

Development Policies and Urban Agriculture Policies: Monologues and Dialogues between empty spaces and food gardens

Isabela L Tavares*, Gisela da Cunha Viana Leonelli

Abstract

This research aims to understand the role of urban agriculture in urban planning legislation, focussed on urban agriculture initiative's implementation on vacant lots. Through comparative analysis between urban planning policies in multiple scales, it was possible to conclude that the multiple policies on urban agriculture and urban planning are able to converge, but remains as parallels proposals.

Key words:

urban agriculture, urban planning, public policy

Introduction

The physical and demographic growth of cities raises fundamental questions to be discussed by urban planners and public managers. Emergentially, issues of housing, mobility, formal and informal jobs will be discussed along with food security in cities. Besides, the food production, more and more distant from the large cities, creates logistical and environmental challenges regarding transport from the productive environment to the final consumer. Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture (UPA) would be a response to this, as stated in the premises of the New Urban Agenda, defined at the Third United Nations Conference¹ in Quito in 2016, which sees the development of UPA as an option to surpass the urban barriers.

The work will be developed through a comparative analysis of the initiatives to promote urban agriculture in three spheres: supranational, national and municipal. It will be discussed whether there is a connection between the propositions, what can be increased in the municipal policy and what is new in the new legislation published.

Results and Discussion

The introduction of urban agriculture in the international agendas was done through its promotion by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1994, when the special program on food security was presented by the organization, which proposes UPA as an alternative to reduce malnutrition and poverty in urban population².

The Brazilian government, in order to fulfill the global agenda and in line with the Millennial Development Goals (MDGs), develops the Programa Fome Zero (PFZ) in 2001, creating the Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger (MDS). PFZ makes a direct reference to the development of urban and peri-urban agriculture, where the connection between supply and local food production is related to the programs of supply and support to community gardens, with the objective of producing quality food, allowing access of the population to these foods and generate jobs and income³. In 2014 the subsidy for a National Policy for Urban and Peri-

urban Agriculture⁴ is elaborated, which becomes a reference for its development.

In 2016 the Brazilian Report for the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III, was developed. According to the report, although Brazil does not have great expressiveness in the massive urban and peri-urban production of food, experts from various fields of activity believe that the practice is beneficial in the country, both in the food security of urban populations, and in reducing the cost of transporting food. Other factors such as reduced environmental impact caused by transportation, reduction of distance between production and consumption, ease of access and effective contribution to the food supply in the urban environment, were also mentioned.

It would be necessary for the full absorption of urban agriculture policies to revise the legislation that provides the possible places for implementing the practice. In this way it would be possible to introduce the compulsory use of multiple properties that do not fulfill their social function and which are characterized as urban voids, as determined by the Estatuto das Cidades.

Conclusions

This work was developed through the analysis in several legislations that promote or regulate UPA at various scales. By definition, urban agriculture can be both a subsistence practice, especially in places where social vulnerability is a critical development factor, as well as income supplementation. Legislation for the promotion of urban agriculture in Brazil is multiple, but still requires a greater dialogue among the multiscale spheres, possibly consolidating the UPA as a vector promoting food security, the right to the city, and the development of sustainable cities.

¹ U.N. Habitat. New urban agenda. Quito declaration on sustainable cities and human settlements for all. **2016**.

² Salmito, A. A mobilização da sociedade no combate à fome. Revista Segurança Alimentar: Um desafio para acabar com a fome no Brasil, ISBN 2147-483647, São Paulo: Editora Perseu Abramo, **2004**. Cap. 5, pp 167-178.

³ Arruda, J. Agricultura Urbana E Peri-Urbana Em Campinas/Sp: Análise Do Programa De Hortas Comunitárias Como Subsídio Para Políticas Públicas, Campinas, **2006**.

⁴ CNAU. Subsídio para uma Política Nacional de Agricultura Urbana Periurbana (PNAUP). *Coletivo Nacional de Agricultura Urbana - CNAU*, **2015**. Pp. 1-15.