

Food Security and Sustainability

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Economic, ecological, social and land tenure sustainability of peri-urban vegetable production in context of rapid urbanization of Sub-Saharan Africa

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Ensuring food security and healthy nutrition of the growing urban population has become an acute challenge in Sub-Saharan Africa. Peri-urban vegetable production is increasingly recognized for its capacity to strengthen the resilience of the urban food system, enhance access of the urban poor to nutritious food, generate (self-) employment, income and contribute to poverty reduction. However, urban expansion in most countries seems to pose a threat for the continuity of peri-urban vegetable production. This paper reviews the existing literature on the relationships between urbanization and sustainability of peri-urban vegetable farms in Sub-Saharan Africa. In an attempt to contribute to the understanding on how peri-urban vegetable farming can be sustained in a context of rapid urbanization, the presentation emphasizes the need to analyze peri-urban agriculture by its characteristics and changing dynamics and argues for a conceptualization of its sustainability that encompasses economic, ecological, social as well as land tenure dimensions. This study concludes that given the growing market demands, peri-urban vegetable production has ample opportunities to be sustainable and even grow; but in a context of unplanned urban expansion in poor Sub-Saharan African countries, this optimistic view should not be exaggerated. This presentation underscores some useful insights to decision makers and donors on policies to be taken both at farm, regional and national levels to preserve and integrate peri-urban vegetable production in the urban development process and related intervention programs.

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Building and maintaining culture through wild fermentation in communities of color

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The proposed research poster examines the practice of wild fermentation as it relates to sharing and maintaining aspects of culture. Wild fermentation can be defined as a process in which an agent causes an organic substance to break down into simpler substances and form products like sauerkraut, kimchi and kombucha to name a few. The key research findings illustrated in this poster share the indigenous practice of wild fermentation around the globe that maintain and transmit culture through bringing groups together, maintaining cultural traditions of the past, creating food outside of the agro-industrial complex and supporting local and sustainable food systems. These practices are rich with community building techniques that are not fully understood or documented in academia. Culture is often defined as the art of collective human intellectual achievement. We hope, in this project, to share the revolutionary agricultural practices that has been maintained and undervalued across time in communities of color in an effort to re-center its history and challenge the cultural appropriation of this art. This poster shares the intellection cooperation in communities of color across the globe that make wild fermentation a key component in the connections to the other forms of life that are around us and that constitute a just and culturally competent food system.

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