

# UFISAMO



What is new since May 2017?

Newsletter 02/2017: August



Starting work on the demonstration plot in Beacon Hill High School, Cape Town, in preparation of the planning workshop. All photos: *Anique van der Vluigt*

## 1. UFISAMo – activities during the 2nd quarter (May – July 2017)?

The second quarter of 2017 for UFISAMo witnessed the conducting and finalisation of the socio-economic baseline survey for all working packages in Maputo and Cape Town, the first phase of the research on future visions on urban agriculture by the SLE group, by presentations in conferences and by a visit by the Mozambican partners to Berlin:

### Research activities

- **Finalization of the association survey in Maputo** with presidents of associations (27 interviews) and first analysis
- **Finalization of baseline survey in Maputo** with 416 urban farmers and data entry. Data cleaning is currently ongoing, before running the data through a first round of statistical analysis.
- **Preparation of research and laboratory analysis of broiler production** in Maputo in cooperation with the veterinary faculty of UEM. Implementation of the research is currently delayed (see below: “milestones missed”)
- **Conducting of baseline survey in Cape Town** with 120 urban farmers under supervision of Razack Kariem from UWC and in cooperation with and supported by various NGOs working on urban agriculture as well as municipality in Cape Town
- **Developing research approach and methodology** by SLE research group to develop policy recommendations for better integration of urban agriculture into urban development and planning (WP 4.3), a research implemented from August – October 2017 in Maputo and Cape Town. An inception report was circulated on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August
- **Handing in of presentations by a MSc student and a BSc student** from HUB in Cape Town: welfare effects through urban agriculture and marketing of products (MSc thesis) and composting methods (BSc thesis)
- **Submission of research concept** by two UWC master students describing their preliminary research design on organizational structures in urban agriculture and effects of urban agriculture on livelihoods in disadvantaged communities including consumer habits
- **Planning and planting activities by the demo-plot group** on the site of the shared demonstration plot at Beacon High School (see title pictures)

### Business trips, meetings and preparatory activities

- **Meeting between researchers and coordination from UEM and HUB** in Berlin to discuss progress on the baseline survey and associated issues, planned publications, conference participation and upcoming research activities.
- **Presentation of the “fairies’ garden”**, a project by students of a seminar on urban agriculture under supervision of Nicole and Anja during the long scientific night in Berlin
- **Preparation of visit** by representatives from UEM agricultural faculty from Maputo to Berlin in early September
- **Preparation of annual meeting** in Cape Town by South African partners scheduled for October 2017 and feedback
- **Preparation of coordination trip** to Maputo and Cape Town in late August 2017

### Conference participation

- **Presentation of UFISAMO first results** for PhD research and WP focus of Anja and Nicole at ISDRS conference on sustainable development in Bogotà (see: “scientific updates” below)

- **Acceptance of one abstract and two posters** for Tropentag (Sept. 2017) submitted by UFISAMo (Erik) and Nicole and Anja. Other submitted abstracts were rejected
- **Acceptance of abstracts** for Grüne Liga urban agriculture conference in Berlin submitted by Ivo and Luisa
- **Acceptance of abstract on Food Planning at AESOP conference** in Coventry/UK in mid November (“Sustainable food planning”) → PhD focus Nicole, with strong linkage to Anjas research, abstract leads to a paper
- **Acceptance of two abstracts for Cape Town “ACC urban conference”** in February 2018: African Centre for Cities (UCT) <https://www.africancentreforcities.net/call-submission-acc-international-urban-conference/>. Authors of the abstracts Nicole and Anja on their PhD focus and impact of Urban Agriculture.
- **Pending abstracts** submitted by Mena, Anja and Nicole **at Cape Town food security conference** in early December
- **Rejection of proposed session at Cape Town food security conference** in early December submitted by Anja, Nicole and Razack.

### Products

- **Data base on urban farming associations** in Maputo
- **Data base of urban farmer survey in Maputo** including general farmers and farmers trained on organic farming by an NGO (Essor) (316 approved and valid data sets of farmers)
- **Data base of urban farmer survey in Cape Town** including farmers trained by various NGOs, by municipal extension workers as well as untrained farmers and working in community gardens and/or backyard gardens (sample size: 120 farmers)
- **Demoplot “microgarden (“fairies’ garden”)** in Berlin, result of Seminar taught by Anja and Nicole on impact of urban agriculture, the microgarden concept and dissemination strategies for disadvantaged communities in Berlin, Study report follows in early September, public presentation is on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September
- **Inception report by the SLE study group** describing their research concept and methodology



*Photo 1: an interested visitor to the fairies' garden/microgarden-demonstration plot behind the museum of natural sciences; Photo: Anna Markovic*

## Coordination

- **Budget adaptations** requested by HUB and FUB were approved by BLE – money requested but not spent in 2016 can be spent in 2017. All partners benefit from that good news.
- **Two student assistants** left the project, as their studies carries them to other universities and new tasks. Replacement has been identified and started working on the first of August
- **Monthly meetings in Berlin, Maputo and Cape Town** for regular update and presentation of project progress. This is also the medium for discussing organizational matters and moving forward on joined activities (e.g. annual meeting planning)

## Milestones achieved:

- The first **data collection phase 2017** of the four research fellows from Maputo and Berlin was finalized in Maputo and Cape Town with the last set of data being transferred to Berlin for data cleaning and analysis in late July. However, this represents a delay of three months compared to the original plan (see “milestones missed”).
- **Work package 4.3** (stakeholder dialogues and **scenarios** for urban agriculture; implemented by an **SLE study group** under team leader Severin) prepared its research design and methodological preparation in Berlin according to plan. They left for Maputo for a three months implementation phase in Southern Africa on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.
- A **draft agenda for the annual meeting** was developed and shared by the South African partners. Workshop venue as well as nearby accommodation were booked.
- A **draft structure for the final report** compiling the most interesting information of the research project was developed by coordination and shared with all partners for comments. The structure shall be agreed upon during the annual meeting, so that some articles can already be written as contributions to the final document.
- The **researchers from UWC** to work on the open research topics in Cape Town shared their research concepts with their supervisors and with coordination.
- The **approved budget adaptation** will pay for the second field phases, cover some of the administrative costs incurring at the partner universities and be used for travel activities, especially between Maputo and Cape Town to progress on the work package 3.
- The **report on value chains in Maputo** was finalized shared within UFISAMo.

## Milestones missed

- **Work package 3** – the research and education network – has progressed, the people in charge took over different tasks concerning the various aspects of the component (network, module/curriculum, excellence centre). A first round of concepts was disseminated and commented. We are however still waiting for a consolidated document.
- The **website has gone online**. However, what exactly to be published on the website and what to hold back in order not to jeopardize PhD research is still being debated. Only parts of the website are thus currently accessible. Concurrently, the training for the management of the website has not yet taken place, and the handing over of the website to the South African and Mozambican partners is still pending.
- The **baseline survey** in Maputo and in Cape Town was delayed for various reasons. In consequence, data cleaning and data analysis are equally delayed and first results of these

surveys will not be shared before September 2017. Further focussing of research of the different work packages depends on the information gaps identified during the baseline survey and on interesting pathways for research which become apparent along the analysis – the research process itself is thus delayed by approximately three months.

- **Research within WP 2.2** on broiler production in Maputo is delayed for various reasons: since June 2017, the avian influence (AI) hit Southern Africa (Zimbabwe, South Africa, Swaziland). As a result, day old chicks are currently not supplied to Mozambique and the production cycle is interrupted. In addition, the inventory of laboratory capacity was delayed and is only available since 2 weeks, retarding the ordering process; the sampling was delayed as a list of the broiler producing population has only been finalized recently; the training of the master students started too late and they are still drafting their master study proposals. However, field testing of the approach (biological sampling and recording as well as questionnaire data will start this week.

### ----- Latest news -----

- We wish Heide Hoffmann a **quick recovery** after her accident
- We welcome **Jennifer König** and **Johann Neubert**, the new student assistants supporting the project.
- The **SLE team** accomplished their scenario workshop in on visions for urban agriculture and strategic steps how to get there. After an analysis of this exercise and other workshops and interviews, as well as a writing phase, they'll move to Cape Town to adapt their program and conduct similar activities
- A PhD nominee of UWC, Siphon Felix Mamba, is visiting Humboldt University and UFISAMo in September as part of the university cooperation between the two institutions. He is a researcher under Dan Tevera and works on Food Security, Climate Change and Urban Agriculture in Zimbabwe

## 2. Planning: are changes concerning results necessary?

These delays, overall, do not threaten our expected results or outputs but challenge our time plan.

- Certain work packages need to become more concrete and focussed in order to avoid overlap of subjects and potentially conflicts of interest concerning publications
- The analysis of surveys needs to move forward quickly in order to show empirical results besides observations and expert interviews. The analysis by the various research fellows will serve to concretize the next field phase
- Time in the field for empirical research needs to be revised accordingly: where are information gaps, what else is of specific interest for the project and the PhDs.
- A structural adaptation within the working packages shall serve to disentangle the PhD topics. The objective is to avoid future collective delays due to unforeseen events and difficult coordination/communication as well as the associated frustration (mentioned in the last newsletter). The discussion for re-structuration is foreseen for upcoming coordination meetings, results will be shared with BLE for approval.

### 3. Scientific updates: Any new developments from third parties that might influence the project?

- The presentations at the ISDRS (International Sustainable Development Research Society) conference in Bogotá prepared by the two HUB research fellows Anja and Nicole received very good feedback by scholars and peers
  - **“Innovation and knowledge exchange systems for sustainability: The case of urban agriculture in Maputo, Mozambique”** was presented in the track “Sustainable Cities”. The audience asked whether innovation was mainly failing because of the costs associated to them, what influence climate change has on urban agriculture in maputo, how “organic” was defined and to which organic standard Mozambique adheres to and which good practices had been adopted
  - The track “Food Sovereignty” hosted the presentation: **“Food Planning in Southern Africas cities: urbanGAPs for crop production from small scale agroecological backyards to organic market gardens”**. Some Aouth African participants were present, amongst others the Track Chair Raymond Auerbach, who teaches agroecology at the Nelson Mandela University and who contributed to the development of SAOSA Standard (South African Organic.). Questions concerned PGS, the term “organic” in the context of urban production, the meaningfulness of UA in Cape Town as well as the methodology for urbanGAP development. The idea of urbanGAP was new even for tis audience, and we were encouraged to continue developing it on the example of Maputo
  - More general critique was again directed towards the entanglement of a research project with implementation. I reiterate here what I wrote in the last newsletter:
    - *“We need to be clearer that we are not activists in UA but a research project analysing the contribution of urban agriculture to food and income security. Whether and how this contribution should and could be strengthened is part of our research questions.*
    - *As scientist, our findings need to be based on facts and empirical evidence. The close cooperation with Abalimi is a chance, as it grants prime access to practitioners and contributes to the relevance of the research to practitioners. Thereby, the findings shall not only feed into scientific debates but into practice. As researchers we need to cross check information, use a variety of information sources and research methods, and present and discuss our findings to critical debate. We believe that the set-up still allows us to gain independent evidence. “*

#### 4. Indications of results for different user groups – how is previewed transfer strategy working? Adaptations needed?

We are more represented in conferences, i.e. in scientific platforms where first results are put to discussion. Once the baseline data is analysed, we will have a more solid and broad empirical base. We still need to go deeper into internal discussions on various aspects of urban agriculture, and the experience gained during conferences and the exposure to discussion shall feed into that.

We preview to share results of our surveys (association and baseline) with respondents to the interviews and to other interested platforms in order to give them back some of the information and validate our analysis and findings. The annual meeting in Cape Town will be one opportunity to meet with different partners and share our preliminary results.

The demonstration plot in Cape Town is evolving and promoting the cooperation with various state and non-state actors beyond Abalimi. This experience proves very enriching and we as the project hope that it will strengthen the cohesion of interest groups.

The activities of the SLE group will be directed towards participatory planning and development of recommendations to policy makers for strengthening UA in urban development. In their approach, they have previewed numerous stakeholder meetings and group discussions which will contribute to the establishment of networks which can amongst others serve as dissemination channels for our results.

## 5. Cooperation with partners: self-assessment of how cooperation is going and why

Cooperation and communication is a challenge in a project over 3 countries and with different institutions and people who all have engagements besides the project. In reaction to the critical self-assessment presented in the previous newsletter, we have improved on some issues, even if there is further room for improvement:

- Communication with Maputo has improved, both via mail and skype/phone. There are now more regular updates on UEM organizational meetings and quicker answers on specific issues.
  - The visit to Berlin by UEM staff helped to discuss remaining issues and clarify the way forward
- Communication with Cape Town has partly improved, as there are now regular skype meetings with Abalimi and tentatives to skype with UWC. The latter has proven difficult, but information flow has still improved
  - The fact that CT team now conducts regular meetings has further improved exchange between partners
  - More information on what the MSc students at UWC are planning on doing would be good.
- Communication between Cape Town and Maputo, especially on WP 3 but also on the topics of Ivo, Luisa, Abongile and Tinashe (WP 1.2, WP 4.2) is still considered too weak.
  - Prof. Quive previews a second trip to CT to move forward with WP 3.
- Communication within Berlin has not changed much
  - We have still not had a meeting to discuss thematic questions and results in an in-depth manner – all previewed meetings received a different character due to prioritized issues. We are however still planning to engage in this important debate – the preparations to Tropentag and our annual meeting will provide ample opportunities



## 6. Plan for the coming 3 months

The coming months will be dedicated to analysing gathered data and, based on that, formulating consecutive research steps, to our annual meeting and to the implementation of the next research phase. Conference participation and the drafting of articles for publications will gain increasing importance

- *End-August*: data bases are cleaned
- *End-August-Mid September*: survey data is shared among the various researchers for analysis of their respective parts
- *Mid-August*: Coordination trip to Maputo and Cape Town to support SLE group and discuss/update with partners. The preparation of the annual meeting will be one priority
- *Mid-September*: Participation at Tropentag and presentation of first results as well as an assessment of experiences within the research project
- *Mid-September*: Budget review for 2018: identification of need for changes for last research phase(s) and submission to BLE
- *Mid-October*: Annual meeting: discussion of results per work package and way forward; specification of the structure of the final report

Following conferences will have the participation of UFISAMo

- *Urban agriculture* in Berlin organized by Heinrich Böll Foundation and attracting many international experts on the matter
- *Tropentag* in Bonn (September): <http://www.tropentag.de/location/Bonn.php>
- *Food security* in Cape Town (December): <http://www.globalfoodsecurityconference.com/> → abstracts are pending
- *AESOP on sustainable food planning* in Coventry in November
- *ACC (African Centre for Cities) urban conference* in February 2018 in Cape Town <https://www.africancentreforcities.net/call-submission-acc-international-urban-conference/>

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