

Urban Agriculture and Food Security: Africa - Toronto Exchange

Visit Report 14-22 June, 2010



Africa - Toronto: Urban Food Security Exchange Report Rooftops Canada/Abri International - July 2010

Background

Rooftops Canada sees urban agriculture as a growing area of engagement in both Africa and Canada. The wider positive benefits associated with urban agriculture include: better management of urban waste through composting; reducing impact on climate change by "growing local"; recycling and reducing water use; and, generally contributing to sustainable environments and developing resilient cities. Our focus will be on improving the links between urban food security and housing and human settlements planning and development. This ranges from finding responses to NIMBY concerns about raising small animals in dense urban environments through to improving access to suitable land and water supply.

We initiated this as a pilot learning exchange involving multiple stakeholders in Nairobi, Cape Town and Toronto which will extend to other cities in Africa as it moves forward.

Three representatives from Cape Town and Nairobi participated in the exchange:

Lourens De Jaeger is the Learning Center coordinator for Communicare, the largest social housing organization in South Africa. The Learning Centers offer many programs for impoverished communities, one of which is the Food Gardens program, which aims at getting people one healthy plate of food everyday.

Kuria Gathuru works with the Mazingira Institute in Nairobi, Kenya, where he coordinates the urban agriculture program. He is responsible for the Nairobi and Environs Food Security, Agriculture, and Livestock Forum (NEFSALF), a consortium of farmers, policy makers, veterinarians, researchers, and national and international agriculture research institutions.

Stanley Visser works with the Development Facilitation in the Directorate of Economic and Human Development for the City of Cape Town. He is responsible for investment facilitation, land reform and urban agriculture. As part of the urban agriculture portfolio, he oversees policies and strategies, operational assistance to practitioners, identifies partnerships locally and internationally, facilitates the land reform process and ensures compliance.

The main objectives of the visit to Toronto were:

- for people/organizations to get to know one another and what they might bring to future exchanges (whether in person, or electronic)
- for people/organizations to learn through sharing experiences
- to help determine future directions for this exchange process keeping in mind the focus on urban food security.

This report is a synopsis of meetings with various organizations from 14th to 23rd June 2010. The details about each of these organizations are available in a separate background report.

Setting the context: Meeting with City Policy Groups

The exchange was kicked off with a meeting with some of the key policy makers in the city - the Toronto Food Policy Council, the Toronto Environment Office and the Toronto Youth Food Policy Council.

The City of Toronto has approached urban agriculture as part of its climate change commitment and agenda - specifically its environment emissions goals. The Toronto Climate Change Action Plan is a key document that identifies a wide array of initiatives that include water use and energy conservation. Urban agriculture is one of the initiatives fully recognizing its economic and social benefits in addition to the environmental benefits.

Toronto Environment Office (TEO)

TEO is a valued centre of environmental expertise for the City of Toronto, dedicated to ensuring a clean, green and sustainable future for all. Collaboratively with other City divisions and the community, TEO is working to increase lands available for urban food production and develop a comprehensive strategy to address emerging issues related to urban agriculture. Food strategy is an important component of the *Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Action Plan*, which was unanimously adopted by City Council in July, 2007. The Plan contains recommendations to promote local food production.

Jodi Callan from the TEO described the City's mandate and TEO's role. Jodi focused on the TEO's role with regard to promotion of urban agriculture which includes determining feasibility of activities such as zoning changes, promoting city level composting, livestock issues and making recommendations. They also provide funding for such initiatives under the "Live Green Toronto" program.

Toronto Food Policy Council (TFPC)

TFPC partners with business and community groups to develop policies and programs promoting food security. TFPC is a citizen body of 30 food activists and experts responsible for bringing a food systems lens to public health and generating food policy for the City of Toronto. TFPC has been instrumental in putting Food Security and Food Policy development on the municipal agenda in Toronto. The Council was represented by Wayne Roberts, Yusuf Alam and James Kuhns. James spoke about his work with the TFPC and his report on "Scaling up Urban Agriculture in Toronto." James is also associated with the Toronto Urban Growers network, which includes many of the organizations we met over the course of the week.

The TFPC sees itself as a space where ideas about food can be introduced into government and the policy framework. They do not implement or administer ideas - they incubate. An example is the Toronto Food Strategy which is a "flip in the idea of how municipalities approach food".

Toronto Youth Food Policy Council (TYFPC)

TYFPC is North America's first youth food policy council. The group works in connection with the TFPC to address the food concerns of young people. Chris Wong and Tamara Wise of TYFPC shared some of the work being done. TYFPC prioritizes food education and a food system that fosters sustainability and

supports local foods. The Council is the voice for Toronto's youth on food system issues, and youth members have various areas of expertise including environmental studies, economics, nutrition, and urban planning. Since coming together in 2009, youth members have been active in developing close relationships with other food-centered organizations to promote their perspective on food policy in Toronto.

Royal York Hotel

The Royal York hotel in downtown Toronto has developed a thriving rooftop garden, complete with seasonal herbs, fruit and vegetables, and six beehives in order to produce their food as locally as possible.

David Garcelon, Executive Chef at the Royal York gave us a tour of the rooftop garden where they grow specialty vegetables and herbs. With the success of the Royal York rooftop garden, it has become standard practice in many hotels across the Fairmont Group. The rooftop is also the site for bee keeping operations. The hotel works with the Toronto Bee Keepers co-operative and has six bee hives on the terrace - and last year harvested over 500 lbs of honey much of which is used in the hotel.

A promising outcome of this visit is possible connections for Mazingira Institute with the Fairmont Hotel in Nairobi. David Garcelon has promised to connect Kuria with the manager of the Nairobi property who was one of the key people behind getting the rooftop garden started in Toronto.

Bain Housing Cooperative: Community Gardens and Composting Sites

Bain Housing Cooperative's gardens and composting system have won many awards. Today, their community gardens grow a variety of native plants, meadow species, vegetable and herbs. As well, the co-op's 500 residents have been composting their own kitchen and garden waste for almost 18 years.

Mike Nevin, head composter for Foodshare gave us a tour and introduction to the Bain co-op. The co-op has several community gardens, common areas that are divided between co-op members to garden. Dagmar Baur, one of the early community gardening enthusiasts in Toronto was responsible for galvanizing the Bain co-op around gardening and composting. Zora Ignjatovic and Helen Mills, two residents and active gardeners took us on a tour of the gardens.

Bain was the first example of community gardens that we visited. The community process involved in dividing up the plots was interesting and a good example for Lourens. Kuria was particularly taken with the composting process and has expressed interest in a more long term exchange with Mike.

Windmill Line Housing Cooperative: Rooftop garden

Windmill Line Housing Cooperative's rooftop garden is designed to encourage community interaction and involvement. Karen Lee, the co-chair of the Garden committee, gave us a tour of the co-op's beautiful and extensive rooftop garden. This was an example that combined what we saw at the Royal York and at Bain co-operative. It has raised bed lots on the rooftop that are allotted to co-op members based on interest and availability. An interesting feature was that some beds were raised more than others to accommodate co-op members in wheelchairs.

Toronto Community Housing (TCH)

TCH is the largest social housing provider in Canada, providing housing to over 164,000 families, seniors, singles and special needs tenants. They are committed to healthy communities, equity and a strong learning culture. Within TCH there are more than 100 community gardens providing many benefits to the community and the environment.

TCH has integrated gardening as part of its tenant engagement model. They have partnered with the Stop, Foodshare and African Food Basket (see below) to design a three year plan as part of its community management plan. TCH has adopted a mainstreaming approach to gardening - TCH tenants have been doing it for a long time - TCH aims to harness this, make it a strategic priority and support the process. TCH has discovered that gardens are a safe space for community engagement and helps smooth some of the other tensions.

We visited Lawrence Heights, which has eight community gardens. TCH is the landlord but community gardening (and food justice) is a priority for the many organizations working in Lawrence Heights. With the proposed revitalization and therefore densification, the impact on gardening is a concern.

We visited West Hill Apartments, where seniors have developed a raised bed community garden on the lawns of the property. TCH has provided the infrastructure for the gardens. The residents spoke to how it has increased interaction between community members, particularly new immigrants; increased inter-generational interaction; and in general improved community engagement.

The last part of the tour was to the Scadding Court Community Centre where we had a tour of the gardens and community oven. We then went fishing - the community center converts its swimming pool into a fish pond for 1 week every summer. They fill it with rainbow trout and residents of the area can come in to catch fish which is also cleaned on site.

The visit to TCH was important for Lourens particularly, since they have an existing partnership with TCH around tenant engagement. It was also interesting for Stanley to see it from a "mainstreaming" perspective. For Kuria, it was interesting to see the cultural expression through food being grown in each garden.

The Stop Community Food Centre

The Stop Community Food Centre (The Stop) is a non-profit community organization that has been working to address hunger and poverty in Toronto for over 30 years. Underlying all of The Stop's efforts is the view that food should be a basic human right. Initially functioning as a conventional food bank, the Stop has expanded its programs to create a community food centre that provides healthy food, as well as fosters social connections, builds food skills and promotes engagement in civic issues.

We started our visit to the Stop at the Wychwood Barns where one of the former transit repair barns has been converted into a green house and composting area for the Stop. We met with Rhonda Title-Pain, who gave us a tour of the Barns and then had an intense discussion about food justice and equity with Nick Saul, the Education

Director. The Stop aims to end hunger and build healthier and more sustainable communities. The Barns has a community oven, a kitchen, education on good food practice, instruction in preparing healthy meals and on Saturdays the Stop organizes the farmers market. They are also developing seven small ethno specific gardens to reflect cultural differences in food and cultivation. Nick commented on how being in the Barns has increased the Stops' visibility considerably. The Stop has other innovative programs like "In My Backyard" which matches those who want to grow food with those who have the space to grow food.

We visited the Stop office and community food center on Davenport, which is in a TCH building. At this location the Stop runs a community drop in kitchen and a food bank. We took a walk to the Stop Community Garden in the nearby Earls Court Park.

The Stop articulates food issues in strong language of social justice, equity and basic rights. This resonated with Kuria - he imagined conversations spanning many days between Mazingira's Davinder Lambs and Nick! They have effectively used the media for advocacy. An example is the Do the Math Campaign which had prominent citizens of Toronto live on Food Bank rations for days and blog about it. We also visited the Stop's Farmers Market on Saturday - Stanley was interested in how the market was organized and the range of products sold.

The Toronto Urban Farm

We were supposed to join a CPHA group tour of Toronto Parks and Recreation Gardens. Unfortunately they were late getting to Foodshare and cancelled the rest of their tour, which worked in our favour. Solomon Boye, is the Community Gardens Coordinator for the City of Toronto at the Toronto Urban Farm, located on Toronto Regional Conservation Authority land near Black Creek Pioneer Village. The project has been developed with the explicit objective of positive engagement of at risk youth in the Jane and Finch area.

The Farm offers between 15 and 20 summer jobs for youth who must live in this neighbourhood. The young people are expected to adhere to the strict discipline of farming including long hours of physical work. There is no mechanization on the farm. When it rains or during breaks, they do classroom sessions on management and leadership. We spoke with about six youth, who all spoke about the positive influence of this work on their lives, how it has helped them learn patience, team work, take responsibility and build leadership skills. Many of them have returned to work on the farm for consecutive summers (Solomon only hires students who are committed to going back to college or university).

A key observation we had for the success of the program is that in this case, the youth and their constructive engagement is the focus. Farming is the means, not the end. When asked what message they would give to the youth in South Africa, one of the youth said that "Farming is a lesson in life. It's hard work but the fruits of the labour are visible."

Toronto Public Health Food Strategy

Toronto is a global leader in municipal food policy development. The newest Toronto Food Strategy report - *Cultivating Food Connections: Toward a Healthy and*

Sustainable Food System for Toronto - was submitted to the Toronto Board of Health on June 1, 2010.

Barbara Emanuel, Senior Policy & Strategic Issues Advisor, and Seodhna Keown, Intern, Toronto Public Health, spoke to us about the Toronto Food Strategy and the policy process. Seodhna described the consultation process that culminated in the "What we heard" report. Barbara walked us through the Toronto Food Strategy which applies a health lens to food systems. The strategy creates a framework for enabling policy in the city around food issues and identifies six priority areas for action.

Barbara did not get a chance to discuss the Botswana project around HIV AIDS and food security in depth at this meeting, but she expressed her keen interest in partnering with us internationally on this issue.

Barbara also helped facilitate a meeting for Stanley with Michael Wolfson, within the Economic Development Division who has the food mandate - Stanley's counterpart within the City of Toronto which he found extremely useful and relevant.

Centre for Studies in Food Security (CSFS) - Ryerson University

Established in 1994, the CSFS works to promote food security through research, dissemination, education, community action and professional practice. We met with Cecilia Rocha, Fiona Yeudall and Jasmine Kwong at the Ryerson University, Centre for Urban Food Security. The Center is a joint project of the School of nutrition and sociology.

The Centre does research on urban agriculture and income security, HIV and AIDS, and works with Canadian urban community groups. Cecilia is associated with Brazil Connections program with the city of Belo Horizonte which is the only jurisdiction with a comprehensive set of policies and programs around food security. As part of this program they have developed Portuguese internet based courses for Brazil and Angola.

Lawrence Heights Community Centre

The Lawrence Heights Community Centre works with the residents of Lawrence Heights and surrounding areas. This includes work with women to run a Good Food market on Fridays. The market features fresh fruit, and culturally appropriate vegetables at very affordable prices. This is the only community center in North America that has a community gardening specialist.

We met with Helen Kennedy, Manager of the Center, Tinashe, the community garden specialist, Shukri, who works with the women's market and catering group and Dulaa who is a member of the Environmental Justice Youth Group. Helen and Tinashe spoke to the value of using community gardening as a tool for youth and women's engagement. The women-run Good Food market orders produce from Foodshare, which they resell to the community. The intent is to ensure that the community has access to fresh vegetables and fruit either through the market or through the produce that is grown in the various markets.

As everywhere else, we saw and heard about gardens as a tool for youth engagement and community mobilization. The gardens have helped youth break down barriers and

in the case of the youth group given them a stake in community decision making by being part of the Lawrence Heights Food Justice network.

Visiting the Lawrence Heights was important, because we saw the confluence and co-ordination between many of the urban food security actors in the city. Tinashe's role with youth and community animation, supported also by the African Food Basket, was recognized as a model to be introduced into Botswana by Toronto Public Health. We saw Foodshare working with local women's groups through the market, food value addition in the Somali women's catering group, community gardens for youth, children, women and families all around the community. We also heard about efforts to co-ordinate initiatives of the various actors working in Lawrence Heights and getting food justice on the agenda and attempts to break down silos, conflicts and tensions that come with that process. Lourens was particularly inspired by this model for his Learning Center.

Wychwood Barns Farmers Market

The Wychwood Barns Farmers Market offers an array of seasonal Ontario food products. The market supports Ontario agriculture by encouraging farmers to grow as sustainably as possible. All of the produce reflects the fair cost of production so that everyone involved in makes a living wage. It was interesting for Kuria and Stanley. For Kuria, it was to see value added agricultural produce - he was fascinated by the baked kale chips. For Stanley, it was how the markets were organized and what incentives the farmers had to come to sell their produce.

Foodshare Open House

FoodShare Toronto is Canada's largest community food security organization, recognized as an important innovator of effective programs that have been reproduced all across Canada. Their mandate and activities work with communities to realize the vision of good and healthy food for all.

The visitors went to the Foodshare Open House. This included opening of the new Foodshare Greenhouse which is a zero footprint greenhouse which is solar powered aided by geo-thermal heating and cooling, We also had a demonstration on composting by Mike Nevin (from Bain co-op) on site. We saw a demonstration of the closed loop aquaponic system (fish, plants) and an overview of the many Foodshare programs - Seed to Table, Good Food markets, technology innovations (pop can solar heater, growing sprouts in filing cabinets etc.)

Toronto African Food Basket (AFB) - Ujamaa Farm

AFB was founded to address food security in the African Canadian community in Toronto but now works with several additional communities in the city including Polish, Russian, Persian, South Asian, Chinese, and Latin American. They run a 2 acre plot within the McVeen farms in Brampton. Tinashe and the Lawrence Heights Community Centre are also linked with AFB.

The McVeen farm is built as a farm incubator - new farmers are offered a sub-plot to experiment with growing food for their own consumption or for sale. Each plot is serviced for farming - ploughed as per requirements and has water connections. There is a common shed for tools and a barn.

AFB has an incubator within the incubator. Their two acre plot is further subdivided between various groups. We met with Anan Lololi, Executive Director of the AFB and three of the groups farming - one was a Kenyan couple, one was a Caribbean farmer and the third was a group of youth - called Jigna Organic Incorporated. Our discussion was mostly with the youth, who are weekend farmers introduced to farming by AFB. They spoke about the challenges of engaging youth in farming - its association among African-Caribbean youth with slavery and the need for "farming to be sexy for youth."

This was an example of incubation that allows people to experiment with farming in a risk-free environment. While it had an interesting youth engagement component, the incubation aspect was very relevant as well.

Foodshare

FoodShare promotes policies - such as adequate social assistance rates, sustainable agriculture, universal funding of community-based programs and nutrition education - that will make food a priority at all levels of society. The non-profit organization reaches over 145,000 children and adults a month through subsidized fresh produce distribution, student nutrition programs, community gardening and cooking, classroom curriculum support, home made baby food workshops and youth internships.

We met with Ravena Barker, Justin and Veronique to get an overview on Foodshare's programs. Foodshare vision for Toronto is to increase access to healthy food in an affordable way. They started with a food access hotline and then became a hub for fresh food to come into local low income communities. One their most successful programs has been to figure out a framework for what makes community gardens work - through capacity building, popular education, partnership building. They use an asset based approach to community development - as a way to leverage existing community resources. Their methodology involves one year of really strong support - which includes training, community development as animation and as time goes on facilitating conflict resolution. The focus is not so much on what and how to grow (extension services), as it is around enabling community processes to growing.

The discussion with Foodshare was a real exchange - looking at examples and how things worked in Nairobi, Cape Town and Toronto. It centered on:

- how the various food related organization work together in the city without "stepping on each others toes"
- Land management and the greenbelt - conflicts between housing and food production
- Networking urban farmers - eg. NEFSALF, the Urban Agriculture summit in Cape Town and the Toronto Urban Growers network
- Differences in strategic approaches - eg. The discussion around compost as a nutrient exchange strategy in Kenya, but a waste capture strategy in Toronto.

We also got a demonstration of the closed loop system of aquaponics (scaled down version of the system in Milwaukee).

Food to Table - Schools without Borders / East Scarborough Store Front

Schools Without Borders (SWB) is a unique youth-led organization that makes education and learning more accessible for young people. Seed to Table is a dynamic new program launched at the East Scarborough Storefront this Spring. The East

Scarborough Store Front is a one-stop community services shop in Eastern Scarborough - a priority neighborhood in Toronto. The Store Front is a hub for community groups, NGOs and city services to be co-ordinated and delivered through one physical location.

The present location of the Storefront is right next door to a large community garden - the site of a former water tower. The garden is divided into several plots allotted to residents in the area who want a space to grow. The Storefront hosts a Good Food market where produce from the garden can also be sold.

Schools Without Borders started the Seed to Table program, to bring together environmental and food education, hands on cooking and gardening skills, and creative leadership training to help build a youth-led food movement. When we visited, the program was only in its third week. We met ten young girls aged between eight and 14 who were learning about plants, nutrition, gardening and then put together a healthy pizza with fresh vegetables.

SWB is also engaged in urban food security with youth internationally and we have been able to link them with Mazingira Institute. Julian Caspari was in Nairobi and met Davinder and they are exploring the possibility of enrolling SWB youth from Kenya in Mazingira's urban farmer training program.

Foodcycles

Located within Downsview Park, Foodcycles is an independent CSA (Community Shared Agriculture) group. Started by a group of community gardeners, their vision is to create a just and ecological urban food system that encourages all people to come together to grow, learn about, and celebrate food. They operate a two acre farm and greenhouse in which they are hoping to create the closed loop system - with fish and plants - on a smaller scale. Mike Nevin helped them set up the composting system. Food Cycles is an experiment. Sunny Lam gave us a tour of the greenhouse and farm.

Evergreen Learning Grounds

Evergreen is a national charity that makes cities more livable. Since 1991 Evergreen has been engaging Canadians in creating and sustaining dynamic outdoor spaces—in schools, communities and homes. By deepening the connection between people and nature, and empowering Canadians to take a hands-on approach to their urban environments, Evergreen aims to improve the health and well-being of the cities in a sustainable way.

Evergreen has seconded one of its staff to the TDSB to help schools set up gardening programs as part of its Eco-Schools initiatives. We visited two schools - one elementary and one high school. The Winchester Public School native and food garden was developed and is supported in partnership with Green Thumbs for Growing kids. We were taken on the tour by two grade six girls. The garden is a mix of food and natural plants that is planted and harvested by the schools kids. Within the garden is also a learning area. While classrooms are engaged in the planting and harvest; but care, weeding and watering remains a challenge during the summer vacation.

We visited the Sir Sanford Fleming Academy, a high school near Bathurst and Lawrence. The garden program here is for high school youth and is developed in partnership with PACT Urban Peace program - which encourages and supports at risk

youth to reach their full potential. The Grow to Learn program which is a school food initiative aiming to connect students and community groups with growing organic food, raising community awareness and providing opportunities for youth to participate in the growing cycle. The program is hoping to provide summer employment for students in the garden.

Exchange workshop

On Tuesday the 22nd June, we organized a workshop that brought together many of the groups and people that the visitors had met over the exchange to consolidate learning and look for how we could continue this exchange. A separate report of this workshop is available.

Next Steps

In the debrief meeting that followed 10 days of visits and meetings some of the next steps and ideas identified:

Short Term

- a workshop on urban food security proposed for Nairobi towards the end of 2010 (definitely involve Uganda, Nairobi, Cape Town, Toronto, maybe Botswana and Brazil)
- Specific exchanges
 - o youth (e.g. Solomon Boye/ Toronto Urban Farm)
 - o Curriculum development for urban gardening (Need to explore what is on the ground on this in Cape Town further; needs/ assesst assessment)
- Building a housing link into Mazingira's work by engaging NACHU

Medium/ Long term

- Policy frameworks through a tri-city comparative process that also links to the ground - Cape Town, Nairobi and Toronto including identifying thematic areas - sectoral as well as process such as
 - o Gender
 - o Land use management
 - o Engagement of young, particularly women
 - o Possible to include others such as *FCM*
- Models for youth engagement and animation
- Working towards a third urban agriculture summit in Cape Town
- Explore a demonstration model on a three ha plot of land in Cape Town - to demonstrate techniques such as tunnel production etc.
- Rooftops Canada to think this through (with Diana's help and identify performance measures etc.)

Urban Food Security Study visit

Sun Jun 13 – Sat Jun 19, 2010 (Eastern Time - Toronto)

	Sunday 6/13	Monday 6/14	Tuesday 6/15	Wednesday 6/16	Thursday 6/17	Friday 6/18	Saturday 6/19
9am							Visit to Wychwood Bams Farmers Market 9am - 10:30am
10am			Fairmont Royal York Hotel apiary and rooftop garden 10am - 12pm	Toronto Community Housing - Steve Floros and Gilda Crawley 9:30am - 6pm	The Stop (starting at the Wychwood Bams and then to Davenport location) 9:30am - 12:30pm	Meeting with Barbara Emanuel and the Toronto Food Strategy team 10am - 12:30pm	
11am							Foodshare: AGM and visit 11am - 4pm
12pm							
1pm		Lunch and meeting with Rooftops Canada 12:30pm - 2pm	Bain Co-op 1pm - 3:30pm			Ryerson University: Center for Urban Food Security 1pm - 2:30pm	
2pm		Introduction and overview: TFPC, TEO (Rooftops Canada office) 2pm - 4pm			City of Toronto Parks and Rec - Rockcliffe Gardens and maybe Urban Farm or High Park Childrens garden + Meeting with Solomon Boye (Joining the tour for CPHA delegates) 2pm - 6pm		
3pm			TBC - Windmill Line Co-op Rooftop garden 3:30pm - 4:30pm			Lawrence Heights Community Center (Helen Kennedy and Tinashe) 3pm - 7pm	
4pm		Meeting with members of the Toronto Youth Food Policy Council 4pm - 5:30pm					
5pm							
6pm				Possibility: Lippincott Street Farmers Market 6pm - 7pm			
7pm			Rooftops Canada Dinner: Location The Local Company 7pm - 9pm		Possibility: Dufferin Grove Farmers Market 6:30pm - 7:30pm		
8pm							

Urban Food Security Study visit

Sun Jun 20 – Sat Jun 26, 2010 (Eastern Time - Toronto)

	Sunday 6/20	Monday 6/21	Tuesday 6/22	Wednesday 6/23	Thursday 6/24	Friday 6/25	Saturday 6/26
8am							
9am			Food cycles - Parc Downsview Park - visit and meeting 8:30am - 12:30pm	Evergreen Learning Ground - school visits and meetings 9am - 12:30pm			
10am	AfriCan Food Basket - specific timing and location TBC 10am - 1pm	Foodshare Meeting and Lunch 10am - 1pm					
11am							
12pm							
1pm			Workshop and networking event for all organizations involved in the study visit (Hosted by TCH - location and invitation to be circulated) 1pm - 6pm	Debrief meeting - Rooftops Canada Office 1pm - 3:30pm			
2pm		Seed to Table - Kingston and Galloway - Schools without Borders 1:30pm - 5pm					
3pm							
4pm							
5pm							
6pm							
7pm							

Name of Person	Organization	Email	Other Contact Information
Stanley Visser	City of Cape Town, South Africa http://www.capetown.gov.za	Stanley.Visser@capetown.gov.za	+021 5501201
Lourens De Jager	Communicare, South Africa http://www.communicare.org/	ldejager@communicare.org.za	+27 21 421 6008
Kuria Gathuru	Mazingira Institute, Kenya http://www.mazinst.org/	mazinst@mitsuminet.com	+254 020 4443219/26/29
Diana Lee-Smith	Mazingira Institute, Kenya http://www.mazinst.org/	diana.leesmith@gmail.com	+254 020 4443219/26/29
Jodi Callan	Toronto Environment Office http://www.toronto.ca/teo/	jcallan@toronto.ca	416-392-1826
James Kuhn	Consultant Member of the Toronto Food Policy Council http://www.toronto.ca/health/tpc_index.htm	james@metroagalliance.org	416-578-7721
Wayne Roberts	Manager Toronto Food Policy Council http://www.toronto.ca/health/tpc_index.htm	getalife@web.ca ; wrobert@toronto.ca	416-694-7605
Yusuf Alam	Manager Toronto Food Policy Council Toronto Youth Food Policy Council http://www.toronto.ca/health/tpc_index.htm	yalam@toronto.ca	416-338-7936
Tamara Wise	Toronto Youth Food Policy Council http://www.toronto.ca/health/tpc_index.htm	tamara.wise@gmail.com	416-797-6574
Chris Wong	Toronto Youth Food Policy Council http://www.toronto.ca/health/tpc_index.htm		416-238-5715 http://www.youngurbanfarmers.com
David Garcelon	Fairmont Royal York Hotel http://www.fairmont.com/royal YORK/	royalyorkhotel@fairmont.com	416-368-2511
Mike Nevin	Bain Co-operative http://www.100bain.com/	compost@foodshare.net	416-363-6441 ext. 231

Name of Person	Organization	Email	Other Contact Information
Zora Ignjatovic	Bain Co-operative http://www.100bain.com/	artdecos@rogers.com	416-463-9031
Helen Mills	Bain Co-operative http://www.100bain.com/		
Karen Lee	Windmill Line co-operative http://www.windmill-line.coop/	krn1lee@aol.com	
Steve Floros	Toronto Community Housing http://www.torontohousing.ca/	steve.floros@torontohousing.ca	416-981-4361
Gilda Crawley	Toronto Community Housing http://www.torontohousing.ca/	Gilda.Crawley@torontohousing.ca	416-981-4370
Mwarigha	Toronto Community Housing http://www.torontohousing.ca/	info@torontohousing.ca	416-981-5500
Anushia Mohan	Toronto Community Housing http://www.torontohousing.ca/	Anushia.Mohan@torontohousing.ca	
Luis Mejicano	Toronto Community Housing http://www.torontohousing.ca/	luis.mejicano@torontohousing.ca	416- 771- 1053
Michael Kyere	Toronto Community Housing/African Food Basket http://www.torontohousing.ca/ http://www.africanfoodbasket.com/		
Nick Saul	The Stop Community Food Center http://www.thestop.org/	nick@thestop.org	416-652-7867 ext. 223
Rhonda Teitel-Payne	The Stop Community Food Center http://www.thestop.org/	rhonda@thestop.org	416-652-7867 ext. 222
Solomon Boye	Community Gardens Co-ordinator, City of Toronto, Parks and Rec. http://www.toronto.ca/parks/programs/community.htm	sboye@toronto.ca	416-392-7800
Julian	Manager, Toronto Urban Farm, City of Toronto, Parks and Rec. http://www.trca.on.ca/understand/near-urban-agriculture/toronto-urban-farm.dot	jhasfor@toronto.ca	
Barbara	Toronto Public Health	bemanuel@toronto.ca	416-392-7464

Name of Person	Organization	Email	Other Contact Information
Emanuel	http://www.toronto.ca/health/		
Seodhna Keown	Toronto Public Health http://www.toronto.ca/health/	seodhnakeown@gmail.com	
Cecilia Rocha	Centre for Food Security, Ryerson University http://www.ryerson.ca/foodsecurity/	crocha@ryerson.ca	416-979-5000 ext. 6009
Fiona Yeudall	Centre for Food Security, Ryerson University http://www.ryerson.ca/foodsecurity/	fyeudall@ryerson.ca	416-979-5000 ext. 7071
Jasmine Kwong	Centre for Food Security, Ryerson University http://www.ryerson.ca/foodsecurity/	kwong.jasmine@gmail.com	416-979-5000 ext. 4538
Helen Kennedy	Lawrence Heights Community Center	hmkenned@toronto.ca	416-395-6120
Tinashe Kanengoni	Lawrence Heights Community Center	wafawanaka@gmail.com	416-948-8445
Shukri Mohamud	Lawrence Heights Community Center	lawrenceheightscommunitymarket@gmail.com	
Dulaa Osmun	Lawrence Heights Environment Justice Group	dulaaosmun@yahoo.com	
Anan Lololi	African Food Basket http://www.africanfoodbasket.com/	ixola@yahoo.com	416-248-5639
Youth farmers at the AFB Ujama Farm	Jigna Organics Incorporated	<a href="mailto:Arsema_Berhane_<arsema@gmail.com>">Arsema Berhane <arsema@gmail.com> joi.farms@gmail.com , illuminated37@gmail.com , yajajasun@gmail.com , dsamuels@ouhchallengefund.org , sewiteb@gmail.com	
Ravenna Barker	Foodshare http://www.foodshare.net/	ravenna@foodshare.net	416-363-6441 ext. 225
Justin	Foodshare		

Name of Person	Organization	Email	Other Contact Information
	http://www.foodshare.net/		
Veronique	Foodshare http://www.foodshare.net/		
Ian Hepburn-Aley	Foodshare http://www.foodshare.net/	ian@foodshare.net	416-363-6441 ext. 241
Erika Puffer	Schools without Borders Seed to Table http://www.swb.ca/seed-to-table-3/	erika@swb.ca	647-654-3116
Dip Habib	East Scarborough Store Front http://www.thestorefront.org/	DIPH@THESTOREFRONT.ORG	416-208-9889 ext.35
Sunny Lam Ashlee Cooper	Foodcycles http://foodcycles.org/	mashwithash@gmail.com sunny.lam@gmail.com	647-453-3663
Anne Drabowski	Evergreen http://www.evergreen.ca/	adabrowski@evergreen.ca	416-596-1495 ext. 248
Eric L Paysweur	PACT Urban Peace Program http://www.pactprogram.ca/pact/Home.html	epayseur3@yahoo.com	416-347-0463
Susanne Burkhardt	Scadding Court Community Centre www.scaddingcourt.org	sburkhardt@scaddingcourt.org	416-392-0335 ext. 248
Chris Ellison	Circle Anglia, UK http://www.circleanglia.org/	southanglia.info@circleanglia.org (general inquiries)	
Gary Wilkinson	Circle Anglia, UK http://www.circleanglia.org/	southanglia.info@circleanglia.org (general inquiries)	+07917 242521
Catherine Smith	Circle Anglia, UK http://www.circleanglia.org/	southanglia.info@circleanglia.org (general inquiries)	

Urban Agriculture Exchange Visit, June 2010 EVALUATION

Usefulness of the information and experiences presented during the exchange:

	Average Rating
Visit to Toronto Food Policy Council	5
Visit to Toronto Environment Office	4
Visit to Toronto Youth Food Policy Council	4
Rooftop Garden and Onsite Bee Keeping Operations – Fairmont Royal York Hotel	5
Bain Cooperative: Community Gardens and Composting Sites	4.5
Windmill Line Cooperative: Rooftop garden	4.5
Toronto Community Housing	4
The Stop Community Food Centre	5
Urban Farm with Solomon	5
Toronto Public Health Food Strategy	5
Centre for Studies in Food Security – Ryerson University	4
Lawrence Heights Community Center	4.5
The Wychwood Arts Barns Farmers Market	4.5
African Food Basket – Ujamaa Farm	4
Foodshare	4.5
Schools Without Borders	5
Foodcycles Greenhouses in Downsview Park	4
Workshop on the exchange	5
Evergreen Learning Ground	4.5
Any other, Please specify: Rooftops Office	5

Suggestions for improvements/comments:

- Allocate more time for each visit
- Space out the visits over a longer period to allow time for reflection
- Provide documentation of the visits to share with our colleagues and partners

What were the most valuable areas of knowledge/information for you?

- The varied visits offered useful information around both the areas of policy and ground work.
- Areas of particular interest:
 - Toronto Food Policy Council and Food Strategy
 - Urban farming with Solomon
 - Aquaponics, reducing health risks by demonstrating its use in urban areas
- Sharing of fundraising techniques and networking skills to involve more actors

How will you use the knowledge/information that you obtained?

- To instigate a food strategy in Cape Town
- Advocacy of food rights and putting food policy on the agenda
- Community integration to involve peri-urban farmers

What areas of knowledge/information do you think will be the most important to share with your colleagues? How will you do so? Would you like Rooftops Canada to support you in sharing this knowledge? If yes, how?

- Policy formulation process and the actual translation of policy into practice
- Collaboration with government/market sector and youth engagement – NEFSALF Forum
- New approaches to fundraising, for example collecting air miles donations for youth groups to visit urban agriculture projects in other places
- Information on how to engage the media
- Understand urban gardening is a vehicle for exploring many issues and interests
- Tailoring projects to the size of the budget which determines the scope of offerings.

Did you find the exchange useful? Why? Should such an exchange continue? Why?

- Provided insight into different aspects of urban agriculture and growing food
- Useful learning experience on both personal and institutional levels – exposure community grassroots groups, institutional exchange visits, community experts and mentors
- The hands on exchange showed how organizations interact with each other and how resources are accessed and shared
- The exchange should continue with specific themes and focuses

What are the three most important things to consider when planning for any future exchange visits?

- Duration of the exchange should be longer to reduce the active hours per day and allow time for reflection
- Specific focus of the exchange (themes and specific issues)
- Visitors expectations and interests matched with visits to groups/organizations
- Set one day aside for a follow up session with a specific department or organization

Is there anything Rooftops Canada should emphasize in future exchanges?

- Best practices and practical experience
- Exposure to a wider range of actors similar, such as Wychwood Art Barns farmers market

Preparations and logistics

	Average Rating
Preparation/information before departure	3.5
Airport meeting and pick up arrangements	4
Accommodation	4
Local Transportation	5
Planning/scheduling of activities	4
Meals	4
Amount of per diem for meals and expenses	4.5
Quality of briefing materials and information	4
Organization of site visits	4.5
Quality of resource people in workshops, site visits	4
Support from Rooftops Canada	4.5

Suggestions for improvements/comments:

- Involve more actors