

Session 1D - Food production and related nature-based activities for the development of sustainable and resilient cities

16:30 - 18:00 Friday, 17th June, 2022

Scientific Day - Theme 1. Co-creating NBS for Sustainable Cities

Presentation type Oral

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Urban food production has grown considerably over the last forty years, whether through the development of urban farms or through various forms of community gardens. Following on from the tradition of allotments of the early 20th century, community gardens are now complex social, technical and political projects. The different forms of urban agriculture and the social and environmental benefits of gardens (e.g. social cohesion, increased biodiversity) are extremely diverse. The potential of urban agriculture to provide key ecosystem services is well described (provisioning services, regulating services, social services). Cultural services are rather less well known. Certain criteria however such as the agronomic quality of soils, the risk of contamination of harvested products or the implementation of environmentally friendly and production efficient practices, could result in disservices. Community gardens deserve to have the option of developing and stabilising forms of urban agriculture in the open ground or even above ground. Cities may encourage planners and developers to reserve land for cultivation or food growing in new developments. This brings the issue of the sustainability factors of gardens to the forefront from the perspective of the resilient city. However, other difficulties can arise in the whole life chain of a community garden or an urban farm. Once the creation process is over and implementation has been carried out, the stabilisation phase (setting up the organisation, sustainability) can be long and even lead to failure. This session aims to collect feedback on ecosystem services in urban food production (urban vegetable gardens, urban farms, foodscapes...) which are ecological, social, and also cultural. Associated activities (e.g. cooking workshop, gardening education...) are particularly interesting as they involve citizens in food production and in the development of a community around urban gardening. There is particular interest in presentations that address the sustainability of gardens, including the exploration of factors such as governance and foodscape strategies. Presentations could address the implementation of the gardens or farms, citizen ownership and/or include their evaluation in terms of ecosystem services. Experts in NBS, stakeholders and social innovation promoters are welcome.