



The Harare Declaration on Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture in Eastern and Southern Africa



We, the Ministers responsible for Local Governments from Kenya, Malawi, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, at our meeting in Harare on Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture (UPA) in Eastern and Southern Africa organized by the Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing of the Government of Zimbabwe and the Municipal Development Partnership for Eastern and Southern Africa, in collaboration with UNDP, UNICEF, FAO-SAFR, FANRPAN, RUAFS and IDRC held on 28 and 29 August, 2003;

Acknowledging,

The presence of local government practitioners and representatives of non-governmental organizations and community based organizations;

Acknowledging further that:

- UPA is a widely practised activity in and around towns and cities within the region on parcels of land with alternative competing uses;
- UPA has generally been practised informally without appropriate policy, legislative and institutional frameworks;
- UPA plays, and will continue to play, a significant role in promoting food security, employment creation and income generation, health and nutrition and improving the economies of urban areas;
- Some governments in the region have made significant progress in incorporating UPA in their urban development plans, and that others are now beginning to rise to the challenge,

Recognizing,

The existence and increasing practice of UPA and also noting the many challenges that it faces, including:

- Absence, inadequacy and or inconsistency in the policies, legislation and institutional arrangements for regulating the sector
- Limited availability of and access to resources
- Limited research, documentation and information-sharing nationally and regionally
- The need for environmental sustainability

Accepting,

That the foregoing challenges require immediate and prudent reform of policies, legislative and institutional arrangements in order to effectively integrate UPA into our urban economies,

We therefore,

Call for the promotion of a shared vision of UPA that takes into account the specific needs and conditions in the region, and accordingly commit ourselves to developing policies and appropriate instruments that will create an enabling environment for integrating UPA into our urban economies.

Thus done at Harare on 29th Day of August, 2003

Signed: 
Millicah W. Thairu
For the Government of Kenya

Signed: 
Honourable Henry Midiani
For the Government of Malawi

Signed: 
Honourable Albert Shabangu
For the Government of Swaziland

Signed: 
Honourable Mizengo Pinda
For the Government of Tanzania

Signed: 
Honourable Ignatius Chombo
For the Government of Zimbabwe

Background to The Harare Declaration on Urban Agriculture

It is acknowledged that urbanization is one of the major challenges for mankind today. Urbanization rates in the Eastern and Southern Africa region have been given at between 3 and 8 % per annum. Cities in sub-Saharan Africa are growing at an exceptional rate of about 5% annually. It is estimated that by the year 2020, half of the population in the region will be urban. As the urban expansion continues the overall cost of supplying, distributing and accessing food is likely to increase with the number of urban households that are food-insecure also increasing. The challenge of feeding cities therefore lies in enhancing consumer access to food by ensuring that the required investments for increasing food production, processing and distribution are accessible under affordable, good quality, hygienic and environmentally sound conditions.

The SADC Ministers of Agriculture meeting in Harare in September 2001 identified huge food deficits, with only one country, South Africa, reporting a cereal surplus. The role of urban and peri-urban agriculture in the food supply for cities and towns, as a compliment to rural agriculture, is therefore becoming an important issue in the Eastern and Southern Africa region economy. There is evidence that urban agriculture has been expanding in many urban areas especially Zimbabwe, Zambia and Tanzania.

The Harare Declaration on Urban Agriculture is a result of a Minister's Conference on Urban Agriculture - Opportunities for Food Security and UA held 28-29 August 2003 in Harare. The conference was co-organized by MDPEA and the Ministry of Local Government, Public construction and National Housing of Zimbabwe and was sponsored by UNDP, UNICEF and IDRC. It was attended by sixty-nine participants, with ministers and delegations from Malawi, Tanzania, Swaziland, Kenya and the hosts Zimbabwe. Other stakeholders like the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), FAO and UNDP also attended. The main workshop objectives were:

1. To facilitate the sharing of experiences on the issues of urban & peri-urban agriculture in the sub-region.
2. To come up with strategies to enhance urban food security, nutrition and local economic growth and development through intensive high value (peri) urban agriculture development.
3. To come up with strategies for improving the nutritional status of HIV/AIDS sufferers through urban agriculture.
4. Identify key policy issues for urban agriculture in the region.
5. To formulate a regional development programme on (peri) urban agriculture focusing on the technical, financial and legal institutional aspects and support

The Harare Declaration on Urban Agriculture was adopted by the heads of delegations present on the 29th of August 2003.

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