

City Niamey	
Country	Niger
Population	1,026,848 inhabitants
Title of policy or practice	Agriculture Urbaine (Urban Agriculture)
Subtitle (optional)	Regeneration of the green belt by horticulturists
URL video	
Category	Sustainable Diets and Nutrition
SDGs	SDGs: 1, 2, 8, 10, 13, 15. Fight youth and women's unemployment, reduce social and economic inequalities, produce fresh and healthy food, and mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.
Brief description	<p>Considering the need to feed its population, which is growing at a high rate every year (about 4%), it would be appropriate for the city of Niamey to find a mechanism to produce more and in a different way. The microgardening programme would then be a solution that needs encouragement and support to address food insecurity in urban areas.</p> <p>Currently, local food production of fresh produce is far from satisfying the needs of the "Niameyens."</p> <p>A good quantity of the vegetables consumed crosses borders to supply the capital city without the quality and/or production conditions of these foods being guaranteed and/or controlled by consumers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objective is to contribute to the improvement of food security and the management of sustainable urban environment; • The main beneficiaries are the 200 young people and women horticulturists.
Date of start and state (ongoing/completed)	04/2019 – 04/2022 Ongoing
Actors and stakeholders involvement	The city of Niamey, the Ministry of the Environment, the Federation of Vegetable Cooperatives of Niger (FCMN), the NGO Rayouwa dan adam, horticulturists leaving the corniche development sites, unemployed young people from the neighbourhoods alongside the river.
Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying pilot projects in food production and developing public spaces; • Spreading micro gardening techniques and artisanal processing of food production; • Making materials and inputs for food production available.
Innovation	<p>This micro-project will provide an opportunity to address several major challenges that the city is facing and that are relevant today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fighting youth unemployment by introducing them to urban agriculture; • Fighting the degradation of the green heritage by regenerating the green belt; • Producing fresh and healthy food in great quantity and in good quality in the city; • Fighting climate change through mitigation and adaptation measures.
Impact	This policy will bring substantial social and economic benefits to poor and vulnerable households and will bring several ecological benefits to the entire city of Niamey including:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From a social equity perspective, horticultural products grown in micro-gardens will be an essential means of alleviating hunger and fighting malnutrition by providing direct access to food for resource-poor households. In addition, micro-gardening will lead to a richer and more balanced diet and, therefore, to a higher intake of macro and micronutrients, whose importance can certainly not be overestimated for the health of young children and pregnant women; • This activity will also allow poor households to better cope with periods of price volatility and food shortages; • Several jobs are created to benefit unemployed youth and women living in the neighbourhoods alongside the river (at least 200 jobs in this phase); • The Green Belt is reforested by producers, market gardeners (at least on two (02) Ha in this phase); • Household waste is recycled into compost at the recycling centre located next to the horticulturists.
<p>Inclusion</p>	<p>This project deals with several relevant themes, which is why the policy in question has been identified and designed with the help of the relevant institutional authorities, such as the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Urban Development, and with the contribution of the direct beneficiaries, i.e. people living along the river (having to leave the corniche) and unemployed women and youth who would be involved in the project.</p> <p>This policy was designed to harmonize the activities of different public authorities in order to minimize institutional conflicts and lead to a more effective and sustainable approach to micro-gardening.</p> <p>In order to take full account of the civil society actors and direct beneficiaries' opinions, during the first phase of the project, the city of Niamey decided to create a list with all the names of young people who would like to participate.</p> <p>Then the city decided to organize a series of meetings with the beneficiaries and customary authorities in the neighbourhoods and to adopt a participatory approach in order to identify the needs and problems affecting them.</p> <p>Finally, the City of Niamey will try to ensure that for each problem raised and discussed during meetings with the targeted beneficiaries a corresponding action will be taken to solve it.</p>
<p>Adversity coefficient</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying the empty Green Belt and getting the authorization to place horticulturists on the sites was not easy. Indeed, the City of Niamey had to do it in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment in order to allow the regeneration through the activities of the horticulturists; • This green heritage of the city of Niamey is the object of desire for squatters and corrupted developers; therefore, it was necessary to overcome all these obstacles which were blocking the project; • It should be noted that the VC has for some time been the subject of ambiguous management between the various actors involved: the Ministry in charge of the Environment, Urban Planning, the City of Niamey and certain customary leaders who, until now, have claimed a certain paternity of the land, which risks jeopardizing the survival of this green heritage; • Currently, to overcome the water problem on the site, the City is supplying retention basins built while waiting for the drilling planned by the project.