



BRUSSELS POLICY BRIEFING N. 50

Growing food in the cities: Successes and new opportunities

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ACP Secretariat, Avenue Georges Henri 451, 1200 Brussels

<http://brusselsbriefings.net>

RESOURCES

Glossary

Aeroponics: the growing of plants by suspending their roots in the air and spraying them with nutrient solutions

Allotment: A legally fixed form of (here: urban) gardens, tended individually by plot holders and their families

Aquaponics: A system combining aquaculture and cultivation of plants in water

Backyard garden: A private garden that could include balconies or terrace gardening.

Building integrated agriculture (BIA): the practice of locating high performance hydroponic greenhouse farming systems on and in mixed use buildings to exploit synergies between the built environment and agriculture.

Commercial Urban Farm: land used for agricultural purposes within an urban area from which the resulting products are sold for profit

Community garden: Any piece of land (publicly or privately held) that is cultivated by a group of people rather than a single family or individual.

Community Farm: land gardened collectively by people for personal use, donation or sale.

Container Garden: plants grown in vessels rather than directly in the ground.

Farmer's Market: two or more farmer-producers that sell their own agricultural products directly to the general public at a fixed location, which includes fruits and vegetables, meat, fish, poultry, dairy products, and grains.

Greenhouse: a building or structure whose roof and sides are made largely of glass or other transparent or translucent material and in which the temperature and humidity can be regulated for the cultivation of plants for personal use and/or for subsequent sale. A greenhouse may or may not be a permanent structure.

Hoophouse or High Tunnel: high tunnels, also called high hoops or hoop houses, are temporary structures that extend the growing season. These covered structures are constructed in the field in order to protect crops from the weather (rain, wind, cool or warm temperatures), as well as in some cases, pests.

Hydroponics: A method of growing plants without soil, using mineral solutions in a water solvent.

Indoor farming: Often done to foster a controlled environment for whatever plants are being grown. It is a great method for growing all year all year around and hydroponics is often employed.

LED Farming: The use of light-emitting diode technologies to support indoor farming.

Peri-urban: of or relating to an area immediately surrounding a city or town.

Passive hydroponics: semi-hydroponics or passive subirrigation is a method of growing plants without soil, peat moss, or bark. Instead an inert porous medium transports water and fertilizer to the roots by capillary action. Water and fertilizer are held in a reservoir and conducted to the roots as necessary, reducing labor and providing a constant supply of water to the roots. In the simplest method, the pot sits in a shallow solution of fertilizer and water or on a capillary mat saturated with nutrient solution. Since routine maintenance is much simplified, passive hydroponics can reduce the labor required to maintain a large collection of plants.

Permaculture: a method of horticulture that utilizes renewable resources in order to create a self-sustaining ecosystem.

Rooftop farm/garden: A **roof garden** is a [garden](#) on the [roof](#) of a building. Besides the decorative benefit, roof plantings may provide food, temperature control, hydrological benefits, architectural enhancement, habitats or corridors for wildlife, recreational opportunities, and in large scale it may even have ecological benefits. Rooftop farming is usually done using [green roof](#), [hydroponics](#), [aeroponics](#) or [air-dynaponics](#) systems or [container gardens](#). It is organised privately or collectively.

Soil-less agriculture: broadly refers to, and is based on the concept that plants do not require soil to grow. A variety of methods are employed, all of them allowing for significant environmental benefits (see hydroponics).

Underground farm: a subset of BIA. This type of farm is located below-grade, usually in urban centres. These farms utilize no natural light.

Urban agriculture/urban farming: the practice of cultivating, processing, and distributing food in or around a village, town, or city. Urban agriculture can also involve animal husbandry, aquaculture, agroforestry, and horticulture. These activities also occur in peri-urban areas as well.

Urban agricultural architecture (UAA): is the practice of integrating organic, hydroponic, aeroponic or aquaponic farming technologies into buildings of all types. An example can be as small as building a lean-to-greenhouse on a single-family home and using it as a kitchen garden.

Urban/city farm: Within the city or urban fringe of a city, operated by innovative entrepreneurs or charity organisations. Can provide social or environmental services, such as training and school gardening, as well as food production.

Vertical Farming: vertical farming is the practice of growing food and/or medicine in vertically stacked layers, vertically inclined surfaces and/or integrated in other structures.

Sources: FAO, RUAF, Association for Vertical Farming.

Acronyms

COST	Cooperation in the field of scientific and technical research
EFCF	European Federation of City Farms
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ILVO	Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research
MADRE	Metropolitan Agriculture for Developing an innovative, sustainable and Responsible Economy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PASDUNE	Programme d'Action pour la Sauvegarde et le Développement Urbain des Niayes et zones vertes de Dakar
PDU	Plan Directeur d'Urbanisme (Urban Master Plan)
PUA	Peri-urban agriculture RDP: Rural Development Programme(s)
RUA	Resources centres on urban agriculture and food security
RUAF	Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food security
UA	Urban agriculture
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UPA	Urban and Peri-Urban agriculture
WHO	World Health Organization

Resources

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