



Special Session Proposal

Urban Agriculture and Urban Resources – New approaches for resilient and sustainable urban food systems

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Abstract

Urban agriculture (UA) is seen as a salutary response to current challenges, such as e.g., climate change, loss of biodiversity, increasing social inequalities, segregation, health risks, or resource scarcity (FAO 2018). The COVID-19 pandemic raised awareness on the importance of the urban food system often as a way to strengthen local community's food security or to reconnect with nature.

UA is an alternative to the predominant, resource-intensive agro-food system. Its potential to contribute to a regional-scale sustainable system of food production is still largely unexplored. Integrating UA into the urban metabolism opens up potentials for innovations to close the resource cycle in a circular economy. This can give answers to the urging questions of food security, resource scarcity and waste management in urban areas worldwide. New approaches are needed to shape resilient and sustainable urban resource-food-systems for the future.

The session aims at conceptual and empirical works on UA and the innovative use of urban resources in a circular economy. Most welcome are presentations covering the policy and planning environment of resource-efficient UA at different scales, but also (agro-) technical approaches. Elaborated visionary approaches to connect these topics or on the urban food system in general are also welcome as inputs for the discussion. In the closing panel, options for combining central ideas of the presented approaches will be discussed to create a bigger picture of possible ways to shape a future urban food system.

References

FAO (2018). FCIT - Food for the cities initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/fcit/fcit-home/en/>