

VEGA DE GRANADA REFERENCE REGION.

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1.- Urban agriculture working definition- extended definition (including farming, rural-urban interface) and limited definition (urbanites engagement with agriculture)

As its name suggests, urban and periurban agrarian spaces are places close to urbanized areas (Roda Noya, 2009) where the traditional conflicts affecting to rural agricultural environment are exacerbated.

The voracity of contemporary metropolitan model (Magnaghi, 2011) generates large stresses on places that until recently posed an essential part of the cities. Urban growth (residential, commercial and industrial), non-stop construction of infrastructures, and degradation of contact points between urban and infrastructural spaces and its environment (Davis, 2006; Fernández Durán, 2006), involve a parallel growth of urban status of agrarian spaces while at odds with the right of existence of suburban agricultural areas and persons who had created it, cared of it, and want to care of it in the future. In this context, new ways to promote sustainability are needed.

Three main questions are raised here in order to successfully engage in the governance of urban agriculture.

First: On the alleged marginalization of urban agricultures.

The alleged (and induced) marginalization of agricultures, certain groups among agricultural entrepreneurs and peasantry (Van der Ploeg, 2010), has been used to place this essential part of our biocultural memory (Toledo and Barreda-Basols, 2008) at a distinct disadvantage over other typical uses of the contemporary metropolis. The non-business nature of most of the urban agricultures (resulting of lot size or been used to satisfy diet necessities) implies a higher disregard of this land use, due to it is not linked to the financial speculations dominating the world economy (Naredo, 2009). However, on account of the displacement of industrial agricultures to distant areas, the property fragmentation and the cities' necessities/demands, many experiences had been generated for years contradicting the marginalization of those agricultures and peoples, especially in periurban spaces (Jarosz, 2008).

In peripheral nations the so-called structural adjustments imposed by neoliberal policies generates a non-precedented degradation of cities (Davis, 2006) and also an enormous development of the survival capacity based on urban and periurban agricultures (Latouche, 2007). In fact, the 70% of urban population in Africa and the 60% in Asia are related to this second condition (Bryld, 2003) producing among the 15 and the 20 % of the world food in 2000 (FAO, 2007). On the other hand, in the mainstream countries is taking place an increasing number of processes called *civic agriculture* (DeLind, 2002) and *Alternative Agrifood Initiatives* (Allen, FitzSimmons, Goodman, and Waner, 2003; Jarosz, 2008) in Anglo-Saxon literature. The relocalization of products using short supply chains and considering the multiple functions of agriculture as common good (Renting, Marsden y Banks, 2003; Donadieu, 2008) can be underlined, as well as its consideration as an environmental and cultural heritage.

Second: on the alleged lack of planning and management instruments

To reply both to the alleged lack of planning and management instruments and the existing difficulty for its application we propose the second key issue that would lead to a correct approach in the governance of urban agriculture. In that sense, it has to be said that an increasing number of research activities in planning, environmental science, agronomy, ecology, sociology or anthropology have developed innovative instruments that are available to be used by any public or private institution, as already happens in some cases (DeLind, 2002; Donadieu, 2008; Dewaelheyns and Gulinck, 2008; Fanfani, 2009).

Third: on the alleged lack of successful and lasting experiences

The urban, territorial and sectoral planning, as spatial reference of public policies (and powerful private interests), had been echo of tendencies to marginalize agricultures and had become a necessary collaborator in damages produced both in our cities (Fernández Durán, 2006; Fariña Tojo, 2011) and in the particular case of urban agriculture; so much that had been reached a point in where the vast majority of urban and periurban agricultures are still considered illegal in peripheral countries (Bryld, 2003).

Nevertheless, is false to say there is not enough experience to adequately address the complexity of the urban agrarian spaces through the planning and management in complex contexts highly stressed by the speculation. This could be just contradicted by displaying the lasting success of certain public policies in the different places and conditions to be described below.

2.- Introduction the reference region.

Granada is a medium metropolitan area including around 500.000 inhabitants in 1.500 km², but according to the Spanish growing process in the last 15 years it has been strongly affected by urban growth and agriculture degradation.

Tourism and real state are two of the main economic activities. Real State has produced an enormous increase in housing prices in the city as well as the gentrification of the city centre, affected by the growth of hotels and commercial uses.

In addition to this, the new motorways of the 90s and the quick economic growth, have also created the usual and chaotic sprawl in the metropolitan area, destroying the identity (and sometimes the heritage) of the surrounding villages and crushing the middle age original landscape of La Vega, that is the agricultural plane that beginning in the surroundings of the city of Granada grows along the river Genil up to Loja (50 Km away), including more than 16.000 hectares of small farms (90% under 1 ha) that are irrigated using the base of a channel system that is more than 1000 years old.

The highly productive land of La Vega is being destroyed even it is protected by a Metropolitan Spatial Plan from 1999 and ignoring that it is an important environmental area that links the National Park of Sierra Nevada with the Genil Valley and that generates an extraordinary view from the Alhambra (the most visited monument in Europe).

As well as other areas, this part of the metropolitan area is affected by the agricultural decline and is the area of main interest for real state investors and the local authorities that focus on urban growth (including golf courses) and infrastructure development; the Airport (built in La Vega) has been modernized, and they are building the high speed

train and the second bypass of Granada these days destroying beautiful landscapes and introducing as much as possible the Granada Metropolitan Area in the space of capital flows.

An important social movement has stopped many projects above this area, we have also promote diverse plans and proposals, forcing the administrations to be proactive in this area.

3.- Policy analysis.

We will consider a metropolitan (mainly) and local level of analysis as the area includes 40 municipalities. In addition to this, spatial and agricultural planning are mostly competence of regional administrations, so both important policies for UA are addressed above local level.

•How does UA intersect with other policies at municipality level: education, social cohesion.

As far as we know, UA is being considered by municipalities as a leisure activity, mainly for elderly (and retired) people. There are no evidences of municipal efforts to increase incomes or facilitate the access to fresh products in deprived areas.

In some cases, there are school orchards, but there are no municipal programs for this purpose. The only administration that is promoting this is the educational branch of the regional government.

Governance

•We want to identify types of policies and governance structures that can be found in the reference regions?

Policy	Type of policy	Institution/Governance structure	Contents on UA	Date
Plan de Ordenación del Territorio de Andalucía (Regional Plan)	Regional Planning	Regional Government (Regional Branch)	Includes La Vega as protected land because of agricultural and Heritage values	2006
Plan de Ordenación del Territorio de la Aglomeración Urbana de Granada (Metropolitan Plan)	Sub-regional Planning	Regional Government (Regional Branch)	Includes La Vega as protected land because of agricultural and Heritage values. Promotes UA development.	1999
Plan Especial de la Vega de Granada (Special Plan)	Sub-regional Planning	Regional Government	Includes La Vega as protected land because of agricultural	In process

			and Heritage values. Promotes UA development.	
Planes Generales de Ordenación Urbana (Master Plans)	Urban Planning	Municipalities	Some of them consider La Vega as protected land increasing the protection of regional planning.	Diverse.
Plan Estratégico de Agricultura Ecológica para La Vega de Granada (organic agriculture plan)	Agriculture planning	Regional Government (Agriculture Branch)	Promotes organic agriculture.	2007
Orden de Subvenciones para el fomento de los canales cortos de comercialización en los territorios tabaqueros (subsidies to promote short supply chains in tobacco land).	Agriculture policy	Regional Government (Agriculture Branch)	Promotes short supply chains in former tobacco land like La Vega.	In process (2013)

•Who and what are the key governance actors in this reference region? Identify the ‘eldsje’ in the reference regions.

In order to respond to this question, we have identified two different typologies of actors (present in Spain and also in other countries): *Citizens actors*, *institutional actors*, and *economic actors*.

In the www.planpais.org project we are interviewing all these actors, so we have a concrete description of any of them, but we believe that this abstract is enough for this report.

Citizen actors

Experiences of citizen's claims and usually autonomous and direct actions in urban agriculture are included in this category. It does not mean that experiences are indifferent to local government; in fact, collaborations and confrontations between public authorities and citizens are present in most cases.

1. -Environmentalists and cultural movements

It should be noted the role of environmental and cultural movements working for years to protect and also to boost urban agriculture relying on both the population of cities and people engaged in agriculture, especially peasantry.

In Spain, and also in La Vega, many of these groups have been linked in one way or another with *Ecologistas en Acción* (Environmentalists in Action) and their federations, whose associations stand out as having been active in the defense of urban agriculture. Dozens of examples could be paraphrased but it is noteworthy to point out one successful experience: *Plataforma Salvemos la Vega de Granada* (Coalition to Save the Agricultural Plane of Granada). In this case, numerous attacks to this area had been stopped (unfortunately, not all of them) and the regional authority governed by PSOE (Socialist Party, one of the statewide majority parties) had been forced to initiate and develop a Special Plan for *Parque Agrario de la Vega de Granada* (Agricultural Park of the Agricultural Plane of Granada). Nevertheless, the government has not yet approved the plan and voice is given to citizenship only in eventual participative meetings despite of so many citizen proposals and activities realized for protecting and revitalizing urban agriculture.

2. –Agrarian associations

Although some cases are included in the above groups, it is necessary to pay special tribute to the associations of people engaged in agriculture. These kinds of associations have not participated extensively in urban agriculture in Spain and in Granada. Anyway, some important agents in the latest years are the *Comunidades de Regantes* (Irrigation Communities) that include farmers belonging to the same irrigation system and to the same water source. This involvement is related with the problems caused by water scarcity and by the increasing water demand for tourism (mainly the man made snow in the sky station) and for residential use.

3.- Residents associations, neighbourhood associations and rural associations.

There are dozens of groups working on this task in Spain but some experiences raising new ways to take up urban spaces, whether public or private, must be noted because of the increasing importance at the main cities. For example, in *Casería de Montijo* neighbourhood, unemployed groups have occupied public land (along the river Beiro) and organized community orchards.

4.- Groups of production, consumption and self-consumption

Finally, there is also a growing number of diverse groups of production and consumption of local products, in which committed consumers are even implied in some production phases. As well as in the Metropolitan Area of Granada, they proliferate in most cities of the central countries and are related to emerging networks on food sovereignty. These groups are mainly linked to urban agriculture, but also have relationships with other groups and producers from rural regions.

In Granada, we had the group *Hortigas*, but unfortunately, problems with land prices and other urban processes made them move to more remote areas. Nevertheless, other experiences like *El Vergel* (The Orchard) and more recently the 15M (Indignados) groups related to the food question are increasing their influence.

Institutional actors

Most actors are included in the previous table, but here we can find some others that are influencing the future of La Vega:

- National government (agriculture branch).
- Regional government (regional planning branch).

- Regional government (agriculture branch).
- Provincial government (rural development branch).
- Provincial government (environmental branch).
- Provincial government (planning branch).
- Consortiums (Municipalities, Regional Government, Provincial Government and other stake holders like trade unions)
- University of Granada.
- Municipalities.

Economic actors

Even a more detailed analysis will be needed in this paragraph, we have included the following list of actors:

- Environmental education (e.g. Ciempies, IDEA)
- Rural tourism (e.g. El Cortijo del Pino, El Cortijo de la Matanza)
- Industry (e.g. Los Pastoreros Coop., San Francisco Coop.).
- Commercial (e.g. Consumo Cuidado, El Economato Ecológico)

•Are there good examples of governance which link ‘top down’ or ‘bottom up’ approaches?

- A) The Millenium Park – Special Urban Plan for La Vega de Granada (top down) Vs.
- B) Sustainable Development Plan for La Vega de Granada (bottom up).

- Purpose of the projects (just keywords): A) Spatial planning, open spaces, recreation, agriculture.
- B) Local development, public involvement, sustainability, agriculture.

From the middle of the 90s, an important socioecological movement called Salvemos la Vega has stopped many projects above this area, as well as: a new congress centre, a new place for the Feria (Andalusian party field), or a Recreation Park. In 2007 more than 60 organisations produced a Sustainable Development Plan for La Vega (www.otragranada.org), and as a result of the social pressure in 2010 the Regional Government prepares an Urban Plan to create an Agrarian Park in La Vega (called The Millenium Park). It is another challenge for the movements to convince the Regional Administration to design this plan in a participative way, following the main guidelines of the Sustainable Development Plan for La Vega and considering the model of the Agrarian Park of Baix Llobregat in Barcelona (www.agroteritori.org).

In addition to this, other actors are being involved in the La Vega Movement: from one side, more than 100 primary, secondary and professional schools alongside with the University and other associations have promoted the VegaEduca Project (<http://vegaeduca.org>), that every year have mobilized more than 1000 students for the Vega EcoMarch that includes a Vega Exhibition in the Museums of Granada.

From the other side, irrigation organisations, farmers, and rural tourism are generating an alliance to protect the agrarian landscape and to develop innovations such as organic agriculture.

Crisis as an opportunity.

Finally, some of the projects over La Vega that have not been stopped by the movements are in troubles these days: the Nevada Mall (one of the biggest in Europe)

is in court because of illegal dimensions and corruption and the Health Campus cannot grow has much as the companies want because the labs are surrounded by the protected area of La Vega and most of the area selected for this campus has been used for high standing housing. In addition to this, urban growth is almost zero because of the economic crisis, so we have another opportunity to realm our territory promoting local agriculture, local trading, and a multifunctional land use of the Vega.

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