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Examining Factors Affecting the Integration of Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture into Urban Development Plans and Physical Designs: A Case Study of City Planners and Urban Agricultural Practitioners in Kampala District

Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture (UPA) is practiced worldwide in cities of developed and developing countries. An estimated one billion people are engaged in urban agriculture worldwide (UNDP, 1996). Its contributions to urban food security, urban economy and city ecology have been recognised and cannot be underestimated. Until 2006, agriculture in Kampala was prohibitive and, therefore, was not recognised by many policies and planning frameworks. Since its formalisation in 2006 through enactment of the Kampala City Council Urban Agriculture Ordinance – 2006, urban agriculture has remained invisible even within the planning framework of Kampala City Council. One of the challenges faced by UPA is institutionalisation within the diverse urban and national planning frameworks. Urban planners and policy makers often lack information and are challenged with facilitation of the practice for its integration into urban development plans and designs. The study set out to examine the factors that affect the integration of UPA into Kampala District Developmental Plans and Designs. It examined the practice of UPA within Kampala District, identified the role of UPA in the development of the city, established factors that influence the integration of UPA into Kampala District/City development plans and designs and identified the potential strategies for integrating UPA into urban development plans and designs. A case study design was chosen because the focus of the study was on Kampala City Council as an institution. The study was purely qualitative because it sought to deeply understand the various factors at play responsible for the integration of UPA into urban plans and designs, this required lengthy discussions. Document review, key informant interviews with Kampala District and national level stakeholders, and focus group discussions and in depth interviews with farmers were used. The study area was Kampala District (Banda and Komamboga parishes) under three categories. The findings revealed the independent and uncoordinated planning system of Kampala City Council that limits networking and collaboration across the different departments to allow harmonisation of activities for implementation. UPA has, therefore, remained an issue of the responsible department and development of this sub-sector is becoming a challenge. The findings also revealed the lack of knowledge and the negative attitude of some city authorities on UPA is a serious hindering factor to the institutionalisation of UPA within the Kampala City Council planning and budgetary framework. Several factors at play include: lack of political will, limited information on urban agriculture to guide planning, non-recognition of UPA by numerous policies and absence of a national urban agriculture policy. The possibility of institutionalising UPA within the planning system of KCC is mainly constrained by the negative attitude of the practitioners about the practice. There is need for awareness creation of the diverse stakeholders on the magnitude and on the socio-economic contribution of UPA. Kampala City Council (KCC) needs to shift from the disintegrated planning to integrated participatory planning processes to enable institutionalisation of UPA within its planning and budget framework processes.

Key words: Urban, Peri-Urban, Integration, Plans, Development