



Agriculture & Food Security

Webinar– May 2nd - & Online Dialogue – May 2nd to 22nd 2018

Agriculture and Food Security (A+FS) along the rural-urban link - A contribution of the A+FS network to the Learning Journey of SDC and partners

Topical introduction: Rural-urban challenges and opportunities for agriculture

Due to 1. their real - or perceived - **limited economic perspectives** in rural areas, 2. through a **lack of land** or land grabbing, 3. a lack of **finance** to invest in productive assets, 4. climate change and more **frequent extreme weather events** as well as a range of other push and pull factors, more and more **people** choose to **migrate from rural to urban areas** in search of new livelihoods.

It is estimated that by 2040/2050, more poor people will be living in urban than in rural areas (**66%**). Urban poverty continuously increases worldwide, with the highest values in Latin America (46%). The **urban poor** are at a particularly high risk of becoming food insecure – either due to lack of food or due to an unbalanced diet. Rural-urban migration leads to further **urban sprawl**, and cultivated and/or fertile land is being converted to buildings and infrastructure. This creates further problems in maintaining the food production capacity. In addition, **commercial interests** threaten livelihoods by restricting **access to land**, by declassing the land without compensation for the owners and by contaminating the environment. The urban and peri-urban production and processing of food from plants and animals has environmental impacts too. **Rich elites in certain countries** are already **outsourcing food production to uncontaminated areas**, some of them even to less populated countries abroad.

Rural-urban migration can however also be seen as an **effective poverty reduction strategy**, as **remittances** allow investments back in the rural areas and increase the farmers' resilience. **Small and mid-sized towns** are also seen as efficient nodal points for connecting rural producers to markets, and can thus have a positive influence on rural development and agricultural productivity. The **synergy** between **agricultural production** and **urban-based enterprises** is key to developing more vibrant economies and – on a wider level – **more “pro-poor” regional economic growth**. Another opportunity of peri-urban or urban agriculture is the possibility to **produce perishable goods** such as vegetables, fruits, meat and dairy products that require fast and careful transport and/or a closed cold chain from production to consumption or processing – a requirement that can more easily be met when the production takes place **close to urban centres**. Cities in many countries are also in **huge demand for biomass** (biomass, fuelwood, charcoal as a fuel or timber and bamboo as construction material).

Some agriculturally relevant programmes already exist in SDC within the urban and peri-urban context: In **Mozambique**: [Hortisempre](#) – a M4P vegetable production programme, in **Burkina Faso** the project [2IE](#) – a **research programme on peri-urban and urban vegetable production** in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso, in **Benin** and **Burkina Faso**, **programmes linking up with private sector** are being established right now, in **Zimbabwe**, **Swaziland** and **Lesotho** farmers from the **Seeds and Access to Markets Project (SAMP)**, increasingly sell their seeds in urban areas too, in Southern Africa the Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis ([RVAA](#)) **pilots an urban vulnerability assessment and analysis** in the Southern Africa region and all **livestock related programs** in West-Africa are very relevant for the rural-urban logic.

The A+FS core group has so far identified the following **options for A+FS-related investments** into production and consumption modalities **benefitting the poor along the whole rural-urban link**:

1. Deeper (market) **analyses of the urban metabolism regarding urban food, fibre- and biomass needs** (food, energy, construction material) and **rural input and service needs** and an **improved regulatory and institutional environment**: What value chains have a peri-urban potential? What private sector and other market stakeholders, e.g. social entrepreneurs exist and what options for



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investment did the choose: a) Creating new markets; b) Substituting import markets; c) Increasing and/or opening new export agro-markets? What other market development approaches focused on urban areas of cities and medium sized towns exist?

2. **Disseminating information and knowledge** stemming from option 1. on peri-urban and urban markets, aggregation and transportation of goods, on association/cooperative building & bargaining power, on farming techniques and dissemination through ICT and networks;
3. Developing **new market systems development programs** based on 1. and 2. focused on peri-urban and urban farming **producers**, collectors, transporters, vendors, the development of **inputs- , service and finance markets** as well as **the creation of an enabling environment** (rules, regulations, institutions), **rural and urban employment** based on the urban metabolism and the **promotion of agro- and biomass-processing based industrialization** with other development;
4. **Improving urban nutrition**. Here it is necessary to work on either a) on the **purchasing power** of the urban poor or b) to develop **social aid or protection programs** (e.g. subsidized meals in kindergarten, schools and on markets or in partnership with government and other development partners.

Objectives of Webinar and Online Dialogue

Several SDC networks jointly ventured already in 2017 by deciding to *leave known territory* jointly for a Learning Journey on rural-urban links.

For this reason the core-group of the A+FS network chose “**agriculture and food security along the rural-urban links**” as a **priority topic for the year 2018** and planned the following activities¹

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| Wednesday, May 2 nd ,
2pm CET | Webinar (see page 3) with Guido Santini, Programme Coordinator of the Food for the Cities Programme , Rural and urban crop systems (AGPML) team in the FAO - Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) |
| May 2 nd to May 23 rd ,
2018 | 21-day online discussion starting on a Wednesday and ending on Tuesday (see page 4) |
| June | Summary-Brief of Webinar and Dialogue shared with participants of online dialogue and SDC Learning Journey on Rural Urban Links |

With this process the A+FS network sets out to reach the **following objectives**

1. Gain personal, document and promote cross-institutional **insights and lessons** for the development of **relevant business models, projects and programs** to strengthen the poor along the rural-urban-link;
2. To contribute to the **SDC rural-urban learning journey**;
3. **To sensitize SDC management** regarding related opportunities and challenges for new country strategies and sectoral program portfolios.

¹ (more [info on the SDC A+FS agenda](#) – if the link doesn't work yet for you, [subscribe to the CUG of the A+FS network!](#))



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Interactive Webinar as a starting point for the online-dialogue/e-discussion “*Building sustainable food systems across urban and rural areas*”

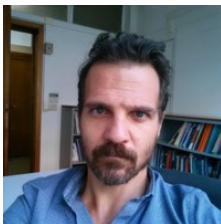
Wednesday, May, 2nd 2018, 2 pm CET via Lync/Skype Professional

You will receive a personal meeting request via e-mail containing the hyperlink to the discussion!

Presenters: **Guido Santini (FAO)** and **Thierry Giordano (FAO)**

Facilitator: Ueli Mauderli (SDC), Focal Point of the A+FS Network

Co-Facilitator: Fabienne Stämpfli (SDC), Focal Point of the A+FS Network



Guido Santini

Guido Santini is Programme Coordinator of the [Food for the Cities Programme](http://www.fao.org/in-action/food-for-cities-programme/en/) (<http://www.fao.org/in-action/food-for-cities-programme/en/>) in the Rural and urban crop systems (AGPML) team in the FAO from the Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP) of the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**



Thierry Giordano

Thierry Giordano is Decentralized Cooperation Advisor from the Partnerships and South-South. Cooperation Division (DPS) of the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**.

Guido Santini and Thierry Giordano will give a 30 min presentation through Lync/skype **for everybody who subscribed to the webinar by accepting the meeting request.**

Questions may be asked during the presentation via skype (audio or comments)

5 min	Short introduction of participants, presenter and facilitator
15 min	Setting the scene/Introduction to topic and subtopics This section will provide an overview of the FAO work in building sustainable food systems with strong urban rural linkages. This will include a brief overview on the FAO framework for the Urban Food Agenda; the presentation of the city region food system and the urban and peri-urban agriculture programmes and other relevant initiatives.
15 min	Concrete insights of the cities of Colombo, Medellin, Dakar, Lusaka and possibly other examples from other cities
30 min	Questions and answers



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Online Dialogue

Key Questions for discussion

Week 1: What should we do first?

Day 1 to Day 7 (Wednesday, 2nd May to Tuesday, 8th May, Day 1 starts in the afternoon after the Webinar session (see page 3))

- 1. Do you think there should be more agriculture-related investments along the rural-urban link? Yes or No? Why?**
- 2. For those who opt for more investments along the rural-urban link: Which of the above key-options 1 to 4 (see page 1f) should SDC prioritize? Why?**
- 3. Should SDC focus rather on small and middle-sized towns (secondary cities or “market towns”) as entry points rather than on large or mega-cities – and, if so, why or why not?**

Possible further questions:

- Do you think improved infrastructural links, such as roads, irrigation, water markets, irrigation, and energy supply, between urban and rural areas should be prioritized to increase access to markets for urban and rural consumers and producers?
- Is the improvement of urban and rural spatial governance (and infrastructure) related to natural resources (land use, water and energy) effective to make the development of peri-urban food systems more sustainable?
- What are the agricultural products with the highest potential for peri-urban production to satisfy urban needs?
- What mass consumption products are imported into your countries that could be competitively substituted by local production?

Week 2: What food consumption and production along the rural urban link?

Day 8 to Day 14 (Wednesday, 8th May to Tuesday, 15th May)

- 4. How can we balance the needs and interests of agricultural food and biomass producers along the rural-urban link with the needs and interests of the urban poor food and biomass consumers? What kind of foods and biomass do poor urban people need? And what kind of foods and biomass should peri-urban farmers produce?**

Further questions:

- How can the nutrition of poor urban people be improved by farming along the rural urban link?
- What changes / innovations are necessary to improve the nutrition of the urban poor?
- Do you know of any SDC programmes focusing on the improvement of the (peri-) urban poor's nutrition?

Week 3: What jobs along the rural-urban food and biomass chains?

Day 15 to Day 21 (Wednesday, 16th May to Tuesday, 22nd May)

- 5. What jobs are there for the urban poor – “interprofessions” - along rural-urban food value chains?**

Further questions:

- Do you know of any SDC programmes focusing on the creation of (peri-) jobs along the rural urban food and biomass value?