

Growing Green Cities Symposium

The social benefits of urban agriculture

June 08, 2018, Almere, the Netherlands

'**Growing Green Cities**' is the theme of the **International Horticultural Exhibition 'Expo 2022 Floriade Almere'**. The **Growing Green Cities Symposium** is part of a five years multidisciplinary and multicultural knowledge exchange program bringing together international professionals within the field of science, business and government to discuss topics such as the importance of urban green spaces, adequate and safe food production, responsible use of natural resources as well as green architecture with the aim to develop more sustainable and livable cities.

Urban agriculture projects have positive social impacts for the citizens independent on the different motivations in establishing the projects or the cultural background. They always contribute to a better city climate, food security and health of the citizens and are essential for establishing a livable city.

The social benefits caused by urban agriculture projects can be very different: **Environmental & Health** (Temperature, Air Quality), **Food Security and Health** (A contribution to local food security, Health / Educational (Teach the younger generation the importance of a healthy food habit)), **Others** (Community Building, Recreational Space)

The objective of the first Growing Green Cities Symposium is to discuss the **social benefits of urban agriculture** based on practical experiences of cities from North America and Europe. The anticipated social effects of urban agriculture projects will be discussed from the perspectives of a global, increasingly urbanisation and different cultural and social structures.

The objective for the symposium is to match the different motivations to establish urban agriculture projects.

France, Paris

The project for the **Paris** urban area, called 'Le Grand Paris', aims to develop Paris into a more sustainable city in the 21st century. Le Grand Paris is not just focusing on public green spaces and parks but also on urban agriculture to ensure that the people will not lose the contact with nature and the most important basic need food. Beginning in the late 17th century, Paris was nearly agriculturally self-sufficient, and urban farmers known as *maraîchers* (market farmers) pioneered intensive urban farming techniques. Now, urban agriculture is returning thanks to the Green Hand Charter (*Charte Main Verte*).

Canada, Toronto

The **Toronto** Food Policy Council (TFPC) was established in 1991 as a subcommittee of the Board of Health to advise the City of Toronto on food policy issues. The TFPC has been involved in the development of the GrowTO Urban Agriculture Action Plan. The Toronto GrowTO Urban Agriculture Action Plan was endorsed unanimously by Toronto City Council on November 27th, 2012. As a part of the Toronto Food Strategy, urban agriculture is promoted to deal with the issues that relate to accessibility and affordability of fresh and healthy food, sustainability of city, community development, and culture heritage.

Program:

12:00	Registration / light lunch
13:00	Welcome speeches
13:10	Introduction of the Growing Green Cities Symposium
13:15 – 13:45	Key Note: Arna Mackic, architect and founder of Studio L A

13:45 – 14:15	France, Paris: The ‘Charte Main Verte’: Urban Agriculture Projects in Paris Speaker: Joachim Delpech, Direction des Espace Verts et de l’Environment Paris
14:15 – 14:30	Q&A, Discussion
14:30 – 15:00	Break
15:00 – 15:30	The Netherlands, Almere: The contribution of urban agriculture to a vital city Speaker: Dinand Ekkel, Aeres University of Applied Sciences Almere
15:30 – 16:00	Canada, Toronto: The importance of Urban Agriculture Projects for the livability of Toronto Speaker: Lori Stahlbrand, Toronto Food Policy Council
16:00 – 16:30	Plenary Discussion
16:30 – 16:45	Closing remarks
17:00 – 19:00	Reception

Date:	June 08, 2018; 12:00 – 19:00
Location:	Almere, the Netherlands
Moderator:	Dinand Ekkel, Aeres University of Applied Sciences
Organizer:	Aeres University of Applied Sciences, AMS (Amsterdam Institute for Advanced Metropolitan Solutions), Province of Flevoland, City of Almere, Floriade 2022 Amsterdam-Almere
Participants / Guests:	50-70 Experts from science and industry as well as decision-makers
Option: field trip Almere	Sustainable city and urban agriculture projects (district ‘Oosterwold’ and city farm ‘De Kemphaan’). June 7 or June 9, 2018

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