

UFISAMO



Newsletter 01/2018: March 2018

What is new since December 2017?



Photo 1: A part of the UFISAMo team in Cape Town during an excursion at the annual meeting, February 2018

Specials:

- exciting and fruitful research activities (p2)
 - Annual meeting (p3 – 5)
 - Drought in Cape Town (p 7-8)

1. UFISAMo – activities from January – March 2018 (1st quarter)

The first quarter 2018 was dominated by the annual meeting in Cape Town. In addition, intensive field work took place including workshops on urban good agricultural practices in Cape Town, and more field work involving various consultants was prepared.

Research activities

- The **SLE team** around **Severin** published their **report** on perspectives of urban agriculture in Maputo and Cape Town in two languages. It can be downloaded from the SLE homepage <https://edoc.hu-berlin.de/handle/18452/19679> or from the UFISAMo homepage: <http://www.ufisamo.org/en/news/> (THANK YOU JOHANN)
- A long **field phase** covering the work packages of Nicole and Anja (**opportunities & challenges of plant production and how to disseminate good practises**) is still taking place in Cape Town and will move on to Maputo in April/May. Nicole was the main researcher. She was supported by Anja Kühn who came in for the urbanGAP workshop and by Erik. During this field phase Nicole
 - Cooperated closely with her **research farmer** group on various aspects of plant production and marketing. This included workshops and excursions, e.g. on processing of vegetables for preservation and marketing (tomato sauce, pesto), and on good agricultural practices as well as innovation and adaptation.
 - Co-facilitated a 3 days' workshop (with Anja K. and Erik) to develop good agricultural practices for the urban context: **urbanGAP**. Farmers, researchers, experts from department of agriculture and certifying agencies participated and gave inputs.
 - The results are currently being converted into the guideline and based on them a **manual** for farmers. The manual covers basic topics and provides guidelines for basic good practices, such as site selection, soil preparation, planting, crop handling, crop management and field hygiene, and harvesting. Water smart and organic production are crosscutting. The objective are two-fold: a) to improve production, i.e. quality and quantity of products; and b) to set guidelines along which peer reviewers can grant certificate, that the products have been grown according to urbanGAP and are thus safe and healthy. (within a PGS scheme: participatory guarantee system)
 - Other results will be policy recommendations as well as crop specific recommendations. The idea is to transfer these urbanGAP to the context of Maputo.
 - She further conducted interviews with farmers and households to get a better understanding of the potential and challenges around local marketing, **“over-the-fence marketing”**



Photo 2: Pesto and tomato sauce workshop at Lapos kitchen with Italian Chef Duo, Ph: N.Paganini



Photo 3: Liziwe presenting work group results at urbanGAP workshop. Note that one can directly write on the walls. Ph: E.Engel

- Ivo and Luisa prepared their **presentations on organisational structures and food security and food habits in Maputo** based on the data analysis for the annual meeting. Based on the feedback received there, they prepared a plan for a coming data collection, due to start in April
- Abongile and Tinashe are **continuing their field work on organisational structures and food security and food habits in Cape Town** (Mitchell's Plain, Khayelitsha). For Abongile it is the last data collection before the final analysis – she expects to be finished with her work by July
- The researchers of the **UEM veterinary faculty are finalizing their field work** on two aspects of broiler production: animal welfare and animal health. Two researchers looking at slaughtering and marketing will be prepared in the months to come.
- **Dan, Quive and Razack** presented the **concepts** and ideas around the research network and the module on urban agriculture during the annual meeting
- **Research on Maputo backyard gardens** and on **marketing options in Cape Town** were initiated to fill in some gaps identified during the annual meeting
- A master thesis research on **specific retail markets in Cape Town** (Philippi Fresh Fruit market) suffered heavily from insecurity and tense atmosphere all through February and March, which negatively affected the empirical surveys.

Business trips, meetings and preparatory activities

- The **annual meeting** took place between the 26th of February and the 2nd of March. The agenda provides an overview of the work we accomplished during that intense week. Minutes can be obtained from Erik (engel@frankenfoerder-fg.de) upon request
 - Nearly the entire team was there. Karin could not attend for personal reasons, the designated financial administrator did not attend as she had just received an even better work offer than ours, and SETSAN could not attend. In addition to the UFISAMo team, two representatives of the Maputo municipal council – agricultural unit had been invited.
 - Thursday was an open day: external experts and many farmers came to listen to the results of Haidees and Nicoles + Anjas research and to discuss burning issues around urban agriculture.
 - Friday was for excursions. Unfortunately, due to security incidents and a generally tense situation, visits of many gardens and to the market had to be cancelled. We did visit Magdas agri-hub, though, where UFISAMo has its demoplot, and witnessed difficulties to establish a garden during a drought period



Photo 4: Pat Featherstone and Razack during the opening of the annual meeting

UFISAMo Annual meeting agenda		26.2 – 2.3		Venue: Mo – Wed: Soil for life conference hall (Brounger Rd, Constantia, Cape Town) Thursday: Philippi Village – the Hub (1 Cwango Crescent, Philippi, Cape Town)	
Time	Monday, 26th Feb	Tuesday 27th Feb	Wednesday, 28th Feb	Thursday, 1st March	Friday, 2nd March
9.00 - 10.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening Review agenda UFISAMo project accomplishments overview 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S5 (cont.): Results and way forward Luisa and Tinashe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S9: Gaps and needs: Discussion on selected topics in small work groups - world café 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Philippi Village S11: Presentation food and nutrition security and urban agriculture in Cape Town: Haidee Swanby (UWC) S12: Presentation risks and benefits of UA and knowledge transfer for good agricultural practices in Cape Town and Maputo (WP 2.1 & 4.1): results and way forward; Nicole Paganini (HUB) 	Excursion Morning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beacon Hill School garden (Demoplot/Learning Hub)
11.00 - 12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S1: Changes in project structure and thematic orientations, new partners S2: Update on communication strategy S3: Presentation of budget – update where do we stand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S6: Presentation broiler production and animal welfare in Maputo (WP 2.2): Results and way forward: Dr. Mena Dos Anjos (UEM), Dr. Max Baumann (FUB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S9 (cont): Gaps and needs: Discussion on selected topics in small work groups: world café 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S13: Open session with farmers & experts: fishbowl on the presentations of Nicole and Haidee: urban production, consumption and nutrition 	
13.30 - 15.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S4: Presentation consumer habits & nutrition in Maputo and Cape Town (WP 1.2): results and way forward: Ivo Cumbana (UEM); Abongile Mfaku (UWC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S7: Presentation research network and integration of the topic in partner universities (WP 3): Results and way forward Dr. Daniel Tevera (UWC), Dr. Razack Kariem (UWC), Dr. Samuel Quive (UEM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S9 (cont): Presentation of results of world café S10: based on results: plan 2018, final report structure, needs and gaps, budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S13 (cont.): Open session with farmers: fishbowl on the presentations of Nicole and Haidee 	Afternoon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robben Island (3,5 hrs)
15.30 - 17.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S4 (cont.): Ivo; Abongile S5 (pot.): Presentation organizational structures in UA in Maputo and Cape Town (WP 4.2): Results and way forward: Luisa Chicomisse Mutisse (UEM), Tinashe Kanosvamhira (UWC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S8: Presentation scenarios and policy recommendations for Maputo and Cape Town (WP 4.3): results and way forward: Dr. Severin Halder (HUB), Estevo Joao (Maputo municipality) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S10 (cont.): plan 2018, final report structure, needs and gaps, budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S14: Next steps: review annual plan & budget S 15: closing Visit to Abalimi garden centre – Nyanga Visit to Pedi project, Philippi fresh fruit market 	

Figure 1: Agenda of annual meeting

- **Main results** of the annual meeting, besides the discussions around the work packages were:
 - A refined and generally accepted **structure for the final report** including deadlines for submission of contributions by the different researchers
 - A **workplan for 2018 with milestones** for all researchers in order to fill the research gaps. This includes the identification of gaps for which we will need to involve external expertise
 - Refined ideas on **networks** and the urban agriculture **module**
- **Preparation of a Study visit by Grace Nkomo to HUB, Berlin**, PhD student of Razack Karriem (UWC) is gaining shape: Razack, Dan and Erik met Mrs Hand from HUB in Cape Town and discussed the next steps. Grace is to arrive in late June at Thaer Institute
- **Preparation of the 6 months research** by two ASA scholars in Maputo is moving on: the scholars were selected (with Eriks participation) in Berlin and will start working in late May at SLE
- **The movie on urban agriculture in Maputo** is being cut and put together. A sneak preview of some of the footage was shown during the annual meeting. Severin assists Dariusz, the cinematographer, in the finalisation of the masterpiece

Conference participation

- Dan and Nicole participated at the **ACC international conference in Cape Town** (African Centre for Cities). Dan chaired a panel, Nicole presented Anja's and her results.
- Dan will participate and **present** at a **conference in Leipzig** in June 2018
- The **"Green league"** sent the English/german **documentation** of the urban farming conference in which Ivo, Nicole and Anja participated: <https://www.grueneliga-berlin.de/dokumentation-urban-farming-konferenz-erschienen/>

- **ISDRS** conference in Messina **accepted abstracts** submitted by Nicole
- An **abstract** for **Tropentag** in Ghent in September **2018** was **submitted** by Erik
- The **master course** of **UEM** directed by Quive is **previewing** to host a **conference** on urban agriculture during the 10 years MSG celebrations in May 2018.
- Parts of the **UEM team travelled to Berlin** in March on another assignment, but still had the time to discuss UFISAMo issues with Karin

Products

- **Briefing paper: “Urban Agriculture in Cape Town and Maputo; Urban Agricultures potential role for Sustainable Food Systems - a characterization of study region and first evidence”** published by Anja and Nicole.
- **SLE study “Visions and recommendations for the future of urban agriculture in Maputo and Cape Town”** published by SLE team.
- The **report on food and nutrition security and urban agriculture in Cape Town** by Haidee Swanby was finalized. It will be uploaded on the website before the end of April.
- An **article for „Ernährung im Fokus“**, a BLE publication, was submitted in February and will be published in April.

Coordination

- **The UFISAMo website** was revitalized by Johann and is now on air
- **Tropentag 2018 abstract submitted** by Erik (taking place between 17-19th September in Ghent)
- **Vacancy announcement for a new financial administrator** has been published as Birgit, (see last newsletter) stopped working with us after the termination of her “Mutterschutz” contract due to better options
- **Coordination trip** by Erik (February – May 2018) ongoing. Objectives were and are to help prepare the annual meeting, support the field phase of Nicole in both cities and interact with the project partners on a more daily basis (rather than on short term missions).
- **Difficulties of Abalimi** were discussed and forwarded to BLE for information: due to mismanagement, this old and well-known NGO is currently looking for new funding and has been forced to scale down its activities. Harvest of Hope, the sales branch of the NGO, has stopped operating. Since it organized the sales of the market gardeners Abalimi had trained, the sales options and thus the income of the farmers collapsed. UFISAMo coordination nevertheless argues for continuing cooperation with Abalimi for the sake of the field staff who do excellent work in training and accompanying farmers and because of the outreach of Abalimi and their relevance to urban farmers in Khayelitsha.

Milestones achieved:

- **Website finally active**
- **All Work packages** presented their **results, research gaps and way forward** at annual meeting
- **Annual meeting** was held
- **Workshop on urbanGAP** was held, a manual is being prepared, trial and dissemination can start soon.

Milestones missed

- We still have **no financial administrator**
- Intensive field work and limited (wo)man-power hampers the **in-depth analysis of the baseline data-sets**
- Anja and Nicole are still **not registered for their PhD**

2. Planning: are changes concerning results necessary?

The annual meeting allows us to see where we stand and where we need to scale down our objectives:

- WP 1
 - We need to concentrate on some aspects of the value chain which have not been covered in detail in the past studies. Initiatives have been taken to address these gaps (studies in Cape Town, master thesis research in Cape Town). In Maputo, we have not yet addressed the gap.
 - We need to elaborate more clearly on food habits and dietary habits of households in Maputo. A link needs to be drawn between nutrition insecurity (along FANTA indicators), good nutritional practices and urban agriculture. Ivo is to consider that in his wrkplan and analysis.
 - In Cape Town, a consultant and a master student have worked on food habits and food (in)security. The sample of the master student is however much smaller than in Maputo, so that our findings based on empirical work will be limited.
- WP 2
 - The research on horticultural production and good practices in Cape Town is well on track. Some issues around the demonstration plot (temporary mismanagement by the partner in charge) has been clarified for now but might continue to be an issue, especially in view of the drought.
 - The research on broiler production in Maputo is ongoing but delayed. Two of the four topics are on track (according to the adapted plan). We hope that the two remaining topics will be researched in time. We may miss out on good practices for slaughtering and handling, and we will miss out on practical trials of the good practices we propagate.
- WP 3
 - The module is drafted for the UWC context and will be adapted to the UEM context. It will be impossible to launch it at UWC within the project duration because of administrative procedures. We will test it in Maputo only. Results and adaptation will happen after the end of the project phase.
 - The research network is happening, in form of multiple networks of which UFISAMo and their researchers have become part. We have not established an own, stand-alone scientific network, as it seemed neither necessary nor sustainable, with the personnel and budget we have assigned to it. However, we (or UFISAMo members) are part of AFSUN, of ACC, of ISDRS, and as such propagate the topic of urban agriculture with other researchers. It is by tapping into these networks that the module on urban agriculture can thrive in the future
 - We have further contributed to the establishment of a farmer - expert network in Maputo. We shall see how durable it will be. In Cape Town, the issue is less to establish a new network but to balance your work between the existing networks. One promising output of meetings and discussion is a network organized by farmers and without institutional support – it is without us that such networks can flourish.
 - We have established a concept for an excellence centre on urban agriculture. After many discussions, we have decided to leave it at that: neither the budget nor the capacities of the people involved are sufficient to actually put into being such an ambitious centre for the duration of this project.
- WP 4
 - Research on organizational structures in Maputo is going well, and our data on organized farmers is abundant. However, we need to analyse where the specific good practices are and how these good practices can be mainstreamed. We further need to assess the

organizational structures of backyard gardeners, a target group which has been set aside, for the time being. A consultancy on that topic is previewed to close that gap in a timely manner.

- In Cape Town, the research has focussed on one township only and on farmers trained by two NGOs. The analysis will thus be valid for that specific area, and for farmers of that sample, but will not allow us to go beyond and to draw conclusions for other areas of the city.
- Identification of good practices to be disseminated is necessary in all working packages. It has progressed enormously in the opportunities and challenges for horticultural production (urbanGAP) but needs to do similar progresses in the other work packages.

3. Scientific updates: Any new developments from third parties that might influence the project?

The drought affecting Cape Town, as well as the provinces of Western Cape and (parts of) Eastern Cape forces actors in urban agriculture to reassess their approaches and to put a stronger focus on water wise production.



Photo 5: Parts of the "save water campaign in Cape Town, February 2018. Ph: E.Engel, N.Paganini

The development of urbanGAP had as one water wise production techniques (wind protection, enhancement of soil organic matter, soil coverage with mulch, raised beds with water conserving materials, crop selection, efficient watering techniques and timing etc.)

Abalimi is previewing to address the risk of renewed droughts by launching a “drought response” (if funding can be raised) with the assistance of water management experts.



Photo 6: And ore water saving propaganda. Source: city of Cape Town, various

Nevertheless, the question has arisen as to whether agricultural production can continue in a drought struck town. Abalimi field staff responded to the question as follows:

Extracts from an interview with Babalwa, Liziwe and Noncedo for an article in “Ernährung im Fokus” (to be published in April/May)

How are the water restrictions due to the ongoing drought affecting you?

N: At this time of the year, we used to have so many products and did not need to go to the shop to buy vegetables. In my garden, there is no borehole, so I grow nothing currently. It drives me crazy not to be able to plant and cultivate

L: Many of Abalimi gardens have boreholes, so we can still water them. We are however saving water even here, as we know that even borehole water is limited and that we have to use it economically.

B: Last year, restriction levels were announced, but no one was taking them seriously. Now we are scaling down activities, we have less produce but still of good quality.

L: Staff of the City of Cape Town check on the water-wise usage, even for boreholes. As a new rule, all boreholes should be registered and signposted.

B, L, N: We also train water saving cultivation techniques, such as mulching, soil improvement with compost and manure, direct watering during certain periods of the day only and only the optimal amount of water. In view of the future, we will have to switch to more drought resilient plants such as indigenous vegetables as dune spinach or local asparagus and continue teaching to “go organic”, as chemicals always go with increased water needs

Is stopping agriculture in your backyard or the garden centers an option for you?

L: No, it is not. We will go small, but we will not stop.

N: And if it is just on 8 m², I need to cultivate, otherwise it drives you crazy.

B: It is also for health reasons. Where in the township do I find organic food? I’d need to go to a shop downtown, and that I cannot afford. We need to use the water as wisely as possible, but with the proper cultivation techniques, with wind breaks and proper soil management, with permanent soil cover, we should be able to continue and even improve our production.

It should not be forgotten that scientists warned the municipal government as early as 1991 that with continuing trends in water usage and water wastage, a water crisis would be imminent:

<https://medialternatives.com/2018/02/01/earthlife-africa-warned-city-of-new-millennium-water-crisis/>

However, no measures were taken to reduce usage and to incite water saving technologies. It can be discussed whether agriculture is sustainable in a drought prone environment – but the economy of the Western Cape depends heavily on agriculture, and the usage of water by small scale backyard farmers is in terms of quantity negligible, when compared to the water usage for sprinkling decorative gardens in affluent neighborhoods, or golf courses, or swimming pools.

We as researchers and other institutions supporting urban agriculture are however called upon to support water conserving techniques and climate smart practices.

4. Plan for the coming 3 months

- *April*: field work in Maputo and Cape Town for all working packages
- *May*: field work in Maputo and Cape Town for all work packages; amongst others: test and try the urbanGAP manual
- *April/May/June*: launch, field research and analysis of the study on backyard gardens in Maputo
- *April/May/June*: Launch, field research and analysis of the study on niche markets for urban agricultural products in Cape Town
- *April/May*: drafting of the first contributions to the final report
- *April/May*: finalizing the short movie on urban agriculture in Maputo
- *May*: celebrations to honor the 10 years of MSG at UEM/Maputo. A conference on urban agriculture is previewed
- *June*: Conference participation in Leipzig by Dan Tevera and meeting with UFISAMo Berlin team and Razack in Berlin
- *May/June*: preparatory phase of two ASA sponsored master students to work on good practice and dissemination in Maputo
- *April/May*: visit to Berlin by UEM veterinary faculty to plan and (back in Maputo) launch the research on two further master thesis research, focusing on the slaughtering side of the short lifecycle of a broiler
- *April/May*: identify a new financial administrator and finalize the annual narrative and financial report for UFISAMo (an extension was gracefully granted)
- *May/June*: start preparing logistics for the December annual meeting in Berlin (accommodation)
- *June*: ISDRS Conference in Messina with participation of Nicole (two abstracts accepted) and maybe Razack

What else:

In February, urban gardeners in Cape Town saw tons of aubergine/eggplant/brinjal ripen in their gardens. Unfortunately, with the demise of Harvest of Hope, the demand for eggplant had ceased to exist and the fruit went straight to the compost heap. The “brinjal crisis” (N.Paganini) was at its peak.

With the support of Kike (artistic design), Johann (layout), Jenni (compilation and organization), Nicole (energy, idea and perseverance) and Erik (email through SLE alumni network and preparing, cooking and eating tons of brinjals) a little booklet assembling the worldwide best brinjal recipes was developed. It will be for display at the Leipzig book fair and be the starting point of Erik’s’ recipe-book empire



Next issue: July 2018