

Asia Urbs Project PHL-3-17
Final Report

3 Workpackage 3 (Allotment Gardening/AG)

3.1 Members of the Working Group

The members of the working group “Allotment Gardening” as of the time of reporting were:

Schelklingen City:

- Stefan Dongus

APT:

- Dr. Axel Drescher

Cagayan de Oro City:

- Merlito T. Clavejo, Jocelyn Salcedo

XUCA:

- Dr. Robert J. Holmer, Kilian S. Deveza, Yvette B. Guanzon as well as Horacio S. Factura and Annalou C. Chua (both since August 2003)

3.2 Activity 3.1 Establishment of allotment gardens in selected pilot areas

3.2.1 Identification of allotment garden areas in Gusa, Lapasan and Carmen

Suitable areas for allotment gardening were identified in all pilot areas. However, it took longer than expected to identify ideal areas in Gusa, Lapasan and Carmen.

Barangay Gusa

The first area recommended in Gusa was declined for usage by the Allotment Garden Technical Working Group since it is located on top of a hill, hence difficult to access for the community partners. Further, it was much too costly to supply it with water (details see second intermediate report). The final area for allotment garden in Gusa is privately owned by the Concepcion and Olano families. The area was considered as ideal since it has a water source and is located close to the homes of the beneficiaries' residences.



Turnover of garden tools to Gusa allotment gardeners



Lecture and hands-on training in Gusa allotment garden



Inside the Allotment Garden of Barangay Gusa



Gusa allotment gardeners in their nursery

Barangay Lapasan

The allotment garden area in zone St. Niño of barangay Lapasan is privately owned by Mr. Ramon Kho and was identified using an aerial photograph. The barangay chairman assisted in the negotiation with the landowner who does not ask for any rental payments.



Lapasan allotment garden site before start of the project



Lapasan allotment garden few weeks after...

Barangay Carmen

The area of the Mt. Carmel allotment garden is owned by Xavier University and located within its Independence Farm. The area is located in barangay Carmen and not in neighboring barangay Canitoan as originally intended. This, however proved to be beneficial for the project since the allotment gardeners (garbage pickers of the landfill site) are residents of barangay Carmen and full support is provided by the barangay council and its chairman.



Launching of the Mt. Carmel Allotment garden in Barangay Carmen.



Kangkong production in the Carmen Allotment Garden.

3.3 Activity 3.2 Administration of allotment gardens

3.3.1 Provide legal access for allotment gardeners for allotment gardening

For the allotment garden areas Carmen, Gusa, and Lapasan, memoranda of agreement were signed with all stakeholders involved (landowner, allotment gardeners, barangay captain, City Mayor and XUCA representative). The memorandum of agreement stipulates the roles and responsibilities of all partners and provides legal access for the allotment gardeners to cultivate the gardens and also protects the rights of the landowner (use of land for gardening purposes only, not for residential purposes).

3.3.2 Recruitment of participants among the urban poor

The project management decided to stop cooperating with the Philippine Allotment Gardeners Association due to the problems already described in the Second Semiannual Project Report. After this decision was implemented in October 2003, matters related to the allotment garden workpackage run smoothly and without any further constraints. As regards the recruitment of allotment gardeners among the urban poor, the final decision was left to the barangay council as originally intended. The criteria for selection of the allotment gardeners were already reported earlier. Considered as very crucial for the success of the project is the role of the barangay coordinator for allotment gardening whose authority is respected among the community partners. He/She particularly:

- Sees to it that the trained family head will participate in all allotment garden activities.
- Coordinates membership issues regarding allotment gardeners association (such as opening of a bank account, payment of monthly dues, etc).
- Assists in reviewing of the constitution and by-laws of allotment gardeners association
- Works closely with the allotment garden technician.

3.3.3 Advocacy and promotion of the project goals and objectives

To further advocate and promote the establishment of allotment gardens in Cagayan de Oro City, the following activities were done:

- the barangay and city council was regularly updated on the project activities
- advocacy materials such as publications in the Urban Agriculture Magazine were prepared

- facilitation of guided tours to interested parties (city officials, private persons, and others, among them representatives of UN Habitat Office Manila and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ))
- A food security survey among the allotment gardeners was conducted to obtain baseline data to assess the short, medium and long-term impact of allotment gardening
- Consultancy work for a city ordinance to promote allotment garden in the city (i.e. high taxes on idle areas, lower or no taxes on areas used of allotment gardening)

It is further scheduled to bestow certificates of appreciation to landowners of the allotment gardens to recognize their contribution to the overall success of the project.

3.4 Activity 3.3 Sustainable crop management practices for allotment gardens

This activity is subdivided into the following two tasks:

- To implement and develop appropriate crop production technologies for urban fruit and vegetable production that are environmentally sound, socially accepted and economically viable.
- To conduct respective trainings and seminars

3.4.1 Crop production technologies-

The allotment gardens in Carmen, Gusa and Lapasan were successfully implemented. The allotment gardeners are using economically viable, environmentally safe and socially acceptable crop management strategies that were tested prior to the implementation by XUCA. Standard operating procedures (SOP) for different vegetables were produced in English and vernacular.

3.4.2 Training

A series of training activities has been organized for the allotment gardeners. This included on-site training at the allotment gardens, at the XUCA Manresa Farm as well as during field trips to agricultural government institutions and commercial farms in the neighboring province of Bukidnon.

The AsiaUrbs project also facilitated a training sponsored by GTZ and DanchurchAid on sustainable vegetable production systems from February 23-27, 2004 at Manresa Farm. Participants were MNLF¹ rebel returnees who settled in Cagayan de Oro, tribal people from Central Mindanao, rural farmers from Western Mindanao as well as the allotment gardeners. During this training, the allotment gardeners acted partly already as trainers for the other participants. As one of the outcomes, it is planned to establish an allotment garden for the MNLF rebel returnees in barangay Tablon, Cagayan de Oro City with financial assistance of DanchurchAid and the German Embassy in Manila.

3.4.3 Action Research

Several trials for improved cultivars have been conducted. The studies will be presented during the Annual In-House Review of XUCA on June 11, 2004 and thereafter published at the project's website.

¹ MNLF = Moro National Liberation Front