

Papa Ngore, Diegane Diouf (University of Sine Saloum, Senegal), Hervé
Lévite, Antoine Lemaitre, Marie-Christine Monnier, Alix Françoise
(FAO), Gilles Martin (IFAD)
herve.levite@fao.org
FAO, Rome
Agroecology Scientific Day 2024
Workshop 7, Session 1

Title:

Analysis of the urban and peri-urban agricultural system in the town of Kaffrine (Senegal) using the methodology of the Observatoire des Agricultures du Monde and hypotheses for collective action to be taken by young people as part of the FAO's Green Cities programme.

Summary:

Kaffrine, the capital of the region, is one of Senegal's fastest-growing municipalities. It has a sustained demographic growth rate, estimated at 4% in 2023 (compared with 2.9% in Dakar). The population of the agglomeration is expected to quickly exceed 60,000. However, Kaffrine remains a municipality with strong links to its surrounding rural area (herds of cattle, small-scale dry farming in the suburbs, the Godiba market garden centre). It is also badly affected by recurrent flooding and the degradation of peripheral forest areas. The outlook for climate change is bleak, with rainfall expected to fall and temperatures set to rise sharply in the future.

The town of Kaffrine is therefore a focus of attention for the FAO, which wants to make it a pilot town to observe the impact of climate change on a small, fast-growing secondary town and test solutions based on support for sustainable agricultural and forestry activities.

The innovative VIVRE research-action project, part of the FAO's Green Cities initiative, aims to involve the University of Sine Saloum (USSEIN) in promoting sustainable urban development. The aim is to encourage the preservation and development of multifunctional green infrastructure (forests and urban and peri-urban agriculture) and the circular economy. These planning and transformation actions are designed to improve the climate and food resilience of urban communities. The project's second challenge is to demonstrate that, thanks to a strong partnership with the municipality, it is possible to offer young university graduates opportunities to create concrete and profitable green businesses.

In this context, an FAO mission was carried out in July 2023 to meet local urban development players, and a study was launched in April 2024 in partnership between the FAO and USSEIN, during which agronomy students conducted a survey of 374 farmers using the Observatoire des Agricultures du Monde (OAM) methodology. This was the first time this OAM methodology had been used in an urban environment. The results are currently being analysed.

The survey was designed in consultation with the various local stakeholders in order to meet the specific objectives of this urban area in central Senegal. It aims to describe the diversity of existing forms of agriculture through their different production systems and capital, and to assess the living conditions of farming households and their agronomic performance. In particular, to identify the different forms of farms according to their environment: urban, peri-urban or rural, and to understand their challenges (e.g. integration of young people, role of women, modernisation of production tools, processing and storage of agricultural products, access to water, access to markets, dietary diversity of households) and their associated opportunities (e.g. use of biofertilisers from biowaste, creation of agricultural jobs, reduction of environmental pressures through agroforestry). A typology of farms, drawn up using the OAM methodology, will enable this diversity to be described in a coherent and comprehensible way, and the role of agroecology to be understood. The aim of this article is to present the methodology, the main results of this study and the hypotheses that can be put forward on the role of agroecology in a small town in central Senegal and on urban planning to adapt to climate change.

References

- Borelli S (2022) The FAO Green Cities Initiative: building more resilient and inclusive cities. FAO Rome
- Bosc P.M., Freguin-Gresh S., Gaillard C., Lehoux H., Ginot C (2023): World Agriculture Watch operational guidelines
- Liotard I., Françoise A., Leyronas S. Mercier L., Obin G. (2023) Urban Commons: Reestablishing Social Ties in African Cities. AFD/World Bank