP-Conference on November 6th, 2014, in Leeuwarden (Netherlands).

Planning COST UAE book contribution. Broad discussion was realized about the planned joint book publication of COST-action UAE, which is seen as one of the most important results and delivery of the WG's work. WG 3 members would like to write the book contributions very pointed to important insights, in a more "popular"/"journalistic" than strictly scientific way. The final focus group of the book - active stakeholders (farmers, local/regional/european politicians, NGOs, interested citizens) are not so much interested in deep scientific analysis, but on well presented and easily readable and understandable facts, figures, conclusions and recommendations. Therefore contributions of WG 3 will focus mainly on a pointed qualitative analysis of the case studies, whereas quantitative (deeper) analysis and most of aggregated results will be done for later publications in scientific journals (like f.e. SITOPOLIS).

The WG decided to work on two contributions, which will reflect most important conclusions and which will be based each on a set of selected case studies. The objectives of the first contribution are showing the great diversity of urban agriculture activities and their - often hidden - societal (= macroeconomic) benefits. The publication with working title *"Societal benefits of Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture"* will be coordinated by *Bernd Pölling* (all active WG 3 members and supporters as co- authors) and cover, for each type of benefit, WG 3 case studies from different countries (see **table B**).

Main purpose of the second contribution will be to show interesting and successful business models for distributing new ideas through UA stakeholders all over Europe. The publication with working title *"Urban agriculture - Is it a (serious) business?"* will be coordinated by *Jan-Willem van der Schans* and *Wolf Lorleberg* (all active WG 3 members and supporters as co-authors) and will refer, for each type of identified entrepreneurial model/business strategy to selected WG 3 case studies from different countries as well (see **table C**).

Further contributions are planned together with members of other working groups for integral analysis from different viewpoints referring to different reference regions, f.e. for the Western part of Metropolis Ruhr, Germany. Other publications for other selected reference regions integrating insights of the work from different working groups should be discussed among the national action members.

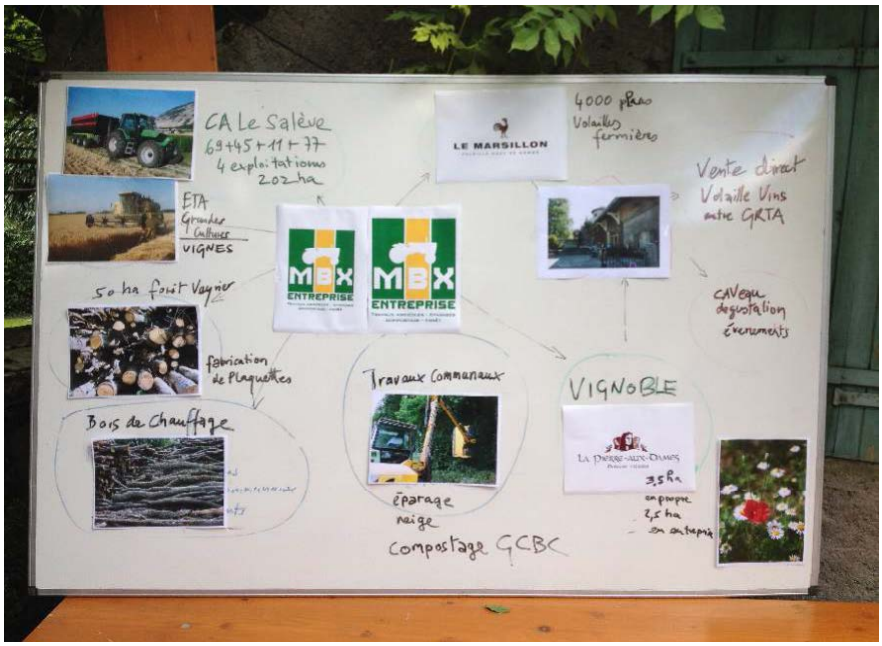
Type of societal / macroeconomic benefits	Indicator	Proposed exemplary WG 3 case studies (country, authors)
Economic power and employment	Production value	Urban Grape Wine farm *(Slovakia, Oleg Paulen)* Tenuta de Cavaliere, Rome *(Italy, Bruno Ronchi?)* Farm from Parc Agrari del Baix Llobregat *(Spain?)* Sofina Farm, Sofia *(Bulgaria, Galina Koleva)*
	Paid jobs	Hamburg region farm *(Germany, Bernd Pölling)* Gut Clarenhof Köln *(Germany, Wolf Lorleberg)*
Social development and participation	Non paid jobs	SA Utrecht *(Netherlands, Jan-Willem van der Schans)* Hortas de Cascais *(Portugal, Andre Miguel, Pedro Mendes-Moreira)*
	Educational activities	City farm Vienna *(Austria, Helene Weissinger)* Education project Porto *(Portugal, Elisabeth Alves?)*
	Social activities	Social farm from Metropolis Ruhr *(Germany, Bernd Pölling, Wolf Lorleberg)* Social farm with marshmallows production *(Portugal, Pedro Mendes-Moreira)*
Maintenance of environment and cultural landscape	Agrobiodiversity	Farm example with old varieties *(Portugal, Pedro Mendes-Moreira)*
	Managed green open space	Veta Grande, Sevilla *(Spain, Maria-José Prados)*
Maintenance of cultural heritage	Costs of preserved historical buildings etc.	Bosco San Francesco *(Italy, Biancamaria Torquati?)* Cascina Femegro, Milano *(Italy, Paola Branduini?)*

Fig.8.2 Selected proposed case studies for demonstrating societal benefits of UA

Type of entrepreneurial model/business strategy	Proposed exemplary WG 3 case studies (country, authors)
Cost efficiency	Keelings group, Dublin *(Ireland, Wolf Lorleberg?)* Farm Mertin, Dortmund *(Germany, Bernd Pölling)* Hot's Pot *(Netherlands, Jan-Willem van der Schans)*
Product leadership	Wine farm, Barcelona *(Spain, Oscar Alfranca)* Dammstorp Farm, Malmö *(Sweden, Gunilla Anderson)* Urban Farmers, Basel *(Switzerland, Lea Deborah Egloff)*
Diversification	Oberschuirshof, Essen *(Germany, Bernd Pölling)* Inv. Agric. en Alamillo, Sevilla *(Spain, Maria-José Prados)* Ecofarm Elata, Sofia *(Bulgaria, Galina Koleva)*
Share economy ("Weconomy")	Cooperative garden *(Israel, Avigail Heller)* CSA-farm *(Switzerland, Lea Deborah Egloff)* LobauerInnen, Vienna *(Austria, Helene Weissinger)*
"Experience"	Seved project, Malmö *(Sweden, Gunilla Anderson)* Brown field development with aquaponic system *(Netherlands, NL, Jan-Willem van der Schans)*

Fig.8.3 Selected proposed case studies for demonstrating different successful business strategies

Remark*:* Alternatively types of value propositions can be used for grouping the business models.



Panel shown at Michel Bidaux's farm Photo: Wolf Lorleberg

An outstanding example of the business model "Diversification", shown by Michel Bidaux, owner of family farm "Maison Forte" in Troinex, which was visited during WG meeting in Lausanne. Creating more value per activity and per short supply chains is one answer to increasing urban pressure for land.

Time schedule and next working steps. Next working steps and milestone dates for WG 3 were decided as following:

- *Up to 15th November 2014:* Up to that date work on interviews and questionnaires is still possible, but then this should be stopped to start comparative analysis. At least the questionnaires referring to case studies for the book publication should be available in English language up to that date (not necessary to translate all questionnaires, see below).
For presenting case studies within the planned book contributions, a template will be developed and sent around.

- *Up to 15th February 2015:* Based on the templates, the short text inputs for case studies within the book publications have to be written. Also the comparative analysis of all available case studies will be started, focusing on social benefits, problems and wishes for the first and on value propositions for the second book contribution. For avoiding huge translation work for all questionnaires from national language into English, a prepared Excel-File will sent around to the members for entering directly data and information from their questionnaires (questionnaires available in English can be analyzed centrally.)
The comparative analysis will support with some aggregated results the book contributions, but main results of it will be later published in specialized scientific journals.

- *Up to April 2015:* For next Working group meeting in Sofia first drafts of the book contributions have to be ready and prepared for presentation to all COST UAE members in a plenary session. Work on single case analysis publication in the online Atlas should continue; ideally all case studies mentioned in the book contributions are then completely presented in the atlas.

Present parcipants Lausanne-Geneva meeting WG 3 : Óscar Alfranca-Burriel (Spain), Gunilla Andersson (Sweden), Lea Deborah Egloff (Switzerland), Galina Koleva (Bulgaria), Wolf Lorleberg (Germany), Pedro Mendes- Moreira (Portugal), Oleg Paulen (Slovakia), Bernd Pölling (Germany), Maria-José Prados (Spain), Andreas Spornberger (Austria), Jan-Willem van der Schans (Netherlands) and Helene Weissinger (Austria).

WG 3 work is greatly supported by COST members in other working groups: Paola Branduini (Italy), Giulia Giacché (Italy), Haissan Jijakli (Belgium), Denise Kemper (Germany), Luís Neves (Portugal), Dona Pickard (Bulgaria), Xavier Recasens (Spain) and Axel Timpe (Germany).

References:

Lorleberg, Wolf and Morgenstern, Rolf (2014): Technical Innovation in Urban Agriculture Business: Aquaponic production systems. Presentation on 5th Working group meeting of COST Urban Agriculture Europe, Lausanne, 10th of September 2014.

Pölling, Bernd (2014): Proposal for Presentation on 6th AESOP-Conference Sustainable Food Planning ..... Presentation on 5th Working group meeting of COST Urban Agriculture Europe, Lausanne, 10th of September 2014.

van der Schans, Jan-Willem (2014): The funding of Urban Agriculture as a city regeneration strategy. Presentation at Rotterdam Event Flows and Funding - New ways of funding civic infrastructure, 23th of August 2014.

Working group 3, 10.September.2014

9. Working Group 4 - Results of the 5th WG meeting

Spatial visions of Urban Agriculture

Lausanne Meeting Program

According to WG4 Warsaw minutes our goals till Lausanne meeting were:

- Closing the description of cases of study;
- Sketching proposals of space related topics (story-lines) to be developed.

On the other hand, past July the 24th, all of us received Actions Chairs' call for contributions – see '140722 book on UAE – call for contributions.pdf'- for the final outcome to be published and discussed for the first time at Lausanne. The previous structure for the book includes a first strand on 'scientific outcome'; and a second based on 'case studies'. Hence, the call for contributions and its scheduled discussion perfectly fit with both issues of our program at Lausanne.

Working group 4, 10 September 2014

First session (September the 10th)

The first step was to inform the attendees about the received proposals, its content and character. WG4 list of contributions was described within others by Action's editors as follows:

General topic	Presenter	Possible or proposed coop. with:
Cultural heritage	P. Branduini	V. Hernández, R. Laviscio, L. Scazzosi (WG1)
Spatial issues	L. Maldonado	WG4
UA and climate	M. Petralli	--
UA in Dutch design context	R. Roggema	WG3
Spatial conditions for urban food growing	R. Roggema	WG4

Fig.9.1 Scientific output (or topic orientated proposed contributions)

Case study on:	Presenter	Possible or proposed coop. with:
Squatter farming, Lisbon	I. Loupa	--
UA in an unsupportive environment, Warsaw	B. Szulcewska, A. Cieszewska	--
Agriculture in urban areas of Nitra region	J. Supuka, A. Toth	WG3 and WG4
Development of UA in the context of Nitra territorial plan	J. Supuka, A. Toth	M. Rzepielova
Foodscape Barcelona (based on STSM)	A. Toth	G. Giacche (WG2) and X. Recasens (WG1)
Canterburry (NZ), Resilient urban food syst.	A. Toth	F. Reitsma and S. Rendall

Fig.9.2 Case studies (or case–orientated proposed contributions)

Working group 4,
10 September 2014

The first question that arose was: Do the proposals fit with what we need? As only three of the presenters of the group attend to the meeting and only one of them sent an abstract the discussion of the nature of the contributions, with just a title, and their fitting with the purpose of the group was difficult. Hence, the discussion shifted from the proposals to the structure of the book, the role of the group and its contributions in it. The question was then: What do we (as group) need? What do we have to explain?

A second informal list appeared then on the whiteboard:

1. Big scale or global context: modalities of urban / rural patterns and patchworking;

2. Zooming in: contexts, structures (boundaries, borders, openings…) de sign; internal structure… design;

3. Designing modalities and situations: planned and designed proposals in front of informal or spontaneous (in terms of spatial thinking) existing situations farmers) even including squatter activities;

4. UA as a part of green infrastructure in City – how can UA contribute to urban open space or urban open space system (by being accessible)?

5. Spatial issues differentiating spatial conditions (geographical) and spa tial characteristics (place);

6. Space and function (use): cultural, environmental, educational, social, recreational…

Up to now, most of the work of the group lay in or was related to the description of several cases of study and on the methodology to build something beyond. The work was necessary to have a common approach to the group's topic. The content of the first list of topics is clearly related to the template used to describe and group the cases (see for example how the initial points are a direct translation of the progressive blowing up of scale). However, the description of cases it's over. It makes no sense to stick on it without a clear idea of how the second strand of the book (case studies) will be developed.

At the end of the session there was a general agreement about the necessity of:

- Focusing on the final outcome
- Sending (as a group) a clear message
- Highlighting certain spatial issues

Working group 4,
10 September 2014

Second session (September the 11th)

To feed the discussion of the message and highlights to work with we scattered on the floor the last works sent to be presented at Lausanne. (Photo 1 & 2)

The authors briefly explained their work and the group reviewed and discussed the content of new described cases and some sketched examples of cross analysis on spatial issues.

Mr. Jorge Peña–Diaz from the Polytechnic University José Antonio Echeverría of Havana (Cuba) attended to the whole session. As guest international expert of the meeting and after highlighting the benefits of the methodology asked the group for the 'demands of different services from UA land that can be learned through the description of the cases'.

Mr. Hendrik van der Kamp, DC rapporteur, asked if the group 'could come up from models and bring spatial examples to look if it is a part of the city planning'.As some attendees pointed out, the common issue was how to learn from the cases; to think about the adventages/benefits of spatial approach (learning of WG4) as a main outcome.

The result of the second discussion session was a new list of 'messages' outlining the topics to be highlighted that were drafted as a scheme in the previous session.

Spatial issues to be highlighted	Interested
1. UA is found in different spatial (and historical) situations in Europe, (these are...)	S. Paradis A. Cieszewska I. Suklje-Erjavec
2. UA can be a part of Green Infrastructures –GI- by providing the following services...	A. Timpe S. Paradis A. Cieszewska I. Suklje-Erjavec
3. UA (can) / should be accessible and it can be made by...	A. Timpe
4. UA provides different (atmospheres-places) that can be characterised by...	F. Kuhlmann
5. UA can help to preserve and enhance cultural heritage as...	P. Branduini

Fig. 9.3 List of highlighted topics

The list has to be understood as a previous guide for discussion and management of the content and work towards the final outcome

Third session (September the 12th)

After some nuances to the list of sentences (between brackets at the list) the discussion went on through the problem of managing the process to let WG members participate and focus on the final outcome, its revision and timing.The next upcoming working group meeting will take place at Sofia (Bulgaria) in mid-April 2015. The scheduled work includes the presentation of the preliminary results of every group, its final contribution, and deliverables. Book contributions must be closed just two months later so we (WG 4) need to proceed.

1. The chairs of the group will open the call for contributions to allow:
   - Those committed with the work make nuances or add spatial issues to be highlighted
   - Those who presented a proposal see how their work could fit with the drafted message
   - Those who didn't present a proposal cooperate

The report of the meeting will be sent together with the call to let the process be understood. A contribution can work several issues (from the list or others) to be pointed out at the same time. Proposals or offers of collaboration will have to name clearly the main topics of work / interest as shown in the previous list by the attendees to the meeting.

2. A common WG4 folder (Dropbox) will be opened. All members of the group will be invited to it and to upload their cases of study. Hence, the collection of cases will be accessible for work.

3. After receiving the proposals for contribution the chairs will choose a leader for every proposal. Similar proposals will be joined together. The leader of every proposal will coordinate the work of those cooperating for the contribution. Every contribution will have a folder to let others interested cooperate or follow the ongoing work but the person responsible of the contribution will choose the best way to coordinate and proceed for the task. The folder will be the place where particular calls for information or work, by each leader, could be easily shared.

Contributions must be handed out at the end of February to allow the chairs, as editors of the group, review the texts and select, if necessary, the final list of works to be presented at Sofia. A final list of contributions will be chosen by the book editors.

The contribution of the group will be limited in space. The choice will depend on the editing and final concept of the book. Works not chosen will be addressed to be published by other means (peer reviewed journals, book chapters, COST Action UAE Atlas, Wiki, and so on).

It's important to remember that the contributions cannot be the description of a case, and that the structure of strand II is still not clear or that there isn't a list of works to be developed by the Action. However, depending on its purpose in the book, the group will offer the charts structure as a frame for its envision.

The same can be said about strand III as some members of the group have organized or participated in the organization of different meetings (Aachen, Barcelona, Toulouse, Warsaw) and have contacted with meaningful stakeholders in their regions.

Tasks and deliveries

The timing for tasks and deliveries will be developed according to the following list:

Date	Task	By
Early October 2014	Lausanne Meeting Report	L. Maldonado
	Call for contributions and case collection	L. Licka, L. Maldonado
	Common Folder for information and work	M. Hardman
End of October	Deadline for contribution proposals	WG 4
Early November	Choice of contributions leaders	L. Licka, L. Maldonado
End of February	Delivery of final sketched proposal	Contribution leaders
March	Review of contributions and selection	L. Licka, L. Maldonado
Mid April 2015	Sofia synopsis of contributions	Contribution leaders
	Review of contributions and selection	COST Editors
Mid June 2015	Deadline for contributions	COST Action UAE

Fig.9.4 List of task and timing

Present parcipants Lausanne-Geneva meeting WG 4: Paola Branduini, Agata Cieszewska, Michael Hardman, Friedrich Kuhlmann, Luis Maldonado, Sylvie Paradis, Ina Suklje-Erjavec, Axel Timpe.

WG4 Report by Luis Maldonado (meeting notes by Agata Cieszewska).
Lausanne, 10th -12th September 2014

10. Working Group 5 - Results of the 5th WG meeting

Urban Agriculture metabolism

Minutes of the meeting

Aims of the meeting:
In this meeting we aimed to:

1) Prepare a draft joint paper based on the received contributions
2) Collect proposals for chapters to be included in the COST book, and set dead lines
3) Discuss ideas for a collective research funding application.

In practice we did not discuss point 3, and somehow discussions on points number 1 and 2 overlapped.

Summary of discussions:

In the months between the meeting in Warsaw and Lausanne, each of us was encouraged to develop (jointly or individually) a short contribution (1 page) developing his own reasoning around the metabolic processes identified in “the egg”.

Working group 5, 10 September 2014

We have received various contributions of ideas, which proposed and discussed, respectively:

- An ecological public health perspective (Colin)
- a stormwater management perspective (Conor)
- a nutrient cycling (in water and soil) perspective (Luke-Thomas)
- ideas for further research on water (Anke)
- a re-territorialisation perspective (Michiel)
- a justice and resourcefulness perspective (Chiara)

As we didn’t stick to the original plan of sending these on time, work collaboratively, and provide feedback (i.e. circulate questions and request of clarification), we started the meeting in Lausanne trying to do this.

We got stuck almost immediately and realised that we struggled to understand each other in terms of vocabulary used, theoretical/methodological perspectives, and implicit definitions of what metabolism is. Without clarifying where do we stand in respect to these, it is very difficult to move forward with the aim of our group, which is discussing the relevance of urban agriculture in influencing urban metabolic processes.

At this point I suggested reading one of the 3 key papers available in the Dropbox folder: Broto, Allen, Rapoport (2012), “Interdisciplinary perspectives on urban metabolism”, in *Journal of Industrial Ecology*. This article provides an excellent overview of the six main different disciplinary and theoretical approaches to metabolism, and the type of questions they raise. I hoped that reading this we would be able to ‘map’ ourselves and understand each other better. The paper has been circulated again via email, and some handwritten notes/summary has been provided at the meeting. However, for some reasons, there was resistance to engage with this reading. I still don’t have clear if this is because of time constraints, language issues, disciplinary-related vocabularies, a combination of these, or something else. While we didn’t go much further with this, we started at least to identify terms that were obscure to each other, and will probably go in the glossary for the book: cradle to cradle, social construction, etc.

The field trip to Geneva was very useful in helping us to get out of this impasse, and find a different way of working.

The second farm we visited (Michel Bidaux's farm) was engaged in a rather diversified range of activities: forestry, chicken breeding, grains production, heritage vegetables, winemaking, biomass heat production, composting, organic fertilisers production, etc.

This was an extremely interesting case for all of us, so we decided to start writing down what we observed that was interesting. These should be just some easy to read notes, without theory. The hope is that this will help to understand, practically, how each of us is thinking, observing, analysing.This could become a collective chapter for the book, easily accessible to our expected readership of policy makers, farmers, citizens.

Then we shortly discussed how we could expect to move on from this. The plan is to continue to develop the proposed ideas for the joint paper, incorporating examples (including some from the commons case study) and expand them to roughly 4000 words.

Some of these could become chapters for the COST Action book, some others could be just a starting point for a more integrated analysis. And all together could be a starting point for the joint paper.

Working group 5, 10 September 2014

Next steps

The working plan, deadlines, and responsibilities agreed at the meeting are the following:

CASE STUDY CHAPTER

- Each of us to send to Anke a few lines describing the case (and some questions you would like to raise further) by the 29th of September.
- Anke to send a reminder of the deadline, on the 22nd of September
- Anke to collate them in a file (keeping the names of the authors, so we know who observed what, so we can understand each other's metabolic approach)
- If possible, Anke will also try to make a second file where these contributions are joined in a more fluent case study description. If not possible, we will look for another volunteer to do this.

INDIVIDUAL/JOINT-AUTHORED SHORT CHAPTERS

- Chiara to collect abstracts and papers
- Deadline for revised abstracts: 29th September
- Deadline for chapters (4000 words, good quality drafts): 31st of January

<u>Chapters should include:</u>

1) short overview of what is metabolism in your theoretical/methodological perspective

2) discussion of urban agriculture and urban metabolism, in your own perspective, making use of various examples (possibly including examples taken from the Geneva case study). You can also use pictures or diagrams.

3) as keywords, please indicate the elements listed in the "egg" that are relevant to your paper (or if you think that some new elements should go in the egg, please indicate which one)

4) a possible paragraph related to policy (specific policy recommendations might make very little sense, but this is the only requirement of the COST Action, so we will have to engage with these somehow. Your paragraph might include spheres of policy, methodologies for developing new policy approaches, or an indication of the new dimensions/issues/opportunities that the policy sector(s) could take into account.

We are expecting the following contributions:
1) Conor, Thomas and Luke: a contribution on nutrient cycling in water and soil. (confirmed)
2) Gerassimos: a contribution on biodiversity. (confirmed)
3) Filomena: a contribution on soil. (to be confirmed)
4) Colin: a contribution on public health. (to be confirmed)
5) Michiel: a contribution on re-territorialisation/urbanism. (confirmed),
6) Chiara: a contribution on justice and resourcefulness. (confirmed),

If other members want to contribute a chapter, please send an abstract following the deadlines indicated above. If you want to discuss this, let's chat via skype.

REVIEWING PROCESS

Chiara and Luke have been put in charge of reviewing the chapters by end of March and deciding on what should go in the book. Luke will lead the reviewing process, as Chiara will be snowed under teaching, so it isn't sure how soon before the meeting she will be able to react on these. In any case, I think we should try to review the work and take decisions collaboratively.

Next meeting in Sophia

We will discuss how to integrate these individual works.
At the moment we see two possible ways:

- Having clarified our perspectives and limitations (through the case study), we might be able to move forward and discussed how to integrate our approaches.
- If this is going to take too long, given the deadline for the final contributions to the book (July 2015), we could merge contributions 4, 5, and 6 intro an introductory chapter. In this case, we might still want to try to write a joint paper for a journal, and will probably have the meeting in Milan in September 2015 to do this.

Autumn COST Action School in Athens

It has been decided that the summer school will be moved to autumn, and will take place in November 2015 in Athens. Topic: urban metabolism.

Each of us should start developing ideas for activites/discussions/lectures for the school.

Present parcipants Lausanne-Geneva meeting WG 5: Chiara Tornaghi (UK), Luke Beesley (UK), Anke Schirocki (DE), Michiel Dehaene (BE), Thomas Nehls (DE), Filomena Miguens (PT), Gerassimos Arapis (GR), Conor Dennehy (IE), Yan Jiang (IE)

Working group 5,
10 September 2014

Fieldtrip documentation

11. Lausanne - Geneva region case studies

Fieldtrip itinerary

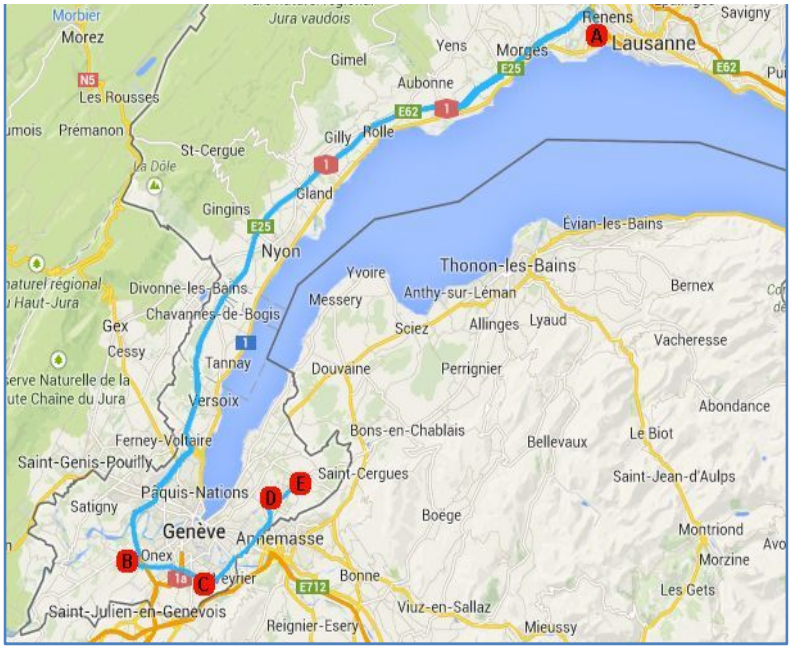


Fig. 11.1 Fieldtrip itinerary overview

A. University of Lausanne, Géopolis
B. Farm of Liliane and Marc Graf
C. Farm of Michel Bidaux
D.Farm of Antoine and Thomas Descombes: Farm and mill “Verpillères”, “Les Ares et Vous”
E. HEPIA (School of Technology, Architecture and Landscape of Geneva): Common Lunch and work

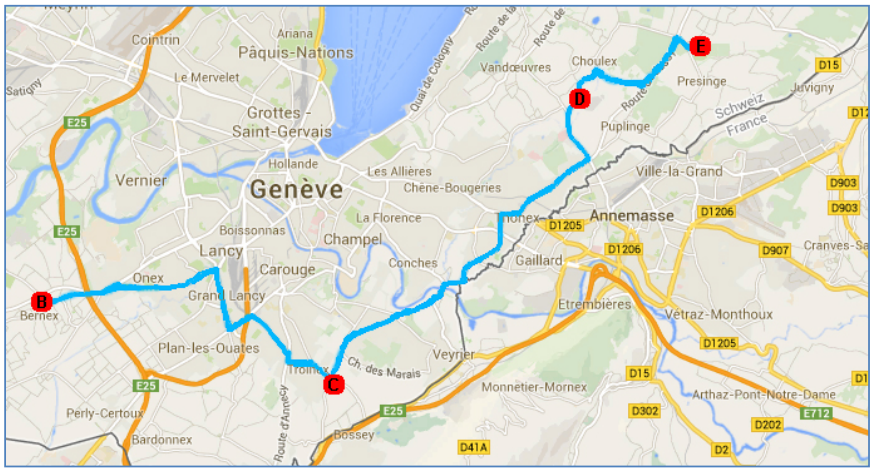


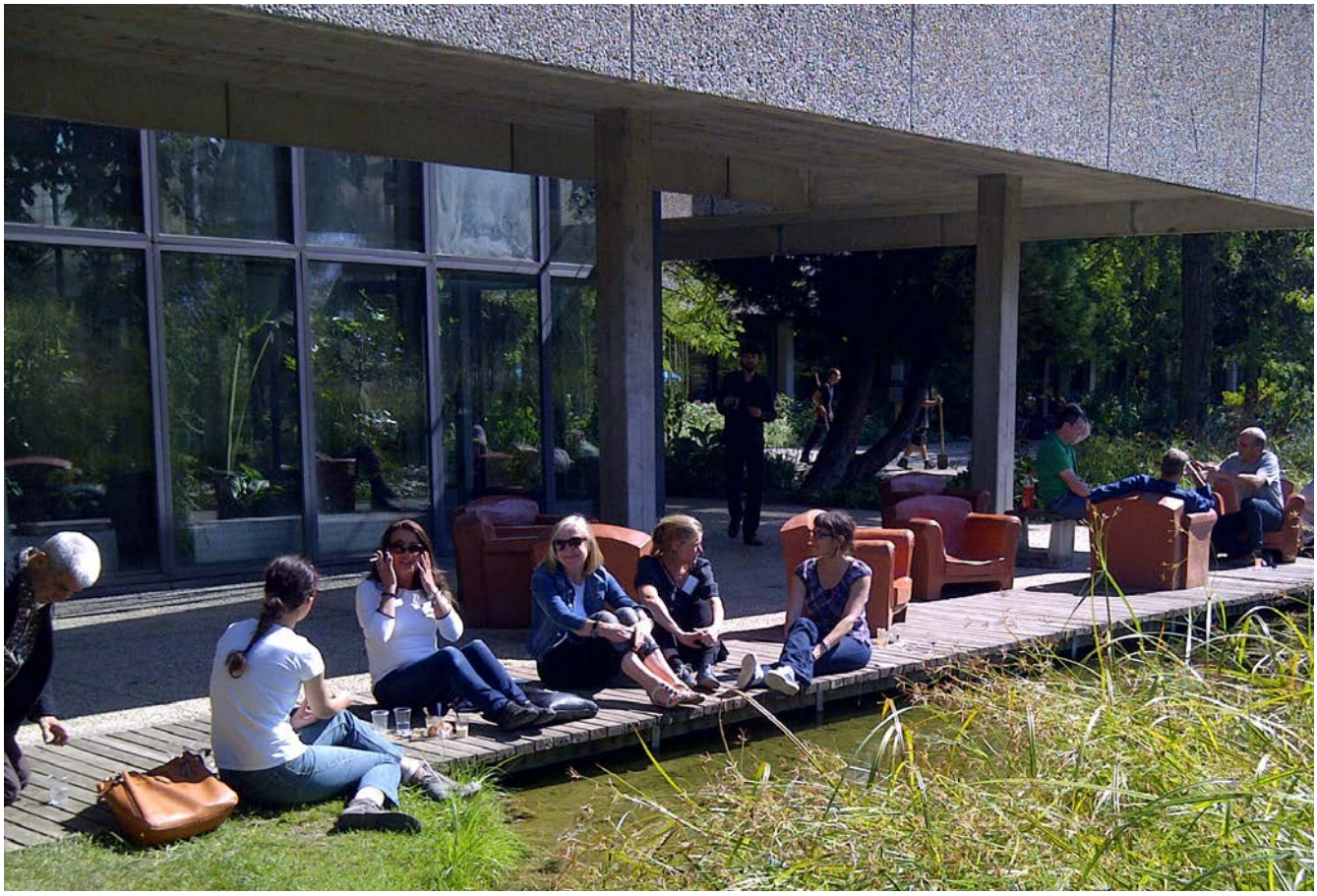
Fig. 11.2 Fieldtrip itinerary

Working groups meet and work at the School of Technology, Architecture and Landscape of Geneva (HEPIA)

12 September 2014

Sophie Rochefort
Professeure HES, Head of the Agronomy Department

Source: http://eilgis.hesge.ch/



h e p i a

Haute école du paysage, d'Ingénierie
et d'architecture de Genève

11.1 Farm of Liliane and Marc Graf

SIgn of the butcher shop

Located in a peri-urban area with a high land pressure due to future urban development, the Graf's exploitation includes the activities of food production and sales. Willing to manage all stages of production, they attach great importance to the quality and provenance of their product.

History

The owner grandparents' set up the farm in 1930'. Marc Graf took over the fields in 1991 and chose to discontinue milk production in favor of meat production. The butcher shop was built in 2010.

Provided productions:

Production includes meat and field crops.

The Graf family runs the farm and the butcher's shop, two poles representing the same weight in terms of investment. The various tasks on the farm are divided between Liliane and Mark Graf who also employ the equivalent of two full-time and a half for labor on the butcher shop, as well as an employee and an apprentice on the farm.

Of the current 60 hectares of the farm, 30 are dedicated to livestock, approximately 30 pigs and more than 80 cows are bred on the farm. The other 30 hectares are used for cereals crops (bread wheat or oleaginous grains), mainly used to feed their own livestock. Surplus is certified by "Genève Région - Terre Avenir" (GRTA) and sold in traditional distribution channels.

Marc Graf

The production is mostly sold by direct sale through the butcher shop. Other short supply chains are also mobilized, for example "Le panier bernésien" or local markets such as "le marché de la plaine du Loup". A catering service is also provided.

Examples of products sold in the butcher shop: longeole IGP, salametti, cooked sausage, gamay dry sausage, pepper terrine, country terrine, sausage with garlic, pepper sausage, beef or bernésienne sausage

Property and zoning

The company is located in the municipality of Bernex, in a suburban area west of Geneva city, subject to urban development. The farm is located within the area of the project of an agro-urban park Bernex-Confignon which aims to reconcile urban densification and development of agricultural areas. For now, 95% of the 65 ha are tenant farming but the development of the area may decrease the leased agricultural land, about 25 ha may be affected.

11.2 Farm of Michel Bidaux

Michel Bidaux family's farm in Troinex consists of numerous activities and a very diversified production. The main activities are field crops, agricultural works for municipalities (roadside maintaining, forestry works, composting, spreading lime quarries, etc.), and third, poultry farming, grapes production and wine making, direct selling, tastings and events organization.

Michel Bidaux
Source: http://www.terrenature.ch/agriculture/26082010-0000-candidat-ndeg1-michel-bidaux

History

After agricultural studies, Michel Bidaux joined his uncle's farm in 1985 in Geneva as a crop manager. In 1991, the company "MBX business" is established with a landless agricultural contractor status. Four years later, the company starts its activities for the municipality and for third parties. In the same period, a reform of the vineyard and bottling is launched. Later, the farm activities are extended to forestry and composting. In 2000, with the construction of an outdoor henhouse starts the breeding of Marsillon chickens. Since 2003, Bidaux family moved to the Maison Forte, where the wine cellar is located and the products are sold directly to customers. Currently more than 8 employees are working in the farm, including members of the family.

Due to the development of the exploitation and activities, Michel Bidaux has taken steps to certify their products: traceability IP channels Switzerland, wheat and colza labelling. The family wants to promote local products of Geneva, especially those related to the label "Genève Région Terre Avenir" (GRTA).

Provided productions:

The exploitation has wide range of activities. 60 ha of the estate are dedicated to field crops of wheat, barley, canola, corn, peas and soybeans. About 4000 Marsillon chickens are raised outdoors in "le domaine de La Pierre-aux-Dames" and fed from grains produced on the estate. The entire production chain of meat is located in the farm. Also winemaker, Michel Bidaux operates 3.5 ha of vineyards on the same area in the commune of Troinex. La "Maison Forte" is the place where the wine, poultry and other GRTA labelled products are proposed in direct sale and where tastings and events are organized.

Through the "MBX Enterprise" set up by Michel Bidaux, agricultural, forestry and communal works are conducted. The company holds agricultural machinery as well as labour forces.

More precisely, the company manages agricultural work on 199 ha split into four exploitations including M. Bidaux's. The communal work consists in roadsides maintenance, snow removal and composting green waste (1'700 tonnes) from municipalities of Veyrier and Troinex. Those green wastes are stored in windrows at the edge of fields and then spread on crops as a natural fertilizer.

With the forestry works in Geneva's area forests are collected more than 3500m3 of firewood currently supplying two schools and more than 10 buildings.

Property and zoning

The farm counts 66 ha, of which only 75 acres are owned, which are spread over three different sites within an area of 20km in the South of Geneva city. Mostly tenant farmer.


LE MARSILLON

11.3 Farm and mill “Verpillères” Les Ares et Vous

Source: http://www.tournereve.ch/

The farm “Verpillères” is situated on the east side of Geneva region. It promotes community-supported agriculture and works to create links between the city and the countryside.

History

From a non-farmer family, the owner decides to develop an agricultural project without having any land. He obtains a little parcel as a tenant farmer and obtains gradually more land. In 2006, the first vegetables are grown. A community-supported agriculture, called “Les Ares et Vous” is then launched.

The mill Verpillères is an extension of “Affaire TourneRêve”; before this ACP was created, it wasn’t possible to transform cereals in Geneva. This mill has enabled the farmers from the region to transform their cereal crops, to contact bakers and to create a bread of Geneva (“TourneRêve” bread). With 3 other farmers from the “Affaire TourneRêve” and with the support of the City of Geneva, they shared a stone mill in order to transform organic grain into flour.

Provided productions:

Plant production, especially wide variety of vegetables (salads, zucchini, tomatoes, eggplant and peppers, cabbage or radishes or other beet, fennel, beans, chard, peas, carrots, potatoes, tobimanbours, etc.), cereals (wheat, spelt, rye, buckwheat, mustard, sunflowers, corn for polenta, etc.), oilseeds and pulses.

Processed production, especially Flour. Crops are valued and traded via the “Affaire TourneRêve” and / or “Mill Verpillères”

The production is very diversified. There is 1.5 ha of vegetable crops. A wide diversity of vegetables is grown under organic agriculture standards. All the work to prepare the soil for the vegetables crops is made with 2 donkeys that replace the tractor and machines. The farm includes 7 ha of different crops: cereals (wheat, spelt, rye, buckwheat, mustard, sunflowers, corn for polenta, etc), oilseeds and pulses. Crops are valued and traded via the “Affaire TourneRêve” and / or “Mill Verpillères”. Around 25 ewes and some pigs are raised for the meat which is directly sold to the consumers. Finally, a beekeeping activity has been developed on the farm.

Property and zoning

The farm is situated on agricultural area closed to a housing area. The farmer is a tenant farmer.

Unfortunately this farm hasn’t been visited.

12. Carrot City exhibition

Project :

The Carrot City Initiative examines how design at all scales can enable the production of food in the city. It explores the relationship of design and urban food systems as well as the impact that agricultural issues have on the creation of urban spaces and buildings as society addresses the issues of a more sustainable pattern of living.

Carrot City was conceived and developed in 2009 by researchers from Ryerson University in Toronto (Canada). Since then, she was greeted in a dozen cities in North America, Europe and North Africa

Despite the historical importance of food in cities, the role of architecture and design in food production, distribution and related issues is a new area of study. The emerging alternative food movement has only just begun to engage with the possible contributions that designers and the design process can provide. The built environment and food policy meet at the point where architects and landscape architects incorporate farmers' markets, greenhouses, edible landscapes, living walls, permeable paving, green roofs, and community gardens into architectural programs. Such examples of the connections between food issues and built form have the potential to transform not only food production and distribution, but basic assumptions about the programming required in the design of buildings and urban spaces.

The focus is on how the increasing interest in growing food within the city, supplying food locally, and food security in general, is changing urban design and built form. Carrot City showcases projects from around the world. The exhibit contains a range of projects, some recently completed or in progress, and others intended as visionary, speculative design proposals.

This exhibit includes works by design professionals, artists and students, conceiving architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, industrial design, sculpture, and urban planning projects. It explores a variety of issues related to designing for urban agriculture, through a series of case studies, products and systems. These projects are organized into five categories representing distinct scales :

- City
- Community & Knowledge
- Housing
- Rooftops
- Components for growing.

For Carrot City in Lausanne, 45 case studies were selected and 6 new boards were created to illustrate various Swiss examples of urban agriculture. The exhibition takes place outdoors in front of the Géopolis building.

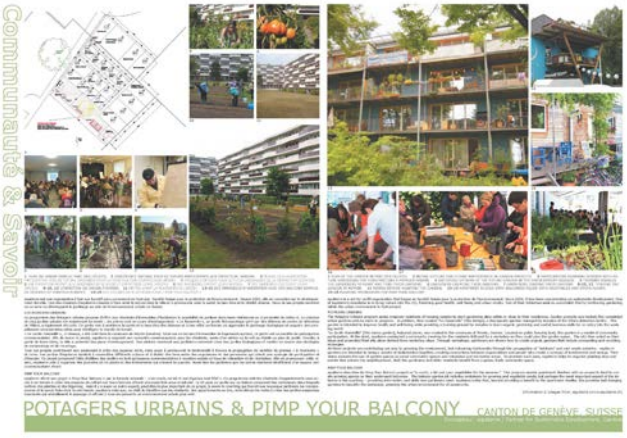
The swiss events were founded by the University of lausanne and the Federal Office for Agriculture.

From May to December 2014, public conferences and workshops were organized in parallel to the exhibition. :

- Carrot City Day (Conference of Joe Nasr and June Komisar)
- The 17th international conference of the European Forum on Urban Forestry EFUF: Session on urban agriculture
- COST Action Urban Agriculture Europe
- UNIL: escale durable
- Workshop : Agriculture in urban areas : Toward a Swiss Research Agenda

Swiss examples presented in Carrot City Lausanne

Source: http://www3.unil.ch/wpmu/geoblog/agriculture-urbaine/carrot-city-lexpo/



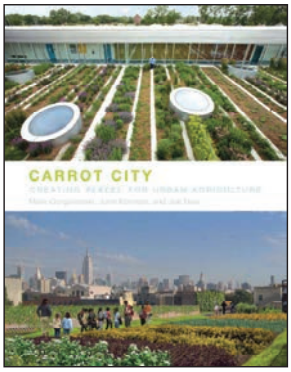
Reference and information:

Carrot city: www.ryerson.ca/carrotcity/
Equiterre association: www.equiterre.ch/index.php?lang=fr
Carrot City UNIL: http://www3.unil.ch/wpmu/geoblog/agriculture-urbaine/carrot-city-lexpo/
La pel' (permaculture student association): http://www.unil.ch/durable/fr/home/menuinst/projets-etudiants/permaculture.html

CARROT CITY

CREATING PLACES FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE

Mark Gorgolewski, June Komisar, and Joe Nasr



Showcasing the best examples of current design, *Carrot City* presents strategies for reintroducing urban agriculture to our cities. Over forty innovative projects explore creative approaches to making space for urban food production, ranging from ambitious urban plans to simple measures for growing food at home.

Carrot City demonstrates how the production of food can lead to visually striking and artistically interesting solutions that create community and provide residents with immediate access to fresh, healthful ingredients. The authors show how city planning and architecture that considers food production as a fundamental requirement of design result in more community gardens, greenhouses tucked under raised highways, edible landscapes in front yards in place of resource-devouring lawns, living walls that bring greenery into schools and large apartment blocks that can be tended and harvested by residents.

Architect **Mark Gorgolewski** is a professor in the Department of Architectural Science at Ryerson University in Toronto and a specialist in sustainable design. **June Komisar,** an architect and an associate professor in the Department of Architectural Science at Ryerson University, lectures and publishes widely on the topic of designing for urban agriculture and is a member of the Toronto Food Policy Council. **Joe Nasr,** a specialist in urban food security and urban agriculture, is the author of *Urban Agriculture: Food, Jobs, and Sustainable Cities.*

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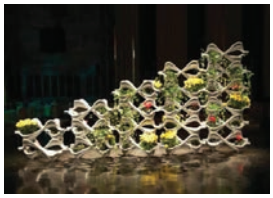

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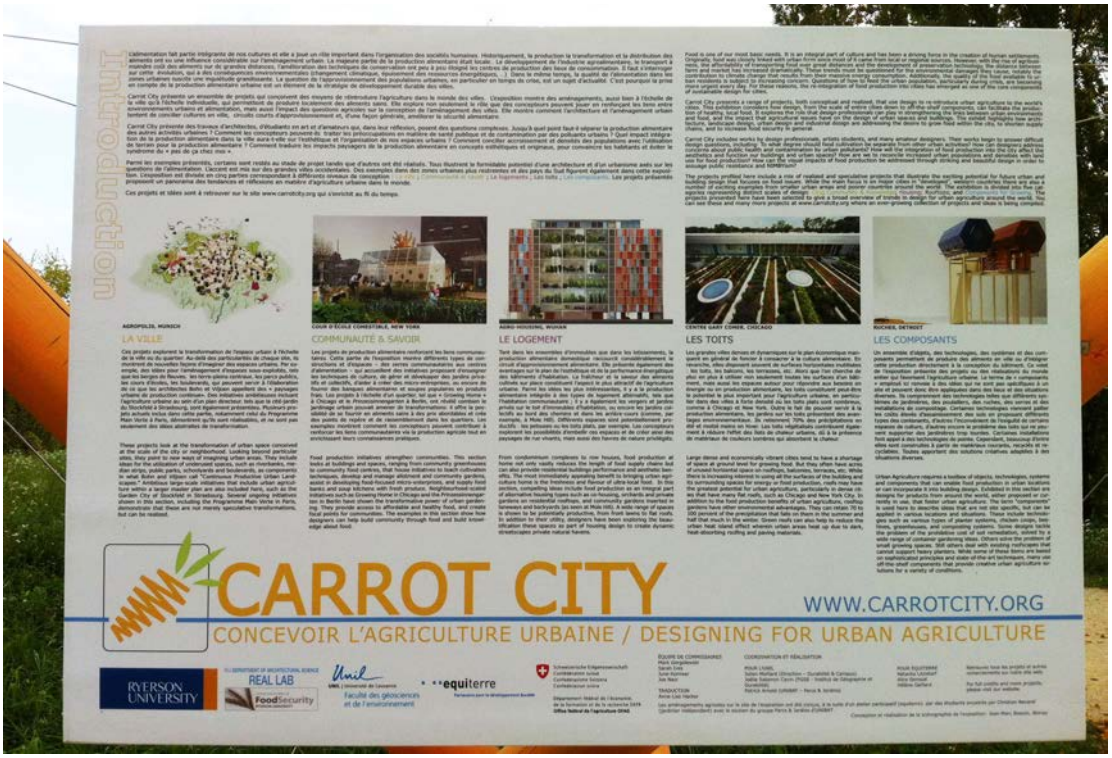
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The hanging garden elaborated by students from Lausanne University

Ecoquartier Equilibre, Geneva
Redesigning the home

Frau Gerold garten, Zurich
Components for growing

Urban Farmers Basel
Producing on the roof

Optional excursion

13. Lausanne Jardins

Source: http://lausannejardins.ch

History

In autumn 1994, a handful of friends from a wide variety of backgrounds had this initial inspiration, which eventually gave rise to Lausanne Jardins.

In June 1997, Lausanne woke up to gardens. Several editions followed in 1997, 2000, 2004, 2009 and 2014.

Lausanne Jardins is prommoted by the « Jardin Urbain Association »

The association's aims are:

1. to promote the art gardening.
2. to develop interest in urban gardening and more generally the relationship between city development and the growth of green spaces.
3. to support events on a gardening theme in the City of Lausanne.

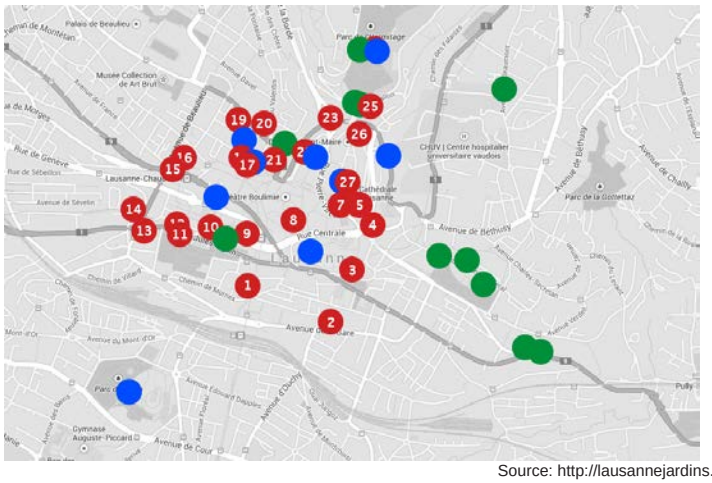
Concept

The unusual thing about the Lausanne-Jardins event is that it takes place in the heart of the city, its mission being to bring together the world of plants and flowers and the truly urban environment. Each garden is much more than a merely utopian, conceptual exercise; it must also be able to become part of city life and make a place for itself, whilst accepting the constraints at the heart of the concept- a garden both in and with the town.

This encounter is what makes 'Lausanne-Jardins' unique. For this, the 5th outing for the event, of course it has been chosen to make gardens in the city, and more specifically, the way the city is shown and defined on most maps.

Onto the street map of the city centre we have cast some seeds, this being the simplest way to get a garden started… Where they fall, the next event will take root…

Randomly our actions will, in just the same way that the wind or the soles of our shoes carry seeds and transform the landscape around us, create new gardens which will appear in towns. This can be in streets, squares, alleyways, paths, staircases, roof terraces, courtyards of apartment buildings, bridges- endless places that are sometimes well-suited like a park, more often unlikely locations like a dark alley, but always surprising and inviting.



Source: http://lausannejardins.ch/fr/carte/

The locations have been selected, and the route has been planned. It runs through the city streets and the hillsides, the open spaces bordering Lake Geneva and the mountains, and the back alleyways, with staircases running down the terrain, to rear access to the metro, and playing fields hidden beneath bridges.

And we are waiting, as along the route which has been sown with these seeds, they are landing, coming down to earth, resting, sinking, growing- Gardens-LANDING.

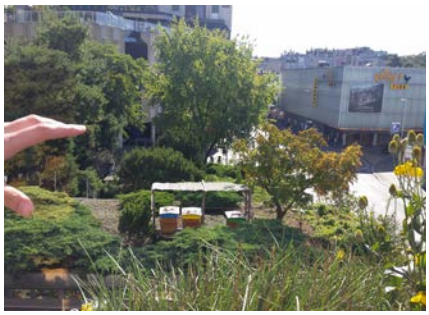
Our own particular backgrounds lead us to wonder about gardens and how they relate to modernity. How can the world of plants, living and changing things, work outside the traditional planting schemes found in squares for example, in places that have been constructed, concreted and covered in tarmac? And in what form, what kind of container, and how will they be maintained?

If things spring up spontaneously in the oddest places within these gardens combining a rigour of style with the beauty of spontaneity, how well will they travel?

We really needed to think of new ways of bringing in greenery, of creating a different type of transportation, and ways of moving gardens around. So next spring we are looking forward to seeing a wide range of responses to this question, followed by 25 prototypes to be created in 2014.

The installation of each garden at its location will be a kind of peaceful green guerrilla action, accompanied by a celebratory parade through the city, providing the chance to see the town invaded by green in an inventive, rapid way.

Text by : Christophe Ponceau & Adrien Rovero, 2012



Source: http://lausannejardins.ch/fr/jardins/

COST- the acronym for European **CO**operation in the field of **S**cientific and **T**echnical Research- is the oldest and widest European intergovernmental network for cooperation in research. Established by the Ministerial Conference in November 1971, COST is presently used by the scientific communities of 35 European countries to cooperate in common research projects supported by national funds.

The funds provided by COST - less than 1% of the total value of the projects - support the COST cooperation networks (COST Actions) through which, with EUR 30 million per year, more than 30.000 European scientists are involved in research having a total value which exceeds EUR 2 billion per year. This is the financial worth of the European added value which COST achieves.

A “bottom up approach” (the initiative of launching a COST Action comes from the European scientists themselves), “à la carte participation” (only countries interested in the Action participate), “equality of access” (participation is open also to the scientific communities of countries not belonging to the European Union) and “flexible structure” (easy implementation and light management of the research initiatives) are the main characteristics of COST.

As precursor of advanced multidisciplinary research COST has a very important role for the realisation of the European Research Area (ERA) anticipating and complementing the activities of the Framework Programmes, constituting a “bridge” towards the scientific communities of emerging countries, increasing the mobility of researchers across Europe and fostering the establishment of “Networks of Excellence” in many key scientific domains such as: Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences; Food and Agriculture; Forests, their Products and Services; Materials, Physical and Nanosciences; Chemistry and Molecular Sciences and Technologies; Earth System Science and Environmental Management; Information and Communication Technologies; Transport and Urban Development; Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health. It covers basic and more applied research and also addresses issues of pre-normative nature or of societal importance.