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URBAN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY IN THE CITY OF LUBUMBASHI (DRC)

by

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A thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
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Abstract

The aim of this study is to find out whether or not urban farming is a response to food insecurity in the post-Gécamines era at the household level. This period is characterized by acute economic crisis at a time of rapid population growth and increasing urban poverty.

Data was collected by means of semi-structured interviews, in-depth questions, observation and informal conversation, as well as primary and secondary sources. One hundred Lubumbashi farming households were selected and interviewed between November 2004 and March 2005. The data was analyzed within a sustainable livelihood approach based on the alternative theories of development, and using SPSS and thematic content analysis. Because of its potential in food supply and income generation, the focus on urban agriculture gives in-depth insights about categories of people involved, types of food crops grown and livestock kept, relations within the household members, and so on.

The key findings of the study are that urban agriculture is more of a survival-entrepreneurial strategy than a survival or an entrepreneurial strategy for the majority of farming households. Less than a quarter of the selected farmers were able to move out of food insecurity and poverty. However, the majority of farmers were food secure for a short period of time (three to four months, particularly at the harvest period). The study also shows that though the living conditions of the majority of farmers (75%) declined despite the practice of food production, these conditions might have worsened without it.

Poverty, competition for land and rapid population growth constitute the factors that threaten the expansion of agricultural activities within and around the city. The sustainability of urban agriculture is linked to its capacity to cope with and recover from stresses and shocks as well as its adaptability to the dynamism of the city, and the nature of support received from state and non-state institutions. However, food production and income generation remain the central functions of urban agriculture in Lubumbashi.

Keywords: urban agriculture, food security, urban livelihood strategy, sustainable livelihoods approach, sustainability, entrepreneurial urban agriculture, survival urban agriculture, alternative theories of development, household economy, parallel economy.

Declaration

I declare that this thesis is my own unaided work. It is submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any other degree or examination in any other university.

…….
Nyumbaiza Tambwe

……..day of……., 2010.

To my family
with sincere thanks
for their love, support and encouragement
during the writing of this thesis

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List of Abbreviations

ADP: Area of Development Programme

AFDL: Alliance des Forces Démocratiques pour la liberation du Congo-Zaire

CCC: Church of Christ in Congo

CFCUA: City farmer-Canada's Office of Urban Agriculture

CIDA: Canadian International Development Agency

CRAA: Centre de Recherche Agro-Alimentaire

DFID: Department for International Development

DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization

FAP: Financial Assistant Policy, Botswana

FNLC: Front National de Liberation du Congo

GECAMINES: Générale des Carrières et des Mines

GNP: Gross National Product

ICLEI: International Association of Local Governments

IDP: Internally Displaced People

IDRC: International Development Research Centre

IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development

ILO: International Labour Organization

IMF: International Monetary Fund

MLC: Mouvement pour la Liberation du Congo

MNC: Mouvement National Congolais

MPR: Mouvement Populaire de la Revolution

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

NIS: National Institute of Statistics

OECD: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

PCC: Population Crisis Committee-based in Washington DC, USA

PPRD: Parti du Peuple pour la Reconstruction et la Democratie

PRGSP: Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy Paper

RCD: Rassemblemnt Congolais pour la Democratie

RoB: Republic of Botswana

RTNC: Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise

RUAF: International Network of Research Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security

SADRI: Service d'Appui au Développement Régional Integral

SENAHUP: Service National d'Horticulture Urbaine et Peri-urbaine

SENASEM: Service National de Semences

SIDA: Swedish International development Cooperation Agency

SMTF: Société Minière de Tenke-Fungurume

SNCC: Societé Nationale de Chemin de Fer National du Congo

SODIMIZA: Societé de Developpement Minier du Zaire

SPSS: Statistical Package for Social Sciences

UA: Urban Agriculture

UMHK: Union Minière du Haut-Katanga

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

WHO: World Health Organization

WVI/Congo: World Vision International/Congo

List of Symbols

FC: Franc Congolais (Congolese Currency)

KES: Kenya Shilling (Kenyan currency)

P: Pula (Botswana Currency)

TZS: Tanzania shilling (Tanzanian Currency)

US$: United States dollar

Z: Zaire (former Congolese Currency)