



# AESOP4Food

## *Sustainable Food Planning Seminar*

### *Second session*

PHASE I / 2024

*March 7, 2024*



*This session will be recorded, so if you do not want to be seen you need to switch of your camera.*

*the interactive part and the Q&A will NOT be recorded.*

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

# Agenda March 7, 2024



*Introduction and recap Jeroen de Vries*

*Challenges and background in governance – Jeroen de Vries*

*Agroecological Urbanism and the difference with traditional planning approaches - Michiel Dehaene*

*Getting to know each other, session in breakoutrooms: for living labs and separate for those who are participating in lecture mode.*

*Concluding remarks, reading for next session, outlook on the phase on Foodsystem mapping*

# Damien Conaré

## the limits of an industrialised food system



### Health

- . 850 million undernourished – 1.5 billion overweight – 300 million diabetes type 2
- . “nutrition transition”: shift to processed foods (richer in salt, sugar and saturated fats) often less nutritious

### Socio-economic

- . maximize efficiency gains vs. distributional concerns
- . regional hyper-specialization
- . creation of giant agri-food corporations
- . precarious working conditions

### Environment

- . soil degradation
- . water shortages
- . biodiversity loss
- . waste and losses
- . pollutions, GHG emissions



# Damien Conaré a multiform distancing

- **political:** loss of control by citizens over their food system  
(asymmetry with more powerful actors)
- **economic:** multiplication of intermediaries between farmers and consumers to circulate, process, store and distribute food
- **geographical:** distancing from production areas (urban sprawl + low shipping costs)
- **cognitive:** loss of contact between city dwellers and farmers, and lack of knowledge about the world of agriculture and food  
(generates 'eater anxiety')



# Agroecology

Application of ecological principles to the study, design and management of agroecosystems that are

- both productive and natural resource conserving
- culturally sensitive
- socially just
- economically viable

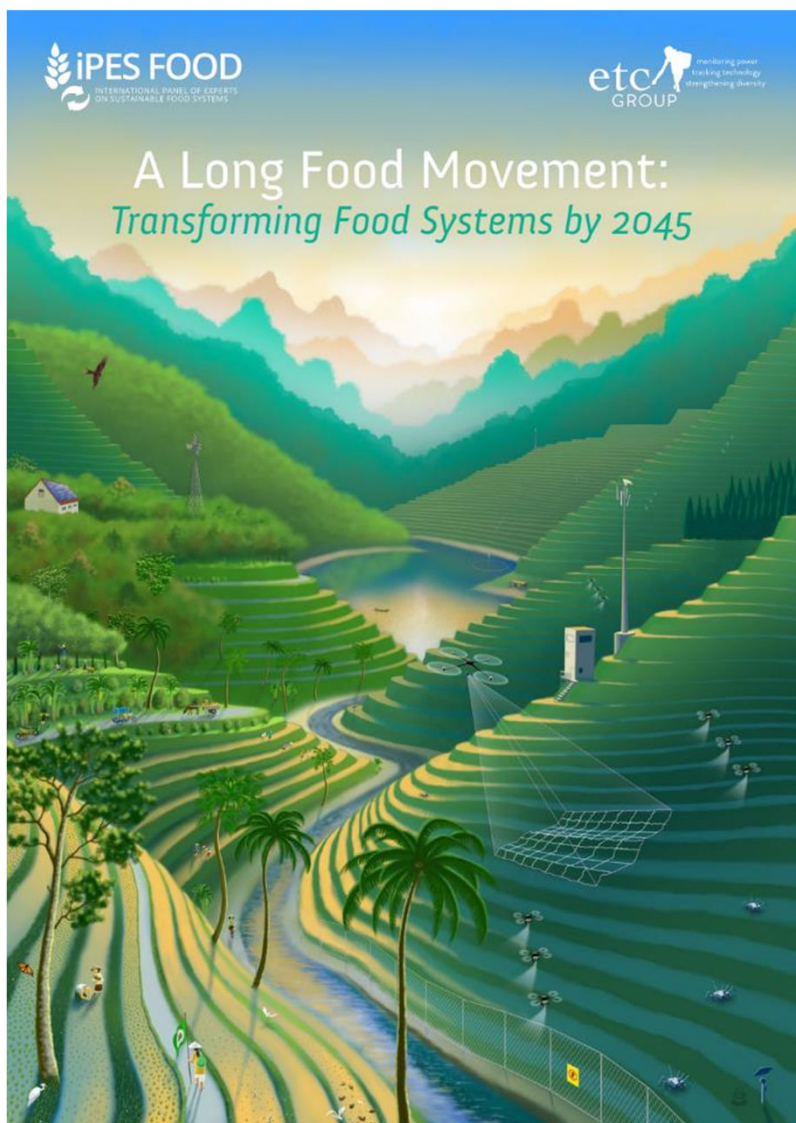
*Altieri and Toledo 2011; Gliessman 2012; Fernandez et al. 2013.*

# Tornaghi (2016) – food justice

1. *The right to grow food in urban contexts*, as an expression of a fundamental control over the culturally and ethically informed practices that govern our own nutrition.
2. *The right to access cultivable land and to care for it in common*, questioning the ethic of private property rights specifically when they go hand in hand with the depletion of natural resources fundamental for our social reproduction.
3. *The right to urban metabolism and nutrients sovereignty*: the right to cultivate, harvest water and recycle nutrients for growing food sustainably.
4. *The right to harvest, share, trade and initiate processes for reshaping the food system* driven by the values of solidarity and equality.
5. *The right to live in urban environments that enable the retention and expansion of traditional and innovative knowledge on food growing, food preparation, and on the medicinal and nutritional properties of food.*

# Tornaghi (2016) – three strategies

1. enhancing the reflexivity and cohesion of the urban food movement by articulating a challenge to neoliberal urbanism
  - aesthetics of green areas, how the food market works, regulations between rural and urban, and foraging, cooking and eating.
2. converging urban and agrarian food justice struggles by shaping urban agroecology
  - a praxis, political dialogue and future planning approach -> elaborated later as an 'agroecological urbanism'.
3. regaining control over social reproduction by engaging with food commoning
  - Access to and management of land, locally produce and process food -> urban commons



## Two scenarios

Looking ahead to 2045:  
Agribusiness-as-Usual

Looking ahead to 2045: Civil society  
as Unusual



## Four pathways

Rooting food systems in diversity,  
agroecology, and human rights

Transforming governance  
structures

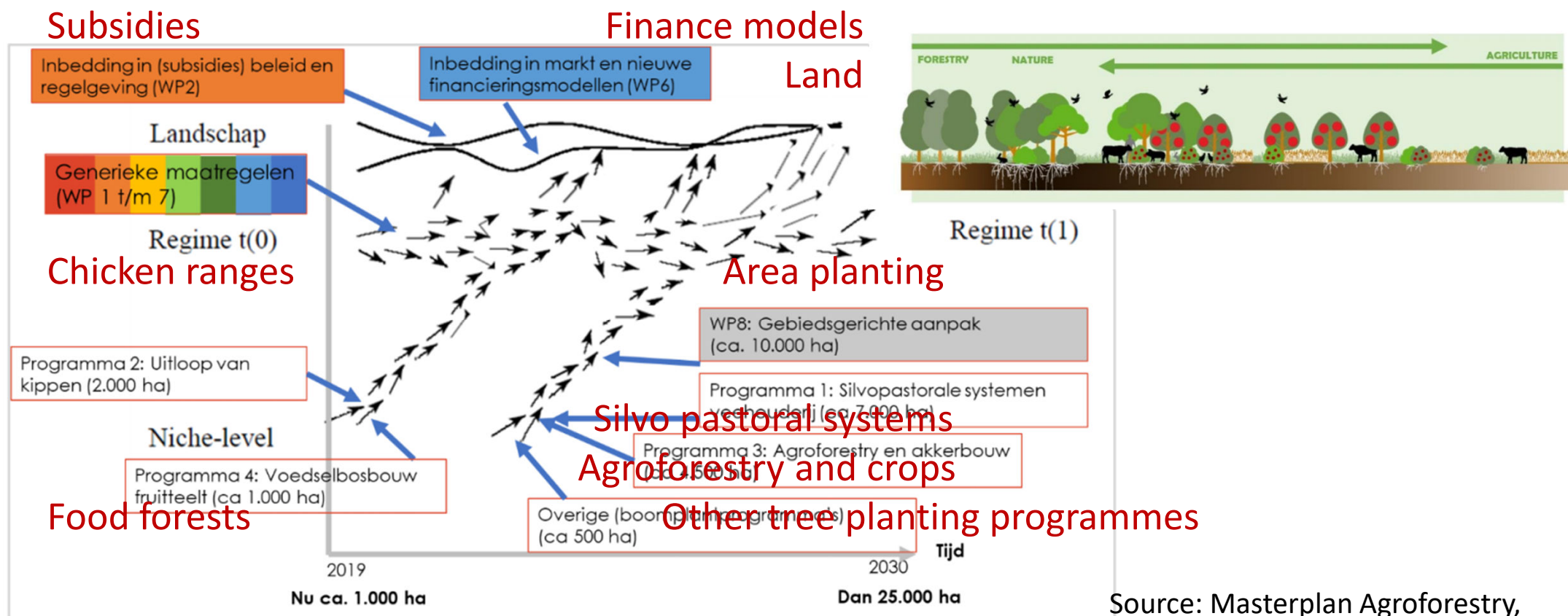
Shifting financial flows

Rethinking the modalities of civil  
society collaboration

<http://www.ipes-food.org/pages/LongFoodMovement>



# Multi-level perspective on transitions: NL



Source: Masterplan Agroforestry, 2020, for the Dutch Government,

# Poll on local food production

Give an example in which case  
local food production  
is NOT sustainable?

*Social*

*Environmental*

*Economic*

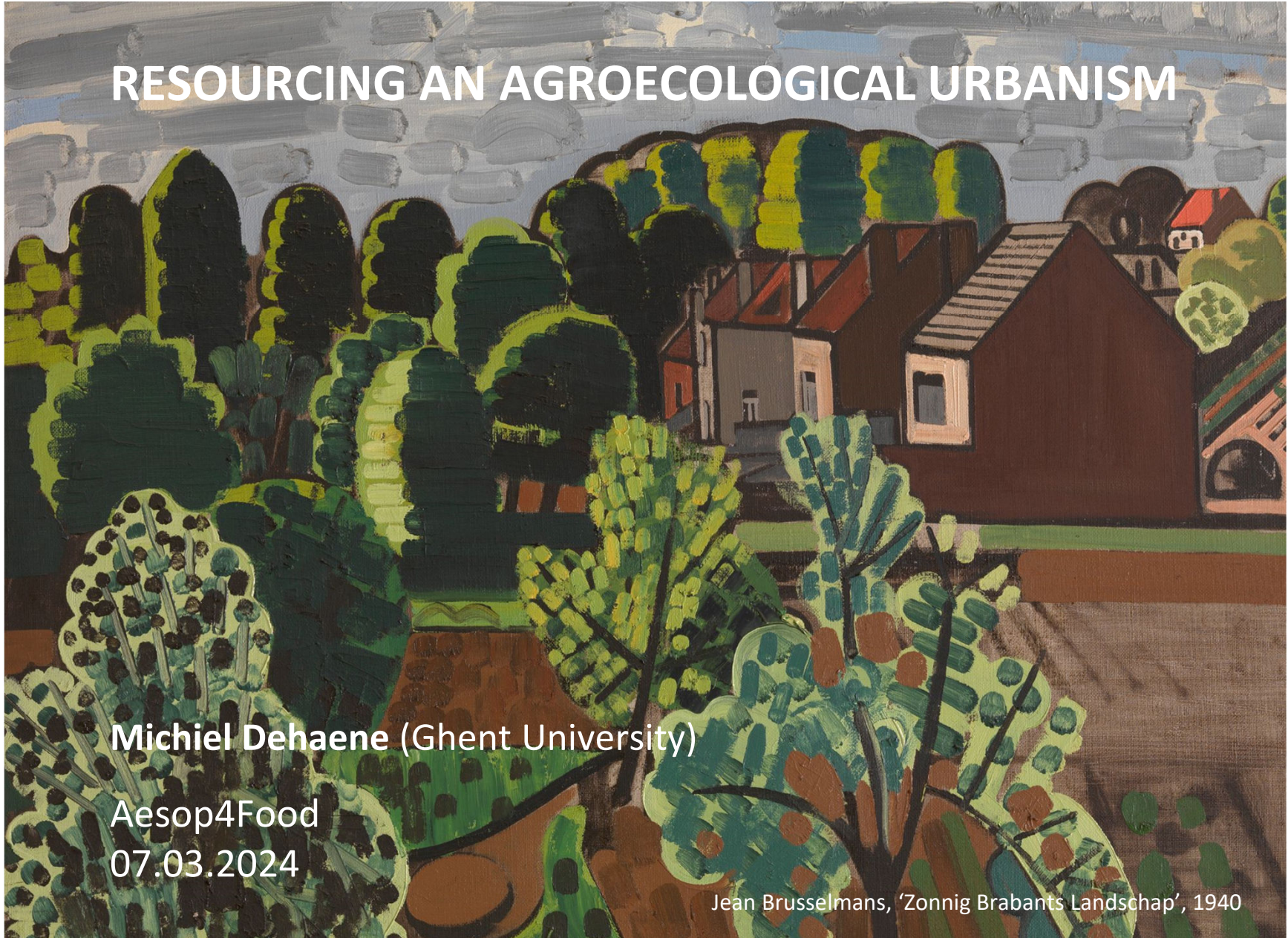


# RESOURCING AN AGROECOLOGICAL URBANISM

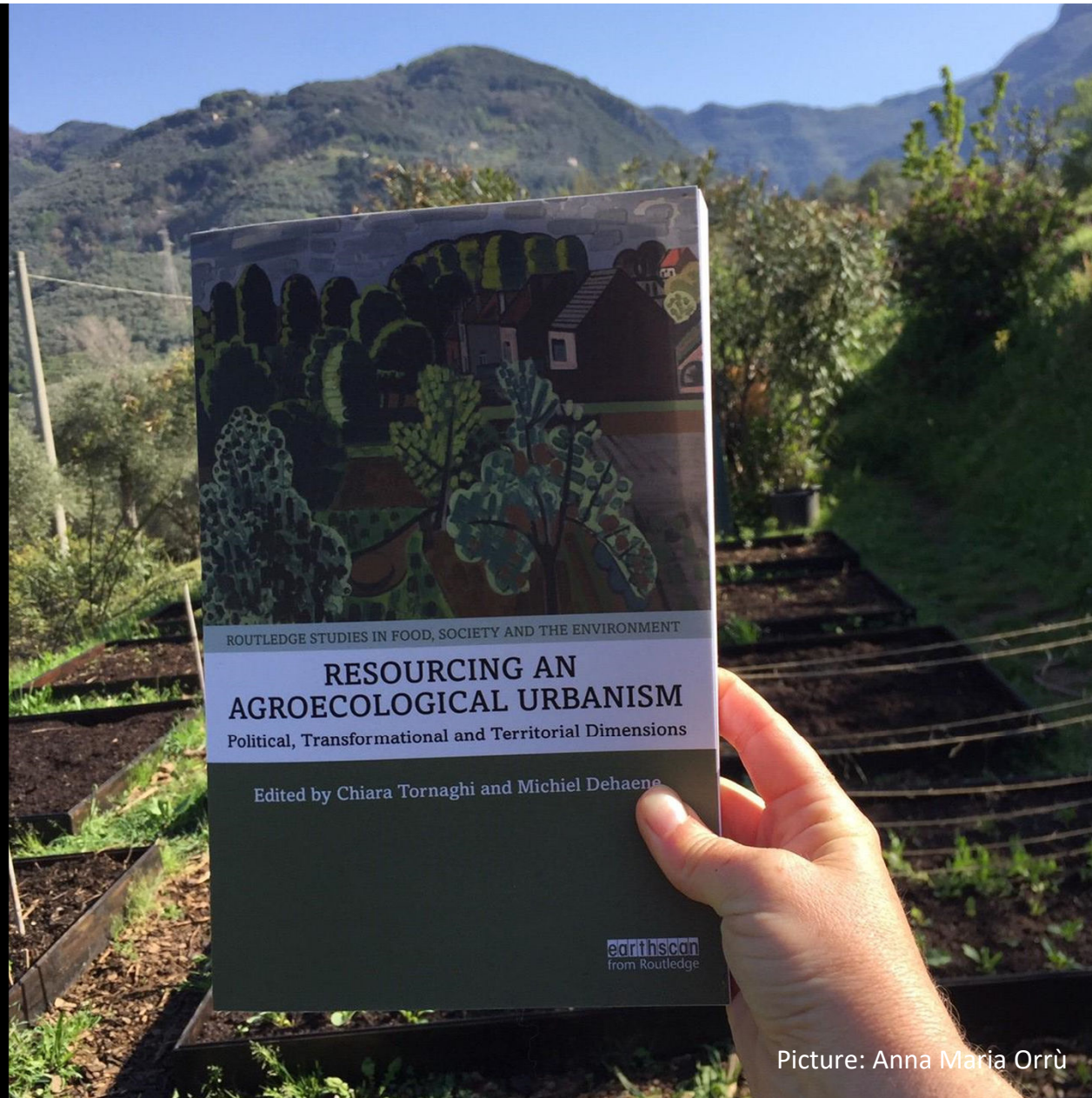
Michiel Dehaene (Ghent University)

Aesop4Food  
07.03.2024

Jean Brusselmans, 'Zonnig Brabants Landschap', 1940







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

Picture: Anna Maria Orrù

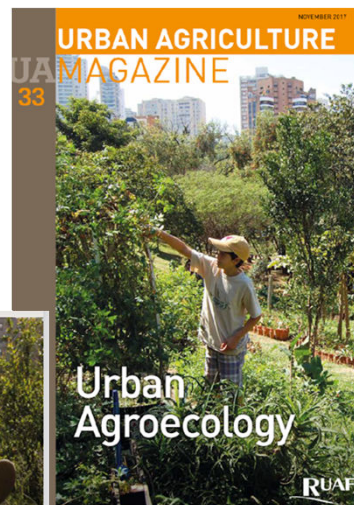
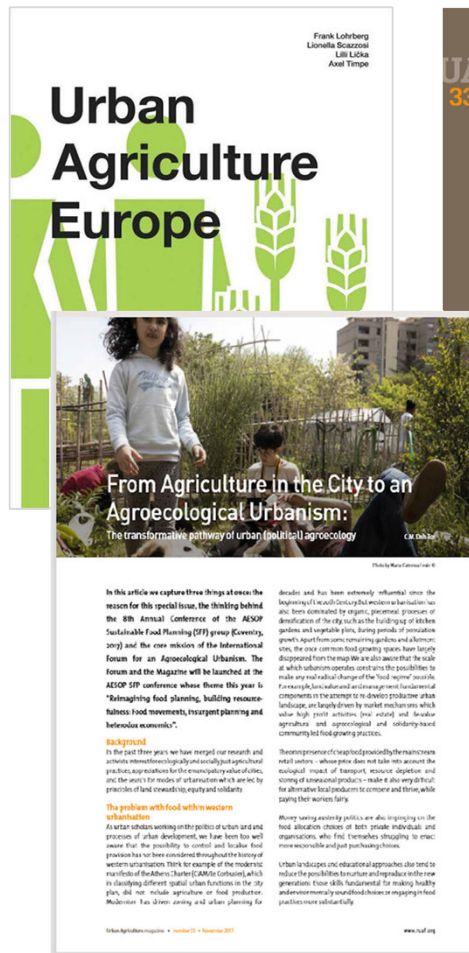




FOOD DISABLING CITY (C.TORNAGHI)  
FOOD AS AN URBAN QUESTION (M.DEHAENE)  
THE QUEST FOR AN AGROECOLOGICAL URBANISM



# From Agriculture in the city to an Agroecological Urbanism



AGROECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/21683565.2019.1680593>



OPEN ACCESS Check for updates

## The prefigurative power of urban political agroecology: rethinking the urbanisms of agroecological transitions for food system transformation

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<sup>a</sup>Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR), Coventry University, Coventry, UK;

<sup>b</sup>Department of Architecture and Urban Planning, Ghent, Belgium

### ABSTRACT

In recent years, urban contexts and urban-rural linkages have become central for scholars and activists engaged in agrarian questions, agroecological transitions and food system transformation. Grassroots experimentations in urban agroecology and farmers' engagement with urban policies have marked the rise of a new agenda aiming to bridge urban and agrarian movements.

Departing from the work of Eric Holt-Gimenez and Annie Shattuck, this paper argues that the way urban-rural links have been conceptualized is occasionally progressive, and that an agroecology-informed food system transformation needs radical approaches. Acknowledging that processes of urbanization are dynamic, driven by specific lifestyles, consumption patterns, and value orientations – producing ongoing suburbanization, land enclosures, farmers displacement and food-knowledge loss – the paper argues that thinking transitions through new rural-urban links is unfit to tackle the evolving nature of these geographies and reproduces the distinction between consumers and producers living on either side of what Mimi Schneider and Philip McMichael have described as an epistemic and ecological rift.

Building on insights from four case-studies across global north and south, the paper reframes agroecological transition as a paradigmatic change in biopolitical spatial relations, economic values and planning agency – what we call an 'agroecological urbanism'. The paper articulates a transformational agenda addressing urban nutrients, peri-urban landuse, community food pedagogies and farmers' infrastructure.

### KEYWORDS

Agroecology; urban political agroecology; urbanism; agroecological transitions; agroecological urbanism

### Introduction

In recent years, the centrality of urban contexts and food system transformation, has become an important topic for both scholars and activists engaged in agrarian questions (Tornaghi 2017; Vaarst et al. 2018; Weissman 2014). Indeed, grassroots experimentation (AA.VV. 2017), and farmers' engagement with urban



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## Bicycle Urbanism



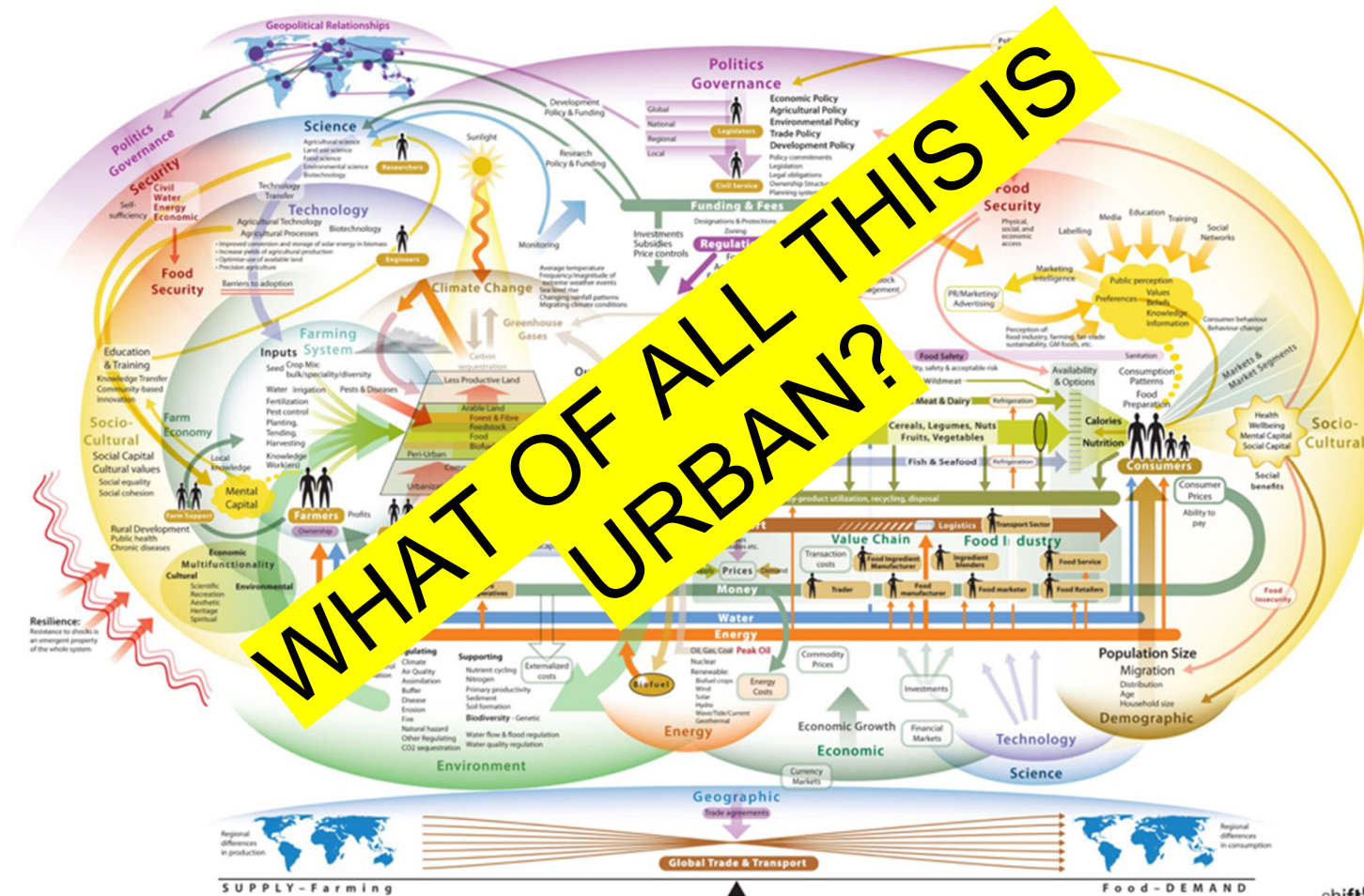
<http://www.copenhagenize.com/>



1. Food as an urban question?
2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning
3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

# 1. Food as an urban question

Global Food System map



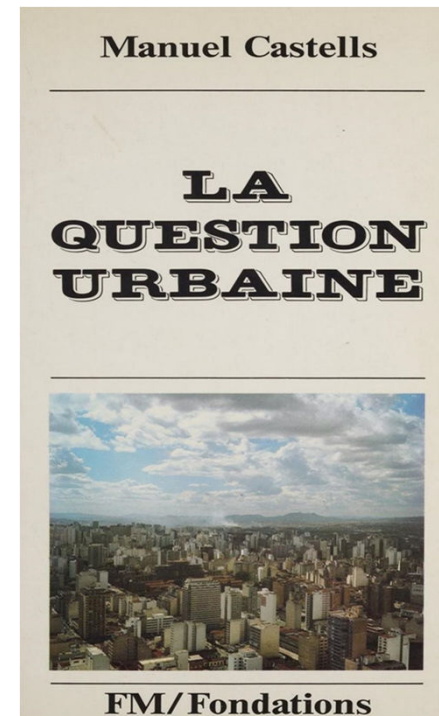
## 1. Food as an urban question

### The urban question:

- exacerbated or collective interdependence
- collective organization needed to care for the urban community
- contested and subject to disagreement

### Urbanism:

'the (always contested) ensemble of social arrangements, lifestyles, divisions of labour, cultural practices and social solidarities that materialise and shape the urban environment through processes of urbanisation. ... the urban context is more than just a physical space, but always the manifestation of socationatural, sociocultural and socioeconomic processes and ideas that the discipline of urban planning and design 'serve'.' (Tornaghi & Dehaene, p. 5)



La Question Urbaine, 1972

## 1. Food as an urban question?

How have we come to experience food as a **new** matter of concern in urbanism?

Food can be understood within the history of urbanization as a **question of urban political ecology** in the literal sense of the word, that is, as part of the political negotiation of those aspects of life that are (and those that are not) made into a collective matter of concern, worthy of urban political attention.



## 1. Food as an urban question

### **a transformative agenda for thinking urbanism and urbanisation**

In urban food planning the food question has predominantly looked upon as a question to be addressed 'in the city' rather than, a question that requires a fundamental transformation of the city

**Food as an urban question:** a question central to the way cities are organized, equally central as the housing question, the mobility question, etc.

## 1. Food as an urban question

The progressive removal of food from the urban agenda



Jan Wildens, Gezicht op Antwerpen, 1656 [Amsterdam Rijksmuseum]

## FROM URBAN AGRICULTURE TO AN AGROECOLOGICAL URBANISM

The progressive removal of food from the urban agenda

Model of the spatial differentiation of the countryside  
as a function of the cost of

labor, land and transportation

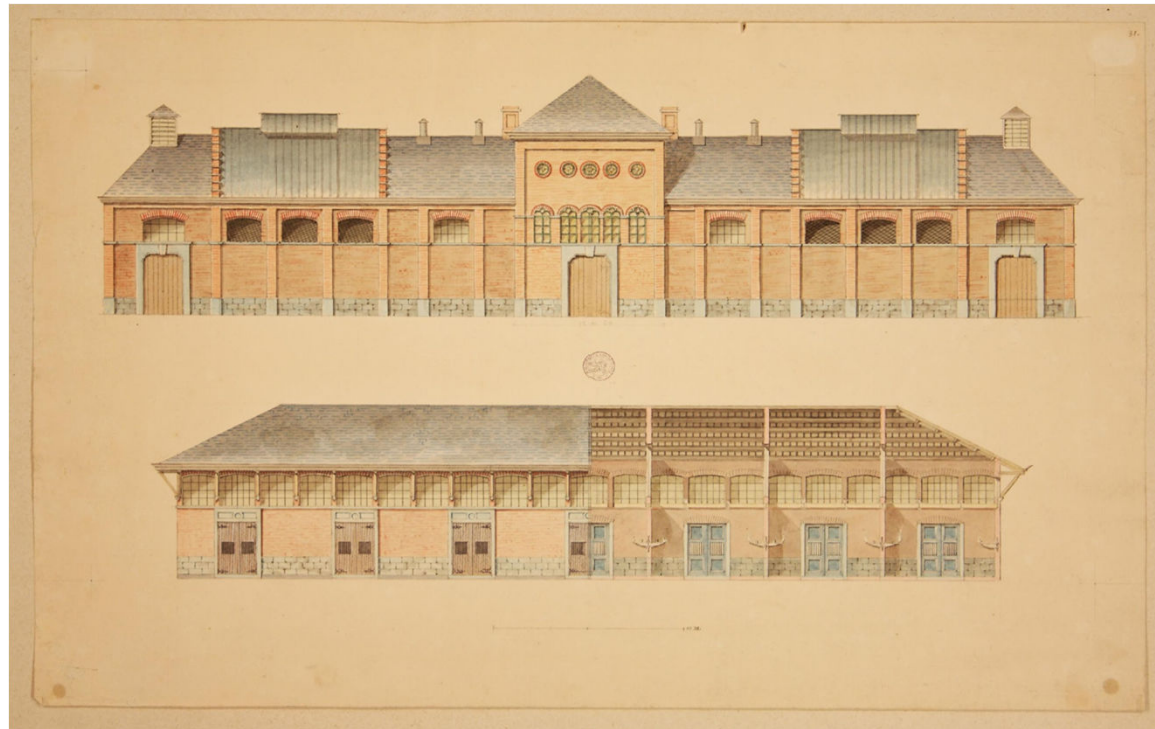


J.H. von Thünen, Der isolirte Staat in Beziehung auf  
Landwirthschaft und Nationalökonomie, 1826



## 1. Food as an urban question

The progressive removal of food from the urban agenda



Design of the municipal slaughterhouse of Ghent by city architect L. Roelandt ca. 1850.

## 1. Food as an urban question

The progressive removal of food from the urban agenda



Routes for animals into the city before and after the construction of the slaughterhouse

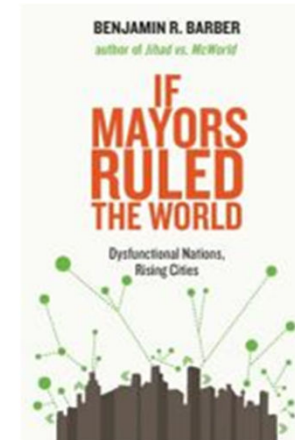
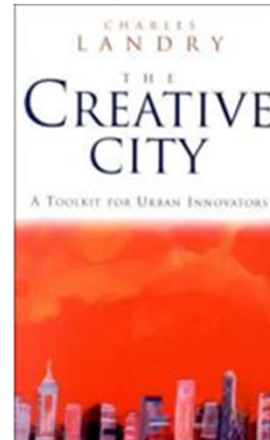
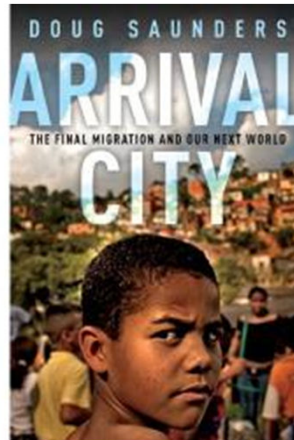
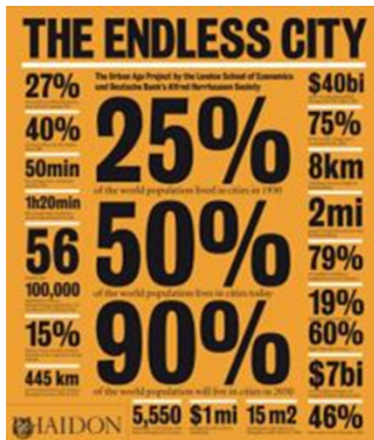
K. Danneels, Good Nature in Bad Nature out, 2016



## 1. Food as an urban question

# Hitting the boundaries of SFP

# No sustainable food system without a radical transformation of how cities are organized...



More than half of the world population lives in cities...  
The city as the solution to a global crisis?

## 2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning

# Hitting the boundaries of SFP

**a transformative agenda for thinking urbanism and urbanisation ? the selective uptake of the food question**

the global food crisis is to a large extent an urban crisis

- governance challenge
- resource use
- growing inequality
- environmental pollution
- feeding a growing urban population

(Wiskerke, H., 'Urban food systems', 2015)

## 1. Food as an urban question

# Hitting the boundaries of SFP

## Planning is part of the problem

For many years, urban plans have labelled periurban lands around cities as 'awaiting development' and hatched them as blank space, disregarding the great diversity of rural infrastructures and landscapes that distinguish one periurban area from the other.

Urbanization proceeds regardless of these diversities and thus has had a detrimental impact on many peri urban farms and rural heritage sites, particularly in European urban regions.

Ilieva, R., Urban Food Planning. Seeds for Transition in the Global North, 2016, 80



Urbanising in Place policy  
brief directed at UN  
Habitat

1. Food as an urban question?
2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning
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## 2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning

### How encountering agroecology shifted thinking around values and planning

- Definitions:
  - the application of ecological principles to the study, design and management of agroecosystems that are both productive and natural resource conserving, culturally sensitive, socially just and economically viable
  - a science, movement and practice
  - political agroecology: socio-ecological practice, indigenous knowledge, equity and justice, built on soils care
- Resisting erasure
- Not an urban movement...
- Bringing agroecology to the urban... transforming our interest for SFP and UA
  - knowledge rift, epistemic rift
  - positionality
  - values shifts

## 2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning

### AESOP SFP conference 2017, 2019, 2022, 2024



## 2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning

### Call for a platform for an agroecological urbanism



#### AGROECOLOGICAL URBANISM...

*‘What if solidarity, mutual learning, interspecies (more than human) exchanges, environmental stewardship, food sovereignty and people’s resourcefulness were the principles of a new paradigm for urbanisation? How would urban design, property regimes, food provision, collective services, and the whole ensemble of planning and socio-technical arrangements change, if they were informed by urban agroecology? How can we begin to radically transform the food-disabling urban landscapes that have systematically displaced food production, recovering both historical food growing practices and imagining new urban arrangements?’ (C.M. Deh-Tor, 2017)*

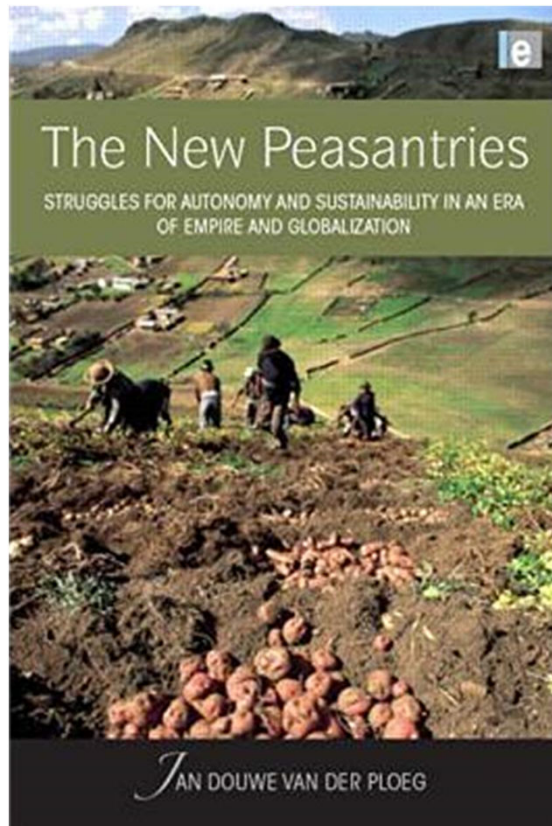


## 2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning

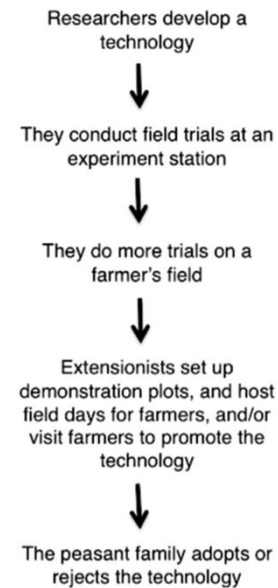


La via Campesina and the food sovereignty movement

## 2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning



### Conventional Extension



### Campesino to Campesino



Figure 2. Conventional agricultural extension versus Campesino-to-Campesino.  
Source: Machin Sosa *et al.* (2010, 38).

## 2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning

# Warning: junk agroecology

<https://civileats.com/2021/04/20/is-agroecology-being-co-opted-by-big-ag/>

<https://www.tni.org/en/junk-agroecology>





## 2. A transformative approach to sustainable food planning

# Urbanising in Place

## Building the food water energy nexus from below

Project funded within  
JPI SUGI programme  
Food Water Energy  
Nexus Call

**4 CITIES**

ROSARIO

LONDON

BRUSSELS

RIGA



Innovate UK



E.S.R.C.  
Economic & Social  
Research Council



innoviris.brussels  
empowering research



Netherlands Organisation  
for Scientific Research



Netherlands Organisation  
for Scientific Research



Netherlands Organisation  
for Scientific Research



Netherlands Organisation  
for Scientific Research

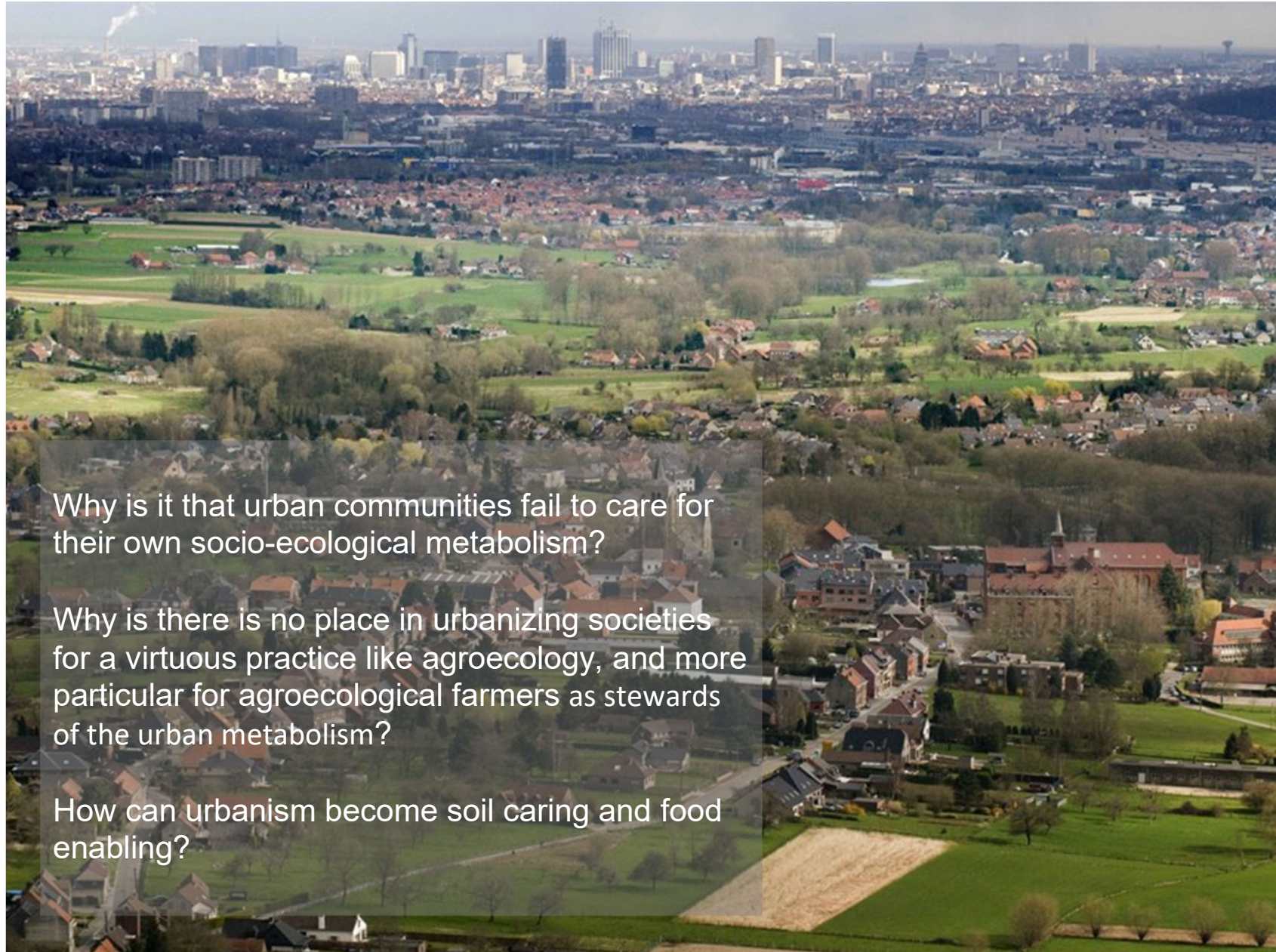


Netherlands Organisation  
for Scientific Research



Netherlands Organisation  
for Scientific Research

<http://urbanisinginplace.org/>



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



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ONVERSATION

IN CONVERSATION

IN CONVERSATION

IN CONVERSATION

IN CONVERSATION

IN CONVERSATION

IN CONVERSATION

IN CONVERSATION

IN CONVERSATION

IN CONVERSATION

IN CONVERSATION

IN CONVERSATION

Coming soon: Call for Coalitions

February 2023

Coming soon: Call for Coalitions

February 2023

Coming soon: C

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

### Building Block

## Political Pedagogies

This building block aims to contribute to the reconfiguration of the political pedagogies of the agroecological movement in a way better fit to address the challenges posed by current processes of urbanisation and the residualisation of agroecological farming.



## Working and living on protected farmland

Agricultural Colony Rosario



### Building Block

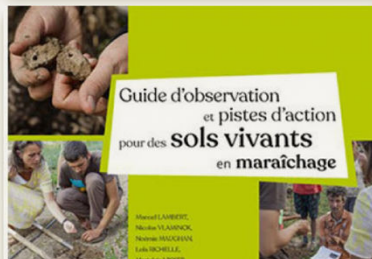
## Territorial Food Hub

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 García 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.



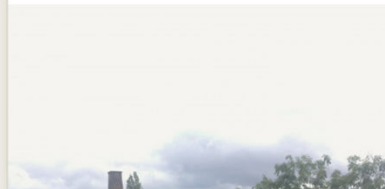
### Land & Market Access Incubator

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.



### Territorial Food Hub

The Territorial Food Hub is a place-based node of a wider agroecological food system rooted in a specific neighbourhood. It builds new economic and social relations and enables communities to retake control over and manage local resources.



### 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.





An agroecological urbanism requires action in urbanising areas across the globe.

What are strategies at play in different contexts?

### Brussels

Gardening contested lands



### London

Farming the urban fringe



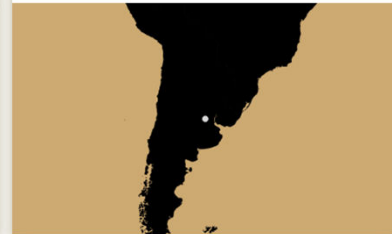
### Riga

Food systems as social systems



### Rosario

Agroecology as public policy





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.**

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

## 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

## 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 people. By organising forms of political engagement and knowledge sharing within the territory, alongside convivial initiatives, the kitchen can encourage the broader resourcefulness and solidarity, vis-a-vis the neoliberal city.

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

# 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

## 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

## 8 Building Blocks (BB)

	Building Blocks			
Interrupt logics of substitution	Agroecological Park		Farming the Fragmented Land	
Embodying an ecology of care and more-than-human solidarities	Territorial Food Hub	Healthy Soil Scape		Political Pedagogies for Urban Agroecology
Building resourceful communities through empowering infrastructure	Land and Market Access Incubator		Productive Housing Estate	



### 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?



### 3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

## Interrupting logics of substitution

securing that agroecological practices are not systematically displaced and pushed out through dynamics of urbanization

- post-capitalist 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

### 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





### 3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

*‘Agroecology demands a complete reorganisation of municipalities. People from social economy, food production, the environment, health and planning, they all have to work as one multidisciplinary team.’*

— Raul Terrile (Rosario), September 27, 2019

### 3. Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

[Building an Agroecological Urbanism](#) [Conversation Stoppers](#) [Conversation Starters](#) [Building Blocks](#) [Agroecological Cities](#) [In Conversation](#)

[Agroecological Cities](#) [Rosario](#)  

## The critical systematization of agroecology as public policy



Gathering of the Red de Huerteros y Huerteras de Rosario  
©Red de Huerteros y Huerteras de Rosario



The agroecologisation process that has been developed in the city of Rosario since the 1990s, then continued with the Urban Agriculture Program in 2002 and later strengthened in 2016 with the creation of the Green Belt Program, has been the product of a co-creation between social organizations, institutions, orchard farmers family producers and the local government, with each actor appropriating these programs in a process of participatory governance.

In this sense, the *Local Platform of Actors built within the framework of the Urban Agriculture and Green Belt Programs* has intensified social and public/political management in each change of municipal management, making it possible to sustain, generate and enhance the mobilising components and relationships of agroecological urban planning developed in the city. Given the intensification of real estate pressure on the use of urban and peri-urban land for food production, it was necessary to diversify and strengthen the Local Platform of actors defending the protected area. The call was extended and the articulation of public and private actors – new and already linked to agroecology – was activated, in order to give continuity and strengthen the current Agroecological Policies and Practices. There was active interaction with the different academic levels in order to train the different actors, to make the circulation of information viable and properly transmit the importance of ecosystem processes related to the provision of environmental services (as metabolic optimisation factors). The cross-sectoral activities of this Platform of Actors who have started to use agroecology as the touch stone of sound urban planning has resulted in a series of formal regulations which have been adopted by the municipality such as the [Ordinance](#): “Comprehensive Plan for Land and Productive Investments” and “Sustainable Food Production Programme in the Area of Protection



# RESOURCING AN AGROECOLOGICAL URBANISM

Michiel Dehaene (Ghent University)

AESOP4Food

07.03.2024



UNIVERSIDAD  
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DE MADRID



RED DE  
MUNICIPIOS POR  
LA AGROECOLOGÍA





# PHASE II

# Learning objectives for PHASE II

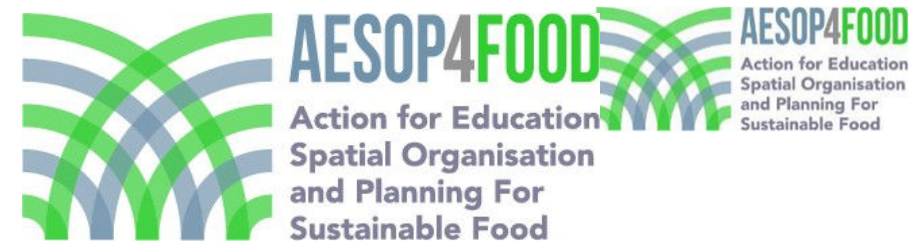
- Understanding of complexity of the spatial organisation of the city region food systems
- Developing skills to select the most adequate methods and tools to be applied to map and/or analyse and evaluate a specific situation of a food system.
- Designing of sociograms / network maps reflecting stakeholders' connections and power structures around the food system

# AGENDA third session on March 14, 2024

- Introduction Marian Simón Rojo, Universidad Politecnica de Madrid
- Spatial participatory food (systems) mapping by Katrin Bohn, Bohn&Viljoen Architects, School of Architecture & Design, University of Brighton
- Q&A on food assets mapping and participatory design
- Next session + compulsory reading: One planet network UNenvironment



# Reading before March 14



Compulsory:

FAO Report : "Integrating food into urban planning" page 264 – 275 (Food asset mapping in Toronto and Greater Golden Horseshoe region, by Lauren Baker).

Recommended: open access:

SI Planning Food System Transitions: Urban Agriculture & Regional Food Systems (wiley.com)