

Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture (UPA)

What is Urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA)?

UPA is the growing of plants and/or the raising of animals for food and other uses (eg: recreation, environment improvement) within urban and peri-urban areas, as well as the related production of inputs and the processing and marketing of products.

UPA and rural agriculture are part of continuum and two interact and compliment each other.

IDRC (International Development Research Centre) Canada defines UPA as:

An industry located within or on the fringe of a town, a city or a metropolis, which grows or raises, processes and distributes, diversity of food and non food products, (re) using largely human and material resources, products and services found in and around the urban areas.

UPA occurs within and surrounding the boundaries of cities throughout the world and includes crop and livestock production, fisheries and forestry, as well as the ecological services they provide. Often multiple farming and gardening systems exist in and near a single city.

UPA is estimated to involve 800 million urban residents worldwide in income-earning and/or food-producing activities. The findings of national censuses, household surveys and research projects suggest that up to two-thirds of urban and peri-urban households are involved in agriculture. Much of the food produced is for own consumption, with occasional surpluses sold to local markets.

UPA can contribute to **food security** in several ways. It increases the amount of food available and enhances the freshness of perishable foods reaching urban consumers (case studies have shown differences in nutrition, especially among children, when poor urban families farm).

The lead feature of UA which distinguishes it from rural agriculture is its integration into the urban economic and ecological system. Modern UA is a life line. At micro level it provides the urbanites with better diet and higher income as well as opportunities to contribute to the urban environment

UPA has the potential to effeciently recycle the nutrients from municipal solid wastes and waste water





Activities included in UPA

Activities for urban areas:

- Roof garden (vegetables/ ornamental plants/ exotic plants)
- Kitchen garden
- Roof/ Rain water harvesting
- Herb gardening
- Small scale composting
- Large scale composting
- Mushroom cultivation
- Api culture
- Caged poultry
- River bed cultivation
- Cultivation on either side of railway track
- Fisheries

Activities of Peri Urban areas:

- Horticulture (fruits/ vegetables/ flowers)
- Fisheries
- Livestock Rearing
- Poultry
- Vermi composting
- Composting
- Water treatment and usage

Importance of UPA

- Food and nutritional security
- Poverty alleviation
- Employment generation
- Community participation and social upliftment
- Land use planning and land regeneration
- Assimilation of solid, liquid and gaseous wastes
- Environment change including micro climate
- Aesthetics and recreation

IWMI and RUAF –CFF: (www.iwmi.org)

IWMI is a non-profit scientific organization funded by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) with its Head Office located in Sri Lanka and works on four priority themes covering key issues relating to land, water, livelihoods, health and environment. The institute concentrates on water and related land management challenges faced by poor rural communities. IWMI works through collaborative research with partners in the North and South, to develop tools and practices to help developing countries eradicate poverty and better manage their water and land resources.

IWMI-South Asia office located at ICRISAT in Hyderabad, India, became a part of RUAF phase I in May, 2002. IWMI-India is currently the **Regional Coordinator** of RUAF South and South East Asia region for the RUAF-CFF Program.

The pilot cities in South and Asia region are **Hyderabad** and **Bangalore** in India and Kathmandu in Nepal. Apart from this there are 10 partner cities in the South and South East Asia Region.

The Mission of IWMI is to improve water and land resources, management for food, livelihood and nature. RUAF- CFF project falls under IWMI's theme area of "**Agriculture, Water and Cities.**"

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