

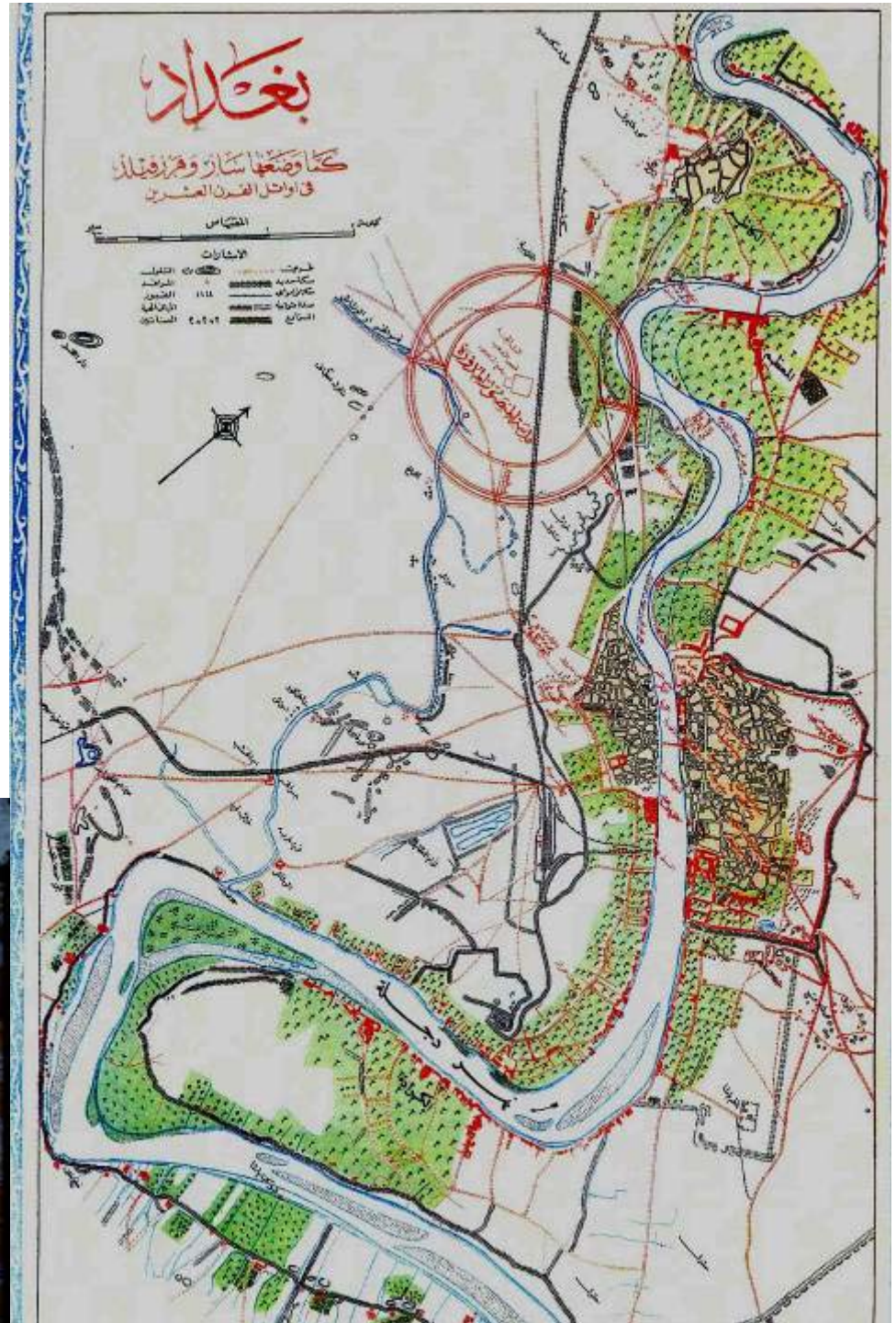
2014 Erasmus Intensive Programme - CITYGREENING  
Seminar: Urban and periurban agriculture. European issues and  
local practices”  
Politecnico di Torino - Dipartimento DIST

**Urban agriculture:  
a challenge for a more liveable city**  
Giuseppe Cinà



In the past,  
cities have been fed by their  
agricultural hinterland

Baghdad  
Mexico city

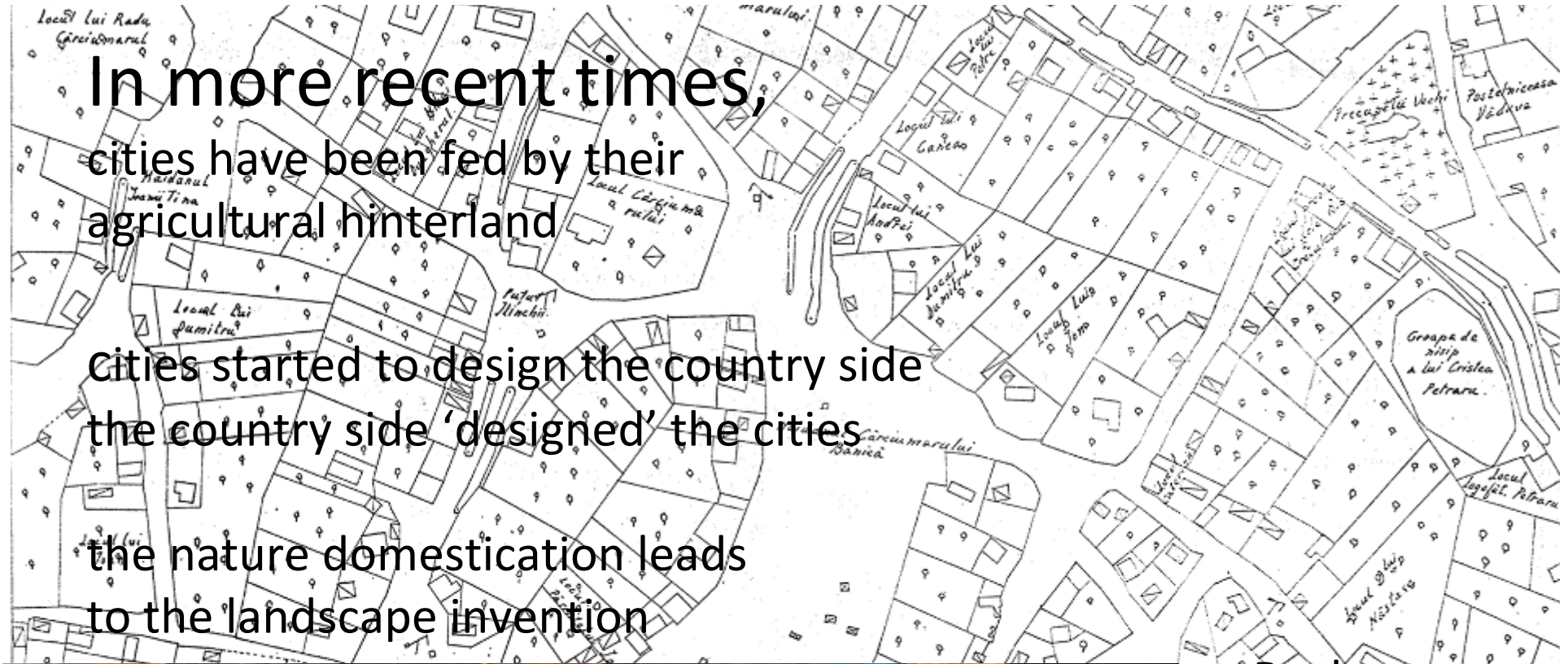




In more recent times,  
cities have been fed by their  
agricultural hinterland

cities started to design the country side  
the country side 'designed' the cities

the nature domestication leads  
to the landscape invention



Bucharest  
Siena



# In the XIX century

The Modern city starts the urbanisation  
of the country side ...



**Il Piano di Ampliamento di  
Milano del 1889 - Beruto**

Plan for the city enlargement  
of Milan, C. Beruto, 1889

# In times of crisis

## ‘Victory Gardens’ and the emergency gardening

Initiatives of community gardening for food security in times of economic crisis and post war period were diffused (British Allotments Act, 1925; War Gardens of Canada, 1924–1947).

In UK During the Second World War they provided close to half of the fruits and vegetables consumed by urban population



# After the WW2, a traumatic change

- Planning assumes the responsibility to plan the whole territory ...
- ... But planning schemes normally don't take into account agriculture
- Agricultural land becomes a white surface awaiting urbanization

# After the “glorious thirty” development the post-modern traumatic change leads to ...

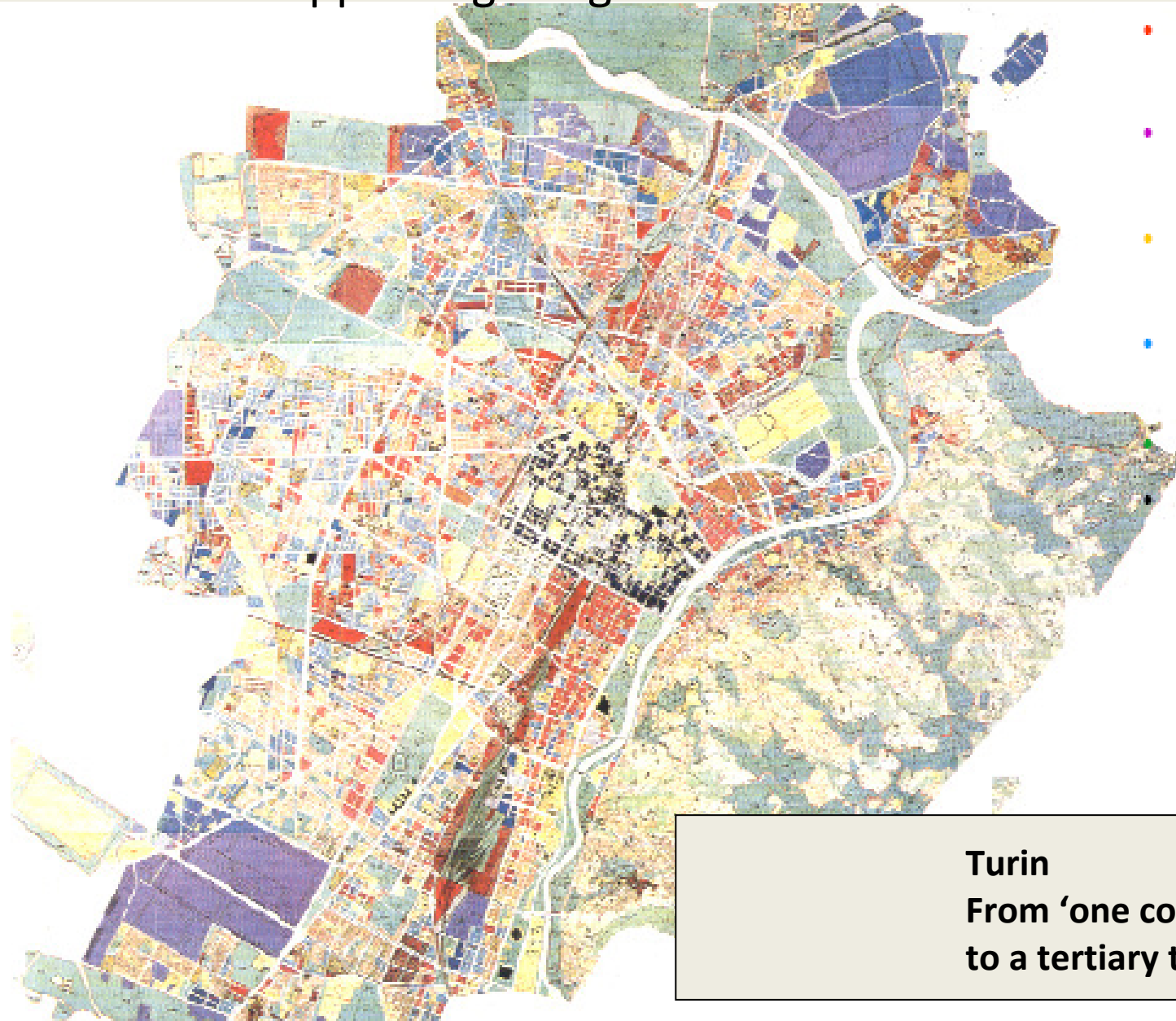
- demographic explosion in cities
- globalization
- new lifestyles
- ...

The agriculture is pushed away from the city

The urban model is spread out in the country side

# Today

... the disappearing of agricultural land



- Rosso o marrone :  
RESIDENZA
- Viola: INDUSTRIA e  
Artigianato
- Giallo e arancio:  
COMMERCIO
- Azzurro: TERZIARIO  
Direzionale
- Spazi verdi: VERDE  
Agricolo: BIANCO

**Turin**  
From 'one company town' (Fiat)  
to a tertiary town



# An old, millenarian utopia is dismissed giving room to an empty land

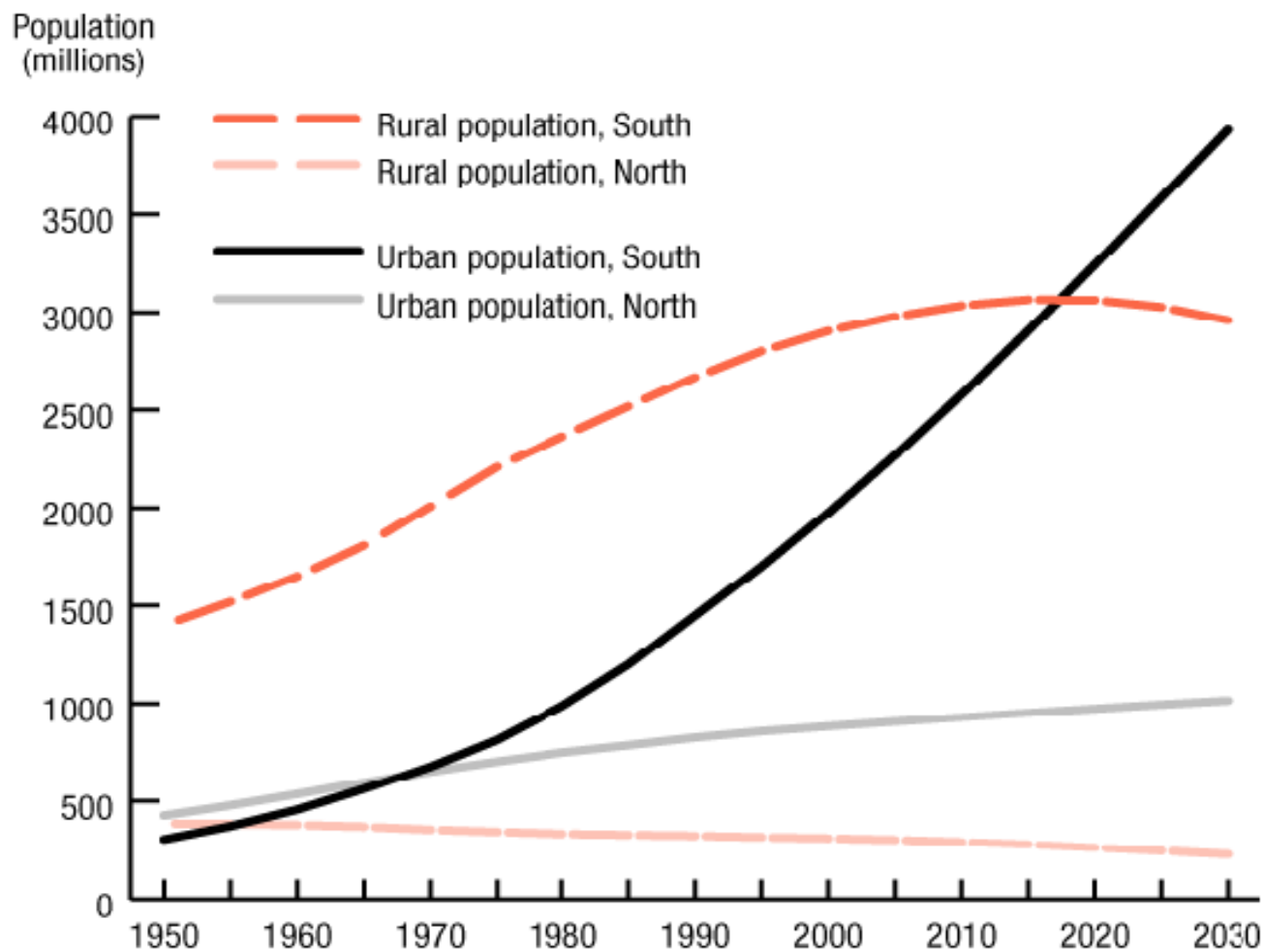


Figure 1. Rural and urban populations in North and South, 1950 to 2030 (projected).

Source: UN Habitat (2004).

# Today another city comes back

without city uses

without agriculture

needing rehabilitation



# Top down initiatives

Today,

in Europe, cities such as Amsterdam, London, Stockholm, Berlin, St Petersburg ...

or in North America: New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Montreal, Toronto ...

are implementing policies connecting UPA with  
resource recycling and conservation,  
therapy and recreation,  
education and food provision,  
community development,  
green architecture and open space management.

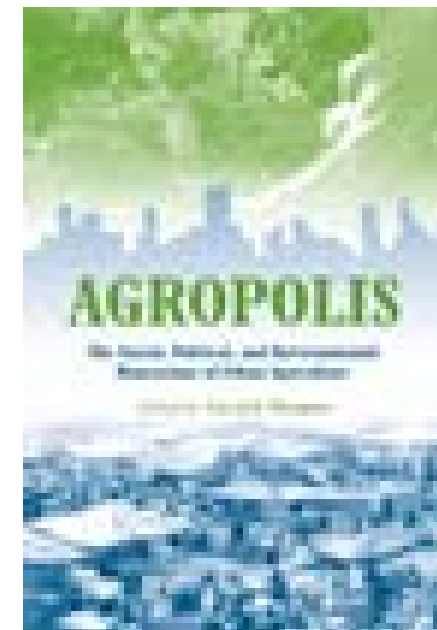
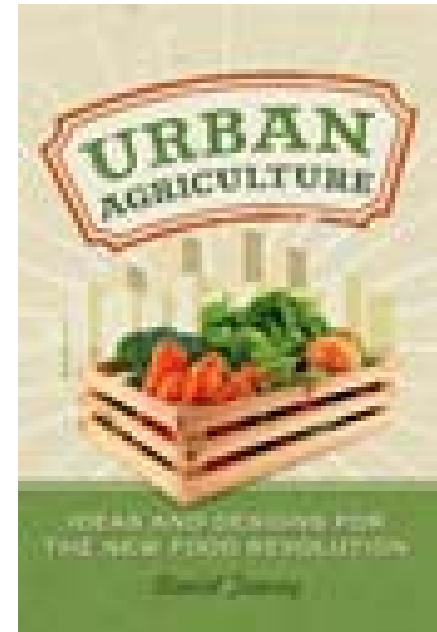


# Local and bottom up initiatives

- Guerrilla gardening
- Urban orchards
- Roof greening
- ...



A new soft utopia comes out



# UPA

a new frontier within the paradigm of sustainability

UPA enters the debate on the 'cities of the future'

UPA helps for

- healthier,
- wealthier,
- more equitable,
- cleaner and
- better fed cities



Two ways (and more...)

A trendy choice:

Backyard gardens ...

Positive and useful, supported by citizens

**But in some way 'out' out of our action field**

Citizens think, speech, propose, expect ...about agriculture



# Two ways (and more...) The other side of the moon agriculture in underdeveloped countries

The fight for the food security:

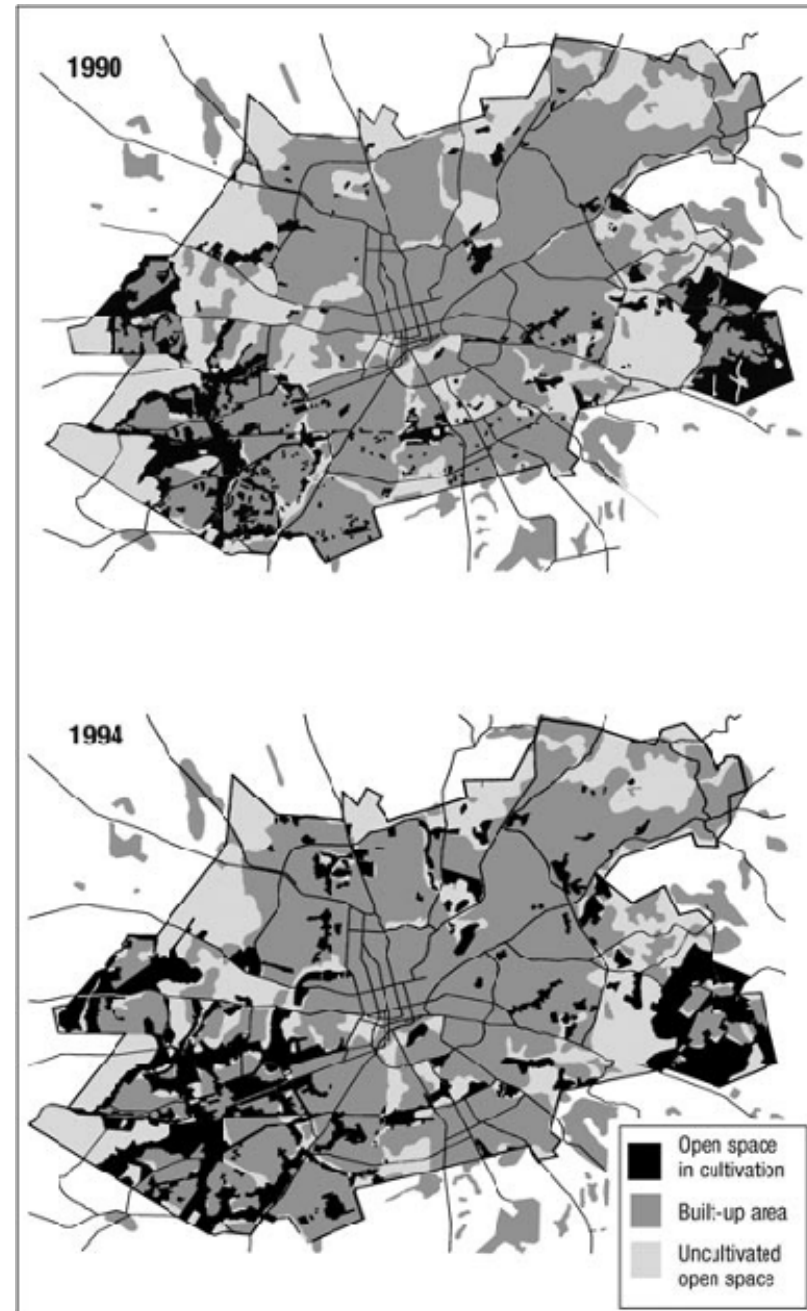
In Western world people fight for a better food  
In the poor countries people fight just for food

Citizens (think, speech, propose, expect ...?) **make** agriculture



# Fighting for food

Open space in cultivation within the city limits of Harare, 1990 and 1994.



Source: *Growing better Cities*, by Luc J.A. Mougeot, Published by the International Development Research Centre, [Ottawa](#), 2006



# Some italian policies and practices

- Parco Sud Milano
- Parco della Chiusa, Casalecchio di Reno
- Parco di Ciaculli, Palermo
- ...
- MiraOrti, Turin
- Agricultural Park of Villaretto, Turin
- Amico orto, Venaria Reale (Turin)
- Urbi&Orti, Alpignano (Turin)
- Orto che cura, Collegno (Turin)

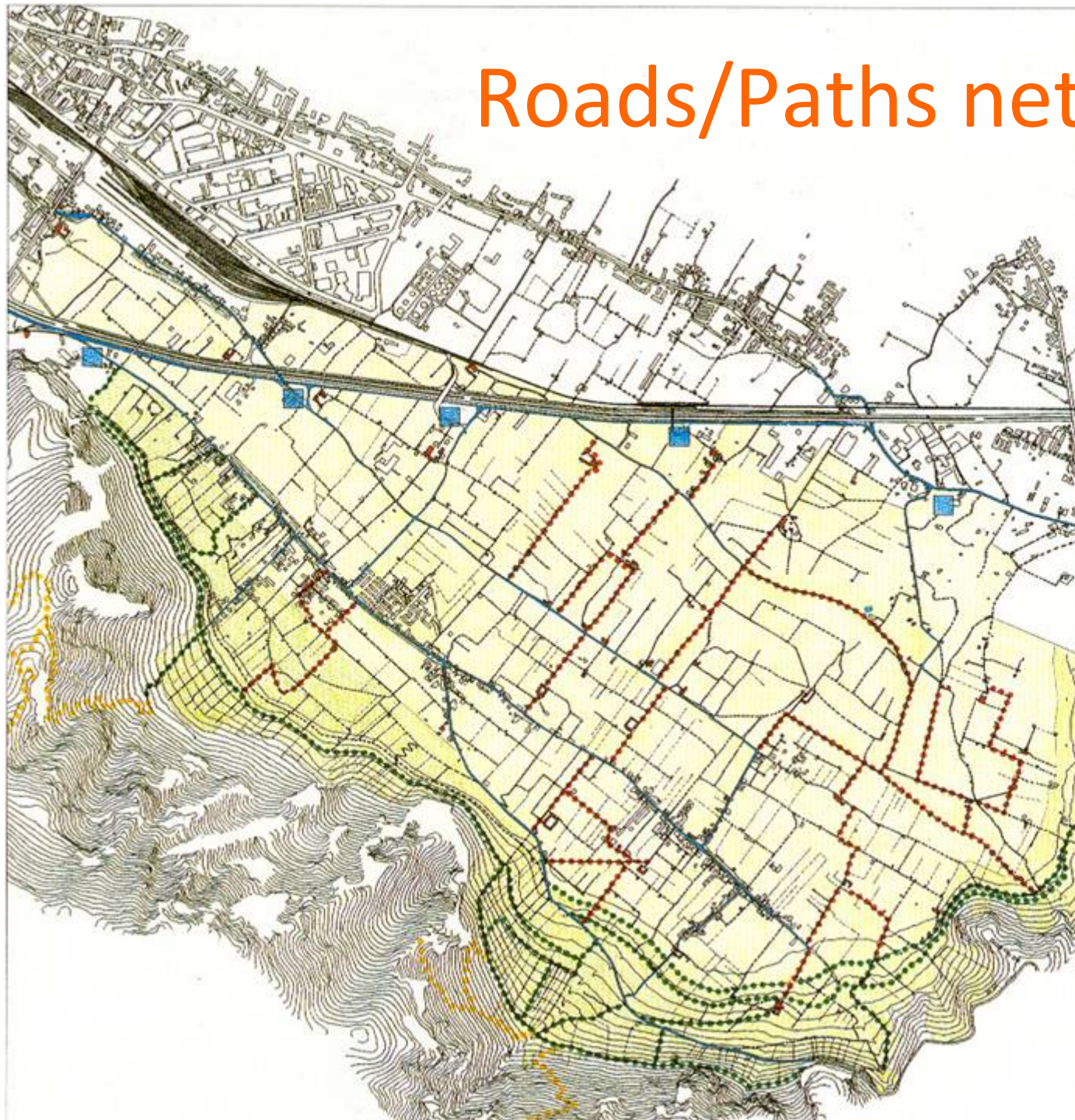
# Agricultural park in Ciaculli, Palermo





Carta del sistema  
dei percorsi

# Roads/Paths network



-  Viabilità pubblica
-  Percorsi di interesse storico-architettonico
-  Percorsi di interesse paesaggistico naturalistico
-  Sentieri montani
-  Emergenze storico-architettoniche
-  Area agricola di piana
-  Area agricola terrazzata
-  Aree da riqualificare a servizio dell'accessibilità al parco

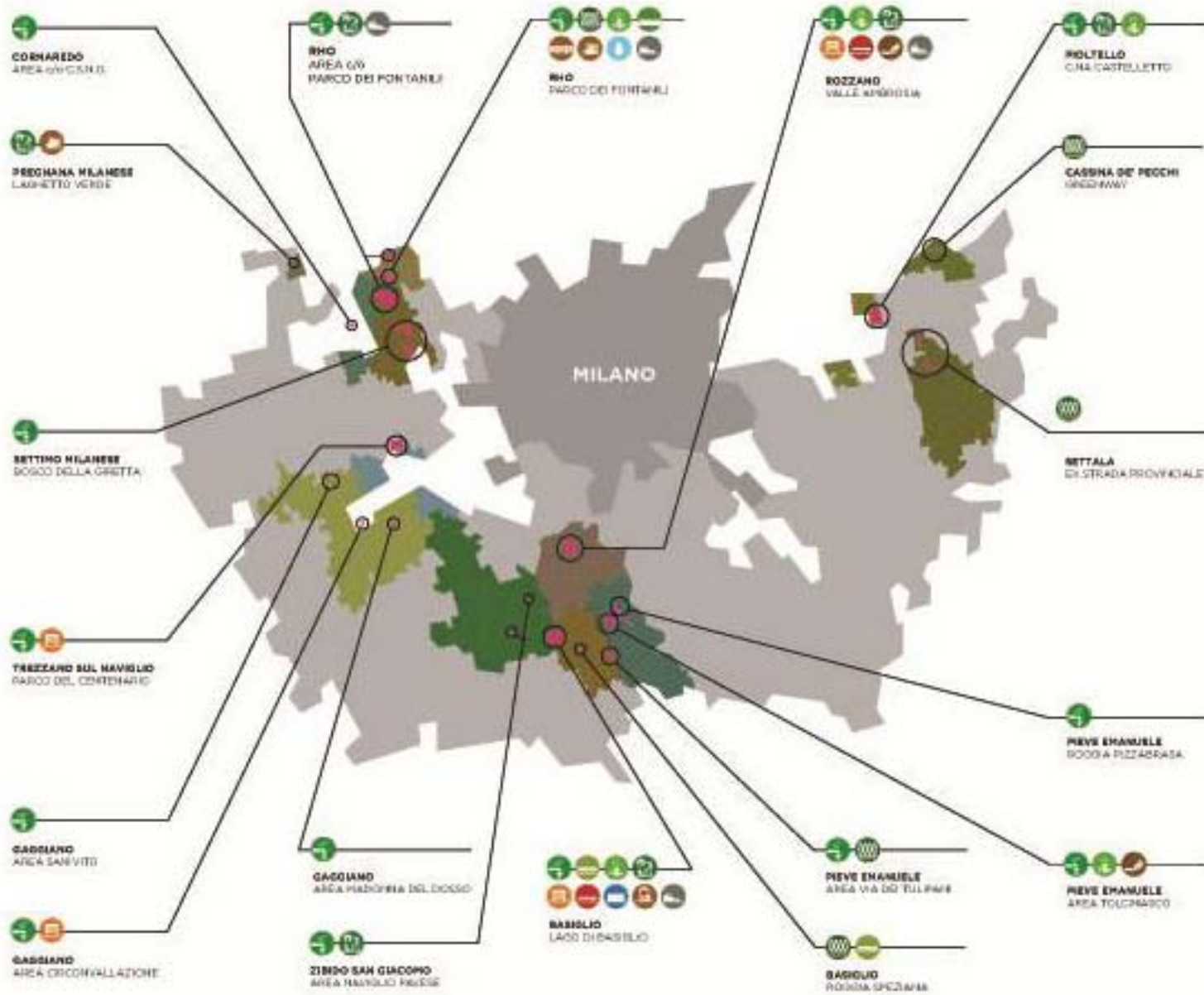


# Typology of interventi



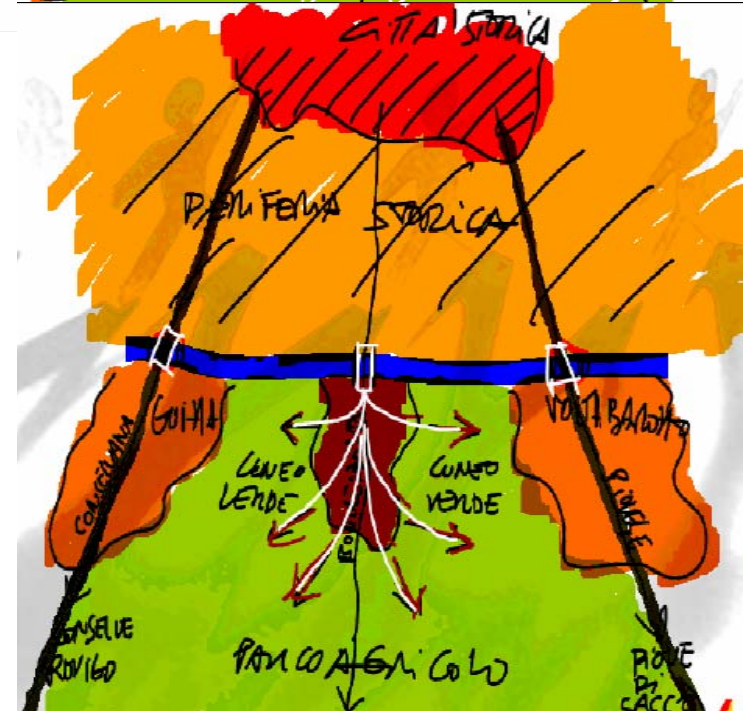
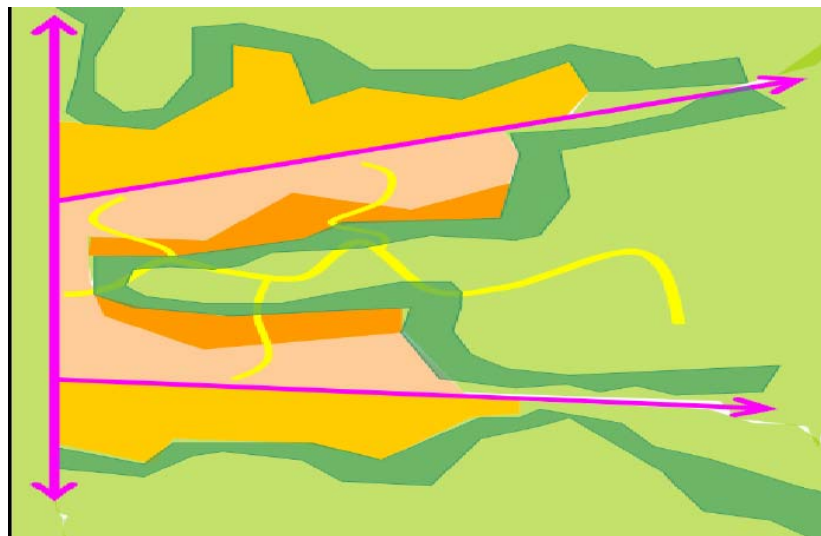
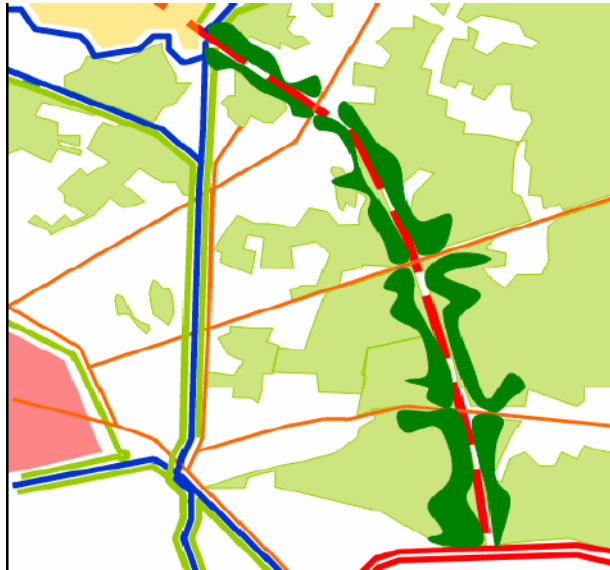
# South agricultural Park, Palermo

Interventi di riqualificazione per il Parco Agricolo Sud Milano





# Il Parco agricolo periurbano Urban agricultural Park, Padova



# The many scales/tools for UPA

- Commercial farms
- Community initiatives
- Backyard gardens
- Urban orchards (public)
- Urban orchards (private)
- ...



# Many Initiatives are coming crossing a new / old field



- NeighborSpace, a city -wide community a non profit org to support community gardens acts as a land-trust for community gardens. Since 1996, NeighborSpace has acquired more than 50 sites throughout Chicago for preservation as community garden space: (City of Chicago, Chicago Parks District, Cook County Forest Preserve District)  
<http://neighbor-space.org>
- National community of garden associations have sprung up in various places: City Farmer in Vancouver, the Developing Country Farm Radio Network (DCFRN) in Toronto

# UPA

## Several goals/targets

In western countries, UPA improve city life at a multifunctional level:

- Health
- Economy
- Landscape
- Environment
- Education
- Leisure
- Public spaces
- (...)

In the South, is a strategic tool to reduce:

- unemployment, malnutrition, hunger
- urban food insecurity and poverty



# UPA

A cultural revolution

Back to the agriculture, a personal cathartic experience

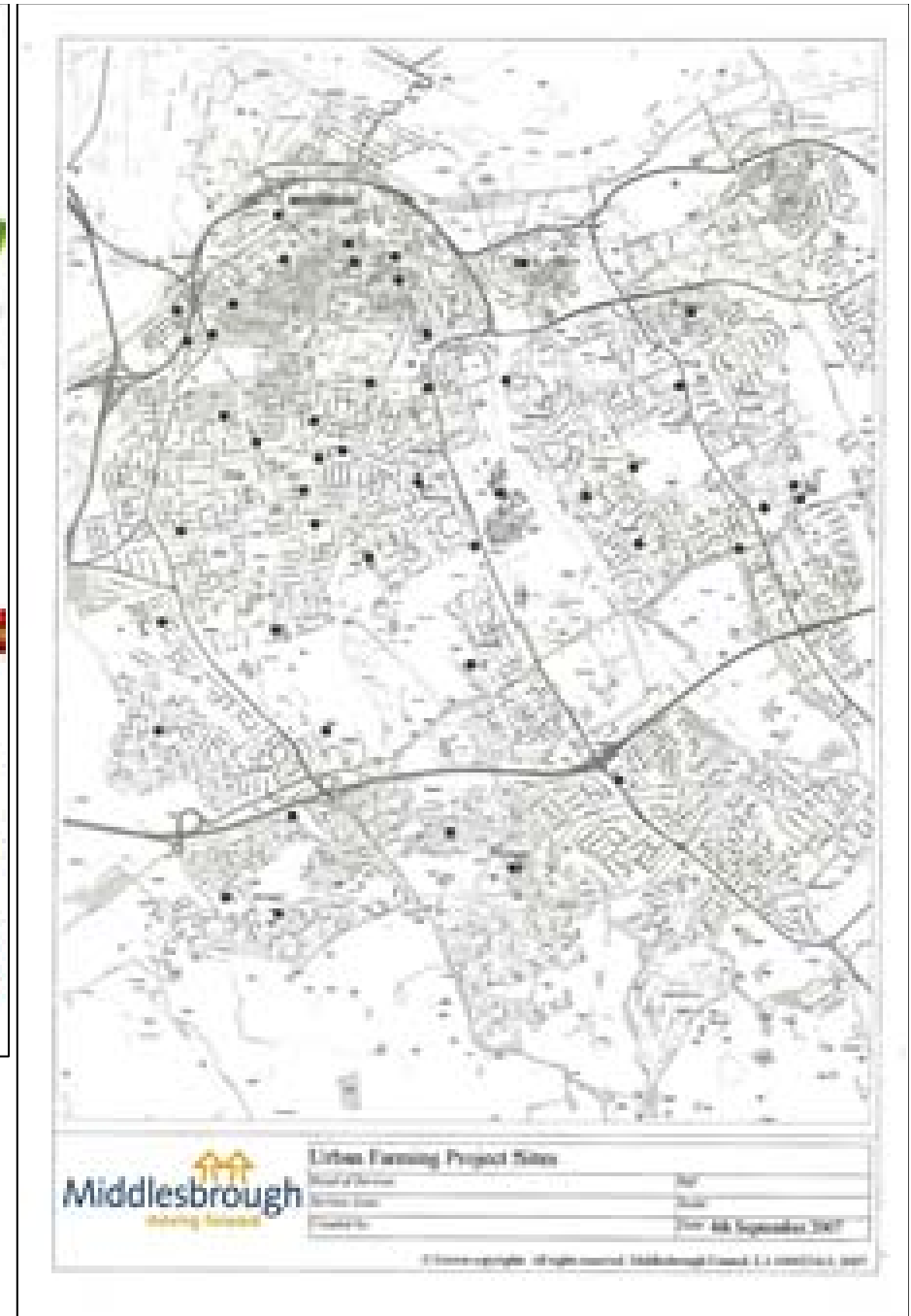
- By gardening you grow your 'baby'
- By making food you 'print' your own 'natural' money
- By cultivating your grove you beautify your theatre of life

A fruit or a cabbage can be your piece of art



A. Viljoen, K. Bohn, Plan for Middlesbrough, for a productive urban landscape.

The plan connects pieces of land that might be cultivated, from existing parkland, green spaces and allotment sites. It shows urban agriculture happening in the future (red and green dots).



# Municipal departments responsible for UA-type activities in the city of Vancouver, Canada.

City initiative	Municipal department
City Farmer garden (compost demonstration and water conservation site)	Engineering Services Solid Waste Management
Composting (city, home, apartment, backyard, and worm) and compost information hotline	Engineering Services Solid Waste Management Planning (Central Area)
Green streets program	Engineering Services Streets, Structures, and Greenways Planning (Central Area)
Neighbourhood and city greenways	Engineering Services Streets, Structures, and Greenways
Natural yard care	Engineering Services Solid Waste Management
Environmental grants	Financial Services
Greenhouse gas reduction	Office of Sustainability
Community gardens	Parks Board
Farmers' markets	Real Estate
Fruit and nut trees	Planning (Central Area)
Green building strategy	Engineering Services
Childcare grants (includes food supplement program, etc.)	Parks Board
Aboriginal initiatives (UBC Farm Community Kitchen Garden)	Parks Board
Social sustainability initiatives (farmers' markets, community gardens, edible landscaping, etc.)	Planning and Operations
Food system assessment	Planning (Central Area)
Food policy staff team	Planning (Central Area)
	Social Planning
	Social Planning
	Social Planning
	Social Planning
	Social Planning

Source: City of Vancouver, 2005.

Note: Many of the initiatives listed in this table predate Vancouver's official food policy mandate and take place under the auspices of departments with little or no involvement by the food policy staff team. For more information on Vancouver's Food Policy Council, see

[www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/commsvcs/socialplanning/initiatives/foodpolicy/council.htm](http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/commsvcs/socialplanning/initiatives/foodpolicy/council.htm).

Source: Growing better Cities, by Luc J.A. Mougeot, Published by the International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, 2006





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### Welcome

This blog began in October 2004 as a record of my illicit cultivation around London. It is now also a growing arsenal for anyone interested in the war against neglect and scarcity of public space as a place to grow things, be they beautiful, tasty (or both!) Join in, sign up and visit the live *Community* forum pages to share your news from the horticultural front line in your part of the world.

*Lets fight the filth with forks and flowers. Richard.*



GuerrillaGardening.org invites you to an annual event of optimistic seed sowing

### 1 May 2013

## International Sunflower Guerrilla Gardening Day

Find a patch beyond your boundaries, create an event, spread the word  
Join the international [Facebook event page](#)



@Richard\_001 is taking his trowel on tour in 2013:

Edinburgh Scotland *March*

Cologne Germany *April*

Mestia Georgia *August*

Auckland New Zealand *April*

Bologna Italy *May*

and many other UK venues

Home » Market

Our producers

Getting a stall

Super Stocks Bros -  
A Farmers' Life

Winner of Best  
Independent Retailer  
- *Observer Food  
Monthly Awards 2012.*

Ecologist magazine  
listed us as one of  
the UK's top ten  
farmers' markets in  
2011.

## Stoke Newington Farmers' Market

Every Saturday, 10am to 2.30pm, at St Paul's Church,  
Stoke Newington High Street, N16 7UY.

### Help us save Stocks Farm

Come and buy direct from the farmers and growers at the UK's only all-organic weekly farmers' market. When you shop at the market, not only do you get delicious food but you are also helping to support small, sustainable farms and farmers around London. By buying direct from the **producers** you can find out exactly how your food was produced and these small farmers can get the regular income that they need to flourish.



“ Growing Communities really stands by its ethics, which, as a grower, is a huge benefit because not a lot of people appreciate the effort that goes into producing food, especially organically. By coming up here to the farmers' market I'm able to employ more local people in the area so I'm providing jobs within my village.

”

Sarah Green, farmer, Essex.

# Towards a specific Planning approach

## Recommendations

- 1. Municipal governments should start with the right question: **What can UPA do for my city** (not what can my city do for it)?
- 2. Use UPA to **make suitable vacant space productive** for all
- 3. **Include UPA as an urban land-use category** and as an economic function in your planning system
- 4. Use a **participatory policy-making approach**
- 5. Promote **temporary occupancy permits** for urban producers using private and public open spaces
- 6. **Support the organization of little urban producers** to manage UA in better ways
- .....

# Towards a specific Planning approach a tool box

- Zooning the UPA uses (areas to be reserved/preserved)
- Zooning a set of services and facilities, for UPA needs and for the whole city needs (where, when, how much, ...)
- Provide a multifunctional UPA  
(Agriculture, commerce, education, environment, landscape, ...)
- Establish a social shared process of UPA implementation
- Link the UPA operations to the rehabilitation and reclamation of urban periphery
- Provide an appropriate set of public spaces, linked to the UPA



# Towards a specific Planning approach an interdisciplinary strategy

A planning approach should also assess:

- the potential of professional farmers
- the amount of UPA lands (coming from brown areas, unused areas, green parks, community areas etc.)
- the number of citizens to involve
- the number of stakeholders and associations to involve
- the different kind of economic revenues
- - .....



The end

## Site map

TEDxZurich - Roman Gaus - Urban Farming

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-fHY43qLWs>

Prinzessinnengarten, Berlin

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sv6YGj5-kXM>

Havana Homegrown: Inside Cuba's Urban Agriculture Revolution

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGuipXzxPFY>

New York bowery

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWC0ue7ndac>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Washington\\_Carver](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington_Carver)

[http://www.ted.com/talks/ron\\_finley\\_a\\_guerilla\\_gardener\\_in\\_south\\_central\\_la.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/ron_finley_a_guerilla_gardener_in_south_central_la.html)