

**The Urban Agriculture Stakeholders Monthly Update
Sustainable Cities International Network Africa Program**

December and January 2011

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Urban agriculture activities have still been going strong for the last two months, despite the holiday slowdown. Here's a brief update about our activities in December and January:

Food Garden Network

The Network is growing by leaps and bounds from the founding members' dedication and hard work. Successful meetings during the last two months have led to a draft constitution that is almost finished. The next step will be to agree on a strategic plan for the next year of operations to set goals, activities and timelines. Then we will apply for registration and funding, hopefully with good results. If you know of any grants that we could apply for or any urban agriculture groups interested in joining, please let us know!

Legitimization of Urban Agriculture

The draft Urban Agriculture Legitimization Strategy Plans are still in the works. Progress has slowed down a bit due to some unforeseen challenges. We are still, however, pushing forward to have a plan and map ready from each Municipality for official submission to the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Human Settlement Master Plan process. We are looking forward to organizing a stakeholders meeting to present the plans, to get comments, and then to finalize the plans for submission at the end of January or start of February.

Community Demonstration Projects

Each project has had their own ups and downs, but in general everyone has made lot of progress. Currently, we have 8 projects: UWABA Fasta Cycle Messengers Cooperative Society, Capacity Building for Community Organised Solid Waste Collection, Investours, Msimbazi Container Gardening Group, Walemavu SACCO, Wazo la Wiki, SAFINA, and Mikocheni Vocational School Composting. Our next deadline for applications for the new batch of funding is on 4th February 2011. We are looking for general projects and a focus on waste separation, recycling or reuse projects. If you know of any innovative groups, please let us know!

Funding

Our office is looking high and low for funding opportunities to scale up our urban agriculture activities. We are preparing a comprehensive funding application package to showcase our achievements and future plans. We would really appreciate it if you can let us know of any funding opportunities available!

Feedback from the last update

A huge thank you to everyone who responded to the last update! Thanks to your support, we have been able to engage in discussions with the Dar es Salaam City Council's Cities Alliance department and the Tanzania Organic Certification Association. There was also a suggestion that we should have an online forum to post urban agriculture related resources for Tanzania. We started a Google group; please join us in the discussion at <http://groups.google.com/group/tanzaniafoodgardennetwork>.

Looking forward

The rest of January and February is going to be filled with meetings with government departments, the Food Garden Network, and other potential collaborators. We're always looking to meet interesting groups, potential partners, and to hear suggestions or feedback! Please contact us at landline +255 22 266 4279; or cell +255 766 607 438 or +255 755 271 161; or email at tiffany.ty.tong@gmail.com or MZivhave@icsc.ca. Until next month!