

The case of Maputo and Cape Town:



Impact of Urban Agriculture for Food and Nutrition Security as well as possible Income Generation

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The international community set the goal "Zero Hunger" as one priority in its global commitment of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Cities are growing fast but economically highly unequal and access to enough safe and healthy food remains problematic. Sub-Saharan Africa is the most rapidly urbanizing region in the world - especially the urban informal areas.

In this context, Urban Agriculture has been a popular response in contributing to income generation, and Food and Nutrition Security, and it is now the focus of scientific research. This research raises the question of the impact of Urban Agriculture, related to Food and Nutrition Security and possible income means for the disadvantaged urban communities in Maputo (Mozambique) and Cape Town (South Africa).



A situation analysis and expert interviews have shown the challenges for the urban disadvantaged communities:

High inequality within the city in Food and Nutrition Security

Fast urbanization and unequal access to safe and healthy food

Horticulture production and market access is challenging



Case Study: Maputo, Capital of Mozambique, population: 1,19 million

Maputo's population increased by more than 50% in the last 15 years and continues to grow steadily. More than half of the urban population is considered as food insecure. Around 12.000 farmers are cultivating up to 1.300 ha land mainly in the two districts Kamabukwana and Kamavota, mainly organized in farmers association. The

most cultivated products are short-circle leafy vegetables for a quick turn-over in the informal markets within the city. According to FAO estimation more than 40.000 people are benefiting economically from Urban Agriculture in Maputo. Main challenge is the strong pest pressure in the fields and as consequence a high use of pesticides. Few farmers have been trained and adopted agroecological cultivation methods.

Case Study: Cape Town, 2nd largest city in South Africa, population of Metropolitan Area: 3,79 million

Different studies already have shown that backyard Urban Agriculture is not a significant source of food in Cape Town's townships. Almost 90% of the population of Cape Town's biggest Township Khayelitsha are food insecure. Around 4.000 backyard gardeners have been

trained by NGOs or the communal extension service, in different townships of Cape Town regarding better production and possible market access. The study focus is therefore on the possible impact the backyard and market gardens have. Around 50 gardens producing a wide range of vegetables in market gardens to sell the produce, mainly to high-end restaurants, which contribute partly to income.



Study Design 07/2017 – 02/2019



Urban Food Systems

Urban Agriculture, especially horticulture, can be a complementary strategy for disadvantaged households in a more sustainable urban Food System as it can

- provide fresh vegetables, fruits, grains, nuts and mushrooms for self-sufficiency (Food Security)
- create jobs and cost saving opportunities (Income Generation)
- support a diverse diet and awareness for healthy food (Nutrition Security)

First Results Maputo

- Four out of five farmers indicated that agriculture is their main income source on household level
- An additional income source is necessary, as agriculture covers on average just the half of the living costs
- For almost all farmers, the main motivation of agriculture is making an economical benefit out of it, for 3/4 the produce is also for self consumption
- Almost all producers sell their products to resellers, every second farmer sells it directly from the field

First Results Cape Town

- Around 2/3 of the backyard gardeners can contribute food to their households (cost saving)
- Four out of five market gardeners contribute with their Urban Agriculture to household income
- Benefits for the backyard gardeners are mainly on social and environmental level like community building, healthy activities and meeting people
- Urban Agriculture is economically highly supported by NGOs and local extension service as inputs like seeds and composts are mostly not affordable for backyard gardeners

Next steps – identify transfer models for good practices and diffusion

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