

KINSHASA, D.R. Congo

URBAN AND PERI-URBAN HORTICULTURE (UPH)



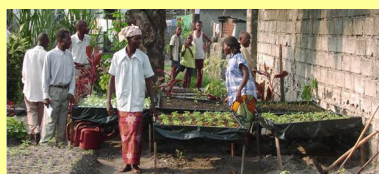
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Massive, rapid urbanization in Africa comes along with extreme poverty, lack of sanitation, and hunger. On the other hand city dwellers develop a new sense of creating jobs. Horticulture is one discipline of agriculture that offers opportunities for income generation.

The "4S" Strategy

- 1-S **Securing** access to natural resources (land and water) ;
- 2-S **Securing** the sustained quality of horticultural production ;
- 3-S **Securing** the appropriation of the development of the sector by stakeholders ;
- 4-S **Securing** access to the market

Special attention is paid to sharing and dissemination of the experiences gained in Kinshasa to the benefit other cities in DR Congo and Central Africa.



Project activities

Achievements

4500 ha identified and mapped as horticultural production areas in 5 cities covered by the project : Kinshasa , Mbanza Ngungu, Kisangani, Lubumbashi , Likasi.

500+ growers organizations identified and registered

Direct interventions (investments)

1500 ha of land secured for 45 000 direct and indirect jobs.

Construction of 36 irrigation and drainage infrastructure supporting 800 ha of land.

Facilitated micro-credit for 15,200 beneficiaries (producers and related businesses).

Construction of 12 small marketing facilities.

Technical Support and Capacity Building

Advocacy and training on Good Agriculture Practices:

- Support to 265 Farmers' Field Schools (FFS) for 4,500 producers
- "ad hoc" training materials for farmers
- Field demonstration and extension of Good Agricultural Practices in making and use of compost, making and use of bio-pesticides, testing and introduction of over 50 new plant varieties.
- Safeguarding information and know-how.

900 data sets introduced in HORTIVAR, FAO's database on the performance of horticulture cultivars worldwide (www.fao.org/hortivar)

- Applied research activities to test new technologies under local conditions (tropical greenhouse and shelter structures, low pressure drip irrigation, etc.)

25 school gardens and training of 80 teachers and 9500 students.



The FAO project GCP/DRC/028/BEL

Since 2000, FAO implements a project funded by Belgium in support of the development of UPH in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The objective of the project is to contribute to the food and nutrition security of the urban population by improving the availability and access to fresh quality horticultural products throughout the year, in order to diversify the diet while at the same time creating job and income opportunities for small scale urban and peri-urban growers.



Institutional and Policy context

UPH is integrated in the national agriculture development strategy. The Mayor of the city is chairing Municipal Horticultural Board (coordination of interventions and securing of the land use and access to water). The Mayor is assisted by a Horticulture technical team that serves the interface between authorities and farmers' organizations.



Project impact

In the context of DR Congo, 500 m² of horticulture creates up to 2 jobs (40 jobs per hectare), and generates up to 50 dollars US per month. It contributes to the food security and basic income of the urban poor. It particularly offers job and income opportunities for the women, inducing a positive impact school attendance and children's' access to food and medicines.

Kinshasa has been selected as one of the city case study, of the FAO project on "Towards a better understanding of low-income producers' organizations", implemented by FAO Food for the Cities multi-disciplinary group in ten cities around the world.

Poster composed by Wilfried Baudoin for FAO.

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50 words summary: Urban and peri-urban agriculture in the Republic of Congo has been integrated in the *national agriculture strategy*. Through FAO's technical support with financial assistance from Belgium, steps are being taken for the sustainable development of urban agriculture and its formal *integration into the urban development planning process*. This include (i) securing fertile land by solving land tenure issues, (ii) securing the availability and access to good water quality to allow for irrigation and intensified year-round production activities, (iii) securing the quality and food safety of commodities by training for the adoption of good agriculture practices and (iv) securing the market outlet and enhancing the demand.

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