



CONNECTIONS AND MISSING LINKS WITHIN URBAN AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FOOD SYSTEMS

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CONNECTIONS AND MISSING LINKS WITHIN URBAN AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FOOD SYSTEMS

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SCIENTIFIC EVENT PARTNERS:

CICS.NOVA - Centro Interdisciplinar de Ciências Sociais Interdisciplinary Centre of Social Sciences – CICS.NOVA

Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas - NOVA FCSH

Av. de Berna, 26 C, Ed. ID. 1069-061 Lisboa | Portugal

Tel: +351 217 908 300 | Ext. 1218 / 1488

www.fcsh.unl.pt | www.cics.nova.fcsh.unl.pt

RUAF-Foundation - Global partnership on sustainable Urban Agriculture and Food systems

Telephone: +31-(0)33-4343003

Postal Address Office : PO Box 357, 3830 AK, Leusden, The Netherlands

Website: www.ruaf.org

E-BOOK COORDINATION:

Delgado, Cecília

cmndelgado@gmail.com

SCIENTIFIC EVENT COORDINATION:

Delgado, Cecilia

cmndelgado@gmail.com

Firmino, Ana

am.firmino@fcsh.unl.pt

Pires, Iva

pimm@fcsh.unl.pt

SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION AND EVENT CONVENERS:

Blay – Palmer, Alison

alison.blaypalmer@gmail.com

Cabannes, Yves

ycabanes@mac.com

Mougeot, Luc

lmougeot@idrc.ca

GRAPHIC DESIGN:

Moreira, Bruno

b.brunomoreira@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTORS:

Adeline Cherqui	Giampiero Mazzocchi	Miguel Mourato
Ana Firmino	Giulia Giacchè	Nubia Santos
Bent Egberg Mikkelsen	Gwenaëlle Raton	Pierre-Henri Bombenger
Cecília Delgado	Isabel Salavisa	Sebastião Santos
Celso Lacatel	Iva Pires	Sophia Skordili
Davide Marino	Maria Ferreiro	Tainan Messina
François-Xavier Viallon	Michael Parkes	Yoann Durrieu

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Food & the City – the role of “green” UA and UG strategies in the urban food strategy movement

Mikkelsen, B. — Author

Abstract

There is a growing interest in place-based approaches to value creation in local and regional food economies in what has been referred to as the Urban Food Strategy (UFS) movement. Developing the identity of cities and regions turning them into arenas for sustainable innovation and at the same time involving citizens and enterprises in new ways has become a popular strategy in cities and regions around the world as a way to brand particular place. Urban gardening, urban farming and other green strategies constitutes important elements in these strategies. Creating innovative urban food eco systems however, requires well planned strategies and participation from a broad range of actors. The paper examines the content of some of the strategies that municipalities and regions have been using to develop the identity of these particular places and suggests a typology of urban food strategy actions including the “growing” components. It uses then the Campus’n Community and the Growing Blue & Green programs to examine how they have contributed to the urban food strategy development in the city of Copenhagen. It finally discusses some of the patterns and principles for how sustainable Urban Food Strategies are shaped and implemented in an interplay between multiple projects and actor.

Keywords

Urban Agriculture; Urban Food Strategies (UFS), policies, projects, stakeholders.

Table 1: Overview of Urban food strategy networks

NETWORK	FOCUS	LINK
Délice	Gastronomy, gastro tourism	http://www.delice-network.com/
Milan Food Pact	Developing sustainable food systems and promoting healthy diets	http://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/
UNESCO Creative Cities	Gastronomy as part of the creative arts such as Crafts & Folk Art, Design, Film, Literature, Music and Media Arts	https://en.unesco.org/creative-cities/home
Eating cities	Social Dialogue for a more Sustainable Food Supply Chains	https://www.eatingcity.org/
CPH food summit	Food waste, food safety, urban strategies, gastronomy	http://bfmp.dk/program-wfs-2018/

Introduction

There is a growing interest in place-based approaches to creating value for local and regional food economies and a growing number of cities has engaged in the Urban Food Strategy (UFS) movement (Moragues et al 2013, Lander et al 2017). The Milan food pact, the Delize multiple city gastronomy network and the Eating cities initiative are examples of such networks. The strategies cover a range of different policy components and deals with a broad range of the elements of food systems of cities such as growing, processing, public procurement and purchasing, distribution, preparation, eating and waste handling. Urban gardening (UG) and Urban Agriculture (UA) are examples of UFS components that aims at greening the city and at the same time contribute to food supply and the development of the identity of cities. Such efforts has led to the creation of an emerging set of dynamics and an intersectorial interplay between stakeholders, project makers and policymakers potentially leading to fruitful city based arenas for sustainable food innovation. So far, few efforts have been made to identify the components in policy and governance perspective. Urban agriculture and gardening as themes has been the themes in various research programs and have been dealt with from different viewpoints and disciplines. Also, there seems to be a gap when it comes to analyse how insight and achievement from different both city base and multiple city based projects have become turned into policies. Based on the some recent development project in Copenhagen the study examine how different actors, projects and policy components blend in to contribute to the formation of an overall food policy in the city of Copenhagen.

Methods

The point of departure is a preliminary analysis of five different international multi-city UFS networks. The five identified networks were: Délice, Milan food pact, UNESCO creative cities, Eating cities and CPH food summit urban food chapter as listed in table 1. All networks takes as a point of departure a place based approach to food strategy making.



A typology summarizing the most significant components were then created to allow for analysis of the most frequent UFS policy components as illustrated in table 2. As a second step the insights from two of food research & development programs - Campus'n Community program (Mikkelsen & Fjeldhammer 2015; Bardus et al 2018) and the Growing Blue & Green aquaponics program (Mikkelsen & Bosire, 2018) an analytical frame was developed for examining the interplay between projects and stakeholders in relation to the food policy development in the city of Copenhagen. In addition, field notes from the planning of the 2017 and 2018 versions of the CPH food summit was used. The analysis aimed at determining how the insights from these urban gardening project informed into the Urban Food Strategy (UFS) development in the city of Copenhagen. The - Campus'n Community program program has been developed in the local neighbourhood of Sydhavn (Southern Harbour) adjacent to Aalborg University, Copenhagen campus. The goal was to use insights from social marketing and participation to develop more sustainable and healthier food realities for the residents with a particular emphasis on a garden area that is shared between the school, 2 kindergartens and the senior house. The program contributes to the civic university strategy that the university has signed and the Municipality of Copenhagen has signed an agreement under the headline of Knowledge Neighbourhood Sydhavn. It aims at strengthening cooperation both in research and higher education. The Campus'n Community program is a contribution to that activity with a particular emphasis on the food environment.

Conceptually the study takes inspiration from three sources: the idea of a civic university, the idea of service learning and the idea of the applied knowledge triangle. The knowledge triangle approach argues that combining the power

of market, education & research can lead to progress in a particular field – in our case add to the dynamics of urban food system development. Building on the idea of the civic university the food studies research of the university aims to take the needs and demands from the local community into account. Finally using the concept of service learning the food studies engage in food projects that cater to the needs of the local community. Using this approach academia in return get the access to real life social problem such as that of the challenges of urban food systems development (Heffernan 2001).

Results

Urban Food Strategies targets a broad range of food related activities in the city. Table 2 list the components that was most frequently find in the activity listing of the different networks. The diversity of the actions taken also give some clue as to the complexity of the task and to the diversity and numbers of different stakeholders that needs to be taken into account – both terms of the development of pilots, projects and policies. Table 2: Urban food strategy policy components identified in the five networks

Table 2

COMPONENT	CONTENT	KEY STAKEHOLDERS
Public food procurement	Public engagement in establishing organic and short chain supply	Catering managers, procurement officials, civil servants, suppliers, wholesaler
Urban school gardening	School gardens as places for teaching. Food literacy training and sourcing of food	Teachers, students, janitors, headmaster, parents
Urban community gardening	Community gardening as a vehicle for social, intergenerational activities, better cohesion and for plant food sourcing. Mainly for leisure rather than economical reasons	Residents, community leaders, citizen groups
Urban farming	Farming activities brought into the city for the purpose of food production with an economical significance	Farmers, civil servants
Collective community dining	Social and commensality focused cooking and dining activities	Voluntary groups,
Street food	Food truck and street food type of dining with co-location of multiple catering outlets.	Caterers, costumers, patrons
Farmers market	Market stalls and infrastructures for the selling of fresh food sourced from peri-urban farmers	Farmers, costumers, civil society organisations, civil servants
Aquaponic installations	Facilities for the integrated aquaculture and hydroponics production	Growers, farmers
Food markets	Co-location of different types of food retailers	Shop keepers, customers
Urban food hubs & incubators	Infrastructure such as offices, labs and kitchens for innovation in the food sector	Start ups, entrepreneurs, knowledge providers, brokers
Food banks	Systems for re-distributing close to sell by foods for charity catering and canteens	Voluntary groups, charity organisations
Fine dining initiatives	Marketing initiatives aimed at branding particular areas and places for the gastronomic assets	Restaurant owners, chefs, cooks, tourism organisations
Food waste initiatives	Strategies and policies aimed at reducing food waste and for collecting and recycling	Retailers, commercial and institutional catering
Food sharing	Community initiatives for sharing close to sell by food	Voluntary groups, community groups, retailers

Discussion

The number of cities engaged in different forms of policy network clearly shows that there is a considerable and growing interest in place based – the tempo/spatial – approaches to understanding food systems. The study suggests that idea of placemaking (Schneekloth & Shibley, 1995) is useful for understanding the urban food strategy movement. Placemaking is an approach to the spatial design of public spaces where their supportiveness when it comes to developing good environments for everyday life activities such as those relate to food – is underlined. The findings also underline the large number of different actors that is and that needs to be engaged in such strategies. As it can be seen from the table, the number of different stakeholders having an interest and contribution to make in UFS development is high. These stakeholder comes from are broad range of different policy, academic and practices areas. Urban planning, educational area, gastronomy and experience and tourism economy and innovation local food economy are some of the fields. These stakeholders are not necessarily well connected across the city. Nonetheless, their cooperation is imperative. It is suggested that creating an eco system in which academia, municipality, small start ups and local community can engage informally can help facilitate the knowledge transfer from project to policies. What can be learnt from the study is that interdisciplinarity is key to successful policy development of urban food eco systems and implementation of city based food strategies. It can also be learnt that outreach from academia to the practitioner, business and policy level is crucial. In particular, it was found that the knowledge triangle trying to bring together young people at different educational levels with local community actors and policy makers can be a powerful strategy in developing urban food strategies and food strategy components. The study also show that there seems to be some tension created in the clash between “foodies” and generalists/strategy and policymakers. This challenge could be addressed for instance by training and capacity building in both types of professions. Also within the different governmental levels and administrative units dealing with food strategies there is a need for closer co-operation. For instance in the municipality studied there are four different municipal departments having a stake in food policy development underlining the need for inter-sectorial cooperation. The study findings also points to the need for participatory and citizen driven approaches. Since an urban food policy will and should affect the everyday life of citizens an inclusive approach is critical. In the study, we finally conclude that the innovation efforts in city based food strategies tend to create a whole eco system of projects. But since projects are both fragile and volatile there needs to be a conversion of the insights into concrete policy initiatives as well as some kind of mobility of the people involved in these projects.

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