

# **CITIES FEEDING PEOPLE**

External Review

April 2000 – March 2003

Review Team

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**FINAL REPORT**

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### ***List of Abbreviations***

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Acacia                | IDRC Program (ICTs and Empowerment of Sub-Saharan African Communities)  |
| <b>Agropolis</b>      | <b>IDRC</b>   |
| <b>AGUILA</b>         | Latin American Research Network on Urban Agriculture  |
| <b>Alterra</b>        | <b>Research Instituut voor de Groene Ruimte /The Netherlands)</b>   |
| <b>ANCAR</b>          | Agence Nationale de Conseil Agricole et Rural   |
| <b>CAD</b>            | Canadian Dollar   |
| <b>CFP</b>            | Cities Feeding People (IDRC Program Initiative)   |
| <b>CGIAR</b>          | Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research   |
| <b>CGIAR-SIUPA</b>    | CGIAR's Strategic Initiative for Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture   |
| <b>CIDA</b>           | Canadian International Development Agency   |
| <b>CIP</b>            | International Potato Center   |
| <b>CIRAD</b>          | Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement   |
| <b>DGIS</b>           | Directorate-General for International Cooperation (The Netherlands)   |
| <b>ENDA<br/>(NGO)</b> | <b>Environmental development action in the third world</b>  |
| <b>ETC</b>            | Ecology, Technology, and Culture International  |
| <b>FAO</b>            | Food and Agriculture Organization (UN)  |
| <b>FFC- PAIA</b>      | Food for the Cities Priority Area of Interdisciplinary Action   |
| <b>GIS</b>            | Geographic Information Systems  |
| <b>IFAN</b>           | Institut fondamental d'Afrique Noire  |
| <b>IMWI</b>           | International Water Management Institute  |
| <b>IAGU</b>           | Institut Africain de Gestion Urbaine  |
| <b>ILRI</b>           | International Livestock Research Centre   |
|                       | <b>INWRDAM</b> Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management, Amman, Jordan   |
| <b>IPES</b>           | Institute for the Promotion of Sustainable Development (Peru)   |
| <b>IGSNRR</b>         | Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resource Research of the National Academy of Sciences (Beijing, China)   |
| <b>IUF</b>            | International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations  |
| <b>LA</b>             | Latin America   |
| <b>LAC</b>            | Latin America and the Caribbean   |
| <b>MAP</b>            | Municipal Action Plan   |
| <b>MDP</b>            | <b>Municipal Development Partnership</b>  |
| <b>MENA</b>           | Middle East and North Africa  |
| <b>MINGA</b>          | Minga is a Quechua word for the collaboration of Andean communities and the name of the IDRC PI for Managing Natural Resources, Latin America and the Caribbean |
| <b>MINISIS</b>        | A relational database management tool developed by IDRC   |

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>NRI</b>        | Natural Resource Institute   |
| <b>PARC</b>       | Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee  |
| <b>PI</b>         | Program Initiative (IDRC)  |
| <b>PUDSEA</b>     | Network on Peri-urban Development in South-East Asia   |
| <b>RADI</b>       | Réseau Africain pour le Développement Intégré  |
| <b>RUAF</b>       | Resource Centre for Urban Agriculture and Forestry   |
| <b>SANDEC</b>     | Department of Water and Sanitation in Developing Countries (Swiss)                           |
|                   | <b>SARO</b> South Asia Regional office (IDRC)  |
|                   | <b>UA</b> Urban agriculture  |
|                   | <b>UM-</b>   |
| <b>PAMECAS</b>    | Union por la Mobilisacion et la Partenaria de Mutuel Reparne et de Credit ou Senegal.        |
| <b>SGUA</b>       | Support Group on Urban Agriculture   |
| <b>SIUPA</b>      | <b>CGIAR's Special Initiative on Urban and peri-urban agriculture now "Urban Harvest"</b>    |
| <b>UMP-LAC</b>    | Urban Management Programme, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-Habitat) |
| <b>UN-Habitat</b> | United Nations Human Settlements Program   |
|                   | <b>UNU</b> The United Nations University   |
|                   | <b>UPA</b> Urban and periurban agriculture   |
| <b>WHO</b>        | World Health Organisation (UN)   |



## ***EXTERNAL REVIEW OF CITIES FEEDING PEOPLE***

### ***Executive Summary***

CFP is currently the only global research program addressing the issue of urban agriculture in developing countries. CFP occupies a leadership role that is recognised by its main international partners – the CGIAR, FAO and UN-HABITAT as having largely shaped the urban agriculture field within the development community. It was the prime architect in building the international Support Group for Urban Agriculture (SGUA) and has influenced the programs of its main international partners along with those of many regional and national institutions.

In short, CFP has an impressive track record and sphere of influence that belies the small team and budget with which it operates. It has successfully achieved this record through delineating and following a clear strategy of building regional networks and effectively linking researchers with policy advisors and urban planners at city and regional levels through activities such as “city teams” and the joint development of policy briefs. CFP’s prominence in its field globally is evidenced also by the number of visitors to its website, which is almost double that of any other IDRC Program Initiative. CFP brings credit to IDRC and it is important that its visibility as an urban agriculture program continues in the future.

The review team has examined different aspects of CFP’s program in the context of its objectives and strategy for Phase 2 (April 2000 – March 2004). These include its activities and budget allocations in Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa. CFP does not implement projects in Asia. The review has also examined CFP’s research support activities (including capacity building, networking, gender analysis, information and evaluation) as well as its outputs and impacts and its reach to its target groups. Some fifty-five people were interviewed for the review and another seventeen responded to an e-mail survey. Projects in West Africa were visited in the field.

Assessing its results, in Latin America and MENA, CFP has targeted the right groups and is reaching them successfully. In Africa, the evidence is more mixed. In Phase 1, there were some very successful projects in East Africa focusing on single city municipal authorities and achieving policy impact. In francophone West Africa, CFP and its partner institutions have not yet achieved a smooth implementation of the West African Network on urban agriculture (WANUA). ENDA-RUP is a much stronger NGO to work with than IAGU and the close connection of ENDA-RUP with UNCHS (Habitat) could be advantageous for future cooperation. For the anglophone countries in West Africa, IMWI has proved to be a strong partner in communication and research, even when the capacity for policy influence is still limited. For Phase 2, CFP has not yet been able to reach beyond the research institutions to influence national governments. In future, CFP might want to work through its partners such as the planned IWMI policy brokerage initiative.

Linkages with the key local stakeholders have also not been sufficiently explored. The field trips clearly show that frustration among urban farmers and farmer groups is increasing. CFP has not yet engaged very much with the NGO and community groups in Africa (although some NGOs have been strengthened to work within a broader perspective in their cities). Action research could be one means to close the existing gap between researchers and the target beneficiaries of the research, the urban and peri-urban poor farmers and local organizations.



One of CFP's main instruments to reach policy makers and to create awareness among them on urban agriculture is the "UA policy briefs", first developed in the UMP-LAC project (100135). The briefs are an output of a participatory process with stakeholder involvement on several levels, so they are both outputs and processes of CFP. However, the briefs cannot and do not stand alone. They need other processes and guidelines to facilitate their acceptance by government, as well as appropriate institutional frameworks at city level, and CFP has been successful in facilitating these in Latin America.

CFP's strategy to transfer the policy briefs from Latin America to Africa is an object lesson in both the potential and pitfalls in transferring policy mechanisms from one region to another with very different government structures and capacities. Language differences are only the tip of the iceberg. For urban agriculture, the relative capacities of municipal and national governments are a key factor and these are very different in Latin America and Africa. CFP has begun to address the policy framework process in Africa through the Nyanga and Harare Declarations.

A critical mass of researchers in urban agriculture is lacking, especially in developing countries. The Agropolis project is uniquely addressing this need. The review concludes that the main goals of the program are being achieved. However, there are a number of ways in which the program might be strengthened, including the regional distribution of awards; in better embedding some capacity building within universities; and in increasing the demand from good applicants. While Agropolis falls within IDRC norms for the ratio of administrative costs to awards, it is a relatively large program for a PI that has a small budget and an even smaller staff. In the absence of donor partners coming on board, CFP might wish to reconsider how Agropolis fits within its portfolio in Phase 3.

Beyond the Agropolis program, most of the capacity building directly benefited project team researchers and to a certain extent policy makers, both through training courses and through participating in CFP funded activities. The review also identified some cases where the experience of managing an IDRC project also led to *institutional* learning and change. There are some areas where capacity building activities can be strengthened to be more responsive to needs, such as improving skills in project proposal development and fundraising, gender analysis, and action research methodologies. At the same time, the reviewers were impressed with CFP's demonstrated commitment to continuous learning by building in lessons learned from evaluations to future activities. In this way, the regional training courses are steadily improving.

While we commend CFP on its progress on integrating gender within its program at all levels in Phase 2, gender/social analysis in CFP projects remains a work in progress while many of the organizations that CFP works with have not yet institutionalized gender sensitivity within their own structures and management. We suspect that CFP has built gender *awareness* among many of its recipients but they have not yet internalized the need for carrying out gender and social analysis.

What CFP does in terms of dissemination of information must be seen in the context of its partnership with RUAF, which is essentially the global and regional networking and information-sharing agent of the SGUA. RUAF runs electronic conferences in English, French and Spanish on behalf of the SGUA, including CFP. These have included discussions on research methods, policy agendas and urban wastewater. Through RUAF, CFP has outsourced much of its information dissemination activities. This is a good strategy for a small PI with very limited

human resources that is working in an emerging field where access to resources and networks are crucial to capacity building.

The review analysed the outputs of the 35 projects funded by CFP since 1998 and found it takes between 2-5 years (or more) for outputs to appear after a project begins. Projects differ greatly in the *quantity* of outputs produced but most are directed at other researchers. One of the most successful CFP projects in terms of policy impact, scaling up and sustainability is the greywater reuse project in Tufileh, Jordan (100880). It produced four outputs aimed directly at beneficiaries as well as policy makers and only two journal articles for other researchers. The project leader also lobbied effectively with several government ministries to get policies changed. The project is a good example of a small project that produced technological innovations, broke down cultural taboos, and achieved policy impact in several national ministries. It is also an exemplar of the value of an integrated approach that included the CFP book on *Water in Islam*.

One strategy that CFP is successfully pursuing to add “impact value” to its projects is the enunciation of “Declarations” at the end of its more high profile meetings. Originally skeptical about the usefulness of these statements, the review team found that CFP’s project leaders and international partners find them to be important means of influencing policy. Behind the Declaration itself is a longer development process of sharing experiences and beyond the Declaration is the expression of new demands and dreams.

One key to governments – whether municipal or national – taking up the results of CFP supported research is the gathering of a critical mass of evidence to convince them of the benefits of urban agriculture and therefore the policies that promote it, and to reduce their concerns over any risks or costs that urban agriculture might entail. Governments are also concerned about cost-effectiveness and a minimum scale of operations. CFP has increasingly involved urban planners and other practitioners in its activities and this has focused its work on problem-solving research in the context of specific cases.

However, we see some challenges ahead in terms of concerns about the health risks of urban agricultural production, including (but not only) the use of wastewater and UA impact on malaria and other diseases. Two types of research may be needed to achieve policy impact that CFP is not presently supporting. One is more “hard” scientific research on health risks and benefits. The other is more economic analyses to provide the cost/benefit numbers policy makers need. Major bottlenecks for CFP, especially regarding economic questions are human resources and expertise. The new health specialist with risk analysis expertise jointly assigned to CFP and EcoHealth is a step in the right direction. CFP has also assigned two of its interns to review literature on UA health issues. Consideration should now be given to the need for more economic input to the PI team.

One of the most visible roles of CFP since 1995 has been in global advocacy and alliance building for urban agriculture and a number of successes have been made. There is a need to renew this process and one of the challenges that CFP faces is how to do this. To some extent the SGUA is stalled. FAO is a reluctant participant and yet has a vital role to play with national ministries of agriculture. Only one bilateral donor (DGIS) has so far stepped up to the plate. Can CFP continue to be a driving force for SGUA? It will also be important to clarify RUAF’s role with respect to other international partners. In short, we suspect that the international arena will demand more attention in the future and IDRC will be asked to play a more proactive role in international networking again, because of the leadership position it has through CFP.

Our overall assessment of CFP in Phase 2 is very positive. While there are some areas of work that need strengthening and work in Sub Saharan Africa has proved challenging at the regional level, the Program Initiative has done what it said it would do. CFP has achieved good progress and some outstanding successes. It has achieved its objectives for Phase 2. Looking forward, the review has a number of suggestions to make, including a possible recasting of the overall problematic for CFP, a rebalancing of its regional strategies and a greater focus on health impacts and the economics of urban agriculture.

We would suggest that in Phase 3, two actions are taken. One is that IDRC consults with its present and potential partners for urban agriculture to see if a reinvigorated and wider partnership is possible over the next few years, and the SGUA „club’ is opened up. Another is that IDRC seriously examines how it can work with the new sector-wide and Program Based Approaches being followed by bilateral donors in order to reach the Millennium Development Goals, and that it specifically engages in discussions with CIDA on both counts.





# EXTERNAL REVIEW OF CITIES FEEDING PEOPLE

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The IDRC Program Initiative “Cities Feeding People” (CFP) is in its second five-year programming cycle and had its last external review four years ago in 1999. In preparation for the Centre’s new strategic planning exercise in 2004, CFP, together with eight other Program Initiatives and two Corporate Projects is undergoing an external review.

### 1.1 Terms of reference

The purpose of the external review is to improve program effectiveness, by producing information on program accountability, informing management decisions and providing input for longer-term program learning and improvement. The timeframe for the review is the period April 2000 – March 2003. This includes all project activities funded during that period. It also includes the downstream activities and results of earlier projects, funded prior to April 2000 and the upstream planning for actions that will be implemented after the review period. The objectives of the review are (box 1):

#### BOX 1: REVIEW OBJECTIVES

1. Assess the extent to which CFP is meeting its objectives and aims as set out in its Prospectus, and identify any evolution in objectives;
2. Document results (outputs, reach and outcomes) of CFP;
3. Offer reflections on the strengths and weaknesses of CFP’s thematic approach and strategies in relation to the current state of the fields in which CFP is active.

The review is focused on the performance at Program (PI) level with evaluations of individual projects and other upstream and downstream program activities (such as “Closing the Loop”) used as data inputs rather than as evaluation outputs in themselves.

### 1.2 Evaluation approach

Within the framework of the terms of reference, the approach of the Review Team is to:

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<sup>1</sup> Professor Axel Drescher is from Freiburg University, Germany and Dr. Anne Whyte is President of Mestor Associates, Canada.

<sup>2</sup> The review objectives are elaborated in a Reviewer Guide prepared by the Evaluation Unit of IDRC in order to facilitate a common review framework for all the external program reviews being undertaken in 2003.

- ❑ Achieve an appropriate balance in level of effort between more detailed evaluation of specific projects;
- ❑ Examine in greater depth not only individual projects as units but also key program themes and strategies that flow from CFP's program objectives.

In consultation with the CFP Program Team, a number of in-depth studies were selected that cut across the three research areas of the program (space confined production; wastewater treatment and reuse; and urban agriculture policies and processes) and across the three key geographic regions in which CFP works (Latin America, Middle East and North Africa and Sub Saharan Africa). These are grouped into project, thematic and strategy reviews (box 2). In each case, the Review Team collected some primary data in addition to reviewing documentary sources.

## **BOX 2: FOCUS AREAS FOR REVIEW**

### **PROJECT REVIEWS**

#### Sub-Saharan Africa

Project 100376: Improving the rural-urban nutrient cycle through peri-urban agriculture (Ghana)

Project 004367: Wastewater treatment using water lettuce for reuse in market gardens (Dakar)

#### Latin America

Project 100641: Regional Training Course on Urban Agriculture

#### Global

Project 100824: AGROPOLIS Awards for graduate field research on urban agriculture

### **THEMATIC REVIEWS**

#### Wastewater treatment and reuse

A focus on greywater reuse in Middle East and North Africa

#### Translation of project results and lessons learned into Policy Briefs

A focus on the work achieved in Latin America.

### **STRATEGY REVIEWS**

#### Advocacy and partnerships

Objective 3 of CFP is to advocate for more attention to urban agriculture and influence partners, including international agencies, to effectively incorporate urban agriculture in their development programs is one of the three objectives of CFP.

#### Scaling-up

Objective 2 of CFP is to mobilize and enhance regional capacities to share experiences, to network and to identify common policy and technology solutions for urban agriculture. The review examines how well CFP has moved from individual city projects to promoting (a) regional networks for urban

<sup>3</sup> In agriculture and (b) transferring lessons between networks in different geographic regions.

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The review is based on field visits, interviews and surveys, review of files including PCRs provided by the PI, website, documents and publications, and statistical analysis of all projects funded from 1993 to 2002. Axel Drescher made two visits to West Africa to visit a number of projects (Ghana in May 2003 and Senegal in August 2003). Annex 4 presents a summary report of his findings. Anne Whyte observed the meeting of the Agropolis Awards Advisory Committee on 24 April 2003 during the adjudication of MA, PhD and post-doctoral awards. She had also previously visited the domestic wastewater treatment project in Senegal (101535).

The evaluation team held interviews with 55 people in all, including 28 project leaders, seven representatives of international partner agencies, and other key stakeholders such as the Advisory Committee of Agropolis, and municipal policy-makers. Anne Whyte also interviewed PI Team members individually after the initial team meeting with the Review Team in April 2003. Interviews were either face-to-face or by pre-arranged telephone call and were semi-structured using interview schedules agreed between the Review Team. Annex 1 gives a list of all the people interviewed for the review.

Anne Whyte conducted an e-mail survey of Agropolis awardees to explore how far the objectives of the program are being reached and to identify possible future changes (Annex 5). Of the 27 awardees (1999-2002), 21 were reachable by e-mail and 17 responded to the questionnaire, giving a response rate of 81% and a sample size of 63%. For the Agropolis case study, the minutes of the Advisory Committee meetings 1999-2003 were reviewed as well as a sample of student final technical reports.

For the review of the Policy Briefs in Latin America (100135-2), Axel Drescher sent several e-mails to as many as 28 e-mail addresses, but only three responses were obtained<sup>4</sup>. **For the review of the Regional course (100641) both e-mail survey and telephone interviews were conducted. For both projects the project documentation was reviewed.**

Much of the documentary evidence for this evaluation was found in the files of CFP. The Review Team had access to all the project appraisal documents (PADs) for the period under review as well as all the project outputs including technical reports, publications and websites. Other documentary evidence examined included evaluation reports, trip reports by program staff, the minutes of CFP team meetings and staff work plans. The IDRIS database and CFP website were consulted for all projects 1993-2002 to categorize the main themes and activities of the CFP projects for the analyses presented in section 2. The list of the principal documentation reviewed is given in Annex 3 and the main research instruments in Annex 6.

## 1.4 Acknowledgements

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<sup>4</sup> The sample of eight reports was structured to include two reports from each of the four award years; of which one was from a Masters and one was from a PhD student. Within each of these sub-sets the report was chosen randomly.

<sup>5</sup> The reason for the low response rate is unknown but is likely to be that policy makers are busy people and have less vested interests in the PI review than do project leaders, international partners or Agropolis awardees.



The reviewers wish to acknowledge the strong support of the CFP Team, led by Luc Mougeot, in carrying out the evaluation. All members of the CFP Team were very helpful to us. They were open to questions and very efficient in responding to our many requests for information, as well as responding fairly and helpfully in their comments on our draft report. We would also like to thank the IDRC Evaluation Unit, especially Denise Deby for providing the evaluation framework and logistical support. Finally, we thank all those who gave their time to responding to our questions, whether in person, in the field, by telephone or by e-mail. Evaluation studies such as this one rely on the expertise and willingness to share it of many people.

## 2 PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE

The program of CFP sits at the nexus of intensive agricultural production systems, environmental health concerns, food security for the urban poor and municipal and national policy initiatives to support urban farmers. Despite the increasing interest in urban agriculture of municipal authorities, the number of international and bilateral donors that support urban agriculture is small. IDRC, through the *Cities Feeding People* PI is one of these.

CFP defines its mission as supporting development research, providing strategic advice and disseminating information for the development of sustainable agriculture (UA) **systems as a tool for improving the quality of life for the urban poor. Figure 1 summarises the structure of the PI with its three objectives, three research areas and eight indicators of its expected impact.**

The starting point for the accountability component of the evaluation is the CFP Prospectus for Phase 2 (2000-2004), **which identifies the three main program objectives for Phase 2 (box 3).**

### BOX 3: CFP OBJECTIVES 2000-2004

4. To strengthen *local research capacity* and generate household and community level data for city level policy and technology options
5. To strengthen *regional capacities* for common policy and technology options through training and networking
6. To influence governments, policy-makers and international agencies to incorporate urban agriculture into their development programs

We have a general comment on the objectives. While clearly expressed, the three program objectives are closer to higher order goals. They are not associated with any targets or milestones

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<sup>6</sup> Urban includes both *urban* and *peri-urban*.

<sup>7</sup> Figure 1 is taken from the CFP *Phase 2 Prospectus 2000-2004*.

<sup>8</sup> Now extended for an additional year to March 2005

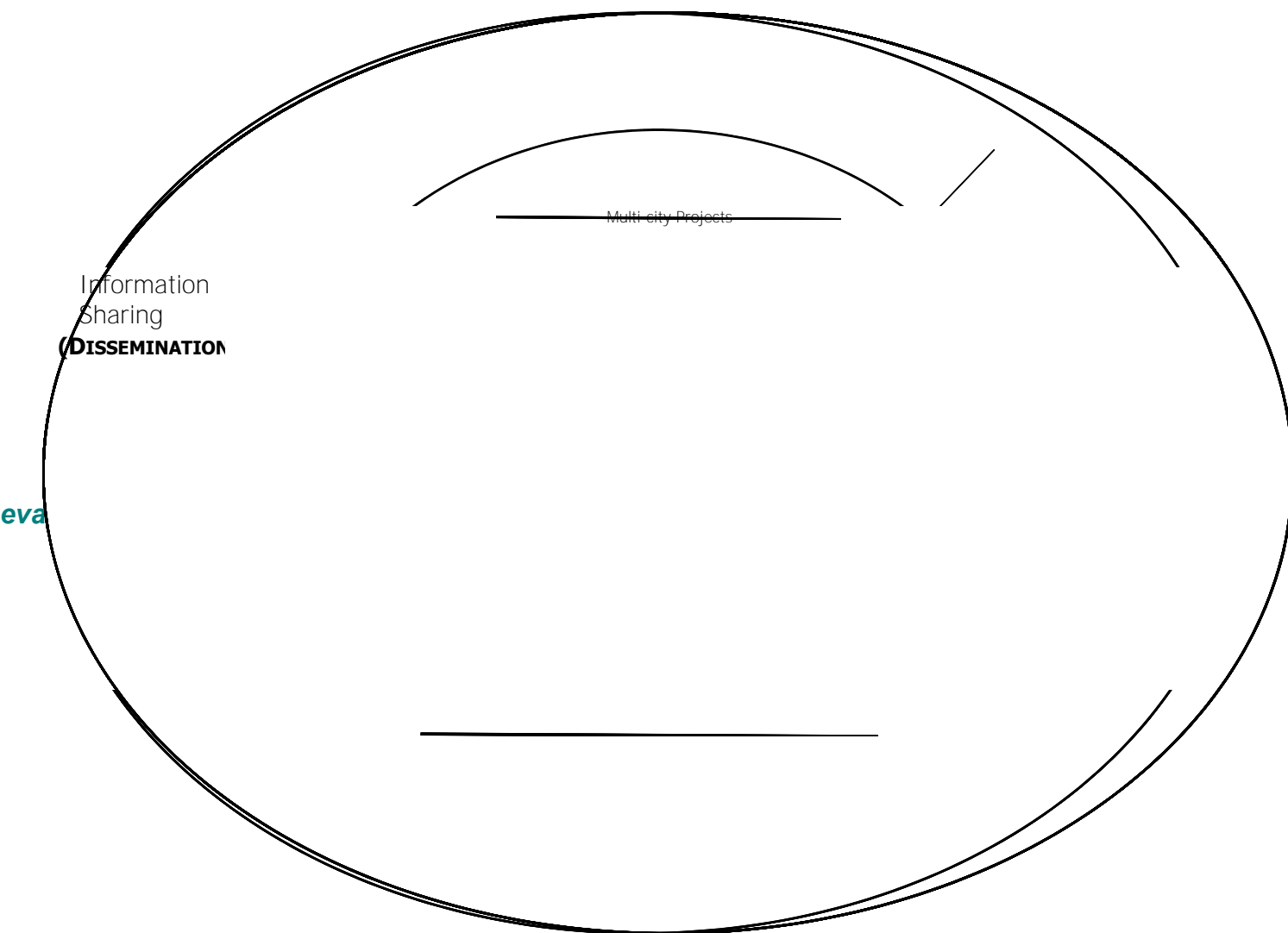
so that neither external reviewer nor internal management can readily measure progress towards them except in the most general way. As reviewers, we have found it more useful to compare CFP's performance with the more specific sub-objectives<sup>9</sup> **described in the Prospectus for each of the three main research areas (Box 4), and the directions outlined for research support activities (Box 5)**. **The regional strategies and priorities are given in boxes 6-9 and discussed in the next section.**

Taken together, the overarching objectives and the program strategy spelled out in boxes 4, 5 and 6 provide firmer benchmarks for assessing how far CFP has met its objectives after three years into Phase 2. We refer to this program strategy in the various sections of the report and in providing our overall assessment of CFP's performance in section 8.

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<sup>9</sup> This term is the reviewers

<sup>10</sup> The Prospectus also includes an evaluation plan. This is discussed in section 5.6



**Figure 1 Program structure, activities and outputs for CFP**  
(Prepared by CFP in March 2003)



#### BOX 4: SUB-OBJECTIVES FOR CFP RESEARCH AREAS

Research Area 1: Space-confined production systems for low-income urban producers

**The focus for 2000-2004 is to support activities that address *combinations* of:**

- ☐ Space-confined production *technologies*;
- ☐ Efficient and safe management of agriculture-generated wastes (nutrient recycling options) and
- ☐ Associated potential public health concerns (agro-chemicals; crop contamination from industrial by-products in soils and irrigation waters; diseases transmitted from domestic animals to humans).

Research Area 2: Wastewater treatment and reuse

- ☐ More work on Research Area 2 in Phase 2
- ☐ For the first two years (2000-01) focus on domestic wastewater treatment for urban agriculture in the Middle East and North Africa. From 2002 onwards, include other water irrigation sources.
- ☐ Set up a wastewater treatment and reuse network for the MENA region
- ☐ Increase the emphasis on reuse of *greywater*

Research Area 3: Urban Agricultural Policy and Processes

- ☐ Generate and disseminate guidelines and tools to improve UA policies
- ☐ Increase attention on questions of access to resources by marginalized urban producers (focus on Sub-Saharan Africa)
- ☐ Examine rural-urban linkages (resource and nutrient flows, socio-economic and political networks, food security strategies)
- ☐ Undertake research on methodologies and guidelines on integrating UA into urban physical planning and policies

#### BOX 5: OTHER CFP PROGRAM DIRECTIONS



##### **Research approach**

Support to research will emphasize multi-disciplinary teams and a regional networking approach



##### **Reach**

Greater involvement of municipal actors including mayors, government officials, urban planners, public health officials and NGOs in CFP supported work



##### **Gender**

Promotion of gender analysis and engendered research approaches



##### **Networks**

- a. Establish UA research networks of institutions for francophone West Africa (2000-01) and Eastern and Southern Africa (2004 on);
- b. Establish a Wastewater treatment and reuse network for the Middle East in 2002
- c. Link the Latin American network (AGUILA) with the African networks
- d. Continue to coordinate and promote the global network (SGUA) on UA and participate in the CGIAR global UA activity (SIUPA)



##### **Closing the loop**

- a. Encourage partners to produce publications
- b. CFP team members will co-author syntheses of lessons learned
- c. CFP's website will continue to be a leader in the UA field

### 3 REGIONAL STRATEGIES

CFP has clearly signaled its regional priorities for Phase 2 in its Prospectus. In making its funding allocations in Phase 2, CFP has been consistent with its regional strategy as outlined in the Prospectus.

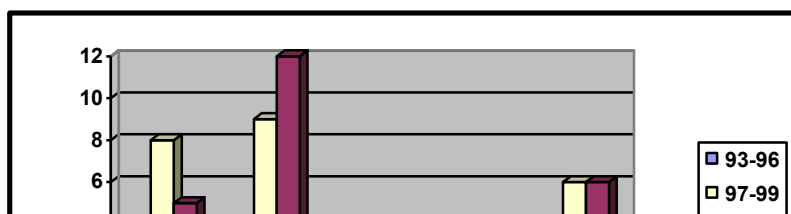
In general, this strategy has been to phase out program activities in Latin America and the Caribbean in favour of increasing its project activity in Sub-Saharan Africa, together with a transfer of lessons learned from Latin America to the Middle East and Africa. Given the small size of CFP, a decision was taken to not work in Asia. This must have been a difficult choice to make, particularly for a PI specialising in urban agriculture - which is perhaps best exemplified in Asia. CFP is to be congratulated for making clear regional priorities and sticking to them.

#### 3.1 Regional allocations

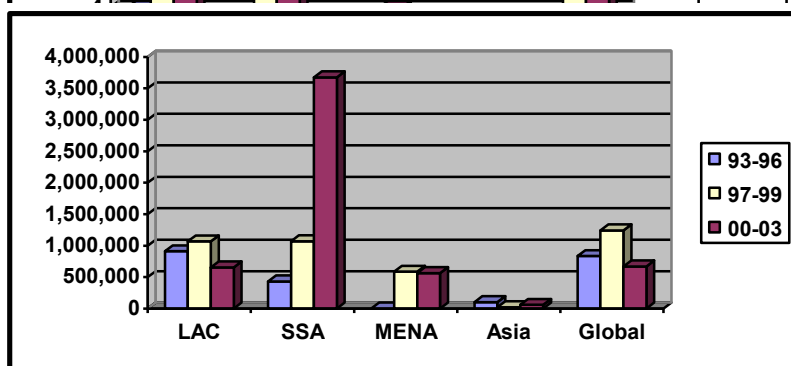
Figure 2 shows the number of projects and expenditures by region for the three periods 1993-96, 1997-99 and 2000-03, based on the projects portfolio provided by the Evaluation Unit and using the geographical classification assigned by IDRC.

**Figure 2 CFP project funding by region 1993-2003**

##### A. Number of projects per three year period



##### B. Expenditure per three-year period (CAD)



As will be seen, CFP has had to make some hard choices about its regional allocations, including reducing implementation in Latin America and basically staying out of Asia in order to concentrate its small budget and staff resources in Sub-Saharan Africa and

MENA. In Africa, the regional strategy has built explicitly on the Latin American experience as well as the earlier work on individual cities. In MENA, the focus on water – specifically, wastewater reuse – flows from the strategic importance of water in the region and the presence of expertise on the PI team.

### 3.2 Latin America and the Caribbean

#### BOX 6: CFP PROGRAM STRATEGY FOR LATIN AMERICA

- By 2001, Program activities will be phased out.
- Involve CFP's partners in global and inter-regional activities, including Agropolis.

CFP has steadily reduced its percentage of project investment in Latin America. In 1993-96, it represented 40% of expenditures, compared to 27% in 1997-99 and 11% in Phase 2 (2000-03). However, five projects have been funded in the region in Phase 2. Phasing out is delayed beyond the 2001 deadline flagged in the Prospectus but the trend is clearly there.

The painful phasing out of program activities in LAC in response to corporate directions for Phase 2 is not without problems **and IDRC might wish to consider revisiting earlier corporate decisions in view of a possible partial loss of its investment in the region. IDRC has created some expectation (for example within the AGUILA network) for future support. Concerns have been raised that IDRC-CFP has “abandoned” researchers in the region before helping them to find other donors to support their work and the CFP team has expressed regret at having to virtually stop implementation in the region at a time when so much could be done with municipalities that have received training support and have regional policy experience. The current initiative to provide training for researchers in the region to prepare proposals for fundraising is a positive response of CFP to this dilemma .**

A second problem in the withdrawal of CFP from funding projects in the region is that the national networks for UA are not yet well established and consolidated. In the beginning two major activities in LAC created some confusion among members of the UA-community. Those were the regional focal point of RUAF (UMP – LAC) and the AGUILA network. IDRC's strategy has been to provide separate funding for the two activities finally turned to be positive for both partners IPES and AGUILA because over time close linkages could be established. In the LIMA Workshop in autumn 2002 the RUAF-AGUILA collaboration was rated successful.

The strategy that is envisaged to replace direct funding of research activities in the LAC region is to involve CFP's key partners in global and inter-regional activities, including Agropolis. This is being successfully implemented. UMP-LAC is directly involved in the Regional Training Course for Anglophone Africa, building on the experience of the Regional Training Course in LAC. Graduate students from the region are supported by the Agropolis Awards Program and they are now able to apply in Spanish.

There are other possibilities for linking ongoing projects in Africa with earlier LAC projects. For example, the project on “Integrated System for the Treatment and Recycling of Waste Water in Latin America: Reality and Potential” covered ten cities in LAC and produced many valuable outputs, including eight methodological guides, and 17 general studies. The project publications

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<sup>11</sup> The training activity on fundraising in LAC is scheduled for November 2003.

and lessons learned are so far mostly published in Spanish and will be translated into English in 2004.

### 3.3 Sub-Saharan Africa

#### BOX 7: CFP PROGRAM STRATEGY FOR SS AFRICA

Increase regional networking starting with the West Africa inter-city network  
Link the Latin American network (AGUILA) with the African networks  
RUAF to establish a regional focal point for information exchange

**CFP project funding in Sub-Saharan Africa has increased from 19% in the two periods prior to 2000 to 65% in Phase 2. In view of globalisation processes and the fact that Africa generally has been excluded from the benefits of global economic activity, it seems of particular importance to increase CFP investment in the region. Again, CFP has done what it said it would do.**

RUAF established three regional focal points for information exchange in Africa: MDP in Harare (for Anglophone Africa), IAGU in Dakar (for francophone Africa) and IWMI in Accra (for anglophone Africa). There are several problems regarding these regional resource centers that are pointed out in the RUAF midterm evaluation report (April 2003). Much work remains to be done to enhance communication among partner organizations and between regions. Database management requires more resources and capacity, and most partners already complain about staff and time shortages regarding project activities. Financial constraints also exist regarding the West African Cities Network as the Regional Focal Point has not enough resources to support the Network. As efforts are made to enhance the database applications, closer cooperation with other IDRC activities (e.g. MINISIS and Acacia) has been suggested.

A recommendation of the external review in 1999 for CFP to move beyond city-specific projects and toward networking (that is: to emphasize multiple-city projects) for policy impacts was followed in the case of West Africa in Phase II.

In terms of programming, the West African inter-city network on urban agriculture anchored at IAGU in Dakar was funded in 2000-01 with parallel funding from CIDA and the Urban Management Program (UMP/UN-Habitat). We did not visit this project, and therefore cannot comment in-depth on it. However information retrieved during both the RUAF evaluation process and the Dakar field visit, leaves some doubts on how well the network is functioning. It appears that there are tensions about national funding issues between IAGU and the national coordinators. **The lack of funding is one of the reasons why the planned “stakeholder forums” on national and city level, do not function well. Again it appears that linkages between the RUAF project and the West African City network are not well established.**

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<sup>12</sup> For Senegal, this is RADII - Le Réseau Africain pour le Développement Intégré



The establishment of the regional focal points was the first step to create an African Network for UA. However much work remains to be done and further investment in capacity building, communication networking and policy advice could be done. The communication and cooperation between IAGU, IWMI and MDP could still be improved and the network could be extended to cover more countries in the region. Other issues mentioned in the project reports **are the changing personalities in the partner cities, lack of adequate infrastructure (flight connections) and other communication problems, leading to delays in the original project schedule.**

In East and South Africa, national unions of urban authorities (Nyanga Declaration) and Ministries of local governments (Harare Declaration) are a target public for CFP. In francophone West Africa, the setting of the partner institutions has not resulted so far in a smooth implementation of the West African Network on UA (WANUA). The field visit in Dakar created the impression, that ENDA-RUP is a much stronger NGO to work with than IAGU. The close connection of ENDA-RUP with UNCHS (Habitat) could be advantageous for future cooperation. For the anglophone countries in West Africa, IMWI has proved to be a strong partner in communication and research, even when the capacity for policy influence is still limited.

Linking the AGUILA with African Networks is basically a good idea, but faces some problems like language barriers, and the recent out-phasing of the AGUILA project. In fact some transfer of experience had already taken place. This was mainly the advisory role of the LAC course coordinator in the planning process of the regional course for the Anglo-African countries, and the translation and adaptation of the LAC Policy Briefs to the Anglophone countries in Africa.

The establishment of linkages between LAC experiences and those in Africa for the three main activities of CFP: research, policy advice and embedding the program into international and regional programs seems a reasonable objective but in practice, they face the challenge of adaptation to the local situation. CFP is well aware that this goes beyond translation of materials into other languages, and requires systematic information retrieval and partnership building with the African local and national governments.

One major difference relevant for urban agriculture between Latin America and Africa is the much greater capacity of municipal and local authorities in Latin America in terms of organization and policy development. In Africa, the municipal authorities need much more building of their capacities before they can play as effective a partnership role with CFP funded researchers as occurred in Latin America. CFP may have underestimated the very major differences in the relative roles of municipal and national level government, especially in West Africa compared to Latin America, and therefore the need to target national government departments in Africa.

### **3.3 Middle East and North Africa (MENA)**

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<sup>13</sup> IAGU (Dakar): Projet de recherche/consultation pour le developpement durable de l'agriculture urbaine en Afrique de l'ouest. Rapport Technique provisoire, Jan. 2001- Jan. 2002, Jan. 2003.

**CFP program expenditures in MENA have increased from 0% in 1993-96 to 15% in 1997-99 and 10% so far in Phase 2 for a total of nearly CAD\$1.2 million spread over seven projects. In Phase 2, all the projects are linked to the wastewater network. The network is not yet formalized but is already active in the exchange of expertise and experience. How best to link researchers from Latin America and Asia into the MENA network is a question to be considered by CFP. Most of the project leaders think that the most effective network would encompass the particular geographic and cultural milieu of MENA, and while they would appreciate the input of ideas and advice from outside the region, they essentially see the network as a regional one.**

#### **BOX 8: CFP PROGRAM STRATEGY FOR MENA**

- Support three more city-level projects
- Establish a regional network by 2002-03
- Translate Spanish documents to share Latin American wastewater expertise with the MENA region
- Link researchers from Latin America and Asia into the MENA Wastewater Treatment and Reuse network by 2003-04
- RUAF to identify an appropriate institution to serve as a regional focal point

**We tend to agree. Networks spanning different geographic regions are more costly to maintain and become looser in terms of common objectives and effective sharing of experience. The current informal one on wastewater in MENA works well because the distances are short, the technologies and the cultural and policy barriers are similar, and there is a common language. CFP might wish to consider a nested series of networks on wastewater with the MENA and African participants comprising two core groups and researchers in Latin America and Asia providing outside expertise and south-south exchange. The translation of documents from Spanish to both English and *Arabic* would facilitate the learning process.**

### **3.4 Asia**

#### **BOX 9: CFP PROGRAM STRATEGY FOR ASIA**

- RUAF to identify a regional focal point for UA information and activities
- CFP and SARO to collaborate in transfer of Asian UA know-how to other regions by 2003

In 1993-96, 4.5% of CFP project funding went to Asia. In Phase 2, this is only 1%, reflecting the decision not to work in Asia. However, the global networks with which CFP works, especially

RUAF work in all regions of the world and through the mechanism of RUAF, CFP's work is shared in Asia and Asian experience can be brought to bear on the CFP projects in Africa. RUAF has identified IWMI India as a regional focal point for Asia and the Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resource Research of the National Academy of Sciences (IGSNRR, Beijing) for China. However as pointed out in the RUAF Midterm evaluation, the cultural richness and diversity in Asia might require more than these two focal points for that diverse region. For the consolidation of the networks the RUAF evaluation also proposed that the creation of continental networks (e.g. an African and Asian Network for Urban Agriculture) might be an important step towards future sustainability of the project.

**The transfer of urban agriculture know-how from Asia to Africa has been mainly achieved through global networking through the RUAF magazine and e-conferences. SARO has been involved in helping to identify institutions and experts from the region. The Regional Office also commissioned a survey of urban agriculture in India, which is now available in print and on-line in the CFP Report series. The project (101259) *Survey of City Experiences with Credit and Investment for UA Interventions*, which includes Asian case studies brought the authors together at UN-HABITAT to share experiences in May 2002. The Hyderabad meeting also enabled researchers from MENA and Africa to meet with Asian experts. While these activities are taking place, they are infrequent and the main transfer must rely on the RUAF mechanism. The planned wastewater use network project for 2004, which will be facilitating the sharing of UA and wastewater knowledge between different projects and regions appears a good way to improve transfer of experience.**

## 4 RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

**In assessing CFP's research activities, we have focused on one project within Research Area 1 (Space confined production systems) and undertaken a thematic review of the wastewater treatment and reuse projects in the Middle East that fall within Research Area 2. For Research Area 3, we have reviewed the Policy Briefs prepared in Latin America, which have been translated into English and French and will be adapted for use in Africa.**

### 4.1 Budget allocation to research areas

**One of the key decisions made by CFP for achieving program objectives is budget allocation within the PI<sup>14</sup>. We analysed all CFP funded activities from 1993-2002 to obtain an overview of the number of projects and the dollars invested by CFP by research theme and by region for the evaluation period (2000-2002) and for the immediately preceding years.**

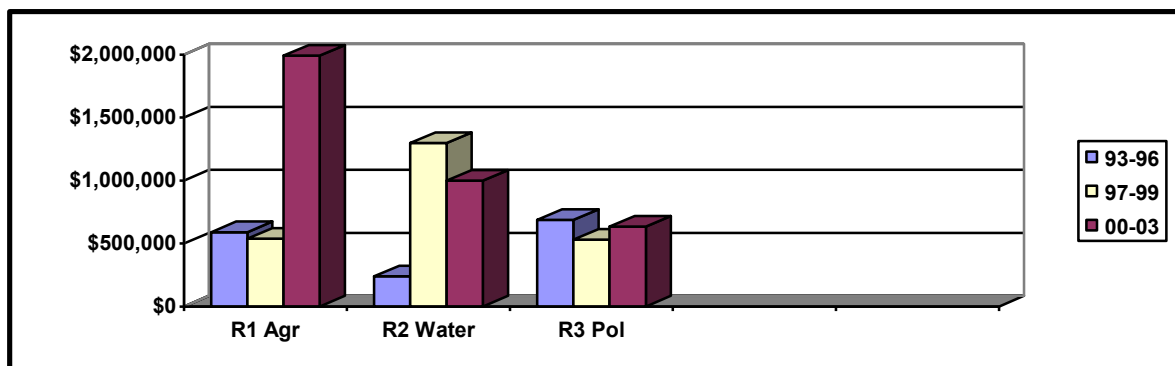
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<sup>14</sup> We did not look at staff time allocation, which is another important resource input.

**Figure 3 shows the distribution of IDRC funding for three periods (1993<sup>15</sup>-96; 1997-99; and 2000-2002) across the Research Areas of CFP<sup>16</sup>. Three year periods were chosen to smooth out the high variability from year to year where one project can account for a third or more of the PI's total budget allocation to that area.**

**The total project budget allocation to CFP has increased in the three periods since 1993. The pattern of project funding between the three Research Areas has also shifted. The biggest shift has been towards greater expenditure in Research Area 1 in Phase 2, with a reduction in funding for wastewater reuse, which has received 18% of the Phase 2 budget. This *appears* to be in contrast with the objectives for the wastewater reuse area given in the Prospectus, which state that more work will be done on this area in Phase 2.**

**Figure 3 Distribution of IDRC funding across CFP's three research areas 1993-2002**



**Figure 3 shows that so far in Phase 2 (2000-03)<sup>17</sup> 55% of the budget (\$1.99 million out of \$3.62 million) provided to CFP Research Areas 1-3 has been allocated to Research Area 1 (Space confined production systems). Much of this funding went to three large projects with international and regional research centres. Funding for policy related projects has remained fairly constant since 1993 in dollar figures but has fallen from 45% of project funding between the research areas in 1993-96 to 17% in the current cycle.**

**The reasons for the discrepancy between planned and actual budget allocations are that the wastewater use projects in Palestine and Lebanon took a long time to develop and only one Program Officer was responsible for both Research Area 2 (wastewater use) and for MENA. The CFP team anticipates that the amount of funding going to wastewater use projects will rise to at least 40% of the PI total for FY 2003-04 and 2004-05.**

<sup>15</sup> No CFP funds were expended in FY1994-95

<sup>16</sup> „Agriculture’ refers to Research Area 1 (Space-confined production systems); „Waste’ to Research Area 2 (Waste water treatment and reuse); „Policy’ to Research Area 3 (UA Policy and Processes).

<sup>17</sup> All project data are until March 31 2003. This represents only the first three years of Phase 2.

## 4.2 Space-confined production systems

Our review on the space-confined production systems is mainly based on the field-visit to the project: “Improving the rural-urban nutrient cycle through urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA)” (100376) coordinated by IWMI in West Africa. Nevertheless CFP had other space-confined projects in the past, for example on closing the nutrient loop between urban livestock and urban crop systems in Gambia-Senegal (101452). These other projects were not able to be included as case studies in the review.

The IWMI project is composed of two sub-projects:

- Subproject 1: Analysis of rural - urban food flows (biomass, nutrients), which includes the quantification of waste generation in cities across different ecozones
- Subproject 2: Contribution of urban, peri-urban and rural agriculture to urban food supply (per city, season, commodity, etc.), which includes the delineation of urban vs. peri-urban vs. rural areas.

The project aims to support decisions in win-win situations for municipalities and farmers in combining waste reduction and nutrient recycling for intensive year-round vegetable production in urban and peri-urban areas.

IDRC support for the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) has created a series of other UPA – related activities of the project team; for example, a study on the health impacts of UPA (with FAO); a pilot composting station with Swiss partners and other studies related to UPA in cooperation with several universities. Another initiative is a community-based action research project on “urban sanitation”, which involves schoolchildren and school composting activities. Capacity building within the organization and its staff members clearly took place since the project started and the research process opened the door to think far beyond the original frame of the project.

One major output of the research activities is that closing the rural-urban nutrient flow is not possible, at least in the case of Ghana. This is mainly because of low cost effectiveness of compost production, lack of compost markets and demand, and high transport costs. In reality very little quantity of recycled waste is re-used in urban agriculture. Generally, the concept does not seem to be viable anywhere and this is because in practice rural areas simply do not get back any nutrients from the cities. This does not mean that this cycle and the intra-urban nutrient cycle could not, and should not be optimized in future. It can also be expected that there are major differences between large capital cities and peri-urban places as well as small and medium size towns. In the latter three the chance to optimize the nutrient cycle might work much better.

During the research process it became obvious that problem-solving solutions are far more complex than initially thought. Waste management is of course far more than just composting. In this context, most important are the legal, institutional and communal settings that determine whether waste reduction and recycling strategies will work. The economic viability and marketability of compost is often not adequately considered by such projects. There is a demand for compost mainly in the real estate sector, some for ornamental plants, but not yet in vegetable production. One question discussed with the project staff was how the market for compost can be developed, for example by providing free compost to farmers for experimentation and improving the labeling of compost products. The first measure could eventually have a positive impact on the willingness of farmers to cooperate with the project.

The main problem appears to be the lack of capacity to link research with policy. Traditionally IWMI is a research institution and experience shows that that policy brokerage has not been so far on the agenda. Therefore IWMI decided to create the position of a policy broker, which unfortunately has not yet been filled. Eventually partnerships with other organizations could help to establish closer linkages between research, policy and implementation. Not unique to this project is the lack of any social scientist (sociologist, anthropologist, ethnologist or human geographer). Another problem faced by the project are changes in the key-actors in the relevant decision making departments on both city and government levels.

Another observation of concern is the dwindling willingness of farmers to cooperate with traditional research projects. Farmers have been used for many years now as resource persons for obtaining relevant information and answering research questions from many different projects (supported by DFID, NRI, IDRC and others) but research has had no beneficial impact on them. The project leaders realized this and started to implement the action research activities with the local peri-urban farmers, thus involving them more into the research on rural-urban nutrient flows. A major characteristic of the peri-urban villages around Accra and Kumasi is their disconnection from the urban infrastructure and the observation that each village seeks its own solution for the waste problem.

### 4.3 Wastewater treatment and reuse

**Our review of the wastewater research area is based on a field visit to the wastewater project in Dakar and a thematic review of the wastewater projects in the Middle East, including telephone interviews with five project leaders in Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine.**

#### BOX 10: WASTEWATER PROJECTS REVIEWED

##### AFRICA

Wastewater treatment using water lettuce for reuse in market gardens (Dakar) 004367

##### MIDDLE EAST

Greywater treatment and reuse for peri-urban horticulture, West Bank (Palestine) 004211

Duckweed wastewater treatment and reuse for fodder, Jordan Valley, West Bank 100219

Greywater treatment and reuse, Tufileh, Jordan 100880

Greywater treatment and reuse in West Bekka, Lebanon 100900

**Wastewater treatment and reuse has been a theme in CFP since 1995, but with the development of the project with PARC<sup>18</sup> in the West Bank (Palestine), a more strategic**

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<sup>18</sup> Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee

approach to networking projects and sharing experiences has led to some significant successes in both the development of new technologies and in policy impact at national level. The PARC project developed a low cost, household level wastewater treatment system that requires low maintenance, very low energy consumption and minimum skills to operate and maintain it. It also produces almost immediate benefits in household nutrition and food security and in women's improved productivity from their home gardens.

**CFP has enabled researchers in Jordan to visit Palestine, study the technology and then improve it, and share their experience with other researchers in the region, including in Lebanon and Syria. This is a good example of focused networking in which researchers share common problems, language, geographic and cultural contexts and the solutions they come up with can be of direct use and benefit to other members of the network. From interviews with each project leader, the value that they place on these project exchanges and their views of the role of IDRC are very positive.**

**IDRC has also linked other wastewater projects to the greywater projects in the Middle East. These include the duckweed project in Palestine, which is using a different technology at a larger scale, but which faced a similar challenge to the greywater projects in overcoming public and government resistance to using wastewater for food production. All project leaders reported that public acceptability to using treated water was their main challenge.**

**CFP's strategy in helping these projects increase their acceptability has been nothing short of brilliant. They supported the in-house production of a book on *Water in Islam*<sup>19</sup> and its translation into French and Arabic. The Arabic version was provided to project leaders in the Middle East to help them respond to concerns from local people about the correctness of reusing waste water and has been a key tool to help the technology to be accepted by local beneficiaries and governments.**

**The projects in Palestine and Jordan have had considerable success in providing the evidence base for policy reform. The Palestinian Water Authority has adopted the development of household greywater treatment systems. In Jordan, the Ministry of Planning was so convinced by the IDRC pilot project in Tufileh that it provided the funds for scaling up the technology to 700 treatment units, and another 700 units are under negotiation. The Ministry of Water is now evaluating the water quality produced by the technology and is considering developing similar systems throughout the country where habitation is too dispersed for economic sewage systems. Jordan is currently revising its Building Code to require that all new houses have two systems for water disposal – thus separating greywater and black water, so that greywater can be reused for agriculture. The Ministry of Health is concerned about the water quality and the hope is that it will soon pass required standards. The Jordanian experience is being looked at by Lebanon and Syria.**

**These are remarkable policy impacts for a pilot project started in one community in 2000. They not only speak to the value of the technological innovation, but to the success of CFP in seeing the potential in the technology (which had no donor support at the time) and**

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<sup>19</sup> N.I. Faruqui, A.K. Biswas and M.J. Bino (eds) 2001, *Water Management in Islam*, IDRC (Ottawa) and UNU Press (Tokyo) 149 p.

**identifying other researchers and institutions that could contribute to its further development. In Jordan, INWRDAM<sup>20</sup>**, researchers improved the wastewater technology itself and also developed new environmentally friendly liquid detergents and shampoos<sup>21</sup> that worked well with the treated greywater. The development of these consumer products was the result of INWRDAM's discussions with Ministry officials.

**In contrast, the wastewater treatment using water lettuce in Dakar appears to have a less successful experience in linking its results to practical application in agricultural production than the greywater projects in the Middle East. It has had less interaction with other IDRC projects, although closer cooperation with IMWI in Ghana and sharing experience from Latin America and Asia would be beneficial (Annex 4). One of the key challenges facing the Dakar project are health concerns about the quality of the treated wastewater; not only its biological quality but also the levels of heavy metals and toxins. The National Sewerage Authority of the Senegal (ONAS<sup>22</sup>) does not have the capacity to supervise the technological quality of many small wastewater treatment systems all over the country. It is reluctant to approve any systems using treated wastewater without adequate monitoring and assurances that the treatment systems are reliable and can meet WHO water quality standards.**

**This issue of WHO water quality standards is another challenge for the low technology-low cost wastewater treatment systems in CFP projects. Ministries of Health are guided by WHO water quality standards although these standards may not be appropriate for the situations in which most urban poor farmers find themselves – where water treated to a standard below international standards for use on food crops is better than no water. Despite local cost-benefit ratios that favour using treated greywater, any scaling up will be dependent on approval by national health authorities of the treated water as meeting acceptable quality standards for the proposed uses<sup>23</sup>.**

**However, there are positive impacts of the project on other donors like the World Bank and UN-Habitat. The latter considers the project amongst its “best practices”, and the project team successfully convinced the WB to leave the decentralized solution in place and to adapt the newly planned system to the existing ones, working with a similar pond system. The other aspect of the small-scale project to get interest of the WB is the cost recovery system of the project. It is planned to improve this system in collaboration with the micro**

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<sup>20</sup> Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management, Amman, Jordan

<sup>21</sup> Removing the sulphur and replacing it with potassium and magnesium

<sup>22</sup> Office National de l'Assainissement

<sup>23</sup> Senegal appraisal - Project # 101535 – Wastewater Treatment Using Water Lettuce (Phase II), Prepared by Mark Redwood (Project Officer, CFP)

<sup>24</sup> In its comments on an earlier draft of the review, CFP note that two books in press of which Naser Faruqi is a co-author show that the WHO Guidelines for wastewater use in developing countries are two orders of magnitude more strict than the USEPA Guidelines for drinking water treatment in the US. WHO is in the process of revising its own guidelines to recommend that the risks associated with wastewater use in agriculture should be assessed in the context of the disease rates of the population from all sources, including water supply, sanitation and food. This implies that preventative health care dollars would be more effectively spent in other areas besides full treatment. We thank Naser Faruqi for this information.





[illegible]

The policy briefs are the output of a participatory process with stakeholder involvement on different levels, so they represent both the output and process of the CFP programme. In Lima (Peru) a workshop was organized in 2002 to validate a series of policy briefs on urban agriculture, featuring themes such as gender, micro-credit, waste and water recycling, urban planning, food security, and commercialization. Mayors and technicians from ten

**Latin American municipalities attended the event. The policy briefs are not for a wide public but specifically designed for municipal policy makers .**

**The policy briefs are seen as a networking tool and for advocacy, awareness raising and training for people who had not attended the regional course. The nine briefs produced so far, address the most important issues regarding UA implementation in cities. They appear suitable to offer cities practical solutions for their (often similar) problems, such as waste and waste water management, involvement of citizens in planning processes, maintenance of open green spaces etc. They have been used in practice for:**

- ❑ Facilitation of more participation of the local actors in public life
- ❑ Development of a master plan including Urban Agriculture e.g. in Sao Paolo (Brazil)

According to our interviews, the best ways to use the policy briefs is for:

- ❑ Management of micro credit for productive activities in Urban Agriculture
- ❑ Productive use of solid household waste
- ❑ Opportunity of the neighbours so that they participate in the political decisions
- ❑ UA as a opportunity to reach food security and nutrition, good food quality, and a sufficient amount of food for all the urban and peri-urban population
- ❑ Transformation of production and marketing
- ❑ Gender participation in activities on different levels, cultural, social, economic education and health.

However it appears that the policy briefs as such are only useful to start creating awareness and advocacy for UPA in municipalities. The briefs would need to be backed up by a practical manual on how to address, for example, gender issues to be better able to plan with gender perspectives. The briefs are formulated to influence municipal policies. Whenever the incorporation into municipal laws happens, this would require additional support by a multidisciplinary team (field technicians, social workers, etc.) or an appropriate institutional structure (e.g. strategic development plans, “Foro de Seguridad Alimentario”, advisory councils etc.), to accompany the law enforcement. This is especially important in times of fluctuating socioeconomic realities in many countries (e.g. Argentina, Uruguay, and some African countries).

In conclusion, we can say that the policy briefs are important as a process and output of the CFP and have had various important impacts on cities such as the various city declarations and institutionalisation of city mechanisms to include UA into their policies. We also conclude that the briefs might need further accompanying measures to reach the goals that they target.

## **5 RESEARCH SUPPORT ACTIVITIES**

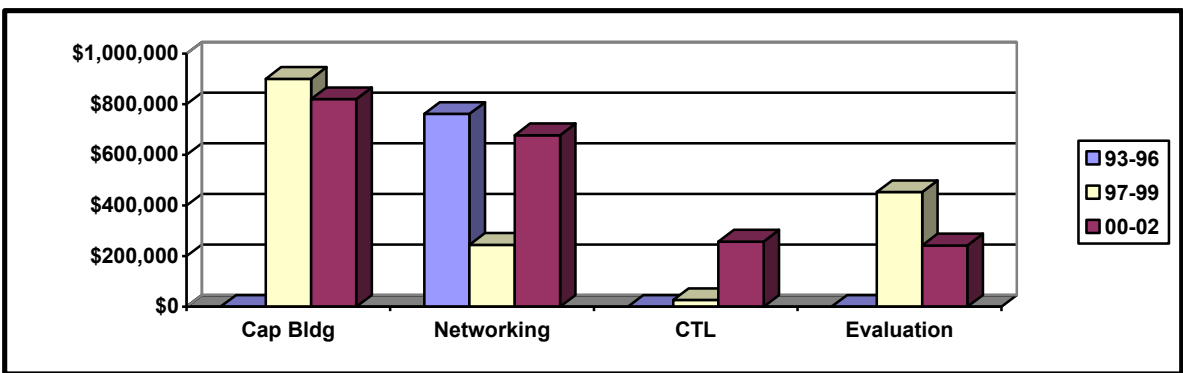
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<sup>25</sup> The number of printed copies is 500 sets in Spanish (500 more will be produced), 1000 sets in English, and 500 sets in French. CFP is in the process of producing 500 hardcopies in Portuguese and will be posting the Portuguese web versions shortly. They are translated into English, Portuguese and French. To download them for the Internet is not an easy task especially with slow connection.

## 5.1 Budget allocation to research support activities

Figure 4 shows the distribution of IDRC funding to CFP research support activities. These are projects aimed at capacity building, creating global and regional networks for urban agriculture, synthesizing lessons learned (especially from Latin America) and „Closing the Loop’ activities. Since 1993, an average of 37% of project funds has been devoted to these four research support activities (36% for Phase 2). This is a high ratio, reflecting the role of CFP as a pioneer in supporting the new research field of urban agriculture. It also demonstrates that this advocacy role is significantly shaping the expenditure of CFP and the activities it supports.

**Figure 4 CFP funding for research support projects 1993-2002<sup>26</sup>**



Since 1997, CFP has invested CAD\$1.7 million in capacity building – 15% of its budget in Phase 2. Much of this is devoted to the Agropolis Awards. Support to global networks such as RUAF and Urban Harvest (with the CGIAR) and the establishment of regional UA networks, first in Latin America and more recently in Africa has been done through several large projects. Networking accounted for 33% of project funding in 1993-96 and 12% in Phase 2. Compared to capacity building and networking, the expenditures are small on „Closing the Loop’ (5% in Phase 2) and evaluation (4% in Phase 2) although in the period 1997-99 CFP invested over 11% of its budget to assessing its experience preparatory to Phase 2.

## 5.2 Capacity building

CFP has placed capacity building at the centre of its program with two of its three objectives targeted at strengthening capacities:

### BOX 11: CAPACITY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

**Objective 1:** To strengthen *local research capacity* and generate household and community level data for city level policy and technology options

<sup>26</sup> The network have been strengthened through training and networking

We examined CFP's work in capacity building through a detailed review of two major training projects, including surveys of the trainees and interviews with those involved in designing and managing the programs . **We also assessed capacity building within CFP research projects, through interviews with project leaders and review of documentation and available evaluations.**

### 5.2.1 Agropolis Awards

A critical mass of researchers in urban agriculture is lacking, especially in developing countries. Part of CFP's strategy is to help attract good researchers to the field by providing awards for field research in urban agriculture. This is the main purpose of the Agropolis project.

The Agropolis project has supported 27 research students between 1999-2000 (17 PhD and 10 Masters students) . A survey of these awardees found high satisfaction with the support that they had received from Agropolis and its Secretariat within CFP (Annex 5). The survey found that the main goals of the program are being achieved. More than 70% of the trainees expect to continue in research after they have completed their degree. Over 90% plan to return to their home country although they were less sure that they would be able to find jobs in urban agriculture. For over 70% of them, the Agropolis support was critical to their ability to do their fieldwork.

However, there are also some less positive findings. One relates to the regional distribution of awards, which has given only two awards to students from Asia compared to 13 from Africa and 5 from Canada. A concerted effort to increase applications from Latin America by making the application form available in Spanish and promoting the program through Canadian embassies and networks such as AGUILA led to 50% of the awardees coming from LAC in 2003. The lack of a similar effort in information dissemination to attract students from Asia is attributed to IDRC's corporate decision that CFP will not be very active in Asia. The criticism here is that Agropolis is a *global* awards program, undertaken by IDRC as its special contribution to the work of the Support Group for Urban Agriculture (SGUA). Some partners feel that IDRC's own regional programming priorities should not override the donor coalition's global strategy.

Interviews with the Advisory Committee revealed a concern that the quality of applicants for the awards is not as high as desirable, and the ratio of good applicants to awardees is low for

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<sup>27</sup> **100641: Regional Training Course on Urban Agriculture (Latin America)**

100824: AGROPOLIS Awards for graduate field research on urban agriculture (Global).

<sup>28</sup> These included the wastewater projects examined by Anne Whyte and the projects in West Africa visited by Axel Drescher.

<sup>29</sup> Regional breakdown of country of origin is: Canada (5), Latin America and Caribbean (5), Sub Saharan Africa (13), Asia (2), Middle East and North Africa (2).

<sup>30</sup> The one who did not plan to go home gave insecurity as the reason and is working in another developing country.

international award of this calibre<sup>31</sup>. On the one hand, Advisory Committee members agree that for student research support in urban agriculture, “*Agropolis is the only game in town*”. On the other hand, they feel they are struggling to find sufficient good proposals to make awards. This is particularly so at the post-doctoral level, and seems to be more difficult in more recent years.

One of the weaknesses in the design of the Agropolis program is the role of the university supervisor. Most (76%) are not specialists in urban agriculture and were not themselves aware of the Agropolis awards. In order to institutionalise urban agriculture more rapidly within the universities, there should perhaps be better mechanisms to link the students’ supervisors with the program. Students tend to move on whereas university teachers are more permanent features of the university structure, and through them, urban agriculture concepts can enter the curriculum. Admittedly Agropolis is focussed on building individual capacities but there may be more ways in which it could *also* have some more impact on their institutions.

In 2002, CFP began to inform the supervisors by letter that one of their students had received an award and thanked them for their (anticipated) support. In addition, from 2003, the supervisor is required to sign the student’s application form. While these are steps in the right direction, it remains to be seen how effective they will be in terms of strengthening the training institutions (particularly in developing countries) from which the students come. There are at least two positive indications: the national Agency for Rural Development in Ivory Coast is considering developing a policy network for urban animal husbandry systems following one Agropolis awardees’ thesis; and the Ecole superieure d’Agronomie of Togo is developing a follow-up project to another student’s thesis.

One issue is the cost of Agropolis in the context of CFP’s program budget and human resources. Efforts are underway to scale back the awards and reduce administrative costs – including reducing the time allocated by the Administrative Coordinator and the costs and time input of the Advisory Committee. The original project approved in 1997-98 had a budget of CAD\$900,200 and a subsequent phase approved in 2001-02 has a budget of CAD\$495,000 for a total of nearly \$1.4 million. The administration of any award program requires staff time, including the expertise of the Program Officers, and Agropolis is no exception. The decision to run the program from within CFP has produced a program with high quality administration combined with technical advice to students from CFP staff members.

It is clear from our survey of awardees that the technical support from CFP staff members and the Advisory Committee as well as the administration of the program are viewed very highly. We also note that the ratio of administrative costs to awards falls within the IDRC norm for small grant facilities<sup>32</sup>. The issue is not that the current administrative costs of Agropolis are out of line for a small grant program but that in scaling back the Agropolis program including reducing the number of awards, the time of the administrator (from full time to 4 days per week) and the time and size of the Advisory Committee in order to reduce costs, CFP may be running into a problem of decreased cost-effectiveness.

If the budget of CFP is increased, then continuing with a new Phase of Agropolis may make sense. If the path ahead is one of reduced allocation to CFP (which we do not believe should happen), then CFP’s strategic advantage as a PI may lie in funding more research rather than

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<sup>31</sup> Master’s and PhD students receive up to CAD \$20,000 for fieldwork support and post-doctoral students up to CAD\$55,000.

<sup>32</sup> Tillman, G., 2003, Review of the Small Grants Mechanism; IDRC Consultant Report, June 2003.

continuing an in-house award program without any strategic partners. In an ideal world, one of the SGUA's partners with deeper pockets than IDRC would also support Agropolis. But beyond the question of costs, we believe that a fuller evaluation is needed of the Agropolis program that should examine *inter alia* likely future demand for the awards, the ratio of applicants to awards in each category, the dissemination of information about the awards, the size of the awards, the time of CFP staff in addition to that of the administrator involved in providing support to Agropolis, the role of the Technical Committee and the review process. Such an evaluation is probably needed for future discussions with potential donor partners and would help CFP to better assess where to go with Agropolis in Phase 3.

### 5.2.2 Regional Training Courses

Another plank in the CFP capacity building strategy is the *Regional Training Course in Urban Agriculture*. This responds directly to the second objective of CFP to strengthen regional capacities in research and policy. The first course took place in West Africa; the second (and the one examined in detail by the evaluators) took place in Latin America; and the third will take place in East Africa in 2004. The training activity on fundraising in LAC is scheduled for November 2003. Each regional course has built on the experience of the preceding courses. Gender analysis is better integrated into the training, the target group has widened from researchers to policy makers and their senior advisors and new training modules are added.

For the Latin American course, the evaluation team conducted semi-structured interviews with participants and moderators of the course to examine their views on the course material and organization, and the impact of taking the course on their cities, especially on improving communication between the various stakeholders in urban agriculture in their city. The interviews revealed that moderators felt that more time was needed to prepare the modules than was available and the resulting training was less coherent with some last minute changes. According to the participants, the modules were good, although some of the material could have been strengthened.

An innovative feature of the course was to invite pairs of participants on a competitive basis according to a project proposal on their city produced jointly by city authorities and researchers from local NGOs or research institutions. One by-product of the course was expected to be better communication between the stakeholders from the cities, especially the two people participating in the training course. The results in this respect appear mixed, but this is more related to personalities than the course design. More problematic has been the ability of the trainees to raise funds locally to carry out their projects and the feeling that there was insufficient post-course follow-up.

Nonetheless, a number of projects have been implemented. These include a spin-off course planned for twenty cities; an inter-city alliance between Valadares (Brazil), Cienfuegos (Cuba) and Rosario (Argentina) to integrate urban agriculture into urban planning; and a plan for a series of seminars in Indonesia using the same training modules.

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<sup>33</sup> The evaluation report on the LAC Regional Training course observed that women were under-represented among both the participants and the moderators and there was inadequate time devoted to gender issues, even when the course represented a clear improvement to the Dakar course in this respect.

<sup>34</sup> This is a new initiative by the PUDSEA Network for the University of Giessen. A new project on "Linking Communities with Researchers: Creating an Innovative Platform for Peri Urban Development in SE-Asia (Link-CoRe)", which involves a series of seminars on UPA is planned.

The course did build the capacities of those who participated and led to some interesting activities in the cities of participants. The participants themselves identified several additional needs: (1) to strengthen their skills in developing project proposals and in fundraising; (2) to improve the gender training; (3) to develop a new training module on action research methodologies.

One innovative follow-up training activity in Latin America is the proposed workshop on *Capacity building in fundraising for action research in urban agriculture* to take place in 2004, with the participation of selected members of the AGUILA network, together with monitoring of the outcomes of the workshop in terms of funds raised for urban agricultural activities.

Another self-initiative now taken by the Mexican "AGUILA" Network on Urban Agriculture -sub-division of the Latin American "AGUILA" Network on Urban Agriculture - invites NGOs, social organizations and researchers interested in the promotion, investigation and dissemination of urban and peri-urban agriculture, to participate in its conference on "Urban agriculture as an organizational strategy for food security, family/community survival, and environmental sustainability". This meeting specifically tries to bridge the gaps discovered during the training course and addresses specifically experience relating to the development of projects or proposals on Urban or Peri-urban Agriculture. The conference is of specific interest for some participants from LA-countries in economic crisis, here UA activities are quickly and visibly increasing and city authorities need to address the issue now.

### **5.2.3 Capacity building within research projects**

Based on our review of projects other than those specifically devoted to training, and our interviews with project leaders, we find that CFP has supported research that includes a capacity building component in three main areas:

- ❑ Multidisciplinarity and team approaches to research
- ❑ Social analysis including gender analysis
- ❑ Learning from the experience of others through networking leading to improved technologies (e.g. for greywater reuse) and methodologies.

Most of this capacity building directly benefited project team researchers. In some cases the experience of managing an IDRC project also led to institutional learning and change. For example, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) made urban agriculture an integral part of its own program following the Accra Waste Management project. For the Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDAM), the project experience strengthened the capacity of the organization to do research, to work in a multidisciplinary way and to link research to downstream „Closing the Loop’ activities like producing training manuals and posters in Arabic.

## **5.3 Networking**

The Resource Center on Urban Agriculture and Forestry (RUAF) was conceived in 1996, and setup in 1999 in response to the expressed need of organizations and local governments in the



South for effective mechanisms for the documentation, exchange and discussion of research data and local experiences on urban agriculture<sup>35</sup>. Although RUAF was originally planned to be the information branch of the global support group for UA, this original understanding has evolved. RUAF defines its main aim to facilitate the integration of urban agriculture in the policies and programs of national and local governments, technical departments, research centers and NGO's and to facilitate the formulation of projects on urban agriculture with active involvement of all local stakeholders.

RUAF is a virtual resource center and a capacity development project for local and global information on UA, and has created a global network of regional focal points covering Africa, Latin America and parts of Asia as well as Europe and North America through its partner *Cityfarmer* in Canada. The network has created a considerable amount of information and was very active in advertising UA in the regions by organizing workshops, city consultations, round tables, producing and publishing books and articles, including the well-received *Urban Agriculture Magazine* and last but not least organizing and co-organizing electronic conferences.

Additionally very useful information is provided by ETC-RUAF with the contact database containing information on relevant institutions and individuals engaged in UA and an extended bibliography provides additional information. Without any doubt, in a very short time a unique new source of information has been created and this has contributed to a much greater awareness and knowledge on UA worldwide. The *Urban Agriculture Magazine* has contributed to the development of local skills and local capacity building.

However, local capacity development among the partners needs to be further strengthened in the future and South-South cooperation needs to be enhanced, as pointed out in the RUAF Midterm Evaluation Report. Regarding the capacity for information management within the partner institutions it has been suggested that RUAF might benefit from links with other IDRC projects in this field, such as Acacia.

Sustainability of the project beyond the timeframe of external funding will depend on both RUAF's capacity for fundraising and integration of the network in more long-term program structures, e.g. UN-Programs or City Alliances. It is also important to clarify RUAF's role and perspective with respect to other international partners e.g., FAO, SIUPA, IDRC, and UMP-Habitat and the SGUA. RUAF's capacity to influence high-level policies is questionable. This is not the fault of RUAF and its competence in UA but more caused by the current approach of UN-Organizations and national Ministries towards NGOs.

Providing more information on its role in different languages (French, Spanish English, Chinese and Arabic) would enhance the visibility of the international network. It would also be useful to have a clearer indication of the global extent of the network. There is still a high potential to expand the network to more countries and regions but this needs further funding and extension of the project to a second phase.

The RUAF midterm review report states: "IDRC's strategy has been to provide additional and separate funding to the regional focal points to allow them to engage in policy-oriented research under separate projects that are more localized and focussed. This targeted support via

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<sup>35</sup> IDRC and the Dutch Development Organization (DGIS) jointly finance RUAF. RUAF coordination is based in Leusden, The Netherlands.

complementary projects is a good way both achieve specific outputs and direct resources to local organizations”.

The West African City Network (100520) for francophone countries is one of these projects and is coordinated by the African Institute for Urban Management (IAGU) in Dakar (also the RUAF Focal Point for Francophone West Africa) and involves seven countries in the region. Its main objectives are to:

- ❑ Make a diagnosis of urban farming activities in this countries
- ❑ Identify the constraints i.e. waste water use and land tenure
- ❑ Prepare municipal action plans (MAP)

The project successfully led to the formulation of the “Dakar Declaration” in which the cities declare to intensify their involvement and recognition of UA development and future integration of UA in city planning.

One problem observed with the project appears to be the target level of involvement – the regional level enhances the exchanges of experience between researchers and municipalities for the region. Nevertheless activities on city level like the RUAF “stakeholder forums” are another important target activity. In this regard the West African City Network has a major weakness - its lack of funding. This creates tensions between the regional coordinator (IAGU) and the national coordinators for the Senegal RADI.

In other countries and regions the concept of the “stakeholder forums” does not seem to function very well (e.g. Harare, Lusaka) partly due to lack of funding but also because the basic principles of the concept are not clear to the stakeholders. Because the RUAF partners consider themselves as “regional” focal points, there seems to be a need to work towards a *network of networks* that would seek close cooperation with city-based NGOs and provide some seed-money to enable the establishment of “stakeholder forums” on city level.

From the Ghana Waste Project (100376) it is evident that tremendous efforts have been made to improve networking beyond the “traditional” framework of the CFP Program (RUAF, CGIAR, municipalities, local governments). The networking with African and overseas universities which was established with twelve different departments clearly shows the interdisciplinary character of the work that was done and gives further evidence of the commitment of the staff members. About 100 students have been trained in different subjects related to the project. This certainly created more awareness for the complexity of UPA activities among those and their supervisors. Some of the students involved have advanced in their careers after their work for the project. This is promising for future activities in UPA. The creation of an interdisciplinary working group on UPA at Tamale University in Ghana is another sign that the project has successfully created greater awareness for urban agriculture. The cooperation with the FAO Regional Office and the Swiss SANDEC has been both successful and enriching.

The LAC-branch of the project (UMP-Habitat) did a great deal of networking in the LAC region. The city consultations, the regional course and the development of the policy briefs contributed significantly to this process, but the collaboration with AGUILA was also important for the production and dissemination of information through the UA-Magazine. All these activities have led to the formation of national organizations for UA

(AGUILA Mexico, AGUILA Argentina and AGUILA Brazil (planned). However it appears that the national networks are not yet strong enough to be independent from external support and advice.

## 5.4 Gender analysis

One of the comments of the last external evaluation in 1999 was that gender analysis *at the level of projects* was not as strong as it should be. This is despite the existence of gender analysis guidelines, in English, French and Spanish, that CFP specifically developed for urban agriculture projects and takes the reader through all the stages of project development and implementation. **Since 1999, the CFP website makes more material on gender analysis available on-line including an interesting set of projects presented as examples of different and some innovative ways of incorporating gender issues into research on urban agriculture.**

Since the last evaluation, the CFP team has strengthened its own capacity in gender/social analysis and has more systematically required gender issues to be addressed in the proposal development stage and as follow up, during monitoring visits. CFP has made gender analysis tools available through the website and in hardcopy to researchers and gender training is included in many workshops supported by CFP.

We did hear some comments from participants in the LAC Regional Training Course that women were underrepresented in both the participants and moderator groups and that there was inadequate time dedicated to gender analysis. There was also criticism that the approach to gender in the workshop needed to be broadened towards *social analysis* in which a holistic approach includes women, men, youth, different ages, and ethnic groups. We understand that the next Regional Training Course for Anglophone Africa will remedy these shortcomings, and that gender issues are integrated into all course modules as a crosscutting theme in the Nairobi Training Course to take place in 2004. Participation of women in the courses and the number of training modules addressing gender issues have increased from the Dakar roundtable in 2000 to Quito in 2001 and Nairobi in 2004<sup>36</sup>. **The Regional Training Courses are particularly cost-effective instruments for gender analysis training as 20-30 researchers from the region attend them.**

From our interviews with project leaders, we believe that there is more *awareness* among them now of the importance of studying the different roles and attitudes of men and women within a broader context of social analysis. However, we fear that for many CFP researchers, gender analysis is still seen as necessary mainly because IDRC insists on the gender dimension being included in the projects it funds. Gender sensitivity is seen as achieved when the beneficiaries are women, or some of the project team is female. There is little understanding that women researchers also need gender training – it doesn't necessarily come naturally with being a woman. Even for those researchers who do have a deeper understanding of gender analysis in research, the challenge is how to implement gender analysis in projects, often without specialized gender

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<sup>36</sup> Hovorka, A., 1998, *Gender Resources for Urban Agriculture Research: Methodology, Directory and Bibliography*; IDRC, Ottawa.

<sup>37</sup> In the call for applications to the Nairobi training course, CFP has specified that "preferably, teams should consist of at least one man and at least one woman."

expertise available. Access to expertise in the region seems to be particularly a problem in MENA and Sub-Saharan Africa – the both main areas where CFP works.

One area where CFP has been particularly successful in promoting gender analysis is in the Agropolis awards. Papers commissioned from awardees in 2001 and presented in 2002 focus on women's roles and status in urban agriculture. The papers discuss issues such as the food insecurity of poor urban households headed by women with little entitlement to resources; women's multiple exposure to risks posed by unsafe horticultural practices; landless women's struggle against policies of land and credit allocation for urban agriculture; and differences between women's and men's perceptions and management of allotment gardens. This bodes well for the next generation of researchers in urban agriculture.

While we commend CFP on its significant progress in integrating gender within its program at all levels in Phase 2, gender and social analysis in CFP projects will remain a work in progress while many of the organizations that CFP works with have not yet institutionalized gender sensitivity within their own structures and management. In the future, capacity building in gender and social analysis perhaps needs to target not only individual researchers but the organizations in which they work, and also focus on the next generation of researchers as CFP is doing. One of the lessons learned in promoting gender analysis is that it takes much longer than was expected for it to become integral to how researchers think about and carry out their research, especially in institutions and country contexts where this is not embedded into the local organizational and scientific cultures.

## **5.5 Website and electronic communications**

The CFP website is a key portal for disseminating IDRC's own work in urban agriculture. It has consistently led all other Program Initiatives by a wide margin since 2000 in the number of visits it receives. Between June 16 and 11 September 2003 the CFP website has received 13,253 visits compared to 7,364 for its nearest PI competitor (MINGA). The website is well-designed, informative, updated frequently and since 2000 it has been in French and Spanish as well as English. The main reason for its importance as a web destination, however, is that IDRC-CFP plays a unique role in the field of urban agriculture. It is one of the few agencies with a clear and long-term commitment to supporting research in urban agriculture and hosts one of the best websites on the topic, with key links to all the major players. **A Google search using the words “urban agriculture research” brings up the CFP site first on the list.**

The three most common destinations for visitors within the CFP site are the Agropolis Awards, resources and publications and information on CFP projects. Interestingly, the fourth most visited page is that on “Declarations”, of which the one 83% of visitors want to read is the *Hyderabad Declaration on Wastewater*. Most of the current visitors (71%) to the Agropolis webpage are looking at the information on postdoctoral awards – a possible hint of future demand. In comparison, the gender pages of the site have received few visitors.

The CFP website serves as a repository of information on urban agriculture for the SGUA (Support Group for Urban Agriculture) and has the CFP report series on line. It was rated highly

by an independent evaluator in 2001<sup>38</sup> and has been considerably improved since then, including its search capability and the documentation on line.

RUAF runs electronic conferences in English, French and Spanish on behalf of the Support Group on Urban Agriculture. These have included discussions on research methods, policy agendas and urban wastewater. Through RUAF, CFP has outsourced much of its information dissemination activities, including electronic conferencing. This seems to us to be a good strategy for a small PI with very limited human resources that is working in an emerging field where access to resources and networks are crucial to capacity building. Similarly, in 2000 CFP passed the administration of the AGUILA website and the Lyris listerv for the Latin American network to the AGUILA Secretariat based at IPES. The website is regularly updated and includes proceedings from AGUILA meetings, electronic newsletters and articles on urban agriculture, as well as links to 50 other urban agriculture sites, including funding agencies.

The RUAF-produced *Urban Agriculture Magazine* is also available full-text on the web and has included articles on several IDRC-funded projects. The first issue appeared in June 2000 and it was the first journal to cover all aspects of the urban agriculture field. Recent issues have appeared in Arabic and Chinese as well as in English, French and Spanish. The magazine is a forum that also reaches beyond the regional and thematic areas covered by CFP.

Our general assessment of the website and the electronic communication strategy is very positive. More can always be done, but with the resources available, much has already been achieved by CFP in Phase 2.

## 5.6 Evaluation

The CFP Prospectus for Phase 2 includes a clearly elaborated evaluation plan 2000-2004. Four main activities are identified (Box 12):

### BOX 12: PHASE 2 EVALUATION PLAN 2000-04

- Assessment of the AGUILA Network (2002-03)
- Review of AGROPOLIS Program (2004)
- Evaluation of wastewater treatment and reuse projects in MENA (2003-04)
- Self assessment of CFP impact by project leaders and CFP (2003)

The assessment of the AGUILA network was included in a more comprehensive review of lessons learned from the urban agriculture projects funded in Latin America and the Caribbean 1995-2000<sup>39</sup>. This evaluation study is an extremely useful summary of the work supported by CFP in LAC. It is well structured with clear identification of the results obtained. The overall conclusions are less detailed but nonetheless

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<sup>38</sup> Pelletier, J.J., 2001, Annual Review of the Cities Feeding People Report Series (1995-2000) and Website (1998-2000) ; *Cities Feeding People Series*, Report 34

<sup>39</sup> Ortega-Alarie, G., 2002, *Synthesis of Results and Lessons Learned : IDRC funded Urban Agriculture projects in Latin America and the Caribbean*; Cities Feeding People Series. ms

provide useful insights. The regional scope of this evaluation makes it particularly useful as an input to program strategy, especially since part of CFP's strategy is to transfer some of the LAC experience to Africa and the Middle East.

The other three evaluations in the plan are scheduled for 2003-04 so they have not yet taken place. Two of the proposed evaluations (Agropolis and wastewater projects in MENA) have been included in this external review – which seems a cost-effective way of doing it! We believe that the selection of topics for evaluation is appropriate and support the shift to from an evaluation of the AGUILA network to a broader assessment of CFP work in the LAC region.

In 2002, CFP decided to focus on meta-evaluations of projects by research area. At the level of individual projects, they are using a peer review approach with project leaders. This strategy maximizes the value of scarce evaluation dollars and, if successfully carried out, can act as a learning platform for researchers. However, we wonder whether some capacity building for researchers is needed in how to use self-evaluation tools and in any case, this approach needs careful monitoring by CFP. One example of this is the proposal to hold training for the national coordinators of the WANUA network on outcome mapping techniques.

With respect to the previous external evaluation undertaken in 1999 just prior to the launch of the second program cycle, CFP have made considerable effort to respond to the recommendations. Some of the challenges are not solved within a short time period. For example, strengthening project leaders' capacities for gender analysis and the development of policy tools are ongoing processes. We see good progress, but nonetheless urge that, particularly for gender analysis, policy tools, networking and using partnerships effectively, CFP continue to keep its eye on the ball.

Table 1 summarises the recommendations of that evaluation<sup>40</sup>, together with CFP's planned response and our own assessment of how far CFP has implemented the changes to date.

**Table 1 CFP's response to the 1999 external evaluation**

| <i>1999 External Reviewers' Comments</i>                | CFP Response 2000 | 2003 REVIEW COMMENTS |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Pay attention to urban-rural linkages (physical)</i> |                   |                      |

<sup>40</sup> Whyte, A. and Mackenzie, F., 1999, External Review of "Cities Feeding People", ms.

| 1999 External Reviewers' Comments | CFP Response 2000 | 2003 REVIEW COMMENTS |
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Urban-rural linkages will be one of three key issues to be studied in Phase 2 under Research Area 3.

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New research emphasis added on political economy in Research Area 3

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| <p><i>Consider adjusting ...<br/>allocation of expenditures<br/>... towards networking for<br/>the next three years</i></p> | <p>The Latin American UA network, AGUILA, is increasingly working with other networks</p> <p>Launching West Africa UA Research Network</p> <p>Moving towards networking in Middle East and North Africa, and in Eastern and Southern Africa</p> | <p>CFP investment in networking activities has increased in Phase 2, especially in regional networks in West Africa and in MENA.</p> <p><b>CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS<br/>MADE</b></p> |
|---|---|---|

*Link the CFP work in Africa and Latin America to the research knowledge base in Asia*

The Duckweed project in Palestine will work with a consultant from Bangladesh

The Resource Centre for Urban Agriculture and Forestry (RUAF) has selected IWMI India and IGSNRR for China

SARO is carrying out exploratory studies on UA in India and Nepal

AGROPOLIS Awards open to graduate students from Asia

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Very  
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Asian  
students  
apply.

**LIMITED  
PROGRESS**



*At the project level, well designed gender analysis is not always successfully achieved*

CFP will use a gender analysis checklist to review proposals, highlight gender issues in their field reports, and require that recipients self-monitor and report on gender analysis and equity

The team is developing a strategy to incorporate gender analysis at the project level by consulting a gender expert

Manual on Gender and UA guidelines for researchers is now available in English, French and Spanish, on the CFP website

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*Proposed publications should be undertaken in partnership with other organisations*

RUAF is mandated to coordinate a magazine, reference books, directories, and bibliographies while working with regional focal points to produce such publications.

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*Stimulate the replication of integrated model projects such as Dar es Salaam and Harare to other cities*

In Phase 2 the Program Initiative (PI) will shift its support to accommodate more multi-issue projects which build upon lessons learned from the single-city projects of Phase 1

The West Africa UA Network has been launched but it is early days to see how integrated an approach will be taken across the cities.

#### **KEY STEPS TAKEN**

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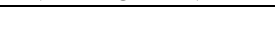
The executive secretariats for AGUILA and the West Africa network will issue regional publications that will later be synthesized and translated for international dissemination

The first electronic multi-regional conference sponsored by RUAF will be on UA policy

Increase CFP publication activities, such as briefing papers, project findings and AGROPOLIS field results.

The Policy Briefs produced in Latin America and being adapted for use in Africa and elsewhere are an excellent response to this recommendation.

#### **STRONG COMMITMENT AND IMPORTANT EARLY ACHIEVEMENTS**



Beyond the formal evaluations and the evaluation plan, the reviewers find that there is a healthy attitude to continuous learning among the CFP team. Reviews of lessons learned take place at team meetings and groups of projects, such as the wastewater projects and the regional training courses are examined for ways in which they can be improved.

## **6 CFP'S PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS**

## 6.1 Key beneficiaries

Key beneficiaries of CFP projects are the women and men who are engaged in urban farming, and their families. Urban farmers in many countries, but especially in Africa, are not yet well organized to articulate their needs and to protect their access and rights to the resources on which they depend. In Phase 2, CFP did not develop projects in which it works directly with producers' associations or organized farmers' groups, through its partner institutions. This might be a direction to explore in the next Phase – although there would be major implications for the PI if it were to work more directly with CBOs and NGOs. We shall further elaborate this basic question in Chapter 9.2.

## 6.2 Research partners

For projects funded in Phase 2, CFP's project recipients are mostly international or regional organizations, many with an emphasis on implementation and development rather than research per se. The international centres include UN HABITAT, IWMI, International Potato Center (CIP) and the International Livestock Research Center (ILRI). The regional centres include INWRDAM (Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management, based in Amman, Jordan), as well as ENDA and partners based in Dakar, Senegal. These are generally strong institutions, and also relatively expensive ones to work with . **Increasingly these institutions are working within regional networks that involve the participation of national partners.**

It is therefore the *recipients rather than CFP* who must reach out to the municipal authorities including urban planners, health authorities and mayors both for their input to the project design and as key target groups for the project results. In some cases, such as the INWRDAM project in Jordan, the success in doing this has been spectacular. In Phase 2, CFP has also supported several projects in which PI interns and Agropolis awardees have worked directly with farmers' groups; for example, in the Gambia-Senegal project on integrating crops and livestock. In other cases, such as the wastewater project visited in West Africa, the links with target groups including agricultural farmers and health authorities has not yet been successfully made.

Other projects are able to target urban farmers more directly. For example, the Municipal Development Partnership project on the political economy of urban agriculture in Eastern and Southern Africa includes interviews with urban producers and considers proposals from them on how to improve their access to land for urban agriculture in Dar es Salaam, Kampala and Harare. In Harare, the project includes a Stakeholder Forum in which urban producers' groups are represented. It seems clear that CFP projects can be successful insofar as the project leaders have the capacity and support to undertake the necessary outreach activities to „close the loop.’

In Phase 2, CFP is working much less with universities than in Phase 1, and it has not yet developed research partnerships with NGOs and CBOs (with the exception of strong regional NGOs like ENDA). We think that CFP has chosen its research partners wisely for the objectives

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<sup>41</sup> In comparison, researchers on national level salaries can hardly make a living and this leads to changes in research teams and a loss in human resources for the project and recipient organization. One good researcher can earn a year's salary from a consultancy of one month with an international organization.

and research plans that were established for Phase 2 – especially the emphasis on regional networks and policy impacts. Currently CFP does not have the staff time or the funds to become involved in many community-based projects. They need to rely on strong research and implementation partners on the ground, who have the capacity to engage in regional networking.

Interviews with project leaders in the wastewater and waste recycling projects and the regional network projects produced very positive reviews about the work of the CFP team. The technical support, the flexibility and the contribution of ideas are much appreciated. The main concern of the research partners regarding the CFP team was that it is not able to visit the projects as often as desirable and that the team is just too small. This situation is exacerbated by team turnover.

In its work in Latin America, the key partners were more at the municipal level than the national level but in Africa the strategy needs to engage national government ministries more directly, especially their local offices in the municipalities. These national ministries include not only those responsible for local government, but agencies responsible for health, agriculture and environment.

### 6.3 International partners

The four key international players in urban agriculture are IDRC-CFP, UN-HABITAT, FAO and the CGIAR (through the SIUPA project now named *Urban Harvest*). All are members of SGUA. Beyond this core group, RUAF (and its donor, DGIS) play a key role in networking and information management and dissemination. We interviewed seven representatives of these organizations who had worked with CFP and were familiar with the program (Annex 3 and 6). **There are some important differences in the roles played by the agencies in the core group. CFP and CGIAR play the lead role in urban agriculture research. They share a common vision about the importance of urban agriculture to food and nutrition security but the CGIAR puts more emphasis on peri-urban areas where technology and production issues are uppermost compared to inner city agriculture where land use and land tenure together with municipal policies are relatively more important.**

FAO and UN-HABITAT are not research agencies and rely on programs like CFP to produce the evidence base to encourage their member states to take urban agriculture seriously within their development work. Both UN organizations have factions within them that are both for and against agency programs on urban agriculture so that they have not been easy partners for CFP to work with. They also do not cooperate well with one another. CFP has had most success working with HABITAT's Urban Management Program in Latin America (UMP-HABITAT). However both UN agencies are key to successful scaling up and out of CFP's work because they have direct access to national Ministries of Agriculture (FAO) and Ministries of Planning (HABITAT).

Within this "UA inner circle", CFP has played a pivotal role in encouraging the agencies to pay attention to and invest in urban agriculture. The CGIAR program was established after a 1997 external review and from the outset CFP has been proactive in building synergies between its own program and that of the CGIAR, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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<sup>42</sup> This section reports on the views of CFP's international partners. Section 8.1 provides an overview of the position of CFP in the field of urban agriculture.

**“The CFP priorities in policy, water and health have been incorporated into the CG program. CFP was therefore very instrumental in broadening the CG’s perspective.”**

**Within the UN-HABITAT program, CFP was not instrumental in its creation, but has been influential in its implementation:**

**“CFP obliged us to do several things: (1) to be more systematic with our proposals – to transform the various requests we receive from municipalities into coherent proposals; (2) to document our experience; and (3) to focus on lessons learned. CFP has forced us to be more scientific in terms of the results achieved. CFP has been useful in providing us with a connection with the world outside our region. It brought us networking and to look outwards. It has forced us to work with other institutions and people and it has helped us to be more global.”**

CFP played a key role in FAO’s decision to have an Inter-Departmental Working Group and a designated Focal Point on Urban Agriculture. The Team Leader intervened personally in the meeting of member countries.

**“CFP was very instrumental in getting urban agriculture on FAO’s agenda. Luc Mougeot attended a key meeting of member countries. He intervened as an Observer and spoke in favour of a more active role for FAO. That was key in getting the organization on board.”**

**It is a major achievement for IDRC, through CFP, to have such an impact on three large international organizations and to be recognised by them as a leader in the field of urban agriculture. CFP also played the lead role in creating the international coalition for Urban Agriculture (SGUA) and in motivating a number of European bilateral donors to get involved.**

**Following the Phase I review a corporate direction was given to CFP to disengage from its advocacy role and devote more of its energies to research and training. However, there is some concern that today ground is being lost, or at least that it is not being gained any more. Momentum has been lost within FAO and there is a critical need for ensuring that research results reach the key fora within FAO and the representatives of its member states. We heard some criticism that the SGUA operates too much like a club and renewed effort is needed to enlarge its membership. There is a need to reach out to key people who are not yet convinced of the importance of urban agriculture to reducing poverty. Other international organizations for whose mandates and programs, urban agriculture is relevant – such as WHO, UNICEF and UNIFEM – have not yet been reached. There are bilateral agencies that need to be approached – again, if necessary. These include CIDA. Because this kind of initiative has to deal with high level UN, international and bilateral development organizations, we think the initiative must be taken by a high profile organization such as IDRC. It is questionable whether an NGO would be in an appropriate position to have enough leverage with other donors. It is a testament to CFP’s extraordinary achievements so far that its partners are all positive about their relationship with CFP and look to IDRC for its continued leadership in the future.**

**There appear to be several reasons why IDRC has not achieved stronger partnerships within the international community for urban agriculture. One reason is that CFP was asked to reduce its effort in international advocacy within the SGUA, and experience shows that advocacy needs continued effort and engagement with other donors. Staff turnover and new priorities competing for resources within agencies make the continued presence of**

**IDRC as a champion for UA at the table essential. For various reasons this has not happened in Phase 2 as much as in Phase 1. Another reason is that urban agriculture is not part of most agencies' organizational structure – at best it is visible only through an interdepartmental coordinating mechanism. That is why IDRC has the acknowledged leadership in the field.**

**We would suggest that in Phase 3, two actions are taken. One is that IDRC consults with its present and potential partners for urban agriculture to see if a reinvigorated and wider partnership is possible over the next few years, and the SGUA „club' is opened up. Another is that IDRC seriously examines how it can work with the new sector-wide and Program Based Approaches being followed by bilateral donors in order to reach the Millennium Development Goals, and that it specifically engages in discussions with CIDA on both counts.**

## **7 OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES**

**What CFP does in terms of dissemination of information must be seen in the context of its partnership with RUAF, which is essentially the global and regional networking and information-sharing agent of the SGUA<sup>43</sup>, funded by DGIS and IDRC<sup>44</sup>. RUAF, through its headquarters in the Netherlands and its seven regional nodes, maintains databases on urban agriculture resource persons, training materials and references; produces the *Urban Agriculture Magazine* on-line and in hard copy in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese; and run electronic conferences and workshops. It is a key site for information and virtual interaction on urban agriculture. A Google search for “urban agriculture” brings RUAF up second after the “Cityfarmer” (The Canadian-based Urban Agriculture Website). RUAF is a key mechanism for CFP and enables it to achieve wide dissemination of its results through the *Urban Agriculture Magazine* and electronic conferencing. Many of CFP-supported projects and other activities appear as articles in the RUAF magazine.**

### **7.1 Project outputs**

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<sup>43</sup> CFP provides the Secretariat for SGUA

<sup>44</sup> IDRC is the administering agency of the project for DGIS and has contributed over \$600,000 to the project, primarily for the Regional Focal Points.



An analysis of the outputs of the 35 projects funded by CFP since 1998 provides some interesting insights into the downstream process between implementation and impact<sup>45</sup> (Table 2). As one might expect, it takes between 2-5 years (or more) for outputs to appear after a project begins. Grey literature (unpublished reports and seminar papers) as well as conference presentations come first and later may become reshaped into a journal article or book – usually a year or more later. This means that most of the project outputs that CFP has achieved between 2000 and 2003 are the results of projects that were funded in Phase 1 prior to April 2000. This is particularly the case for books and journal articles, where over 90% are from earlier projects. Some projects produce CD-Rom (14) or video outputs (11) but the vast majority of outputs are written reports. The *UA Magazine* (10 issues so far, No. 11 being produced currently) consists of 18 articles on average in each issue, many of which have been written by IDRC partners.

**Table 2 also shows that in Phase 1, projects are more likely to have produced journal articles (this is also a factor of time since journal articles take time to be published) and in Phase 2 projects have produced more policy tools and practical information aimed at both policy makers and beneficiaries. What the table does not show is that the pattern of outputs varies by the nature of the project – workshops obviously produce lots of presentations and network projects produce many unpublished case study reports. Capacity building projects like Agropolis produce many graduate theses.**

**Table 2 Outputs from CFP projects produced in 2000-03<sup>46</sup>**

| OUTPUT                                    | PROJECTS<br>APPROVED 1998-<br>2000<br>(PHASE 1)<br><br>(13 PROJECTS) | PROJECTS<br>APPROVED<br>2000-2003<br>(PHASE 2)<br><br>(22 PROJECTS) | TOTAL |
|---|--|---|-------|
| <b>Book</b>                               |  |   |       |
|   | 6  | 3   | 9     |
| <b>Journal article</b>                    |  |   |       |
|   | 17   | 3   | 20    |
| <b><i>UA magazine articles (RUAF)</i></b> |  |   |       |
|   | 47   |   | 47    |
| <b>Conference presentation</b>            |  |   |       |
|   | 38   | 21  | 59    |
| <b>Unpublished paper</b>                  |  |   |       |
|   | 97   | 47  | 144   |

<sup>45</sup> Kristina Taboulchanas and Karen Trebert provided the database on project outputs and Anne Whyte did the analysis. The table should be seen as indicating trends rather than precise numbers of outputs as there is room for interpretation of how many of RUAF's outputs are outputs of CFP; and how to quantify other outputs such as proposals coming from city teams participating in workshops (project 100983). The overall message to IDRC is that this kind of analysis, more systematically collected and coded, might be useful in the future.

<sup>46</sup> Excluding project technical reports provided to IDRC.

|                                   |    |    |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|
|                                   |    |    |    |
| <b>Graduate theses/report</b>     |    |    |    |
|                                   | 31 | 26 | 57 |
| <b>Newspaper/radio/television</b> |    |    |    |
|                                   | 2  | 0  | 2  |
| <b>Video</b>                      |    |    |    |
|                                   | 8  | 3  | 11 |
| <b>Website publication</b>        |    |    |    |
|                                   | 3  | 7  | 10 |
| <b>Declaration</b>                |    |    |    |
|                                   | 2  | 4  | 6  |
| <b>CD-Rom</b>                     |    |    |    |
|                                   | 2  | 12 | 14 |
| <b>Policy tools/ advocacy</b>     |    |    |    |
| <b>Guidelines/manuals</b>         | 4  | 38 | 42 |

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In many of the projects, the output sequence is unpublished report → journal article → book. However, one of the most successful projects in terms of policy impact, scaling up and sustainability is the greywater reuse project in Tufileh, Jordan (100880). It produced four policy, promotion and practical outputs aimed at beneficiaries and policy makers and two journal articles. Not a lot of output in terms of volume, but a very different spectrum of outputs compared to the “classic” research project. The project leader in Jordan also lobbied effectively with several government ministries to get policies changed – an output that doesn’t get captured in most databases.

In addition to the effect of greater time elapsed for the projects approved 1998-2000 and so allowing more books and articles to get into print, there has been a deliberate strategy on the part of CFP to close the loop with policy makers and practitioners through outputs such as policy tools, guidelines and manuals and Declarations. This is related to the greater direct involvement of policy makers, municipal planners and politicians, as well as development agencies in CFP’s program activities in Phase 2 compared to Phase 1 where more projects were with universities and involved academic researchers.

## 7.2 Target groups for CFP results

CFP’s strategy for its target groups varies by region. In Latin America it has targeted municipal governments because they are well organized and government is decentralized to the municipal and city level. Working closely with city planners and policy makers has also had some rebound effect on CFP’s work – its results tend to be more prescriptive because of

<sup>47</sup> Listed as written by RUAF partners More than 200 articles have been published by *UA Magazine*

the demand for practical outputs that enable action to be taken. In MENA, the countries are smaller and the projects are mainly dealing with water, which is generally seen as a national rather than a municipal resources. The key target groups for CFP in MENA for this Phase are therefore national policy makers.

In Africa, the situation is more complicated and more challenging. The municipal governments are generally not well organized or strong and civil society groups including NGOs and CBOs are more involved in urban agriculture. At the same time, national governments play a key role even while some governments are in the process of decentralizing more power to local government. CFP has therefore to target a mix of municipal and national level authorities and to also provide results that can be taken up by a range of NGOs, CBOs and farmers associations. The relative importance of these different groups is also influenced by the research topic within urban agriculture. Wastewater reuse concerns the national health and water authorities. Agricultural production is the remit of the Ministry of Agriculture. Land use planning is municipal.

In all regions, other researchers are a parallel target group for CFP results. CFP's strategy is to reach them through its regional networks and its global mechanism of RUAF – in addition to the normal scientific and academic channels of conferences, journals, and training courses. Key-institutions for the dissemination of information on the regional level are the RUAF regional focal points. They have so far not been able to efficiently fulfill this role because of lack of appropriate hard and software and lack of expertise and access to the Internet. Many interesting research reports are therefore hidden in the shelves and not available to researchers and the public.

Looking at this strategy, and assessing its results, in Latin America and MENA, CFP has targeted the right groups and is reaching them successfully. In Africa, the evidence is more mixed. In Phase 1, there were some very successful projects in East Africa focusing on single city municipal authorities and achieving policy impact. In some cases NGOs have had great benefit from CFP that enables them to work with a broader view and better arguments in their cities. The linkages with the key stakeholders (farmer groups) have not been sufficiently explored. The field trips clearly show that frustration among farmers and farmer groups is increasing. Action research might be one answer to this problem. For reaching the national governments, CFP might want to work through its partners such as the planned IWMI policy brokerage initiative.

### **7.3 Outcomes**

CFP has already achieved some notable successes in policy and other outcomes and has some intractable challenges to deal with. Among the success stories are the nine policy briefs produced in Latin America and now being adapted for Africa. The greywater project in Jordan is a good example of a small project that produced technological innovations, broke down cultural taboos, and achieved policy impact in several national ministries. It is also an object lesson in the value of an integrated approach (including the CFP book on Water in Islam). As it is early days yet for achieving policy impact from Phase 2 projects, we want to comment on the strategy the CFP has put in place to maximize the downstream value of its projects.

**One key to governments – whether municipal or national – taking up the results of CFP supported research is the gathering of a critical mass of evidence to convince them of the benefits of urban agriculture and therefore the policies that promote it, and to reduce their concerns over any risks or costs that urban agriculture might entail. Governments are also concerned about cost-effectiveness and a minimum scale of operations. CFP has moved from science-driven to problem-solving research and this is generally a move in the right direction.**

**However, we see some potential roadblocks ahead in terms of concerns about the health risks of urban agricultural production, including (but not only) the use of wastewater. Two types of research may be needed to achieve policy impact that CFP is not presently supporting. One is more economic analyses to provide the cost/benefit numbers that policy makers need. The other is more “hard” scientific research on health risks and benefits. The greater involvement of CFP in health issues related to UA was recommended by the last PI review in 1999. A new health specialist with expertise in risk analysis, joined the team in 2002. CFP has started to implement research activities on risks and benefits of urban agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa with regional and Canadian partners.**

One strategy that CFP is successfully pursuing to add “impact value” to its projects is the enunciation of “Declarations” at the end of its more high profile meetings. Originally skeptical about the usefulness of these statements, we find that CFP’s project leaders and international partners find them to be important means of influencing policy. At the local level, when a Mayor signs on to a Declaration, it gives him/her visibility in his/her community, and internationally with other potential donors. It also makes them feel accountable to try to live up to the terms of the Declaration. Behind the Declaration is a longer development process of sharing experiences and beyond the Declaration is the expression of new demands and dreams. In the case of the Hyderabad Declaration on Wastewater, the officials from WHO at the meeting were the strategic target of the process in order to effect some policy change in the WHO water quality standards for agriculture. Because the reviewers are well aware of the importance of current and future water problems, we would welcome that this area of intervention be continued in Phase 3.

## **8 POSITION OF CFP WITHIN THE FIELD OF URBAN AGRICULTURE**

IDRC-CFP is the **only** international research program addressing the issue of urban agriculture on a wide regional basis<sup>48</sup>. CFP, together with its partners (such as RUAF-Network, *Cityfarmer*, and “Urban Harvest” the former SIUPA) defines and represents the current state of the art in UA to a large extent. This underscores the importance of the CFP Program outside of IDRC. A great strength of CFP’s program design is its needs-oriented approach, especially when followed up by RUAF Regional Focal Points through the regional needs analysis. Somewhat surprisingly, it is not the global players like FAO or CGIAR who dominate the sector but it is IDRC’s small program that is the most known and most active.

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<sup>48</sup> Although we have noted that CFP is currently doing very little work in Asia.

The CGIAR system-wide initiative on urban and peri-urban agriculture “Urban Harvest” works to contribute to the food security of poor urban families, and to increase the value of agricultural production in urban and peri-urban areas, whilst ensuring the sustainable management of the urban environment. CGIAR *Urban Harvest* is working in cooperation with CFP in the organisation of the regional training course in East Africa, planned for 2004. As noted in section 6.3, CGIAR has broadened its focus from the more traditional CG research approach to more policy-oriented research activities.

FAO has formally created the “Food for the Cities Priority Area of Interdisciplinary Action” (FCIT-PAIA) – to address UA and Urban Food Security in Developing countries. Besides this there are two other programmes in FAO addressing the issue: the “*Food into Cities Initiative*” and the “*Meeting Urban Food Needs Initiative*”. The three different programs are even confusing the staff members in FAO. The CGIAR *Urban Harvest* Initiative does not even refer to the FCI-PAIA as a partner but to the “Food-Into-Cities Initiative”. Obviously contacts between CGIAR and the FCIT-PAIA have not been well established.

The original idea that FAO would play a bigger role in the international process has proved disappointing so far. The closer cooperation with the FAO “*Food into Cities*” initiative, mainly if not only covers matters relating to marketing and distribution of food in cities rather than production. The initial idea to incorporate the program into an international organization does not appear realistic at this stage, because this requires a strong international body ready to take over.

Since the formation of the FCIT-PAIA, partnerships have not been fostered sufficiently, especially related to urban and periurban agriculture as mandated in accordance with the 1999 decision of the Committee of Agriculture (COAG). IDRC’s CFP is among the highest potential partners for FAO. Other potential UN-Partners are UNDP–Habitat, Urban Management Programme, WHO, World Bank, and The United Nations University (UNU) all of them having some interest and focus on UA Partners. Potential non-UN partners include several universities (among those Canadian Universities), other Canadian Institutions, the Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD), France and Alterra (the Netherlands). Among the bilateral donors, the Netherlands is the most important donor for support to urban agriculture, but the Swiss (SDC) and Swedish (Sida/SAREC) development cooperation agencies could also be important partners.

UN-Habitat appears to be the only UN-Organization, which works closely with city councils on all different relevant levels (housing, water management, urban and peri-urban agriculture etc.). The Nairobi workshop on “Urban Policy Implications of Enhancing Food Security in African Cities”, in 2002 jointly organized by IDRC and UN-Habitat shows high potential for closer cooperation in the future. Basically a new discussion is needed on who would be a suitable partner for the future and how to get this partner on board. FAO, due to its changing role and apparent limited interest might not be the best partner for CFP to work with in the future.

CFP has played a leading role in an inter-agency strategy to institutionalize UA at the global level. IDRC’s original proposal was to have a more formal UA Consortium organization served by a small secretariat but the parties decided against this in favour of an informal global alliance with no resources allocated to either a core secretariat or programs. This became the International Support Group for UA (SGUA). The SGUA defined five priority areas for support with lead agencies identified for each area: training (IDRC-CFP), technical assistance (CGIAR-SIUPA),

information management and dissemination (DGIS-RUAF) and policy (UN-HABITAT) and finally the credit and investment component, which has been taken up by UN-HABITAT and IDRC, through the project: *Survey of City Experiences with Credit and Investment* (101259).

Despite the existence of SGUA, an effective global alliance for urban agriculture is not in sight. While IDRC has been a driving force of the SGUA, other partners like FAO are still reluctant to actively participate. A viable concept for the SGUA, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities, and appropriate resources allocated, has never been agreed among the parties.

IDRC's program is a niche itself. It has filled a former vacuum of interest, knowledge and information needs. It has demonstrated new approaches to an integrated and sustainable urban development in the South, more adapted to the local situations and decoupled from the western approach to urban development. Among most obvious "sub-niches" IDRC has created are direct links to young researchers through its program "Agropolis". It is the only program worldwide that supports graduate students to undertake field research in urban agriculture, and it is a major instrument for capacity building with multiplication effects.

Another impact of CFP that becomes more obvious only now is the stimulation it has given to researchers to look more closely into research-policy interface. We were told that this has opened up a completely new view for some researchers. The corollary is that it has also increased the demand for more capacity building on CFP.

## 9 CONCLUSIONS

CFP's strategy is entirely consistent with its development goal and objectives. It is a well conceived and well executed strategy – all the more remarkable for the small size of the program. Throughout the report, we have reviewed both the achievements and shortcomings of CFP in the context of the objectives it set itself for its three research areas; its regional priorities and its research support activities. Here we comment briefly on CFP's achievements, in terms of its three main program objectives.

### 9.1 Achievement of major program objectives

**Objective 1:** *To strengthen local research capacity and generate household and community level data for city level policy and technology options*

**Strengthening local research capacity has been very successfully achieved in West Africa and to a great extent also in Latin America. Both UMP-Habitat and the AGUILA network have reached many researchers and the CFP project enables them to take further initiative**

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<sup>49</sup> The SGUA structure was modeled on the program architecture of CFP and CFP has acted as an informal secretariat.

with a more holistic perspective and in a multidisciplinary way. In Africa, IWMI-Ghana is a good example of how partnership with CFP has strengthened its capacity. The project has broadened its focus and the researchers have also recognized their own limitations, particularly on how to influence policy makers. In MENA the wastewater projects have definitely strengthened the capacities of local researchers to develop new technologies and to provide the necessary data for city level policies.

Regarding the generation of household and community level data the different projects initiated more awareness on the need to more consider the micro level and household decision making for development. However, it appears that there is also a need for better standardization of these data. The data are not yet sufficiently coherent either within or between regions to support the development of better urban planning strategies and common policies.

**Objective 2:** *To strengthen regional capacities for common policy and technology options through training and networking*

Regional capacities have been strengthened through networks and regional focal points but also through the regional training courses and city consultations. The wide range of CFP activities has not only created awareness among researchers and policy makers in the various regions, it has also stimulated discussions about UA and its importance. While in the beginning of the CFP activities, the positive aspects of UA were highlighted now more critical discussion has started on negative aspects of UA, especially regarding negative health impacts. Thus, CFP program activities and networks initiated an important advocacy and awareness building process in the regions. However this process has also created expectations and a need for further support and funding of the regional networks, since they are not sufficiently established to influence policies or operate without donor support.

**Objective 3:** *To influence governments, policy-makers and international agencies to incorporate urban agriculture into their development programs*

A good start has been made to influence policy makers especially on the municipal level through city consultations, city declarations and policy briefs. The declarations and policy briefs are useful to researchers, NGOs and activists to draw attention to the importance of urban agriculture. Key to the success of influencing municipal policy makers in Latin America was the participatory process of developing the LAC Policy Briefs. However, the Policy Briefs are only a first step and the implementation of new laws and regulations on the city level need accompanying measures, institutionalization and strong city-based organizations (pressure groups, associations, cooperatives etc.). Some cities where CFP has worked have already established mechanisms to include urban agriculture in their institutional structures; for example through the creation of an “urban food security department”.

The influence of CFP on the CGIAR, UN-HABITAT and FAO has been discussed in sections 6.3 and 8. It has been remarkable for such a small program but all such influence needs continued follow-up for lasting impact, due to changing personalities in these organizations. There is a good start to further improve the process through CFP’s present collaboration with IWMI, the CGIAR “Urban Harvest”, and UMP – UN/Habitat.

**We conclude that in Phase 2, CFP has made good progress towards all three objectives, especially given its limited resources.**

## **9.2 Overall assessment of performance**

CFP is currently the only global program addressing the issue of urban food security related problems in developing countries. Through the program activities on the various levels of engagement – research, capacity building, training, networking, advocacy and influence with municipal and national governments, and international agencies, CFP has initiated a worldwide discussion on the importance of UPA and related problems (urban food security and food systems, waste, wastewater, health, space, city ecology etc.). The program has demonstrated that it is responsive to the needs of the development problematic and that it is flexible enough to change its focus according to the needs of different stakeholders. CFP has also demonstrated its willingness to respond quickly to new research evidence and to recommendations from reviews and evaluations.

IDRC-CFP is well-known and accepted as a reliable partner with a strong commitment among its international partners and has achieved the accolade that its own initiatives and program structure have been partly incorporated into the agendas of other programs like the CGIAR initiative “Urban Harvest”, SGUA, IMWI, and some of its NGO partners (MDP-Harare, ENDA-Dakar). Through its networking activities CFP has ensured that the issue of urban food security will be continuously raised on the regional level, as slowly the regional networks start to initiate their own activities and projects, including the search for external funding from other sources than IDRC.

**With respect to capacity building, two *a priori* questions to ask are:**

- ☐ Whose capacities?
- ☐ Building capacity for what?

**In the case of CFP, there are three main target groups: researchers, local and municipal governments, and urban farmers. The answer to the second questions varies by each of these groups.**

- ☐ Researchers: The main objectives are to strengthen their capacity to think and work in a multidisciplinary fashion; to take gender/social analysis and different levels of linkages into consideration; to increase their capacity to advocate with policy makers; and to translate their results into a understandable and practical guides for action and decision making. For urban agriculture, there is also a need to attract researchers to the field.
- ☐ Local governments and municipalities: The principal goal is to help them enter into dialogue with other stakeholders, and to better analyse the problems they face in their city the and solutions offered by researchers
- ☐ Urban farmers: Capacity building is to enable them to better articulate their needs; to help them to get better organized and eventually be better prepared to advocate for their rights - both to produce food and to food security.



Taking these three groups into consideration, CFP has made a good contribution to building the capacities of researchers in urban agriculture, where it has focussed much of its capacity building effort. However, the capacity of most researchers to influence policies is still very limited and no long-term, systematic process has been established to ensure that the next generation of researchers can do a better job. Even the Agropolis program does not emphasise how to ensure that research results have more impact in the wider world.

On the city authority level, the same problem is faced at a higher order of magnitude. The capacity of many municipalities for dialogue with other urban agriculture stakeholders is very limited. However, CFP has supported some innovative projects to help municipal government officials and politicians better understand the challenge and opportunity of urban agriculture and to work more closely with other stakeholders. It is perhaps a drop in the ocean but it is moving in the right direction.

The third group of stakeholders – urban farmers - does not seem to be included sufficiently by CFP into the process. Both field visits in West Africa, as well as the previous RUAF midterm evaluation support the view that urban farmers are generally left out of CFP's capacity building efforts. Even when urban farmers are the key beneficiaries, involvement of farmers or producers' associations is not included adequately by most CFP projects.

The basic questions to be answered for the future are:

- ❑ Are the current strategies of both IDRC and CFP adequate to reach the target groups of beneficiaries?
- ❑ Are the partner institutions the right ones to reach the target groups?

Our capacity to answer both questions is limited, but some ideas are for CFP to:

- \$ Further encourage the formation of country based UA organizations (as has taken place in Latin America); and help to organize multi-country or multi-city training project coordinated by a strong NGO or GO aimed at these organizations;
- \$ Encourage the involvement of producer groups in city-specific projects through the partners, which requires more funding for the partners, and more assistance to the formation and institutionalization of producer groups;
- \$ Train trainers on a regional basis, not the urban producers themselves, but with a view to supporting mechanisms for trickle down effects to the farmers and their associations;

Thus one of the key questions is how to better ensure that the trickle down effect, or “closing the loop” with beneficiaries takes place.

Finally, CFP has created a tremendous amount of information on UPA related issues and has produced relevant material including new technologies and policies that provide practical solution for cities. Obviously, much more needs to be done and the challenge for CFP is to find its niche and focus for Phase 3.

### **9.3 Looking forward**

In the course of the review, we have heard from many of CFP's partners at local, national and international levels about CFP's past and current performance and what they would like to see CFP do in the future. Our review of CFP's projects and activities has also led us to raise some questions and offer some partial answers to help guide CFP in charting its next 4-5 year program cycle

#### Conceptual framework

Urban (peri-urban) agriculture are well embedded terms but they fail to capture the important development goals of food and water security, dietary diversity and nutrition, income generation and livelihood, or other related city development issues. The concept of UPA still appears difficult to be understood by donor agencies and adopted into their program structures. Depending on possible new research directions (e.g. tenure issues, health as a central focus or small scale enterprise development). CFP might want to recast its conceptual framework to be more in line with international development objectives like the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), which have been adopted by most UN and OECD agencies<sup>50</sup>. **This is seen as one key to securing stronger partnerships with bilateral agencies, including CIDA; and with UN-specialized agencies, which IDRC needs if it is not going to continue to be more or less alone in its focus on urban agriculture. The basic question is, if and how CFP can embed its activities into other programs of the partnerships that are being forged by international development agencies under the banners of sector-wide approaches (SWAs) and Program Based Approaches (PBAs). At the end of the day, urban agriculture is not a stand-alone concept but must be closely related to other priority areas identified by the UN and OECD-DAC.**

#### Capacity building

Most of CFP's efforts are capacity building for researchers. Two different questions arise: should CFP (with its partners) do more for building the capacity of urban farmers to articulate their own needs and benefit from the research findings? Should CFP have a greater focus on building the capacity of institutions rather than individuals? Changing focus might require a modification of the approach towards more action research and this might be one key to reach the stakeholders (farmers, urban poor).

#### Agropolis Program

Agropolis is an important and successful initiative that has received accolades for its vision and good administration. It is the only game in town but it also needs more resources than appear to be currently available in CFP. Scaling the program back as is presently underway may simply make the program less cost-effective. If other donors cannot be attracted to co-fund Agropolis or to take it over, CFP may have to consider other options, such as embedding the program into

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<sup>50</sup> In September 2000, the UN defined a new framework called the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The UN identified eight priority areas for intervention. Among those most directly related to Urban Agriculture Development are: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; ensure environmental sustainability; develop a global partnership for development and combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.

partnerships with other relevant research and education institutions; or outsourcing its administration to a partner institution. Agropolis as it is currently structured presents major opportunity costs for CFP.

#### Reach

There are several questions regarding CFP's strategy for reaching its target groups. CFP has been very successful in influencing and benefiting those it has reached. The international and regional networks appear to be one of its most valuable outputs and should be further built upon. Therefore CFP might consider further strengthening of south-south cooperation at both research and city levels.

Another strategic question to be addressed for Phase 3 is whether to expand that reach to other target groups like the farmers' associations or other CBOs and local NGOs (or to accept that the transaction costs of such a strategy are beyond CFP's means). CFP might also wish to reassess how much collaboration it can undertake directly with universities and organizations such as CIRAD and Alterra or the UNU. A related question is whether to increase the importance of national versus local decision-makers as target audiences for CFP outputs.

#### Regional strategies

CFP is to be congratulated for its clear delineation of its regional strategies. At the same time, we are concerned that its major investments in Latin America are in jeopardy because of a withdrawal of support to the AGUILA and the LAC national UA networks before they are sufficiently consolidated and sustainable. We feel that it is too early and draconian to "abandon" these networks and that CFP should rethink its exit strategy from the Latin American and Caribbean region. This may not necessarily entail continued major funding from CFP but using IDRC's convening power (and perhaps a more MDG development-friendly conceptual framework and language) to ensure that other international and regional partners come on board.

#### International Cooperation: Support Group for Urban Agriculture (SGUA)

Is the time ripe for another attempt to put SGUA on a more formal footing with some dedicated resources and a Secretariat hosted by one of its members? Also, should CFP take the lead in trying to enlarge its membership and sense of shared responsibility among the members?

#### Health benefits and costs of urban agriculture

Given the current program structure of CFP, it is in a unique position to combine an ecosystems health perspective with the economic and social aspects of wastewater use, and the issues of food security, dietary diversification and nutrition. Health cost and benefit data are critical to bringing more policy action regarding urban agriculture at national and international (WHO) levels. If the resources were made available, more collaboration with EcoHealth and more involvement with external partners working in health might be considered, which can build on the joint appointment of a health specialist to CFP and EcoHealth and the holding of the health workshop in Nairobi in June 2003 (101823) where health authorities and researchers discussed a future research agenda followed by a call for proposals in July 2003 (102019). Food quality and food standards is also a policy area that CFP might need to address if it works more on the health aspects of urban agriculture.

#### CFP Resources

In posing these questions about possible new areas for CFP, we are acutely aware of the limited resources with which CFP currently works. We would recommend that the program budget be increased – what reviewer would not! But even more critical to the successful future of CFP is a strengthening of its human resources. This was emphasised by CFP's partners and our review has led us to the same conclusion. If CFP is to continue work in areas like agricultural production and wastewater reuse and also explore emerging UA research areas like health and nutrition, it needs to build on and strengthen its expertise in these areas. The CFP team, especially the Team Leader, has contributed enormously to the remarkable success of CFP, but it is just too small a group for the task and opportunities ahead.



## **ANNEX 1**

### **PEOPLE CONTRIBUTING TO THE REVIEW**

#### **IDRC Staff**

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Axel Drescher is a Geography Professor at the University of Freiburg in Germany. He did his PhD on 1988 on Land use changes and Early Vegetable Production in Southern Spain. After that he worked as an extension officer in Biological Pest Control in Greenhouse until he left in 1990 to teach Geography at the University of Zambia for three years. During this time he got specialized on Urban Agriculture, through his research on sustainable production systems (home gardens) and food security in Zambia and Zimbabwe. From 1998 to 2003 he worked mainly as a consultant for the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome.

### **ANNE WHYTE**

Anne Whyte is President of Mestor Associates, a Canadian consulting company specialising in international development. She also sits on the Boards of several international organizations. From 1986-1996 she was a senior manager in IDRC, with overall responsibility for all IDRC's work in environment, agriculture and earth and engineering sciences. From 1975-1986 she was a Professor in Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Toronto, with a two-year leave of absence to work in UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme in Paris. Her PhD was on risk perception and agricultural decision making of Zapotec Indian farmers in Oaxaca, Mexico.



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## ANNEX 4

### SUMMARY REPORT ON FIELD VISITS TO WEST AFRICA

Axel Drescher

*Field Visit to Dakar, Senegal - Project 004367 (13-20/08/2003)*

From the project sites visited in Pikine and Quakam there are a real urban agriculture connections, means a connection to farmers and production for the City of Dakar. On the other sites dealing with waste water management, Yoff, Diokoul, Castor, only in Castor there is a small plot of 0.25 ha for agricultural research. This is mainly used by the horticulturist of the research team to carry out research and the plot is also partly used by a worker responsible for the maintenance of the sewerage system. The triangle – farmers – NGOs – Universities and Research Institutions seems to be an important model for new approaches to development. However a weaker point still seems to be research-policy–interaction. Closer cooperation with ANCAR could eventually be an important step forward.

One main question that arises is how CFP can close the cycle between wastewater use and treatment and urban agriculture in the city. Eventually closer cooperation between IDRC and UN-Habitat could be targeted in the future. The research team considers Water for African Cities (WAC) as an important partner in policy – research interaction. The Hyderabad Meeting has been a first opportunity for researcher from IWMI Ghana and the Senegal to exchange information, but so far no official linkages between the institutions exist. Eventually it is useful to further explore the linkages between the WAC program and IWMI.

Weak cooperation between IFAN and IAGU and problems with RADII (tensions between IAGU and RADII because of money) are other constraints identified. Regarding the use of GIS it appears that this instrument is not used and developed yet to an optimum. More work can be invested to get proper plans and overlays of different factors regarding wastewater and urban agriculture, including eventually the malaria incidences and other diseases in the different areas. A more detailed map of open spaces might be useful for future land use planning. Exploration of better South-South Cooperation could considerably help the project to improve. Examples are closer cooperation with IMWI Ghana, but also experience from Asia and Latin America could be useful.

The IDRC funded Latin American Waste Water Project has created a lot of useful information that could be used in Africa as well. As weakest point of the project, funding was mentioned by the research team. The team tries to compensate lack of funding through attracting other donor money. Another weak point seems the project ownership – there is no interest of agencies and ministries to participate. The strongest point mentioned was the interdisciplinarity of the team. This is a new experience for them, but also sometimes requires patience because coordination is needed. Here considerable capacity building has been achieved by the project. A planned wastewater laboratory in IFAN is an important step to independence and technology development and opens new

possibilities for future income generation. There were changes in the team composition in the past because the local experts need to accept other consultancies they get paid for. It is common, not only in Africa, that salaries of researchers are too low to make a proper living. IDRC might consider this fact as an important factor in the setting of projects.

*Field Visit to Accra, Ghana - Project: 100376 (20-26/05/2003)*

The project has had a major impact on IWMI itself, making UPA an integrated part of its overall program. Capacity building within the organization and its staff members clearly took place since the project started and the project opened the door to think far beyond the original frame of the project. The networking with African and overseas universities, which was established with 12 different departments clearly shows the interdisciplinary character of the work that was done and gives further evidence of the commitment of the staff members. About 100 students have been trained in different subjects related to the project. This certainly created more awareness for the complexity of UPA activities among those and their supervisors. Some of the students involved made a quick career after their work for the project. This can be promising for future activities in UPA. The creation of an interdisciplinary working group on UPA at Tamale University in Ghana is another sign for the greater awareness for the topic, created by the project. The cooperation with the FAO Regional Office and the Swiss SANDEC have been successful and enriching.

The main problem appears the lack of capacity to link research with policy. Traditionally IWMI is a research institution and experience shows that that policy brokerage has not been on the agenda so far. Therefore IWMI decided to create the position of a policy broker, which unfortunately has not been filled until now. Eventually partnerships with other more specialized organizations and/or programs could help to establish closer linkages between research, policy and implementing measures. Not unique to this project is the lack of a social scientist (Sociologist, Anthropologist, Ethnologist or Human Geographer), who eventually could better deal with this dimension of the project. Another problem with this regards are changing key-actors in relevant decision making departments on city and government level.

The willingness of farmers to cooperate with traditional research projects is dwindling. Farmers have been used for many years now as resource persons for relevant information and research questions from many different projects but research has had no beneficial influence on themselves. The project realized this fact and started now to implement an action research project with periurban farmers. This project is a consequence of the realization that the peri-urban sector must be better included into the research on rural-urban nutrient flows.

Still the cooperation between agencies (like with FAO) appears to depend on personal relations between committed persons and is not at all formalized and institutionalized. Still institutional constraints (like a person being "responsible" for water issues, but not interested in urban agriculture) might stop the process of collaboration.

The connection to farmers is an important role of IWMI but appears presently problematic. The translation of research results for farmers has not been successful and planned workshops for farmers have been canceled because they might be to

theoretical and not adequately addressing their real problems. The time limitation of the project is a disadvantage for getting students involved. Some of them need more time to get their results ready and this, in some cases exceeds the project.



## ANNEX 5

### SURVEY OF AGROPOLIS AWARDEES

Anne Whyte

#### METHODOLOGY

CFP provided the names and contact e-mails for all the recipients of Agropolis awards between 1999-2002. Of the 27 awardees, 21 were reachable by e-mail and 17 responded to the questionnaire, giving a response rate of 81% and a sample size of 63%. About half of the awardees responded to the first request and half responded to a follow-up request. All were assured of confidentiality of their responses and were thanked for their participation. This high response rate underscores the positive view that awardees have of the Agropolis program.

The questionnaire consisted of 10 open-ended questions designed to probe:

- ☐ Dissemination of information about the Awards
- ☐ Application process
- ☐ Administration of the Program by the Secretariat in CFP
- ☐ Role of the research supervisor
- ☐ Networking of awardees
- ☐ Alternatives to Agropolis financial support
- ☐ Career post-award
- ☐ Brain drain (return to home country)

In addition, the CFP provided basic data on each Awardee (nationality, gender, PhD or Masters level study, thesis topic, home institution and host institution for fieldwork).

#### SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The responses to the questions (which in some cases ran to a paragraph or even more than a page) were content analysed to arrive at the summary statistics provided below. Interpretation of the findings is given in the text of the report. As the numbers are small, percentages are not given and breakdown by PhD/Masters or by gender is only provided where there are interesting differences in the data.

#### 1 How did you learn about Agropolis?

##### *Responses*

*Through my supervisor*

5

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<sup>52</sup> In addition to the survey of awardees, interviews about the Program were held with members of the Agropolis Advisory Committee, with the Administrator for the program and with CFP Program Officers.

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Through a colleague</i>         | <i>4</i> |
| <i>Via the website</i>             | <i>7</i> |
| <i>Through University (poster)</i> | <i>1</i> |

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| <i>Total responses</i> | <i>17</i> |
|------------------------|-----------|

## 2 How might dissemination about Agropolis be improved?

### *Responses*

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| <i>Provide information to universities</i>                   | <i>8</i> |
| <i>Provide information to public libraries</i>               | <i>2</i> |
| <i>Provide information to national research institutions</i> | <i>2</i> |
| <i>Use former Awardees to disseminate information</i>        | <i>2</i> |
| <i>Through journals</i>                                      | <i>1</i> |

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| <i>Total responses</i> | <i>15</i> |
|------------------------|-----------|

## 3 Difficulties in making application

### *Responses*

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| <i>No difficulties</i>   | <i>8</i> |
| <i>Yes, difficulties</i> | <i>9</i> |

### *Yes responses*

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <i>Getting affiliation with LDC institution</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>Length/complexity/information required</i>   | <i>5</i> |
| <i>Timeframe for applications</i>               | <i>4</i> |
| <i>Writing application in English</i>           | <i>3</i> |

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| <i>Total yes responses</i> | <i>18</i> |
|----------------------------|-----------|

## SELECTED RESPONSES

“The proposal process was extremely long and complicated...The fact that I had to find an academic and non-academic institution working together on a project in the South is difficult for a student studying in the North.”

“I also feel that consideration needs to be given to the fact that in some countries official affiliations have a price tag attached to them. In my case, I had to pay US\$3,500 for these affiliations out of my own pocket.”

<sup>53</sup> Suggesting long. For a 16 month Masters. programme I spent 3 months preparing the proposal and 4 Internatimonths waiting to see if I got it. ....I actually almost dropped the project for two other reasons to university possibilities...In short, announce results of Agropolis much earlier and release money quicker once the results are announced.”

<sup>54</sup> Problem getting the own pocket.

<sup>55</sup> Number of responses may be greater than 17 because respondents gave more than one reason

**7      *Communication with Agropolis Secretariat***

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| <i>Responses</i>        |           |
| <i>Satisfactory</i>     | <i>16</i> |
| <i>Not satisfactory</i> | <i>1</i>  |
| <i>Total responses</i>  | <i>17</i> |

**SELECTED RESPONSES**

“I found [the Administrator] to be an exceptional person to communicate with. She quickly dealt with questions and concerns, but most importantly, did so in such a supportive and pleasant manner. She made the process less intimidating for me and was always there if I needed her.”

“Communication with the Secretariat was good...Perhaps what is needed is a training advisor for a group of awardees.”

**8      *Financial administration of award***

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| <i>Responses</i>        |           |
| <i>Handled well</i>     | <i>13</i> |
| <i>Not handled well</i> | <i>1</i>  |
| <i>Neutral comment</i>  | <i>2</i>  |
| <i>Total responses</i>  | <i>16</i> |

**9      *Support from Agropolis other than financial assistance***

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <i>Responses</i>                       |           |
| <i>No support other than financial</i> | <i>5</i>  |
| <i>Yes – other kinds of support</i>    | <i>12</i> |

*Yes responses*



|                                      |                              |    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|----|
| -                                    | <i>Useful information</i>    | 12 |
| -                                    | <i>New contacts/networks</i> | 2  |
| <i>Scientific advice on research</i> |                              | 9  |

## SELECTED RESPONSES

“I have gained a lot of support through new contacts made during workshops, conferences, meetings and e-conferences.”

“The Agropolis website provides a wealth of information for anyone interested in urban agriculture.”

“J’ai eu des contacts réguliers avec le comité scientifique pour améliorer la qualité scientifique de mon article.”

« The awards program has made an excellent attempt to really support graduate research and has gone well beyond what many awards programs (especially at masters level) provide.”

### 10 *Role of research supervisor at university*

| <i>Responses</i>   |    | <i>Yes</i> | <i>No</i> |
|--|----|------------|-----------|
| <i>Told you about Agropolis</i>                          |    | 5          | 12        |
| <i>Helped to prepare proposal</i>                        |    | 12         | 5         |
| <i>Helped with Agropolis in other ways</i> <sup>11</sup> |    |            | 6         |
| <i>Is specialist in urban agriculture</i>                | 4  |            | 13        |
| <i>Total responses</i>                                   | 17 | 17         |           |

### 11 *Involvement in Urban Agriculture networks*

| <i>Responses</i>       |    |
|------------------------|----|
| <i>Yes</i>             | 15 |
| <i>No</i>              | 2  |
| <i>Total responses</i> | 17 |

### 12 *What would you have done if you had not received Agropolis Award?*

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<sup>56</sup> Advice was received from both IDRC Program staff and from members of the Agropolis Advisory Committee members.

**Responses**  
**I would have:**

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| - | Not been able to complete my degree            | 4 |
| - | Changed topic                                  | 3 |
| - | Taken much longer to complete degree           | 3 |
| - | Changed location of field research             | 2 |
| - | Searched for another award and kept same topic | 2 |

**Total responses**      **14**

**13**      **Will you return to home country after completing degree?**

**Responses**  
**Yes**      **16**  
**No**      **1**

**Total responses**      **17**

**14**      **What are you doing or plan to do after you have completed your degree?**

|                              | <b>PhD candidates</b> |  | <b>Masters candidates</b> |           | <b>Total</b> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| <b>Continue in research</b>  | <b>8</b>              |  | <b>2</b>                  |           | <b>10</b>    |
| <b>Study for a PhD</b>       | <b>0</b>              |  | <b>2</b>                  | <b>2</b>  | <b>2</b>     |
| <b>Work for city/NGO/CBO</b> | <b>1</b>              |  | <b>2</b>                  |           | <b>3</b>     |
| <b>Don't know</b>            | <b>2</b>              |  | <b>0</b>                  |           | <b>2</b>     |
| <b>Total responses</b>       | <b>11</b>             |  | <b>6</b>                  | <b>17</b> |              |

**15**      **What type of organization do you plan to work in?**

|  | <b>Male</b> | <b>Female</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>International organization</b>      | <b>1</b>    | <b>0</b>      | <b>1</b>     |
| <b>University/research institution</b> | <b>4</b>    | <b>2</b>      | <b>6</b>     |
| <b>National government</b>             | <b>1</b>    | <b>0</b>      | <b>1</b>     |
| <b>City government</b>                 | <b>1</b>    | <b>0</b>      | <b>1</b>     |
| <b>NGO/CBO</b>                         | <b>0</b>    | <b>3</b>      | <b>3</b>     |
| <b>Private sector</b>                  | <b>0</b>    | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b>     |
| <b>Haven't decided</b>                 | <b>2</b>    | <b>3</b>      | <b>5</b>     |
| <b>Total responses</b>                 | <b>9</b>    | <b>8</b>      | <b>17</b>    |

**FINAL THOUGHTS - SELECTED RESPONSES**

“There is a need in the Agropolis budget to include a supervision fee for the supervisors.”

“I have received research funding before and this is the first time I have felt the funders really cared about the quality of the research. The Agropolis Program is more than a mere source of financial assistance.”







## **ANNEX 6**

### **RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS FOR CFP REVIEW**

#### **1 SURVEY OF AGROPOLIS AWARDEES**

*This short e-mail survey is of all present and past Agropolis Award holders and is being conducted by an external evaluation team (Professor Axel Drescher and Dr. Anne Whyte) at the request of IDRC. The purpose is to obtain feedback from award holders that will help to improve the Agropolis Award Programme. Your individual responses are confidential to the evaluation team and our report and recommendations to IDRC will not identify any individuals. Please take the time to answer the following 10 questions and return your responses by e-mail to [mestor@sympatico.ca](mailto:mestor@sympatico.ca), if possible by 1 August 2003.*

- 1) *How did you learn about the Agropolis Award program? Do you have any comments about how the information on Agropolis and its dissemination might be improved?*
- 2) *Did you find it difficult to prepare the proposal? In what ways? How could the process be made easier for people like yourself?*
- 3) *Do you have any comments or suggestions about the way the Agropolis Awards are presently structured or organized?*
  - a) *Has communication between yourself and the Agropolis Secretariat in IDRC satisfactory?*
  - b) *How well have the financial transactions been handled by the Secretariat?*
  - c) *In what ways could the administration of the award program be improved?*
- 4) *What specific support have you received from Agropolis in addition to the financial assistance?*
  - a) *Have you received useful information about institutions, databases or networks on urban agriculture?*
  - b) *Have you received any feedback on your research from anyone on the Agropolis Advisory Committee or in IDRC?*
  - c) *Any other support received?*
- 5) *What has been the role of your research supervisor at your institution with respect to your field research and the Agropolis Award? Did your supervisor*
  - a) *Tell you about the award programme?*
  - b) *Help you to prepare the proposal?*
  - c) *Is your supervisor a specialist in urban agriculture?*
  - d) *Did your supervisor play any other role for your Agropolis Award?*
- 6) *What urban agriculture related institutions, networks or electronic groups are you presently involved in?*

- 7) *What would you have done for your research if you had not received an award from Agropolis? How would you have managed to do the fieldwork financially?*
- 8) *What are you doing or do you plan to do after you have completed your studies? Specifically, have you/ do you plan to return to your home country (if you are studying abroad)?*
- 9) *Do you plan to pursue your career specialising in urban agriculture?*
  - a) *If so, in which country/region?*
  - b) *In which type of organization have you or do you think you will be able to find a job?*
    - i) *NGO or Farmers' Association*
    - ii) *City government*
    - iii) *National government department*
    - iv) *Private company/business*
    - v) *International or donor organization*
    - vi) *University or research institution*
    - vii) *Other (please specify)*
- 10) *Do you have any other comments or suggestions about the Agropolis Awards?*

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP. YOUR RESPONSES ARE CONFIDENTIAL.*

## **2 TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH CFP'S INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS**

*IDRC has asked for an external review of "Cities Feeding People (CFP)". The review is being undertaken by Professor Axel Drescher (Germany) and Dr. Anne Whyte (Canada). Your name has been given to the external reviewers by IDRC-CFP as someone in a partner agency who has worked with CFP. Your responses are confidential to the review team and will not be shared directly with IDRC. They will form part of the evidence for the recommendations for the Board of IDRC in the review report.*

1. *What have been the main areas of collaboration between your organization and IDRC's Program, Cities Feeding People (CFP)? Is there a shared sense of vision for urban agriculture between CFP and your organization?*
2. *What role did CFP play in the collaboration? How successful has CFP been in this particular case? What do you think are the main successes or constraints for CFP?*
3. *How familiar are you with the overall program of CFP and its objectives (research, capacity building and policy development)? Do you have any comments on how well CFP is achieving its objectives?*

4. *One of the objectives of CFP is to influence governments, policy makers and international agencies to effectively incorporate urban agriculture into their development programs. How successful has CFP been in raising the profile of urban agriculture?*
5. *What progress has been made in mainstreaming urban agriculture within your own organization?*
6. *Which international organizations do you see as the key players in urban agriculture? What is the relative role of CFP in the overall international scene? Is there any other role that IDRC-CFP should or might play in urban agriculture?*
7. *CFP works in three research areas:*
  - 7.1. *Space-confined production systems for low-income urban producers*
  - 7.2. *Wastewater treatment and reuse*
  - 7.3. *Urban agricultural policy and processes*

*Do you have any comments on which of these research areas CFP should give priority in the future? Are there any other research areas that should be considered?*
8. *CFP is focusing more at the regional level and seeking to transfer lessons in urban agriculture between cities and regions. How far do you believe this can be achieved and how well is CFP doing it?*
9. *How successful has CFP been in capacity building in urban agriculture? Where do you think the priorities are for capacity building in the future?*
10. *What is your overall assessment of the CFP program? What are its main successes and failures? What should it do differently in the future?*

*THANK YOU.*

### **3 TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH WASTEWATER PROJECT LEADERS**

*IDRC has asked for an external review of “Cities Feeding People (CFP)”. The review is being undertaken by Professor Axel Drescher (Germany) and Dr. Anne Whyte (Canada). Your name has been given to the external reviewers by IDRC-CFP as someone who is leading an IDRC-funded project or is very familiar with it. Your responses are confidential to the review team and will not be shared directly with IDRC. They will form part of the evidence for the recommendations for the Board of IDRC in the review report.*

1. *What have been the main challenges for the project and what have been the main successes so far?*



2. *What new technologies, techniques or methodologies has the project developed?*
3. *In what ways has the project developed local capacities?*
4. *What roles did women play in the project – both as beneficiaries and in the research process itself?*
5. *What results or aspects of your project do you believe can be replicated in other areas or other countries? In other words, how far can your results be generalized and what cautions are needed into trying to replicate them elsewhere?*
6. *How successful has the project been in disseminating its results to other researchers and to policy-makers? How was the dissemination done?*
7. *What contacts have you had with other similar IDRC-funded projects on wastewater? How were these contacts made? Did the “Cities Feeding People” Program play any role in facilitating these contacts?*
8. *IDRC has proposed a wastewater reuse network. Do you think that this is a good idea? What would you hope to get out of such a network? Should the focus of the network be on research or practice? What would be the ideal geographic extent of such a network to be most useful to you?*
9. *What impact on policy has the project achieved? What was done to achieve this? What kinds of information do the relevant policy-makers need to take action and what is the best means of delivering it to them? Was the project able to provide this information?*
10. *Which other donors have supported your project or might be interested to support your work in the future? Have you approached donors and has IDRC helped in this?*
11. *What has been your experience in working with IDRC on this project? What would you say is the value-added of the “Cities Feeding People” Program to projects such as yours?*

**THANK YOU**

**4 E-MAIL SURVEY LAC – POLICY BRIEFS**

*Lineamientos para la formulación de políticas municipales para la agricultura urbana.*

1. *Usted utiliza los lineamientos?*
2. *Según su experiencia, quien los utiliza ¿*
3. *Cómo y para qué se utiliza ¿*
4. *Cuál es el mejor uso de la manera los lineamientos ¿*
5. *Cuáles son actividades necesarias para la puesta en práctica de recomendaciones del lineamientos?*
6. *Están los lineamientos la mejor manera de influenciar la política o están allí maneras mejores de hacerla ¿*

**MUCHAS GRACIAS PARA SU COLLABORACION!**

**5 TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH LAC REGIONAL COURSE MODERATORS AND PARTICIPANTS**

*Key questions of the review were:*

1. *Did the course reach the appropriate stakeholders?*
2. *Was the time frame for the course adequate?*
3. *Was the organization of the course efficient and appropriate, any changes needed for the future?*
4. *What major experience did participants and moderators draw from the course?*
5. *Did the participation in the course result in any visible change in their cities?*
6. *Did the course improve communication between the agronomists and other UA stakeholders and the city administration?*
7. *Was there any specific follow up activity directly related to the course?*

**THANK YOU**

