

# Integration of Urban Agriculture into City Planning in Turkey

**In Turkey, urban agriculture does not appear in the “land use and possession classification codes” used in urban planning. This classification was developed 25 years ago and is not clear about certain uses, which leaves these to dispute. This classification needs to be updated.**

**A** modern city draws much of its population from the rural areas. As such, the city should be able to integrate this population and the experiences they have, and provide them with sufficient land. The value of the land, defined by its rent, increases under urbanisation, and agricultural fields and public land are predominantly used for industry and housing. It is necessary to re-value the agricultural sector and the agricultural use of land in the city. There is a need to integrate agriculture into the existing functions of the city, and link it to issues such as poverty, famine, food security and social identity. However, the laws governing the city are a result of sudden decisions and pressures in the past, and do not allow for inclusion agriculture.

It is necessary to search for a new way of land classification that is designed for today’s requirements and the possibilities of modern cities. A new “Land Usage and Possession Classification” is therefore

suggested. This new classification is based upon the classification of the Ministry of Public Works which is widely known and used in development plans in Turkey. Local administrations like municipalities (including metropolitan municipalities), ward managements and central authorities (including provincial and city administrations) seem to be open to the suggested attention to urban agriculture. However, participation of different stakeholders in decision making and training will be required to actually operationalise this change.

## MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS AND URBAN AGRICULTURE

Turkey has a modern urban planning approach but, like many developing countries, has suffered from problems in this process. The institutions and persons involved have several and obscure roles. The public administration has developed into a hierarchical structure with an abundance of actors, of local and central public institutions. Local institutions, whose importance is emphasised by the activities of “Agenda 21”, should clearly determine their complementary functions. Since their functioning depends on central governance, coordination can only be achieved by the formation of a web among all local and central administrative units.

The central governing body and its local (provincial) actors have an important role in the formation and functioning of cities. Potential agricultural areas in the cities are increasingly being designated for construction based on the urgent priority of settlement, tourism and industry. The existing laws and regulations prompt urban areas to enlarge without any consideration for ecological conditions. The importance of environmental protection and arrangements for agriculture in the cities, which so far only remain in discourse, can only be taken up when the ways to achieve these goals are clear. To start with, agriculture as the main distinguishing criterion between rural and urban areas should be taken out of the laws, after which integration in urban planning can start.



Henk de Zeeuw

**It is necessary to re-value agricultural use of land in the city**

## INTEGRATING URBAN AGRICULTURE INTO CITY PLANNING

In Turkey, the integration of urban agriculture into development plans and its applicability depends on its inclusion into the process of public certification within the context of the Basic Land Usage and Possession Classification. The classification codes used by Ministry of Public Works, which is an important player in the process of planning, appear to be flexible enough. It is also known that Provincial Banks use the same classification outside of central commercial areas.

The proposed adaptation of the codes of the Ministry of Public Works to include urban and periurban agricultural areas, refers to articles 8 and 9. Article 9 refers to non-used areas, from which the issue of forestry should be removed and incorporated into article 8, which details productive purposes. Article 8 needs only a minor adaptation: it is suggested that that the “mining sector” be excluded and given a separate article under its former name “Source Produce and Mining (kaynak üretim ve çýkarýmý)”.

The integration of urban and periurban agriculture into the existing urban planning system of Turkey is a relatively easy task; what is required is a reform of the system. This reform will depend on improved integration and interaction between central and local administrative units, notably the coordination between the Ministry of Public Works, the Provincial Director of Public Works, Provincial Administration and Provincial Bank should become more productive.

### URBAN AND PERIURBAN AGRICULTURE UNDER REVISED ARTICLE 8

- 81. Livestock and Related Services
- 811. Fold and Crib Livestock Raising and Related Services
- 812. Apiculture and Related Services
- 813. Commercial Raising of Rabbits and Related Services
- 82. Forestry and Related Services
- 83. Fishery and Related Services
- 84. Areas Used to Supply Resources for Urban and Periurban Agriculture
- 841. Solid and Liquid Home Waste Collecting and Recycling Areas
- 842. Marketing Areas

### ADAPTED ARTICLE 9

- 9. Non-used areas and water sources (Ýplenmeyen arazi ve Su alanlarý)
- 91. Areas which are not used and processed (Ýplenmeyen ve Kullanılmayan arazi)

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