

Acknowledgements

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L.L Sombalo

Dedication

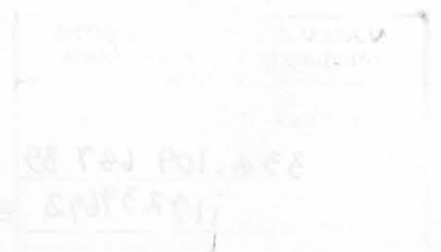
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Dedication

There are special people who come into our lives to teach us, support us, encourage us and to love us. They leave their imprints on our hearts and we are never the same again. My mother, brothers, sisters and my late father were amongst those people. Family is the strongest foundation on which you build love and security; you have all given me the strength to do what I do. Your lives will always be an inspiration to me. With love and admiration, I dedicate this dissertation to all of you.

ABSTRACT

The most poor and disadvantaged community residents are found not only in rural areas but also in urban and peri urban areas, particularly in the informal settlements of metropolitan cities which have mushroomed epidemically during recent years. These urban populations are increasing at an alarming rate because of an influx of people from predominantly rural areas to urban areas. Uncontrolled influx or urbanisation leads to an increase in number of urban poor and thus overcrowding in metropolitan areas such as the Cape Flats of Cape Town.

Urban agriculture has been one among a variety of informal activities practised by urban dwellers because of its contribution to food availability and income generation. It is the survival strategy for low social classes to cope with the declining standard of living. The other activities in which poor urban dwellers participate in order to secure a living are construction work, sewing, woodwork, beadwork and informal trading.

Major activities of urban agriculture includes cultivation of field crops, horticulture, ornamental plants and livestock keeping and are faced with with severe agroclimatic, socio-economic and institutional constraints. Wide ranges of ethnic groups participate in urban agriculture and mostly have their own experience since they came from farming environments. Women are more active and responsible for home gardening in high density areas whilst men are more active in open space cultivation. It is therefore recommended that city authorities accept urban agriculture as a reality and then come up with policies that will create an enabling environment for the urban growers.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ANC	African National Congress
ARC	Agricultural Research Council
CMA	Cape Metropolitan Area
DFID	Department for International Development
CIRAD	Centre for Integrated Rural Development
D'MOSS	Durban Metropolitan Open Space System.
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
FGF	Food Gardens Foundation
MDF	Macassar Development Forum
NGO	Non governmental organisation
PLAAS	Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
UP	University of Pretoria
UPA	Urban and peri-urban agriculture
QPC	Quaker Peace Gardens
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
RUAF	Resource Centre on Urban Agriculture and Forestry
SCAGA	Siyazama Community Allotment Garden
SIUPA	Strategic Initiative for Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture
SUL	Sustainable urban livelihoods