

FSN FORUM DISCUSSION No. 48
FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND CITIES
FROM 2 NOVEMBER TO 23 NOVEMBER 2009

Dear Forum members and readers,

My name is Julien Custot, I work as a facilitator for the [FAO Food for the Cities initiative](#) (FCIT). The initiative has been launched in 2001 with the aim to ensure access of the urban population to safe food and healthy and secure environments by increasing dialogue and partnerships with institutions at international and national levels. FCIT works in particular with local authorities and offers technical assistance and support in policy formulation and urban planning to institutions and groups.

More and more of the world's population is becoming concentrated in and around large cities. Ensuring that the billions of people living in cities have their rightful access to adequate amounts of safe and nutritious food represents a global development challenge of the highest order. Promoting sustainable agricultural production in urban and peri-urban areas and developing food systems capable of meeting urban consumer demand will become increasingly important to global food security. Currently however, the important relationship between food security, agriculture and urbanization is often not sufficiently recognized.

A recent briefing note on [“Food, agriculture and cities: challenges and priorities”](#) highlights the major issues related to food, agriculture and cities and provides a set of recommendations for action at the global, national and local level.

Moreover, a set of additional documents can be found on the FAO-FCIT website (<http://www.fao.org/fcit/en/>).

In order to broaden the approaches and to gather new insights for cities both of developing, intermediate or developed countries, we would like to hear the opinions and experiences of Forum members.

Comments on the briefing note are welcome; in particular I would like to invite Forum members to focus on 3 main issues that may require a more specific attention:

- 1. How would you illustrate or highlight the links between food security in cities, urban-centred food systems and urban-rural linkages? Do you have any examples, good practices or lessons learned to be reported?**
- 2. Regarding the priorities at a national and local level, what issues/themes would you propose and would like to focus on?**
- 3. At a global level, how could you and your organization participate/contribute to a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform? What priorities would you have?**

The timing of this FSN Forum discussion will overlap with the World Summit on Food Security, taking place on November 16 to 18, 2009 in Rome and preceded by different events. Your contributions will therefore be useful to bring elements to the process and feed into the preparation of the 5th [World Urban Forum](#) which will be held in Rio de Janeiro in March 2010.

Julien Custot

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