

WORKSHOP

URBAN FOOD SECURITY AND VALUE CHAIN

BACKGROUND

Cities all over the world share a number of challenges in their aspiration to build sustainable and viable livelihoods for their inhabitants. Ongoing activities and research programs work on how to shape the cities and the city-scapes to sustainable livelihoods for citizens. Food security means that citizens should “have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (FAO, 2008). Interestingly, the issue of food security is rarely addressed as it is taken for granted that food access will remain unchanged, ‘business as usual’. There are a number of indications pointing towards that this might not be the case, uncertainty in many aspects has increased, and the strong dependence on the global market for food import has increased vulnerability with respect of food security for human societies, both in developing and developed countries. Urban agriculture dealing with small-scale food production on roofs, balconies, garden allotments and other urban spaces or specialized technical solutions (‘green walls’ etc.) are relevant as contributing positively to urban life quality and to food provisioning but can never attain quantities to satisfy the needs of the urban population.

For urban populations, in developing as well as developed countries, the food security issue is urgent but different challenges are evident in the urban north and south respectively. There is a need for updated information and data on the current situation in order to make strategic decisions and formulate adaptation plans. How to decrease vulnerability – in terms of food security - for urban populations in a time of increasing uncertainty and unpredictability, increasing resource scarcity and stronger dependence on a global market? Can food security for urban populations be assessed and monitored using the same set of indicators as for rural communities – or do we need to consider significantly different factors related to food security in urban and rural contexts? In terms of increasing urban resilience in the food security dimension, it might be desirable to obtain a larger local influence in food provisioning to balance a vulnerable situation.

The food security dimension of access to healthy food is related to equality and poverty and relevant both for cities in the North via the *segregation* challenges as well as for the Global South where urban poverty and inequalities still play a critical role for food access for citizens. Those issues have direct bearing on the UN-Global Sustainability Goals: SDG 1 No Poverty, SDG 2 Zero Hunger, SDG 3 Health & wellbeing, SDG 10 Reduced inequalities, SDG 11 Sustainable cities & communities, SDG 12 Responsible consumption & production, SDG 13 Climate action.

Urban food security is part of Urban resilience and directly linked to the Vision of Mistra Urban Futures:

Vision: Sustainable urbanisation where cities are accessible, green and fair.

Mission: To generate and use knowledge for transitions towards sustainable urban futures through reflective co-creation at local and global levels.

<p>Accessible Cities: Promoting efficient and equitable access to urban qualities, opportunities and services</p> <p>Green Cities: Managing resource constraints, urban environments, ecosystems, climate change sustainably</p> <p>Fair Cities: Securing urban equity, social inclusion and urban commons</p>

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The food value chains are complex systems, not least in places and countries like Kisumu, Kenya. The workshop will contribute to improved understanding of how existing food systems impact urban food security, and identify opportunities for actions to ensure food security, sustainability and urban resilience.

The objectives of the workshop are:

- 1) to further knowledge development on the food system and its relation to urban vulnerability, resilience and sustainability using cities and LIPs, within Mistra Urban Futures platforms as case studies, e.g. Kisumu, Cape Town, Sheffield, Manchester, Gothenburg;
- 2) to initiate new collaborations and knowledge transfer on the workshop theme

EXPECTED OUTCOME OF THE WORKSHOP

- improved understanding of how existing food systems impact urban food security in a number of LIP cities
- opportunities identified for actions to ensure food security and sustainability in a number of LIP cities
- outline of new collaborative research projects with identified project coordinators

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

08:30 - 08:40	Introduction to this workshop	G AO: Aims and objectives of the workshop; intro to the exercise
08:40 - 09:30	Overview of ongoing projects: progress, challenges and further aspirations AND – for each project - Analysis and reflection of the ongoing projects vs MUF Vision.	KLIP: on project activities in Kisumu GH: Consuming Urban Poverty - Project in Cape Town MN: student work and course collaboration units in Kisumu and Gothenburg
09:30 – 09:40	Short break	

09:40- 10:30	Cont.	MR: Urban-Rural Gothenburg GAO: Network Urban Food, Gothenburg; and Transdisciplinary research project urban-rural on food system issues and local activities in Gothenburg and surrounding region NTB: on food system activities in Manchester-Sheffield region – the Self- organising Action for Food Equity (SAFE) project
10:30 - 11:00	Health Break	
11:00 – 12:00	Development of new collaborations and knowledge transfers	Work in 2 groups based on earlier summaries
12:00 - 13:00	Project development cont. work plan etc	Project planning - all

GAO: Gunilla Almered Olsson; GH: Gareth Haysom; MN: Maria Nyström; MR: Mirek Dymitrov; NTB: Nick Taylor Buck

WORKSHOP CONTACTS:

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Connected to SDG: 1,2,5,6,11,12,14