

Foodscapes, Agro Ecological Urbanism

Lecture 3

October, 2026

MLA Vilnius Tech

Roxana Triboi &
Jeroen de Vries,
LE:NOTRE Institute,
with material of the AESOP4Food
project

R. Raveel

Roger Raveel, Voor een blauw gelijnde akker en een grijze lucht, 1975

Content

- *Food strategy of Mouans-Sartoux.*
- *Agroecological Urbanism and the difference with traditional planning approaches - Michiel Dehaene*
- *Exploring Agroecological building blocks in a serious game*

Based on

- *Mouans-Sartoux – April 2024*
- *Agroecological Urbanism and the difference with traditional planning approaches - Michiel Dehaene*
- *Food conversations game*

Mouans-Sartoux's food project



Local and organic canteens...



MEAD Sustainable Food Education Centre of Mouans Sartoux...



Self-production...



Facing food precariousness...



Access to healthy and sustainable food..



Reaching the non-participating...



Working with companies...



Focussing on macro-health challenges and cooperating with scientific research...

POUR LES FAMILLES DES ENFANTS SCOLARISÉS
DU CP AU CM2
SUR MOUANS-SARTOUX

PARTICIPEZ À L'ÉTUDE KALI SANTÉ !

en répondant à un questionnaire et en validant la
participation de votre enfant

*Pour comprendre quel est le lien entre
l'alimentation et la santé des enfants*

**ANNÉE SCOLAIRE 2023-2024
SUR LES 3 ÉCOLES DE MOUANS-SARTOUX**

*Réunion et stands d'information à la sortie des écoles
sur la semaine du 19 février 2024*

Financé par



KALI Santé* est une étude scientifique pour **évaluer
l'impact de l'alimentation sur la santé** des enfants

POURQUOI PARTICIPER ?

Portée par la commune de Mouans-Sartoux, cette étude est conduite par
les **médecins professionnels de santé** du Département de santé
publique du Centre Hospitalier Universitaire (CHU) de Nice.

L'**alimentation** équilibrée a montré, chez les adultes,
un **effet protecteur** sur la santé. En participant à Kali Santé vous allez
aider les chercheurs et **mieux comprendre** quels sont les effets de
l'alimentation sur la santé des enfants en prenant en compte
l'alimentation à la maison et à la cantine, l'activité physique, le sommeil...

COMMENT PARTICIPER ?

En **remplissant un questionnaire** : vous allez recevoir un email contenant
des codes permettant de participer anonymement
à partir du 19 février 2024 et jusqu'au 13 mai 2024.

En **donnant votre accord et celui de votre enfant pour** :

- un **relevé** de taille et de poids
- le prélèvement d'une **mèche de cheveux** (en vue d'évaluations futures de
l'exposition à certaines substances de l'environnement)

* Kali Santé : Kids Alimentation Santé

Financé par



Assessing the overall impacts of the food project

3 impact assessment studies :

- Sustainable Canteens Observatory
- Impact assessment based on the « Syalinov method »
- Environmental impacts : Territorial Life Cycle Approach

More info : [here](#)



-50%

for ultra-processed
food



+45%

for organic
products



+26%

for fruits
and vegetables

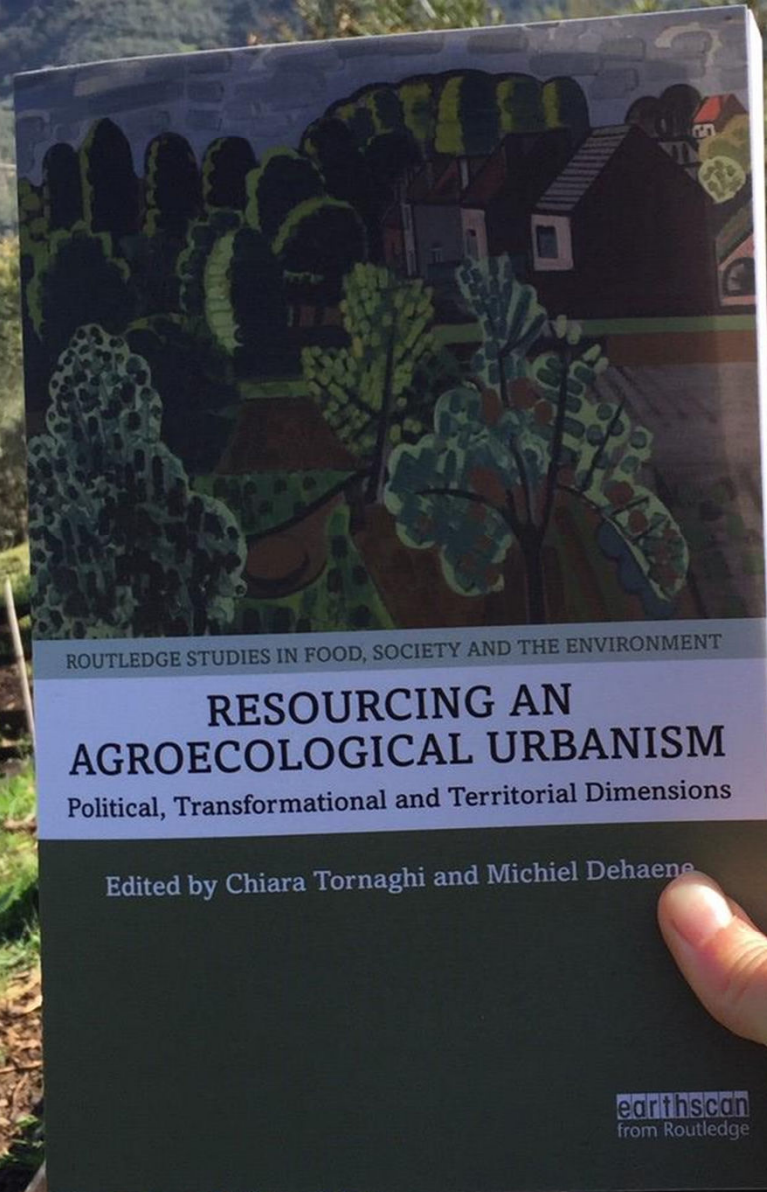


+23%

for legumes

Food-related GHG emissions reduction :

- 26 % on average for those who participated in our activities against -12 % for non participants
- up to - 42 % for the most committed.



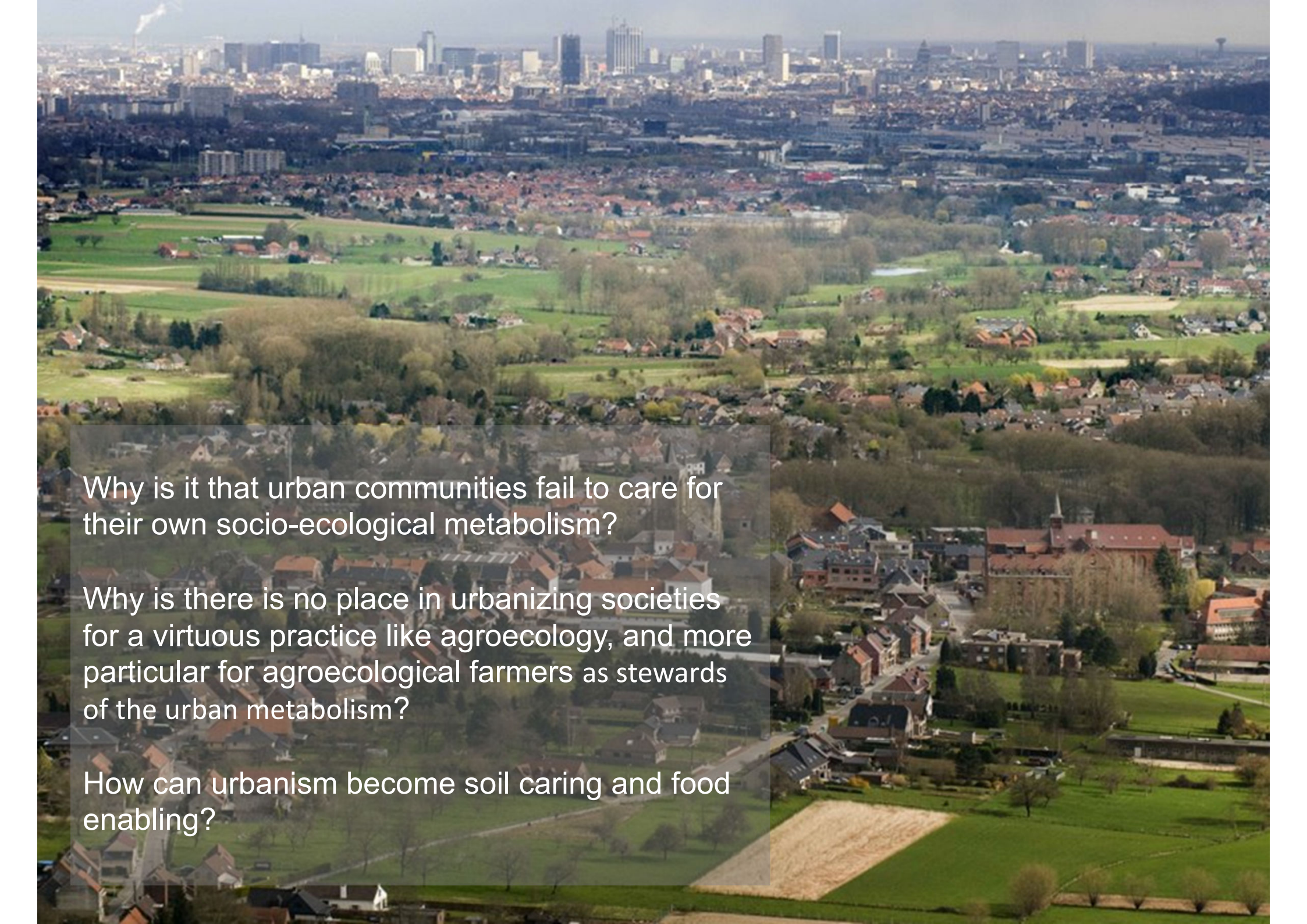
ROUTLEDGE STUDIES IN FOOD, SOCIETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCING AN AGROECOLOGICAL URBANISM

Political, Transformational and Territorial Dimensions

Edited by Chiara Tornaghi and Michiel Dehaene

earthscan
from Routledge

An aerial photograph showing a vast urban landscape. In the background, a dense city skyline with numerous skyscrapers is visible under a hazy sky. The middle ground is filled with a sprawling residential area with many small houses and buildings. In the foreground, there are large green fields, some with trees, and a few scattered houses. The overall scene illustrates the transition from rural to urban environments.

Why is it that urban communities fail to care for their own socio-ecological metabolism?

Why is there is no place in urbanizing societies for a virtuous practice like agroecology, and more particular for agroecological farmers as stewards of the urban metabolism?

How can urbanism become soil caring and food enabling?

2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning

Key challenges for an agroecological urbanism

1) URBAN AND METROPOLITAN EXPANSION ON AGRICULTURAL LAND

- ongoing sale of public farmland and farming infrastructure
- fragmentation of farmland
- farmers isolation and residualisation, rural to urban migration of farmless/landless farmers
- ongoing speculative development: systematic undervaluing of healthy farmlands and over-valuing of speculative opportunities on land

2) THE ROLE OF SOIL IN THE FOOD WATER ENERGY NEXUS

- nutrient depletion, difficult to restore circular soil nutrient cycles in peri-urban contexts
- ongoing soil erosion and contamination
- energy and water challenges

3) GAP: AGROECOLOGY vs. URBAN FOOD COMMUNITIES

- urban food strategies / policies overly focussed on consumption side
- rural imaginaries predominant in agroecology community – little mobilization of agroecological communities in urban contexts

1. Food as an urban question?

2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism and 8 building blocks

Agroecological farmers and cities are insufficiently understanding and finding each other.

How can we move beyond the conversation stoppers that block the identification of shared matters of concern?

Urbanisation destroys agriculture.



Mapa 1: Disminución de unidades hortícolas en zona sudoeste del municipio de Rosario

Territorial coordination of municipal public policy

Cinturón Verde



Working and living on protected farmland

Agricultural Colony Rosario



Building Block

Territorial Food Hub

The territorial food hub is an organisation that is a central component (or node) of a wider agroecological food system or network that operates within, and is closely identified with, a specific neighbourhood or district.

Building Block

Land & Market Access Incubator

The Land & Market Access Incubator develops institutional support for agroecology and coordinates this with an appropriate programme for farmers to access land, skills, infrastructure and markets at the same time.

Building Block

Farming the Fragmented Land

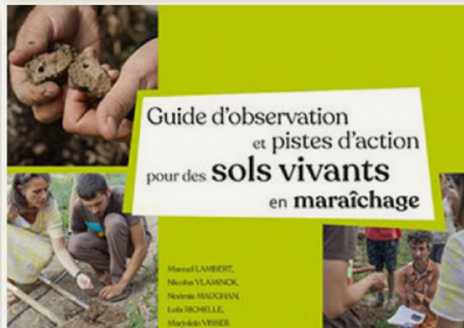
The Farming the Fragmented Land building block calls for new agroecological imaginaries that allow distinctive food growing to transform and thrive in a heavily fragmented territory.

Brussels

Gardening contested lands

Agroecological farmers are less productive but deliver ecosystem services. Let's pay them for those services!

The city is first of all an opportunity to sell my products (at a higher price):



Agroecological farmers are not busy with urbanisation or are mostly confronted by the problems it causes. Cities do not see the farmers and the transformative potential of agroecology.

How can we move beyond the conversation stoppers that block the mobilisation around shared matters of concern?

[Urbanist Community](#)

~~Agroecological farmers are less productive but deliver ecosystem services. Let's pay them for those services!~~

It is good that environmental policies are seeing the ecosystem services that can be derived from nature inclusive and regenerative farming models, such as carbon sequestration, nature or water management. However, exclusive focus on the benefits may distract from the farming model through which services are provided. Sponsoring benefits does not guarantee the transition to sustainable forms of farming. Agroecology is more than a set of tricks, it requires intensive engagement with the local context, and a lasting balance between farmers' production and investment in the regeneration of soil fertility, knowledge, and skills. If we want lasting ecological benefits, let's start caring for the soil carer, beginning with supportive physical and social infrastructure.

[continue the conversation ...](#)

[Urbanist Community](#)

~~The agricultural system is organised (inter)nationally, rendering cities powerless.~~

Food is not an urban question by default, it is only so to the extent that urban communities (re)claim their role. As consumption centres, cities have a high mandate and impact to relocalise the food system. And as responsible authority in many other areas (land policy, green policy, etc.), cities possess many instruments that can also be used for agricultural purposes. How do we rethink these instruments so that they actively support a *local* food system?

[continue the conversation ...](#)

[Agroecological Community](#)

~~Urban agriculture is not agriculture.~~

Yes, some urban farming initiatives are symbolic

[Agroecological Community](#)

~~Agriculture is just a function on the urban land use map that has not been rezoned yet.~~

At present, most cities have no coherent vision on the agricultural land within their jurisdiction. This puts agricultural land in a fragile position. Agroecology has a role to play to turn this around because it has the unique potential to break the conflict between environmental objectives and productive objectives in the open space arena. A growing number of cities realise that they need specific farmers close to the city: to reach ambitious goals around local food production, and to help realise climate policy, to combat the loss of biodiversity, to manage the landscape, and so on. What if agroecology became a matter of public policy?

[continue the conversation ...](#)

[Agroecological Community](#)

~~Let us farm and spare us all the extras.~~

Building a common agenda around an agroecological urbanism is necessary and promising.

Where can we start the conversation between agroecological farmers and cities?

The agroecological park as sheltered space and enabling environment

Here things are different



©Graines de Paysans

The agroecological park is a sanctuary space, shielded from the dominant context, in which other rules can be set and favorable conditions for agroecological farming created. This may come in the form of training, of specific 'test spaces' (as in the Pede Valley in Brussels). This may also come in the form of specific infrastructure (land readjustment, composting facilities, processing facilities, machine sharing); the building of shared management and maintenance capabilities; training and technical assistance; cancellation of unnecessary roads, land readjustment, the reintroduction of hedgerows, and other small landscape elements; water harvesting infrastructure (on and on off farm); etc. Park management may also come with shared marketing strategies, food processing and conservation, shared logistics, labeling etc. (Parc Agrari del Baix Llobregat)

Community Kitchens as Places of Solidarity

Cooperative Housekeeping

"I will now speak of the immense impetus I believe co-operative housekeeping would give to farming, and the revolution it would bring to it. [...] It will be the first aim of the co-operative housekeepers then, [...] to secure for each society a landed interest of its own."

C.F. Pierce, *Cooperative Housekeeping*, 1870

The historical movement for co-operative housekeeping brings the burgeoning reflection of cooperative enterprise of the workers movement into the sphere of domestic work. Pierce's revolution begins in the kitchen and in the de- and reconstruction of the many social, political and economic relations wrapped up in it. Taking control of the kitchen is taking control of the many relations of dependency reproduced in everyday life. Today this translates directly into the decolonial struggle and unexpected forms of solidarity that come out of community kitchens.

A transformative community kitchen based on the principles of agroecology can play a pivotal role in the radical restructuring of the entire food system, including both relations with producers (near and afar) and urban consumers. By accessing urban and peri-urban land or liaising with peri-urban farmers they can contribute to develop a territorial food system, mindful of farmers' livelihoods. By making the food broadly accessible, it addresses injustice in the availability of healthy food for all. By cooking and eating together, it can break with patriarchal and individualised approaches to food. By also sourcing food overseas from agroecological farmers, it can make available culturally appropriate food to a wider group of

Building on the effective use of zoning as a counterspeculative measure

Parque Agrario de Fuenlabrada



©Francisco Pérez Molina

Spanish cities have been able to protect farmland on the peri-urban fringe through effective land use instruments and the establishment of so-called agricultural parks. The measures have been reasonably successful in stopping the destruction of agricultural soils (Miralles I Garcia 2015, 2020) but show mixed results when it comes to delivering a transition towards agroecological ways of farming. Many of these agricultural parks are situated within naturally sensitive areas. This provides clear opportunities to link nature development and biodiversity goals to the establishment of conditions in which only certain farming models can thrive. Agroecology can be a gamechanger in such a context, as it is a farming model that can accelerate the evolution towards nature inclusive forms of farming and move beyond the conflict between environmental

An agroecological urbanism requires new transformative projects that redefine social, spatial and political relations.

What are the building blocks around which agroecological farmers and cities can engage together?

Productive Housing Estate

The Productive Housing Estate looks at complementary relationships between housing and food growing spaces. It is set to overcome the latent conflict between the capacity to exercise the right to grow and the right to shelter within an urbanised context.



Healthy Soil Scape

The Healthy Soil Scape relates the practices of soil care to a landscape geography in which nutrient streams can be circulated. It considers the ways in which humans and non-humans look after each other through the medium of soil, and how these caring relationships can be strengthened.



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Landed Community Kitchen

Landed Community Kitchens coordinate large-scale food sourcing, food cooking, and availability of food to large numbers of people. They bridge the gap between agroecological movements and community food initiatives.



Agroecological Park

The (peri-urban) Agroecological Park combines territorial measures to protect land and soil with specific initiatives to facilitate the agroecological cultivation of these protected lands.



Political Pedagogies

The political pedagogies of the agroecological movement are rural in origin and may be reconfigured in ways better fit to address the challenges posed by current processes of urbanisation and the residualisation of agroecological farming.



Farming the Fragmented Land

Farming the Fragmented Land looks at practices that valorize residual patches of land within the complex land mosaic of the peri-urban fringe, building the necessary linkages to resource the landscape beyond the level of the farm.



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When agroecology reorganises your municipality

Urban Centre of Agroecology

ROSARIO

- 1 Agroecological Reference Center (2, 5 has) experimentation and extension in Composting; Free seeds; Aromatic and medicinal garden; Eco-prepared; Native tropical trees and adaptation of seeds to local conditions.
- Modules of micro orchards
- 4 Garden Parks
- 2 Garden Parks under construction
- 6 Productive group gardens
- 3 Green Corridors of the Roads
- 1 Agroindustry of vegetable processing
- 600 young people who are training in ecological garden
- 3500 Micro Huertas on terraces and balconies
- 6000 Families participate in the Home Garden cycles
- 1 Mobile cart of the Orchard at home in the neighborhoods
- 6 Fairs (700 Annual fairs)
- 2 Biomarkets
- 40 Schools work in Educational Gardens
- 2 Demonstration gardens in public spaces
- 1 Demonstration kitchen garden in the post-prison service
- 1 Orchard in jail
- 1 Kitchen garden in the center of assisted freedom
- 2 Healthy Gardens in Public Hospitals
- 1 Agroecological Nursery

"Agroecology demands the complete reorganisation of municipalities. People from social economy, food production, the environment, health and planning, they all have to work as

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Building Block: [Landed Community Kitchen](#)

No agroecology without decolonisation

Granville Community Kitchen

"It is that big ecology of care, I would also say it's a queering ecology. And by queer I mean about disrupting and dismantling white European straight male frameworks and contexts. And so we are decolonial in practice, and we go beyond just being feminists, as I said we're queer and spiritual because a lot of us are coming with spiritual practices and beliefs. And so for us that solidarity is collective in arriving at collective understanding and values and each others offering something."

Deirdre Woods, Granville Community Kitchen

The foundations of the modern agri-food system are in European colonial projects that have violently tried to destroy indigenous land, land practices and foodways. And so disrupting and dismantling white-supremacist, patriarchal and euro-centric knowledge structures is integral to forming agroecological economies and localised distribution networks. In terms of developing urban agroecologies, this includes the binaries of human vs. nature, urban vs. rural that underlie urban hegemonies and limit the ways of imagining and developing cities as agroecological places. Practices that support the collapsing of historical binaries, through processes of political contextualisation of urban life, re-humanisation, and positive identity formation, are critical to developing urban agroecologies.

Building Block: [Political Pedagogies](#)

Building on the effective use of zoning as a counterspeculative measure

Parque Agrario de Fuenlabrada

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

Three pathways

- Interrupting Logics of Substitution
- Embodying an ecology of care and more-than-human solidarities
- Building Resourceful Communities through Empowering Infrastructure



**Building
Blocks for an
Agroecological
Urbanism**

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

Interrupting logics of substitution

- post-capitalist and neo-liberal urbanism
- protection of use value / counter speculative measures
- environmental and spatial justice
- cultivating difference and diversity

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

Ecologies of Care and More-than-human Solidarities

- care as a disruptive practice / post-productivist practice
- humans as 'critters' of the soil, as care dependent animals in the web of life
- collective interdependence beyond the human
- Land sharing/Community Land Trusts (CLT)
- Skills sharing/skills buildings
- Community resourcefulness
 - territorial food hub
 - healthy soil scape
 - community kitchen

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

Building Resourceful Communities through Empowering Infrastructure

- agroecology as urban public policy
- seeing what is 'free' for dominant farming model and hard to resource for alternative models
- urban 'permanent improvements' as decommodified assets
- the collective investment and labor involved in maintenance

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Landed Community Kitchen

AUTHOR: CHIARA TORNAGHI

The Landed Community Kitchen addresses the gap between social movements promoting agroecology and food sovereignty, which are overfocused on the reality and livelihood of farmers, on the one hand, and community initiatives and policy discourses focused on food poverty, food justice and urban food policies, which often overlook the role and lives of farmers. The Landed Community Kitchen is (1) land-based and as much as possible provides food sourced from agroecological growers, (2) enables community empowerment and reskilling (3) seeks to transform the broader food system to ensure access to healthy food and dignified livelihoods.

Why the Landed Community Kitchen?

Building bridges between initiatives driven by food sovereignty and food poverty

Community kitchens exist in many forms. Some are institution-led (such as school, prison or hospital canteens) and some are society-led (such as factory canteens, church soup kitchens, or kitchens within collective spaces). Community kitchens coordinate large-scale food sourcing, food cooking, and availability of food to large numbers of people. Not all kitchens aim to subvert the food system, but a few of them have progressive aims. They are born out of care and solidarity aims and are focused on transforming some aspects of the food system: be it how you source the food, who cooks it, who can access it, and at what price — if there is a price at all.

The Landed Community Kitchen addresses the the gap between social movements

Vision & Strategies



Community kitchens exist today in many forms. From charity-led or church-led approaches (mostly soup kitchens), to self-organised self-help kitchens. In its idealised form the Landed Community Kitchen combines three ambitions:

1. It is a land-based and agroecology-based kitchen: land-based means that it not only sources the food externally from agroecological farmers, but that it does also grow food to some extent (and hence it provides an opportunity to learn about the whole cycle of food from soil care to plant growing, to harvesting, to cooking). The food that is sourced externally comes as much as possible from agroecological farmers in the territory/locality (so, organic short-food-chain produce), and from agroecological farmers overseas when culturally appropriate food cannot be grown locally.
2. The kitchen has a political pedagogies programme focussed on community empowerment (for example promoting decolonial awareness and action, i.e. antipatriarchy, anticapitalism, anti hetero-normativity, knowledge on history of food, exploitation in the food system, etc.) and reskilling (around soil care, plants growing, food cooking and food-based medicine).
3. The kitchen is actively seeking to transform the broader food system, and particularly issues of broader access to healthy food, and dignified livelihoods, by actively seeking to build alternative economies, rather than just food provision for a small group of members.

The Landed Community Kitchen we imagine is a place that integrates agroecological food growing, community composting, food cooking facilities and political pedagogies for transforming the food system. It works as a food hub, possibly run as a community interest company, to provide both, reskilling opportunities across the board, from field to fork (agroecological food growing skills, soil care training, multi-cultural cooking skills and decolonial, ecologically sustainable food system education) and sustainable, seasonal and affordable healthy meals to eat locally or take away.

We imagine the community kitchen to be present in local communities as much as primary schools are, to be run by local community groups (in an intersection of diversity of belonging, identities and ages) and to be participated and supported in a variety of ways (funding, logistics, time, social programmes) by local businesses, schools, local councils and the broader community. The on-site food growing and composting would

3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

EXAMPLE: Political Pedagogies BB

Background:

- Farmer-to-farmer training, *dialogos de saberes*, and other horizontal forms of knowledge exchange are central in the **political strategies** of territorially grounded agroecological movements
- Training and learning have been central to **farmers resilience** (i.e. Cuba)
- importance of political pedagogies beyond farmer's immediate needs: used as tools for gaining political traction, **building alliances** with consumers and other communities with a certain territory (i.e. '*extension inversa*')
- Rural-oriented pedagogies: the content of agroecological schools and farmers-led learning networks, however, have been **overly focused on rural experiences**, practices and challenges.



3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

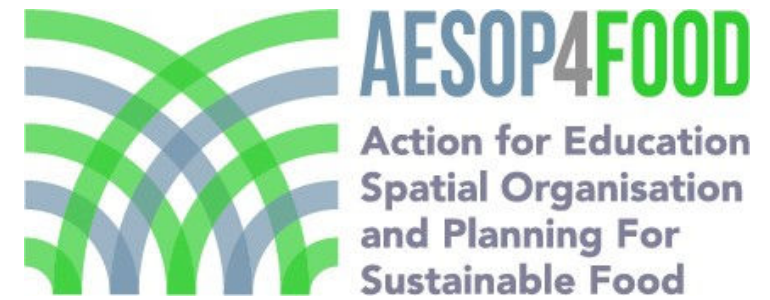
EXAMPLE: Political Pedagogies BB

Key challenges of BB:

- Urban specific challenges need specific learning and strategizing: especially around access to land-housing; urban finance/funding; urban infrastructures; educating consumers
- How can cities become place in which agroecological food production can thrive?
- How can agroecological farmers take up a role as stewards of the resources needed for agroecological farming (starting with soils)?
- How can agroecological farmers become part of urban political constituency?
- How can agroecological farming be valued in an urban context and be sheltered from urban speculation?



What next?



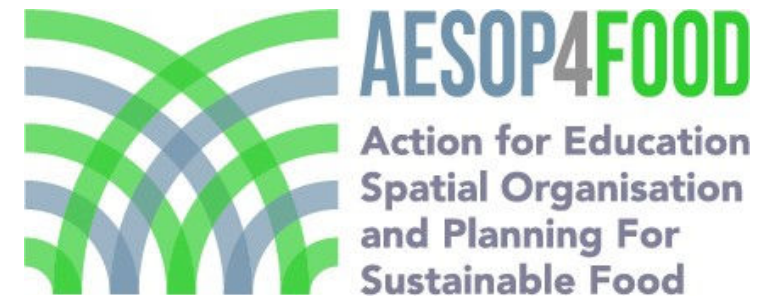
**Every spatial planner, urban planner,
landscape architect, food planner needs:**

**to find his/her own position in the planning
process**

&

**select suitable pathways and building blocks
for the planning domain, area or project.**

Assignment



agroecology Alternative
urbanism climate change
commons conference food justice food planning
food sovereignty food
strategies heterodox economics
permaculture post-carbon city resilience
resourcefulness solidarity economy
sustainable food
planning



Let's play a game!

The question for Lazdynai

How could the former greenhouse site support a sustainable food system for Vilnius?



**work with real boundaries,
access and land control**



**connect Lazdynėliai and Bukčiai
to a productive landscape**



**connect producers, food
infrastructure and public
institutions**

Your task: build one credible scenario and show who can make it happen.

The mission and the one rule

Build one credible scenario for the former greenhouse site with six card families.

PLACE	where the system lands
CHALLENGE	what reinforces the problem
ACTOR	users and decision-makers
INFRASTRUCTURE	capacity to adapt and connect
ACTION	a first move and structural change
FLOW	what moves and who controls it

ONE RULE

Every action must answer a challenge and connect a place, an actor and a flow.



The selection recipe

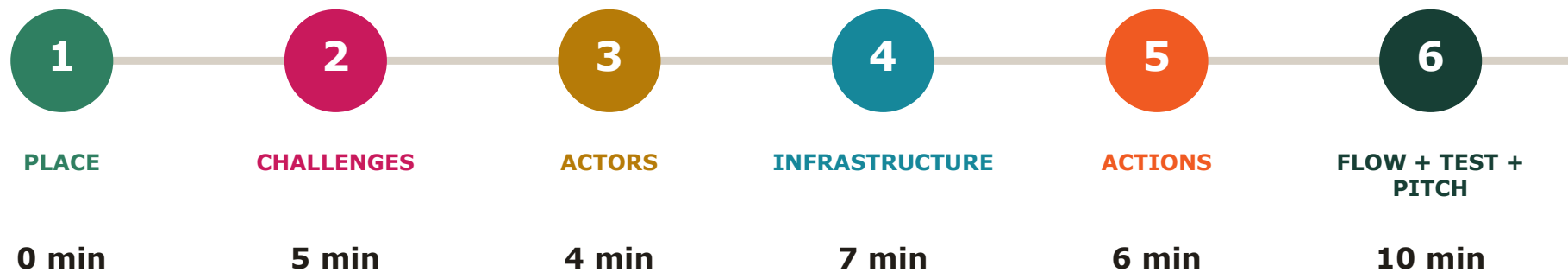
Start from the Lazdynai brief. Choose only what the scenario needs.

- | | | | | | |
|----------|---|----------|--|----------|---|
| 1 | PLACE
former greenhouse site
and its food-system links | 2 | CHALLENGES
two pressures that
reinforce one another | 4 | ACTORS
user, operator, food-chain
actor and decision-maker |
| 2 | INFRASTRUCTURES
adapt one and create or
connect one | 2 | ACTIONS
one 90-day move and one
structural move | 3 | FLOWS
name what moves and
who controls it |

Name the Agroecological Urbanism building block and record who holds decision power.

35 minutes in six moves

31 minutes of working time + 4 minutes for setup and transitions.



OUTPUT

1 place, 2 challenges, 4 actors, 2 infrastructures, 2 actions, 3 flows

The four tests before the pitch

Test the scenario against the real conditions of Lazdynai.



ACCESS

Who can reach and use it? What makes access practical?



ECOLOGY

What does it restore? What energy, water or soil burden remains?



POWER

Who decides? Who is heard? What remains contested?



FEASIBILITY

Who controls the land? What can start within 90 days?

The pitch must include the unresolved decision.

Example: a greenhouse commons in Lazdynai

One possible answer, included to show the level of detail.

PLACE

Former greenhouse site and two nearby neighbourhoods

CHALLENGE

Unclear land control and no practical link to regional producers

ACTORS

Residents, municipal planner, landholder and producer cooperative

INFRASTRUCTURE

Modular growing space, neighbourhood hub and weekly delivery point

ACTION

A 90-day open-site pilot with one market day and a shared growing cycle

FLOW

Produce, people and data move in. Compost and revenue return.



OPEN DECISION: Who secures land access and funds the first safe structure?