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

October 2010

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Lots of exciting progress has been made this month for urban agriculture! Here's a brief update about what our office did in October:

Legitimization of Urban Agriculture

Following up on the discussion from the Urban Agriculture Farmers Training Week last month, we have been engaging in consultations with the Agriculture and Livestock Departments and the Town Planning Department of each municipality. All have agreed to write a draft Urban Agriculture Action Plan that would include areas and criteria for demarcating land for urban agriculture in Municipal Plans and the upcoming Dar es Salaam Master Plan. We're planning to organize a stakeholders meeting by the end of the month with all three Municipalities, the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Human Settlement Development, and the Dar es Salaam City Council. The process is definitely moving along!

Composting and Waste Separation Training (19th Oct to 22nd Oct)

The Mikocheni Post Primary Vocational School applied to our community demonstration project fund and got support to start a composting and gardening project. The goal is for the School to become a centre for learning waste separation and composting for the surrounding community. For four days, 40 students and 10 teachers at the school were trained in waste separation and composting by Mr. Kizito, Waste Management Officer from the Kinondoni Municipality. Representatives of other organizations we work with, e.g. SAFINA, ENVIROCARE, RESEWO, and SCAN, participated in the training. The training went very well with much positive feedback. RESEWO and ENVIROCARE will soon start their own composting project, while SAFINA will start composting lessons in Mikocheni A and Darajani sub wards where they are responsible for solid waste collection.

Community Demonstration Project Fund

As we mentioned last month, we were inviting proposal submissions for practical projects on poverty alleviation, livelihood improvement or sustainable urban development or environmental sustainability that target women, youths or people who are normally not part of the decision making. We have been following up with past projects, monitoring current projects, and also preparing for the new ones. The feedback has been invaluable and we are taking the lessons learnt so we can do even better with our next projects. We are still in the process of selecting and launching the new batch of projects; more news would be coming very soon.

Food Garden Network

We had a very successful initial meeting to propose to form the Dar es Salaam Food Garden Network. All participants, including 6 different groups of urban agriculturalist, are very excited about the possibilities of this Network. We will be holding an envisioning and prioritizing workshop for the Network on November 19th. Please let us know if you have any advice or useful contacts you would like to share!

Looking forward

November is turning out to be an exciting month filled with municipality meetings, brainstorming workshops, project visits, and networking. 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!