

# ICUA Casa 2013

International Colloquium on the Contribution of Urban Agriculture to Future Megacities

February 27th - March 2nd 2013, Casablanca, Morocco



## Synopsis

The action-research project *Urban Agriculture as an Integrative Factor for Climate-Optimised Urban Development, Casablanca (UAC 2005-2013)*, supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) within the research program Future Megacities, is organising a closing event on the **contributions of Urban Agriculture to the urban development of future megacities** in the global South.

Following a transdisciplinary approach, as the UAC-project itself, the International Colloquium on Urban Agriculture (ICUA) aims at **sharing knowledge, experiences and practices between stakeholders and multipliers of various backgrounds** to reflect on upcoming challenges facing future megacities and the possible role of Urban Agriculture.

**ICUA-Casa** will offer a platform to discuss the outcome of more than eight years of Moroccan-German collaboration and place them in the global discussion on the development of cities and urban agriculture. Further approaches, projects, and actions from other urban contexts worldwide will be presented to enrich the dialogue. The colloquium will revolve around the key issues of transferability and the anchoring of food policies in urban development.

## *Future megacities, interconnected challenges & opportunities*

The challenges facing future megacities, to list but a few, include considerable spatial sprawl, fragmented spaces, substantial population growth, an increasing divide between rich and poor, difficulties in providing adequate housing or guaranteeing adequate environmental and living standards, maintaining a technical infrastructure (transport, sanitation etc.) as well as the challenges posed by looming climate change. Therefore, the development of tomorrow's megacities requires inclusive, climate-smart and innovative solutions and strategies. Urban research is currently placing more emphasis on issues that had previously been neglected, such as **productive open space systems or methods of urban food production**. The discussion about potential open space systems for urban growth centres is being given a new dimension: it no longer only considers their contribution to recreation and ecological compensation, but also to feeding the city.

The specific structure of megacities and the discussion about resource-efficient and climate-optimised urban development also raises the questions of how to deal with urban-rural linkages within an urban region and what positive interactions between the city and agriculture might exist. Indeed, **both agriculture and the city can be mutually beneficial**. Helpful synergies can aid local food systems, reutilisation of urban resources such as solid waste and wastewater (Urban Mining), socioeconomic aspects and leisure. These urban-rural linkages have the potential to create improved livelihoods in combination with spatial integration, and to develop climate-optimised multifunctional spatial systems.

## *Research for the sustainable development of future megacities: the UAC project approach*

Casablanca Region has been growing steadily, dynamically and in a diverse way. According to official estimates, Casablanca can expect a considerable population growth from 3.7 million inhabitants in 2004 to approximately 5 million in 2030. Within the Future Megacities research programme, Casablanca has been granted the opportunity to develop new ideas for sustainable urban development within an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research.

The UAC project ([www.uac-m.org](http://www.uac-m.org)) connects the three dimensions of urban agriculture, urban development, and climate change in a new framework and perspective whilst simultaneously placing all three in a new operational constellation, under the heading of governance and specific technical support.

In practical terms the project seeks to include the provision of open space within integrated and sustainable urban growth in the emerging megacity Casablanca. It considers the integration of agricultural areas into urban development and the conceptualisation of urban agriculture as a green productive infrastructure, a viable response to changing spatial patterns in urban growth centres.

## International colloquium in Casablanca

The ICUA – Casa 2013 brings together stakeholders from the fields of research, urban policy and administration, as well as international, regional and local organisations, to discuss the approach and solutions developed in Casablanca as well as further international experiences from other existing or emerging megacities.

The colloquium reflects a transdisciplinary and multilevel perspective, going from the micro-level (local projects) to the meso-level (multifunctionality) and the macro level (global debates, governance).

> The **UAC-Forum** will provide the opportunity to present and discuss the integrated results of the UAC research project.

> The **Learnshops** working groups are aimed at sharing knowledge and mutual learning from practical experience. The central question is how to sustainably connect the city (urban sphere) and the agriculture (rural sphere) in a polycentric city-region:

LS 1: Urban Agriculture + Water

LS 2: Urban Agriculture + Informal Settlement

LS 3: Urban Agriculture + Landscape & Periurban Tourisms

LS 4: Urban Agriculture + Healthy Food Production

> The **Generating Multifunctionality** sessions provide an in-depth reflection on the multifunctional use of agriculture in the city and the generation of new functionalities:

GM 1: Water & Climate – Sharing Resources

GM 2: Urban Food Systems – Feed the City

GM 3: Urban Development – Sharing Space

GM 4: Governance – Stimulating Integration Processes

> A panel discussion on **Future Urban Food Policies – Local Practice and Global Debate** will close the event with representatives of megacities worldwide.

> Thematic field trips will guide the participants through pilot projects in periurban Casablanca.

## Preliminary Programme

### Wednesday 27th February 2013

16 – 19h Official opening of the colloquium  
Reception

### Thursday 28th February 2013

9h Registration

9h30 – 10h30 Keynote 1: Mr. Edward Soja  
The Challenges of Megacities

10h30 – 13h UAC Forum  
Urban Agriculture Casablanca as Transdisciplinary Research Project: Integrated Approach & Results

14h30 – 16h Anchoring Urban Agriculture in Casablanca  
New Forms of Cooperation

16h30 – 18h Learnshops Working Groups  
Mutualising lessons learnt on Urban Agriculture and tourism, industry, water, informal settlement and healthy food production

### Friday 1st March 2013

9h – 9h30 **Keynote 2: Mr. Abdeladim Lhafi**  
Climate-Smart Urban Food Systems – Feeding the Megacity

9h30 – 10h **Introduction: Mr. Christoph Kasper**  
Multifunctionality and Urban Agriculture

10h – 12h30 **Generating Multifunctionality**  
Working Groups – Urban Agriculture and resources, urban food systems, urban development and governance

14h – 14h30 Anchoring Urban Agriculture in Morocco

14h30 – 17h30 Panel discussion  
Future Urban Food Policies in the Megacity – Local Practice, Global Debate. With representatives of global megacities

17h30 – 18h Conclusion & Outlook

### Saturday 2nd March 2013

Field trip 1: Community & food production

Field trip 2: Landscape & resources

## Organisation and Contact

The International Colloquium is organised by the Technical University Berlin and the Association of Action-Research for Sustainable Development in Grand Casablanca (ARADD), with the support of the UAC project partners, and will be held at the Regional Council in Casablanca, Morocco.

The working languages of the event will be French and English with simultaneous translations.

Updated information will be published on the UAC-project website: [www.uac-m.org](http://www.uac-m.org) and on the event blog: [casa2013.wordpress.com](http://casa2013.wordpress.com).

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Project partners :



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