

# The Case of Urban Agriculture in Maputo and Cape Town: Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Systems for Sustainability

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## Why Urban Agriculture?

“Zero Hunger” is one priority in the global commitment of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. One priority is given to urban areas; cities are growing fast and are economically highly unequal. Access to safe and healthy food remains challenging and food for the urban disadvantaged is of the utmost importance. In this context, Urban Agriculture can be a way to improve Income Generation, Food and Nutrition Security and has been developing as a new focus of scientific research.

## Problem Statement and Research Questions

Urban Agriculture can be a complementary strategy for households in a more sustainable Urban Food System. It can provide fresh vegetables for self-sufficiency (Food Security), can create job and cost saving opportunities (Income Generation), can support a diverse diet and sensitizes people about healthy food (Nutrition Security). But how? The aim of this study is to investigate innovation and knowledge exchange systems to identify successful ways to disseminate organic cultivation methods in the cities of Maputo and Cape Town.



For this purpose, the Innovation System Approach is applied, in which all stakeholders involved have been analyzed with regard to the innovation process itself, their roles, networks and applied knowledge exchange mechanisms.

## Study Design 07/2017 – 02/2019



Research Area: Green Belt of Maputo, Districts Kamabukwana and Kamavota

### First Findings:

1. Mainly through NGOs, extension services and Face-to-Face communication
  2. Through conducted trainings: weekly farmers meetings, phone calls, monthly meetings with extension service and City Council responsible for UA activities
- But: There are no other networks in place, no role of social media, and no access to further information material
3. Cultivation methods are limited to diversification and organic fertilizers, and are dependent on NGOs' support
  4. Limited to 80 out of 6000 active farmers; around 1000 have been trained.
- Adoption timeframe: 3 years if farmers have market access

1. Knowledge Generation



2. Dissemination



3. Adaption



4. Adoption

Research Area Cape Flats:

Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain and Gugulethu

### First Findings:

1. Works mainly through NGOs, extension service, private initiatives and informal networks
2. By trainings and follow ups: at weekly farmers meetings, through social media, community newspapers, science communication, storytelling
3. Mainly focused on crop rotation and shift from heavy water consuming crops to perennial and locally adapted crops
4. Due to widespread trainings and follow ups, marketing options and support from NGOs

## Dissemination Strategy

The assessment of innovation and knowledge exchange system allows us to identify drivers and barriers for successful dissemination.

Based on the determining factors, an upscaling strategy is being developed and results are transferred to policy makers and urban planners.

## First Results Maputo

The preliminary results of Maputo show that important interlinkages actors are underrepresented (media, policy level). Formal networks are missing. Adaption and adoption is highly dependent on external inputs. Main motivation of farmers to adopt innovations is an economical benefit. There is still no municipal strategy developed with the aim to promote Urban Agriculture.

## First Results Cape Town

In Cape Town, dissemination is more widespread and access to information meets target group needs. Nevertheless, adaption and adoption is also dependent on external inputs, especially from NGOs. Market access and income opportunities are the most important drivers for adoption. Political authorities recognize the potential of Urban Agriculture towards a better nutrition and have developed a regional strategy.

## Next steps – identify transfer models for good practices and diffusion



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