

<b>City</b>	
<b>Country</b>	Brazil
<b>Population</b>	6,688,927
<b>Title of policy or practice</b>	Hortas Cariocas Program
<b>Subtitle (optional)</b>	
<b>URL video</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/PrefeituradoRio/videos/programa-hortas-cariocas/823017544571061/">https://www.facebook.com/PrefeituradoRio/videos/programa-hortas-cariocas/823017544571061/</a>
<b>Category</b>	Food production
<b>SDGs</b>	SDGs: 3, 8, 9, 11.
<b>Brief description</b>	<p>The City Hall of the City of Rio de Janeiro, aware that in certain poor communities there are families that have serious difficulties regarding access to a minimum daily diet that guarantees subsistence, has as one of the objectives to encourage actions that provide the creation of jobs, training and the supply of good quality food at affordable cost, structuring agricultural initiatives in the city.</p> <p>Created in 2006, Hortas Cariocas is an initiative of the Municipal Secretariat of Environment of the City of Rio de Janeiro with the objective of encouraging urban agroecology and providing access to adequate food for the population of Rio de Janeiro.</p> <p>Hortas Cariocas identify areas with potential to become or host urban farms in communities in need and in municipal public schools. The project seeks to bring the population closer to urban and organic agriculture, as well as to encourage jobs for the local population and to serve as a laboratory for environmental education.</p> <p>The Secretariat encourages the creation of the urban farms offering monthly remuneration to those responsible for the farm. Half of the food produced in the urban farms located in communities in need is destined to the community and to public schools, kindergartens and day care centres of the region. The other half can be sold to generate additional income for the urban farm and can be used to purchase equipment. In the farms, which are located inside municipal public schools, all food is used to complement the children's diet.</p> <p>Currently there are 39 gardens within the program that produce about 50 tons of food without the use of fertilizers, agrochemicals and pesticides. The gardens' food production benefits about 20 thousand citizens.</p>
<b>Date of start and state (ongoing/completed)</b>	09/2006 Ongoing
<b>Actors and stakeholders involvement</b>	Hortas Cariocas is a project developed and financed by the Municipal Secretariat of Environment. The project counts on a partnership of the Municipal Secretariats of Education, Health and Social Assistance and Human Rights.
<b>Approach</b>	<p>Methodology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identification of potential areas;</li> <li>● Selection of areas;</li> <li>● Sizing and selection of field teams;</li> <li>● Quantification of the individual needs of each area;</li> <li>● Elaboration of Budgets;</li> <li>● Acquisition of materials and supplies;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Production Planning;</li> <li>● Training;</li> <li>● Beginning of the production;</li> <li>● Technical assistance;</li> <li>● Harvest Partitioning;</li> <li>● Destination of the institutional part of the harvest;</li> <li>● Self-sufficiency after two years.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Innovation</b></p>	<p>Urban and school farms are common initiatives in various parts of the world. However, in most cases, they last a short time, since the work force is composed basically by volunteers. We noticed that as we would like the farms to be an initiative that continues in the future, and as our project is carried out predominantly in communities in need, the volunteering model was inviable. The difference of the Hortas Cariocas Program is that every urban farm has employees that are responsible to manage and grow the farms, as well to teach the people that live around the farm and students about the organic and urban agriculture. The program tries to involve the whole community, since it employs only local people and aims to serve not only the population of the region. Moreover, it invites the community to learn about the organic agriculture and provides a good quality food for other projects like public schools, public day cares, etc.</p> <p>It is important to mention the prerogative that urban farms must sell half of what is produced, in order to generate additional revenues, allowing the emancipation of the teams.</p> <p>In the case of the school farms, the teams cannot sell the production, so they do not generate income and the teams are not emancipated, but, on the other hand, an intimate relationship is established between the students and the food and rural education.</p>
<p><b>Impact</b></p>	<p>The program currently has 38 urban farms located in communities, public schools and public day care centres, as well as a unit within the headquarters of the Township of Rio de Janeiro and another unit within the Centre of Agroecology and Organic Production, responsible for the production of the seedlings used in the implementation and maintenance of urban farms.</p> <p>The farms within the schools and day care centres serve 20,000 students who benefit both from the food produced, as well as from environmental education classes. In vulnerable communities, around 100,000 people are impacted by the urban farms.</p> <p>In 2018, the farms of the program were responsible for the production of more than 51 tons of food, and 19 tons were sold to assist in the maintenance of the urban farms. In addition, a total of 640 thousand seedlings were produced that were used in the implementation, expansion and maintenance of the program.</p> <p>The program was responsible for (i) transforming the reality of poor communities with agricultural potential in decentralized units for the development of agroecological agriculture; (ii) disseminate in these communities the principles of agriculture; (iii) strengthening community initiatives for the occupation of backyards and underutilized lands; (iv) stimulate the production of organic vegetables in the municipality for the self-consumption and the commercialization of the surplus through the fairs implemented by the Environmental Secretariat around the city.</p>
<p><b>Inclusion</b></p>	<p>The Hortas Cariocas program promotes inclusion through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sustainable diets and nutrition: Promote sustainable diets in a joint work of the Education, Health and Environmental Secretariats, the communities and students learn how to incorporate better quality food in their routines;</li> <li>● Social and economic equity: The initiative uses food transfer, encourages and supports social and charitable economic activities, promotes networks and supports grassroots activities,</li> </ul>

reorients school feeding programs and promotes participatory education, training and research.

- Food Production: The Hortas Cariocas promotes and strengthens urban and peri-urban food production as well as creating and supporting short food chains, when half of the production of the urban farms and gardens are sold to the vulnerable communities around it.
- Civil society and government partners: The Hortas Cariocas promotes the involvement of Municipal Secretariats of Education, Health and Social Assistance and Human Rights, as well as that of the communities around the farms in order to spread the knowledge about urban and organic agriculture.

**Adversity coefficient**

The Hortas Carioca program bets on the strategy of local socio-economic development based on vocational and accumulated social capital, so that low income communities with high levels of malnutrition and some kind of environmental vulnerability can be guaranteed the basic human right to healthy and good quality food, as another way to fight hunger and environmental degradation in the city of Rio de Janeiro.

The program faced some adversities regarding the implementation and maintenance of the urban farms because some politicians and part of the citizens see green spaces as a mal use of the space. In order to address this issue, the program seeks to use idle spaces inside communities that are subject to the occurrence of invasions or to the inappropriate waste disposal.

Regarding the climate and the geological formation of the city, the program faces some issues due to extreme slopes, since a huge part of the vulnerable communities are located in the hills, and high temperatures, especially between December and March.

Another challenge is that the Master Plan of the City of Rio de Janeiro does not recognize the existence of Rural Zones, characterising the municipal territory as fully urban. This characteristic constitutes a serious obstacle to obtaining agricultural credit, in addition to significantly taxing on land tenure. In order to make the program sustainable over the years, the teams of the urban farms should seek self-sustainability, which means to be able to develop the project with a decreasing help from the City of Rio, through the capitalization of the farm through the selling of the half of the production.

Over the years, with the process of industrialization and growth of commercial activities, the rural practices were left in the background, making the population lose the rural reference. This scenario has made many inhabitants disinterested in developing knowledge and practices related to food production. One of the main goals of the project is to restore the knowledge on the techniques as well teaching the population how to deal with organic farm.

Besides all, one big challenge that we still face is related to security. At present, most of the areas in which our program operates are dominated by organized crime, and as a result, we clearly perceive the absence of many government agencies that could help the program to grow. This adversity, in particular, is the most complicate to overcome.