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## “PERI URBAN AGRICULTURE: CONCEPT AND APPLICATION.”

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### ABSTRACT:

**P**eri urban agriculture is encouraged in poor countries, mainly as a means of improving food security (Armer-Klemesu, 2000) by helping households cover an important share of their food consumption thereby allowing them to save their money for others needs and improving the urban population's nutrition status. In this paper, analysis aims at taking into account the various dimension of sustainability and peri urban agriculture. In this description the main point of competition is revealed, but for identifying the competitive producers or characteristics of their systemic view towards competitiveness factors or circumstances upholding competitiveness, costs and outcomes of factors to reach certain level is needed.

**KEYWORDS:** peri urban, agriculture, competitiveness.

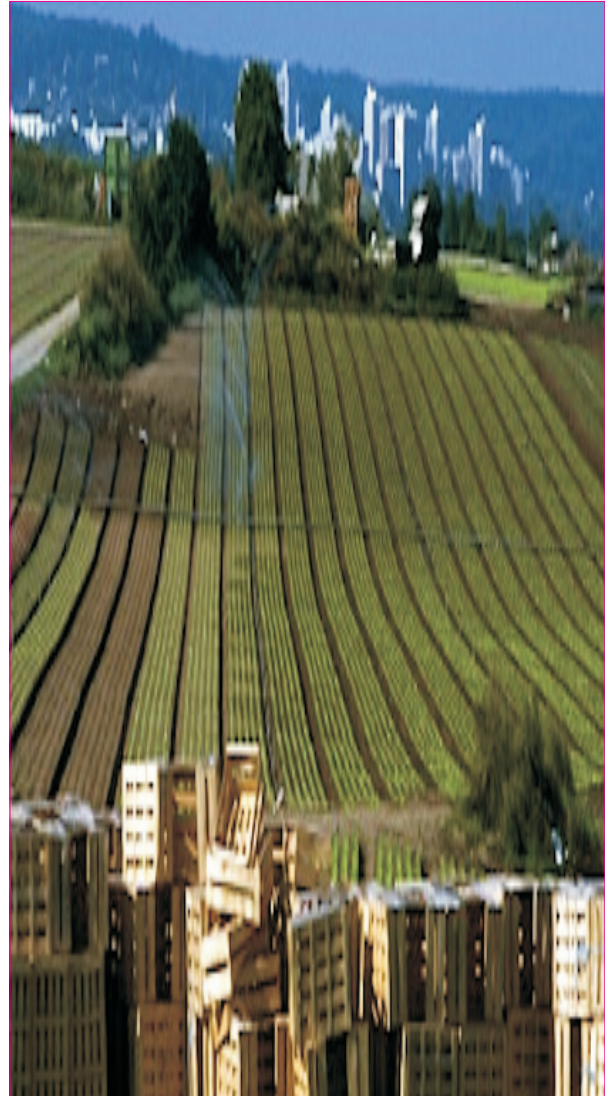
### INTRODUCTION:

Competitiveness is a market feature to give the right to

manage and assess the society resources primarily to those who use them most efficiently. In different economic or management encyclopedias and vocabularies, competition is described as a contention of producers and traders for better farming and goods' realisation conditions as well as for the entrench in the market, noting that competition stimulates culture development of economics and management and leads ineffectively working producers to bankruptcy.

Sustainability has been defined as economic development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. For businesses, this includes issues of corporate social responsibility and citizenship along with improved management of corporate social and environmental impacts and improved stakeholder engagement.

In 1991, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) established the Urban Agriculture Advisory Committee (UAAC) , which in 1992 resulted in the establishment of the Support Group on Urban Agriculture (SGUA). Participants in SGUA include representatives of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), UNDP, FAO, the Directorate General for International Cooperation, Netherlands (DGIS), the



French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development ( CIRAD), ETC Foundation, Urban Harvest (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research [CGIAR], International Water Management Institute (IWMI), German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and The Urban Agriculture Network (TUAN), who have met irregularly since 1992. The SGUA has been identifying key research and development needs in UA and how to coordinate and pool support from SGUA participants. Since the early 1990s, IDRC has been actively supporting policy-and action-oriented research on UA through its Cities Feeding People (CFP) programme and its AGROPOLIS programme. Many research reports and publications produced by CFP have been published on the IDRC website ([www.idrc.ca](http://www.idrc.ca)). In 1996, UNDP published the well-known book *Urban Agriculture*, edited by Smit et al. In 1999, the German Foundation for International Development (DSE) and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), the Netherlands, in cooperation with ETC and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), organized the international conference on 'Growing Cities Growing Food' in Havana, Cuba, which marked an international breakthrough and led to more policy attention at the international, national and local levels. The FAO has been working on UA, notably since the Committee on Agriculture (15th Session) of FAO in 1999, which recommended the establishment of an inter-departmental initiative on UA. This initiative later became part of FAO's Priority Areas for Interdisciplinary Action (PAIA) under the heading 'Food for the Cities'. Among others, it resulted in the publication of a briefing guide on UPA (FAO, 2001a). Subregional workshops and seminars on UA were organized in Stellenbosch, South Africa (2001), Bangkok, Thailand (2001 with City Net), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2002, with the World Bank) and Nairobi, Kenya (with UN Habitat, IDRC, RUAF and Urban Harvest). National workshops on UPA were implemented in various countries, including Botswana, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Bolivia and Namibia, among others, often in combination with technical support in baseline studies and project formulation. FAO has also been commissioning studies on aspects of UA including hydroponics, microtechnologies and urban forestry, leading to available FAO on-line publications. In 2006, FAO, IDRC and RUAF cooperated in a comparative study and the development of urban producers organizations and their influence in local policies and regulations.

In this description the main point of competition is revealed, but for identifying the competitive producers or characteristics of their systemic view towards competitiveness factors or circumstances upholding competitiveness, costs and outcomes of factors to reach certain level is needed. Still identification of such system, revealing levels of competitiveness factors, needed means and extent of costs, as well as integrated interaction outcomes of these factors, is a difficult problem and difficulty grows as the competing subject changes, ie when we shift from separate subject to overall region or country as a subject (Aiginger 2006). Of course, the content of competitiveness conception can and should be different as the subject itself changes, as well as the activity environment of this subject. Development of competitiveness – it is the identification of competitiveness factors and their appearance circumstances, – and creation and realisation of their fostering and development mechanism. Sustainable competitiveness development or competitiveness sustainability insurance – it is the realisation of above-mentioned circumstances and mechanisms, after choosing a certain competitiveness development guarantee and risk management tools. For countries, where resident business does not dispose higher technologies, or countries which do not have strategically important natural resources and which have just soaked up fundamentals of market economics (eg Lithuania, Latvia), it is necessary to insure that every business unit, every decision of government, every feet of its territory would become competitive and completely responsible for their survival and value, if these countries want to become equal EU members (Poland Competitiveness... 2007; Tumpel-Gugerell 2007). Along with that, the sustainability of the competitive powers growth is the cornerstone of success.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Although the natural environment clearly is a very important element of sustainability, sustainability is much more than a function of the natural environment alone (Global Environment Facility 1998). Sustainable development has taken the center stage in strategic planning initiatives.

According to the World Commission on Environment and Development (1989), sustainable development is defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability

of the future generations to meet their own needs.” Clearly, this concept reflects a much broader societal alarm about degradation and depletion of natural resources. But tourism is becoming, more than ever before, sensitive to and dependent on a high-quality sustainable environment (Eccles 1995; Ing 1995; Nelson, Butler, and Wells 1993).

General indicators and parameters for sustainability assessment  
 Economic indicators  
 Environmental indicators  
 Yield trends  
 Income per head and per ha  
 Modified GNP  
 Value of total food produced  
 Value of land with UPA  
 Productivity  
 Willingness to pay  
 Local food production  
 Hedonic price method  
 Cost of depletion and pollution  
 Bio-indicators (clean air, biodiversity)  
 Pollution indicators  
 Material and energy flows and balances  
 Heavy metals in crops  
 Soil health (organic matter, etc.)  
 Food miles: local food produced  
 Organic waste recycled  
 Depletion  
 Pollution  
 Social indicators  
 Composite indicators  
 Equity coefficients  
 Employment  
 Disposable family income  
 Inclusion: no. of youth trained in life skills, patients, migrants or ex-convicts  
 Participation, both men and women  
 Property rights (tenure)  
 Lists of indicators  
 Scoring systems  
 Integrated system properties  
 Source: based on Becker, 1997; Danso et al., 2003

Peri-urban agriculture refers to farming activities – horticulture and crop production, animal husbandry, aquaculture and forestry – carried out within, or at the periphery of, the cities. These activities draw on a set of existing resources (land, water, labor, waste, energy, etc.) that can be used for either agricultural or non-agricultural uses, and generate food and non-food flows towards the urban centers (Moustier and Mbaye, 1999). They may be either exclusively oriented towards the market, or part of a household’s strategy to meet its basic needs. Although peri-urban agriculture may be considered as a temporary activity (Van den Berg, 1984), its positive and lasting role has been highlighted (Mougeot, 1994) and is increasingly taken into account by policy-makers and urban planners around the world. Indeed, peri-urban agriculture is encouraged in poor countries, mainly as a means of improving food security (Armar-Klemesu, 2000), by helping poor households cover an important share of their food consumption (thereby allowing them to save their money for other needs) and by improving the urban population’s nutrition status (greater freshness of the products, better access to vegetables considered as a major source of vitamins and micro-nutrients). This is all the more true as inefficient transportation and storage facilities in most poor countries make it safer and less costly to locate the production of perishable products near the main consumption areas (Argenti, 2000). Thanks to the diversity of crops species and to low barriers to entry – low surface requirements, possibility of using vacant land, recycled waste, waste water – peri-urban agriculture is likely to provide jobs and incomes to various groups of city dwellers<sup>2</sup>, be they poor and landless urbanites, middle-income housewives, retired civil servants officers or wealthy farmers (Nugent, 2000). It must also be noted that urban and peri-urban agriculture may be carried out for other purposes (cultural, community involvement). The possibility of carrying out intensive production on small plots of land is often quite well adapted to the urban environment where water and land are scarce. Furthermore, the temporary leasing of urban land may optimize the use of vacant plots.

**Table 1**  
**Importance to various critical factors of peri urban in rural and urban areas:**

Variables	Urban area		Rural area		Z TEST	P VALUE
	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D		
Reasonable price	1.94	.665	1.93	.71	.053	.958
Better reliability	2.18	.921	2.23	.910	-.378	.706
Technical advancement	1.84	.635	2.95	.990	-8.79	.000
Good style and appearance	1.78	.877	2.09	1.131	-1.95	.052
Greater value for money	1.53	1.05	2.46	.912	.48	.626
Better quality/performance	1.78	.719	2.52	1.25	-4.81	.000
Easy availability of other products	2.06	.968	2.0	.879	.450	.653
Safety from fake products	1.94	.943	2.15	1.24	-1.27	.206
Sign of adhering certain standards	2.21	1.08	3.09	.89	-5.4	.000
Less chance of adulteration	1.31	.71	3.21	.31	2.09	.038

Table no. 2 indicates the results showing the consumer behavior for the peri urban food products over non peri urban food products from rural and urban areas. Reasonable price is main determinant of consumer behavior towards the quality marks of products has same influence on rural and urban respondents. The consumer behavior of rural respondents towards the peri urban food products is not influenced by technical advancement as a determinant. Whereas technical advancement is a determinant of peri urban food products does influence consumer behavior of urban background respondents. They agree for the greater value for money in peri urban food products as they ensure the adhering the specified standard. Urban consumers are agree for the quality product protects consumers from buying low quality products and adulteration. Therefore, quality marks can protect the interest of the consumers. But on other counterpart, rural consumers are neutral for the protection through peri urban food products against the deceptive trade practices in market.

Z test also applied to know the difference between the rural and urban consumers for the peri urban food products. In respect of peri urban food products there is a significant difference between rural and urban consumer behavior in terms of reasonable price with reliability of peri urban food products and in terms of greater value for money value. In respect of protection from fake products and availability of peri urban food products there is a significant difference between rural and urban consumers. But in respect of protection from adulteration, technical advancement and adherence of certain quality standards there is no significant difference between rural and urban consumers. So, as per the mean values of tables in respect of certain variables urban consumers as much in favour of the peri urban food products as compare to the rural consumers regarding the utility and awareness of the peri urban food products engraved on the products.

Scope for future research: Future research may be collecting data from other areas with larger samples in order to have more comprehensive study. The area selected for the study is Bhiwani District. The result gathered may generally be limited in order to improve the external validity of the instrument, geographical diversity.

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