

Key concepts of Agri-Food Studies
Critical Issues in Science and Technology Studies

Food Gardens in Uganda / Africa – a model for a sustainable local food system providing food and nutrition security and food sovereignty?

Petra C. Braun

Director Interdisciplinary Research Institute for Development Cooperation, Johannes Kepler University of Linz
petra.braun@jku.at

Abstract

Currently, in Sub Sahara Africa most food systems have been stretched resulting in poverty, hunger/malnutrition, environmental degradation and erosion of germplasm of indigenous foods. In Uganda 35% of total population are undernourished.

The underlying hypothesis of an on-going transdisciplinary IEZ-research project on Slow Food Gardens in Uganda / Africa is, that community or school gardens can not only promote easily replicable, local and sustainable solutions for food and nutrition insecurity but can be important tools for education and empowerment. Slow Food's sustainability concept can be summarized in the slogan good, clean and fair food for all, and is based on self-determination.

An integrated, comprehensive approach does not only consider all dimension of food and nutrition security (availability, access, use and utilisation, stability) regarding the whole food system from seed to plate (and waste), but also refers to the political concept of food sovereignty in order to question who produces, processes, distributes, prepares and eats what, where or how, under which conditions and under whose control. Therefore drivers of the food system as well as power relations must not be neglected.

The contribution aims to analyse, if Slow Food gardens in Uganda could (theoretically) prove a model for a sustainable, localised food system providing food and nutrition security and, moreover food sovereignty. The necessary resources, assets and capabilities will be identified: natural resources, human potential, social capital, physical and financial capital (input). Subsequently the research project investigates the interactions under a Slow Food garden and if the asset base can be increased?