

Anthony Olivieri Comments in RED Below:

Town of Davie
Farming Cooperative

Conceptually the project consists of developing a comprehensive community action farming cooperative. Using a variety of resources and funding sources residents would receive property, grants, training and assistance to establish gardens throughout the Town to raise the crops of their choosing. These crops could then be either consumed by the residents that raised them, distributed to local neighbors, donated to local food banks or taken to a local distribution hub for sale to the public.

The following individual components are available for the project:

- Anthony Olivieri, FAU grad student doing his thesis on Community Gardens, willing to play a role and document the proceedings
- Volunteer Broward is willing to gather volunteers to establish community gardens, including mustering local support
- A "Million Meals" subcommittee on community gardens willing to provide technical gardening expertise and training along with water management assistance (cisterns and rail barrels)
- Davie HCD Dept can provide funding in the target areas for purchase of tools, materials and plant stock to interested residents
- Batten's farm can serve as the distribution hub of excess crops raised in gardens
- North-South Institute willing to provide management and raise crops at Batten's on a non-profit basis
- Both the EASE Foundation and HOPE Outreach are local food bank distribution outlets for excess crops that may become available from the gardens or the distribution hub
- Several parcels are available throughout the Town for this project (Farm Park, 7th Street Park, East Side Community, area behind WTP, new Palma Nova site, 26th street parcel at Flamingo Frontage Road, Devine parcel)
- The Friends of the Farm Park is a group dedicated to the development and establishment of the Farm Park for community garden activities
- Dennis Andresky, Parks and Rec Director, has shown an interest in being the Town liaison for the project
- The Florida Farm Bureau has strong interest in establishing a branch office and teaching center at the Farm Park and has funding sources for school groups to establish community gardens
- Mayor Paul has strongly advocated for the establishment of this project

- Town Administration has provided initial approval to investigate moving forward

The following are actions that should take place

- **Select an appropriate business model to follow.-See General Comments**

Prepare a business plan to include and integrate community gardens, Batten's Farm, the Farm Park into one business

- Host a comprehensive stake holders meeting to bring everyone together
- Develop strategic plans for the various components of the overall business
- Establish an overall timeline for the project
- Break out individual projects from the master
- Establish subcommittees to pursue individual projects from the stakeholders
- Prepare individual project scopes, schedules and funding needs
- Select a master steering committee: Food Policy Council? Food Charter?

Other considerations:

- Headquarters (temporary and permanent)
- Educational component: IFAS, NOVA, BC, NSI
- Funding sources: Healthy Urban Food Enterprise Development Center (HUFED), HUD, EPA
- Link to Public Health and hunger campaigns. Build alliances with hospitals and churches. There is a strong link to healthy food access and health. For example, Kaiser Permanente now hosts farmers markets and conducts health screenings and nutritional education outreach at these markets: <http://articles.latimes.com/2009/may/20/food/fo-kaiser20>

General Comment: A Pilot or Demonstration project has many advantages of starting momentum. But, without a long-term vision, such momentum of a land-based project can run the risk of developing in direction that fails to capture the imagination and participation of the general public. The greatest failure/risk is a lack of public recognition, involvement and legitimacy.

Thus, maybe a vision and an understanding of the land inventory, Davie's unique demographic-cultural context and the project goals should be explored before a business model is formally adopted. As intimated above, there could be a risk of setting

a project on a path in conflict with the Town's greater planning vision. Also, there may be a risk of developing "path dependency" to a business model that precludes the ability to create a new comprehensive vision afterwards. Maybe the first step is to see what other cities have done and synthesize a model based on an understanding of the advantages and limitations of other projects.

- Therefore, 1st: A Self-Educational Campaign for all the city officials and the community partners seeking involvement. The execution of this self-education usually takes form of a Food Policy Council: "Food Policy Councils (FPCs) bring together stakeholders from diverse food-related sectors to examine how the food system is operating and to develop recommendations on how to improve it." Link to national list of Food Policy Councils:

<http://www.foodsecurity.org/FPC/index.html>

Questions a Food Policy Council may consider:

- Vision, Context & Support. Why is local food an important issue for Davie? Who is interested in this issue? What is the scope of support? What is the vision for the Town's involvement in developing a community food system? What kind of problems can the Town address by developing a community food system?
 - What is the Town's definition of a Sustainable Community Food System and why is that definition important?
- Benefits and for whom. What are the benefits of a local food system in terms of community development, food security and environmental-social sustainability? Are these benefits in line with the Town's vision? Do these benefits enlighten/broaden the Town's vision? How can a local food system enhance Davie's regional and national presence? How does a community food system contribute to the Town's public welfare? How can a community food system contribute to Davie *as a place*?
- Existing Food and Land Resources and need. What are Town's food resources? How much existing public and private land can be potentially accessed for a community food system?
- Existing Social and Institutional Resources/Conditions. How many in the Town are Food Insecure? What are the demographics of the Town (including the public health profile)? What are the Town's Civic Capacity Assets for a Sustainable Community Food System (Universities, IFAS, Hospitals, NGOs, Grocers, Churches, Government agencies)?
- What are the Obstacles?

Addressing the above questions may begin with:

Triple Bottom line Vision: People, Profit, and Planet. Put the Project in the context of long-term sustainable planning goals, and design it to address other future urban problems (beyond food) due to climate change and oil scarcity. Also, it may help to frame the Project as part of enhancing community development and town identity.

Resources:

1. American Planning Association's *Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning*(2007)

<http://www.planning.org/policy/guides/adopted/food.htm>

2. USDA's Healthy Urban Food Enterprise Development Center provides funding, training and case studies of community food enterprises (CFE's):

<http://www.wallacecenter.org/our-work/current-initiatives/healthy-urban-food-enterprise-development-center>

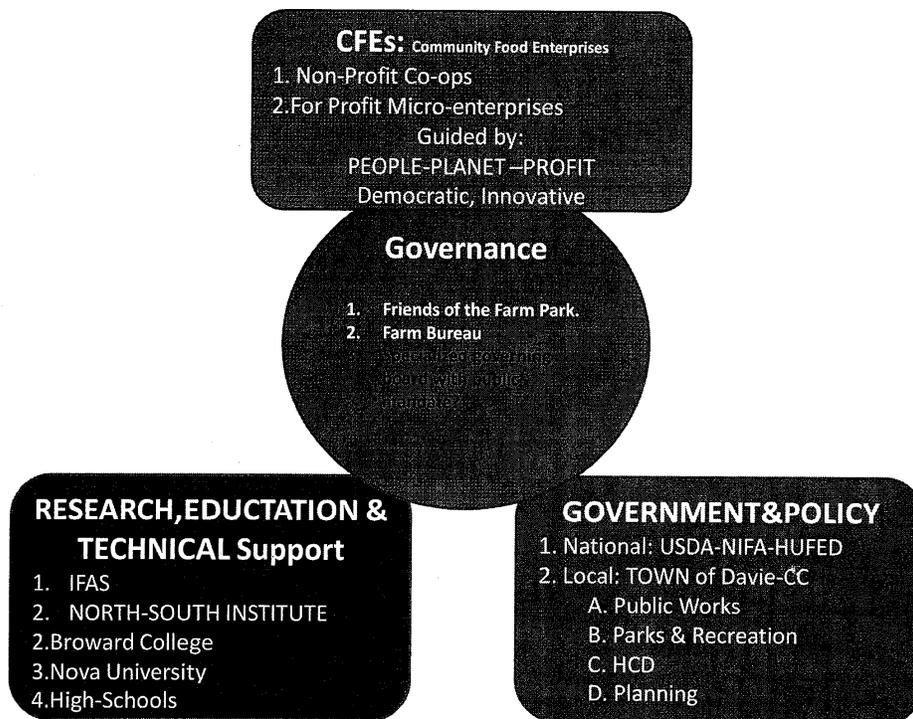
3. Seattle's Food System as a model:

<http://clerk.ci.seattle.wa.us/~scripts/nph-brs.exe?s1=&s2=&s3=31019&s4=&Sect4=AND&l=20&Sect2=THESON&Sect3=PLURON&Sect5=RESN1&Sect6=HITOFF&d=RES3&p=1&u=%2F~public%2Fresn1.htm&r=1&f=G>

4. Case Studies from Detroit and Oakland and policy lessons:

<http://www.policylink.org/atf/cf/%7B97C6D565-BB43-406D-A6D5-ECA3BBF35AF0%7D/Healthy%20Food%20For%20All-8-19-09-FINAL.pdf>

Possible Model of instituting the Project on the next page:

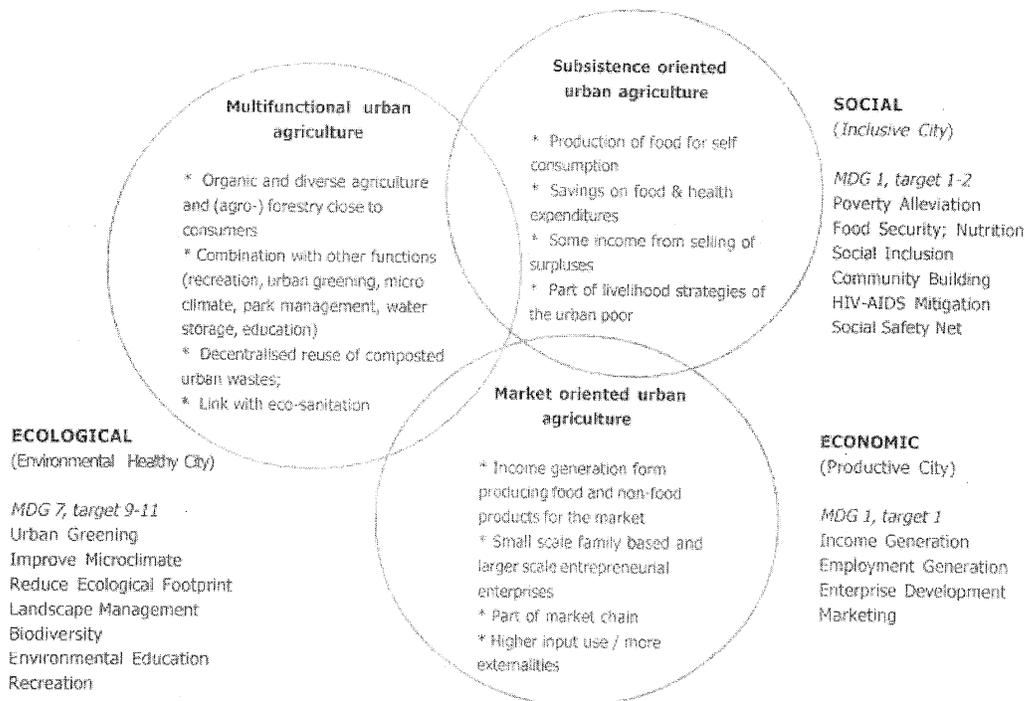


Best Practices Assurance: Training/Certification program for participants to ensure organic best practices are maintained.

Other established models to consider:

From: Cities Farming for the Future Urban Agriculture for Green and Productive Cities (2006) online at:

<http://www.idrc.ca/openebooks/216-3/>



Urban Agriculture Declaration:

At an international workshop on Urban Agriculture held in Quito, Ecuador, from 16 to 21 April 2000, "Urban Agriculture in the Cities in the 21st Century", the participating mayors signed the following declaration:

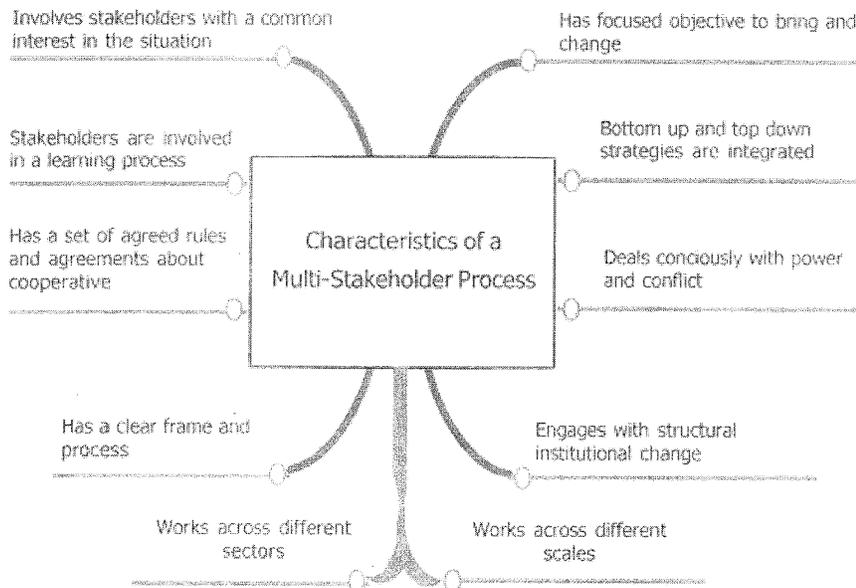
"We affirm our promise to promote Urban Agriculture in our cities, with the objective to design and improve municipal policies and actions on urban agriculture, to strengthen food security, eradicate poverty, improve the environment and human health, and develop participatory governance".

"We also affirm our decision to produce and disseminate methodological tools, guides and mechanisms that collect regional experiences and inform others about the elaboration and implementation of policies and municipal interventions related to urban and land use planning; re-use of wastewater; access to credit for urban agriculture; transformation and commercialization".

Strategies for the development of safe and sustainable urban agriculture

- Creating a conducive policy environment and formal acceptance of urban agriculture as an urban land use;
- Enhancing access to vacant open urban spaces and the security of agricultural land use;
- Enhancing the productivity and economic viability of urban agriculture by improving access of urban farmers to training, technical advice, and credit;
- Supporting the establishment and strengthening of urban farmer organizations;
- Taking measures that prevent/reduce health and environmental risks associated with urban agriculture (farmer training on health risks and related management practices, zonation, quality control of irrigation water and products).

STAKEHOLDERS:



Policy Outline example:

From: Cities Farming for the Future Urban Agriculture for Green and Productive Cities (2006) online at:

<http://www.idrc.ca/openebooks/216-3/>

Box 2.1 *Analysis of experiences with MSPs on urban agriculture*

Analysis of various experiences indicates that MSPs in UA should integrate elements of:

Enhancing public awareness and motivating the different stakeholders to actively participate in action planning and policy design. A prerequisite for any policy related to urban agriculture is the recognition of the value, the benefits and the resulting needs of urban agriculture by political leaders and heads of administration. Therefore it is necessary to raise their awareness on the issue, and to provide them with adequate information. It is also useful to demonstrate the positive aspects of urban agriculture with some local examples. Publicizing the issue through opinion-makers and leaders such as the media is another strategy. Urban producers themselves should also be mobilized to participate, to enhance political pressure and to be involved in strategy and action planning.

Capacity building among local actors for developing participatory processes of diagnosis, problem identification, implementation of solutions according to previously established priorities, conflict mediation and negotiation, policy design and joint implementation of actions, systematization, monitoring, and control of municipal policy changes.

Building trust and cooperation among the main actors (building commitment). Permanent and transparent information flows among the different stakeholders is crucial in this respect, as is communication on agreements made, implementation of these and results. Commitments among different actors can be formalized by means of an inter-actor agreement or any other formal arrangement for promoting transparency and institutionalization of the process. To develop the AGRUPAR Program (Agricultura Urbana Participativa) in Quito (Ecuador), the local government, several NGOs, UMP-LAC/UN-HABITAT, and community representatives signed an Inter-Actor Agreement for carrying out a participatory diagnosis and for developing an action plan on UA.

Policy making as well as joint action planning and implementation. Efforts to establish policies before initiating action planning/implementation often result in policies that do not work due to lack of political will, lack of resources or severe distortions during translation into actions later on in the process. On the other hand, actions that are not translated into adequate guiding/facilitating policies tend to stay rather localized with few or less sustained impacts on the livelihoods of larger segments of the population. Policies should relate to current UA activities and farming systems as well as new activities identified in a multi-stakeholder planning process.

Review and adaptation of existing legal frameworks (regulations on health, land use, housing). A review and analysis of the policy and legislative framework in Zimbabwe (Makonese and Mushamba, 2005) for example identified that there is no written government policy statement specifically addressing UA in Zimbabwe. A

legislative framework for UA does exist but scattered in national legislation and municipal by-laws. The study thus recommends that the Government of Zimbabwe promulgates a clear statement and law on UA so that actors in the field can be guided accordingly and programmes can be implemented in the framework of the policy.

Early implementation of initial actions (such as pilot projects, new techniques) at local level and good communication of successes. Actions that produce tangible results help to reinforce the commitment and participation of those involved and inform public policymaking. It is useful to develop, from the outset of the process, pilot projects or actions that produce outputs or have an impact in the short term, which create a positive environment for more complex and long-term processes.

Resource mobilization through incorporation of priority actions into the operational plans and budgets of the various participating organizations and institutions. For example, the inclusion of UA in the municipal budget

was an essential component in the promotion of urban agricultural activities in Rosario (Argentina), where the City Council guarantees resources for promotion, training, and marketing activities (Cabannes, et al., 2003).

Creation of joint monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to provide a flow of systematic feedback to all stakeholders involved. It is important to monitor results and impacts of the MSP not only as a mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies applied (and adapt it accordingly if needed), but also to be able to communicate successful efforts to a wider public and thereby create opportunities for further change.

Source: Dubbeling M. and H. de Zeeuw, RUAFA's approach to multi-stakeholder processes for action planning and policy design (MPAP) on urban agriculture: concepts and process. Session Handout RUAFA Start-up workshop April 2005. Leusden, The Netherlands.



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- DO YOU HAVE A GREEN,
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COMMUNITY?

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Join us at one of our information sessions!*

Eastside Community Center

Saturday, December 12th

5:30pm

Thursday, December 17th

6:00 pm

Saturday, December 19th

5:30pm

For more information, please call:

Josephine Ridge

954-233-1296

