

GAMPAHA CITY STRATEGY AGENDA for Urban/Periurban Agriculture 2008 - 2012





Vision

“Create a clean, green and food secure city by promoting and strengthening capacities of citizens on urban agriculture”



Mission

The vision is to be realized through a cohesive multi-stakeholder (Nagarika Haritha Balakaya) forum (MSF), comprising key departments and institutions that will operationalize the activities of the City Strategy Agenda. The mission of the MSF would be to energize and motivate the city communities to engage in Urban Agriculture (UA), clean-up the city environment by recycling garbage, and improve the health status, with the support and participation of the communities, government and non-governmental institutions. Also, jointly provide human, financial and logistical support to the implementation of the Agenda and to regularly monitor and evaluate project development and results.

Introduction

The City of Gampaha ($7^{\circ} 5' - 7^{\circ} 18' \text{ N}$, $79^{\circ} 50' - 80^{\circ} 02' \text{ E}$), is a rapidly growing city in the Western Province of Sri Lanka. Among the 3 Districts of the Western Province, Gampaha is the second most populous district, with a total population of 2.1 million (12.3% of the total population in the country). The population density is high and estimated at 1,541 person's km^2 , in comparison with the population density of the rest of the country which is 299 per km^2 . The annual population increase in the Gampaha district is 1.9%. Within the limits of the municipality it is estimated to be 2.6%. The total population in the city, is 63,335 (2001 census), in 33 GN divisions (smallest administrative unit). The city expansion embracing the 33 GN divisions took place around 2 years ago and it is estimated that 30% of the population has migrated from other districts (2001 census). Considering these indices, the municipal limits of Gampaha have reached a high level of urbanization.

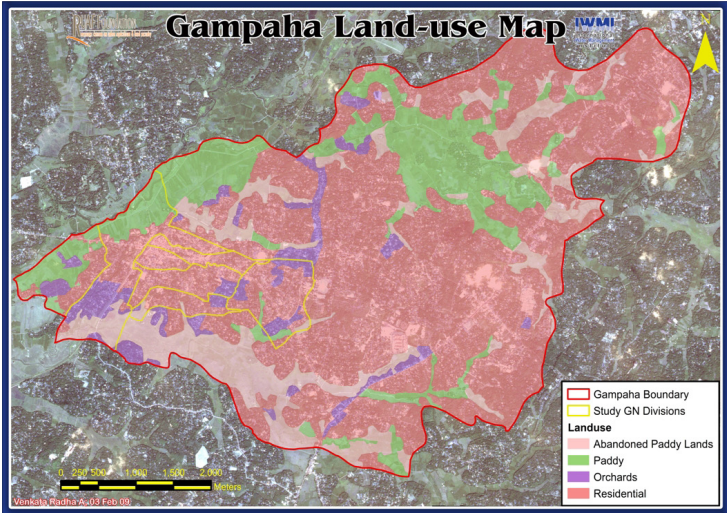


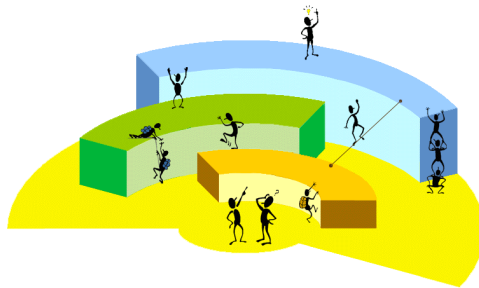
The climate in Gampaha city is tropical, with an average annual temperature of 28° C and an annual rainfall of 2400 mm. Large areas still exist under agricultural production, paddy cultivation, taking a prominent place. However, the current, high input costs, and lack of labour, have forced many owners to abandon the paddy land. Further, the recent escalation of land prices are a threat to these cultivable land, and the government has brought in strict legislature to prevent paddy land being sold for commercial construction. More recently, under a presidential directive, incentives have been given to re-vitalise agricultural land, especially paddy cultivation. The incentives are directed through the Ministries of Agriculture and Agrarian Development.

The available land for agriculture is estimated as follows

Description	ha
Gampaha municipal limits	2,790
Cultivated paddy fields	39
Fallow fields	202
Coconut	210
Rubber	13
Bare land	10
Swamps	15
Total	3,279

Gampaha Municipality Land-use Map





The city comprises 33 GN divisions and identifies four major objectives for development

- Objective 1** : Promote and support a culture of sustainable urban agriculture
- Objective 2** : Revitalize the paddy farming systems and develop strategies to improve productivity with innovative farming practices that harmonize with nature and improve access to paddy lands for those who are keen on farming
- Objective 3** : Reduce environmental pollution and health concerns by proper management of city drainage and garbage
- Objective 4** : Strengthen overall local urban agriculture production and local (within the city) and national marketing of produce

Objective 1: Promote and support a culture of sustainable urban agriculture

Objective/ strategy	Interventions/actions	Timeline (years)			Institutional responsibilities	Funds/in kind contributions
		Short (1)	Medium (2 -3)	Long (4-5)		
Intervention 1.1	Popularize and raise awareness on UA through dissemination programs, which highlight the importance and benefits of UA, and strengthen the support systems for UA.	X	X	X	MSF – planning at monthly meetings and participation at specific events	
Action 1.1	Sign boards on streets, posters and brochures, mass media campaigns, exhibitions, use of IEC tools, and competitions		X		MC, DOA (WP)	RUAF Pilot project MC, DOA (WP) Staff time of all MSF members at campaigns
Action 1.2	Regular trainings programs on UA for school children, house wives and farmers. Eg. Innovative methods on UA farming, nursery preparation, water conservation, organic farming, pest problems and treatment.		X		DOA (WP), MC	RUAF Pilot project MC DOA (WP) Staff time of all MSF members
Action 1.3	Strengthen and expand the existing extension service on UA and develop their capacity to take on different urban farming systems. Form networks among home gardeners, regular farmers, market sources and other service providers.			X	MC, DOA (WP)	PC (WP)
Action 1.4	Provide suitable innovative technology interventions for home garden (UA) development and farmers (good plant and seed varieties, irrigation systems, medium of cultivation, organic and eco-friendly control measures). Development of nurseries and sales outlets			X	MC, DOA (WP), DI	DOA (WP) RUAF Pilot project

Objective/ strategy	Interventions/actions	Timeline (years)			Institutional responsibilities	Funds/in kind contributions
		Short (1)	Medium (2 -3)	Long (4-5)		
Action 1.5	Engage teachers and students to develop their attitude , knowledge and skills for sustainability of UA by formulating syllabus on UA for 8th and 9th graders followed by programs for advance level school children.			X	DE	
Action 1.6	Popularize healthy food and nutrition habits through nutrition gardens in hospitals and public places with the support from health personnel (doctors and field health officers), conduct programs on food quality and exercise for healthy living.		X	X	MC, DOA (WP), DOH, NGOs and iNGOs	MA (WP) DOA (WP) RUAF Pilot project DOH
Intervention 1.2	Complement and combine above efforts with the National Policy on Agriculture, domestic food policy and the presidential program on “Let us Cultivate and uplift the Nation” -program		X	X	DOA (WP), DAD (CG)	
Action 2.1	Seminars among the policy makers, to sensitize and chalk out strategy plans for execution of activities related to UA at national, provincial district, and city level – elaboration of activities related to the national agriculture policy.		X		MA (WP), MC, DOA (WP)	
Action 2.2	Engage and invite proposals from universities, NGOs and CBOs to support UA extension service.		X		MC, DOA (WP), DAD (CG)	
Intervention 1.3	Institutionalize the MSF concept on UA through a high level steering committee that will guide the MSF to operationalize UA activities.	X			MC	
Action 3.1	Form a steering committee to guide the MSF towards UA city strategy plan	X			PC (WP)	

Objective/ strategy	Interventions/actions	Timeline (years)			Institutional responsibilities	Funds/in kind contributions
		Short (1)	Medium (2 -3)	Long (4-5)		
Action 3.2	Develop proposals to secure funds and help execute the city strategy agenda	X			MA (WP), NGO, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, MC	
Intervention 1.4	Alternative uses of water for UA – recycling grey water, wastewater treatment			X	MC	
Action 4.1	Mapping sources of water for UA and looking at treatment of city wastewater for recycling			X	MC, DI (CG), IWMI, UDA, DOA (WP)	MC



Objective 2: Revitalize the paddy farming systems and develop strategies to improve productivity with innovative farming practices that harmonize with nature and improve access to paddy lands for those who are keen on farming.

Objective/ strategy	Interventions/actions	Timeline (years)			Institutional responsibilities	Funds/in kind contributions
		Short (1)	Medium (2 -3)	Long (4-5)		
Intervention 2.1	Popularizing and glamorising paddy farming practices that will help draw the urban younger generation towards agriculture. Uplift the status of the farmer and give better recognition within the society.	X	X	X	DOA (WP) DAD (CG) DI (CG)	
Action 1.1	Blend the traditional farming practices with scientific and systematic practices that can cope with climate change and urbanisation.			X	DAD (CG) MC DOA (WP)	MOA (WP)
Action 1.2	Develop programs where the young farmers are given the opportunity to address at relevant public platforms, to build confidence and public acceptance.			X	DAD (CG) DOA (WP) MC	
Action 1.3	Introduce novel and innovative methods of urban farming in the school curriculum that will catch the attention of the youth and develop a culture of agriculture and good farming practices.		X		DE DAD (CG) WPDOA	DOA (WP)
Intervention 2.2	Preservation and cultivation of abandoned paddy lands and develop good sales strategies for outputs					
Action 2.1	Preservation of paddy land within the city, by developing by laws for the development of the abandoned paddy lands. i.e. identifying the reasons for non-cultivation	X			DAD (CG)	

Objective/ strategy	Interventions/actions	Timeline (years)			Institutional responsibilities	Funds/in kind contributions
		Short (1)	Medium (2 -3)	Long (4-5)		
Action 2.2	Private and public paddy lands to be developed with the support of the agrarian services acting as a nodal agency, for leasing agreements and building trust among the different parties.	X			DAD (CG)	
Action 2.3	Providing subsidy for vital inputs and organise better market sales prices for the farmer so that his interest in farming will be sustained. Promote organic growing of paddy with minimum use of chemical fertiliser and with less pesticides. Resources for finances from government (central) should be increased to support & promote agriculture	X			DAD (CG) Farmer Organizations	
Action 2.4	Regular maintenance of irrigation infrastructure, with a clear understanding of the role of the farmer and service providing government organization – Cleaning of canals, Improve Irrigation (micro & macro)	X			DAD (CG) Farmer Organizations	
Action 2.5	Evaluate and monitor the agrarian services act regularly to assess its adherence and issues arising due to urbanization.		X		DAD (CG)	
Action 2.6	Increase the staff strength in the department based on the requirement to provide support and monitor the farmers and build a network through the farmer organizations	X			DAD (CG) DOA (WP)	
Action 2.7	Improve communication between various departments for consultation in the city planning process				MSF MC	
Action 2.8	Involve a wider network of organizations to promote paddy farming (NGOs, CBOs University and Research agencies for research and project support)				MC	

Objective 3: Reduce environmental pollution and health issues by proper management of city drainage and garbage

Objective/ strategy	Interventions/actions	Timeline (years)			Institutional responsibilities	Funds/in kind contributions
		Short (1)	Medium (2 -3)	Long (4-5)		
Invention 3.1	Garbage separation at source, collection and utilization of recycled waste for home gardening	X	X	X	MC	CEA, WMA (WP)
Action 1.1	Create awareness about proper separation, collection and disposal of household waste and provide the necessary tools and implements	X	X		MC, CEA, WMA (WP)	WMA (WP), MC
Action 1.2	Encourage composting at household waste and use compost in home gardens to grow organic food – link with objective 1	X	X	X	MC, DOA	CEA, MC
Intervention 3.2	Intersectoral collaboration and consultation between departments for proper planned drain construction as per the landscape of the city					
Action 2.1	Map areas of concern and see how each situation can be tackled in a systematic way.	X	X		UDA, DOH	
Action 2.2	Prevent accumulation of water and waste to reduce the incidence of communicable diseases	X	X	X	DOH, MC	
Action 2.3	Identify resources (physical, financial and human) to support the cause of improving proper practice in city dwellers to improve city environment.		X		MC	
Action 2.4	Popularize the healthy hygiene and sanitation practices and revive unused land for use in agriculture to prevent accumulation of waste and city garbage		X		MC, DOH	
Intervention 3.3	Good governance - Encourage Four R Principle (refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle)				CEA, MC, WMA (WP) DOH, DOA (WP)	CEA, WMA (WP)

Objective 4: Strengthen overall local urban agriculture production - local (within the city) and national marketing of produce

Objective/ strategy	Interventions/actions	Timeline (years)			Institutional responsibilities	Funds/in kind contributions
		Short (1)	Medium (2 -3)	Long (4-5)		
Intervention 4.1	Promotion of access to financing and investment in urban agriculture					
Action 1.1	Design and development of a pilot credit program for urban producers in the district		X		PC (WP)	
Action 1.2	Analyze the credit potential and development of financing proposals for the urban producers in the district	X			PC (WP)	
Intervention 4.2	Promote productivity and ecological sustainability of various UA production systems					
Action 2.1	Experimental and demonstration garden project for permanent AU training and production	Continuous			DOA (WP)	
Action 2.2	Training of extension staff specialized in UA production and marketing		X		DOA (WP)	
Action 2.3	Farmer-Field school project for UA production(with different methods)		X		DOA (WP)	
Action 2.4	Soil, pests and plant type program, and development and use of appropriate technology			X	DOA (WP), DOA (CG)	
Action 2.5	Exchange program/visits for UA experiences, local regional and national		X		PC (WP)	
Intervention 4.3	Strengthen processing and marketing activities related to UA			X	MSF	
Action 3.1	Development of new processed products based on UA		X		DOA (WP), DOA (CG)	

Objective/ strategy	Interventions/actions	Timeline (years)			Institutional responsibilities	Funds/in kind contributions
		Short (1)	Medium (2 -3)	Long (4-5)		
Action 3.2	Analysis and implementation of alternative UA products with added value		X		DOA (WP), DOA (CG)	
Action 3.3	Implementation of the community processing centre for UA products			X	MC	
Action 3.4	Project to develop a distinctive market logo that will identify and place the UA products in the market.		X		PC (WP)	
Action 3.5	Periodical implementation of organic fairs		X		DOA (WP)	
Action 3.6	Program on the commercialization of UA products at the stores and a delivery system			X	PC (WP)	
Action 3.7	Implementation of a stock and distribution system for UA produce for organized commercialization			X	PC (WP)	
Action 3.8	Elaborate on quality standards and a manual on good practices in the production and transformation of UA products			X	Need National Level Intervention, BS	
Action 3.9	Ecological certificación of UA products			X	Need National Level Intervention	
Action 3.10	Implementation of a monitoring and control system for the production and transformation of UA products			X	Need National Level Intervention	
Action 3.11	Quality control program for the inputs used			X	Need National Level Intervention	
Intervention 4.4	Strengthening the role and functioning of urban agriculture producers.					
Action 4.1	Development of the organizational and management capacity of the district and zonal organizations of the urban producers		X		PC (WP)	

Acronyms

BS	- Bureau of Standards
CEA	- Central Environmental Authority
DOA (CG)	- Department of Agriculture (Central Government)
DOA (WP)	- Department of Agriculture (Western Province)
DAD	- Department of Agrarian Development
DOH	- Department of Health
MC	- Municipal Council of Gampaha
MSF	- Multi-stakeholder Forum
PC	- Provincial Council
UDA	- Urban Development Authority
UA	- Urban Agriculture
RUAF	- Resource Centers on Urban Agriculture and Food Security
WMA (WP)	- Waste Management Authority (Western Province)

National Agricultural Policy (03-09-2007)

<http://www.agridept.gov.lk/content/admin/pdf/National%20Agricultural%20Policy.pdf>

Let us Cultivate and uplift the Nation-Booklet

<http://www.agridept.gov.lk/content/admin/pdf/Let%20us%20Cultivate%20and%20uplift%20the%20Nation%20.pdf>



The RUAF Foundation

The central aim of the RUAF Foundation (the International Network of Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security) is to contribute to urban poverty reduction, urban food security, improved urban environmental management, empowerment of urban farmers and participatory city governance by enhancing policy awareness on benefits and risks of urban agriculture, capacity development, facilitating local policy formulation and action planning on urban agriculture, promoting networking and exchange of experiences, and Strengthening urban farmer organisations and their marketing capacities. The RUAF – Cities Farming for the Future (RUAF-CFF) and RUAF - From Seed to Table (RUAF-FStT) programme are executed by the seven regional RUAF partners in co-ordination with ETC Urban Agriculture (the Netherlands). Funded by DGIS (the Netherlands) and IDRC (Canada). More information is found on www.ruaf.org.



International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI, www.iwmi.org), located in 12 locations in Asia and Africa, is a member of the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR). With a vision of “Water for a food secure world”, IWMI’s mission is to improve water and land resources management for food, livelihoods, and environment. It seeks to achieve this through an international program of research and related activities largely carried out through collaboration with national and international partners, in a manner that contributes to strengthening capacities in developing countries. IWMI is Member of the RUAF foundation FStT project falls under IWMI’s “Water Quality, Health and Environment” Theme.



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