



Africa Agriculture Science Week & FARA General Assembly

10-16 June 2007
Johannesburg, South Africa



FARA General Assembly Side Event Report (11 June 2007)

Name of side event:	URBAN HORTICULTURE IN AFRICA
Sponsoring organization(s):	GLOBAL HORTICULTURE INITIATIVE
Name(s) & email(s) of contact persons:	Rémi KAHANE (rkahane@globalhort.org ; remi.kahane@cirad.fr)

Background/rationale of the side event

More than fifty per cent of the world population, including 200 million poor Africans, is now living in cities, with still a high urbanizing rate for the next 25 years. That leads to the growth of urbanized areas, competition for natural (land, water) and human resources, and to new demands and priorities towards food and environment. GlobalHort vision is to address these requirements as new opportunities for high value agriculture, horticulture, since the most perishable products must be produced close to the cities, through intensive cropping systems that are constrained by space and market. This is a specific challenge for research, technically and in partnership with the civil society and local authorities.

Principle agreements/actions/recommendations

- Highlighting the horticultural sector promotes urban development
 - Research shall provide evidence horticultural activities benefit the cities
 - Research shall convert constraints into opportunities (for example in waste management, in water management)
 - Research shall raise awareness on the multifunctional role of agriculture in urbanized areas (logo: "my city clean and beautiful towards horticultural activities")
- Making urban agriculture safer and more sustainable
 - Research shall be inclusive (social partners in particular)
 - Research shall provide arguments and advocate for good practiced agriculture
 - In promoting high technology: information systems, recycling techniques for wastes (both urban and agricultural), water management solutions (ex. water cleaning technologies, drip irrigation)
- Promoting horticulture as a link to the other agricultural and economic sectors, and as a link between rural and urban areas
 - Huge sector for adding value: freshness certification and labelling, opportunities for processing, niche markets etc.
 - Adapting to the needs and transforming the environment: ornamentals or seeds produced on polluted soils, genetic diversity brought from rural to urban areas, community gardens contracting with poultry producers for valorising/eliminating the manure
 - Developing the concept of a continuum from city centre to rural villages, with complementarities rather than competition (diverse commodities, cultural linkage, market information ...)
- Linking anglophone and francophone communities working on urban agriculture
 - Rather an issue of funding networking activities than a language one, as exemplified by CORAF/WECARD efforts in the last 5 years
 - Unifying the initiatives and networks in Africa without additional institutional level
 - Developing a strong communication mechanism in the two major languages (English and French) in all documents
- Role of the Global Horticulture Initiative could operate complementarily to other initiatives and roles of FARA, SROs, NARS, various networks, IARCs and other parties
 - GlobalHort is seen to play a key interface role between various communities:
 - ∴ Anglophone and Francophone
 - ∴ Research and Development (technology transfer)

∴ Public and Private

- Advocacy for financing in horticulture (micro-credit access for very small entrepreneurs)
- Facilitating policy

This group acknowledges the presented core activities of GlobalHort and recommends focus and emphasis on the above mentioned issues. GlobalHort and the SROs or FARA should work in synergy, using existing networks and communication tools rather than creating new ones.

The organization of an international symposium on Global Urban Horticulture to be hold in Kampala, Africa, in Oct-November 2008 has been acknowledged, and the group will contribute in identifying African representatives for the Scientific Committee to support African experiences.

The objectives of this symposium are:

- Awareness,
- to exchange of experiences in the South and in the North,
- to strengthen networking,
- to initiate or reinforce specific R&D projects with dedicated supports.

Side event linked to which FARA networking support function? (check one)

- Advocacy and resource mobilization**
- Access to knowledge and technologies**
- Regional policies and markets**
- Capacity strengthening**
- Partnerships and strategic alliances**

Where relevant, note who has success stories, &/or useful resource people or institutions related to side-event theme

- UrbanHarvest, Gordon Prain and Nancy Karanja <g.prain@cgiar.org>
- Coalition pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Urbaine et Périurbaine en Afrique, Prosper Nguengang and Athanase Bopda <caupa2005@yahoo.fr>
- ISHS Section Landscape and Urban Horticulture, Gert Groening <groening@udk-berlin.de>
- IDRC/CRDI program UREP, Naser Faruqui <nfaruqui@idrc.ca>
- Institut Africain de Gestion Urbaine, Moussa Sy <iagu@iagu.org>



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Africa Agricultural Science Week & FARA General Assembly 2007 Attendance list – Side events – June 10-11, 2007

Name of side event:	URBAN HORTICULTURE IN AFRICA
Date & time	11/06/07 13:30 - 18:00
Sponsoring organization(s):	GLOBAL HORTICULTURE INITIATIVE
Name(s) & email(s) of contact persons:	Rémi KAHANE (rkahane@globalhort.org ; remi.kahane@cirad.fr)

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