

Explorador

Cities Feeding People

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Participar

Propietario

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Urban Design for Urban Agriculture

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A large percentage of urban populations in poor countries lack adequate housing, access to formal economy and employment opportunities, and related social coverage. To fight hunger and poverty, growing numbers of urban poor are turning to urban agriculture (UA) to survive. UA includes cultivation of plants, medicinal and aromatic herbs, fruit trees and the raising of animals to support the household and commercialization thereof. UA also poses difficult challenges, in particular, health concerns and municipal norms against it as a non-urban activity.

This three-year global project hopes to demonstrate the value of UA in three partner cities, to be selected competitively, one in each continent, namely Asia, Africa and Latin America. The project seeks to creatively involve local authorities, architects and urban planners in a collaborative and participatory process to test and validate the potential of UA in meeting the Millennium Goals, including: squatter settlement upgrading, poverty alleviation, food security and gender equity. The results will be showcased at the 2006 UNHABITAT's World Urban Forum in Vancouver, Canada. The research and design phase of this project is \$900K, which is made possible through a seed grant from Cities Feeding People Program of the International Development Research Center and contributions from the Urban Management Program [UMP] of UNHABITAT and McGill University. McGill University and UMP will coordinate applied research that will:

- Identify ways to foster safe urban agriculture
- Produce practical tools for housing designs
- Develop prototypical site plans
- Demonstrate and implement these tools through slum upgrading incorporating UA and/or the creation of new garden neighborhoods, and
- Publish design modules that will encourage design professionals to incorporate agricultural activities within urban development plans.

To demonstrate the merits of UA as a permanent feature of sustainable city growth, each selected city partner will establish a dedicated City-team, including: local researchers, municipal representatives, an architect and an urban planner, and community participants. To ensure city involvement throughout the project, the project will provide City-teams with computer equipment, connection to a global information-sharing network, and operational support for research and training purposes. To defray travel and related participation costs we have budgeted up to \$65K per city.

We are seeking city partners prepared to implement the UA projects and willing to commit their own resources, in-kind contributions such as land and logistical support, as well as a dedicated staff and infrastructure inputs. Local equipment and infrastructure should already exist and will be made available for the project by senior-level city officials. The implementation phase of each UA new housing or upgrading project, could be up to \$3 million, including in-kind commitments. City-teams also are required to perform with the appropriate mix of technical and scientific expertise to deliver high-

quality and credible methodological tools. The project can be summarized by the following five phases:

Project Phases	Schedule:
1. City selection 15, 2004	June 15 – July
2. Research and Design (R&D) 2005	July 15 – June
International workshop McGill University	May 2005:
3. Implement designs to pilot sites onwards	June 2005 –
4. Dissemination and publications December 2006	June 2006 –
UNHABITAT World Urban Forum Vancouver.	June 2006:
5. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) reporting and final report	Bi-annual

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