## Public Extension Support to Urban Farming

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## Understanding Urban Farming / Urban Agriculture

According to the KCCA Urban Agricultural Ordinance 2006,

"urban agriculture" means the practice of growing crops, aromatic plants, herbs, spices and ornamentals; and the rearing of fish, poultry and livestock for food, income, environment management and medicine in and around the Cities, Towns & urban environments; and includes the processing and marketing of such products.

## **Urban Farming Operations & Outputs**

### **Production**

- Crops
- Livestock
- Fish

## Processing / Value addition

 Ranging from mere washing of products to changing of the product state

### Marketing

- Physical
- Online
- From Farm gate to common markets both local & export

Nutritious & fresh foods

Food availability

Household Incomes

Reduced expenditures

Greater
Social
inclusion.
Employment
opportunities

Improves the environment by reduce both the agricultural energy footprint

# Disruption and shocks of the natural calamities that have affected Urban farming operations

- What have been the disruption and shocks of the natural calamities?
- Important to note that some of the UF operations are greatly depended on inputs outside the urban centers.
- Therefore, any disruption in this supply, directly affects the UF operations
- Climate Change Natural hazards including;-
  - Floods: Rise lake levels,
  - Landslides: (destruction of arable land),
  - Drought (Inadequate water supply for crops & livestock)
  - Pests and Diseases (for both crops, livestock & human)
- Any kind of natural hazzards will inevitably disrupt the country's, supply of inputs for urban agriculture (Region & global demand & supply chains, will either be Halted / paused or postponed deliveries, closed ports & canceled cargo flights).
- And this, ultimately impacts the consumer as well. Recovery can be time-consuming, expensive.

## Affected Linkages

### Rural

Floods; Landslides; Drought; Pests and Diseases
These disrupt the supply of inputs to the urban farming activities.

### <u>Examples</u>

### **Poor Road infrastructure hinders**

Transportation of raw materials for livestock feed

### Crop failure leads to

Expensive raw material for livestock.

These adverse impacts may sometimes be fatal to the production operations and result in them being forced to close down. Urban



### Regional

### **Closed borders restrains**

- Importation of farm inputs e.g quality chicks, mushroom substrate,
- In availability of Suppliers of inputs leading to continued failure of enterprises e.g poultry, dairy & Piggery, fish farming & mushrooms,

### **Closed airports restrains**

- importation of food processing materials
- Semen
- Export of fish products

## KCCA's Approach

## Extension staff at all 5 Divisions

- Agriculture and Agribusiness
- Animal Production
- Fisheries and Aquaculture

## Establishment of Agricultural Resource Centre at Kyanja and model farmers

- Farmer training
- Demonstration of Urban farming Technologies
- Production of farm inputs ( seedlings ,piglets , brooded chicks)
- Model farmers in communities attach 30 farmers per model home)

## Innovative methods and policy

- Use of farmer forums in parishes for community mobilization and sensitization
- Deployment of 45 I- serve Graduate volunteers for follow up farm visits and data collection
- Urban farming ordinances in place to guide and regulate practice

## Different coping and thriving strategies adopted

What have been the different coping and thriving strategies adopted by you to ensure that you perform?

Hazzard	Impact	Coping strategy
Pests & Diseases	<ul><li>Loss of livestock (Poultry &amp; pigs)</li><li>Loss of Crops</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Quarantine measures at farmers' production sites, and encourage hygiene measure at the farms</li> <li>Developed models for appropriation production structures</li> <li>Empowering &amp; Encouraging farmers to undertake and adhere to recommended vaccination schedules</li> <li>Introducing new production technologies through Model farmers.</li> </ul>
Drought	Insufficient water for production	<ul> <li>Promoting micro-gardens that use less water &amp; waste water</li> <li>Using water from NWSC (efficient but not Sustainable)</li> <li>Use of simple irrigation systems (Pitcher)</li> </ul>
	High cost of water for production	<ul> <li>Promotion of rain water harvesting</li> <li>Using efficient production systems (e.g automatic drinkers, sprayers &amp; foggers)</li> </ul>
Cross cutting strategies		Online Extension service provisions- KCCA piloting a system
		Supporting the "Backyard Farmers' cooperative" which empowers farmers with inputs, soft loans and market access, group marketing.  All City Divisions have producer cooperatives

# New opportunities manifesting out of the disruption and shocks.

What have been the new opportunities manifesting out of the disruption and shocks of the natural calamities?

- Environmental Scientists have developed a Water Saving Irrigation Systems (WaSIS).
- Availability of Water recycling Technologies e.g. Aquaponics & Hydroponics, to promote commercial micro-gardens
- Araciality of Disease resistant varieties on market
- Existence of Kyanja ARC, which supplies quality inputs (assorted seedlings, kroilers, piglets, both liquid & solid manure),
- Availability of Govt funded programme which target Urban farmers
   K-Smart App.

## Recommendations for priority actions within the new normal.

What are the recommendations for priority changes within the new normal?.

- Set up model farmers in Each Division of Kampala.
- Create a Data base for Agricultural & Agribusiness Service providers, for ease of reference to farmers
- Setting up U-Tube / online channels for continued information dissemination of urban Agricultural Technologies
- Continuous sensitization