
Seminars

Monday, 6 December, 15:30-17:30 / Salle Djoudj

IPM – Sustainable production of horticultural crops

Moderators

William Settle (FAO – Rome)

Mohamed HamaGarba (FAO – Senegal)

Monday, 6 December, 15:30-17:30 / Amphitheatre

PROFAV – Promotion of fruits and vegetables for better health and livelihoods

Moderator

Jacky Ganry (CIRAD – Montpellier)

Since 2003, FAO and WHO have been collaborating in an initiative to promote fruit and vegetables in developing countries. The overall objective is to mobilize decision-makers from the domains of health/nutrition, education and horticulture to discuss and develop national and multi-sectoral action plans. Since the formulation of a global framework in March 2005, six regional workshops have taken place. In parallel, several global networks and tools have been launched, such as the Global Horticulture Initiative, a worldwide programme that aims at fostering more efficient and effective partnerships and collective action among the stakeholders. However, many constraints remain to be addressed all along the horticulture value-chain and in a multitude of diverse food systems – for example, the underestimated and neglected potential of indigenous species, limited access to inputs and markets, and social and cultural barriers. The purpose of the workshop is to contribute in addressing some of those issues, which are crucial in expanding urban areas, and to advocate for more attention being paid to the role of fruits and vegetables in urban food and nutrition security and livelihoods.

Promoting fruits and vegetables for nutrition and health, a major challenge for developing countries

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Key words: fruits, vegetables, availability, health, education, nutrition

Abstract

It is now recognized that a high consumption of fruits and vegetables (F&V) is an important component of a healthy diet, and can help prevent micronutrient deficiency or degenerative diseases. According to a report by WHO in 2002, low F&V intake is considered to be a high-risk factor. In this context, WHO and FAO have decided to combine their efforts to promote F&V within the Kobe Framework, encouraging interdisciplinary action and national initiatives based on health-agriculture-education-trade partnerships. GlobalHort is now strongly involved in such initiatives. There are only a few clear, simple science-based messages: increased consumption of F&V is desirable to ensure better general dietary habits; 400 g per person is a minimum daily intake of a variety of F&V. In spite of poor documentation on F&V consumption which must be

urgently addressed, it may be assumed that F&V consumption is too low in many developing countries; this is backed by global supply data and by local supply and consumption surveys, in places where these surveys have been carried out. An example is the critical situation in Africa where the average per capita F&V supply is far too low. Increasing the availability and consumption of F&V in African countries is a major challenge because of increasing urbanization, nutrition transitions, increasing prices and food safety concerns. One of the ways to increase public and institutions' awareness and promoting national initiatives is to organize and set up workshops, all over the world, especially in developing countries, organized in the framework of the Promotion of F&V for Health (PROFAV) initiative. Such workshops would be aimed at boosting multisectoral actions, in agriculture, health and education in order to address supply and demand deficits simultaneously and through coordinated campaigns based on two major supporting actions: development of a competent, efficient F&V supply chain, and public awareness about importance of F&V in balanced diets. As an introduction to the PROFAV workshop, this paper will present the main achievements of the initiative to date, along with expected actions.

From urban and peri-urban agriculture to micro gardens: How to attain fresh food security in Dakar

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Key words: Urban and peri-urban agriculture, typology, location, sustainability, multi-functionality, observatory, microgardens, migration, Dakar, Senegal

Abstract

Depending on the city and its socio-geographical context, urban and peri-urban agriculture presents different types of production systems. Considered as a way to alleviate poverty, this type of agriculture has gradually acquired a certain legitimacy in urban projects. In a study carried out in the Dakar region, we investigated six categories of stakeholders – from the agricultural and policy-making sectors– to determine their perception of this type of agriculture in areas like Niayes, and characterize production systems. By adopting an innovative analytical approach, we were able to highlight the following:

- a typology of farms representing the diversity of production systems and household activities,
- an analysis of their location in 4 agricultural zones differentiated by urban proximity,
- the variability of the internal and external sustainability of farms,
- an analysis of multi-functionality of agriculture and agricultural areas based on the perception of the six categories of actors.

These elements provide new insights into various stakeholders. However, in order to provide solutions for the various problems faced by this type of agriculture, we suggest scientific and technical solutions such as the creation of an agriculture observatory. Moreover, the physical realities of the Dakar region – a peninsula with an area of 550 km² and very high demographic pressure – and the search for fresh food security for city dwellers have led us to propose a project with innovative research into microgardens and their functions for the households, and the involvement of Senegalese migrants in Europe in urban and peri-urban agriculture. This multidisciplinary project with six research axes will involve researchers from various Senegalese and French research institutions and entities as well as producers, consumers, agents of technical staff and elected people. Other regions such as Thies and St Louis could also host the project in order to provide comparison with the Dakar region.