The Urban Agriculture Workshop 2013:
Focusing on Models of Urban Agriculture Proceedings

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November 2013
Urban Agriculture Workshop 2013: Focusing on Models of Urban Agriculture

Date: 13\textsuperscript{th} November 2013, Wednesday

Venue: Dovehouse Farm Restaurant

Time: 08:00 – 15:00

Hosted by Msunduzi Innovation and Development Institute (MIDI)

Facilitated by Monique Salomon
## Contents

1. Introduction .......................................................................................................................... 4
   1.1 Background ......................................................................................................................... 4
   1.2 MIDI and Urban Agriculture ............................................................................................. 4
   1.3 Workshop objectives ......................................................................................................... 5
2. Process .................................................................................................................................. 5
3. Results ................................................................................................................................... 6
4. Way forward .......................................................................................................................... 7
5. Facilitator’s reflection ........................................................................................................... 7

Annexure 1 Map .................................................................................................................... 8
Annexure 2 Proceedings ........................................................................................................... 10
Annexure 3 Invitations ............................................................................................................. 19
Annexure 4 Workshop programme ......................................................................................... 21
Annexure 5 Attendance list ....................................................................................................... 22
Annexure 6 MIDI Presentation ................................................................................................. 23
Annexure 7 Msunduzi Declaration ............................................................................................ 25
1. Introduction

1.1 Background
World population is projected to increase from 6.7 to 9.2 billion between 2007 and 2050, with most of the growth occurring in less developed countries (United Nations, 2010). The majority of most of this demographic increase will be in urban cities. Urbanisation per se is a form of positive development, as urban areas tend to be more productive than rural areas, and therefore a driver of economic growth and development. However rapid urbanisation as it is currently occurring in developing regions such as Asia and Africa can outstretch the capacities of urban areas to absorb and cater for the ever growing number of inhabitants (Ravillion, 2007).

With urbanisation, the transfer of rural poverty to urban areas is rising globally. Many of the problems of urban poverty are rooted in a complexity of resource and capacity constraints, inadequate government policies at both the central and local level, and a lack of planning for urban growth and management. Given the high growth projections for most cities in developing countries, the challenges of urban poverty and more broadly of city management will only worsen in many places if not addressed more aggressively.

Over the past couple of decades, Urban Agriculture has increasingly gained recognition as a viable intervention strategy for the urban poor to earn extra income. It also allows the poor to reduce their reliance on cash income for food by growing their own food in the city, thus increasing access to much needed food. South Africa is an increasingly urbanised country and agriculture continues to play a major role in addressing food insecurity and poverty. This Urban Agriculture workshop aims to explore different models in urban agriculture as a new approach to food production and access that includes agricultural, processing, marketing, transportation, consumption and waste aspects of the food system in a drive to achieve sustainable social, economic and environmental development.

1.2 MIDI and Urban Agriculture
MIDI was established in 2005 out of a sense of the growing challenges facing the Pietermaritzburg City Region. Importantly, MIDI’s vision is to provide a centre for innovation and development focusing on facilitating the development of The City we Deserve – a commitment to creating a working, safe, playing and learning city. MIDI operates with a core staff team, led by the Director Professor Robert Fincham. MIDI is a registered Non-Profit Organisation (NPO).

MIDI since its inception in 2005 has been interested in work around urban agriculture. This is evident in the previous work undertaken by MIDI in this particular field. Previous urban agriculture related workshops run by MIDI:
• Sustainable Technologies Workshop: Urban Agriculture Task Team (UKZN Campus, January 2008)
• Stakeholder Consultation on Urban Agriculture (PMB Botanical Gardens, 19 November 2008)
• Mini-Summit Food Value Chain (Victoria Country Club, 13 October 2009)
• City Summit, Focus Group Food Value Chain (Golden Horse Casino, October 2009)
• The Role of Supermarkets in Local Environmental and Socio-Economic Sustainability (Savannah Lodge, 2 November 2010)

In May 2012, MIDI was granted an amount of R10 million from the National Lotteries Board (NLB) (Arts Culture and Heritage) for a three year period to establish a Children’s Innovation and Development Park. The core purpose of this funding is to establish a functional, operational base to facilitate the programme of work around children and youth. Under this work, facilitating urban agriculture is essential (making farming look sexy among children and youth).

MIDI hopes to create awareness among NGO’s and citizens regarding the possibilities of urban agriculture. Growing food in your own back yard can be simple and cost effective. Also to assist the Pietermaritzburg Children’s Home (PCH) in sustaining their current earth boxes and keeping their children and youth nourished. Again create awareness and interest amongst children and youth regarding the possibilities of urban agriculture (the simplicity and ability to re-create these gardens back home).

1.3 Workshop objectives
- Establish models of urban agriculture in and around Msunduzi
- Create partnerships with key role players in the urban agriculture sector
- Establish an urban agriculture forum to tackle related issues in the city

2. Process
Relevant stakeholders were invited drawn from previous workshops held by MIDI and others. Thirty eight (38) representatives from civil society organizations, small farms and businesses were in attendance (Annexure 5).

To encourage active participation, plenary sessions were alternated with individual activities, small group discussions, and work in pairs or threes. To ground discussions and getting to know one another, the event started with small groups being taken on a walk-about on Dovehouse Organic Farm. Throughout the day, participants were invited to share relevant information on flip charts, cards, and posters that were put up on different walls in the venue.
3. Results

Objective 1: Establish models of urban agriculture in and around Msunduzi

The introductions revealed that the workshop had attracted a group of interested and vibrant key stakeholders in urban agriculture (Table 2).

The majority of organisations were involved in production. They were promoting food security through food gardens in communities at large or children and youth in particular, raising awareness on conserving the natural environment, indigenous trees, and climate change, and/or promoting sustainable and organic farming practices (Table 3). Some delegates were stimulating energy and water management in the homestead, composting and other forms of waste recycling. Few stakeholders were involved in distribution as input suppliers (e.g. organic seeds), organic producers, and informal traders, or were raising consumer awareness, advocating for a sustainable society.

The range of initiatives presented and discussed, were received with much interest. One idea that gained support was for smallholder farmers and gardeners to buy an old tractor and have it fixed up. It could also generate income by renting it out or provide a business opportunity to a mechanic or garage.

The general sense at the workshop was that, rather than singling out a particular model for urban agriculture, participants connected with one another to further explore initiatives they found relevant to their context.

Objective 2: Create partnerships with key role players in the urban agriculture sector

Only 6 of the 38 participants had attended previous events on urban agriculture organized by MIDI (Table 1). The delegates were very enthusiastic about the experiences shared and expertise present in the room. Connections were made to explore opportunities for collaboration.

Participants recognized the potential to accelerate urban agriculture in Pietermaritzburg, and identified core areas for engagement: promoting social solidarity through food production; training and mentoring of youth throughout the food value chain, and researching the socio-economic and ecological aspects of (smallholder) organic farming as viable alternative to (large-scale) chemical farming.

Objective 3: Establish an urban agriculture forum to tackle related issues in the city
The delegates expressed interest in a platform for sharing and learning, and to continue to engage with each other using social media (notably Twitter #UrbanAgPmb, @MIDIPmb) and face-to-face events.

It was felt that the Msunduzi Declaration on Food Security, Urban Agriculture, and Local Economic Development of 2009 could serve as a guide to inform the purpose and focus of such platform (Annexure 7).

Perhaps the most striking effect the workshop had on the delegates was in unleashing their passion to start growing their own food, and wanting to encourage others to follow suit. If genuinely pursued, this will build a foundation for a critical mass for urban agriculture in the city.

4. **Way forward**

It was proposed to hold another workshop in May 2014, a series of satellite workshop to allow participation of interested communities, and to continue with smaller conversations through the year. MIDI would facilitate the formation of a task team that would help shape a process or forum to accelerate urban agriculture in Pietermaritzburg, guided by the Msunduzi Declaration on Food Security, Urban Agriculture, and Local Economic Development.

5. **Facilitator’s reflection**

The workshop succeeded in creating a space for learning and networking among relevant role players.

The attendance list showed a bias towards civil society organizations working on agricultural projects. Business role players were largely absent. To have an impact on the food value chain, a more inclusive network is required in future engagements.

The event closed fairly open-ended. If MIDI wants to play a leading role in pursuing urban agriculture in Pietermaritzburg, they must state this clearly and unambiguously, and roll out a plan to guide and/or resource such initiative.
Annexure 1 Map
Annexure 2 Proceedings

To ground the discussions, the workshop started with small groups of participants going on a 20 min walk-about on Dovehouse Organics Farm. Owner Paul Duncan showed different aspects of his farm:

- Organic methods of fertilising (use of poultry and fertiliser beds)
- Worm farm
- Organic beds of different crops surrounded by natural vegetation
- Natural methods of pest control

Introductions

Participants introduced themselves by selecting an item from baskets filled with fresh organic produce and biodegradable household items. In plenary, they each explained why they had chosen the item and how it connected with them being at the workshop. Most participants had an interest in food security and agriculture. Many responded that they were there to learn, teach others about the sector, and/or start gardening themselves.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous MIDI Events on Urban Agriculture</th>
<th>Venue and Date</th>
<th>Participants Who Attended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Technologies Workshop: Urban Agric Task Team</td>
<td>University of KwaZulu-Natal Campus, January 2008</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder Consultation on Urban Agriculture</td>
<td>PMB Botanical Gardens, 19 November 2008</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Summit, Focus Group Food Value Chain</td>
<td>Golden Horse Casino, October 2009</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini-Summit Food Value Chain</td>
<td>Victoria Country Club, 13 October 2009</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On cards participants indicated if they had attended other MIDI events on urban agriculture. Of the 38 participants 6 had attended any of these events (Table 1).

Participants gave short inputs on their work relevant to urban agriculture (Table 2). They also indicated on a map of Pietermaritzburg where their key agricultural activities were located (see Annexure 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Urban agriculture focus</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Rocha</td>
<td>• Eco- congregations&lt;br&gt;• Planting Indigenous trees in schools&lt;br&gt;• Establishing Gardens</td>
<td><a href="http://www.arocha.org">www.arocha.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BESG</td>
<td>• Climate Change education through drama&lt;br&gt;• Food Gardens&lt;br&gt;• Educate on water, trees, energy and nutrition</td>
<td>Under construction...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadleaze Farm</td>
<td>• Organics into supermarkets&lt;br&gt;• Partic Guarantee System (IFOAM)&lt;br&gt;• Midlands Organic Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.broadleaze.co.za">www.broadleaze.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gezubuso Projects</td>
<td>• Food Gardens in Communities working with orphans&lt;br&gt;• Youth soccer Club</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gezebuso.co.za">www.gezebuso.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hortishop</td>
<td>• Little Growers Programme involving Food gardens using mulch/organic waste</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hortishop.co.za">www.hortishop.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahlathini Organics</td>
<td>• Organic seed sales&lt;br&gt;• Sustainable farming&lt;br&gt;• Homestead gardens&lt;br&gt;• Educate on water, energy</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mahlathiniorganics.co.za">www.mahlathiniorganics.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDI</td>
<td>• Food security in a box&lt;br&gt;• Making gardening easier and more effective to increase yield yet saving water and fertiliser.&lt;br&gt;• Model in place at PCH</td>
<td><a href="http://www.midi.org.za">www.midi.org.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMAEP</td>
<td>• Eco schools</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mmaep.co.za">www.mmaep.co.za</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ntombenhle, Mpopomeni</td>
<td>• Waste recovery through crafting, recycle, educate on mulching&lt;br&gt;• Fight social ill</td>
<td>No website</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On cards participants indicated where in the food value chain their organisation was operating. The majority of organisations were involved in production. Some were also involved in waste recovery and/or processing. Very few worked in distribution or consumption.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAKEHOLDER</th>
<th>PRODUCTION</th>
<th>PROCESSING</th>
<th>DISTRIBUTION</th>
<th>CONSUMPTION</th>
<th>WASTE RECOVERY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Rocha</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BESG</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadleaze Organic Farm</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dovehouse Organics</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garikai (UKZN)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gezubuso Projects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hortishop - Little Growers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahlathini Organics</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDI</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMAEP</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verdant Life</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wizzard Worms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exploring the potential for urban agriculture in Pietermaritzburg

In small groups, participants worked on different tasks to articulate possibilities, issues and challenges relevant to urban agriculture in Pietermaritzburg. Responses were captured, but due to limited time these were not presented in plenary.
**Task 1: MAD ABOUT PMB**

- What do we love about Pietermaritzburg?
- Which of these strengths can we build on to move urban agriculture forward?
- Use the magazines to make a collage visualizing this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we love about PMB</th>
<th>Which strengths can be improved upon to move urban agriculture forward in PMB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Governance (social, incentives, policy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unused land</td>
<td>New culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>Unrecognised, unlimited and unused potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View</td>
<td>Farms situated on the periphery of city (potential to provide employment for local people)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farms</td>
<td>Growing food for city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth of the city</td>
<td>City expansion therefore opportunity to plan for urban agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity of people</td>
<td>Key players in place in conservation and activist groups, therefore more community based and people orientated projects can be implemented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of activists and conservation groups in public and private sector</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The paradox of our age

We have bigger houses but smaller families; more conveniences, but less time. We have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge, but less judgement; more experts, but more problems; more medicines, but less healthiness. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbour.

We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but have less communication. We have become long on quantity, but short on quality. These are times of fast foods, but slow digestion; Tall men but short character; Steep profits but shallow relationships. It's a time when there is much in the window, but nothing in the room.

By the Dalai Lama

Group results

- Humans are humus/ awareness of connectedness
- Everything comes from the soil, what we eat, what we wear
- Human values and relationships
- Nurturing the seeds of the future through education, sharing and caring and action implementation
- Implementation-action, networking
### Cost of living

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 litre milk</td>
<td>R3,99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 kg sugar</td>
<td>R4,69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 kg rice</td>
<td>R7,25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 kg maize meal</td>
<td>R2,99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 kg sugar beans</td>
<td>R7,99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 kg samp</td>
<td>R3,39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>420g baked beans</td>
<td>R3,69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 loaf bread</td>
<td>R3,10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 dozen eggs</td>
<td>R8,95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 kg minced beef</td>
<td>R23,82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 kg chicken</td>
<td>R23,65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 kg garlic polony</td>
<td>R13,99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 kg washing powder</td>
<td>R18,99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 ml bleach Jik</td>
<td>R6,49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 ml Handy Andy</td>
<td>R6,99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pack disposable nappies</td>
<td>R89,99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400g baby powder</td>
<td>R15,79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100ml triple action toothpaste</td>
<td>R4,99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 supersoft toilet rolls</td>
<td>R19,99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cake Lifebuoy soap</td>
<td>R2,89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When there is no food*

What I do

when there is no food in the house

is to put water on the stove

and to leave it to boil

as if I am going to put some

mealie meal into it,

then we drink the water

and go to bed.

*The Partnership, Youth for Christ publication, June 2003


Group results

- Youngsters must be taught farming (agriculture)
- Farmers must be taught how to maintain their land
- Budgeting is very important in order to run the business effectively
- Agricultural investment must be done, especially in youngsters
- The effort of reaching uneducated personnel can be done by using information from institutions and also creating awareness programmes for them
- Higher institutions can provide internships for their students for a better future (Auxiliary extension officers)
- The government must be alert on the importance of agriculture
- In recognition of our paradox being poverty stricken and overpopulation, our vision is to have the courage to build vibrant communities, inspire leadership among youth, to share the skills they are taught; where people use resources that are available to them (low technology) growing food at home and in centres
- To encourage the spirit of cooperation, sharing harnessing their cultural beliefs and traditional knowledge while giving back to nature
Delving deep into thoughts on urban agriculture in PMB

Participants were tasked to free write for 12 minutes, writing down whatever came to mind emerging from discussions so far. Then they were asked to circle the words that popped out in their writing and share these in groups of three. Each group then was asked to list two key issues. The issues emerging from the exercise:

- Youth and education: the need to identify and mentor passionate young people
- Ubuntu: different ways of doing and being, simple lifestyle
- Social Solidarity: communities can help themselves
- Research: organic vs chemical farming (integrated food production, can organic farming feed the world?, cost of organics vs chemical, local vs global (cost of imported food), cost of organics levelling out with organics)
- Sustainability at household level: food first or sustainability?
- Food value chain: gaps in food processing and distribution as well as waste recovery
- Food sovereignty: do we have the right to choose what we buy and eat?
- How to feed the world? A lot of small scale farming that can work together in the organic sector

Moving into action

Participants were asked to write down on two cards: “what I will do after the workshop” and “what the collective can do after the workshop”. Responses are summarised below (from most to least common).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Me</th>
<th>Collective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Share knowledge gained from workshop with own community</td>
<td>Active forum (space for regular meetings, updates and knowledge sharing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research, learn more about the aspects of urban agriculture</td>
<td>Support local farmers and market (knowledge sharing, finance, etc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide training, mentorship and support and young possible farmers</td>
<td>Research and push ideas of urban agriculture forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Become an urban farmer (own garden at home)</td>
<td>Change policy (lobbying to influence decision makers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporate lessons learnt in own lifestyle</td>
<td>Support and assist MIDI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage youth (create interest and spark passion/enthusiasm)</td>
<td>Engage youth (create interest and spark passion/enthusiasm)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Way Forward

- Look at the 2009 MIDI declaration as a platform for this forum
- Make the forum into a civic society initiative (open up this space for more conversation and learning)
- Have satellite workshops and invite other relevant stakeholders as well as members from the community (participants to identify community members)
- Next workshop in May but smaller conversations through the year
URBAN AGRICULTURE WORKSHOP:
Focusing on Models of Urban Agriculture

Do we live in a weird City?
Is it not weird? In our City region we have some of the highest incidences of individual millionaires in South Africa! No more than 3 kilometres from where many of them live, entire families of 4-6 people live in poverty and earn less than R 50 per day. And they are hungry. A millionaire possibly has a minimum of between R1000 and R3000 per day of disposable income! So, people go hungry in parts of our city on a daily basis: they are children, youth, adults, and the aged.

What can we do:
• Give them food parcels? Not a long term solution
• Ask Government to give them other forms of support: pensions, grants, free basic services?
• These are excellent developments but not enough
• Ask vulnerable people to look after their own food needs? Yes, but how? How do models of urban agriculture influence individual households?

Maybe we can start by understanding ideas about why people go hungry?

Food sovereignty: the right of individuals to healthy food produced through environmentally sound and sustainable methods. Food sovereignty is about local production, consumption, processing, distributing and marketing of food

Food security: when people have access at all times to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.

Food insecurity: consistent access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money & other resources at times during any one year.

Is there only one model of how to produce Food in the City?

MDI and its partners are exploring the question: Can we work with food insecure individuals, households and institutions to make them food secure? What is the best way to make them food secure households? Who else should we be working with?

Our Stand at the Garden Show
This stand explored some of our visions and hope for developing small scale urban agricultural models.

The in-keeping themes are:
• There are many models of small scale urban food production, distribution and consumption/marketing: can any of them work sustainably?
• Engaging children and youth in the idea of urban agriculture seems crucial: can we make the idea of urban farming desirable amongst the young?
• Can we develop strategic partnerships to learn and ensure a sustainable fight against hunger, poverty and food insecurity?

You are invited to present your organisations model of urban agriculture at the symposium. The symposium will be facilitated by Monique Salomon in a World Cafe approach. Therefore there is no need for PowerPoint Presentations but rather make use of other methods of visual aid.
URBAN AGRICULTURE WORKSHOP:

FOCUSBING ON MODELS OF URBAN AGRICULTURE

Please join MIDI and its partners to help reach our vision and hope for addressing both food sovereignty and food insecurity through the exploration of small scale models of urban agriculture.

TIME: 8H00 - 15H00
DATE: Wed, 13th Nov 2013
PLACE: DOVEHOUSE FARM RESTAURANT
FACILITATOR: MONIQUE SALomon

THEMES:
- There are many models of small scale urban food production, distribution and consumption / marketing: can any of them work sustainability?
- Engaging children and youth in the idea of urban agriculture seems crucial: can we make the idea of urban farming ‘sexy’ amongst the young?
- Can we develop strategic partnerships to learn and ensure a supportable fight against hunger, poverty and food insecurity?
URBAN AGRICULTURE WORKSHOP:
FOCUSING ON MODELS OF URBAN AGRICULTURE

PROGRAMME:

08h00 Welcome and background - R Fincham
08h20 Programme and Twitter - M Salomon
08h35 Intros and expectations - Shopping basket: what item did you choose and how does it connect with you being here?
09h00 Grounding the work
  • Walk-about at Dovehouse farm & shop
  • The Paradox of our Age - turn the world sunny-side up and transform the statement into a vision for Urban Ag PMB
  • Cost of living & When there is no food - what does it evoke in you and what does it mean for Urban Ag PMB
10h00 Break
10h20 Mapping out Urban Ag PMB - 7 min inputs on participants’ initiatives on production / processing / distribution / consumption / waste recovery
12h00 Connecting Urban Ag PMB - small groups
  • The 5 sectors - production / processing / distribution / consumption / waste recovery: who are missing, what is our request, what do we offer
  • How can we build on existing initiatives to realize our vision for Urban Ag PMB
13h00 Lunch
13h15 Moving Urban Ag forward in PMB - small groups
  • Declaration: what appeals to you, what priority actions to move forward
  • Food Policy Council: purpose, partners, and priorities
14h15 Feedback
14h30 Way forward
15h00 Closure
Annexure 5 Attendance list

- Dovehouse Organics
- A Rocha South Africa
- Tshintsha Amakhaya
- Wiz Worms
- Ubumbano Street Traders Alliance
- Midlands Meander Education Project
- Gezubuso Projects
- University of KwaZulu-Natal
- KZN Midlands Sustainability Forum
- Built Environment Support Group (BESG)
- SOS Children’s Village South Africa
- Pietermaritzburg Child Welfare
- Mpopomeni Community Gardens
- Hortishop Johannesburg
- Broadleaze Farm
- Freelance Consultant
- Mahlathini Organics
- Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs

Apologies

- Metropolitan Church
- Mennonite Central Committee
- Eden Kids Trust
- Blind and Deaf Society
- Lilly of the Valley
Annexure 6 MIDI Presentation

HAPPY EARTH PROJECT

How the earth box system works

- The earth box gardening system provides plants with unlimited nutritional stability by facilitating the movement of nutrients and water from the area of high concentration to areas of low concentration.
- A plant food spring is placed on top of the growing medium, creating an area of high nutrient concentration. When water is added to the growing medium, it slowly conducts the dissolved nutrients down the concentration gradient to the plant roots, which can absorb optimal amounts of nutrients at any given time.
- In this way, the plant roots are delivered with, and absorb, only what the plant needs in order to stay healthy. Materials used by plants are automatically replaced by the water reservoir.
- Similarly, nutrients used for growing are constantly replaced by the plant food spring. There is no danger of over or under watering and fertilizing of plants, and therefore guarantees successful crops.

MIDI’S Happy Earth Project

- MIDI is working in partnership with a well-established NGO in Pietermaritzburg, the Pietermaritzburg Child and Youth Care Centre (PCH) situated at 43 Yeat Road, Woodlands.
- The Earth Box Gardening System was introduced to MIDI by PCH, which had 99 earth boxes in their care, but most of the earth boxes had become neglected and needed to be fertilized and tended.
- After much research and site visits, MIDI connected with Dovehouse Organics to provide the technical expertise. A project called the ‘Happy Earth Box Project’ was established at PCH.
- Dovehouse Organics will replant the boxes using their own fertilizers and growing medium. Furthermore, a worm farm and fertiliser bed will be installed as a new feature, ensuring the constant supply of nutrients to the earth boxes.

INTRODUCTION

Earth Box Gardening System

- The Earth Box Gardening System was introduced in 1993 in the United States but later was rolled out in South Africa in August 2007 by the Operation Leedswart Trust.
- The project has been implemented in over 36 communities and organizations across South Africa. The Earth Box Gardening System is proven to withstand the harsh climate conditions of South Africa and provides "food security in a box" (Operation Leedswart Trust).
- It is said to increase 60% more yield than planting directly into the ground. Furthermore, it uses 30% less water and fertilizers to produce more food. The pots are also re-usable and environmentally friendly. This increases the food security of households and can be implemented in an urban setting.

Benefits of the Earth Box gardening system

- Large capacity: Can hold up to 16 seedlings or starter plants.
- Reusable: Can be used season after season, year after year, in the harshest of conditions, UV-protected.
- No wasters: Uses only the exact amount of water and fertilizer required by plants, thereby conserving water and stopping soil contamination and erosion.
- Permanent: Your own garden in a box, can be placed anywhere, and therefore saved.

Objectives of the project

- To create awareness among NGOs’s and citizens regarding the possibilities of urban agriculture (Growing food in your own back yard can be simple and cost-effective).
- Assist PCH in sustaining their current earth boxes and keeping their children and youth motivated by providing a continuous supply of vegetables from the gardens.
- To develop the Earth Box Gardening System as a core skills programme for the children at PCH so that children who are returning to their families are able to continue to grow vegetables for their own families. This in turn may also lead to a source of income for the child as he/she is able to sell surplus vegetables to neighbours, etc.
- To raise awareness and interest amongst children, especially girls, regarding Agriculture as a career choice.
Child participation

The happy earth project is centered around child participation, to encourage the children and youth at home to own the project, and ensure its sustainability.

Child participation enhances their protection by contributing to their capacity development in terms of personal skills which enable them to protect themselves. It also increases solidarity in the group by creating meaningful relationships.

Also, due to the energy, excitement and creativity the children bring to the project, child participation should be promoted because it is fun. It is through their enthusiasm as being active in the process that participation also increases the impact and reach of the project (Morgan, 2009).
Annexure 7 Msunduzi Declaration

MSUNDUZI DECLARATION ON FOOD SECURITY, URBAN AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

As 50 participants, representing farmers and gardeners, processors, traders, service providers, suppliers, consumers, policy makers, researchers and educators attending the Mini-Summit on the Food Value Chain of Pietermaritzburg on 13 October 2009, we claim for all citizens of Metropolitan Pietermaritzburg the right to safe, nutritious, and affordable food, through improved food production, and economic access by increasing household purchasing power.

1. We are committed to people empowerment, addressing structural inequalities in the City, and creating income-generating opportunities, particularly for low income communities.

2. We recognize that urban agriculture is a marginalized sector, threatened by insecure land tenure, and facing stiff competition from property developers in The City. We declare urban agriculture a strategic priority that requires adequate resources and enabling legislation. We will adhere to Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) guidelines, and will balance social, economic and ecological priorities and concerns (the “Triple Bottom Line”) in our work.

3. We will facilitate improved production and marketing of produce from small-scale urban producers, lobby for preference for local small-scale farmers and gardeners in procurement by business and public institutions, and develop a local brand for local produce.

4. We recognize that informal trading is an important survivalist strategy, and we are committed to direct resources, skills development, infrastructure, and enabling legislation for informal traders to achieve business sustainability and profitability.

5. We will raise awareness on healthy nutrition among consumers, particularly school children and youth, and promote the growing of own food rather than buying fast/convenience foods.

In sum, we will establish and strengthen local food production systems in the City to serve the needs of local consumers, the needs of a vibrant local economy, and invigorate local productive capacity. We will increase information flows, strengthen linkages, and form partnerships among actors in the Food Value Chain in order to achieve increased investment in agricultural production capacity and skills; fair competition in production, distribution, and retailing; effective regulation of food safety; and promotion of healthier consumer choices.

City Summit 20-21 Oct 2009