The Urban Agriculture Stakeholders Monthly Update Sustainable Cities: PLUS Network Africa Program

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Urban agriculture and November seems to have been a good combination; we've made lots of progress! Here's a brief update about our activities in November:

Legitimization of Urban Agriculture

Each Municipality, through their Agriculture and Livestock Departments and the Town Planning Departments have been working on their draft Urban Agriculture Legitimization Strategy Plans. The strategic plans compromise of the rationale for supporting urban agriculture in Dar es Salaam, the potential areas that can be demarcated for growing food in the city, and the criteria and regulations. These draft plans have been submitted to the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Human Settlement Development for preliminary feedback. In January, we will be organizing a stakeholders meeting to present the plans, to get comments, and then to finalize the plans for submission.

Mikocheni Post Primary Vocational School Waste Separation, Composting, and Gardening Project

The Mikocheni Post Primary Vocational School has been putting the lessons learnt from the training last month into good use. They have started constructing a new composting chamber and are trying to collect organic waste from the surrounding community to increase their production of compost. Very soon, once they get more experience in implementing their system, they will be giving lessons, to anybody in the community who wants to learn, on household waste separation, composting, and food gardening. The School was also chosen as one of three featured projects on the Sustainable Cities website as part of our annual giving campaign.

Community Demonstration Project Fund

The new batch of projects we will be funding has been approved! There are 4 in total: UWABA Fasta Cycle Messengers Cooperative Society, Capacity Building for Community Organised Solid Waste Collection, Investours, and the Msimbazi Container Gardening Group. We held a small grant award ceremony on 30 November where we invited representatives from the groups and their Mtaa chairpersons. Some good networking happened between the groups and maybe some unexpected synergies will materialize! We look forward to working closely with the new demonstration projects.

Food Garden Network

We had another successful envisioning workshop with the six urban agriculture groups. The focus and priorities of the Network have been decided. The groups look forward to writing their constitution next meeting on 15th December. We are looking for more committed groups to join the Network and people willing to support us financially. Please let us know if you have any advice or useful contacts you would like to share!

Looking forward

December is going to be a month with lots of office work as many offices are winding down for the holidays. We'll be following up with the legitimizing process, the demonstration projects, and writing more funding proposals. 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!