



## QUITO ECUADOR

Title of Practice

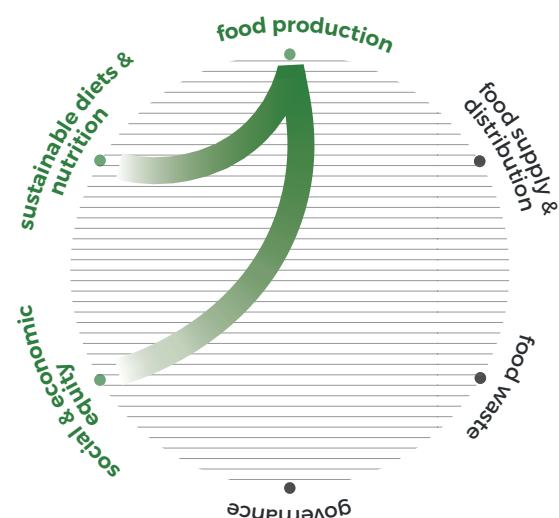
### QUITO: PARTICIPATORY URBAN AGRICULTURE PROJECT (AGRUPAR)

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Category  
**FOOD PRODUCTION**



Special Mention  
2016

Main impacts on other  
MUFPP categories



Contact  
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#### Context

The Metropolitan District of Quito has an explicit policy objective to improve the livelihood conditions of both its urban and rural inhabitants. According to the most recent Strategic Development Plan 2015–2025, this requires addressing problems related to food insecurity, obesity, diet-related diseases, nutrition and health. It also addresses the importance of environmental and waste management. The Plan calls for generating income and employment opportunities through support to **local food value chains** and sustainable agriculture to bring local economic development in both rural and urban territories of the District. Additionally, Quito is a city with high volcanic, seismic, and climatic vulnerability as well as landslide and soil erosion, which is why building **food resilience** is considered critical to face emergency situations. The Municipality of Quito identified urban organic agriculture as a measure of disaster risk reduction in support of food security and nutrition.

#### Overview of the food practice

The **Participatory Urban Agriculture Program** (AGRUPAR) was launched in 2002 within the Municipality of Quito. The project targets the most vulnerable sectors of the population through the self-production of organic food and by promoting urban agriculture as a livelihood and a powerful strategy for food security and nutrition. With capacity to generate employment and improve family incomes, AGRUPAR promotes **self-production** and the selling of surplus through alternative local marketing projects called “bioferias”. The bioferias are spaces where consumption of **healthy food** is promoted as a civil right. Overall democratization of the food system is promoted within the framework of responsible consumption and **fair local trade**. Seventeen bioferias have opened throughout the city, mainly located next to health stations, where citizens can benefit from obtaining a free health assessment and information for a healthy diet.

AGRUPAR has focused on production and processing of food in the entire territory of Quito, operating in several areas of the municipality with the strong participation of civil society. The emphasis is on the involvement of **small producers** (women heads of households, the elderly and disabled, vulnerable families and rural farmers) who may have undertaken this activity at a subsistence level but at the same time have found a worthy way of life. In recent years, the project has transcended beyond the urban level of intervention to rural areas of Quito. This move favors the link between urban and rural areas which make the development process — built on agro-ecological bases — more sustainable and resilient. Furthermore, Quito integrates climate change adaptation criteria to urban agriculture, providing a valuable carbon compensation measure for the business sector.

#### Results and lessons learned

The AGRUPAR project works on various dimensions of urban agriculture production, recreation, occupational therapy, education, health, and culture, with a wider transformative impact on the communities and the people. In particular, AGRUPAR has strengthened social relationships between producers and consumers, generating **solidarity networks**, and the inclusion of small farmers into the food system. Moreover, the adoption of a systemic and integrated vision allowed the project to attend the needs of diverse target groups and succeed in involving the most **vulnerable groups**. By looking at subsystems in primary production such as the generation of seedlings and seeds, the production of organic fertilizers, natural active ingredients and minerals, breeding of small animals, beekeeping, food processing, micro-greenhouses, drip irrigation, etc., AGRUPAR has been innovative and linked tools with productive infrastructure. This has in turn created new capabilities among citizens, **generating knowledge** and recognition of the importance of sharing that knowledge. As an example of horizontal sharing, AGRUPAR has maintained a four-year alliance with the Argentinian Program PROHUERTA, exchanging experiences and technical support.



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