

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

growing cities – growing food

Background information:

Location: Eastern Coast of Tanzania

Climate:
mean annual temperature: 26° C
annual rainfall: 1,000 mm

Total Population: 3 million

Population Density: 2,222 pers/km²

Size of the city: 1,350 km²

Authors:
Petra Jacobi, Susan Kiango & Dr. Jörg Amend



The main urban agricultural systems

Homegardening is the most common production system in urban areas. This can be found in high, medium and low-density areas. Women usually attend to the gardens. Production is for subsistence. Small livestock, and sometimes even cattle are kept. It reduces household expenses and contributes to the diet. Production is hampered by access to water and availability of space.

Open space production in the urban areas is clearly market oriented and supplies the city with fresh, leafy vegetables. The production is done by men and often the only source of family income. Major constraints are security of land rights and quality and regular supply of water. The average plot size ranges between 700 - 950 m.

Peri-urban production is market oriented and done by farming families. Apart from vegetable production also staple crops and livestock is produced. Access to markets and input supply are among the major constraints mentioned by farmers. Average farm size is 5 acres.



Homegarden in a densely populated area.



Farmer watering his crop on an open space.



Peri-urban farming family.

Technical support services

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

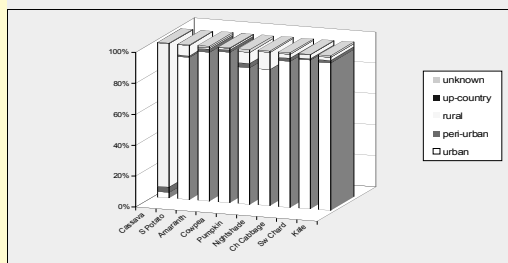
More than 90% of leafy vegetables are produced in the urban areas. The perishable vegetables do not permit transport over long distances. Peri-urban production occupies another niche. It supplies non-leafy vegetables, milk, eggs and meat. A major function of peri-urban areas is the supply of high value agricultural produce. In the inner urban area the crop production function necessarily decreases. Urban plots serve more than one purpose.

Provision of food is still the most important, but additionally they satisfy the need for open spaces in an otherwise densely constructed area and have a role in improving the city ecology. Land being used for agricultural production is respected. It prevents squatting and discourages illegal dumping of waste, which occurs in many open spaces, not in use for production. Different social groups are involved in UA.

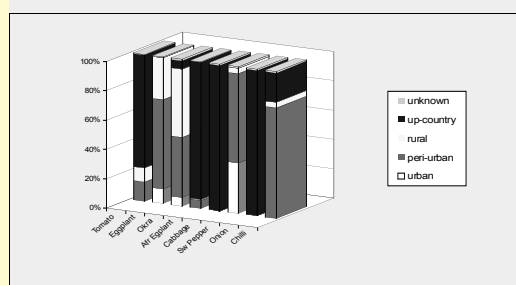
Urban Open Space.



Importance of urban vegetable production as a source for leafy vegetables to Dar es Salaam markets.

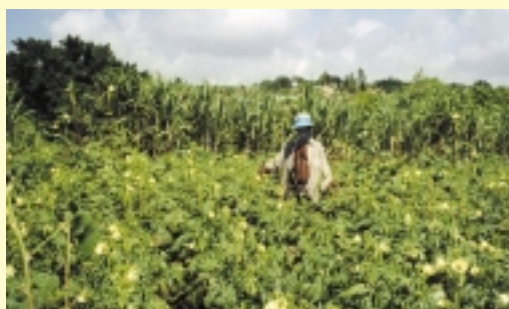


Source: Stevenson et al.



Source: Stevenson et al.

Importance of Peri-Urban Production as a source for non-leafy vegetables to Dar es Salaam markets.



Okra field in the peri-urban area.

Lessons Learned with Relevance to Other Cities

- Farming in and around the city does have various functions and characteristics, for the city as well as for the individual household. As a consequence different support measures are necessary.
- Urban and peri-urban production does not necessarily compete with each other, but can be complementary; both in terms of produce supplied and marketing channels used.
- Urban cultivation is a productive way of maintaining green lungs and open spaces in the city.
- Peri-urban farmland will make way for future city expansion. In order to maintain a minimum of food supply, areas need to be legally reserved for production.