

The Importance of Urban Agriculture



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What is Urban Agriculture

- Urban agriculture is defined simply as growing or producing food in urban spaces.
- Is the practice of cultivating, processing, and distributing food in or around urban areas.
- Urban agriculture comes in many forms, but the most popular are:
 - urban farms,
 - community gardens
 - and hydroponics or aquaponics programs.

Food Supply

- By using the roofs and other open spaces in the city, vegetables farms can produce up to 10% of the vegetables the city consumes.
- Today 50% of world population live in the city.
- You know where your food is grown, and it can be grown without pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

Importance of Urban Agriculture

- Urban agriculture increases access to healthy, affordable, fresh produce and provides communities with opportunities to learn about nutrition and growing food.
- It encourages the community to know where food comes from, how it's grown, and connect with the people who grow it!
- The importance of the practice starts in educating groups and individuals of understanding how the food system works



Community Garden

- A community garden can be urban, suburban, or rural.
- It can be one community plot or many individual plots.
- It can be located at a school, hospital, or in a neighborhood.
- Plants naturally add oxygen to the air that people breathe.
- At the same time, they contribute to cleaner air by removing air pollution.
- Whether you are living in an urban landscape or elsewhere, community gardening is an excellent opportunity to connect with nature and your neighbors.

Hydroponic Farming

- The basic concept of a hydroponic farm is that water is substituted for soil.
- Solutions are then added to the water to provide easily accessed nutrients for a healthy yield.
- The nutrients added to the water may include phosphorus, nitrogen, calcium, potassium, and many more, depending on the plants being grown
- Plants grown in well-managed hydroponic systems are living the good life. Since roots are bathed in all the nutrients they need, plants spend more time growing upward and less time and energy growing extensive root systems to search for food.
- Growth rates vary based on the type of system and quality of care, but hydro plants can mature up to 25 percent more quickly than the same plants grown in soil, with increased crop yield, to boot.



Educate community

- By physically farming for food, the younger generation can learn to appreciate the environment and the life cycle of the vegetables.
- Urban farms also are a proven effective educational tool to teach kids about healthy eating and meaningful physical activity.

Benefits of Urban Agriculture

- There are many benefits to Urban Agriculture including social, economic and ecological advantages.
- Urban Agriculture helps to create sustainability in cities.
- It also reconnects individuals to their food, creates jobs, and mitigates negative effects of urbanization on the environment.

There are countless ways that cities can feed themselves and create better linkages between rural and urban food systems.

Why is my interest to study urban agriculture

- UA creates opportunities for the students to try things out.
- Some of us we are starting to realize that we can go into agriculture and create something big, this happens when we connect the lessons to real-world problems and solutions.
- The education that I will reach during the UA master study program will involve and combine, different scientific areas, which gives me a good range of knowledge and experience.
- As a student I will also get the opportunity to focus on my specific interests with my choice of different courses the UA master study includes.
- I will use the knowledge and expertise gathered in this study program for better cooperation between the University, the community, and the public and private sector.

- *A FARMER DOES NOT GROW CROPS. A FARMER CREATES AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE CROPS CAN GROW*

