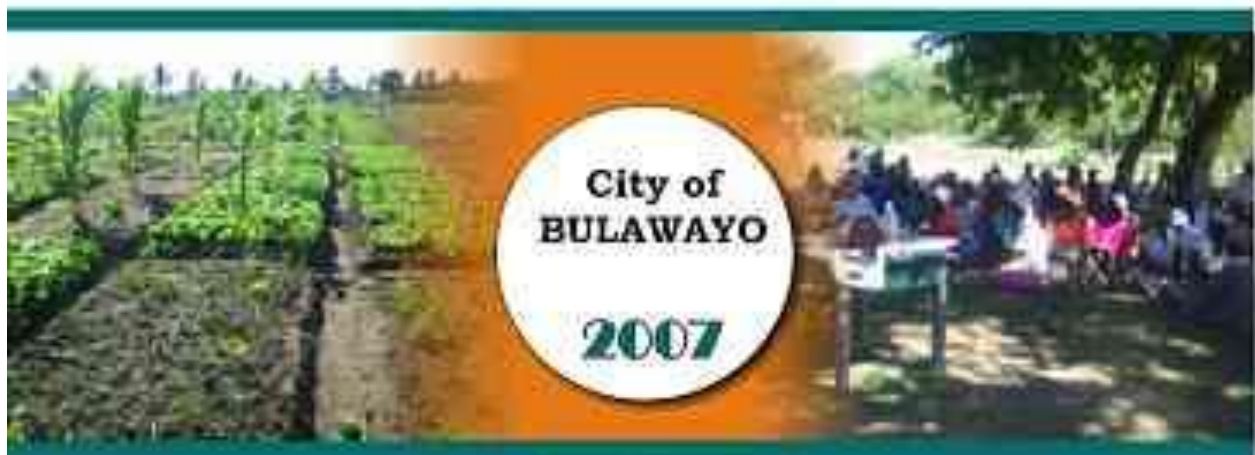




URBAN AGRICULTURE POLICY



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This policy has been prepared by the Steering committee of the Bulawayo Urban Agriculture Multi-Stakeholder Forum. The committee comprises technical personnel/officers from the Bulawayo City Council (B.C.C.), Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU), Zimbabwe Water Authority (ZINWA) Agriculture and Extension Services (Agritex), Provincial Administration officers in the Ministry of Local Government, Mission To Live Trust (MTLT) an NGO, SNV, World Vision, Urban farmers, Environment Management Agency (EMA), Department of Physical Planning (D.P.P.). The cooperation, effort, time and immeasurable contribution of the officers is highly appreciated.

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Bulawayo City Council is grateful to all those who have participated in the formulation of this policy document. It is hoped that implementation of the provisions of this policy approved by Council on 7th February 2008 will be vigorously pursued by the City of Bulawayo and its Urban Agriculture Forum.

Bulawayo City Council.
February 2008.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Bulawayo urban agriculture policy document provides a sound policy framework that promotes urban agriculture in an effort to augment food sources and nutrition to the urban community in a socially inclusive (HIV/AIDS) and gender sensitive manner. The main purpose of this document is to mobilize the Bulawayo residents to appreciate urban agriculture practice and to engage in it as a self-reliance strategy towards poverty alleviation, food security and income generation. In addition UA is envisaged to help reduce environmental degradation and pollution through sustainable utilization of natural resources and the environment. The policy document outlines the current situation including challenges related to urban agriculture as well as the framework that guides urban agriculture practice in Bulawayo.

A subcommittee of the Bulawayo Urban Agriculture Stakeholder Forum developed the policy. The Forum was established in September 2006 under the Cities Farming for the Future (CFF) Programme funded by MDP-RUAF. The development of the policy follows a series of activities carried in the city under the CFF programme. These include capacity building for stakeholders, a situation analysis and the development of an urban agriculture strategic agenda for the city. The situation analysis pointed to the need to revise the existing UA policy frameworks for the city and this was later included as one of the urgent activities in the UA strategic agenda. After development the forum discussed the policy and their inputs were incorporated into the document before it was tabled before council for approval.

The Bulawayo City Council approved Urban Agriculture Policy Guidelines for the City in 2000 with a view to alleviate poverty, reduce destitution and improve the nutritional status of the vulnerable groups in the urban community. With the establishment of partnerships between the local authority and MDP-RUAF, the urban agriculture programme in the city has been implemented in more organized and systematic manner.

Several activities towards enhancing urban agriculture in Bulawayo have taken place namely:

- An inception workshop for Councilors who work closely with communities
- An establishment of the stakeholders forum which is the decision and policy making board
- MPAP training and development of plans for urban agriculture in Bulawayo
- A situation analysis on urban agriculture in the city
- The development of a pilot project at Gumtree plantation, which is monitored by a committee of the urban agriculture forum
- Impact monitoring of the Gum Plantation Pilot Project
- Reviewing of Bulawayo Action Plans for urban agriculture
- Review of the current policy which had been developed in a non-participatory approach so that it is in line with policies for both developed and developing countries.
- Organizing and holding Policy Drafting workshop for the stakeholders

- Establishment of a committee responsible for redrafting a working document
- Drafting the revised urban agriculture policy
- Tabling the policy before the Stakeholder Forum
- Approval of policy by council

1.1 Background

Agriculture in Zimbabwe is the backbone of the economy and food security for the majority of the populace. The implementation of an urban agriculture programme in Bulawayo is envisaged to alleviate poverty and provide food security for the Bulawayo urban community. Several studies on urban agriculture have shown that the practice of urban agriculture is mainly for poverty alleviation and food provision (Mlozi & Sawio 1993).

Contrary to the belief that Zimbabwe laws are prohibitive to the practice of agriculture in the cities, recent studies in Zimbabwe revealed that current legislations offer many opportunities for the practice of urban agriculture (Makonese & Mushamba, 2004). Instead the laws recognise some of the risks that could be a result of urban agriculture and advocate for regulation of the activity in order to minimize the risks.

Urban agriculture in the Zimbabwean towns has been neglected over the years and has been viewed as a trivial activity in terms of its contribution to the urban economy and to the sustainable natural resources utilization and conservation. Despite all these hostilities and unclear policies and legislations, urban agriculture has always been practiced in the backyards, on plots and off plots. Many households as observed by Cabannes & Dubbeling, in Bulawayo and other cities, have been engaging in subsistence-oriented type of agriculture. These are in the form of home gardens for home consumption, community gardens and hospital nutrition gardens for feeding undernourished adults and children.

Improving the nutritional status of people is crucial in the context of HIV as it strengthens the immune system, can delay the progression of the disease and makes it possible for the individuals to remain productive. The challenges for the Bulawayo City Council is to support urban agriculture in order to enhance food security, maintain good nutrition and good health through the provision of safe water and sanitation as well as other urban agriculture related challenges.

The policy document outlines policy directions in relation to urban agriculture in Bulawayo and focuses on social, economic, legal and ecological policy dimensions. This is because council has realized the immense benefits (social, health, nutrition, economic, environmental) of an organized UA sector in the city.

2.0 RATIONALE FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE

This section attempts to justify the need for an AU Policy in general and in Bulawayo City. The section looks at the benefits of UA to all its stakeholders including business

opportunities. The socio-economic challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa that support the need for a rationalized UA are also highlighted

2.1 Urban Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa

In Sub-Saharan Africa, large populations continue to shift into urban areas seeking for formal employment. However, jobs are not available and this has rendered many people poor due to lack of means of livelihoods/production. The SADC Ministers of Agriculture at a meeting held in Harare in 2001 concurred with this factor when they identified food shortages in most SADC countries except South Africa as an impediment or development. Following that observation, the Ministers of Agriculture adopted and signed a Declaration on 29 August 2003 in support of urban agriculture in the SADC Region.

The vision for urban agriculture has been realised for a long time in Bulawayo and other cities that have been practicing urban agriculture albeit in an informal manner due to perceived prohibitive urban policies and legislations. This vision has prompted the establishment of a city council interdepartmental committee in Bulawayo to examine the possibility of formalising urban agriculture in the city; review the existing urban agriculture policy and formulate proposals and policy guidelines for its development.

Urban agriculture is not a new invention. Urban agriculture activities, mainly vegetable gardens, growing of staple foods and poultry projects are found throughout the developed and developing countries. Various studies on urban agriculture in countries such as Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia have shown that in urban households of different social class, cultivated food in their backyards, front yards or in the urban periphery. The studies also revealed that 56% of those who practiced urban agriculture in Kenya were women. Generally in Africa, urban agriculture is officially recognized as an important input to the economy and food security.

A study done in 1994 on urban agriculture in Zimbabwe revealed that 9228 hectares of land was cultivated in Harare and 70% of these urban households obtained their vegetables and cereal requirements from urban farming practices. Similar practices on urban agriculture exist in all urban settings in Zimbabwe.

The current policy is developed along in line with trends in developed and developing countries that promote urban agriculture. It is against this background that urban agriculture should enjoy a legitimate status to utilize available land for agriculture and land for urban agriculture be accessed equitably to men and women in Bulawayo.

2.2. Benefits of urban agriculture

Urban agriculture is viewed as both a vehicle for empowerment, self-reliance, as an income generator and sustainable use and management of natural resources. Urban agriculture in developing and developed countries provides meaningful contributions towards household food security, which ensures availability, accessibility and

affordability of unprocessed and processed foods. These enhance improved nutrition and they boost the immune system that contribute towards the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The urban agriculture practice also promotes self-production and self-reliance among the vulnerable groups such as widows, unemployed youths, the economically disadvantaged and those living with HIV/AIDS. Urban agriculture practices contribute to income generation of surplus products which can be sold for cash needed for education, health, clothing etc. It can also be a source for foreign currency generation. Therapeutic treatment, improved environmental health, environmental restoration and greening of the city can also be realised through the practice of urban agriculture. The beneficiaries of urban agriculture enjoy safer living environments and improved environmental awareness. Currently men and women migrate to urban settings in search of jobs and money and it is hoped that urban agriculture in the cities will promote reversal of urban migration.



2.3. Business Opportunity

Urban agriculture can bring about the establishment of a wide range of small to medium enterprises (SME) and these would include the following:

- Nurseries that supply seedlings and seeds for the farming community and individuals.
- Production, promotion and sale of organic fertilizers

- Agro supply stores that supply tillage tools, fertilizers, pesticides and irrigation equipment.
- Maintenance services for repairs of farming equipment
- Garden services to maintain gardens, provide pest control and refuse removal
- Extension and management to give advice farming and business administration
- Auction services for live stock
- Market agents services to facilitate the sale of surplus produce
- Construction services for chicken sheds and fencing
- Agro-processing businesses such as drying and canning packaging facilities, processing of dairy products and abattoirs.



3.0 DEFINITION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

3.1 Definition of Urban Agriculture

Urban Agriculture is the growing of plants and rearing of livestock for food, aesthetic value and commercial purposes within the urban and peri-urban areas. This also includes related activities such as production and delivery of inputs, and the processing and marketing of products. The scale of activities is determined by the land size, water availability, skills, labour, legislative framework as well as finance.

3.2 Types of Urban Agriculture

The types of UA activities should include the following:

2.2.1 Crop husbandry

- Grain crop production (maize, sorghum etc)
- Vegetable gardens
- Horticulture (vegetables, fruits, flowers, herbs etc)
- Legumes (beans, groundnuts etc)
- Oil seeds (jathropha, groundnuts, sunflower, cotton etc)
- Urban greening and beautifying the City
- Tubal and bulbs crops (cassava, sweet potatoes etc)
- Sweet potatoes and Irish potatoes
- Yams and sugar cane
- Mushroom

2.2.2 Livestock/animal husbandry

- Poultry (fowls and rabbits) for eggs and meat
- Cattle rearing for milk and beef
- Dairy cattle
- Horses
- Goats and sheep
- Fishery
- Piggery permitted in specific areas
- Bee keeping (in plots of more than an acre)

Related to the above are the micro-industries in urban areas that also use the products from the UA activities mentioned above. The UA policy is designed to fit into the envisaged UA sector for the city and the role which that sector will play in poverty alleviation, food security, income generation, environmental management and its social values.

3.1 Urban Agriculture Vision

City of Bulawayo would like to see a vibrant, well-managed and diversified urban agriculture sector with subsistence, social and commercial activities dealing in crop and livestock production taking place in all wards of the city in an environmentally sustainable manner. Gender equity in the provision of UA services will be the hallmark of this policy. Urban agriculture should play a prominent role in food production in the city, particularly staples. Increased food production should be achieved by efforts of both the commercial and subsistence sectors. The programme should make an impact on poverty alleviation, whereby jobs will be created and cash income generated by the poor families from surpluses that can be sold. The commercial sector is expected to produce for the market and then provide raw materials for industry.

3.2 Mission Statement

Although it is the main aim that urban agriculture impacts positively on the lives of people across all social and economic groups in the city, it will also particularly target vulnerable and underprivileged groups. These will include the elderly, the poor, destitute, the HIV/AIDS infected/affected, widows, orphans, youths and women. The Urban Agriculture programme also considers environmental issues such as greening up the city, application of conservation methods on suitable land and use of wastewater and composting. Multi-stakeholder involvement in the programme should be effected at all levels through the established structures. Capacity development for stakeholders and council officials will be undertaken to ensure that the objectives of the policy are met. An institutional home for UA will also be established in the council.

3.3 Policy formulation process

In 1995 Bulawayo City Council sent an official to Washington to attend a workshop on urban agriculture sponsored by EDI. At this time, urban agriculture was a new product and very few countries recognized or promoted it. An Interdepartmental Committee on urban agriculture was formed in Bulawayo and was required to study urban agriculture in the city and make recommendations on how it could be promoted. The work done involved mainly Council officials and this included desk studies, site visits, unstructured interviews of farmers, and mapping. Workshops, desk studies and seminars were held with Councillors on findings and a draft policy document was presented to Council, which adopted it in 2000. It should be noted that this process excluded other stakeholders as Councillors and staff were the ones mostly involved.

In 2005 Bulawayo City Council entered a partnership agreement with MDP-RUAF for a four-year urban agriculture development programme. A number of activities have taken place since the start of the programme. In June 2005 an inception workshop for Councillors and Senior staff was held to introduce the Cities Farming for the Future (CFF) programme through the Multi-stakeholder Participation and Action Planning (MPAP) process.

A common understanding of urban agriculture in the city and its infrastructure was established and the need to involve all stakeholders in the promotion of Urban Agriculture was agreed upon. The consensus was that a multi-stakeholder forum be formed that would participate in the formulation of action plans, policies and implementation of the programme.

In a follow up workshop held in September 2005 other stakeholders in addition to City Council officials were involved and these included Government ministries and departments, NGOs, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Universities (ZOU and NUST), farmers, residents associations, banks and the business community.

The main objectives of this workshop were to launch the Bulawayo Urban Agriculture Stakeholders Forum. One of the specific tasks of the proposed forum was to participate

in the design of policies and plans on urban agriculture in the city. The structure of the multi-stakeholder forum was discussed and it was agreed that it should be chaired by a Councilor and would report to Council through a standing committee i.e. the Town Lands and Planning Committee.

This could be interpreted as an indication that the urban agriculture programme may focus on the social dimension and its integration could be through land use planning. A steering committee that would report to the larger forum was created and comprised of technocrats from Council, Government departments, NGOs, Universities and other stakeholders. It is this committee that would eventually draft the action plans and policies on urban agriculture. The workshop also recommended a pilot project at the Gumtree Plantation that would focus on utilization of wastewater, increased food production under good management hence pointing to consideration of local economic development and ecological issues by the programme.

In November 2005 a regional workshop on policy formulation was held in Harare and the Chairman of the Steering Committee attended so that knowledge gained could be used in the formulation of the city urban agriculture policy. A Multi-stakeholder Participation and Action Planning Workshop was held in January 2006 and participants included all the city's urban agriculture forum members, steering committee, GOZ ministries and departments, NGOs, banks, farmers and residents associations. Amongst the objectives of the workshop was to enable the stakeholders to have a better understanding of how to formulate policies and action plans that facilitate the growth of a sustainable urban agriculture sector.

In December 2006 a training workshop for farmers was held for 2 days followed by a 3-day workshop on policy formulation in the same week. The training of farmers enabled them to appreciate the need to diversify into other products (other than leafy vegetables), learn how to better market their products, form committees for good management of their products and adopt a business like attitude in undertaking their projects. Some representatives of the farmers attended the policy formulation workshop.

The workshop reviewed the city's draft policy adopted in 2000 and suggested its review and rewriting in light of the new knowledge of UA that stakeholders now had. It also examined the Baseline Survey, examples of urban agriculture policies from other countries and identified key issues on water, land and legal matters and discussed how these had been addressed in the existing draft policy and what improvements could be made on these issues in the proposed policy.

The policy formulation workshop set up a drafting committee comprising representatives from Bulawayo City Council, Government ministries/departments, parastatals, farmers, NGOs, the universities and business community (e.g. Agri-Bank). It is this committee that produced the initial draft policy document that was discussed at the various meetings until council approved it.

4.0 SITUATION ANALYSIS

Urban Agriculture in Bulawayo is a prevalent land use and activity encompassing crop and livestock production and is practised under different circumstances and arrangements. It is undertaken by individual households or groups or even companies on plots or off plots, permitted or unauthorized, on a farmer's property or on illegally occupied land, rain fed or irrigated. These activities have had socio-economic and environmental impacts in Bulawayo. Some of these practices are summarized below: -

4.1 Designated/Zoned Areas

Residential/Agricultural Areas in plots mostly over 2 hectares are designated through the city's master and the local plans. These plots are largely in peri-urban areas of Douglasdale, Montgomery, Umguza Agricultural Lots, Norwood and so forth. Also included here are low-density residential areas such as Burnside, Lochview, Trenance, Riverside and Richmond. Cropping is mostly dependent on rainwater as the city is in a low rainfall area and to a lesser extent on irrigation. Shortage of water is one of the major problems. Produce includes crops such as maize, vegetables, fruit, fodder crops, poultry, goats, sheep and dairy cows. The produce is marketed in the city especially at the wholesale markets which are in the central business district.

4.2 Special Consent Areas

These are mostly the low-density residential areas as mentioned above and practice certain types of urban agriculture that requires Council Special Consent. Poultry and market gardening are the most common urban agricultural uses applied for. Sometimes applicants are considered for cattle pen feeding and horse keeping and dairy production. Permits are granted by Council with special conditions especially health and environmental conditions. The number of chickens permitted is according to property size. For more than 20 chickens Special Consent is required otherwise a smaller number is freely permitted in all residential areas. Performance of those farmers granted special consent needs to be followed to assess success in terms of production levels and compliance.

4.3 Council Farms

Council has two productive farms within its boundaries namely Aisleby and Good Hope. Aisleby Farm covers an area of 1 286 hectares and lies to the north of the city and this is where Aisleby Sewerage Works are situated. The treated effluent from the works is used for irrigating the farm pastures, which are divided into a number of paddocks. A successful livestock production project is run by Ingwebu Breweries, which is a commercial wing of the City Council. For example in 2004 the year opened with 1996 cattle. At the end of December there were 1 813 beef cattle, with 320 births during the year, 84 deaths and 509 cattle sold that year. Causes of the high mortality are thought to be the high content of metallic chemicals from industry

which discharges into the municipal sewers feeding the works. There is also an experimental sheep project which started in 2004 with 20 sheep.

Goodhope Farm adjacent to Aisleby planted 86 hectares of maize, which yielded 257 tones or 3 tones per ha. These yields were considered low and attributed to imbalances in nutrients as a result of shortages of farming inputs. Some Council Farms are leased out for grazing for example, Remainder of Umganin, measuring 1 500 hectors is leased to one farmer.

4.4 Garden Allotments

Over many years the City Council has set aside areas for garden allotments in the high-density areas. These have been established in selected areas especially areas with relatively fertile soils on vleis and along rivers or streams. There are 12 garden allotments scattered throughout these low cost residential areas and examples are West Park near Mzilikazi and Makokoba, St. Columbus near Makokoba, Mabutweni, Mpopoma and Njube.

These garden allotments were created particularly for the underprivileged groups such as the elderly, destitute, the poorest and widows. Beneficiaries were selected by case study social workers in the Department of Housing and Community Services and the major objective of this urban agriculture programme is to alleviate urban poverty and improve nutritional state of the poor. At present there are over 1 000 plot holders and the size of each plot averages 130m². The size of each garden allotment area ranges from 0.42 to 4 hectares.

Crops grown are mainly vegetables and the most common is choumoliaer and farmers say they prefer it because it is perennial, grows quickly and even when stolen by thieves, regeneration is fast and there is a ready market for it. The popular variety is grown from shoots and does not need seed. However, the quality of the crops and productivity everywhere appears poor mainly because of continued use of soil without use of the fertilizer and organic manure. Also Council previously used to provide technical assistance officers but this has declined due to financial problems. Most of the garden allotments use reclaimed wastewater from the sewage works although this is erratic during times of water shortage in the city. Recently orchard gardens have been established in the high-density areas with the assistance of World Vision. These gardens grow a variety of vegetables and use borehole water. Community have been organized to work on these gardens which appear to be popular and sustainable



4.5 Gum Plantation

This is an urban agriculture project initiated and supported by the City Council. It is located north west of the city and measures 350 acres in extent. There are 1 100 plots of 5 000m² each and the project uses waste water from Cowdray Park, Magwegwe and Luveve Sewage Works – 4 500 to 5 000 cubic metres of this water per day is used by individuals and 4 co-operatives (5ha). Allocations of plots is done per ward by Councilors. Productivity is reasonably high, much better than in the garden allotments. Crops grown are mainly choumoliaer, 40kg per month per plot holder, green mealies, approximately 5 000 cobs per year per plot holder is produced and with regards to sugar beans 25kg per plot is realized on average. There is potential for agro-forestry – bee keeping. This area has been selected and approved as a pilot project under the MDP/BCC partnership and commencement of the project is underway.

4.6 Khami School Leavers and Co-operatives

Khami School Leavers Training Centre is located nearby the Southern Areas Treatment Works (SAST). This is also one of Bulawayo City Councils initiative for training youth and co-operatives. The centre offers general agriculture training – practice and theory in both livestock husbandry and agronomy. In the livestock section there are 25 beef cattle 2 to 3 of which are sold annually, 2 slaughtered annually. A piggery project is planned.

4.7 Un-authorized Urban Agricultural Activity

This is the most prevalent form of urban agriculture in the city although it is seasonal occurring mostly during the rainy season. Maize is the predominant crop although other crops like sweet potatoes, melons, pumpkins, beans are also grown. Cultivation takes place almost everywhere and during the rainy season maize fields become so much part of the city's landscape that it is often even unnoticed as one moves around the city. It is done around the house, in open spaces, along road sides, or vleis, water courses and stream banks, on hill slopes, on old rubbish dumps, along servitudes for electricity, water and sewers. A lot of urban farming is carried out on land that was planned, surveyed and even serviced, awaiting development in some cases.

The majority of these farmers belong to the low-income groups who grow crops on a part time basis for subsistence and improving food security and income levels. Usually the whole family is involved in maize cultivation although women appear to take a leading part. The size of the maize fields range from small patches measuring a few square metres to a number of hectares. According to these sizes the methods of cultivation also differ with smallest farmers using hoes whilst others use donkey drawn ploughs or hired tractors. During the farming season, villagers in the surrounding rural areas like Matopos come into Bulawayo with their donkeys and ploughs to hire them out to the urban farmers.

There are no records on the fields and overall production of these unauthorized cultivations. But it is thought that the amount of staple food produced is substantial and there is need for research in this area. However unauthorized cultivation in Bulawayo and other cities has also contributed to soil erosion, land degradation and siltation of water bodies. Inputs such as seed and fertilizer are readily available in the city's outlets but issues of affordability, proper application and returns remain of great interest to research.

5.0 CHALLENGES TO ISSUES RELATED TO URBAN AGRICULTURE

Bulawayo is faced with a number of challenges e.g in relation to land, water, finance, legal issues and institutional framework which if not adequately addressed may hinder the smooth operation of UA.

5.1 Water

Bulawayo is located in a dry region with inadequate supplies of surface and underground water. The five dams supplying the City with water are situated in the south of Bulawayo in a catchment area with relatively much lower rainfall. There is therefore a chronic water shortage for domestic and industrial use resulting in frequent rationing of water. Use of hosepipes and any other form of watering/irrigation of gardens using municipal water is banned during critical water shortage periods.

The city has some 220 boreholes scattered throughout the city. These have been drilled and equipped as standby supply of domestic water source during shortage times. However, these boreholes can be used for community gardens when there is no serious shortage of water but they revert to domestic use during difficult times. Water conservation methods like drip irrigation are encouraged.



Wastewater is used in garden allotments, the Gum Tree Plantation project, community parks and institutions. However more often than not this source of water is inadequate for Urban Agriculture as it depends on the amount of municipal potable water available to the city.

There hasn't been effective and efficient methods of harvesting and storage of rainwater for long-term use at all level. Other sources of water that include water from mine shafts (e.g How Mine) and basement of buildings haven't been explored as well.

5.2. Land

The current City of Bulawayo Master Plan (2000 – 2015) has revealed that there are some 11 000 hectares of vacant land in the city. Most of this land is designated for residential, commercial and industrial development although it could be put, urban agriculture can be practiced thereon. The vacant land is largely owned by private individuals sometimes even by absentee landlords. The Government and the local authority own a small portion of the vacant land. The later is easier to apportion for Urban Agriculture either permanent or temporary use. The challenge to the planners is that they should set aside land for urban agriculture in their spatial plans.

Generally, accessibility to this vacant land is difficult due to tenure. This has resulted in farmers resorting to cultivation of fragile/sensitive areas such as stream banks, watercourses, hill slopes, former refuse dumps and roadsides. This has exposed these areas to soil erosion and general environmental degradation. It is also common to have land use conflicts where urban agriculture will clash with a planned land use. For example a high-density residential project in the city (Nkulumane 1 phase3) had to be delayed in 2005 in order to allow some farmers to harvest their crops whilst others were compensated to allow infrastructure development to take place.



5.3. Finance

Traditionally, government and other financial institutions finance farming in Zimbabwe. This has however been limited to rural, resettlement and commercial farmers only. Urban agriculture programmes and projects have been facilitated to a certain extent by the City Council (for example garden allotments, school leavers projects, Gumtree Plantation), individuals and NGO's (such as World Vision) in form of land and water provision. The City of Bulawayo has made some commendable stride in regularizing UA by including it its 2007 Financial.

UA has faced challenges in accessing loans due to a number of other issues that include attitude towards UA viz-a-viz collateral, production, gender and land holding size.

Commercial banks, particularly the Agriculture Banks such as Agribank should render support for Urban Agriculture. Also the Government is challenged to extend its agricultural support programs such as input supplies to urban areas. Council partners such as MDP/RUAF and NGO's have started giving financial support to urban agriculture but there is need to set a sound financial system for these funds.

5.4. Legal Issues

There is no single legislation specifically for urban agriculture in Zimbabwe. But several legal instruments address urban agriculture in one way or another, for example the Regional Town and Country Planning Act: (Chapter 29:12; the Environmental Management Act Chapter 20:27, the Bulawayo Protection of Lands and Natural Resources By Laws, 1975 and the Bulawayo (Public Health) By Laws, 1966. These laws mainly address concerns of environmental degradation that may arise from urban agriculture practice. There is need for specific enabling legislation to be formulated for urban agriculture.

A number of city plans make reference to urban agriculture in terms of zoning and development control. The current City of Bulawayo, Master Plan positively supports the promotion of urban agriculture through a specific policy. It is imperative that planners and urban managers implement the provisions of this policy. The Environmental Management Act Chapter 20:27 makes a statutory provision for the LA s to produce Local Environmental Action Plan (LEAPs). These outline where the City's natural resources are, the status of the environment and what environmentally based activities e.g AU are to be done. If there are any adverse impacts, how they are to be mitigated and/or rehabilitated.

5.5. Institutional Framework

There is no Unit in the City Council that deals solely with AU: Currently, the two departments that deal with urban agriculture issues, are the Department of Housing and Community Services and the Department of Engineering Services. The Parks Section of Department of Housing and Community Services oversees the activities of the garden allotments, the Gumtree Plantation, the school leavers programme, the unauthorized cultivation as well as protection of lands and vegetation throughout the city. On the other hand the Town Planning Branch in the Department of Engineering Services administers applications for urban agriculture projects on plot and off plot in terms of the Regional Town and Country Planning Act and urban plans governing various areas. The branch is also responsible for planning matters in the respect of Urban Agriculture. Under the current Cities Farming for the Future (CFF) programme, the City Council co-ordinator and contact person is from Town Planning.

Under the CFF programme a structure has been set up, the core being the Bulawayo Urban Agriculture Forum chaired by a Councilor and it reports to a council standing committee that in turn reports to the Full Council. A steering committee comprising multi-stakeholders performs technical work and reports to the Forum. This committee

has a secretariat that is an interdepartmental committee. Subcommittees responsible for various matters namely environmental, research and capacity building, legal, health, planning and land use, and legal and policy contribute to the standing committee.

6.0 POLICY PROPOSALS

The City of Bulawayo will support and promote urban agriculture and utilize it as a strategy to improve the quality of life of its citizens through the provision of adequate and balanced full nutritional foods. The urban agriculture activities will take into cognisance public health issues, gender and social inclusion criteria as well as the protection of the natural environments.

Urban Agriculture is envisaged to play a pivotal role in poverty alleviation through improved household food security and good nutrition of the people. It is also viewed as a vehicle towards local economic development as it will contribute immensely to job creation and income generation.

6.1 Aims and specific objectives of the policy

The policy has been developed to legalise, regulate and facilitate access to land and water for urban agriculture; to alleviate poverty, promote economic development and sustainable use of the environment thereby ensuring food security and surplus produce for income as well as guaranteed good nutrition for its citizens in the light of the HIV/AIDS scourge.

The Bulawayo Urban Agriculture Policy aims at:-

- a) Assisting the Bulawayo City Council in promoting and supporting development of a well-organized, viable and sustainable urban agriculture.
- b) Providing guidelines in the implementation of urban agriculture programmes and projects throughout the City taking cognisance of the major issues identified.
- c) Assisting the local authority in the integration of Urban Agriculture in its socio-economic system as a legitimate land use and economic activity and its institutionalization.
- d) Addressing key issues, challenges and proposals for their resolution.

6.1.1 Objectives and policies

Objectives have been formulated for each major issue and challenges identified and from each of these policies have been developed.

6.2 Policy Framework

The urban agriculture policy framework is a result of participatory approaches of involving urban agriculture stakeholders and partners. The urban agriculture activities are

integrated into the strategic plan of the City of Bulawayo. The main areas include the following:

- ◆ Land and water issues
- ◆ Finance
- ◆ Legal and regulatory issues
- ◆ Health including HIV/AIDS and environmental issues
- ◆ Human Resources
- ◆ Institutionalisation
- ◆ Gender and social inclusion

The Bulawayo city council endeavours to create conducive environments by ensuring favourable regulatory, management systems and extension services for supervision and capacity building to the farmers. The city will also provide support and some assistance to the farming groups through partnership initiatives with NGOs, Private sector, Government and other interested parties.

6.2.1 Land

Land objectives address issues of availability, suitability, accessibility, tenure, land use and productivity, gender and social inclusion.

Objective 6.2.A/

To ensure as much as possible that suitable land is made available for urban agriculture in all wards by end of the programme period.

Policy 6.2.1 A/1

City Council shall permit use of private vacant land for urban agriculture wherever appropriate with technical assistance of municipal officers and taking cognizance of revised statutes..

Policy 6.2.1 A/2

The Local Authority will negotiate with some private landowners and government where appropriate for the use of their vacant land for Urban Agriculture and such land be subdivided for use by residents.

Policy 6.2.1 A/3

Council shall make all its vacant municipal land available for Urban Agriculture before it is put to its designated use. This will include planned and surveyed areas but the farmers should be responsible for the pegs and ensure there is no land degradation through good farming practice.

Policy 6.2.1 A/4

Council farms presently rented to individuals should be made available to those residents of the city aspiring to be urban farmers after subdivisions have been made – individuals or groups may be considered.

Objective 6.2.1/B

To ensure all land for urban agriculture is suitable for the proposed use.

Policy 6.2.1 B/1

Suitable areas should be identified for specific urban agriculture activities such as dry land cropping irrigation, woodlots and pastures. Special care must be taken where sensitive areas like slopes and vleis need to be used, so that soil erosion is avoided. The use of such areas needs to be regularized.

Policy 6.2.1 B/1

Urban Agriculture shall be encouraged on plots and the types, scale and intensity permitted should be in terms of governing regulations. Application procedures shall be adhered to so that order may be maintained.

Policy 6.2.1 B/3

Roadside cultivation is to be restricted to short crops (creepers) such as legumes, pumpkins, potatoes and melons.

Policy 6.2.1 B/4

Stream bank cultivation may be practised with care, taking into consideration prevailing regulations. Anything less than the 30 metre buffer needs special consideration such as growing of grass e.g star grass, couch grass that would protect the soils against erosion. On stream banks agro-forestry woodlots, sisal plantations, guava and other proliferous orchards should be encouraged as community urban agricultural projects.

Objective 6.2.1/C

To ensure that land is accessible to all who wish to practice urban agriculture.

Policy 6.2.1 C/1

All suitable land set aside for urban agriculture should be subdivided into appropriate sizes of 200m² for leaseholders and larger area sizes as the local authority deems fits for groups or cooperatives. Such land shall be allocated to deserving beneficiaries by the responsible department assisted by the ward Councilor and Local Residents Association/local farmers Association.

Policy 6.2.1 C/2

An allocation criteria shall be put in place to ensure there is fairness and equitability.

Policy 6.2.1 C/3

Council shall determine a percentage of land to be allocated to various interested groups such as women, youths, the elderly, widows, destitutes and so forth. This is to ensure gender equality and social inclusion.

Policy 6.2.1 C/4

Land shall be set aside for institutions to use for urban agriculture in addition they should be encouraged to use all idle land within their properties. These institutions will include schools, hospitals, prisons, school leavers training centers and others.

Objective 6.2.1/ D

To ensure security of tenure for all farmers engaged in urban agriculture.

Policy 6.2.1 D/1

For urban agriculture practised on council land leases shall be signed between the farmers and the Owner of the land.

Policy 6.2.1 D/2

The principle of one plot per family shall be upheld and rentals shall be charged for each lease.

Objective 6.2.1/ E

To ensure that all urban agricultural land is properly and fully utilized in a sustainable manner.

Policy 6.2.1 E/1

Farmer training shall be a major feature in the city's urban agricultural programme, and Council should make efforts to ensure training of farmers in appropriate crop and livestock production and management is done in all wards

Policy 6.2.1 E/2

Use of conservation methods in urban agriculture shall be encouraged and composting projects shall be started and developed in selected areas around the city.

Objectives 6.2.1 E

To integrate Urban Agriculture into all the councils urban spatial plans.

Policy 6.2.1 E/1

The City's Master Plan, local development plans and layout plans shall address urban agriculture issues. Such plans shall set aside land specifically, for urban agriculture activities. An Urban Agriculture Development Plan for the city should be prepared and this must take cognisance of provisions of other plans on relevant matters.

6.3 WATER

The objectives and policies related to water should take cognisance of the fact that the city is located in a dry region.

Objective 6.3.1/A

To ensure good utilization of water by all urban farmers.

Policy 6.3.1/A₁

Where rainwater is predominantly used for urban agriculture, use of water/moisture retention methods shall be encouraged, such as of creating furrows in the fields.

Policy 6.3.1/A₂

Where boreholes or any other source of water is used for irrigation purposes, methods that conserve water, like drip irrigation shall be promoted and encouraged.

Policy 6.3.1/A₃

Wherever possible rainwater harvesting shall be encouraged for Urban Agriculture.

Policy 6.3.1/A₄

There should be continuous efforts to increase and improve use of wastewater. Leaks on the reclaimed water pipes will be continuously repaired to avoid wastage.

Policy 6.3.1/A₅

The quality of wastewater from sewerage works must be continuously monitored to minimize risk of farmers contacting diseases.

Policy 6.3.1/A₆

The use of raw sewage water for urban agriculture should be banned.

Policy 6.3.1/A₇

Partnerships amongst Council, NGO's, private sectors and Government should be promoted to provide funding for water infrastructure for Urban Agriculture.

Policy 6.3.1/A₈

The quality of water standards for urban agriculture must be maintained and awareness campaigns on water management to be conducted.

6.4. HUMAN RESOURCES

Objective 6.4.1/A

To improve the capacity of stakeholders involved in urban agriculture during the programme period.

Policy 6.4.1/A₁

Periodic workshops on various urban agriculture issues need to be organized and undertaken for various stakeholders particularly with regard to MPAP within the CFF programmes.

Policy 6.4.1/A₂

Urban Agriculture farmers shall be provided with training to improve their farming technical and management skills. This shall take the form of workshops or extension services. Council, Government and other organization shall provide Extension Officers.

Policy 6.4.1/A₃

Exchange visits/educational tours shall be done with sister cities in the CFF programme to share information and experiences in urban agriculture.

6.5 MATERIAL RESOURCES

To ensure adequate and appropriate material resources are available to all Urban Agricultural activities and projects.

Policy 6.5.1/A₁

Information on the implements or tools needed by ordinary farmers must be obtained and assistance be offered for their improvement.

Policy 6.5.1/A₂

A programme for the use of District Development Fund tillage tractors must be drawn so that these are accessible to all urban farmers who require them in time.

Policy 6.5.1/A₃

Farmers shall be encouraged to pool their resources together for common use and to procure appropriate equipment and machinery as groups.

Policy 6.5.1/A₄

Government agricultural mechanization programme shall be lobbied to include urban agriculture in their provisions.

6.6. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Objective 6.6.1A

To ensure financial resources are mobilized and made available to all urban farmers during the programme period.

Policy 6.6.1/A₁

All urban farmers shall be encouraged in the first instance to mobilize their own financial resources to invest in urban agriculture. This may come from individual savings and other resources for urban agriculture.

Policy 6.6.1/A₂

Financial institutions shall be encouraged to offer assistance to urban farmers in the same manner as they do to rural farmers.

Policy 6.6.1/A₃

City Council shall prepare annual budgets for funding urban agriculture and source additional funding from partners, donors and government, as well as financial institutions to augment its own resources.

Policy 6.6.1/A₄

All funds from external sources to be pooled together in one account specifically for Urban Agriculture and the account to be managed by City of Bulawayo.

6.7. LEGAL AND REGULATORY ISSUES

Objective 6.7.1/A

To ensure establishment of a sound legal framework that will support all urban agriculture activities in the city.

Policy 6.7.1/A₁

There shall be categorical support and formalization of urban agriculture by Council by December 2007. A clear definition of urban agriculture as an integral part of the local authority system shall be adopted.

Policy 6.7.1/A₂

Current by-laws, regulations and Council procedures shall be used in dealing with urban agriculture issues pending consolidation of fragmented pieces of legislation on urban agriculture. Serious efforts shall be made by Council to consolidate these into a positive and supportive legislation.

6.8. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Objective 6.8.1A

To ensure that urban agriculture is institutionalized within Bulawayo City Organizational Structure by end of 2007.

Policy 6.8.1/A₁

Council shall create a section to be in charge of the administration and technical matters pertaining to urban agriculture within an appropriate department.

Policy 6.8.1/A₂

The urban agriculture section shall report to Council via the City's urban agriculture Forum. It should be part of the Inter-departmental Committee that reports to the steering technical committee of the forum.

Policy 6.8.1/A₃

The multi-stakeholder urban agriculture forum shall report to Council the Housing, Education and Health Committee.

6.9. HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Objective 6.9.1.A

To ensure Health and Environmental issues are considered in all Urban Agriculture projects/activities.

Policy 6.9.1/A₁

All urban agriculture projects far from public facilities or homes shall be required to have public toilets.

Policy 6.9.1/A₂

Production of produce that encourages/promotes balanced nutritional diets particularly in the subsistence sectors and households or groups affected by HIV/AIDS shall be promoted. Growing of herbs for medicine purpose shall be encouraged.

Policy 6.9.1/A₃

Where wastewater is used for urban agriculture expert advice shall be sought on suitable crops to be grown. Protective clothing must be used by farmers to minimize risk of contacting diseases.

Objective 6.9.1/B

To ensure environmental issues are given consideration in all urban agriculture projects and activities.

Objective 6.9.1/B₁

All Urban Agricultural projects considered large by the local authority must prepare and submit an environmental impact assessment report to Council before the project commences.

Policy 6.9.1B₂

Council shall produce guidelines on proper environmental management techniques on off plot cultivation and educational campaigns on prevention of soil erosion shall be intensified.

Policy 6.9.1B₃

Crop rotation, intercropping diversification techniques (e.g. agro-forestry, beef keeping and woodlots) shall be encouraged. Production of ornamental plants shall be promoted.

Policy 6.9.1B₄

Stream bank and steep slope cultivation shall be permitted only after an environmental impact assessment has been submitted and Council is satisfied that the environment will not be adversely affected by the proposed urban agriculture activities.

6.10. SOCIO-CULTURAL DIMENSIONS

Objective 6.10.1

To ensure that social and cultural dimensions of urban agriculture are included in the urban agriculture programme.

Policy 6.10.1A₁

In promoting high urban agriculture production and diversification consideration shall be made of the local staple foods i.e crops and livestock and preferences. Introduction of new food crops must have agreement of the farmers especially at subsistence level.

Policy 6.10.1A₃

Beneficiaries in the urban agriculture programme shall include vulnerable groups such as the widows, orphans, elderly, destitute and disabled. Livelihood gardens and small poultry projects shall be developed for these groups.

6.11. ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS

To enhance the economic role of urban agriculture in Bulawayo urban economy.

Policy 6.11.1A₁

Urban agriculture shall be used as an instrument of poverty alleviation, income generation and employment creation. Some projects shall aim at improving the economic well being of the poor sector.

Policy 6.11.1A₂

Commercial urban agriculture shall be encouraged in designated areas, special consent areas and elsewhere deemed appropriate by the local authority.

Policy 6.11.1A₃

Council shall in collaboration with other stakeholders develop appropriate marketing infrastructure and sound transportation system for Urban Agriculture.

7.0 SPECIFIC POLICY GUIDELINES/FRAME WORK

7.1 General Policy Framework

The City of Bulawayo hereby formalizes recognition of urban agriculture as a land use and economic activity. The City of Bulawayo also regulates urban agriculture activities and endorses that all land spaces where urban agriculture is practiced should be properly demarcated and be registered.

The policy framework/guidelines are categorized under:

- Immediate term (1 – 5 years)
- Medium term (6 – 10 years)
- Long term (over 10 years)

The urban agriculture practices will include different types of agriculture, as stipulated in section 4

The type of agricultural practice will be determined by the size of the land space, the legislative restrictions and the extent of urban agriculture farming to be practiced.

7.1.1 Specifications for Cultivation

The short-term cultivation will be practiced throughout the identified areas for cultivation in the City namely; council farms, vacant land along urban streams/water courses, individual plots within the City of Bulawayo boundaries. The layout plans for these areas should be clearly demarcated. The average plot sizes should be 200 – m²

- Seasonal leases shall be signed between the City Council and the land users
- The policy allows one plot per family
- Bulawayo City Council shall charge a nominal rental for lease to be determined from time to time
- City Council to facilitate the provision of extension services from AREX and or other technocrats

- A ward-by-ward approach utilizing the leadership of Councilors shall be adopted to identify deserving land users for urban agriculture.
- Maize, sweet potatoes, vegetables and other crops will be cultivated along any land spaces that have been authorized by City Council
- Grasses that would protect soil erosion such as star grass, cough grass (*Cynodon nlemfuensis*), kikuyu (*Pennisetum clandestinum*), Rhodes grass, Napier and banana grass will be cultivated along vleis/streams. These promote hay making which can provide livestock fodder during dry periods
- Stream-bank cultivation for projects such as sisal plantations, woodlots, agro forestry, guava and other proliferous orchards. Plant nurseries should be established throughout the City.
- Medium-term projects (6-10 years). These can be utilized by individual plot owners or City Council for the benefit of people in Bulawayo
- Cultivation along the railway reserved land and other servitudes, use of City Council farms such as Dunstar Farm, Emganwini
- Development of livestock, beef production, horse keeping, dairy production farms, piggery, goats, rabbits, poultry and fisheries
- Herbal gardens and horticulture gardens

7.1.2 Specifications for Livestock/ Animal Husbandry

Livestock keeping is accepted where there are large green spaces such as plots, peri urban private and municipal farms. Small space tolerant animals such as fish, rabbits and chickens can be kept in small residential areas.

The following are the specifications regarding livestock/animal husbandry in urban and peri-urban Bulawayo:

- Beef cattle (pen fattening only)
- Dairy cattle (two dairy animals per acre)
- Horse keeping (two horses per acre)
- Sheep and goats (pen fattening only)
- Ostrich farming (three adult birds per acre)
- Poultry (chickens, ducks, pigeons). These should be 25 birds per household in high density suburbs and up to 200 birds in the low density suburbs
- Rabbits (15 in high density, 30 in low density). The number remains open where there is big space
- Piggery permitted in areas over 12 acres in size
- Beekeeping only in plots of more than one acre

7.2 Policy on land

Bulawayo City Council has many pieces of unutilized land that could be utilised for urban agriculture and these are found in public places such as schools, hospitals public

offices and sometimes adjacent to residential areas. These could be utilised for vegetable and flower production. Urban agriculture also has to compete for land since land space in urban settings is subject to pressure from a wide range of land users such as housing, industries, power lines and conservation. Policies on land allocation should meet the following criteria:

- Procedures should be transparent in the selection criteria
- Consider gender/social inclusion equitably
- Vulnerable groups such as youths, disabled, widows, elderly and the poor should be given priority land access.
- The system of applying and allocating land should be uniform and should be done on a ward by ward basis with the assistance and guidance by ward Councilors
- Aspiring farmers should indicate their intentions by a written application letter
- Applications to be selected and approved by the department of Town Planning with the assistance of the Councilors.
- Preferably land spaces should be allocated to cooperatives or associations
- Land used for urban agriculture should attract a small amount of rental fee to be determined by Council from time to time

7.2.1 Policy specifications on land access

- Infrastructure for urban agriculture is provided by Bulawayo City Council in partnership with the donor community, private sector, farmers and government. Cultivation on municipal land should be legalised through a tenure system.
- Roadside cultivation is restricted to dwarf plants and runners such as legumes and potatoes
- Cultivation on planned open spaces will be restricted to floriculture
- Stream bank cultivation will be restricted to the 30meter buffer and nothing beyond
- Livestock/animal husbandry and poultry keeping should meet the health and environmental health regulations

7.2.2 Beneficiaries of land for Urban Agriculture

The land spaces for urban agriculture cultivation will be assigned with preference to:

- Unemployed and underemployed men and women
- People affected and infected with HIV/AIDS and any other chronic disease
- The poor and nutritionally compromised households
- The widowed, single parents and child headed families
- Hospitals and schools and other charity driven organisations
- The families affected by physical, social and mental disability
- Small to medium enterprises as individuals, associations, cooperatives and small companies.

7.3 Policy on Water

Urban agriculture is largely dependent on the availability of water supply, quantity and quality for crop production and livestock rearing. Bulawayo is a water scarce area; hence the policy framework should facilitate the identification and use of a variety of water sources that can be used for urban agriculture in Bulawayo

The possible sources in Bulawayo include:

- Waste water (reclaimed water) supplied by the Bulawayo City Council from the main sewer systems mainly from Thorngrove, Luveve and Mpopoma and Cowdray Park
- Underground water mainly from boreholes and wells
- Raw/surface water from weirs, dams, sand abstraction systems, rivers and rain water
- Rainwater harvesting from roof tops
- Sand water abstraction from the peri-urban rivers
- Grey water from sinks, baths and is separated from sewer water
- Dams as catchment points if there is good rainfall

7.4 Policy on finance

The City of Bulawayo is currently not capable of adequately funding urban agriculture projects hence the need for involvement and participation of all stakeholders in mobilizing donations, grants, loans and partnership with Bulawayo City Council or the intended farmers.

The City of Bulawayo together with the multi-stakeholder forum should:

- Prepare annual budgets that are renewed quarterly to keep the financial plans on course
- Facilitate the funding in the form of loans, grants for farmers intending to engage in urban agriculture
- Facilitate coalition terms to ensure soft conditions for credit across the gender and social groups
- Create partnerships with donors and government in mobilising funds for urban agriculture
- Manage funds for urban agriculture in one common account.
- Ensure all expenditure of urban agriculture funds should be authorized by Bulawayo City Council in consultation with the multistakeholder forum
- Ensure that income and expenditure are strictly accounted for and through issuing of monthly management accounts to Council and the multistakeholder forum.
- Bank account signatories should be three people from the City Council whereby any two of the three signatories shall sign for payment or withdrawal
- Be responsible for reconciling the bank account
- Avail books of accounts for internal audit quarterly and annually for external auditing

7.5 Legal and Regulatory Framework

All Bulawayo residents engaging in farming activities should adhere to the specifications as stipulated in the Urban Councils Bye-laws including the Public Health Act. Permission should also be sought from the Bulawayo City Council prior to engaging into farming on municipal land.

Residents should not cultivate within 30 meters of the verges, swamps and banks of public streams. Poultry farmers can keep 20-25 birds in residential areas without permission from City Council.

Application for land and approval processes should be simple and not cumbersome

7.6 Health and Environmental Impact of urban agriculture

Urban agriculture has a positive impact on the health of individuals. It ensures increased access to fresh and nutritious foods that boost the immune system and contributes immensely to improved health of individuals especially the poor and those affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Adherence to health promotion and safety regulations as stipulated in the public health byelaws should be ensured at all times by Bulawayo City Council.

However urban agriculture practice could also have negative health and environmental related conditions to the urban populations. The main risks associated with urban agriculture include:

- Contamination of crops and individuals due to intensive and prolonged use of agrochemicals resulting in ill health
- Transmission of certain diseases to humans due to keeping animals near homes without taking proper precautions
- Management of animal feed and Animal waste or handling
- Health problems related to contamination of skin with waste water or through drinking waste water
- Spread of certain human diseases by mosquitoes and scavenging animals
- Outbreak of diseases resulting from unhealthy practices such as unhygienic
- Handling of agricultural produce and unsafe storage of food produce
- Inadequate or poor sanitary facilities resulting in outbreak of communicable diseases such as cholera, dysentery etc.

7.7 Gender and Social Inclusion

Urban agriculture is a crucial strategy for poverty alleviation among the disadvantaged groups in society. Priority in allocating land for urban agriculture will be given to disabled people, female and child headed families, elderly who are not on pension, unemployed youths and HIV/AIDS affected households. Urban agriculture practice will also promote equity in gender aspects to men and women of all social classes.

7.8. Research and Capacity Building

Research is central to the practice of evidence-based agriculture. Universities, such as Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU), National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Solusi and Lupane State University as well as other interested organisations will conduct period researches related to urban agriculture practice. The results from research will be used to improve urban agriculture practice.

Training of farmers including new farmers will be an ongoing programme, which should be strengthened by the development of training materials, and information brochures translated into the locally spoken languages. Field days and demonstrations will be part of the training and development programmes. Training on new trends and practices should filter to the Ward Councilors and the multi-stakeholder forum.

Urban farmers to be need empowerment with agricultural knowledge and skills on production, entrepreneurship and business administration. They also require the capacity to bring their needs together (community mobilisation and community development).

Exchange programme regionally and internationally will be promoted to facilitate networking and sharing of knowledge, skills and experiences with farmers beyond Zimbabwe.

8.0. INSTITUTIONALISATION

Urban agriculture activities will be housed in the BCC premises and will become part and parcel of BCC programmes. Bulawayo City is the main custodian of urban agriculture and ward Councilors are the link persons with the residents and it is responsible for the urban agriculture budget as well as ensuring that urban agriculture is practiced according to the council's byelaws.

Partners such as Municipal Development Programme, other Non-Governmental Organizations and interested parties will provide technical and financial support from time to time if the need arises.

8.1 Structure of urban agriculture

The Bulawayo City Council will promote and support the establishment of a multi-stakeholder forum that is the consultative forum for urban agriculture. The multi-stakeholder forum comprises representatives of the Bulawayo community such as, ward councilors, food growers, farmers, universities, banks, AREX, ZINWA, NGOs, local and central government who shall be the mouth piece of urban agriculture practitioners in Bulawayo. The Bulawayo City Council, on behalf of Local Government will provide the needed coordinating mechanisms. The forum will meet quarterly and hold a general annual summit with its stakeholders to discuss and share experiences, review and evaluate urban agriculture practice in Bulawayo.

The inter-departmental committee, which is a subcommittee of the forum with its subcommittees, does the day to day running, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of urban agriculture agenda.

Residents are the beneficiaries of urban agriculture (see diagram1).

8.2 Human Resources

The Bulawayo City Council has developed an urban agriculture section within its main structure. Personnel for the urban agriculture department are housed in the department of Town Planning and are responsible for urban agriculture activities in liaison with the multi-stakeholder forum. Human resources department for urban agriculture will provide technical assistance, site services as well as supervision of farming activities.

8.3 Role of Local Government

The role of local government through Bulawayo City Council and its stakeholders is to ensure an enabling environment for urban agriculture through the formulation of appropriate legislation, regulations, policies and strategies. It should include the following elements:

- Land access to underutilized or unused land for urban agriculture.
- Financial access through grants, and loans to purchase land, tillage and seed inputs; build infrastructure, as well as facilitate markets for selling produce
- Technical assistance through extension services
- Training and capacity building by allocating financial and human resources to train farmers in good farming methods, business administration, entrepreneurial and community development
- Provision of free and or low cost starter packs for urban agriculture
- Coordinate, integrate all urban agriculture activities with national activities in order to achieve maximum impact on poverty alleviation and economic development
- Establish a Bulawayo urban agriculture forum

9.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

It is proposed that the policies detailed here should be implemented as immediate, medium and long-term categories.

9.1 Immediate term proposals/ policies (1-5years)

These short-term proposals will encompass maize cultivation through out the city, cultivation along urban streams/water courses, Council farms within the City's boundaries. The proposed activities are that:

- ◆ All areas being used for unauthorized urban agriculture should be carefully examined and regularized
- ◆ Layout of these arrears should be demarcated on the ground made.
- ◆ Average plot sizes need to be agreed upon, say 200-300 sq metres. The size is based on the existing average.

- ◆ In planned areas, cultivators could be allocated the pegged stand and these urban farmers be responsible for the pegs.
- ◆ Seasonal leases shall be signed between Council and the cultivators.
- ◆ Policy of one plot per family be adhered to.
- ◆ Council to facilitate provision of extension services.
- ◆ A ward-by-ward approach with leadership of the Councillors be adopted, e.t.c.
- ◆ A demonstration project be identified for each ward.

Cultivation along Vleis/streams

Urban streams possess some of the richest soils in the city. These need to be utilized to obtain maximum yields and some of the possible uses could include:

- Growing of grasses that would protect soils against erosion, examples of such grasses are star grass (*Cynodon dactylon*)
- Other grasses that could be grown in these areas are Kikuyu grass (*Pennisetum clandestinum*) Rhodes grass, Napier, bana grass although these may need irrigation.
- Promote haymaking and ensilaging where legumes and suitable grasses/cereals are grown.
- Encourage community participation in this sub sector as it has great potential for supplying peri-urban farmers and those afar with livestock fodder during dry periods, e.t.c.

Stream Bank Cultivation

On the stream banks it is considered possible to develop agriculture projects such as:

- Agro forestry
- Woodlots
- Sisal Plantations
- Guava and other proliferous orchards

Community involvement is considered to be of critical importance in such a project.

Cultivation on Road Verges

This should be prohibited

Cultivation on Planned Open Space/Parks

This should be prohibited

9.2 Medium term (4-10 years)

In the medium term the following projects/proposals should be considered:

- Utilization of railway-reserved land and other servitudes.
- Consultations with relevant authorities are necessary.
- Use of farms within the city such as Dunstan Farm, Remainder of Umganin.

- Medium term projects can be started now and be planned/implemented in the next 5 to 10 years.
- Plant nurseries though out the city.
- Utilization of effluent disposal sites for irrigation.

9.3 Long term proposals /projects (over 10 years)

These will address a number of areas/sections that do not necessarily need immediate attention and have long-range objectives such as:

- Council farms to be utilized for the benefit of the city's inhabitants.
- Development of livestock/beef production.
- Development of dairy production.
- Development of suitable stock production.
- Beef keeping
- Fisheries

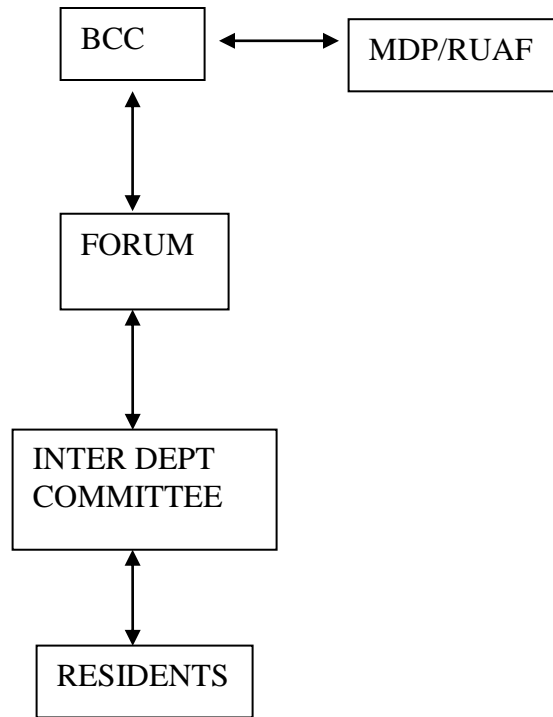
Details of proposals will be worked out for the above categories once Council approves the adoption/ formalization of urban agriculture in the city.

10.0 MONITORING, SUPERVISION AND EVALUATION

Successful implementation of policy guidelines depends on coordination and collaboration between Bulawayo City Council, Non-Governmental Organizations, Stakeholders and Civic Organisations and the communities and the involvement of all stakeholders from the planning process to evaluation through a multi-stakeholder participatory approach.

An impact monitoring system will be established utilising participatory and self-evaluation systems. Action plans will be developed according to the urban agriculture strategic agenda and these will be implemented, evaluated and reviewed annually by November of each year.

Diagram1; Structure of UA



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