Dona Pickard/Galina Koleva

COST Action Urban Agriculture Europe: Documentation of the 6th Working Group Meeting

Sofia 15-18/04/2015

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1. General overview of Sofia meeting and Sofia region

The meeting

The 6th WG meeting of COST UAE took place from April 15th until April 17th 2015 in Sofia, Bulgaria. It was hosted by the University of National and World Economy (UNWE) and was co-organized by the Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (ISSK) and the Forestry University in Sofia.

The Rector of UNWE Prof. Stati Statev opens the conference

The programme of the meeting included a conference open to the public, two plenary sessions, the working group and MC meetings, and a field trip to Sofia urban and peri-urban agriculture projects. A 7-member delegation of COST UAE met with members of Sofia City Council at Sofia Municipality.

Welcome addresses were delivered by Prof. Julia Doychinova, local host from the UNWE, Prof. Stati Statev, Rector of UNWE, Ms Lorita Radeva, Chairperson of the Committee for Environment at the Sofia City Council, and Prof. Frank Lohrberg, Chair of the Action.

Keynote speaker at the public conference was **Prof. Vikram Bhatt**, from McGill Univesity, Canada, who focused his lecture on Expanding Multifunctionality of Urban Agriculture.

The Bulgarian speakers at the public conference included **Hristo Hristozov** from The Civil Institute and **Zafir Zarkov** from the Sofia City Council who presented the Challenges facing Municipal Policy for the Development of Urban Agriculture and **Ms Svetlana Boyanova**, who posed the question whether urban agriculture is still a challenge for Bulgaria.

The second half of the public conference was dedicated to presentation of the results from the STSM in Sofia, performed by **Jenny Sjöblom** and **Xavier Recasens** in March 2015, and to presentations from local stakeholders. They included the organizers of Farmers' markets in Sofia (**Ralitsa Kassimova** and **Nikolay Genov**), local urban agriculture activist (**Nikola Dodov**), architects (**Delcho Delchev** and **Dimitar Paskalev**), and a policy researcher (**Georgi Medarov**).

The meeting of the COST UAE action delegation with Sofia City Council representatives was aimed at proposing measures for urban agriculture development in Sofia Municipality and it resulted in agreement for future collaboration between the Action members and the Municipality.

The Sofia field trip included the following visits: the Botanical gardens in the centre of Sofia, the experimental farm of the Forestry University and a peri-urban organic farm.

The plenary sessions were dedicated to discussing the progress and tasks associated with the future work of the action members, mainly the writing and editing of thematic papers and book chapters related to the work of the Action. Results of the discussions as well as plans for future steps were presented during the closing session.

Urban Agriculture in Sofia region

The main type of urban agriculture in Sofia and Bulgaria is the self-provisioning micro-farming in and around the household (family gardens), followed by the most common business agricultural model near the cities – large scale cash-crop production.

There are some areas of Sofia, most commonly those that used to function as summer-house areas just South-East outside the ring-railway of the city before the wars of the 20th century (Izgrev, Dianabad, Iztok), as well as the former villages that are now in the periphery of the city, where many family gardens are used to grow vegetables, fruit and flowers and to raise animals. The family gardens are not seen as a cultural heritage and are not subject to any municipal policy. This, together with the expansion of the blocks of flats in these areas, contribute to the loss of the family gardens tradition.

A family garden with a shed in the Mladost residential area

Urban household agriculture consists mainly of: (1) farming in backyards and private gardens adjacent to family houses – typical both for the villages surrounding Sofia and the city itself and, in the case of the villages, is usually combined with poultry raising and the keeping of other small livestock; (2) farming and livestock keeping in gardens of second homes or summerhouses located in designated recreational zones, owned by Sofia families. The houses are located within 100 km from the urban centre in the per-iurban areas – so-called "villa zones" (Yoveva/Gocheva/Voykova 2000).

This type of urban agriculture is a mix of leisure for the gardeners and also food production to be consumed by them, their relatives or neighbors.

Community or allotment gardens are not traditional for Sofia and Bulgaria.

Educational Gardens

Small NGOs are the main actor in the development of educational UA gardens – they run information campaigns and recruit citizens and other institutions (like kindergartens) to participate in projects that fund UA practices for educational, ecological and social purposes. A developed sector of UA in the sphere of education are also the education and experimental farms that are part of agrarian faculties and research institutions.

Educational garden of the Forestry University

Although urban agriculture activities have always existed in Sofia (traditionally in private family gardens and recently in sporadic collective and social projects), they have not been subject to local policy measures or any type of institutional regulation or organization. The concept of Urban Agriculture is almost non-exixsent as an object of local and national policies. It tends to be treated as an extravagant idea which is implemented in initiatives of non-governmental organizations and private actors (short-term projects for starting organic vegetable beds in kindergartens; once-off voluntary campaigns to help on farms around or further from the cities etc.). These make use of programmes and funds for support, rather than as an integral part of a strategic vision, programmes, policies and mechanisms for urban design, social, ecological, educational policies; and also not as an inherent and natural part of the urban environment and the life of urban communities.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the following people for their help and support in planning and executing the 6th Working group Meeting:

– **Lachezar Nyagolov**, PhD student and **Nadezhda Krandeva**, administrative assistant at the Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge;

- **Ralitsa Terziyska, Tatyana Gevrenova**, PhD Students at the University or National and World Economy;
- **Stuart Amor**, freelancer;
- The Rector, the academic and administrative staff of the **University of National and World Economy**;
- The Rector, the academic and administrative staff of the University of **Forestry;**
- The Director and the administrative staff of the **Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge**;
- The hosts of the farms and gardens that were visited during the field trips: Sofia University Botanical Garden, Forestry University Experimental Field, Sofina peri-urban farm, Gimel Organic Farm, the mayor of Ognyanovo village Mr. Haydukov, Agroecological centre of Plovdiv university
- **Hristo Hristozov** from The Civil Institute and **Zafir Zarkov** from the Sofia City Council, who assisted in contacting official representatives of Sofia Municipality in relation to the Sofia meeting.

Julia Doychinova

Galina Koleva

Dona Pickard

2. Programme of Sofia meeting

11:00 – 12:30	**Registration**
12:30	**Formal opening**
	Opening by Prof. Julia Doychinova, MC member of COST UA Europe *Welcome addresses* Prof. Stati Statev, Rector of the University of National and World Economy Lorita Radeva, Chair of the Committee on Ecology and Agriculture, Sofia Municipality Council Prof. Frank Lohrberg, Chair of Urban Agriculture Europe COST Action
	Keynote Speeches
	Challenges for Municipal Policy for the Development of Urban Agriculture Zafir Zarkov, Sofia City Council Member Dr. Hristo Hristozov, "Civil Institute" Managing Director *Urban Agriculture – A Reality or Still a Challenge?* Svetlana Boyanova, Vice-minister of Agriculture and Food (2009-2013) *Expanding multi-functionality* Prof. Vikram Bhatt, McGill University, Canada
15:00 – 15:30	**Coffee-break**
15:30 – 16:00	**Urban Agriculture in Sofia Region: Short-term Scientific Mission Results**
	Xavier Recasens, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya Jenny Sjöblom, Swedish Univeristy of Agricultural Sciences
16:00 – 18:00	**Local Presentations**
	Farmers'Markets – The Intersection Between Agriculture and Sustainable Development "Sustainable Society" Association *Urban Agriculture in Sofia: why not?* Nikola Bonchev, "Behind the Block Garden" *Urban Agriculture Opportunities in Green Spaces Between Residential Blocks* Arch. Delcho Delchev, "Transformatori" Association *Farming Sofia: The Potential of the Barren Lands in so Called "Green Wedges"* Arch. Dimitar Paskalev, Architectonika Studio *Two Discources on Urban Agriculture and Food Sovereignty* Georgi Medarov, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridsky"

16 APRIL, THURSDAY

9:00 – 12:3		**Presentation of book contribution drafts**
9:00	the UAE book concept authors' instructions case studies	Frank Lohrberg Lilli Licka Lionella Scazzosi
9:25	Section 1 / Phenomenon	Marian Simon Rojo and others
9:50	Section 2 / People	Mary Corcoran, Joelle Salomon-Cavin and others
10:15	Section 3 / Business	Wolf Lorleberg and others
10:40 – 11:10		**Coffee break**
11:10	Section 4 / Space	Luis Maldonado, Lilli Licka and others
11:35	Section 5 / Flow	Chiara Tornaghi, Luke Beesley and others
12:00	Section 6 / Agenda	Frank Lohrberg and others
12:30 – 14:00		**Lunch**
14:00 – 14:30		Case-study gallery and discussions
14:30 – 15:50		WG meetings
15:50 – 16:10		**Coffee break**
16:10 – 17:30		WG meetings
17:30 – 18:30		MC meeting
19:00		**Common dinner**

17 APRIL, FRIDAY

09:30 – 15:30	**Field trip**
Sofia urban gardening projects and a peri-urban farm	
16:00 – 17:30	Closing Plenary Session

18 APRIL, SATURDAY	**Optional trip**
08:00 – Departure	A trip to the vegetable producing region of Pazardzhik and Plovdiv
16:00 – Return to Sofia	

3. Welcome addresses

3.1. Opening by Prof. Julia Doychinova, University of National and World Economy

Dear Mr. Rector, dear guests,

Let me first turn to colleagues – participants in the COST network, which arrived today from more than 20 European countries and Canada with the Bulgarian „Добре дошли в България. Добре дошли в Университета за национално и световно стопанство"

Welcome to Bulgaria and Welcome to Our University of National and World Economy.

I hope that the next three days we will have the opportunity to get familiar with the problems of urban agriculture in the country and to continue discussions on various aspects of its development and importance in the countries of Europe.

Urban agriculture is not a leftover from rural agriculture, it is a completely new approach to food rights, solidarity and sustainable food sovereignty. We now see the urban agriculture as a way to develop sustainable and socially responsible local economy through food-related entrepreneurship.

Regardless of what perspective will be interpreted urban agriculture – social, environmental or economic – I hope that this conference will contribute to develop a common, specifically European approach to urban agriculture among European scholars and professionals in this field.

I wish you participants in the COST network – fruitful and successful stay in Sofia.

It is my great pleasure to introduce to you our guests:

- Prof. Stati Statev, Doctor of economical science – Rector of the University of National and World economy
- Mrs. Lorita Radeva – Chairman of the Committee on Ecology and Environment of Sofia Municipal Council
- Prof. Dimitar Nikolov – Director of Institute of agricultural economics
- Prof. Valentin Goev – Vice Rector **on Scientific Research Activity** of the University of National and World economy
- Prof.Yordanka Yovkova – Dean of our Business faculty
- Prof.Plamen Mishev, Doctor of economical science – Head of department „Economics of Natural Resources"
- Assoc. Prof. Andrey Nonchev – Head of department „Economical Sociology"

3.2. Prof. Stati Statev, Rector of UNWE

The Rector of UNWE, which is the largest, the most proficient and the oldest university of economics in Bulgaria and Eastern Europe, welcomed all the highly qualified participants from more than 20 countries to the international forum on the subject of "Urban Agriculture".

The rector provided the participants from abroad with a brief description of UNWE, which trains personnel and specialists for high-ranking positions in public administration and business.

Prof. Statev underlined his conviction that interesting opinions would be heard, valuable experience would be shared, and that there would be productive discussions at the "Urban Agriculture" forum. This was to be expected due to the abundance of questions and issues to be debated: the challenges and diversification in the multifunctionality of urban agriculture; the results of investigating Sofia's potential for developing sustainable models of urban agriculture; farmers' markets as the point of intersection between agriculture and sustainable development; the development of urban agriculture in the open spaces between residential blocks and other high-rise buildings; visions of urban agriculture; the relationship between urban agriculture and food security etc.

3.3. Lorita Radeva, Chair of the Ecology and Agriculture Committee, Sofia Municipality

Lorita Radeva welcomed the participants to the forum on "Urban Agriculture" in the name of Sofia Municipality and Sofia City Council.

She emphasized that the quality of life and food security of our urban community are becoming an ever greater challenge for the municipal councillors. This also merits the attention of the scientific community because, in order to analyze the phenomena and plan accordingly, it is essential to employ a multidisciplinary approach that reflects the complexity of the issues relating to urban food production with its numerous ecological, architectural, social, economic and cultural aspects.

Ms Radeva outlined the following expectations of Sofia Municipality regarding the development of urban agriculture in Sofia:

- the creation of models and habits of social relations, solidarity, mutual assistance;
- less and less food of unknown origin;
- improvement of the ecological equilibrium;
- a more effective management of municipal land resources.

And last but not least – stimuli for the development of a communal food policy.

3.4. Frank Lohrberg, Chair of COST UAE Europe

Thank you to the representatives of the UNWE. As a Chair of this COST action, I am very happy to be here, and you are hosting us. I think right from the beginning when the Action started and I noticed that we had very active members from Bulgaria with us, it was our wish, it was my wish to go to Bulgaria, to Sofia as well. You know our aim is to formulate a common speech of Urban agriculture throughout Europe, which is very difficult because we speak different languages and Europe and even if we use the same words, we mean different things. Therefore it is important not to go only to Germany or The Netherlands where we know UA is already on the agenda, but to go to these places where it might evolve in the future with the full potential that is there. And that is why we make the seven-step excursion throughout Europe – starting from Germany, we went to Barcelona, to Dublin, to Warsaw, to Lausane – Geneva, and we will go to Milan as well in the autumn. So we are very glad we are here in this part of Europe, in Sofia.

The aim of the Action is to formulate a common language of UA, and to promote the subject of UA.

In 2012, when the Action started, UA was not on the agenda of the departments in Brussles at all. Europe is already interested in agriculture for multiple benefits – quite a lot from the efforts of the Action are to see the multiple benefits of agriculture.

So I think we are already on a really good track and Sofia will be a very good place to go forwards, it is a very beautiful placa, it is a very good time of the year – we have seen the blossomed trees, and the snow-topped mountains, and I hope we will all benefit from this stay to become more aware of the potentials, we will have time on Friday to deepen this,

So we are now making the steps from considerations to conclusions and we have tomorrow the whole day in the Plenary session and the working groups so that we make this important step forward.

So I wish us all a fruitful meeting and thank you for hosting us!

4. Keynote lectures and presentations

4.1 Challenges for Municipal Policies for Development of Urban Agriculture

Dr. Hristo Hristozov, Managing Director of the Civil Institute
Zafir Zarkov, Sofia Municipality

The main challenges for the municipal policies for development of urban agriculture in Bulgaria could be summarized as follows:

- Multi-level legal framework – European, national and municipal;
- Over-centralized public food policy;
- No clear public responsibility for food assurance;
- Participation of Municipalities in the Common Agriculture Policies of EU;
- Public Support for local farmers;
- Green Requirements for Municipal public procurements for food and catering;
- Lack of Strategic Approach.

The legal framework of the development of the urban agriculture in Bulgaria is multi-level and complex. At national, it is established by:

- Constitution of the Republic Bulgaria
- European law;
- Law on local self-government and local administration;
- Law on application of the common organizations of the markets of agriculture products of European Community;
- Law on the Foods;
- Law on the Municipal Property;
- Law on Protection of Agriculture Land;
- Law on the Support for Farmers;
- Law on State Aid;
- Law on Public Procurement;
- Ordinance for direct deliveries.

At municipal level, the urban agriculture is regulated by:

- Municipal Regulation on Management of the Municipal Property;
- Municipal Regulation on Public Procurement;
- Municipal Regulation on Farmers Markets.

The food policy – a context for development of the urban agriculture. The Bulgarian institutional landscape of food policy is diversified. At national level, the Council of Ministers defines specific requirements for group of foods and drinks or for specific food or drink (art. 4 of Foods Law). The minister of agriculture and foods and minister of health are responsible for state policy for food safety (art. 2a of Foods Law). The minister of environment and waters participates in determination of the requirements for materials contacting foods (art. 8 of Foods Law). The Bulgarian agency for food safety carries out official control over all the foods and drinks and assesses the compliance with quality requirements for the foods (art. 28, para. 1 of Foods Law).

The Bulgarian Association of Food and Drink Industry is a national inter-industry organization of producers of foods. The role of industry organizations is to support the state and municipal institutions for the implementation of the public policy for development of food industry (art. 3, art. 37a -art. 37e of Food Law).

At regional level, the Regional Directorate for Food Safety and the Regional Health Inspection are responsible for public food safety control (art. 28 of Food Law).

At local level, the role of the municipal institutions is very limited under the Food Law. They are responsible to support the industry associations for implementation of the policy and strategy for development of the food industry (art. 37c of Food Law) by providing municipal property and other assistance.

The function of the municipalities in application of the common organizations of the markets of agriculture products needs to be discussed – how to be included in collection and processing of market information, in provision of state aid, in policies for quality and in intervention purchase and in intervention distribution.

The brief overview of the institutional landscape of the food policy in Bulgaria shows that the institutions are mostly occupied with food safety and there is no clear allocation of the functions related to public policy for food. The main institutional issue is who is responsible for public policy for food assurance?

Publi support for local farming. How can the municipality participate in support for local farming? The following are the main objectives of the state support (art. 2 Law on Support for Farmers):

- development of efficient agricultural and forestry holdings and competitive food industry;
- development of agricultural production in areas with poor social and economic characteristics;
- protection and improvement of soil fertility and genetic fund; development of organic farming;
- development of stable domestic market and expanding foreign markets for Bulgarian agricultural goods;
- improvement of production infrastructure of rural areas;

- creating of conditions for increasing farmers' income from the sale of agricultural products; creating conditions and stimulate the activity of young specialists in agriculture;
- developing of rural and mountainous areas;
- stimulating local production of high-quality processed and unprocessed agricultural products and compliance with veterinary, phytosanitary and sanitary requirements;
- promoting the use of agricultural land and the development of agricultural production in less favored areas and in Natura 2000 sites, as well as reduce the level of depopulation in these areas.

There is a need for public support for short chains and local markets. According para 56, section 2.4, chapter two of the "European Union guidelines on state aid in the agriculture and forestry and rural areas 2014 – 2020" (2014 / C 204/01) and § 1, p. 53 of the Law on support to farmers define "short supply chain" these supply chains, which involves a limited number of economic operators and is committed to cooperate and dedicated to local economic development and the nearby territorial and social relations between producers, processors and consumers.

According t. 60, section 2.4, chapter two of the "European Union guidelines on state aid in the agriculture and forestry and rural areas 2014 – 2020" and § 1, p. 54 of the Law on Support for Farmers as local markets are considered those markets within a radius of 75 km from the farm of origin of the product in which radius must be implemented processing of the product and its sale to the end consumer, or markets for which the Programme for Rural Development defines kilometers radius from the farm of origin of the product, within which must be implemented as processing of the product and its sale to the end consumer.

European and state aid for short chains and local farming. Following the EU guidelines on state aid in the agriculture and forestry and rural development for the period 2014 – 2020" Bulgaria as a member state is allowed to provide public support for:

- grassroots activities for promotion of the development of short supply chains and local markets (ie. 702 b. «E»);
- horizontal cooperation between participants in the supply chain for construction and development of short supply chains and local markets (ie. 316 b. «G», ie. 702 b. «G»);
- vertical cooperation between participants in the supply chain for construction and development of short supply chains and local markets (ie. 316 b. «G», ie. 702 b. «G»).

The State Fund "Agriculture" (Art. 12 para. 1, p. 15 of the Law for support for farmers) may support creation and development of short supply chains and local markets.

Municipal support for local farming. According to art. 10a of Law on Support for Farmers the municipalities have a public duty to ensure that at least of 50 percent of the commercial area of local markets for sale of agricultural products to be allocated for use by registered farmers, producer organizations, associations of producers and producer groups in selling their own produce agricultural products. The Municipal Councils are responsible for establishing the local legal framework for development of the direct and local deliveries on the municipal market places.

The Urban Agricultures is a domain of local government. Under art. 17, para. 1 of the Law on Local Self Government and Local Administration the citizens of the municipality and elected bodies are empowered to decide independently on all issues of local importance. The urban agriculture affects different sectors of local policy:

- Municipal economy – management municipal property, municipal enterprises, municipal finance, taxes,
- Municipal administration;
- Spatial development – planning and development of the municipality and the settlements;
- Education;
- Health;
- Culture – culinary culture;
- Urbanization and communal activities;
- Social Services;
- Environmental protection and rational use of natural resources;
- Development of recreation and tourism.

Green procurement of food and catering. The green procurement of food and catering is factor for fostering the development of the urban agriculture. However it is a legal, political and practical challenge for the municipalities. Last years, there is a significant progress in creating an enabling legal environmental and good practice within EU – ***"Buy green! Guide to green procurement "*** (issued by the European Commission, 2011), ***"Public procurement for a better environment"*** (The European Commission Communication, 2008). The Green procurement is a procedure applied by public authorities for procuring goods, services and works to decrease environmental impact during the lifecycle compared to goods, services and works having the same primary function and that would have been procured in the absence such a procedure.

The municipality is one of the largest in procurement of foods and catering services for – municipal healthcare facilities, municipal kindergartens, municipal schools; canteens of municipal enterprises and companies, municipal Social Services, etc. The procurement of food and catering is a powerful instrument for implementation of the municipal food policy. The green procurement of food and catering services could contribute to developments of the urban agriculture, including local farming, integrated, eco, bio and good food production and supply. Its principles could be implemented in conditions for

participation in municipal bids, technical specification and in award criteria Usually, the operators are have to prove economic, financial and technical capacity as conditions for their eligibility. The capacity to meet the environmental conditions of the contract could be included as eligibility criteria. According to the EU guidelines the technical specifications for delivery of food and catering services, which include requirement for minimum % organic production, minimum % integrated production (the percentage of non-organic food), minimum % aquaculture and marine products and for planning menu according to season, are considered compliant with the EU procurement law. For award of the contract, the selection could be made on the basis of additional % organic production and additional% integrated production. The procurement contracts may impose obligations for environmental requirements for packaging, standards for animal welfare, for the equipment used in the performance of the contract, for generation and waste management in the implementation of the order, for products for cleaning and disinfection, for transport when performing the contract, training requirements of personnel for the implementation of the environmental conditions of contract.

A Municipal Food Strategy? The legal framework provides solid legal grounds for municipalities to develop a food strategy, including enhancement of the urban agriculture. The public needs requiring strategic approach are:

- Facilitating access for all to quality food;
- Enhancing the quality of the food supply;
- Introduction of the green municipal Procurement for Food and Catering
- More effective management of the municipal agricultural land and green infrastructures
- Improve knowledge and information on Food ;
- Preserving and promoting the Bulgarian gastronomic and culinary heritage as a vital component of the Municipal Touristic Product
- Development of short supply chains and local farmer markers for support of local social-economic development;
- Enhancing the models of social relationships and mutual support
- Improving the environmental balance.

The elaboration ad implementation of the municipal food strategy have to be based on the principles of good governance –empowerment, collaboration, equality, sustainability, security, clear and realistic objectives, quality factors ensuring the long-term impact, compliance and contribution to the main municipal policies, active involvement of all the stakeholders, the relevant Permanent Commission of the Municipal Council and relevant structures of the Municipal Administration.

The development of urban agriculture will contribute to making the development of the municipalities as healthy cities, which constantly creates and perfects those physical and social environments and expanding those community resources, which enable people to mutually support each other in all aspects of life and in developing their maximum potential.

4.2. Urban Agriculture – A Reality or Still a Challenge? Svetlana Boyanova, Vice-minister of Agriculture and Food (2009-2013)

The thesis, argued in Ms Boyanova's presentation, was that urban agriculture should be implemented with the view to develop local urban communities socially and environmentally, rather than to rely on it for production of food and urban food independence.

"It is important for me today to hear about the experience of other countries and to think about the questions do we need urban agriculture, do we need urban agriculture policy and if yes – do you have the needed funding for such policy".

Ms Boyanova compared the situation in Bulgaria with research conducted in other countries, including the project SuperFood, which follows the development of urban agriculture trends in Europe, Asia, South and North America. She presented the Bulgarian examples of organizing, creating and development of communal gardens in urban settings, the people who urban agriculture activities are addressed to and who might want to participate in them, and she explained the effects that the civil initiatives and communal associations that spring up around a communal garden might have.

"Without confronting urban agriculture with agriculture in the rural areas, for me it is still more important to work in a more concentrated way towards revitalizing the rural regions and the development of modern and competitive agriculture, on one hand, and ensuring that the Bulgarian consumers have access to good quality Bulgarian food, on the other. I still see urban agriculture as a challenge and more of an activity with social, educational and ecological functions, rather than a source of agicultural produce. The production of food should be the priority of our villages and the peripheries of cities."

Svetlana Boyanova presented the two EU programmes "School fruit" and "Milk for Schools", addressed to children.

The main focus of her presentation was an in-depth analysis of the agricultural history in Bulgaria, which followed the development of agriculture since the liberation from the Ottoman rule and explained the serious problem of rural depopulation.

Ms Boyanova also spoke about the positive effect of the CAP in Bulgaria in the period 2007-2013, including the increased area of utilized agricultural land, the rising interest in the land market, the consolidation of the farms, he increased income of the farmers and the improved competitiveness of Bulgarian agriculture.

The problems of the sector were also explored: the polarized structure of the farms, the unequal position in regards to the financial support for production and the process of turning the country into an exporter of raw goods and an importer of processed agrarian products with a higher added value. The direct payments are an instrument, which has the potential to help the sector. The measures for small farms, young farmers, "short supply chains", farmers markets, creating producers' associations, organic production, irrigation infrastructure etc. have the potential to aid not just the survival of the sector, but its stabilization as well. In the new CAP 2014-2020, the issues related to the food chains become even more important.

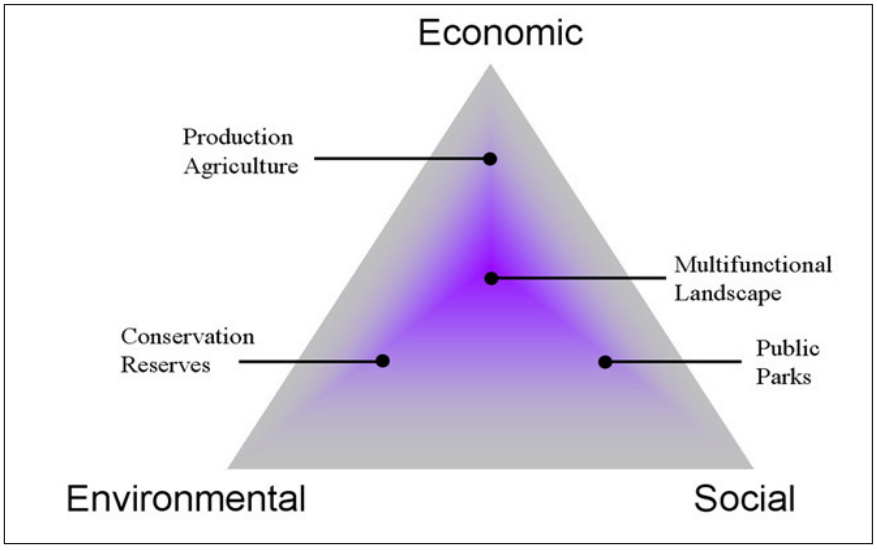
"In the end of the day, urban agriculture should be predominantly used for is educational and social functions, while the policies in relation to attracting young people into agriculture – and especially vegetable and fruit growing, and husbandry, the production of good quality Bulgarian foods, their distribution through short supply chains and consumer groups and organizations, and their processing, adding value and increasing the export potential, the revitalization of the Bulgarian village – the way I saw vital villages in Germany and France for example, are the greater challenge that personally I would like to contribute to".

4.3. Expanding Multifunctionality
Vikram Bhatt, Director Minimum Cost Housing Group
McGill University, Montreal, Canada

Twenty years ago the academia had no interest in urban agriculture. Nowadays there are thousands of references about it. But we need to remember where it all came from: from very diverse sources, to say the least. What I hope for today, for my presentation, is to very quickly track my own experiences, having worked in these poor communities, in very poor countries – I was certainly informed by them. To contextualize urban agriculture for our academic setting, multifunctionality was a good place to start.

Externality, multi-functionality, diversification

- Productive systems transform social or physical environments
- Impact often beyond limits of the productive system
- Multi-functionality's job is (should be) to build positive externalities
- Broader dialogue it
- Hopes to arrive at a natural balance
- The original scientific dialogue focused on and worked around natural systems
- Expanded neo-liberal economic discussion and food dialogue doubted multi-functionality (European vs North-American)
- User producer tries to internalize on his or her own terms
- Societally we should expand this dialogue to strengthen this important activity



Il de France Some Numbers

- It occupies (covers) 2% of national land
- But more than 20% population of the country lives here
- 45% land is occupied by agriculture
- No of units operating: 3296 in 2000 (5298 in 1988 and 6589 in 1979)
- 253,000 Ha under cereal cultivation 67% of under cultivation
- # 1 in production of watercress
- # 2 in production of gladiolas, tulips and lilies of the valley
- # 3 in production of salad greens and roses
- # 13 in production of soft kernelled wheat
- A series of terroir AOC products

Comparative agricultural inputs:

Cuba, Latin-America and north-America[1]

Available Resources	Cuba	Latin-America	North-America
Fertilizers (NPK kg/ ha)	151	56	90
Machinery (# of tractors / 100 ha grown	2,3	1,0	2,4
Irrigation (irrigated area / cultivated area)$_2$	22%	10%	8%

Sugar exports from Cuba, 1989-1993

Year	Sale (Mt)	Income (M$)	Average price / ton ($)
1989	7119	3920	551
1990	7169	4314	602
1991	6732	2260	336
1992	6081	1220	201
1993	3662	753	205

Main agricultural imports and their contribution to total national food requirements in Cuba, by the late 1980s (%)[2]

Crop	%
Wheat	100
Beans	99
Livestock concentrates	97
Oil and lard	94
Cereals	79
Rice	50
Fish	44
Milk and derivatives	38
Poultry	33

CUBAN FOOD CRISIS
DURING THE SPECIAL PERIOD

CALORIC AND PROTEIN INTAKE DECLINED DRAMATICALLY IN 1990'S

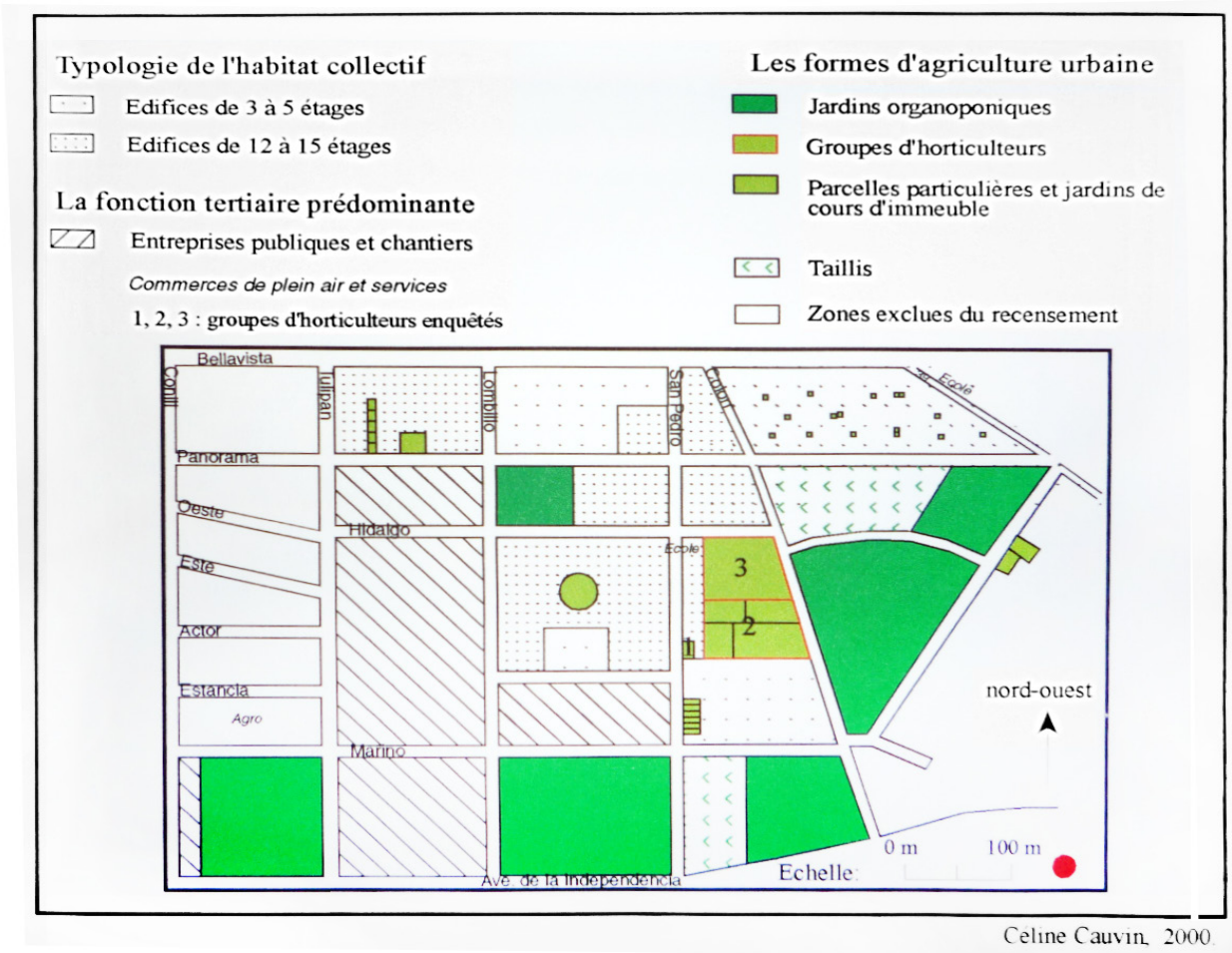
YEAR	CALORIES	PROTEIN
1985	2929	70+g
1990	2728	
1993	1863	46g protein
2000	2400	65g

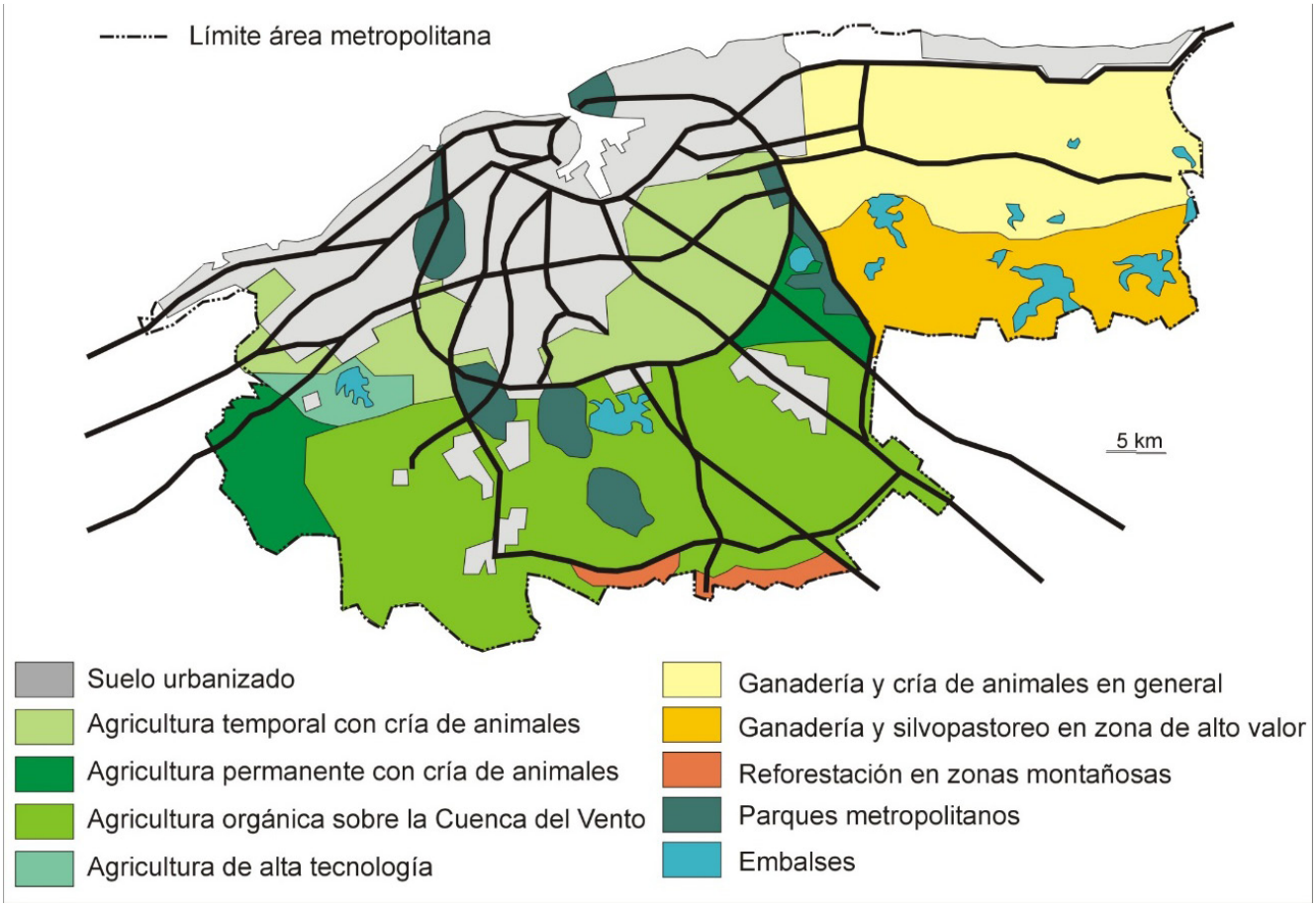
Half the intake in year 2000 came from UA

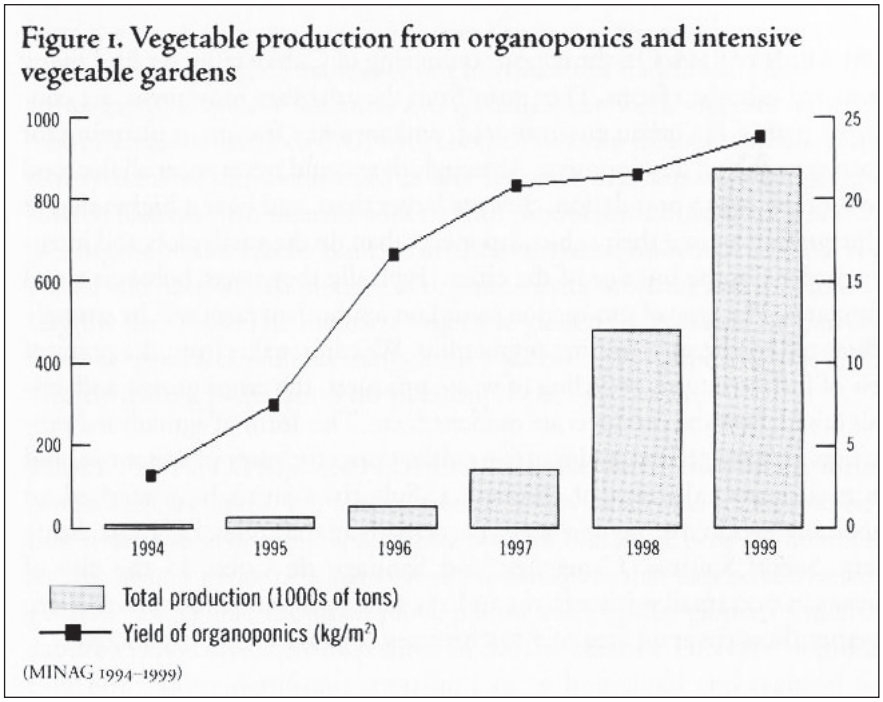
After Cruz 2001, Lage 2000, Pozo 2007

[1] These numbers are based on a presentation given by Maria Caridad Cruz to students at McGill School of Architecture, Montreal in September 2007

[2] Julia Wright (2009) referring to Rosset and Benjamin (1994) and Funes (1997) in Sustainable *Agriculture and Food Security in an Era of Oil Scarcity: Lessons from Cuba*, Earthscan, London


Typologie de l'habitat collectif
Edifices de 3 à 5 étages
Edifices de 12 à 15 étages
La fonction tertiaire prédominante
Entreprises publiques et chantiers
Commerces de plein air et services
1, 2, 3 : groupes d'horticulteurs enquêtés
Les formes d'agriculture urbaine
Jardins organoponiques
Groupes d'horticulteurs
Parcelles particulières et jardins de cours d'immeuble
Taillis
Zones exclues du recensement
Bellavista
Tulipan
Lombillo
San Pedro
Panorama
Oeste
Este
Actor
Estancia
Agro
Hidalgo
Marino
Ecole
nord-ouest
0 m
100 m
Echelle
Celine Cauvin, 2000


Límite área metropolitana
5 km
Suelo urbanizado
Agricultura temporal con cría de animales
Agricultura permanente con cría de animales
Agricultura orgánica sobre la Cuenca del Vento
Agricultura de alta tecnología
Ganadería y cría de animales en general
Ganadería y silvopastoreo en zona de alto valor
Reforestación en zonas montañosas
Parques metropolitanos
Embalses



Annual production of vegetables in Havana

Year	Thousands of metric tons
1997	20.7
1998	49.9
1999	62.6
2000	120.1
2001	132.2
2002	188.6
2003	253.8
2004	264.9
2005	272.0 (equals 340 grams/day/cap)

http://www.monthlyreview.org/090119koont.php

Rhode Island Some Farming Numbers

- Since 1940 the state lost 80% of its active farmland
- 3/4 of the lands remaining not protected
- Very expensive to be a farmer in RI
- Farmland most expensive per acre in the nation
- 1 in 4 farmers older than 65
- Many nurseries and limited agriculture before 2008
- Economic meltdown and growing food awareness since the crisis
- Concerted resurgence of UA
- CSA
- Markets, buy local, farm to fork

Local Awareness: Who buys local?

- Restaurants
  - Over 400 farms provide for restaurants
- Groceries
  - 41 distributors through RI and MA
- Schools
  - Over 122 different farms provide for schools
  - 28 schools involved
- Caterers
- Food Pantries
  - Feeds over 1,500 families
- Inns / Hotels
  - 49 Inns and hotels
- Personal Chefs
- Individuals

Variety of Opportunities (Mt. Hope Farm, Rhode Island):

- Farmers Market Expanded
- Bed and Breakfast Expanded
- Petting Zoo
- Harvest and Seasonal Fairs
- Start-up Gardens/Allotments
- Veggie Box
- Pick Your Own
- Community Garden- students and general public
- Mobility by Design

Timeline

Phase 1: Presenting and Discuss proposals with community, gather feedback.

Phase 2: Mobility by Design Greenhouse
Step by step process of approach
Resource Management

Phase 3: Community Gardens
Volunteer program and recruitment

Phase 4: Start up gardens/ individual allotments

Phase 5: Showcase garden to attract more from community

Phase 6: Workshops

- Showcase Garden for Heirloom seeds and produce
- Workshops- soil testings, cooking, composting, organic growing
- Apiary- honey bees

Mobility By Design

Proposal to community:

Presentation of ideas, concepts, and proposed users for the agricultural containers to the community allowing information to be passed to and from organizers and citizens.

Greenhouse Use:

Partnering with Mt. Hope Farm to create a sustainable, efficient, and mobile system of growing to help spread the benefits of fresh produce. This effectively increases the availability to organic produce, helps reduce the obesity rate and allows a broader choice in healthy foods.

Resource Management:

Not only will supplies be needed but the labor involved will be facilitated by volunteers, students, and caretakers. With organic produce comes organic waste, which can be used to fuel the planting process.

Mobility Gardens:

Applying the lessons learned by speaking with professionals, community members, and university leaders the mobility gardens will be created, cared for, and distributed to the community.

Community Gardens:

Applying the lessons learned from the mobility gardens and successful urban agriculture expansion of allotments will be set aside as a community endeavor.

Workshops:

Partnering with local professional farmers and growers workshops can be held to educate the community and help to provide insight on successful ways to grow produce. Possible help workshops can help to trouble shoot plant illness and problems in the growing process for the mobile garden users.

The Montreal Context

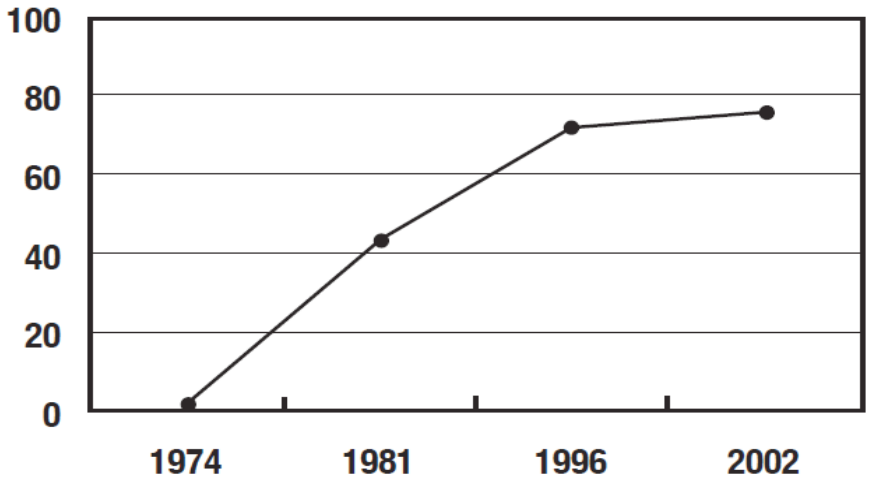
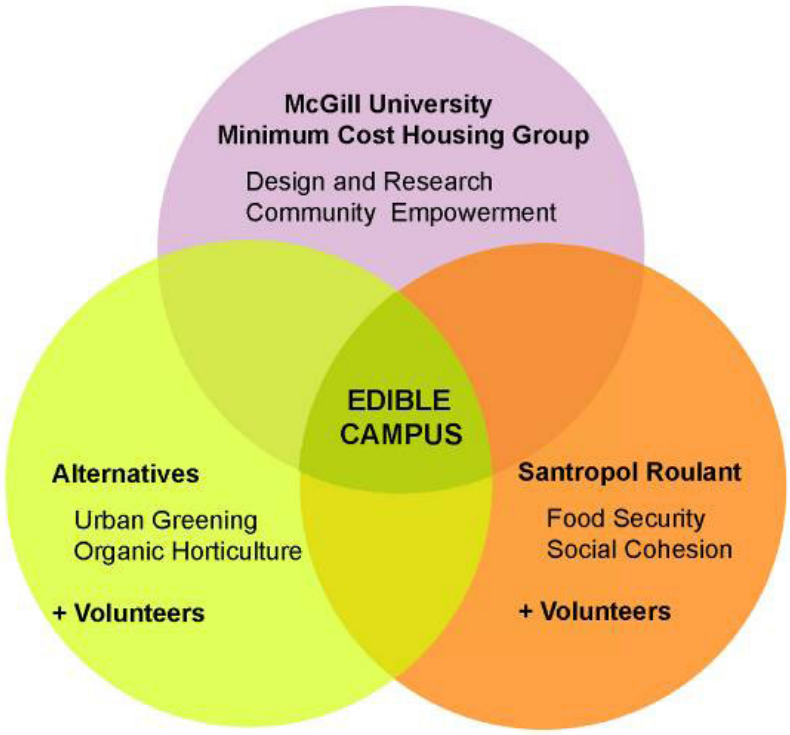
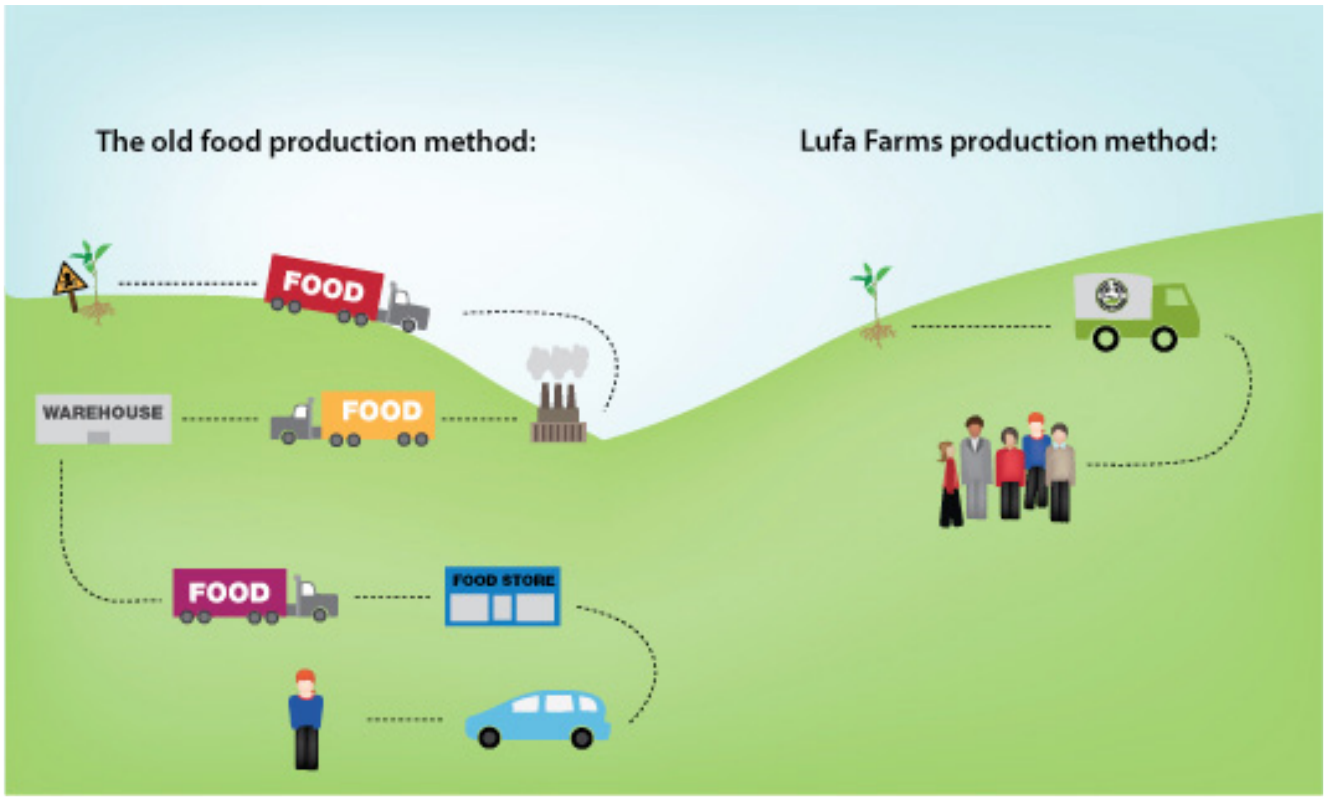


Chart 3.7.1. The total amount of Community Gardens in Montreal
Source: Project Team, 2002.



Headwinds

Commercial and large scale industrial producers
Considering the city multi-functionally
Food as a straight value chain driven product but not as a way of life linking with both producers and consumers



Lufa Farm: First ever commercial rooftop UA Operation, 32,000 sq ft (3,000 mt sq) greenhouse of an existing industrial estate office building

Future Projects are planned. Larger surface areas of 4K (already built and operating) to 60K or plus are sought

5. Local stakeholders'presentations

5.1. Farmers' Markets – The Intersection Between Agriculture and Sustainable Development

"Sustainable Society" Association, Ralitsa Kassimova, Nikolay Genov

The Farmers' markets have been established in four cities in Bulgaria (Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna and Burgas) over the past two years and they have been gaining popularity among a broad section of customers, but one that mainly consists of young couples with children, professionals and people who have come back to the country after having lived abroad. The main goal of the farmers' markets is to re-connect the urbanites with clean, healthy food, to re-build trust in the farmers and create a social space around ethical food culture. The markets are held once a week in different locations in the four cities, and become a social event for the farmers and the visitors.

Focus is given to organic and local products, as well as traditional recipes and various festivals and workshops are regularly held at the markets.

The markets are organized by Sustainable Society Foundation, in cooperation with the local municipalities. The farmers pay a percent of their revenue to the organizers, in return for infrastructure, advertising and administrating the operations of the markets.

One of the goals of the markets is to support the small and family operations across the country, which share a number of problems:

- More than 350 000 small farms (> 1 ha) but rapidly decreasing
- Strong tendency for land acquisition and consolidation
- Supermarket chains have aggressive policies towards producers
- Rigid and inadequate requirements towards small producers and artisanal foods
- Zero investments in short supply chains (substantial part of CAP 2020)
- Low level of confidence in the regulatory institutions, leading to lack of confidence in small producers quality and sustainability

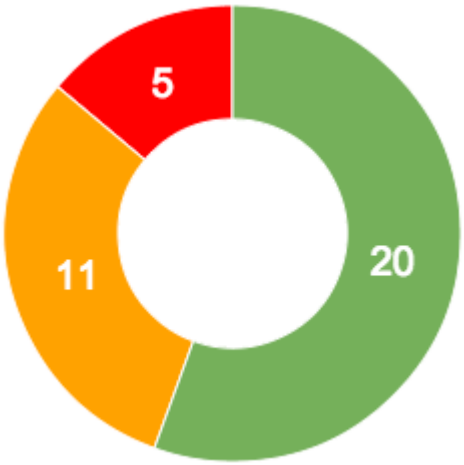
Here are some specific details of the farmers and customers visiting the markets in the different cities they are held:

PRODUCERS

- Sofia – 20-30 per week
- Plovdiv – 10-15 per week
- Varna – 20-30 per week
- Burgas – 10-15 per week
- more than 50 producers attending the Sofia markets throughout the year
- Total in Bulgaria – 120+ producers supported by our farmers markets in 2014

CUSTOMERS

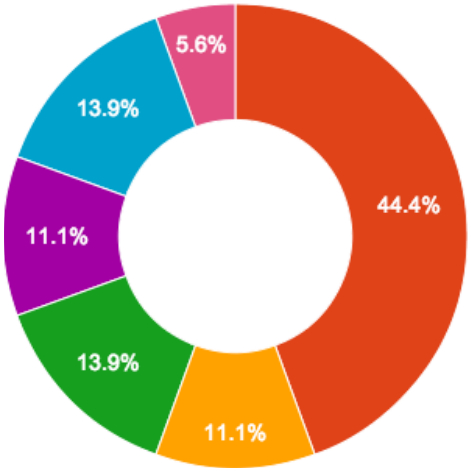
- Sofia – 1000-3000 per week
- Plovdiv – 200-500 per week
- Varna – 1000-3000 per week
- Burgas – 200-300 per week



Certified organic farms

Registered producers and farmers

Others – ready-made food, organic fertilizers, processed food



Fruits and vegetables

Bread and bakery

Honey and bee products

Wine

Ready-made food

Dairy and meat products

What we do?

- Work with the authorities to expand the legal and regulatory framework
- Involve other NGOs in multiple activities of mutual interests
- Build a community (ensure that producers are directly involved in the process through monthly meetings on the markets)
- Build a network to connect farmers, businesses, and clients
- Organize social and cultural events on different topics, giving small producers more visibility and presence and raising general public awareness of sustainable living
- Our farmers markets and events are also a natural crossing point for various related domains – urban farming, ecology, culture, education

What do farmers markets provide?

- Fresh local food offered directly by its producers
- Healthy food practices exchange
- Personal involvement in taking care of nature
- Preserving of traditional recipes and artisanal foods
- Internal community connections (social capital)
- Meeting point of people who think alike

5.2. Urban Agriculture in Sofia: why not?
Nikola Bonchev, "Behind the Block Garden"

Behind the Block Garden, or also known as Urban Farming Sofia,

We begain in 2012 with a really small garden. It was just a garden to test the local community – how they will react and take part in the activities. The younger people around their twenties were the most active ones, and the lefties and anarchists. We were active in the season – up to October.

The next year the Municipality came and drew us out of the garden – in order to build a children's playground. So two days later we were in another place between the residential blocks.

Later we started growing microgardens in the centre of Sofia to show people you can grow tomatoes everywhere. The first microgarden was in front of the Ministry of Agriculture and people really took good care of the plants.

Later on we decided to look for a larger site and we approached the municipality for permission to use a barren plot of land in a local park but we never received an approval.

And now we have been given the green light to develop vegetable beds in the outskirts of the city – we now have a lot of space, but we have too little manpower.

We are a very open group, we do not have a boss, we finance everything ourselves, everything is bottom-up, we do not use grants and we do not want to, as we do not to have any top-down pressure. We are doing our best to turn these 0,2 ha into heaven on earth.

5.3. Urban Agriculture Opportunities in Green Spaces Between Residential Blocks
Arch. Delcho Delchev, "Transformatori" Association

We are dealing with public space problems and we are also very engaged and challeneged by the heritage from the communist era. I am going to talk again about Drujba residential area and how we could use the potential of the spaces between the blocks.

People are doing their guerilla gardening but how can we multiply this, how can we use the energy from these initiatives to make the people sensitive to the urban environment, as all this land is not a property of the people. So how can we use UA as a game, as a resource to deal with neglected spaces.

I have been working on this issue for a few years and I found this is a good reason to engage people with gardening.

The areas that the panel blocks provide are of two types – the spaces between the blocks and the roofs as well, but structurally the roofs are not sound to carry the weight of the soil and water needed to produce food.

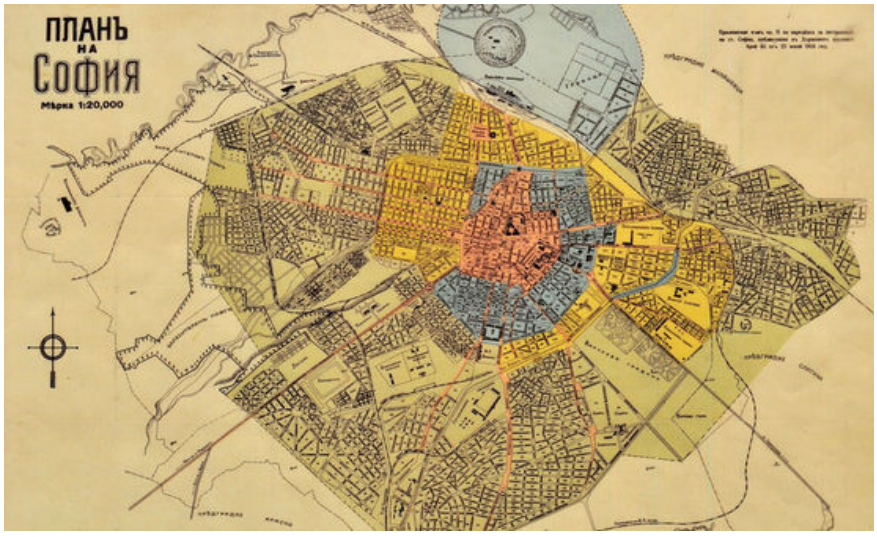
What are some of the challenges in front of such initiatives:

– Infrastructure and facilities and particularly the water supply
– Security – surveillance and protection of the tools and produce
– Social organization

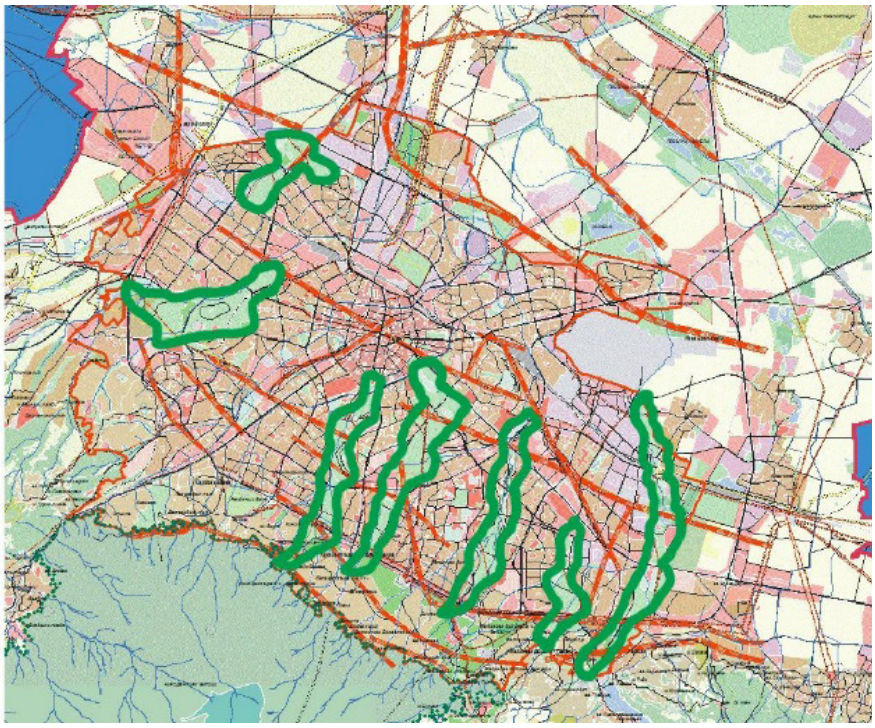
Some existing policies that can incorporate UA within their frame to support their goals, are for example a massive national programme to renovate the old panel blocks, as well as the programme "Green Sofia", which currently funds only the planting of flowers. Such programmes, together with engineers, architects and agronomists, could develop systems for grey water collection, composting etc.

5.4. Farming Sofia: The Potential of the Barren Lands in so Called "Green Wedges"
Arch. Dimitar Paskalev, Architectonika Studio

In 1938 the growth of Sofia was so fast that it was becoming chaotic. This is when the authorities invited the German architect Adolf Musman to create an urban plan of the city, and this became the basis of the urban structure of the city today. In this original plan there was a special intention for extensive green areas – gardens and parks.



Today we have a structure of the city which have protected areas from the City Master Plan – the so called Green Wedges. Their idea is to transfer the air and water from the mountain into the core of the city. Coming from the original Musman plan, these wedges have been accepted widely by the architects from every generation. These lands have been preserved and we have them free of buildings today. In fact, too much of these lands are free and these lands are mostly private, but with subscription from the Master Plan to be future plans. For the last 8 years, only one small park has been planned by the Municipality but it has still not been built-up, so we definitely do not believe the Municipality will drive the development of these parks.



There are a lot of small rivers passing through these lands. Some of them are very nice, others are very polluted.

The other types of free lands are the ones between the residential blocks, which are also not kept well, and around actual parks as well, which are not being maintained well.

Altogether, more than 1000 ha of barren lands are at the disposal of Sofia Municipality.

300m2 vegetable garden is enough space for family vegetable needs!

5.5. Two Discources on Urban Agriculture and Food Sovereignty (On the need of a critical interpetation of urban agriculture in Bulgaria)

Georgi Medarov, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridsky"

In this paper I propose a framework within which it is possible to understand the transformation of urban agricultural practices, as well as the way they are narrativized in the public sphere. It is still a research in progress and it should be treated as a series of methodological and theoretical hypotheses.

Firstly, I would like to make some conceptual clarifications and explicate several of my assumptions:

I am treating urban agriculture as a strategy of achieving food sovereignty. Food sovereignty is the concept popularized by the international small-peasant movement *Via Campesina* in 1996. Food sovereignty is part of their critique of the transnationalization of food and agricultural markets, that came to be most explicit with the creation of WTO out of GATT and the integration of agricultural liberalization in the international trade negotiations. *Via Campesina* wanted to articulate a distinctly progressive critique. In their discourse, "sovereignty" is not *national* sovereignty, but *people's* sovereignty. Even an authoritarian nationalist regime may provide food security for its population, by say restricting international trade or by pushing food prices down by giving subsidies to big agribusinesses, without the democratic participation of local communities. Food security alone does not tell us anything about the social and environmental effects of production and consumption of food. By calling for food sovereignty, on the other hand, *Via Campesina* calls for the democratization of food systems.

Urban agriculture could be compatible with such an understanding of food sovereignty. Especially if by urban agriculture we refer to the various kinds of new food cooperatives and CSA-like (community supported agriculture) practices, or to very small-scale urban-based forms of agricultural and food production, oriented towards nutritional and social *use values*, and not towards profitability.

Urban agriculture, along with food activism, has often been seen as part of social and political movements. But if our perspective remains strictly limited to practices that seek representation in the public sphere, we would omit those that are not activist-oriented and are not represented publicly. Similar is the case with progressive food movements, both oriented towards small agricultural producers (e.g. food sovereignty), as well as consumer-oriented discourses (e.g. "slow food movement"). In all cases, researchers, politicians and activists, tend to focus on urban agricultural practices that have produced *publicly* visible *political* narratives.

Such a narrow scope may hinder the peculiar historicities and practices of urban agriculture in Eastern Europe. In other words, it will preclude any analysis of potentially widespread social practices and thus may prove intellectually flawed. Additionally, if activists and researchers are unable to grasp all those agricultural practices in cities, they will represent urban agriculture as something foreign to Bulgaria, something that needs to be imported from western (and presumably more "advanced") contexts.

In Eastern Europe this is spectacularly restricting. As Oane Visser et al.[3] have recently argued, based on a study in Russia, in post-socialist states food sovereignty "practically thrives without any organizations that could formulate outspoken discourses or coordinate actions". They propose paying "more attention to" "practices", "everyday resistance" and "muted discourses", "in contrast to the existing focus on outspoken discourses ... as public speeches and declarations...". They argue in Russia there are mainstream bottom-up forms of food and agricultural production, both rural and urban ("*dacha* cultivators"), that could be dubbed "quiet food sovereignty", as it is achieved on the level of everyday practice and is not represented within the public sphere. Oane Visser (et al. 2015) assert "quiet food sovereignty" is "underplayed in scientific, activist and policy debates", despite its high productivity (in terms of output-input ratios). This is partly due to the fact that within vernacular discourses, "quiet food sovereignty" is self-represented in terms of "necessity", coping with crises, and so forth, and not in terms of "efficiency".

In Bulgaria we could observe a similar phenomenon, which, unfortunately, remains vastly understudied and is not present in policy debates. Small scale agricultural production has often been presented as inefficient and all mainstream political parties have argued for land consolidation.

In mainstream lifestyle magazines and websites we can read how urban agriculture is "the art of real food", "urban" is the "new organic", and examples from Florida to Berlin abound. In other words, it tends to be seen as a trendy western cultural practice, well fit for the "new Bulgarian middle class". Its rationality is not necessity, but rather "recreation, health, and ecological values".

As I've argued, such ahistorical ideological straitjacket obscures the richness of agricultural and food production in Bulgaria. Before the communists took over after 1944 and embarked on a rapid industrialization, Bulgaria had been a largely agricultural country with about 3⁄4 of the population engaged in self-subsisting agriculture with little or no access to both food and labour markets. The socialist modernization project, not unlike the early liberal one, imagined the construction of a well-ordered industrial cities, devoid of any rural presence.

Perhaps the most radical example of socialist modernization and urbanization is the construction of the so-called "socialist" model city – Dimitrovgrad, that aimed to emulate the Soviet Magnitogorsk. Dimitrovgrad was to embody the will to build entirely novel industrial future from scratch and to mark the radical rupture with the Bulgarian rural past. It was constructed in the place of several small villages, along with a number of heavy industrial plants. The city was populated by peasants, displaced by the forced collectivization of agricultural land that took place in early socialism. The ex-peasants, and now new industrial workers, however, did not suddenly erase their agricultural habits, but instead adapted them to the new conditions. In the 1950s, the newly built city parks were reclaimed for animal husbandry, farming and so on. As the historian Ulf Brunnbauer shows, the Communist party officials felt the appropriation of urban land for agriculture endangered and symbolically

[3] Visser, Oane, Mamonova, Natalia, Spoor, Max , Nikul, Alexander. 2015. 'Quiet Food Sovereignty' as Food Sovereignty without a Movement? Insights from Post-socialist Russia. in Globalizations Vol. 12, Iss. 4

contaminated the socialist modernization project.[4] Later on, nevertheless, the communist party was forced to adapt, find compromises and hence integrate popular appropriation of urban land. This process can be observed throughout Bulgaria, but, unfortunately, remains understudied.

More importantly, central planning led to what the influential Hungarian economist Janos Kornai has called a "shortage economy," namely the accumulation of deficits not only in terms of consumer goods, but also in means of production (materials and labour).[5] Shortages were compensated by what some sociologists in Bulgaria have called "second networks", namely informal (re)distribution networks, gift economies, favours and so on. In agricultural production specifically, the mentioned grassroots appropriation of land by the new industrial workers was integrated also in this productive capacity, and not only as a means to tame everyday resistances.[6]

Along with the large scale centralization of agricultural production, the authorities encouraged small-scale farming, and even distributed small plots of land (*lichno pomoshtno stopanstvo*) in an effort to alleviate the perennial shortages. This process was more pronounced with the 1960s destalinization, and in the 1970s the state distributed up to 0,1 ha for private farming. The large agri-industrial complexes existed in a symbiotic relationship with these leisure-time farmers and outsourced some of its responsibilities to them. The state-led cooperative farms provided the small-scale producers not only with land, but also with feed for animal husbandry, seeds, etc. Furthermore, small farmers enjoyed guaranteed markets for their produce (e.g. meat) as it was purchased by the big state producers.

Even though the socialist city was imagined as a modern industrial urban space, without presence of agricultural production, food processing and production remained widespread among the urban population. In other words, regardless the fact that Bulgaria became predominantly urbanized during Socialism, large parts of the population were able to retain and reproduce knowledges on agricultural production. The survival (and transformations) of those knowledges and practices after 1989 came to be crucial for coping with the economic crises of the 1990s that followed the collapse of socialism.

More pronounced urban-based grassroots food production is food processing, the most popular practice being food conservation, what in Bulgarian is called "zimnina". "Zimnina", roughly translates as "[for the] winter", and constitutes of domestic conservation of fruit, meat, vegetables and so on in jars. Often the items for conservation are obtained via extra-market means such as barter, illicit trade networks, informal economies or from friends and relatives. According to the National Center for the Study of the Public Opinion, 76% in 2012 of Bulgarians were involved in production of "zimnina". In Sofia the figure is lower, but it still amounts for about 40%.[7] Another similar study shows that in 2008 alone Bulgarians produced 208 million jars with homemade "zimnina".[8]

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4 Brunnbauer, Ulf. 2012 *Socialist Way of Life": Ideology, Society, Family and Politics in Bulgaria (1944-1989)*. Sofia: Elias Canetti p. 129.

5 see Verdery, Katherine. 1996. *What Was Socialism, and What Comes Next?*. Princeton: PUP.

6 see Creed, Gerald. 1997. *Domesticating Revolution: From Socialist Reform to Ambivalent Transition in a Bulgarian Village*. Penn State University Press

7 http://novinite.bg/article_print.php?id=21521

8 http://www.24chasa.bg/Article.asp?ArticleId=324048

Those practices remain not only understudied, but also ignored by policy makers. Furthermore, especially in Sofia, the ongoing gentrification, actively supported by the municipality, as the Bulgarian anthropologist Nikola Venkov has demonstrated in his work on the gentrification of Zhenski Pazar, is effectively limiting the space for illicit trade networks where some of the surpluses of small-scale production is marketed by marginal producers. (Here I include not only say milk and vegetables, but also the illicit selling of collected herbs, nettle, mushrooms).

The exclusion of what could be perceived as rural presence in the urban space, however, is not informed by ideologies that are identical with those of early socialist modernization. Today, in the current post-fordist conjuncture, the dominant discourse on urban development revolves around the so-called "entrepreneurial city". Cities are imagined not as huge industrial centers, but as hubs of "innovative" industries and services, open for bottom-up experimentation by the so-called "creative" class. Urban agriculture, as well as food activism, are not antithetical to the post-fordist urban restructuring, as long as they remain in gentrified forms and oriented not towards necessity, but towards recreation, tourism, health and lifestyle.

I am not trying to present a kind of a conflict between conscious middle-class professionalized and proactive consumers, who care about their health, on the one hand, and popular need-driven production of food. Even if urban agriculture and food-activist movements represented in the public sphere originated as a middle-class practice, this does not mean they cannot extend to encompass wider parts of society. Social and political groups do not exist prior to their naming. Performative construction classes (say "urban young middle-class") may be efficient solely if there are specific social conditions to allow people to identify with a given classification. But identities and solidarities can be reconstructed in inclusive ways.

Activism may restrict itself by imagining it is importing radically novel practices by relying on potentially exclusive categories such as "youth", "western", "middle class", "alternative", "conscious", "environmentalist", etc. In other words, progressive food and urban agricultural activism has a lot to gain by turning towards popular everyday practices of agriculture and grassroots food production in urban settings that are not represented in the public sphere. And critical research could play a key role in such potential reorientation.

6. Plenary Sessions and Working Group Proceedings

6.1. Plenary Session Presentations of Book Contribution Drafts

Preface
UAE – agriculture interacting with the urban sphere
Phenomenon

1.0 Intro

1.1 Can Agriculture be urban?	Marian Simon Rojo
1.2 From Urban Food Gardening to Urban Farming	Marian Simon Rojo
1.3 UA in a global perspective	Frank Lohrberg

People
Mary P.Corcoran

2.0 Intro	Mary P. Corcoran
2.1 The makers of Urban Agriculture -A continuum model	Giulia Giacche
2.2 Developing adaptive governance mechanisms of urban agriculture	Charlotte Prove
2.3 The role of food – tool or target – from food production to food sovereignty	Joelle Salomon Calvin

Business
3.0 Intro
Wolf Lorleberg

3.1 Urban agriculture – Is it a (serious) business?	Bernd Pölling

3.2 Creating the added value – Macroeconomic effects of UA — Jan-Willem van der Schans, Wolf Lorleberg

3.3 I am not an urban farmer. Am I? — Sonia Callau Berengue

Space

4.0 Intro — Luis Maldonado, Lilli Licka

4.1 Space matters – Design challenges — Sylvie Paradis

4.2 Urban Agriculture goes Green Infrastructure — Axel Timpe

4.3 Spatial characters of historical features in Urban Agriculture — Paola Branduini

Flows

5.0 Intro — Chiara Tornaghi & Luke Beesley

5.1 Thank you Mr. Bidaux – From small to the large

5.2 Circulation– From Waste to Value – Healthy or risky? — Luke Beesley

5.3 Health. Justice. Territorialisation — Michiel Dehaene

Agenda

6.0 Intro — Frank Lohrberg

6.1 Urban Agriculture in a European perspective – The UAE map — Frank Lohrberg

6.2 The CAP reform as a chance for Urban Agriculture — Sonia Callau Berenguer

6.3 Urban Agriculture goes Brussels – UA as a tool for the Europe 2020 strategy — Dona Pickard

6.4 Case studies suggestions for European and local policies — Lionella Scazzosi

<u>Case Studies</u>

Introduction	Lionella Scazzosi
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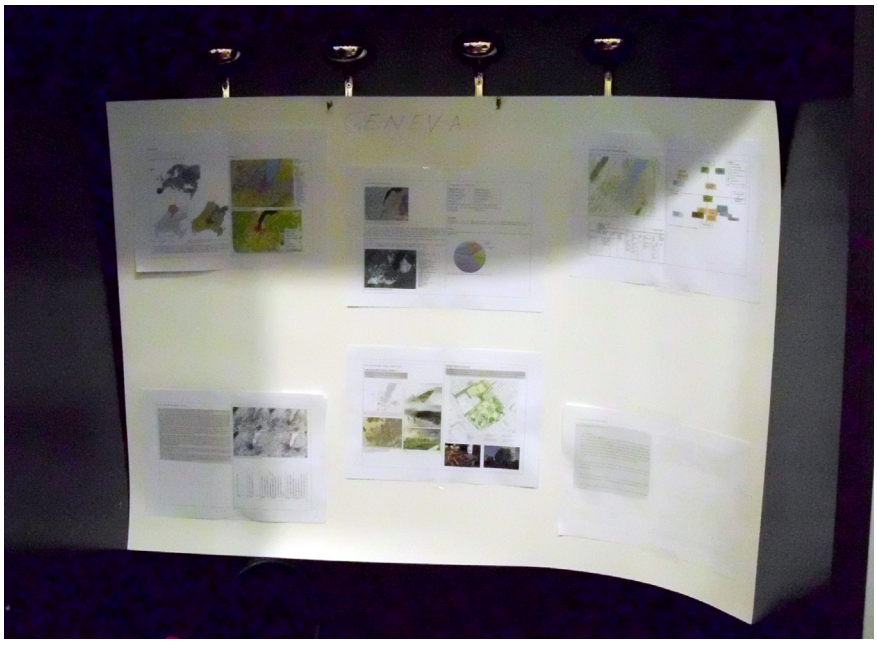
Geneve	Cyril Mumenthaler and Joelle Salomon
Milan	Raffaella Laviscio and Lionella Scazzosi, Paola Branduini
Ruhr	Axel Timple, B. Polling, D. Kemper
Warsaw	Agata and Barbara
Sofia	(under construction)

Case Studies Description Categories

- Location in Europe
- The area and his geographical characters
- Types of UA and map
- History of the UA phenomenon
- Governance
- Entrepreneurial models and economy
- Space/landscape: design experiences
- Environment, food
- Conclusions

6.2. Case Study Gallery



6.3. Working Group Presentations

As Sofia meeting was more geared towards common work on the Action deliverables, and the Working groups interacted throughout the meeting, the outcomes cannot be contributed to only one group.

Glossary

Glossary (alphabetical list with meanings of the words or phrases in a text that are difficult to understand)

In blue those terms with low interest because a)they are not widely used in the book b) they are already explained in the chapter about typologies.

Agricultural Park: Periurban agricultural space, managed for the objective of preserving its inherent agricultural function, and for promoting the economic and territorial development of the agricultural operations while simultaneously conserving and disseminating the ecological and cultural values associated with it.

Agricultural Protected Area: An Agricultural Protection Area is a geographic area that is granted specific legal protections emanating from the agricultural activity that takes place in it. The values which inspire this protection varies between contexts: landscape, soil fertility, commercial production, strategic food security... This protection is usually set in spatial and/or strategic plans and restricts the urban expansion and changes in land use.

Allotment Garden: Agricultural area subdivided in small plots that are rented under a tenancy agreement, usually to members of an organized group. In many of these cases administration is undertaken by an allotment gardens association. Usually located in urban areas

Alternative food networks: Structures that reconfigure the systems of production, distribution and consumption of food. This reconfiguration is commonly defined by attributes such as spatial proximity between farmers and consumers, and a commitment to sustainable local food production and consumption.

Barter and gifting: In non-monetary economies, bartering used to serve as a system of exchange of goods and services without using money as a medium. Currently, in case of urban gardening, bartering or even gifting is continuing practise among gardeners, especially friends and within extended family networks. It is a way to distribute and allocate (surplus) production, to support friends and relatives or to donate others who need it.

Common Agrarian Policy – CAP: is the Agricultural Policy in the EU, set by the European Commission since 1962 as an attempt to ensure food security in the region. It maintains a food systems based on agrarian subsidies.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA): It is a community of people linked to a farm that provides their source of vegetables and fruits. Farmer belongs to the same community and plays a professional role in the farm, however rest of the community gets involved in the development of the CSA.

A community of consumers is linked to a farm that provides the community with the produces of the farm. Principles of this partnership are risk sharing between consumers and producers and commitment for a certain time.

Conventional Agriculture: farm management that uses agronomic criteria to maximize food production to lower cost in food safe conditions.

Direct marketing: Selling of local food from a farm on the market in the closest urban area or at the farm.

Educational Garden: Education purpose plays an important role among other functions of gardening. Educational gardens are usually part of institutions like schools, universities, environmental centres or farms. These institutions focus on learning through the practise and experience with gardening and farming related activities. They also teach about connections of food production, processing and consumption and their environmental impact. They also stress promotion of environmentally friendly ways of gardening, organic farming and environmental management.

Emergy analysis: Emergy is defined as the available energy consumed in direct and indirect transformations to manufacture a product or provide a service. It is based on solar energy, which is considered to be the only and fundamental source of the ecosystem. All the other kinds of materials and energies can be calculated and converted to solar emergy by different transformities, and measured in the unit of solar emjoules (seJ). Emergy analysis provides a uniform standard to unify materials and energies in different forms and scales.

Energy flow accounting: Energy flow accounting provides a method to account for the energetic metabolism of a system. It is based on energy conservation and compatible with the material flow analysis. It assesses the energy consumption and conversion efficiency of the system by tracing the flows of primary energy supply, energy conversion and consumption. The unit of energy when conducting energy flow accounting is joule.

Family Gardens: Family gardens in urban settings are non-commercial agricultural undertakings that aim to provide the respective household and their families and/or friends with certain amount of vegetables, fruit or herbs. Typically, they are not subject to any policy agenda. The amount of produce, urban location and motivation behind keeping family gardens differ widely across geographic regions, cultures, economic environment and housing typologies.

Food cooperative: Network or association of consumers who decide to support one or more local farmers and/or food processors.

Food councils/Food policies

Food and Nutrition Security: It is the state when food systems can "ensure all people, at all times, to have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life." (FAO, Report of the World Food Summit, 1996)

In addition, nutrition security promotes dietary diversity and stress the need to consume nutritionally rich foods to avoid malnutrition and nutritional deficiencies and consequent health problems of urban inhabitants.

Food self-provisioning: The ability of gardeners to grow and store their own food, especially fruits and vegetables. It is perceived as an informal way of food production and sharing part of production or its surpluses with family and friends, or selling surpluses. It increases food self-reliance and contribute to overall resilience of individuals or families.

Food systems: All the activities of production, processing, distribution, exchange, preparation, consumption and other related activities dealing with the key term „food". They deal with availability of food from production and distribution side and food access, meant as affordability of food for people.

Food Sovereignty: The right of people to healthy and culturally appropriate food, produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agricultural systems. (Declaration 2002)

Heritage: A complex concept that involves tangible and intangible components, historical and contemporary values. It consists of a Tangible Heritage: *the material elements of agricultural landscape, the historical value and its permanence in the time;* an Intangible Heritage: t*he interpretation and the significance attributed by people, the techniques and skills, the features dictated by economic and behavioural factors;*a Sensory perception: *the aspects readable by the human senses: visual perception, sound perception, olfactory perception, taste, touch.*

Hydroponic Agriculture: Technique that allows to cultivate plants in aqueous media. This aqueous media is a solution of inorganic ions, in concentrations which allow the plant to absorb water and nutrients.

In commercial nurseries would be necessary the use of inert substrates in order to facilitate the plant development and aeration of aqueous media. Perlite, wool rock, peats, tuffs, coconut fiber and mixtures are used as substrates.

Landraces: Crops which have usually a local name, lack crop improvements, are characterized by specific adaptation to local conditions and are associated with uses, knowledge, habits dialects and celebrations of the people that grown them. (European Landrace Conservation Strategy) In some definitions, animal breeds are included (sheeps, goats, pigs, poultry, cows and oxen, horses, ...)

Local Food hub: local clustered platform to manage the aggregation, storage, processing distribution or marketing of locally produced food.

Local Food System: chain of activities beginning with the production of locally grown food moving on to include the processing, distributing, selling and consumption of food within a geographical area of not more than 200 km radius.

Material flow analysis: Material flow analysis is to analyze materials' flows and usage in a well-defined system. It is based on mass conservation and assesses the characteristics and efficiency of the metabolism system by quantifying the input, output, storage and consumption of materials. The unit of material mass used when conducting the material flow analysis is usually ton.

Multifunctional Agriculture: Agriculture has the capability to produce goods (food, fiber and raw materials) and non-market goods (landscape, cultural heritage, environmental functions and social functions) at the same time**.**

Organic agriculture: an overall system of farm management and food production that combines best environmental practices, a high level of biodiver, the preservation of natural resources, the application of high animal welfare standards and a production method in line with the preference of certain consumers for products produced using natural substances and processes (Council Regulation EC No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic productions and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation EEC No 2092/ 91).

Rural Develop Programmes – RDP: These are the measures related to rural development within the CAP. They are known as the second pillar, dealing with enhancing new opportunities in rural areas, preserving biodiversity, enhancing ecosystems and so on.

Short supply chain: reduced number of intermediaries in the food chain (even zero), bringing the consumer closer to the farmer and enhancing interaction between them

Social Farms

Subsistence agriculture: is generally perceived as the way of traditional, self-sufficiency farming, when farmers grow mostly grain, vegetables, fruits and keep animals. The main purpose of farming is to satisfy family needs, to ensure livelihood and trade surpluses, if they are produced.

Therapeutic gardens: Therapeutic garden is specific kind of garden, which is used as a medium in the healing and remediation process. These gardens have been established by hospitals, sanatoriums, retirement homes, schools or prisons. People with specific health, psychological or mental problems, seniors, socially excluded people or just people who need some relaxation and relief may go to garden and relax. They can be also engaged in therapeutic gardening process under the guidance of garden therapists. Garden therapists are professionals who connect the abilities of gardeners, psychologists and occupational therapists and set up various programs for people in garden environment.

7. Case Study Visits

Sofina Organic farm

Sofina is a certified organic peri-urban family farm that produces vegetables, fruit and nuts and delivers them directly to customers in the city of Sofia. It uses three nearby plots of land that come to 18 ha altogether.

Produce:

Plant production, especially leafy vegetables, onion and garlic, beans and legumes, potatoes and carrots, cucumbers and tomatoes, cabbage, broccoli, fruit, nuts.

Sofina Organic farm is located 27 km from the centre of the capital city of Bulgaria, Sofia. It is a family farm that started in 2009 as a 0,2 ha certified organic production plot within the urbanized boundaries of Elin Pelin town's neighbourhood Gara Elin Pelin, where the owners' parents live. Now this small plot is used as a back-up production grounds for seedlings and crops that have higher risk of failing in the open field. Organic fertiliser from red Californian worm is also produced here and there is a non-heated polythene greenhouse. The rest of the production – a wide range of vegetables, walnuts and other fruit trees and grass for hay, takes place in two plots of land of 3,5ha and 6ha in a nearby village, which we will be visiting.

Although most of the land is still in transition period of organic certification, the family has more than 15 years' experience of farming as they have rural origin and food production for self-consumption is a tradition for them. They produce only fruit and vegetables for the market, but keep pigs, chickens and rabbits for their own consumption.

Associations and marketing channels

Sofina is a member of the Organic Products Association in Bulgaria and part of networks of solidarity among farmers and producers.

The produce is sold directly to clients and delivered to their door. The practice of selling to shops was stopped as organic vegetables contain around 30% less water than conventionally produced ones, so they wither more easily at the market stalls. Orders are placed by email after the owners inform the clients what is on offer this particular week. They tried to organise clients to subscribe for the produce in the beginning of the year, but this method proved unsuccessful as people did not pay for their orders or did not collect it.

Staff

There are four people permanently working on the farm (including the family members) and 12 to 15 seasonal workers.

Other activities

Social activities are not a focus of the farm, but families and children are welcome to visit and witness the process of production during Open days.

Sofia University Botanical Gardens

This dream-place is hidden right in the city center. The botanic garden stays out of view as it is surrounded by the Foreign Art Gallery, the Journalist Faculty of Sofia University, the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and the main boulevard Vasil Levski and the entrance is trough a small flower shop.

The mission of the **University Botanical Garden** is to provide comprehensive information about the flora and work for the conservation of rare and endangered plant species. The rich collection of the garden includes about 1500 species some of which are ferns, palms, orchids, peonies, clematises, roses. The University Botanical Garden was established in 1892.

In the botanical gardens there is a apiary corner with a demonstration beehive for children.

Forestry University Educational Experimental Field

The experimental field aims to provide conditions for educational, scientific and agricultural production activities for the students of Agronomy and Veterinary medicine. The disciplines that can be practiced in the field include viticulture.

The experimental field covers 28ha of land, of which about 2 are used for perennial crops. The field is used to grow cereals, vegetables, fruit and vines and it keeps honeybees, sheep and goats. There are five polythene greenhouses for growing vegetables, that are used for educational purposes.

The larger share of the agricultural land is used for cereal growing. The orchard takes 0,5 ha and has 10 different fruit types of 58 varieties.

8. Optional Excursion

GIMEL Organic Greenhouses
village of Zvanichevo, Pazardzhik district

Gimel Company was created in 1995 and is leader in the production of organic greenhouse vegetables in Bulgaria. Anout 80% of their produce is exported, mainly to Germany, where 60% of all their vegetables are sold.

The company started producing conventional greenhouse vegetables in the mid 90-s after they bought the previously state-owned greenhouses. They managed to start selling their produce on the German market in the end of the nineties and it was their German partners that suggested Gimel turned organic in the beginning of the 2000s. It was these partners that supported Gimel during the conversion period by ensuring market for the produce and the ones who transferred the philosophy behind organic production into Gimel. From a company who was consulted by foreign organic specialists, now Gimel provide expertise in the field of organic farming.

Their greenhouses are located in different locations in Bulgaria, but the one we are viziting in the village of Zvanichevo, right outside the town of Pazardzhik is their main production centre with 50 ha of greenhouse space.

Small-scale family vegetable producers
village of Ognyanovo, Pazardzhik district

The village of Ognyanovo, which is on the outskirts of Pazardzhik is known throughout the country as one of the a vegetable production centres of Bulgaria.

What is specifically interesting about this village is that most producers are individual and smal-scale farmers, using their family gardens and properties to grow for the market. Very few of them cooperate in any way – in production, technology, marketing or sales. Each of them sells their produce on the wholesale market and the cases where they sell directly are few.

Over the past 10 years there has been a considerable decline in the number of the farmers in Ognyanovo due to the difficult market conditions.

Agroecological centre of the Plovdiv agrarian university

The Agroecological Centre is a structurl unit of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv. It was founded in 1989 with the aim of coordinating the efforts of researchers, students, farmers and consumers to carry out research and provide education for the development of organic agriculture in Bulgaria. The Agroecological Centre has been a member of the IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) since 1993. The Centre participated actively in a number of international and European sities andconsulting institutions in the area of biological agriculture and environmental protection.

Since 1994 it has been functioning as a Demonstration Centre for biological farming. The Centre has facilities to train students, teachers, farmers, and agricultural specialists in the field of organic crop production. The produce obtained at the site of the groecological Centre is certified by "Balkan Biosert" (Bioproduct certificate № 00226) and it is marketed at biological processing enterprises and via the new for Bulgaria subscription system for bio-foods.

Major priorities are:

- Training and research in organic farming and agroecology, conducted by qualified agricultural experts and scientists from the Agricultural University – Plovdiv.
- Promotion of organic and sustainable agriculture in Bulgaria in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Foods and non-governmental ecological organizations in the country and abroad.
- Consulting farmers, municipalities and entrepreneurs for implementation of technical and business plans for conversion to organic farming, for farm management and rural development.
- Access to specialized literature.
- Development of national and international projects for organic agriculture.
- Support to farmers and organizations in applying with projects in the frame of the National Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Development 2007 – 2013.

COST- the acronym for European COoperation in the field of Scientific and Technical 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.