



Urban farming

Socio-economical, cultural and educational benefits of urban farming

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Urban agriculture provides an opportunity for people who want to farm with the many benefits of living in cities

This brings into play new forms of organization not typically associated with rural agriculture, such as the emergence of the `sharing economy`



Compared with rural agriculture, the integration of urban agriculture into densely populated areas greatly extends the opportunities for combining food production with cultural functions on urban green space

In situations where food production occurs on vacant lots or other derelict land, the effect of greening the neighborhood alone is a positive outcome for all residents in terms of visual quality and human health and well-being

Source: Lovell 2010



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The entire community also benefits from the creation of new jobs for residents who struggle to find work, from opportunities to socialize and cooperate with friends and family, and from the environmental awareness that comes from a connection to an agroecological system

By improving access to fresh, nutritious food, urban agriculture can help in combating childhood obesity, diabetes, and poor nutrition that are prevalent in many urban communities

Residents participating in community gardens and school gardens have healthier diets, consuming more fruits and vegetables than non-participants





Urban agriculture can also be very effective in providing a community with access to rare foods that support their cultural heritage, particularly for immigrant communities

Studies have demonstrated additional social benefits of community gardens through their role in improving interracial relationships and decreasing crime

Beyond the benefits for the community, individuals participating directly in the production of food enjoy the recreation and relaxation of gardening outdoors

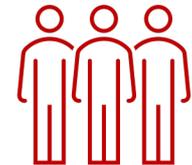
They feel more empowered as they improve the food security of the household and gain new knowledge and technical skills

In fact, in school gardens and other community programs, the educational component can extend beyond production to include knowledge development in cooking, nutrition, science, environment, business management, and cultural sensitivity or understanding

Urban agricultural activities provide opportunities for people of all ages to interact, leading to growth of intergenerational bonds

These opportunities for social interaction are especially important for people who are isolated or from typically segregated groups such as older people, disabled people, women, people of color, people of different faiths or different educational backgrounds, and people from different socioeconomic classes

The act of getting together for a common purpose fosters a sense of belonging, increases community cohesion, improves quality of life and, importantly, spawns a new generation of engaged citizens



Source: Santo et al., 2016, Golden, 2013

“ IT TAKES A LOT OF SKILL TO BE ABLE TO GROW FOOD SUSTAINABLY. IT’S AN ART FORM. WE NEED TO RAISE AGRICULTURE UP TO ANOTHER DIFFERENT LEVEL LIKE THEY DO IN EUROPE WHERE FARMERS ARE ON THE SAME LEVEL AS ENGINEERS AND DOCTORS... BECAUSE THE FOOD THAT WE EAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN OUR LIVES.” WILL ALLEN, GROWING POWER, MILWAUKEE

UF projects with a social mission offer internships – paid when possible – for youth to create viable, interesting and constructive activities that promote responsibility and engagement

Depending on the community and farm location, skills also may include learning foreign language and culture



Urban farming projects can include programs targeted at building skills and providing job training for young people and those looking for new opportunities

Working in urban agriculture requires a multitude of skills in areas such as leadership, fundraising, marketing, project management and customer service, all of which can be acquired through formal programs or routine, daily participation

UF offers opportunities to gain knowledge and expertise in aspects of the food system, including agriculture methods, sustainability and environmental stewardship, horticulture and animal husbandry, food provenance, and nutrition



American planning association listed benefits associated with Urban Farming

Social benefits:

1. Opportunity for community involvement
2. Social interaction between ethnically and age-diverse communities
3. Connection between farmers and consumers
4. Community economic security
5. Vacant property reuse strategy and catalyst for community development



Economic benefits:

1. Provides volunteer maintenance
2. Increase local employment opportunity or training
3. Generates income
4. Capitalizes on underused resources
5. Increases property values
6. Reduces food expenditures to free larger portion of household income



Using high-density urban farming with vertical farms or stacked greenhouses, many environmental benefits can be achieved on a citywide scale that would be impossible otherwise.

These systems do not only provide food, but also produce potable water from waste water, and can recycle organic waste back to energy and nutrients.

At the same time, they can reduce food-related transportation to a minimum while providing fresh food for large communities in almost any climate.



Source: Bosschaert, 2007

Urban farming project “the Medical University of South Carolina’s Urban Farm (MUSC)” is a great example of educational urban farm

It was designed by architectural firm Urban Edge Studio in collaboration with Crop Up consulting company
MUSC Urban Farm stands by the university’s mission to attain healthy lifestyles and to educate people, by adding classrooms, workshops, and food production and educational opportunities

<https://web.musc.edu/resources/health-and-wellness/ohp/urban-farm>



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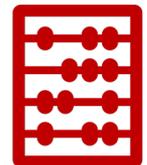


Edible gardens in cultural institutions

- Vegetable gardens become a popular form of installations outside cultural institutions, not afraid of exploring new ideas. It's a good way to provide inspiration and educate. In 2012 Juliette Delventhal and Pawel Kruk created a permaculture vegetable garden (a project called We're Like Gardens) at Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle during Zielony Jazdów summer festival
- In 2013, in the following season of Zielony Jazdów Jan Dowgiałło, Iga Kołodziej, Paulina Sulima and Anka Zawadzka designed and built "Garden of senses", a temporary sensory garden in the courtyard of the Ujazdowski Castle. The garden was divided in three zones and contained plants stimulating five senses: hearing/sight, touch and taste/smell.

STARTING AN URBAN AGRICULTURE ENTERPRISE

- ✓ Identify the project and define its purpose
- ✓ Engage the community
- ✓ Visit existing farms to learn what others are doing
- ✓ Create a working group and an advisory group
- ✓ Will the farm be nonprofit, for-profit or a combination of both?
- ✓ Put together a business plan that articulates the business structure, operating and marketing strategies and financial plan
- ✓ Determine what type of labor is needed
- ✓ If possible, consider doing a pilot project to test your proposal



Funding opportunities for farmers



Farmers receive direct payments under the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF). This fund primarily finances direct payments and measures regulating or supporting agricultural markets

<https://www.cost.eu/stories/urban-agriculture-europes-untapped-potential/#>

The screenshot shows the COST website header with the logo 'cost EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY'. The navigation menu includes: News, Events, Multimedia, Publications, Contact us, e-COST, Search website..., Who we are, Funding, COST Actions, and Academy. The 'Funding' dropdown menu is open, showing two main categories: '> What do we fund?' and '> How to get funding'. Under '> What do we fund?' are: Funding networking activities, Benefits, and Who can participate. Under '> How to get funding' are: How to apply, Open Call, Evaluation, selection and approval, and Documents and guidelines.

Urban agriculture – Euro

Home > Success Stories > Urban agriculture – Europe's u

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