

systems and urban metabolization. Starting with the organizing logics of Frederick Douglas and W.E.B. DuBois this essay seeks to productively complicate the existing ideas around the metabolization of urban nature seen explicitly through the struggles around explicitly urban anti-hunger politics through the idea of abolition ecology.

Paule MOUSTIER⁴ : Short urban food chains in LDCs: signs of the past or of the future?

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The paper investigates the specific features of short food chains supplying cities in LDCs in relation with the characteristics in terms of transportation, farmers' strategies and consumer preferences. It is based on author's surveys in Africa and Asia on the origin of food (mostly vegetables) sold in urban markets, traders and consumers' strategies on strategies of supply and distribution. Case studies are presented for Vietnam (based on primary data), Senegal, India and Brasil (based on secondary data and interviews with key informants). Short food chains are defined as chains with zero or one intermediary between farmers and consumers. The results show that, in line with the predictions of spatial economics, short food chains are dominant in the supply of perishable products, e.g., leafy vegetables, in a number of cities of Africa and Asia. This can be put in relation with the bad state of transport infrastructures, cheap labour force and farmers' strategies to get incomes from marketing. The dominance of short food chains diminishes when transport infrastructures to rural areas are improved, and urban development constrains access to agricultural land, along with what has been observed in Europe. Yet there are forms where farmers and consumers are more active in taking advantage of regular interactions, in particular to promote food quality and safety, in a context of growing concerns of consumers for their health. This is the case in Vietnam where shops held by farmer cooperatives have emerged and communicate to consumers on vegetable safety. This is also the case of a scheme of direct deliveries of vegetables to consumers organised by a social-responsibility company buying from producer groups. The examples of organic farmer markets in Vietnam and India, and direct purchases by consumers to chemical-free farms in Senegal and Brasil are also described. The paper concludes with some specificity of short food chains in Asia and Africa, including the importance of health rather than environmental aspects, the wide diversity of types of policy support and of social capital involved in food chains.

Dr Mary NJENGA⁵ : Innovation in urban agriculture for food security, livelihoods and the environment in Kenya.

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In Kenyan cities, urban agriculture is practiced in backyard farms, open spaces under power lines, along roadsides, railway lines and river banks as well as on institutional land. In informal settlements where space is limited, communities practice low or zero space agriculture such as growing vegetables in a recycled sack. The most interesting part of urban farming is its linkage with waste reuse as a source of plant nutrients. Nairobi, the Kenyan capital city generate approximately 3000 metric tonnes of solid waste daily of which 70 percent is organic and some of it is recovered as feed for livestock or for production of organic fertilizer. The high costs of cooking fuel results in poor households using unhealthy materials such as plastic waste. Further, poor households are opting to cook foods that take a short time to prepare irrespective of their nutritional value. To address the cooking energy poverty poor households are turning to briquette which is made by compressing charcoal dust bound with either biodegradable waste paper, soil, or cow dung into a solid unit that is used like charcoal or firewood.