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Policy Framework, Land Management and Developmental Scenarios of Urban/Peri-Urban Agriculture (UPA) in Ethiopia: A Reflection

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Presentation Outline

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The call for comprehensive policy and legal frameworks for UPA in Ethiopia
Objectives of the study

This research aimed at addressing the following specific objectives:

- Promoting UPA into municipal sectoral strategies,
- Stimulating concerned bodies to critically contribute to the formal recognition of UPA as a legitimate activity, &
- creating awareness about the role of UPA in addressing urban-based socio-economic problems.
Methods & materials

- Principally desk review i.e brief review of legal/policy frameworks of various countries
- KII: urban farmers and nurserypersons; legislators, experts, urban planners, ..
- Observations: Some towns in Ethiopia, Kampala, Seeta and Jinja towns in Uganda & Beijing and Shanghai in China
The concept of UPA

- The concept, feasibility, operability and spatiality of UPA are somewhat confusing to many such as academicians, policy makers and city administrators.

- Basically, UPA is an urban-based primary economic activity that comprises agriculture-related livelihood systems ranging from subsistence production/processing at the household level to a highly commercialized agricultural activity.

Kampala (May, 2013)
Major questions targeting UPA are:

- What is urban agriculture?
- Does it have any role in the overall livelihood enhancement of urban economic development?
- How can it be practiced amidst the severe scarcity of land and water resources in urban areas?
- Isn’t urban area used for construction purposes rather than cultivation?
- What should be the land transaction, pricing and taxation approaches in UPA?
- Who is responsible for organizing and managing UPA?
- Who are urban/peri-urban farmers?
In response to these questions, different scholars agree that UPA is a resource-intensive agricultural activity producing high-value outputs such as food crops, fruits, trees, herbs, flowers, aromatic plants, poultry, fish, bees and pigs within the city boundary or on the immediate periphery of a city/town.

UPA can be practiced on small areas such as vacant urban plots, outdoors, gardens, parks, riversides, lakesides, balconies, rooftops, containers and road strips in/around urban areas.
Peculiarities of UPA

- resource intensive: such as land, labor, cash, seed, fertilizers, …
- In case of medium and large scale commercial farming, it is more technology-intensive activity, emphasizing high-value vegetables and animals products as compared to rural-based agriculture.
- Multiplicity: such as poultry, fishery, apiculture, pig farming, dairy farming and horticulture are some of the most operable kinds of UPA meant for own-consumption or for sale mostly in neighborhood markets.
- **Sensitive**: related to competition for land, water,…
- **Source of urban pollution**: such as methane gases (a unit of methane is 10 times effective in global warming as compared to Carbon dioxide) if not properly handled, ….
- **Source of fresh foods** to urbanites because of its spatial location, ….
Role of UPA

Globally:
- food to >800 million urbanites in the world
- food for 40% of African and 50% of Latin American urban dwellers
- 200 million urban residents produce food for the urban market, providing 15 to 20 percent of the world’s food
- Commercial UPA production represents 34 percent of total meat production and 70 percent of egg production worldwide (FAO, 2014).
Specifically:

- **In Addis Ababa**: at least 12,000 registered households are practicing UPA, producing over 200,000 quintals of cereals and 150,000 quintals of vegetables per year at present.
In Shanghai, 60 percent of the city's vegetables, 100 percent of the milk, 90 percent of the eggs, and 50 percent of the pork and poultry meat is produced within the city.

Dakar produces 60 percent of the national vegetable consumption whilst urban poultry production amounts to 65 percent of the national demand.

In Mexico City enormous proportion of pigs and poultry are kept within the backyards of family homes.
These data justify that UPA has immense role in improving:

- the imminent urban poverty & food insecurity
- urban unemployment,
- livelihood insecurity,
- urban pollution (water, air, land, …), and
- reduces the adverse impacts of ‘urban heat land’….
Several countries have come to recognize that UPA need assistance with regard to policy, technical, organizational and marketing matters in order to make the best out of the sector.
Different countries recognized the essentiality of UPA & arranged improved landholding systems for the UPA practitioners. Such arrangements include:

- freehold (just because s/he is a farmer),
- pro-UPA lease holding systems,
- low-priced land-lease arrangements,
- customary landholding….

What about in Ethiopia? In Addis Ababa? In Jimma? … May be a neglected sector?

How about in Czech Republic? In Prague? Ostrava, Olomouc?
Most municipalities are now giving attention to UPA farmers, access to farming land and the foundation and development of associations of UPA farmers in the world.

What about in Ethiopia? Do we have UPA policy? UPA office in AA? In Jimma? …

How about in Czech Republic? In Prague?
Good examples are:
Beijing,
Cagayan de Oro,
Cape Town,
Kampala, and
Nairobi

Constructive UPA policy
& special land zones for
UPA
This is because they are very much aware that urban farmers are:

- poverty fighters,
- waste reusers,
- landscape managers,
- waste recycling agents and
- providers of recreational services
Peculiar challenges to UPA

UPA faces more challenges compared to rural-based agricultural activities. The critical problems are:

- intensive competition for land from other sectors like real estate developers
- scarcity of water resource
- lack of recognition by city administrations,
- societal neglect (Eg. poultry is considered to be the business of the poor),…

These challenges are required to be resolved by the government under appropriate policy framework
The situation of UPA in Ethiopia

- UPA practitioners in Ethiopia are resource-poor urban households growing vegetables and raising animals in an uncoordinated manner.
- The outputs are mostly meant for subsistence purposes, making the sector unable to play a significant role in poverty alleviation, urban greening, and waste recycling endeavors.
- UPA has not yet been embedded in the urban planning and developmental strategies though various researchers have recommended it as an integral part of the urban economic system.
- It has not yet engaged the jobless urban residents as laborers,
- It has not made use of typical urban resources (like organic wastes and urban wastewater).
- It has not yet addressed the needs of private companies to the extent they require.
- It also faces marketing and delivery challenges owing to lack of legal and policy frameworks.
- The competition for land from other urban functions is also detrimental to UPA in Ethiopia cities/towns.
- Practiced haphazardly almost in every corner of cities/towns
- Most individual urban farmers do not have legal license nor do they pay income taxes to the municipalities
- Some are sources of health risks as wastes are found haphazardly spread out everywhere.
- Commercial UPA companies are burdened by heavy taxation, and other detrimental deeds of municipalities
Spatial distribution UPA in Addis Ababa

## UPA categories in Ethiopia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farming systems</th>
<th>Producers and produces</th>
<th>Urban spatial dimensions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resource-poor subsistence on-plot peri-urban farming</td>
<td>Typically (but not only) cereals, pulses and oilseeds are produced largely for household level consumption. Male-headed households are the major producers utilizing low-level technologies almost similar to the rural-based subsistence farming in the country.</td>
<td>Practiced at fringe zones of the cities/towns, open areas along streams &amp; drains, roadsides (for nursery) ‘waste lands’, and lakesides. Reducing in size owing to intense competition from other urban-based and newly establishing businesses (such as real-estate developers and manufacturing industries) and squatters.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource-poor subsistence home-gardening</td>
<td>Typically (but not only) vegetables, aquatic outputs, dairy &amp; poultry products and fruits are produced largely (accounts for about 98% in Addis Ababa) for sale. The practitioners are mainly the urban poor women-headed households, utilizing low-level technologies.</td>
<td>Subsistence gardening in backyards or in individual compounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial companies/enterprises</td>
<td>Mostly vegetables, aquatic outputs, dairy &amp; poultry products, flowers and fruits are produced mainly for sale. The producers mostly make use of improved technologies, enhanced inputs, trained manpower and better marketing linkages. Well-known companies such as MIDROC-Ethiopia and Genesis Farm Plc take part in this category of UPA.</td>
<td>Unused plots, public open spaces, plots in public/private compounds, leaseholds, and other open areas are used. Most of them are spatially located at urban fringes.</td>
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Policy gaps & the neglect of UPA in Ethiopia

- There is no administrative structure charged with appropriate duties and responsibility in almost all cites/towns in Ethiopia. It is the agricultural bureaus at *woreda* level that tries to manage both rural and urban agriculture in each *woreda*.
- Even in AA there is no separate office for UPA
The issue of UPA was not even addressed in:

- Urban Development and Construction Component of PASDEP (2006),
- Urban Lands Lease Holding Proclamation (2011)
Conclusion & recommendations

- **urgency** of designing comprehensive policy and other legal frameworks for UPA in Ethiopia
- Well-staffed and well-structured offices at all administrative levels,
- Recognition of UPA as a legitimate economic activity,
- Integration in to sustainable urban development policies/strategies,
- incentives for UPA companies: tax free importation of machineries and inputs, lowering land lease prices and utility bills,
- Similarly, academicians, individuals, co-operatives, micro-enterprises, and companies need to play roles in the areas of research, marketing, recycling, retailing and distribution of UPA products in Ethiopian cities/towns
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