



REPORT OF THE STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON URBAN AND PERI URBAN AGRICULTURE IN THE



CITY OF BAMENDA

SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2017

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1. Background of Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue

On Wednesday September 20th, 2017 SHUMAS in partnership with Urban Food^{plus} and RUAF Foundation organized a multi stakeholder dialogue on urban and peri-urban agriculture in the city of Bamenda under the theme: *Developing a Policy Narrative on Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture for the City of Bamenda*. The dialogue brought together a total of 27 stake holders from technical ministerial departments, municipal councils, research institutions, NGOs and Cooperatives and was facilitated by SHUMAS, Urban Food^{plus} and RAUF Foundation.

1.1 The Urban Food^{plus}

Urban Food^{plus} Project is an African-German partnership to enhance resource use efficiency and improve food security in urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA) in West African Cities and initiate a platform for exchange amongst relevant stakeholders. It is a multi-disciplinary network of agronomists, livestock scientists, soil scientists, water engineers, social anthropologists, economists, and geographers working in African cities of Tamale in Ghana, Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, Bamako in Mali and Bamenda in Cameroon. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

1.2 SHUMAS Cameroon

Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS) Cameroon is a not-for-profit Development Non-Governmental Organization with its head office located at Mile Six Nkwen, Bamenda. It was recognized in 1997 per the 1990 law of association under authorization number 1082/E.29/IIII/VI.7/APPB. In 2013, she was recognized as a Non-Governmental Organization by the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization under decree number 00000196/A/MINATD/SG/DAP/SDLP/SONG. SHUMAS is an organization in special consultation status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2013 and equally a member of the NGO Committee on Social development with the UN since the 4th of February 2016. SHUMAS focuses on Integrated Sustainable Rural Development with the aim to improve lives, reduce poverty and empower people to realize the fullest of their potentials without limiting posterity from meeting theirs.

1.3 RUAF Foundation

RUAF is a leading centre of expertise and global partnership on sustainable urban agriculture and Food Systems. The partnership is formed by strategically selected expert institutions with a significant track record in urban farming or work on urban food system solutions, and consists of cities, research institutes and NGOs. RUAF seeks to contribute to the development of sustainable cities by facilitating awareness, knowledge generation and dissemination, capacity development, policy design and action planning for resilient and equitable urban agriculture and urban food systems.

1.4 Multi-stakeholder processes for policy-making and planning for UPA

The Multi-Stakeholder Process within UFP offers a platform for relevant stakeholders to discuss research set up and findings with UFP, and plan for the improvement and institutionalization of UPA. This process has already been conducted in Tamale and in Ougadougou. In general, multi-

stakeholder processes dealing with urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA) have been developed in the context of the implementation of the Local Agenda 21 and in the Sustainable Cities and Urban Management Programmes of UN-Habitat, within the RUAF Programme (25 cities, see www.ruaf.org) as well as in North American and Canadian cities promoting sustainable food systems through Food Policy Councils. In many cases, a city working group or platform on urban agriculture or urban food issues is established, involving all direct and indirect stakeholders in urban food production and consumption. The working group serves as a platform for dialogue and consensus-building among the various stakeholders (municipal departments, NGOs, community organizations, farmers' groups, governmental organizations, private enterprises and others) on the present situation of urban food production and consumption in the city, key problems and development potential, target groups, available open spaces for urban agriculture and their suitability, adequate incentives and regulation strategies and instruments. The platform develops a city agenda (ideally accepted officially by all key stakeholders), and coordinates the development of an appropriate legal framework and subsequent participatory planning, budgeting, implementation and evaluation of development actions. (More information on this approach and its application in various parts of the world can be found on the RUAF Programme website: www.ruaf.org.)

2. Activities of the Urban Food^{Plus} project in Bamenda

2.1 On-going Research Activities

The project started in Bamenda in 2016 and so far the following researches have been carried out:

- Livestock Baseline Survey
- Study on Farmer-Grazer Conflicts
- Study on Dairy Production and Marketing
- Impact of Soil Management on Soil Quality
- Food-Feed-Wood-Flow Survey
- Economic impacts of applying biochar for soil amelioration in urban open-space farming
- Willingness-to-Pay Study: Economic effects of improving food safety
- Study on the future of urban agriculture

Reports on these studies are being drafted and will be used in the finalization of the Policy Narrative.

2.2 Core Group Discussion

On the 29th of August 2017, a core group discussion was organized at the SHUMAS head office in Bamenda. The meeting brought together major stakeholders to deliberate on the role of urban agriculture in Bamenda and to bring ideas geared towards the development of a policy document that will enhance urban and peri-urban agriculture in Bamenda. This session focused on four major issues; characteristics, constraints, problems and planning of urban and peri



urban agriculture. The participants split into four thematic groups representing the four topics, worked and presented their findings during the plenary. This was the first step geared towards the development of a policy narrative for urban and peri urban agriculture in the city of Bamenda.

3. The First Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue at the MINEPAT Regional Office Bamenda

The objective of the stakeholder dialogue was to discuss the first draft and further develop a policy narrative on urban and peri- urban agriculture for the city of Bamenda.

3.1. Speeches



The first speech came from the Director General of SHUMAS Cameroon Mr. Ndzerem Stephen Njodzeka who in his welcome words applauded the endeavors of the stakeholders present. He enumerated the importance of urban and Peri-urban agriculture in enhancing food security, sustaining livelihoods, attaining economic empowerment, poverty reduction and supporting municipal authorities in managing wastes. He urged all present to actively

participate in the dialogue thereby assisting in the development of a policy narrative on urban and peri urban agriculture for the city of Bamenda.

The Governor's speech came from his representative; the Secretary General at the North west Governor Office, Lanyuy Harry who reiterated the need for a sustainable food system for the ever growing population in the city of Bamenda. He then challenged all stakeholders present to participate actively in developing a policy narrative that will enhance food security and sustainability in Bamenda.



3.2. Presentations



The first presentation came from Anika Witte, a post-doctoral researcher from the university of Gottingen titled "**presenting the Urban Food^{plus} Project**". She pointed out that the aim of the project was to enhance resource use efficiency in urban and peri-urban agriculture of African cities by developing innovations that are farmer-tailored and by initiating a platform for exchange among stakeholders. She presented the research conducted in Bamenda under the scope of the project and stressed

that much of the research is still on-going and that so far only preliminary results are available.

René van Veenhuizen, Senior Programme Officer at RUAF, presented on ***RUAF Foundation's international experiences in urbanization and (peri-)urban agriculture***. He introduced RUAF and his organization's partnerships with other organizations including Urban Food^{Plus}, Food and Agricultural Organisation, and UN Habitat. With its partners, RUAF has had programs and projects in over 50 cities since 1999. René pointed out that cities are taking it upon themselves to discuss the type of food systems they want and need and increasingly are active on this, led for instance by the New Urban Agenda or the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.



There are certain challenges that can be addressed by urban agriculture including: increasing urban poverty and social exclusion, growing food insecurity and malnutrition in cities, an ever more need to enhance resilience of the cities and reduce climate change/disaster risks and ecological foot print, mounting waste management problems and a surge in demand for green spaces and recreational services for the urban population. According to René's presentation, urban agriculture works in line with Sustainable Development Goal number 11 and various other SDG's, aiming at making cities safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable.

In the course of planning food systems, a plethora of problems are encountered ranging from the divide between urban and rural planning, restricted mandates and capacities of cities and local governments, differing views on land value, sectoral approaches, uncontrolled city expansion and fears of health risks as well as a lack of data and adequate monitoring. In an attempt to address the above mention problems cities have employed different strategies such as creating an enabling policy environment, integrating governance, and broadening perspective to a city region food system perspective, or enhancing the availability of and access to land thereby increasing land use security. Cities have also promoted territorial food governance and supported farmer's organizations and local value chains all the while trying to reduce health and environmental risks

Multi-stakeholder Policy and Action Planning process brings together all major stakeholders for a joint situation analysis, exchange of visions, the identification of strategies, action planning, and eventually implementation and monitoring. Stakeholders are understood as all those groups and organizations that have an interest in urban agriculture.

Presentation on food, feed, wood flow survey by Hanna Karg

The objective of the survey was to study food flows in four African cities including Bamenda. According to Hanna Karg, a postdoctoral researcher from the University of Kassel, African cities are experiencing rapid population growth, thereby increasing urban demand for food. At the same time farm land in cities has reduced. The aim of the survey is to find the sources of food consumed in cities and by what means it gets there as well as the seasonal variations in order to understand the level of food security in these cities. The survey includes a road and market survey in three seasons; the rainy season, as well as the start and end of the dry season. Hanna pointed out that it is not possible due to the high costs and logistics of the study to do this for all seasons but questions are tailored to find out the availability of food throughout the year. Data analysis for Bamenda is at a preliminary stage but she demonstrated on an illustration from the survey in Tamale how data will be analysed once the survey is completed.



Presentation on Milk Markets in Bamenda by Julius Forchid

Another presentation on the research conducted within the project was given by Julius Forchid, a research assistant of the livestock scientists from the University of Kassel. In the study on dairy markets 174 interviews were conducted with farmers who had been involved in the production and selling of milk within the period June 2016 to June 2017 and 87 milk samples were taken.

During the first phase of the project, two main production systems were studied, namely the Mbororo system and the system promoted by the Heifer project. In the on-going second phase emphasis is laid on those farmers who stopped selling milk between 2015 and 2016 to understand the challenges they encountered



4. Discussion

After the presentation of research results, the floor was opened for a discussion among all participants regarding the major actors and

challenges of urban agriculture in Bamenda. It was debated of whether key stakeholders have not been invited and it was suggested that for the next meeting also the Ministry of Public Health, organisations for youth empowerment and trade and food cooperative societies should be considered. Furthermore, participants were asked to reflect on a suggested list of problems and to point out which topics are missing and to then select the Top Three issues. In a next step, they were asked to provide input as to the main actors concerned with the topic and where further information could be gotten. The topics suggested for discussion were the following:

- Access to land and conflicts
- Access to (clean) water
- Food safety
- Use of agro-chemicals
- Value Chain Development (including transport, storage, marketing, business support)
- Access to finance
- Waste management
- Policy and legislative support for urban agriculture



Participants added to this list several problems such as capacity building for farmers and farmer associations, the role of gender, review and implementation of laws and regulations, communication and information dissemination, disaster risk reduction and sustainability. Proposed rankings suggested the importance of access to land although Madam Njini Berlinda from Bamenda vegetable cooperative pointed out that this need not be the case as people have already

resorted to production in recycled tyres, rooftops and corridors. Furthermore, Dr. Pone from Catholic University noted that solving the land problem would be a long-term endeavour and that efforts were better spent on short-term solutions such as these new production technologies. He also stressed that it was necessary to consider the quality of available land. Apart from land as a topic, participants picked access to water, finance, value chain development and legislation as important issues.

Reflecting on the relevant stakeholders, a senior private consultant in town planning suggested that with decentralization the city council has been given a major role when it comes to UPA and that this should be reflected in their documents. The representative from Bamenda City Council (BCC) however stressed the restricted ability of the city to act especially with regard to land access since it is the state, not the city that can facilitate access to land.

Legislation was not an issue but rather the implementation of existing policies. It was suggested to make a thorough review of the legislations. In the discussion, a willingness to establish an agricultural office at Bamenda City Council was made known by the delegates representative provided decentralization efforts are furthered to make funds for such a service available. With

regards to value chain development, the representative of Ministry of Agriculture (MINADER) highlighted that they offer storage facilities and that the key to access assistance from MINADER lies in farmers organizing themselves in cooperatives. Furthermore, participants pointed out the need to ensure the availability of markets for the various agricultural products and need for and the need for the public to be informed about the land documents in the city. Representatives from state authorities showed their support of the research project by offering to pass on all relevant baseline information.

5. Way Forward

The vibrant discussion during the dialogue points to a high-level of interest by all present stakeholders in improving and regulating agricultural activity in the city. As a way forward, it has been established that the present report will be disseminated among participants through a listserv. Furthermore, work on a draft version of the policy narrative is on-going and all participants are invited to give their inputs and to share relevant information with each other either bilaterally or through the listserv. The next stakeholder platform meeting is expected for March 2018 during which the policy narrative and more research results will be discussed. A final meeting will be held in September 2018 and will include the presentation of a Strategic City Agenda.