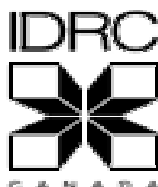




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PROGRAMA DE GESTION URBANA – P.G.U.
COORDINACION REGIONAL PARA AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE



Urban Agriculture and Feeding the Latin American and Caribbean Cities: Good Practices and City Consultation

Final Report
November 1998- August 2001

August 2001

Final Project Report

November 98- August 01

Project: Urban Agriculture and Feeding the Latin American and Caribbean Cities: Good Practices and City Consultation

Centre file: 004155

Name of institutions:

- Urban Management Programme, Regional Co-ordination for Latin America and the Caribbean (UMP-LAC/UNCHS-Habitat/UNDP, Quito-Ecuador)
- The Institute for the Promotion of Social Economy (IPES-Peru)

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- IPES-Lima team
- The City Working Group on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (Municipality of Texcoco)
- The Municipality and urban farmers of Quito

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Date:

August 2001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project could only have been implemented through the joint effort of a large number of persons. It was born out of a round-table on urban agriculture attended by local government officials (New York, 1996) and has been given further shape by the Cities Feeding People Programme of the International Development and Research Centre (IDRC), the Urban Management Programme-Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UMP-LAC) and IPES.

First of all I want to express my sincerest thanks to IDRC, UMP-LAC and IPES for having provided me with the opportunity to work in this challenging project and share with them both my professional and personal life over the past two years.

I would like especially to thank Yves Cabannes for the extensive discussions we have had, his critical reading and his never-ending enthusiasm for the programme. He taught me to be never satisfied with the current state of knowledge and results and always to look for new and innovative approaches to support the living conditions of our fellow human beings.

I also would like to thank Luc Mougeot for his trust, direct support and reflections. He is always ready to discuss and share information and highlight interesting project advances. His contribution has certainly made sure that this project has value for a large number of municipalities.

My sincerest appreciation goes to Jorge Price and the entire IPES staff in Lima for their immediate welcome to their organisation. From the beginning we were not only colleagues but also friends, and they have spent various long hours in supporting the project and looking for solutions to practical problems.

I am especially grateful to all the Urban Management Programme Quito-based staff for supporting the project throughout these 2 years of intense work. I would like to thank particularly the regional advisors:

Andrea Carrión, Advisor on Urban Indicators (UMP-LAC, Ecuador)
Cecilia Castro, Adviser to the Regional Co-ordination (UMP-LAC, Ecuador)
Emly Costa, Advisor on Urban Poverty (CEREAH/Periferia-AGORAXXI/UMP-LAC)
Mary Cuenca, Advisor on Participatory Governance (COPEVI/UMP-LAC, Mexico)
Patricia Palacios, Gender Advisor (IULA-CELCADEL/UMP-LAC, Ecuador)
Felicity Rose, Advisor on Urban Management (DFID//UMP-LAC) and
Nancy Sánchez, Information and Communications Co-ordinator (CIUDAD/UMP-LAC).

Without them the project could have never been completed, neither would it have had the necessary integrated approach.

I am grateful to Guillermina Astorga, Teresa Calderón, Mayra Delgado, Juan Pablo Guevara, Aida Montenegro, Antonio Naranja, Josefina Oña, Mónica Rhón, Mauricio Rojas, Johani Ruiz, Lourdes Saavedra and Mauricio Velasco for assisting me in all logistical organisation that has facilitated the fluent implementation of this programme. Equally the project has benefited much from the financial and administrative support provided by Maria del Carmen Constante, Maritza Leon, Gunther Merzthal and Roberto Marín.

And last but not least, I want to extend my warm thanks to my friends and UMP-colleagues Alain Santandreu, Saya Sauliere and Matteo Villalba, who supported directly the implementation of the project, shared with me the community meetings, read and commented on all documents and gave me all the personal support I may have ever needed.

Final Project Report

November 98- August 2001

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Final Project Report

November 98- August 2001

Project Summary

The world population is urbanising rapidly, with urban poverty growing apace, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean. Food and fuel already absorb a large share of urban poor households' incomes, and household food insecurity has been worsening in recent years in the Region. Several factors affect the quality, availability and affordability of food and micronutrient provisioning to city populations. The urban poor have diversified their food procurement strategies and urban food production has resurged since the 1970s, with several community and municipal initiatives reported recently throughout the Region. Several international organisations have come together in the mid 1990s to support a more coherent and effective inclusion of such initiatives into local development strategies.

This project is part of a larger regional initiative to develop participatory processes of local planning. It will have a group of selected resource and associate cities to document a series of best practices and interact in a city consultation, for the formulation of an action plan and specific projects in urban agriculture. The cities will represent a range of city sizes, ecosystems and subregions. The project will facilitate a formal interaction between regional networks of experts in urban agriculture and of local authorities interested in sharing experiences or in phasing urban agriculture activities into local agenda to better address urban poverty, food insecurity, unemployment, gender inequity, environmental degradation and rural-urban tensions. Results will be edited, published and disseminated to municipal urban actors and others throughout the Region.

1. Background

Urban growth and urban poverty

The world population is urbanising rapidly, with urban poverty growing apace. In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), for instance, some 75 percent of the Regions population now lives in urban areas and, since 1986, there are more poor found in the Regions cities than in its rural areas. It is estimated that the Regions urban poor will continue to increase in numbers and in percentage over the next decade or so, when they could make up nearly half of the Regions urban population. National and local governments in the Region are growing wary of worsening socio-economic inequalities and absolute poverty, fuelled by and/or undermining fiscal and trade gains due to macro-adjustments underway in the Region. These concerns were more recently highlighted by IDB President himself at the Bank's March 1998 Assembly in Cartagena.

Availability of and access to food

Food and fuel purchases already absorb a large share of urban poor households' incomes, and household food insecurity has been worsening in recent years. As per FAO data, in the late 1980s seven out of 20 countries studied exhibited a high household food insecurity index, while in the early 1990s this index had deteriorated in 15 out of 20 countries (Juan Izquierdo, 1997, quoted in IDRC, 1997).

Urban agriculture

Several factors ranging from structural to periodical do affect the quality, availability and affordability of food and micronutrient supplies to city populations. The urban poor resort to various strategies to cope with their food needs. For instance, since the 1970s the cultivation of crops and raising of small livestock inside and around cities has grown considerably in several cities of the region. This production has been catering to farming households' own consumption needs but also to the demand of upper-income speciality markets. Several studies in Sub-Saharan cities have documented the nutritional benefits accruing to children and mothers of low-income food-producing households, through self-provisioning and spending of savings or income on food items otherwise unaffordable; the situation seems less well documented in Latin American cities.

In response to community and municipal urban food production initiatives to curb urban poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, environmental degradation and other problems, a number of organisations have come together in the mid 1990s, at the international and regional levels, to support more coherent and effective inclusion of urban food and fuel production into local urban and peri-urban development strategies.

International and regional programmes

Support Group on Urban Agriculture

A group of institutions and organisations initially convened by UNDP in 1992 formalised into the Support Group on Urban Agriculture (SGUA) at a meeting convened by IDRC in Ottawa in 1996. The SGUA includes over forty representatives of 20 entities, including six international co-operation agencies. In 1996 the SGUA agreed to create a global support facility, defined workplan priorities for its members and took charge of specific tasks to improve information and co-ordination among agencies for communications, research, policy, technical assistance, and credit and investment in urban agriculture. SGUA members are implementing and further seeking support for major joint projects (resource centre on urban agriculture (RUAF), international research awards program in urban agriculture (AGROPOLIS), and public-private partnerships in urban waste reuse in agriculture). At UNDP's invitation, SGUA members (UNDP, IDRC, TUAN and UMP) organised a roundtable of top local government officials on urban agriculture, at the Second International Mayors' Colloquium in NYC in July 1997.

RED AGUILA

In Latin America and the Caribbean and subsequent to an assessment of institutional capacities in the region by IDRC, FAO and IDRC sponsored a regional seminar where the Latin American Urban Agriculture Research Network (RED AGUILA) was created and its work agenda defined. The network is currently composed of some 12 countries and international agencies. Several members of this network have successfully secured funding from various agencies for policy and technology-oriented projects. An

executive secretariat for the network was set up jointly by IDRC and ETC International in La Paz, which has edited a book on regional experiences, regularly issues an electronic bulletin and facilitate interaction with other relevant networks.

UMP-LAC/UNCHS-HABITAT

The Urban Management Program for Latin America and the Caribbean (UMP-LAC), currently in its third phase (1997-1999 or 2001), is carrying out City Consultations with interested local governments and civil society actors. The thematic emphasis for the consultations is threefold: urban poverty alleviation, urban environmental management, and participatory urban governance, each with special attention to the issue of gender. The Regional Office has established contacts with dozens of Latin American municipalities and a wide range of institutions in order to promote city consultations construct plans of action, and exchange information and experiences on different topics related to urban management and the primary themes of UMP.

Regional urban agriculture project

This project will enable the SGUA to follow up on information and advice requests formulated by participating delegations at the 1997 roundtable and enable regional networks of expertise, such as AGUILA and others, to formally interact with regional networks of local authorities, to survey best practices and develop a city consultation process for policy formulation and implementation in urban agriculture.

2. Description of project objectives and activities

Project objectives

As stated in the original project document, the International Development and Research Centre (IDRC), the Urban Management Programme, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UMP-LAC) and IPES- Institute for Sustainable Development have come together to support inclusion of urban agriculture and food security more coherently and effectively into local urban development strategies, under the umbrella of the regional programme: “Urban Agriculture and Feeding Latin American and Caribbean Cities”. “In response to interests expressed by several Central and Southern American municipal governments, this project is intended to assist a group of resource and associate cities with documenting urban agriculture experiences (in five resource cities), producing diagnoses of urban agriculture activities (in four associate cities), and implement a city consultation process (in one associate city). This process is to facilitate the formulation of a concerted action plan and specific related projects, and to systematise and disseminate its methodology and results to other interested cities in the Region”.

In other words, the project aimed to:

1. *Document, analyse and share existing urban agriculture experiences in cities in the region,*
2. *Facilitate the formulation and improvement of local policies related to Urban Agriculture and the sustainable management of cities.*

Project activities

Project activities implemented to respond to these objectives can be divided into 3 main phases, described below:

- (a) Selection and contracting of project co-ordinator (November 98- May 99)
- (b) Elaboration of baseline and case studies on urban agriculture in 10 municipalities in the region (June 99- May 00)
- (c) Implementation of a City Consultation, Action and Priority Action programme in Quito, Ecuador (June 00- August 01).

2a) Selection and contracting of project co-ordinator (November 98- May 99)

UMP-LAC issued a job-vacancy and call for application in November/December 1998 through their own contact network, the networks of its Regional Anchoring Institutes, the AGUILA and Environment and Latin American Network list-server. After screening of the total of 37 applications received, on the basis of criteria like regional experience in urban agriculture activities, institutional back-up and linkages and general qualifications (language management, education, years of experience), 15 candidates were approached for a second round of selection. Of these, 3 candidates remained and were requested to comment on the program proposal, describe 3 urban agriculture experiences in the region and send in 2 of their publications on UA. Marielle Dubbeling, formerly working for ETC-Netherlands and member of the Latin American Network on Urban Agriculture (RED AGUILA), was selected and contracted through IPES-Peru, the UMP-LAC Regional Anchoring Institute for the Urban Environment. The entire selection process took longer than envisaged and only could be completed in May 1999. The actual project implementation thus only started per the first of June 1999. (See further first technical progress report November 98-November 99).

2b) Elaboration of baseline and case studies on urban agriculture in 10 municipalities in the region (June 99- May 00)

In June 99 a call for city submissions, was developed by UMP-LAC. The main objectives of the city call were to identify 4 associate cities in the region to conduct detailed baseline studies on the actual presence and impacts of urban agriculture, and 6 resource cities, to systematise municipal policies and interventions on urban agriculture.

City selection

Among a group of 50 cities, the following ten cities were selected that represent a range of city sizes, ecosystems and sub-regions (see tables 1 and 2):

Case studies

Resource cities

Brasilia, Brazil
Camilo Aldao, Argentina
Cuenca, Ecuador
Havana, Cuba
Teresina, Brazil
Texcoco, Mexico

Baseline studies

Associate cities:

Curaçá, Brazil
Montevideo, Uruguay
Puerto Cortés, Honduras
Quito, Ecuador

Table 1. Location of participating cities by sub-region and ecosystem

Sub-region/ Ecosystem	Brazil	Southern Cone	Andean Highland	Central America	Caribbean	Mexico
(Semi)-Arid	Curaçá Teresina					
Tropical humid				Puerto Cortés	Havana	
Temperate	Brasilia	Montevideo Camilo Aldao				Texcoco
Highland			Quito Cuenca			

Elaborated by: Marielle Dubbeling. After Yves Cabannes/Luc Mougeot (original project document)

Table 2. Size of participating cities

City –Size/ Ecosystem	1-4 million inhabitants	0.5 – 1 m	0.1 - 0.5 m	0.05 – 0.1 m	<50,000
(Semi)-Arid		Teresina			Curaçá
Tropical humid	Havana			Puerto Cortés	
Temperate	Montevideo	Brasilia	Texcoco		Camilo Aldao
Highland	Quito		Cuenca		

Elaborated by: Marielle Dubbeling. After Yves Cabannes/Luc Mougeot (original project document)

The criteria for selection of *associate cities* were the following:

- Degree of political interest of the municipality;
- Dynamism of civil society;
- Quality and nature of the relation of the municipality with urban actors;
- Pertinence of the problem at local level;
- Possibility for local impact and change in the short-term;
- Regional representativeness;
- Local capacity for capitalisation on experience;
- Level/degree of urban agriculture in the municipality;
- Degree of integration with other UMP-LAC programmes.

The criteria for selection of *resource cities* were the following:

- Degree of success of existing municipal UA policies and interventions;
- Magnitude of the experience;
- Degree of integration of different aspects of the production cycle (inputs, production, transformation, commercialisation);
- Degree of integration/links with other UMP-LAC programmes.

Baseline studies

In each city, local teams were contracted and those responsible for producing the **baseline studies** were tasked, among other activities, with analysing quantitative and qualitative data on:

- The legal and institutional framework in which Urban Agriculture (UA) is being developed (general description of the city, the local actors involved and the specific role they play, existing urban agriculture policies and services);
- The physical and social environment in which urban agriculture is being developed (presence and location of different UA systems, typology of production systems, their characteristics, technologies used, actors involved, land use (tenure) aspects and gender analysis);
- Positive and negative impacts of UA (in relation to food security, nutrition and health, environment and family economy);
- Municipal vision for the future development of UA (factors that facilitate or limit the future development of UA, perspectives and strategies).

This information allowed for the identification of the type of UA practised, as well as of the obstacles, needs, opportunities and strategies for sustainable UA development in each of the cities, by means of project implementation (action planning) and policy formulation.

The studies indicate *that urban agriculture is present in cities of different sizes and ecosystems*. They also show a large diversity of urban agricultural systems (vegetables, medicinal plants, flowers, animal raising, aquaculture), in different types of areas (intra-urban, peri-urban and rural; on public and private land). Instead of talking about Urban Agriculture, it is seemingly more in accordance with reality to talk *about primary production (agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry and fishery), transformation and commercialisation within municipal boundaries (with its respective rural, peri-urban and intra-urban zones)*.

Finally, the studies highlight *the need for strengthened support to urban agriculture by means of:*

- Elaboration of a legal-juridical framework for UA;
- Integration of UA in urban and land use planning;
- Development of alternative credit systems for UA;
- Commercialisation and marketing;
- Recycling and re-use of organic wastes and wastewater.

City case studies

In their turn, the **case studies** described and highlighted the following issues:

- The general context in which the municipal policy or intervention on Urban Agriculture has been developed;
- The general design of the policy/intervention (methodology, strategies followed);
- The characteristics and role of the actors involved;
- The activities implemented and process followed;
- The results (impacts) of the experience;
- Sustainability analysis;
- Lessons learned;
- Potential for transfer of the policy/intervention to other locations.

The case studies served as very rich sources of information which enabled us to better understand the development of and types of municipal programmes on, UA and potentially serve as guidelines for the starting-up of similar programmes elsewhere in the region. They show that *UA at municipal level is recent* (since the mid nineties with some exceptions), *and therefore innovative in its development*. If combined, the studies provide *an array of strategies and tools that cover a broad spectrum of municipal interventions* in urban agriculture. The collective experiences provide us with *elements for the development of a new policy framework on UA*: laws, regulations, norms and plans (for example grant of land (Teresina), regulations for agro-industries and product-control (Brasilia), tax-exemption (Camilo Aldao), waste-recycling (Cuenca) and destination of tax-funds for productive project support (Texcoco).

Also they demonstrate that *UA is not just a technical or sectoral theme*, but is linked to:

- Poverty alleviation (improved food security, employment and income generation and savings);
- Environmental improvement/quality of life (recycling of waste, green areas, multifunctional land use, improved micro-climate and aesthetics);
- Participatory governance (community development, social inclusion of vulnerable groups);
- Reduction of gender inequity.

The apparent key themes for the development and up-scaling of UA are linked to political sustainability (normative/legal and institutional framework), access to credit, commercialisation and marketing; adapted (and organic) technologies, and training.

International seminar

All baseline and case studies were presented in a seminar-workshop '**Urban Agriculture in Cities of the 21st Century**' and a transversal analysis was made of the results obtained, lessons learned questions remaining. The prime objectives of the event were to "bring together Mayors and professionals from different LAC cities to debate and analyse the city experiences and baseline studies and the main lessons learned for policy formulation, as well as the structures, mechanisms and technological options for sustainable urban agriculture development." It was also oriented at the formation of a City Working Group on Urban Agriculture and Food Security, to support permanent information exchange on urban agriculture experiences and policies among cities.

The outcomes of the seminar-workshop contributed to the development of a City Consultation process (implemented between June 2000 and May 2001 in the city of Quito: see point 2c). The seminar-workshop was targeted at and attended by a total of 90 participants. (For a summary of all base-line and city case studies, and a summary of the seminar discussions and conclusions: see separate city reports or the UMP/IPES/IDRC Working Paper 84: Urban Agriculture in 21st Century Cities").

The three most important results obtained during the Seminar are considered to be the following:

I. The elaboration of The Quito Declaration on Urban Agriculture

A Declaration was formulated and signed by all seminar participants, stating:

"We affirm our commitment to the promotion of UA in our cities, with the objective of reproducing and improving municipal policies and actions on UA to strengthen food security, eradicate poverty, improve the environment and health and develop participatory governance. We also affirm our decision to produce and disseminate methodological tools, guides and mechanisms that collate regional experiences and inform others of the elaboration and implementation of policies and municipal interventions related to (a) urban and land use planning, (b) re-use of waste and wastewater, (c) credit for UA, and (d) transformation and commercialisation."

II. The formation of the LAC City Working Group on Urban Agriculture and Food Security

During the seminar the City Working Group was formed to allow for permanent information exchange between the cities involved, international campaigning and lobbying (towards national and international governments and institutions) and collaborating in project development, training and policy formulation. Prioritised topics to work on are described in the Quito Declaration. The City Working Group, representing at present 40 different cities, is co-ordinated by a Co-ordinating City and Technical Secretariat in Texcoco (Mexico) and is presently developing two concrete Working Group projects: (a) A Regional Training Course on Urban Agriculture; (b) Elaboration of Policy Briefs on Urban Agriculture.

III. Local follow-up of seminar results

In the period after the seminar-workshop (up to December 2000), the technical and political uptake of seminar recommendations and project results in the participating cities was monitored and is further described under the paragraph impact monitoring). (See further technical progress reports July-December 99 and January- June 2000)

2c) Implementation of a City Consultation, Action and Priority Action Programme in Quito, Ecuador (June 00- August 01).

City Consultations are processes that seek to improve how municipalities govern their cities and to foster more participatory processes of urban management. They facilitate and strengthen dialogue between the local government and other local stakeholders (NGOs, community groups, private sector etc.), in order to decide how best to address and solve priority problems. This specific City Consultation process aimed at facilitating the formulation of a concerted and participatory Action Plan among governmental and other urban actors, and of projects related specifically to UA and food security, as well as aimed to systematise and disseminate its methodology and results to other interested cities in the Region.

City selection

During the international seminar the four participating associate cities (Curacá- Brazil, Montevideo-Uruguay, Puerto Cortés-Honduras and Quito-Ecuador) were asked to competitively apply for the implementation of the City Consultation on Urban Agriculture. By the end of May 2000, UMP-LAC had received two complete City Submission (City Dossiers), from Montevideo (Uruguay) and Quito (Ecuador) respectively. The two Dossiers received were evaluated by IDRC-CFP, UMP-LAC and IPES. It was decided to select the city of Quito-Ecuador for the City Consultation due to the regional relevance of the proposed project (it links with 3 topics prioritised by the LAC City Working Group), its innovative character (like the focus on incorporation of urban agriculture into land use planning and the formation of a Municipal Unit on Urban Agriculture), and its potential for having a short-term impact on policy uptake.

Quito: City Consultation and Action Plan

In Quito, the base line study was discussed during an issue-scooping seminar (May 2000) among various local governmental, civil stakeholders and community representatives. The seminar served to elaborate –in form a of draft Action Plan- a consultative identification and first prioritisation of potential issues and strategies to

support further development of urban agriculture in Quito (see technical progress report December 1999 – June 2000).

Priority Action Programme

Due to political changes (August 2000), the proposed Action Plan had to be re-negotiated with the new Quito municipal government and civil actors involved, during two strategy-defining seminars held in September. It was decided, and agreed upon in form of an Inter-Actor Co-operation Agreement that specified the general vision, objectives, working activities, overall budget and responsibilities of each actor involved in the process, to implement in one neighbourhood in Quito (el barrio El Panecillo) several pilot projects on urban agriculture. At the same time it was intended to support the development of a favourable municipal legal and institutional framework on UA that facilitate implementation of the pilot projects and other UA activities. The entire process was managed by a Co-ordination Committee, composed of representatives of various involved municipal departments (Parks and Gardens, Zonal Administration, Centre for Integrated Support to Women and the Family “Las Tres Manuales”, External Co-operation), support institutes (Cuerpos de Conservacion) and community leaders and urban farmers. (See further technical progress report July-December 2000).

Pilot projects

The four projects selected by the community of El Panecillo include:

- (1) Recycling and productive re-use of organic solid waste through composting and vermiculture
- (2) Ecological production of home and community gardens
- (3) The set-up of a community nursery, for re-forestation and commercialisation of nursery plants (for ex. geraniums)
- (4) Set-up of 3 agro-industries or micro-enterprises, each directly involving 7-8 families, for processing and commercialisation of agricultural produce:
 - Recycling of organic waste (one agro-industry being the compost plant, see A)
 - Processing of vegetables and herbs
 - Processing of aromatic plants into infusions.

All projects are supported by training and technical assistance, provided by both local and international experts (amongst other involving those from the resource cities involved in systematising their city case study). The projects are generating first positive impacts on food security (improved and ecological production of home-gardens), employment generation (15 young people employed in waste recycling and each agro-industry aiming to provide another 7 jobs), environmental management (waste recycling) and participatory governance (social inclusion of women, younger people). (See further section on impact monitoring and Technical progress report January-June 2001).

Legislation and regulation

The three main limiting factors for UA development in El Panecillo have been identified though-out the project to be access to land, access to credit and access to markets. Several proposals for municipal land use policies have been elaborated, a new alternative model for micro-credit systems developed and commercialisation channels have been explored.

Access to land

The proposals related to fostering of access to land, formulated and presented to the Municipal Council for their discussion and formalisation, include:

- ❑ For rented plots, payment of rent per year (and not per month) and corresponding to the growing cycle
- ❑ Renting agreements for a 5-year period (and not yearly) to facilitate investment
- ❑ Handing-over to the community of user rights for the next 10-20 years of different municipal areas for the construction of a community nursery, a waste recycling plant and 2 agro-industrial micro-enterprises
- ❑ Use of symbolic land rents for public land areas used for urban agriculture
- ❑ Exemption of the proposed 600 percent raise (of 20,000 to 120,000 sucres) of land taxes for private land areas used for agricultural production

Access to credit

Characteristics for the set-up of a micro-credit line for urban agriculture were specified and contemplate:

- A specific orientation to guarantee access of poorer households (often excluded from access to formal credit systems) to the credit-system. This access is to be assured by working with solidarity guarantees (instead of requesting guarantees in form of property, bank-accounts or households goods); by working with low interest rates; by calculating interest rates over the payment balances (and not over the initial amount of capital required); and by subsidising infra-structural costs (fixed costs) and only implementing credit over the working capital required. .
- A specific orientation to assure adaptation of the credit-line towards agricultural processes. This is to be assured by implementing re-payment periods adjusted to the production cycle; by including an extended “first payment period, during which neither capital nor interest has to be paid” (plazo de gracia”).

The credit system is perceived to support production-transformation-commercialisation processes of urban agriculture and will in the near future become part of a municipal credit fund for productive projects (FIDEICOMISO), to be managed by the Department of Social and Economic Development in collaboration with NGO's or co-operatives.

Access to markets

Several strategies for commercialisation have been contemplated by the project. Commercialisation could be pre-arranged through agreements for secured sale. For example the Parks and Gardens Department has agreed to buy all compost to be produced by the compost plant. Also first contacts have been established with the leading super-market chain in Ecuador (el Super-Maxi) as to see whether they would be willing to allow for sale of the products that will be produced in the agro-industries. In both cases the negotiations were supported and facilitated by the mayor of Quito and by UMP-LAC (as UN representative).

Institutionalisation

In the process of administrative re-organisation and under the guidance of the Urban Planning Department, the Municipality of Quito formed a new Department for Social and Economic Development, being responsible in future for all productive projects in Quito including industrial, tourist and agricultural activities. As assigned by the Mayor of Quito, this Department will co-ordinate in future a municipal programme on urban

agriculture production, transformation and commercialisation in Quito, aimed at developing UA projects in 4 different neighbourhoods of Quito and further developing the legal and institutional framework necessary for up-scaling of UA to district-level and facilitating its development as a strategy to improve food security and alleviate urban poverty. UA has been recognised for the first time as an urban land use in the Quito 2020 Land Use Plan and within the municipal budget for 2002, 120.000 US\$ have been set aside for development of the programme.

Systematisation and dissemination

The entire project process and its results are continuously analysed and systematised and disseminated in different forms:

- In form of a video and CD-ROM, developed in collaboration with the UMP Regional Anchoring Institute CIUDAD, that describe the process methodology and results
- In form of several Working Papers, elaborated by IPES and UMP-LAC
- In form of the various technical progress reports.

Next to these direct project-related activities, a series of ongoing activities were to be followed up and are described below:

2d) Promote, where appropriate, in other UMP- LAC programmes and city consultations, the inclusion of urban agriculture in local policy agendas

2e) Promote closer interaction between (regional) expert networks, such as AGUILA, SGUA, RUAF and others, and regional networks of local authorities

2g) UMP-LAC strategic activities: Information and Knowledge Management.

2d) Promote, where appropriate, in other UMP- LAC programmes and city consultations, the inclusion of urban agriculture in local policy agendas

City consultations

Urban agriculture was promoted in various of the UMP-LAC ongoing city consultations (Villa El Salvador-Lima; Puerto Cortés-Honduras; Quetzaltanango-Guatemala and Santo André -Brazil), as can be found described in paragraph 4h.

Regional programmes

Over the past 2 years UMP-LAC was also able to directly link the UA programme with two other of its regional programmes. The first programme UMP-LAC was involved in, concerned the *"Intermediary functions of small and medium sized cities in Latin America"*, executed in collaboration with COPEVI and IREC-EPFL (Instituto de Investigación sobre el Ambiente Construido, Escuela Politécnica Federal de Lusanne, Suiza). Under this programme, amongst others **Camilo Aldao** and its 21 surrounding municipalities will be directly involved as a resource city. During a planning seminar in Camilo Aldao, guided by the UMP-LAC adviser on indicators, (urban) agriculture was identified as one of the functions of intermediation and was in this respect monitored during the project period.

A second specific UMP-LAC programme, financed by City Alliance, is concerned with the formulation of *Strategic Investment Plans for Local Development* in **Cuenca-Ecuador**. The project aims at the elaboration of Strategic Investment Plans for Cuenca, through which the formal and informal economic sector will be strengthened, under a

specific gender and environmental perspective. Urban Agriculture was identified in Cuenca as one of the potential investment areas (as part of the informal economy) and a specific project proposal was formulated.

UMP-LAC regional offices and head-quarters

Thirdly project uptake by other regional UMP-offices and the head office have been promoted. All technical progress report were distributed to all UMP offices to support information exchange and start discussing potential for collaboration between offices or regional uptake of the UMP-LAC project results.

UMP/HABITAT-global: Habitat and FAO organised a parallel event “Food for the Cities” during the Istanbul +5 meeting in New York (June 2001). UMP-LAC represented UNCHS- HABITAT in this event by preparing a presentation on “Urban agriculture, food security and municipal management”. The presentation was very complementary to the presentations provided by IDRC (Role of Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture in Urban Food Security and Poverty Alleviation) and FAO (Food Supply and Distribution Systems). The event counted with some 50 participants and all questions and discussion raised were related to urban agriculture, showing that interest in the topic is increasing, also outside the world of technical and scientific co-operation.

UMP-Asia: UMP-Asia was co-organizer of a Regional Seminar on “Feeding Asian Cities” (held 27—30 November 2000 in Bangkok, Thailand) together with FAO and CityNet. The issue of food security in cities was thoroughly discussed particularly in the context of sustainable urban development and poverty alleviation. A large number of Asian mayors participated, some of whom are UMP-Asia clients. UMP-Asia facilitated the working group on “The Role and Needs of City and Local Authorities in Urban Food security”, and proposed a knowledge and experience sharing project similar to that of UMP-LAC.

UMP-Africa: the UMP-Africa anchoring institute IAGU (Institut African de Gestion Urbaine) is also functioning as a RUAF Focal Point. IAGU and UMP-LAC met in November 2000 in the Netherlands and project information was shared. The personal contacts will be further explored and possibilities for co-operation implemented.

2e) Promote closer interaction between (regional) expert networks, such as AGUILA, SGUA, RUAF and others, and regional networks of local authorities.

The following table visualizes the respective focus as well as identified areas for exchange and collaboration with the different institutions and networks:

Table 3: Inter-institutional relations

Institutions/networks	Areas of information exchange and collaboration
RED AGUILA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UMP-LAC participates in the Advisory Board of AGUILA • UMP-LAC provides direct advice and training to the Secretariat of RED AGUILA • Linking of UMP-LAC City Working Group with AGUILA members (NGOs and research institutes): common project development • Several AGUILA members invited to participate in the seminar “Urban Agriculture and Feeding the Cities” • UMP-LAC participation in Second AGUILA Assembly • Exchange of project reports with co-ordinators of regional AGUILA projects
ETC-RUAF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A co-operation agreement has been signed that specifies collaboration in information exchange, training and methodology development and action research. • UMP-LAC /IPES selected as RUAF regional focal points for LAC
SGUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the SGUA meetings in Berlin (2000 and New York (2001)
FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UMP-LAC participation in the National Network of Food Security Projects (Red Nacional de Proyectos de Seguridad Alimentaria -REDPESA-) that aims to support formulation of national food security policies, exchange information and co-ordinate the different related projects. • Production of Working Paper on urban food security. • Common organization of event on UA, food security and municipal management in Rio de Janeiro
IULA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common organization of event on UA, food security and municipal management in Rio de Janeiro during IULA Congress • Collaboration with IULA-CELCADEL adviser on gender issues

Elaborated by Marielle Dubbeling

2g) UMP-LAC strategic activities: Information and Knowledge Management

Information and knowledge management is one of UMP-LAC strategic actions that concerns collection of information, systematization and capitalization of information, exchange and knowledge development and dissemination. Various media and fora are used:

- One entire issue of the Urban Age Newsletter was dedicated to urban agriculture and food security (Winter 98)
- Three-monthly UMP Briefs (Breves PGU) are published, with practical information on UMP activities and also on the various UA projects (reaching around 1600 readers)
- Publication of Working Papers

- Uptake of project descriptions and results in the UMP- Urban Information System (also including various databases on (UA) resource persons, Best-Practices and bibliography) the Farmer City Web-page and RUAF and IDRC home-page
- Production of video's and CD-ROMs
- Participation in regional and international conferences and seminars (International Seminar Growing Cities Growing Food –Habana,Cuba; II Assambly RED AGUILA Habana-Cuba; FAO/RUAF electronic conference on Urban Agriculture; Horticulture and Urban Planning –Berlin, Germany; Community Food Production – Nottingham,UK; first and second RUAF partner meeting –Leusden, the Netherlands and Dakar-Senegal; IULA Congress Rio de Janeiro-Brazil).

UMP-LAC more and more develops itself as a regional clearing-house, systematising its own experiences (City Consultations, Action Plans, City Working Groups) and other relevant local experiences, and disseminating information after a thorough check on quality and relevance. Systematisation will specifically address actor participation, methodology, tool and policy development and lessons learned. As such the information will also support institutional capacity building of UMP Regional Offices, its Anchoring Institutes, Local City Governments and civil urban actors.

All these activities have certainly contribute to the mainstreaming of urban agriculture within IPES/UMP-LAC: recognition and inclusion of UA within the UMP catalogues and databases, and incorporating of UA in other thematic fields of work.

3. Project results

Summarising the above given information related to project activities and also referring to the Initial Project Document as prepared by UMP-LAC and IDRC-CFP (1998), the project achieved the following results:

Knowledge management:

1. One issue of the Urban Age dedicated to “Food for the Cities” (Winter 1998) published;
2. Six reports describing city case studies on urban agriculture at municipal level in six selected resource cities of the LAC region elaborated;
3. Four baseline studies on urban agriculture in four associate cities elaborated;
4. Five videos on urban agriculture experiences in 5 different LAC cities (Brasilia, Camilo Aldao, Cuenca, Havana and Quito) elaborated;
5. One document systematising the methodology and process of implementing a base-line study on urban agriculture in Quito, Ecuador, elaborated;
6. Short articles on the Urban Agriculture Programme activities published in the UMP-LAC "Breves" (distribution to 1500 readers);
7. Inclusion of the project description and results in the UMP-LAC, IDRC, City Framer and RUAF web-site;

8. Two short articles on the Urban Agriculture Programme activities published in the first and fourth issue of the Urban Agriculture Magazine;
9. Working Paper 77 “Alimentos para las ciudades: políticas de abastecimiento y distribución de alimentos para reducir la inseguridad alimentaria urbana” (UMP/FAO) elaborated in Spanish;
10. Working paper 83 “Programa de Verticalização da Pequena Produção Familiar” (APROVE)” ,describing the Brasilia PROVE case study, selected as being one the case studies describing in detail aspects related to credit systems for urban agriculture and transformation and commercialisation (2 topics prioritised by local governments during the seminar) , elaborated in Portuguese;
11. Working Paper 84 on the proceedings of the Seminar “Urban Agriculture in Cities of the 21st Century” (April 2000), including summaries of all presented studies, the working group discussions and the Quito Declaration, elaborated in English;
12. Working Paper 86 on “Diagnósticos participativos de Agricultura Urbana - lineamientos conceptuales y metodológicos-” including a summary of the methodologies followed in each of the base-line studies and describing the results, elaborated in Spanish;
13. Working Paper 87: “Descubrir la inversión escondida –sistemas alternativos de micro-crédito para la Agricultura Urbana”, describing the set-up of micro-credit systems from a perspective of social inclusion, elaborated in Spanish;
14. A video on the UA programme activities in El Panecillo developed;
15. A CD-ROM on the City Consultation/Action programme in Quito elaborated;
16. Two manuals on composting and vermiculture elaborated;
17. Two manuals on setting up of agro-industries and hygienic handling of food produce elaborated;

City Consultation and Action Plan:

18. One base-line study on Urban Agriculture in the Metropolitan District of Quito elaborated;
19. Actors involved in UA in Quito identified;
20. One Action Plan for UA development in Quito developed and discussed in a multi-stakeholder forum;

Priority Action Programme:

21. One inter-actor agreement on the development of a Priority Action Programme in El Panecillo, counting with financial support from the municipality, elaborated and signed;

22. One socio-economic baseline study of El Panecillo developed;
23. Micro-credit seed fund established, Credit management committee formed and criteria for operational base defined;
24. Proposals for regulations on land access for urban agriculture presented to the Municipality of Quito;
25. UA recognised and included in the Quito general land use plan (2000-2020);
26. Project document for up-scaling of the UA-programme to the entire Metropolitan District of Quito elaborated;
27. Four UA pilot projects developed in El Panecillo;
28. El Panecillo households trained in ecological production techniques, transformation and commercialisation of agriculture produce, composting and vermiculture;
29. Three business plans elaborated for the formation of 3 micro-enterprises (agro-industries);
30. The UA Action Programme is contributing to the social inclusion of vulnerable groups (young people, elderly, women, unemployed), to improved food security (by contributing to a higher and more diversified yield of the home-gardens), to income and employment generation (generating direct employment for the 23 families involved in the agro-industries), to environmental management (waste recycling and reforestation) and to participatory governance (community influence on political decision –making) (see further the produced CD-ROM);

Lobbying:

31. One LAC City Working Group on Urban Agriculture and Food Security formed, representing at this date 40 cities of the Region;
32. A Quito Declaration on Urban Agriculture formulated and signed by all 40 member cities;
33. The project and its preliminary results presented at various international events;

Institutional anchoring/mainstreaming:

34. UMP-LAC and IPES staff trained in UA;
35. One formal co-operation agreement signed between UMP-LAC/IPES and ETC/RUAF; UMP-LAC selected as RUAF Regional Focal Point;
36. Collaboration with RED AGUILA and FAO strengthened;
37. Two case studies (Cuenca and Texcoco) added to the HABITAT Best Practices Database;

38. Summaries of the Cuenca and Havana experience included into the KIT “Ciudades y Medio Ambiente” elaborated by UMP, IPES, CESEM, FMCU and HIC;
39. Urban Agriculture included in other UMP-LAC City Consultations and programmes.
40. UA recognised as a strategy for municipal development by other UMP regional offices.

4. Indicators of program monitoring

(A) Human resource development (training)

Throughout the program, human resources have been developed at different levels:

- ◆ UMP-LAC staff. In co-ordinating the City Consultation/Priority Action Programme the IPES/UMP-LAC urban agriculture and environmental advisers have built their knowledge and understanding of:
 - the rich diversity of regional experiences on UA
 - the notion of UA and its relations with other fields of urban management (poverty, environment, health, planning, governance)
 - the functioning of micro-credit systems and set-up of agro-industries
 - the importance of linking of action oriented processes with political processes (legislation and institutionalisation)
 - communication and education processes
 - participatory methodologies for development (that include a gender analysis, and environmental perspective)
 - project and financial management,
 - and identification of fields and expertise that have to be constructed in future (for example integration of urban agriculture into physical urban planning, participatory governance and gender analysis).

By involving other UMP-LAC staff in programme implementation activities (participatory governance adviser in Quetzaltenango; gender and urban indicators adviser in Rio de Janeiro, urban environmental adviser in Havana y Villa El Salvador) the UMP-LAC teams understanding of UA concepts and its linkages with other thematic fields has increased.

- ◆ Staff of the Regional Anchoring Institutes. New knowledge and capacities on UA and in systematisation methodologies (IPES) and production of video and CD-ROM (CIUDAD)
- ◆ Municipality and NGOs involved. Formulation of micro-credit programmes for Urban Agriculture and regulation of urban agriculture. Inter-institutional collaboration and participatory project management.
- ◆ The community. Capacity building in relation to: financial management of micro-credits, organic production, transformation and commercialisation, recycling of organic wastes, project management and budgeting.

- ◆ University students. In total 5 students from different countries have supported the project for shorter or longer term (Germany: 3, Ecuador 2). One student from the Catholic University is since January 2001 working full-time at UMP-LAC supporting the development of the project, and is as such being trained in project management and implementation. Also 6 high-school students have been involved in the project, doing their practical in the community garden pilot project in El Panecillo.

(B) Local institutional capacity building

Reflecting on the project implemented, UMP has increased its understanding of urban management intervention processes, the value of the specific methodology used by identifying its strong and weak points to be worked upon.

UMP-LAC has been able to support mainstreaming of UA by integrating it into other fields of work and on its turn enriching UA with other working areas (local economic development, integrated waste management, gender, and institutionalisation of participatory processes). The project has supported to construct a common working agenda and interdisciplinary knowledge.

The UMP-LAC Anchoring Institution IPES was responsible for the financial management of the project and its support is specifically invaluable related to elaboration of contracts and financial administration. Through its involvement in the AGUILA and RUAF programme, the institutions capacity in program and financial management, project formulation and implementation at regional level has been strengthened.

The co-ordinating city of the LAC City Working Group on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (Texcoco, Mexico) is being strengthened in its capacity to dynamise regional processes, elaborate and monitor workplans and formulate projects in a participatory way.

In the City Consultation/Priority Action Plan, the Municipality of Quito has strengthened its capacity in overseeing and guiding multi-stakeholder processes, in collaborating with civil and private actors, in promoting community participation and formulating concrete action plans, related projects and local policies on UA.

(C) Effectiveness of local partnerships

In the Quito City Consultation/Priority Action Programme, a local team –involving both municipal, civil and community actors, was responsible for project management and implementation. This multi-actor involvement is deemed essential for participatory and sustainable project development, responding to the needs and opportunities of each actor involved and making optimum use of their capacities. The role of local NGOs is invaluable in the daily contact with community actors, while different municipal departments play a very important role in facilitating the farming households access to land, inputs and capital. On its turn, UMP is mainly contributing to the advocacy and knowledge management components with regional information and thinking on urban management.

The community is the main actor for planning, guiding and evaluating the programme. However, the community initially showed a high degree of dependence on the local NGO, municipal actors and UMP-LAC. Although they were explicitly involved in planning and decision-making, for a long time they did not take a very pro-active attitude in project development, apart from assisting to the meetings and training sessions. In every project meeting this point was stressed up to the point that if they took no initiatives, no further activities would be developed. A gradual change became visible, illustrated for example by the composting group that themselves elaborated the co-operation agreement with the Parks and Gardens Department to ensure sale of their produce. Empowerment of the local groups has thus been taking shape. Another indicator here-of is the fact that the leadership of 4 community co-ordinator responsible for each of the 4 pilot projects is recognised by the community and that all four of them are asked to represent them in the Panecillo Neighbourhood Council.

(D) Added value of multidisciplinary and multistakeholder approaches

Support from all UMP-LAC staff and their Anchoring Institutes to the urban agriculture programme was invaluable with regards to establishing of contacts and mainstreaming of urban agriculture into other UMP-LAC City Consultations and monitoring programmes.

During the course of the project, more and more actors became involved to complement the different disciplines necessary for implementation. For example an architect joined the team to support construction of agro-industries. Experts from other countries became involved in training (transformation and commercialisation, and elaboration of compost/vermiculture). A social worker joined the programme to support community development and agronomists was tasked to support training, design of the community nursery and the elaboration of an environmental assessment.

The project counted with participation of a large percentage of women and specifically aimed to respond to their practical needs and opportunities. This allowed for a better understanding of their roles and responsibility, and related supports development of more gender equity approaches of intervention.

(E) Methodological and scientific advantages

The methodology used in the process City Consultation-Action Plan- Priority Action Programme is innovative in linking research and action, combining concrete project implementation and policy formulation/institutionalisation, and bridge-building between public, private, non-governmental and community based actors.

Reflection has supported the understanding of the role that specific methodological components play in an entire intervention process. For example, baseline studies should not be considered as photographic shots of a specific situation at a determined point of time, but should allow for concrete and participatory action planning and impact monitoring.

The project allowed for a better understanding of the presence and role that urban agriculture plays in the life of the urban poor and the city as a whole. It contributed to understanding the place of urban agriculture in its urban context and identified the apparent factors for its success and up-scaling (credit, facilitating policies and commercialisation).

On the other hand, the project has allowed for the identification of themes to be worked on in future (incorporation of UA into land use planning, investment for UA, relationships between UA and food security).

The project supports reflection on and understanding of urban poverty and social inclusion (poverty is not so much a matter of income levels, but of providing equal access to land, material goods, education, information and decision making) and of gender (going beyond participation of men and women towards responding to differentiated needs).

The project has shown that for incorporating a real gender and environmental perspective it is necessary to apply specific techniques and methodologies. And that in constructing UA policies it is necessary to recognise and build upon the support of and processes developed by the urban farmers.

It has also shown that urban agriculture interventions (being an intervention of more technical nature leading to visible and short-term results), are a concrete entry-point for and catalyst of more complex and integrated interventions like integrated urban environmental management (linking UA, waste and wastewater), urban poverty alleviation and participatory governance.

The methodology applied during the participatory City Consultation and Action Programme has been documented and illustrated in the CD-ROM developed and will hopefully serve as a practical tool for other municipalities to embark on similar processes. The Working paper on "Methodological and conceptual guidelines for the elaboration of participatory baseline studies on UA" and the "Manual on alternative credit systems for UA" might serve as other instrument to feed and be fed by the present debate and serve as new building blocks for a more regional construction of knowledge.

(F) Gender-sensitive analysis

In the implementation of the Priority Action Programme, gender analysis was tried to be incorporated by desegregating data, monitoring of participation of women/men, promoting the participation of vulnerable groups (women, youngsters, elderly) and identifying specific activities to be responding to the needs of each group of actors.

It is important to recognise that just a first step was made in gender analysis, but that much more explicitly understanding has to be reached of:

- who is doing what?,
- who needs what and who has access to which resources, assets and information;
- who should participate and when?,
- and how will each action affects the different stakeholders (men or women, elderly or young, etcetera)

It is clear that although the project made a certain advance in responding to the practical needs of women (income, food, jobs), no sufficient attention has been paid to responding to their strategic needs (self-esteem, leadership, decision-making).

Further reflection on gender analysis will specifically be incorporated in the Manuals being elaborated by UMP-LAC and should receive special attention in future programme development.

(G) Leverage of additional funding (non-UMP and non-IDRC)

In the entire project period, the total amount of 106.048 US\$ of additional funding to the original 210.000 US\$ has been obtained, for implementation of operational activities (see different technical progress reports).

(F) Uptake of project results for specific policy or technology interventions

The Municipality of Camilo Aldao, Argentina took the initiative to call a meeting with INTA, the NGO CEPA (Centro Estudios de Proyectos Agroecológicos) and other Municipalities in Cordoba Province with the idea of forming a national network to promote urban agriculture as a strategy for local development (the National City Network in its turn will participate in the LAC City Working Group). Municipalities from the neighbouring Province of Santa Fe have also shown interest in participating. In total, 15-20 Municipalities are involved. Camilo Aldao has also formulated and negotiated a project called "A system for the production and commercialization of organic horticulture products, produced on Camilo Aldao waste-lands. In January 50 families started to work on urban food production (on 5 hectares) aiming at local commercialization. They also gave shape to a project on home- gardening in collaboration with the Psychiatric Hospital, where 25 persons (5 psychiatric patients and 20 workers) will form a social co-operative. Production will be basically oriented at the Hospital Kitchen.

The Municipality of Cuenca-Ecuador, has incorporated UA as one of the projects to be financed through Strategic Local Investment Planning.

As a result of their involvement in the UA programme, the Municipality of Curacá, Brazil is enabling the setting-up of an organic Community Garden of 10 hectares, where 300 persons could cultivate a small lot (300 m2 per person).

The Department for Physical Planning of the City of Havana-Cuba and the NGO FUNAT requested the visit of UMP-LAC to Havana to discuss local potential and implementation of inclusion of urban agriculture into urban planning. The IPES/UMP-LAC adviser on urban agriculture traveled to Havana in February 2001, and prepared with the local partners a first draft of a related project "Urban agriculture at city-level: integration of urban agriculture into urban planning". The IPES/UMP-LAC adviser on urban management traveled to Havana in May 2001 and provided follow-up to the formulated project, especially related to the aspect of local financing.

The Municipality of Montevideo, Uruguay is working on the inclusion of urban agriculture into their Local Agenda 21 and requested a meeting with the National Congress of Local Governments to obtain their support of the Quito Declaration and discuss possibilities for the adoption of urban agriculture in policy. They are especially interested in sanitary and environmental management of urban pig-raising and a relative

project proposal was formulated together with the municipalities of Porto Alegre (Brazil), Havana (Cuba) and Villa El Salvador (Lima) and send for financial support to URBAL 6.

The IPES/UMP-LAC adviser on urban environmental management visited Porto Alegre-Brazil in June 2001. Although the visit was basically aimed at strengthening the Working Group on Waste Management, the topic of linking the 3 environmental City Working Groups (waste, water and UA) was discussed) to promote a more integrated environmental city management. Porto Alegre will incorporate itself as member to the other 2 working groups and will establish a link between the different web-sites. They also expressed interest in integrating UA into the training courses for regional development that they are developing with the Federal University.

The Municipality of Puerto Cortés, Honduras has included urban agriculture in their environmental management strategy. In the future; planned activities, mainly focused on the strengthening of their Municipal Commission for Environmental Management (CONAM), include a municipal request for capacity building through the formulation of 3 environmental programmes, one of them including urban agriculture.

In Quetzaltenango-Guatemala, UMP-LAC participated in two workshops in Quetzaltenango that aim to support development of an integrated environmental management proposal –including urban agriculture- and that will build on experiences with gender- inclusion and multicultural city management in the ongoing UMP-LAC City Consultation in Quetzaltenango. (city consultation on gender and pluri-cultural governance).

The increased interest and knowledge on Urban Agriculture generated by their participation in the City Consultation has been given shape by the Municipality of Quito, Ecuador, with the inclusion of Urban Agriculture in its "Strategic Development Plan Quito 2020" and the development of a project proposal for the set-up of a municipal programme on UA production, transformation and commercialisation. Also specific land use regulations for UA are being legalised and municipal funding for UA is set aside in its 2002 budget (for the amount of 120,000 US\$).

The Municipality of Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic is developing a Municipal Programme on Urban Agriculture and has set-up a municipal support structure for such a programme. A co-operation agreement between the municipality of Santiago and UMP-LAC has been signed.

In Santo André –Brazil (city consultation on social inclusion and citizens participation),, a presentation on innovative UA experiences in the region was given in the context of a seminar on local economic development. Also meetings were held with different municipal representatives (Environment, Women, Parks and Gardens) and the University of British Colombia. Interest was expressed in development of a UA project on terrains under the electricity lines (500 km) and a first base-line study on UA is being developed.

The Municipality of Texcoco, Mexico is aiming to strengthen the urban agriculture activities of their Rural Development Department by co-ordinating the LAC City Working group on Urban Agriculture and Food Security. They also aim to disseminate municipal urban agriculture at national and regional level and organised in this context a seminar on “Urban Agriculture in Local Policies” for the municipalities located in the northern part of the Federal District of Mexico.

The Mayor of Villa Maria de Triunfo (Lima)-Peru approved of his contacts with UMP-LAC and his participation in the seminar and place UA as a specific item on his municipal agenda. He elaborated a plan for the documentation of current municipal and community activities that will serve as a basis for further action planning. The municipality is requesting further support in this process.

Two visits were paid to Villa El Salvador (Lima)-Peru (city consultation on elaboration of an integrated development plan for sustainable democratic governance) in April and May by members of the IPES/UMP LAC team. In the first visit possibilities for the development of an UA programme linked to waste and water recycling (building on the CEPIS interventions in VES) were discussed; in the second visit a Rapid Baseline study was implemented to identify the characteristics of such a programme. The direct involvement of IPES in the CEPIS programme and the elaboration of pig-raising programme are two direct results of these visits.

The Quito-Declaration was signed in the months after the seminar by an increased number of 19 new municipalities:

Argentina: Arroyo Ceibal, Carcaraña, Charnoudi, Corral de Bustos, Cruz Alta, General Roca, Guadalupe Norte, Justinano Posse, Lanteri, Las Garzas, Leones, Marcos Juarez, Monte Maiz, Villa Eiolea, Villa Maria

Bolivia: Santa Cruz

Ecuador: Otavalo, Pedro Moncayo, Pinampiro

It also has to be mentioned that two more cities do have expressed interest in integration of urban agriculture into their own activities, but are presently lacking the financial means to do so. These cities comprise:

- ◆ Maranguape-Brazil (City Consultation on Environmental Management: Local power and environment in the North-East of Brazil),
- ◆ Independencia (City Consultation on Environmental Management: Environmental management, children and local democracy in the North-East of Brazil)

5. General evaluation and recommendations

Responding to the original objectives

If one looks back at the two main objectives stated for the project:

- a. Document, analyse and share existing urban agriculture experiences in cities in the region,
- b. Facilitate the formulation and improvement of local policies related to urban agriculture and the sustainable management of cities,

the following analysis can be made:

Documentation and sharing of experiences

In ten cities in the LAC Region UA experiences have been documented, presented at an international seminar, discussed and analysed. The project certainly has contributed to increasing the knowledge on the notion and nature of UA in LAC municipalities and more-over has made available this knowledge to a large number of municipalities, regional and international expert networks, through a large variety of media.

One of the major lessons learned is that Urban Agriculture is spreading at municipal level all over the region and innovation at various levels have been identified in a permanent way. In that sense the hypothesis of *documenting* innovative practices, *sharing* experience as a way to *disseminate knowledge* and at some time to improve existing practices was fully demonstrated and is highly valued by the partners.

As UA at municipal level however, is rather recent, there is certainly a need for further follow-up, documentation and systematisation, especially to monitor impacts and its changing features as a results of urban dynamics (urban growth, decentralisation, etc.).

Facilitating policy formulation

The project has definitely led to mainstreaming of UA into UMP and IPES programmes, as well as into local governmental and NGO programmes. The sic city case studies have provided a series of elements for development of a new policy framework on UA: laws, regulations, norms and plans. The City Consultation process has shown to be an efficient and participatory tool to support both action-oriented activities and policy formulation. The implementation of action projects triggered the development of a favourable legal and institutional framework. For example the community gardens projects almost came to an end because of increased land rents; pressure put by the community and the project on the municipality resulted in the formulation of proposals for symbolic land rents (land use policies). On its turn a favourable legal and institutional framework facilitates development of action projects, as maybe shown best by the buying of compost by the municipality that allowed for the financial sustainability of the compost plant.

A first step has been made to come to policy formulation on UA in Quito and similar processes have been supported elsewhere in the region (see paragraph 4h). It is necessary to further elaborate practical tools that may support policy formulation in various fields related to urban agriculture (such as physical planning, economic investment, transformation and commercialisation, etc).

General project management

Support provided by IDRC, especially in the fields of project monitoring and strategic planning is considered having been essential and of high quality. The personal encounters with Luc Mougeot, responsible programme officer are valued very highly and contributed to fluent information exchange with IDRC and programme monitoring.

Financial administration by IPES supported fluency in cash-flows and as such the development of the project. Product evaluation as organised on two levels (UMP-LAC and IPES) assured strict quality control of products and assured that payments were only made on approval of products by both the UMP and IPES co-ordinator.

Seen the increasing number of demands made to UMP-LAC by a large number of municipalities in the Region, the Programme is responding to a real municipal demand related to urban agriculture and food security. However, UMP-LAC support-capacities (both in terms of human and financial resources) are insufficient to respond to the increasing demand for local project formulation, negotiation and financing. For this reason, an important component of the regional training course programme will be centred on supporting the participants in project formulation. Also, in future both the RED AGUILA and the LAC City working group have to be strengthened/trained to be able to respond to this demand and lessen dependence on UMP-LAC.

6. Reflections for the future

Future support

Although this specific co-operation agreement with IDRC is coming to an end, follow-up will be given by IPES/UMP-LAC to the following activities (in the context of other project proposals developed or under development):

- Giving proper follow-up to the challenge of up-scaling the Quito UA Programme to city/municipal level. Support will be provided to project negotiation and a specific support role of UMP is foreseen in project implementation, especially its institutional/legal component and project systematization.
- Provide specific attention to strengthening the LAC City Working Group as to start working on its independent functioning. Secure involvement of the Working Group in the Regional Training Course and in elaboration of the series of Policy Briefs on Urban Agriculture.
- Support the formulation of follow-up project proposals with the individual cities interested in UA (for example the pig raising project in collaboration with Havana, Montevideo, Porto Alegre and Villa El Salvador).

Bottlenecks to be overcome in future.

As expressed before 3 main bottlenecks have been identified: access to land (physical planning), access to capital/credit, access to local markets (especially formal local markets). The determining one of those three is the access to land and the lack of facilitating policies, especially at municipal level. Generally UA is not included into physical planning, land use or zoning plans. Along with these three bottlenecks one of the main limitation of the programme so far has been its incapacity to reach specific segments of the urban poor: especially afro-latinos, indigenous and to a lower level the “new urban poor”. As a result it would be of principal importance to concentrate during a next cycle on (a) a pro-poor UA focussing on the poorest of the poor, especially socially excluded groups like afro-latinos and indigenous groups; and (b) on the security of tenure (evolutive, temporary, rights of use) as a means to increase access to land, and (c) on the physical dimension of UA especially inserting the topic in municipal facilitating policies. UMP-LAC is presently elaborating a related regional project proposal. It is UMP-LAC’s hope to be able to develop this project in collaboration with IDRC.