



The Urban Agriculture Programme

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Introduction to Urban Agriculture and Food security.....	2
Training of Trainers Conducted for Ndola and Cape Town.....	2
MPAP Training.....	3
Situation Analysis for Cape Town and Ndola Completed.....	4
Multi-Stakeholder Forum Launch for Ndola.....	5
Abalimi Establishes Men's Garden in Cape Town.....	6
RUAF-MDP in Southern Africa Urban Food Security Project.....	7
Cities farming for the Future Programme Evaluated.....	8



Foreword

MDP-ESA's Urban Agriculture programme is aware of serious global food insecurity threats which have recently been exposed through food riots in many cities throughout the world. In response to these threats, MDP-ESA intends to broaden and intensify its urban agriculture activities aimed at enhancing urban food security throughout the Eastern and Southern Africa region.

To date, MDP-ESA has made a number of accomplishments in promoting urban food security through the Cities Farming for the Future (CFF) programme. Such accomplishments include the ongoing implementation of Pilot Projects on Urban Agriculture in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe; Cape Town, South Africa; Ndola, Zambia and most recently in Nairobi, Kenya and Maputo Mozambique.

In Bulawayo, the Pilot Project tries to improve treated water supply to farmers through lining of canals to reduce water seepage as well as to introduce new urban agriculture activities like bee-keeping and to diversify the variety of crops grown by urban farmers at the project site. In Cape Town, the focus is on enhancing urban farmers' capabilities to compete in the agriculture market as well as promote wider acceptance of organic farming. The pilot project in Ndola aims at designing a nutrition garden for the community. In Nairobi, the

project is on the use of composting for urban agriculture while in Maputo the project aims at establishing urban agriculture gardens at hospitals, schools and churches in order to benefit households affected by HIV/AIDS. Through these activities, MDP-ESA is looking forward to contribute to stabilizing food prices and enhance food security in urban areas.

The Urban Agriculture CFF Programme had a mid-term evaluation undertaken towards the end of January 2008. The evaluation mission was impressed by progress made on the project.

MDP-ESA would like to express its gratitude to the Resource Centre on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (RUAF) the Directorate-General for International Cooperation, Netherlands (DGIS) and the International Development Research Center, Canada (IDRC) who have made the Cities Farming for the Future programme a success through their technical and financial support.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Thank you

George Matovu,

Introduction to Urban Agriculture and Food security

The Urban Agriculture Programme at MDP is aware of the increasing food insecurity globally. The UN Secretary General has referred to global food crisis as a danger to socio-economic development. This food crisis usually affects the urban poor who now have to bear the high costs of procuring basic food. Their rural counterparts are covered as they can grow their own food. The urban poor usually do not have enough or no land at all to grow cheap food. The recent food riots in different countries starting in cities have re-stressed the need for the development of interventions that respond to food security in general, and urban food security in particular. Food riots and demonstrations have been experienced in Burkina Faso, Egypt, Haiti, Ivory Coast, South Africa Mexico and Yemen. Disturbances have been felt in urban areas and urban agriculture is poised to tackle some of these problems by ensuring cheap food for the urban poor.

Urban agriculture in the cities and towns of the region has been neglected over the years and has been viewed as a trivial activity in terms of its contribution to the urban economy and to the sustainable natural resources

utilization and conservation. Despite all these hostilities and unclear policies and legislations, urban agriculture has always been practiced in the backyards and open spaces within our towns. Many households as observed by Cabannes & Dubbeling have been engaging in subsistence-oriented type of agriculture. These are in the form of home gardens for home consumption, community gardens and hospital nutrition gardens for feeding undernourished adults and children.

Improving the nutritional status of people is crucial in the context of HIV/AIDS as it strengthens the immune system, can delay the progression of the disease and makes it possible for the individuals to remain productive. The challenge for the cities and towns is to support urban agriculture in order to enhance food security, maintain

good nutrition and good health through the provision of safe water and sanitation as well as other urban agriculture related challenges.

The MDP UA programme is therefore preparing itself to up scaling its reach to the region. The strategic objectives of the programme in response to this new thrust will be to:

Raise awareness on the contribution of urban agriculture to stabilizing food prices and enhancing food security

Assist municipal authorities engage their stakeholders in designing pro-poor and consultative urban agriculture policies and strategies

Develop the capacity of planning professionals in planning for the sustainable integration of urban agriculture in urban land use planning

Work with urban agriculture producer organizations

in order to develop their capacity to organize themselves so that they are better placed to tap into governmental and non-governmental resources

Develop the capacity of municipal authorities and stakeholders to design urban agriculture intervention strategies appropriately

targeted to address different sectors of society with particular emphasis on gender and other disadvantaged groups

Raise more funds in order to reach out to at least double the countries that the programme is working in at the moment

Partner organizations working in the same area so that we can share both skills and other material resources to the benefit of urban agriculture



Participants at the T.O.T Workshop in Zambia in September 2007

Training of Trainers Conducted for Ndola and Cape Town

Training of Trainers (TOT) workshops under the Cities Farming for the Future (CFF) programme were conducted in Ndola and Cape Town to

prepare participants for training others in the Multistakeholder Policy design and Action Planning process.

The TOT for Cape Town was conducted from 25 to 29 June 2007. It was conducted for the key drivers of the Cape Town Project. Stakeholders from government departments, council departments, NGOs, and other civic groups attended the ToT. Percy Toriro from MDP-RUAF and Henk de Zeeuw from ETC-RUAF head office delivered the modules. Thembe Chiromo from SNV Zimbabwe, who is one of the initial trainers in the Eastern and Southern Africa region trained in 2005 in Harare, assisted them. Also in attendance were two colleagues from Ndola in Zambia who attended as observers. They had earlier on been identified as potential key drivers in the Ndola pilot project.

It was observed earlier on in the training that insufficient groundwork had been done in raising the team's awareness on the CFF Project. The time lapse between the initial contacts had also meant that some of the people who knew about the project had either left their organizations, or had been reassigned to other portfolios. Henk and Percy then modified the ToT to also be an awareness raising and team building exercise. Whilst the team was not so happy with the new approach initially since they had come prepared to be trained, they later realized the importance of understanding the project and their roles in it. At the end, the people were clearer of their roles and were raring to go. The team from council also looked more fired up.

The training activity had the important role of bonding the team. A new team was created during the TOT. The other issue was the clarity on the MPAP process created as a result of the participation in the TOT.

The Ndola TOT was conducted from 17 to 21 September 2007 at Henry Mukulu House in Ndola. The training was attended by 11 participants who included some members of the core team who had an interest in training and others who had been identified on the basis of their previous history in training activities. These included participants from the Ministry of Agriculture who were very familiar with training adults. Dr. Jacob Mwitwa from the Copperbelt University in Kitwe also participated as he had a very keen interest in subsequent training activities. The training covered the basic concepts of UA, Risks and Benefits, UA Food Security, the MPAP Process and its various phases, Situation Analysis, UA Policies, Funding UA projects etc. The participants also did dry runs of topics they had been allocated prior to the TOT with training materials from MDP. The ToT resulted in the identification of some good trainers who would participate in subsequent MPAP training activities.

MPAPI Training

The MPAP workshops under the CFF programme were conducted in late October and early November 2007 in the two cities of Cape Town and Ndola.

The objectives of the workshops were to:

- Introduce the MPAP process and its various stages to a wider range of stakeholders and how it applies to the UA projects in their cities
- Provide the stakeholders with a clear overview of the basic facts regarding urban agriculture in the two cities extent, potentials, risks and benefits
- Motivate the stakeholders to actively support the MPAP process regarding urban agriculture in Ndola and Cape Town.
- Expose participants to Situation Analysis for UA in Ndola and Cape Town
- Put in place teams and time frame to conduct situation analysis in the two cities
- Plan for future activities

The Ndola workshop was held at the Savoy Hotel from 29 October to 2 November 2007. 22 participants (9 women and 12 men) drawn from an array of stakeholders participated. These included those drawn from the Ministry of Agriculture, City Health, City Legal Division, Rainbow Group, Ndola Nutrition Group, Kafubu Water, Farmer Group, Care, Ministry of Lands and Social Welfare. The team trained at the TOT did most of the presentations.

The emphasis of the workshop was to prepare stakeholders and the core team for conducting the Situation Analysis and the Launch of the Stakeholder Forum. After the introduction to the CFF and MPAP process, most of the time was spent discussing information requirements and techniques to be employed for data gathering during the situation analysis. A field visit was undertaken to some of the UA areas in Ndola where participants applied some of



Dr Jacob Mwitwa from CBU makes a presentation during the MPAP I Workshop for Ndola

the techniques they had learnt.

At the end of the workshop, it was agreed to create working groups that would undertake some of the components of the situation analysis.

The Cape Town workshop was conducted from 5 to 9 November 2007. This was timed to come after the appointment of the Local Coordinator who benefited from the activity as well as assist in it. Key stakeholders such as the City of Cape Town, Abalimi, Muslim Judicial Council, and different government departments were represented at the workshop. The Cape Town workshop was both a training and planning workshop. It sought to achieve two main objectives; the first objective was to develop the project core team members' capacity to conduct the Situation Analysis of urban agriculture in Phillipi; the second was to further develop the core group driving the MAP process in Cape Town by bringing them together and help in team building.

The impact of the workshop was to create capacity to understand the MPAP process amongst a wider group of stakeholder. It also created capacity for implementing the Situation Analysis for Philipa-Fezuka area. Working teams on the various aspects of the situation analysis were created.

PILOT PROJECTS PROGRESSING WELL

Pilot projects embarked on in the three pilot cities of Bulawayo, Ndola and Cape Town and the dissemination cities of Maputo and Nairobi are progressing well.

Bulawayo Gum Plantation Pilot Takes Shape

The pilot project at the Gum Plantation in Bulawayo seeks to improve treated waste water supply to the farmers at the plantation through lining the main canal to reduce losses through seepage. It also seeks to introduce new UA activities like bee-keeping and diversify the variety of crops at the plantation. Implementation of the pilot project started in October 2007. The Gum Plantation Pilot Project Steering Committee was constituted. This comprises AREX, Chairperson of the Plantation, BCC, and SNV. The committee is responsible for the day today running of the plantation. Initial assessment of infrastructure at the site has been undertaken. Seed packs were procured for the farmers and land prepared. Farmers were trained in various activities like horticulture,

poultry management and technologies for UA. Other activities now relate to training the farmers in various methods of managing water and techniques for growing the various crops introduced. Work on lining the water canal started end of February 2008.

The farmers have organized themselves into 17 groups for purposes of easy coordination. These make up the 120

Farmers who are included in the pilot. These are the first 120 fields at the plantation.

Cape Town Pilot Project to Focus on Market Orientation and Organic Farming

The pilot project for the City of Cape Town focuses on enhancing farmers' capabilities to compete in the agriculture market as well as promote wider acceptance of organic farming. The multi-stakeholder group in the city agreed to support a pilot project proposal submitted by one of the partners in the group, the Muslim Judicial Council (MJC). Key objectives of the proposal include training farmers in order to enhance their capacity to produce for the market. This will be achieved through training them at the MJC farm where the fourteen farmers will be exposed hands-on to crop growing and farm management.

A key component of the training will be packaging and branding for the market. This will enable the emerging farmers' produce to compete with that of established farmers in the tough competition for the market. The MJC are developing a packaging shade where the produce is sorted as well as cold rooms to extend the shelf life of the produce. The farmers will have the opportunity to



The Cape Town MPAP team assesses the suitability of the MJC pilot project site

produce, pack, and brand their produce during training. They will also be exposed to the market and even get a share of the profit. Another key component of the pilot project is the promotion of organic farming. This will be done to achieve two strategic objectives. Firstly this is part of a global movement towards the promotion of healthy eating and improving the nutrition of the beneficiaries. The second purpose for promotion of organic farming is part of a bigger objective to improve urban environmental management through the uptake of urban organic wastes. In Cape Town there are already other partners in the MPAP process who are promoting organic farming and these should help in the pilot project. Abalimi have established themselves well in both organic farming and marketing of organic produce. Their harvest of hope project will be a useful ally of this pilot project.

The other component of the pilot is the mentorship programme that operates at two levels. An established farmer has been identified who should mentor the emerging farmers by interacting with the farmers and teaching through positive peer influence. The emerging farmers will be expected to share their experiences with five subsistence farmers in the poor suburbs of Phillipi and Khayelitsha to increase the reach of the knowledge gained on organic farming and the market.

Ndola Nutrition Garden Established

The pilot project at New Kaloko has been finalized. Activities started mid-March. The pilot is about designing a nutrition garden for the community. Farmers have been trained in community management and issues of nutrition. The Ndola Nutrition Group, a local community based NGO, is implementing the project. The project involves 40 members and will be replicated on land that has already been identified. The project intends to improve the nutrition uptake of malnourished children in the neighborhood. The main objectives of the project include:

- Reduce the rate of malnutrition in OVCs by 30%
- Participating 40 members to produce 70% of health and nutritious food like vegetables and poultry.
- Using manure raised from poultry in the garden for vegetable production
- Skills development for the 40 participating members who will apply the skills learnt in their own gardens.
- Making water available all year round to water the gardens.
- Reducing the cost of production by 30% as the organic manure from poultry will be used in the gardens and excess chicken manure will be sold.

Pilot Projects to be identified under the Competitive Bidding

The first was the Nairobi Based Urban Farmers' Initiatives. The project is on the use of composting for urban agriculture. The group of farmers involved in the project have been involved in farming for a long time. This project has been implemented since August 2007. It is located in the Kasarani Ngumba area of Nairobi about 10 km from the



Nairobi project farmers with Charles Mbugua (coordinator) seated

City centre along Thika Road. To date the project has managed to buy bags for sorting the domestic waste and some seed packs for the farmers. They are in the process of purchasing a pump for irrigation.

The other project is by the Youth for Community Development of Maputo. The project involves starting UA gardens at hospitals, schools and churches in the city in order to benefit HIV affected households and other disadvantaged groups in the city. All stakeholders in the city have recommended this project. Funds were released in August and activities are now being implemented according to agreed work plans. The project bought some seed packs and has installed some simple irrigation equipment at the sites where the project is taking place.

Bulawayo Completes Revision of UA Policy

A new UA policy document encompassing the views of a wide range of stakeholders has been produced. The UA Stakeholder Forum and the city council have approved the document. The policy starts by defining UA and refers to some weakness of the policy guidelines approved in 2000 before providing policy guidelines on land, water, finance and livestock. This policy is much more comprehensive than the 2000 guidelines.

Bulawayo UA Strategic Agenda

The bulawayou UA strategic agenda has been produced. The agenda highlights some of the activities to be undertaken by stakeholders. AREX for example is going to be responsible for the training and capacity building

components. A workshop to review the agenda was conducted from the 4-5th of September, where a committee was selected to finalize the agenda. The current agenda takes into account the concerns of all stakeholders. The agenda identifies action plans for the key priority areas of:

- Land
- Legal and Policy matters
- Water
- Finance
- Capacity development
- Marketing

In fact the revised policy is a result of the effort of the working group on Policy and Legal Issues which prioritized the revision of the UA policy as its most important activity. Other working groups are implementing various aspects of the Strategic Agenda.

Situation Analysis for Cape Town and Ndola Completed

The situation analysis for the cities of Cape Town and Ndola has been completed. The analysis sets the baseline conditions for UA in the cities and will be used in developing the UA strategic agendas for the two cities. The analysis covered the following aspects:

- Farming Systems
- Existing Information
- Policy and Legislation Analysis,
- Land use Mapping,
- Stakeholder Analysis.

The analysis was done by members of the core team in each of the two cities who formed teams on the basis of the components of the analysis as outlined above. Results of the analysis were presented and discussed at Validation workshops in the two cities. The Ndola Validation Workshop was conducted on the 15th of April whilst the Cape Town one was one week later. Major issues raised by the report e.g. available land, by-laws, and water issues were discussed. The reports are being finalized and summaries or policy narratives will be produced and these will be used for the development of the UA strategic agendas for the two cities.

Multi-Stakeholder Forum Launch for Ndola

The launch of the stakeholder forum was done on the 29th of November at a colourful ceremony presided over by the Ndola District Commissioner, Mrs Glays Kristafor and the Deputy Mayor Mr. Charles Chinala. 32 people drawn from various organizations in Ndola attended the launch. These included Zambia Electricity Supply Company (ZESCO),



From left: Mr. Chanda Deputy Mayor, Mrs Kristafor District Commissioner and Ms. Sinkala Director of Social Services

Heifer International, Zambia National Farmers Union, Central Statistical Office, Kafubu water, Twapia, Chifubu Projects, Panner Seeds, Ministry of Education, District Health and NDCU. The others were came from the usual organizations who had been attending UA activities before Ministry of Agriculture, Social Welfare, Care International, Rainbow, Departments of City Council, Lands, Ndola Nutrition, and Catholic Diocese. At the launch terms of reference for the forum were discussed. Mr. Munsanje was elected the chairperson of the Forum. The first meeting of the forum was held on the 14th of December.

Abalimi Establishes Men's Garden in Cape Town

One of the stakeholders in the Cape Town multi-actor policy making and action planning process (MPAP) has established a community garden for men. The men only garden was visited by a member of the RUAFA-MDP regional staff recently and was an 'eye-opener'. Most of the community gardens in Cape Town are run by women with very few men participating.



The 'men's garden' in Cape Town. Here visitors from England talk to the men who farm at the garden.

Rob Small of Abalimi explained that the men's garden had been established as an idea of the women in Abalimi. It appears men were failing to gel well with their female counterparts in community gardens resulting in women suggesting that men work alone. The idea appears to have worked as the men's commitment was observed to be now as high as one finds in the women's gardens.

The men are also happy with the return they are getting out of the venture:

'We are realizing enough to survive and look after ourselves decently', one of the group members said.

The men's garden in Khayelitsha, Cape Town is an encouraging dimension of gender dynamics in Cape Town. Whilst it is too early to judge whether it will be sustainable, it is an encouraging development in an area where urban agriculture is mainly seen as a woman's activity.

RUAF-MDP in Southern Africa Urban Food Security Project

The RUAF-MDP team has been invited to participate in a Southern Africa project on urban food security (PUFS). The team was identified as a key organization working with local authorities in sub-Saharan Africa in the area of food security through its urban agriculture and other municipal capacity building projects. Two MDP members of staff have been incorporated into the different committees of the project.

The Regional Director, Mr George Matovu has been appointed to the project's Advisory Committee that is responsible for monitoring and overseeing the project's progress and offering relevant guidance. Percy Toriro has been appointed to the project's Capacity Building Committee. Percy was recently invited to participate at the



Dr Parsquini is shown around the project site by the Local Coordinator (left), and farmers discuss with the evaluator (right)

project's Research Working Committee meeting at the University of Cape Town from 3 to 6 March. The same meeting also hosted a cocktail to launch PUFS. The head of the Environmental and Geographical Studies, Professor Jonathan Crush, and Percy Toriro were asked to address the stakeholders at the launch. Percy took the opportunity to share with colleagues the RUAF-MDP work in the region as well as the general work that MDP-ESA has done over the years. Other partners who did not know of the work MDP and RUAF have done and are doing in the region developed interest and were encouraged to log onto our website.

The PUFS will conduct research leading to policy intervention and capacity building in eleven cities in Southern Africa namely, Gaborone (Botswana), Lesotho (Maseru), Blantyre (Malawi), Maputo (Mozambique), Windhoek (Namibia), Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg (South Africa), Manzini (Swaziland), Lusaka (Zambia), and Harare (Zimbabwe). Percy will also be a member of the country research team in Zimbabwe.

The project has already led to a breakthrough in one area where the RUAF Cff project had not been successful in getting the cooperation and participation of a university partner in the Cape Town project. As a result of the PUFS links, the University of Cape Town will now do the impact monitoring of the city pilot project.

Cities farming for the Future Programme Evaluated

The MDPESA-RUAF Cities Farming for the Future programme was host to an evaluation mission from RUAF. Dr Margaret Parsquini conducted the evaluation on the Bulawayo project and the overall regional programme in January. Three members of staff of MDPESA who are involved in the programme participated in the evaluation mission. These comprised the Coordinator, Takawira Mubvami, the MPAP Training Officer, Percy Toriro, and the Knowledge Management Officer, Phillip Kundishora.



The weeklong exercise involved staff meetings with the evaluator, meetings with council staff and policy makers, as well as meetings with stakeholders. From the Bulawayo City Council staff, Job Ndebele led the team that met the evaluator whilst the forum chairman, Councillor Sibanda, represented the forum. Dr Parsquini also had the opportunity to meet the then Mayor of the city, Japhet Ndabeni Ncube.

The mission also included field visits to see progress on the ground. The evaluator was taken to the main pilot project site at Gum Plantation where she met and talked to the beneficiaries of the project. The farmers shared their challenges as well as their successes. The field visits also included a tour of partners' projects that started as a result of the MDP-initiated multi-stakeholder approach to policy making and action planning in urban agriculture. One partner, World Vision, has since drilled 42 boreholes and supported the establishment of community gardens. The Institute of Water and Sanitation who are involved as a water quality expert partner on the project, also participated in the evaluation.

The evaluator also attended a session of the core team of the project in order to understand how they operate and meet the team. She got a feel of the healthy team dynamics as the stakeholders freely interacted and sought explanations where they felt things were not moving smoothly. The mission ended with the evaluator making comments based on her observations of the project. The comments were well received by the MDP team who saw the comments as adding value to their work.

On the regional programme, the evaluation mission noted that the programme was on target in terms of meeting its objectives. These include:

- (i) Overall, MDPEA made very good progress over the last years in terms of consolidating themselves as Regional resource Centres gaining a high level of legitimacy and recognition by key institutions at global, regional, national and municipal level.
- (ii) One of the key contributions of the CFF program has been its impressive capacity to build multi-stakeholder enabling committees and multi-stakeholders forums for action planning, which are clearly contributing to building participatory local governance, where the various actors, including the urban farmers have a voice.
- (iii) The pilot project in Bulawayo was on target and all the farmers were excited about it.
- (iv) The MDPEA has made positive progress with regards to developing and delivering various approaches for capacity building in UA to a wide range of stakeholders. These activities have contributed attitude changes of urban actors towards UA, have put UA high on the local agenda in the regions.
- (v) Several knowledge products have been produced largely targeted at farmers. These are the manuals on Mushroom Production, Low-input Gardening, Technologies for UA, and Herbs for Urban Gardens.
- (vi) A policy has been developed for Bulawayo

The mission noted that gender mainstreaming still lagged behind.

Recent UA Publications



These publications are accessible online at:
http://www.mdpafrica.org.zw/ua_publications.html

For more publications on Urban Agriculture visit <http://www.ruaf.org>



For More Information Contact:



Takawira Mubvami
Urban Agriculture Programme Project
Coordinator
tmubvami@mdpafrika.org.zw



Phillip Kundishora
Knowledge Management Officer
pkundishora@mdpafrika.org.zw



Percy Toriro
MPAP Training Officer
ptoriro@mdpafrika.org.zw