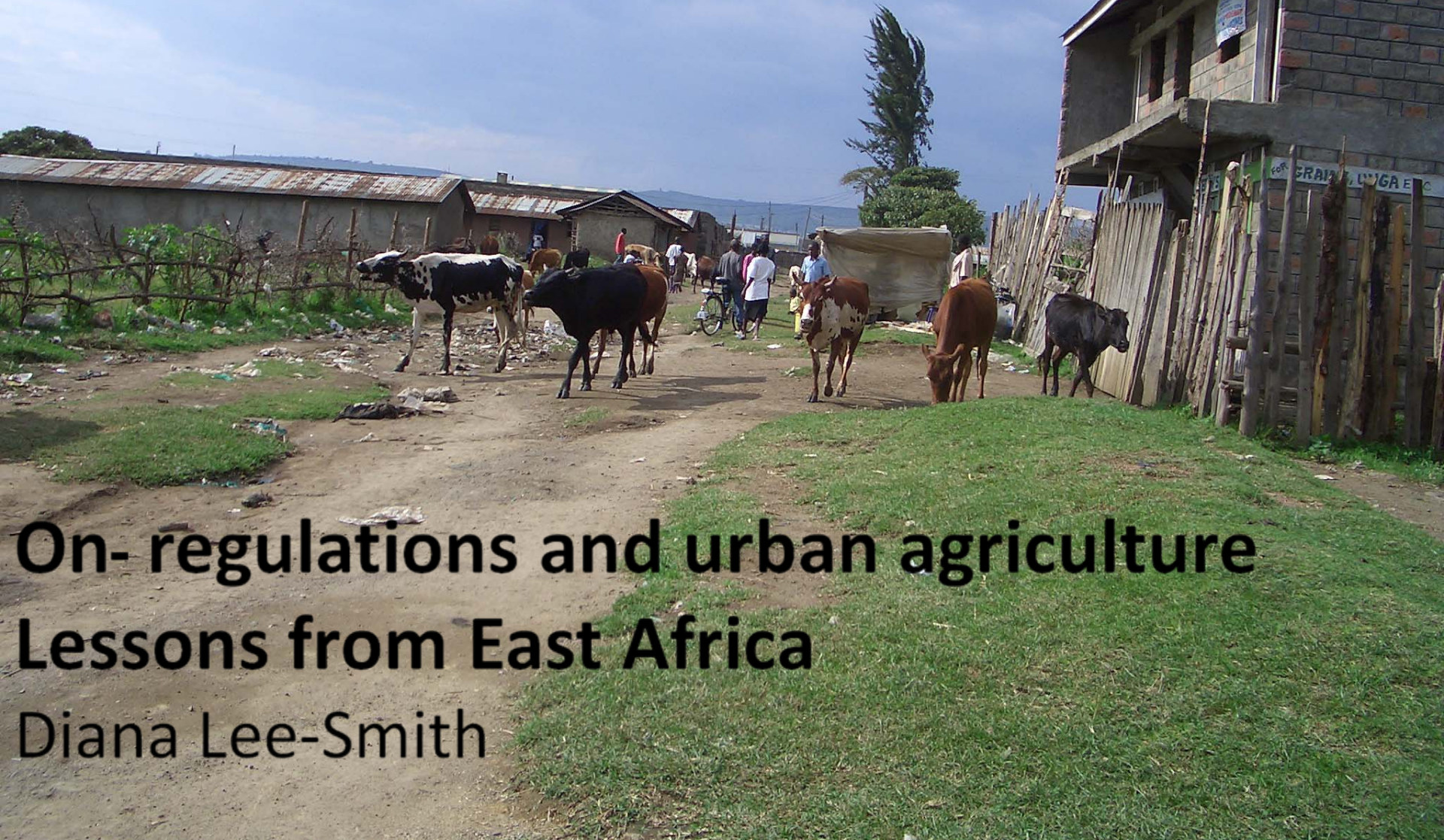


The role of food and agriculture in the design and planning of buildings and cities



On- regulations and urban agriculture
Lessons from East Africa
Diana Lee-Smith

Regional Coordinator of Urban Harvest 2002-2005

a programme of the
Consultative Group on
International Agricultural
Research (CGIAR)

Contents

- Recent legal reviews of UA in two East African towns
- A new take on inherited colonial laws
- Attitudes of African urban elites
- Urban food production and public health
- Need for a Right to Food approach

Recent legal reviews of UA in two East African towns

- Revisions to City Ordinances governing urban agriculture in Kampala, Uganda, 2001 – 2006
- Revisions to municipal by-laws governing urban agriculture in Nakuru, Kenya , 2005 –present)
- (Previous study of UA in Kenya in 1980s)







A new take on inherited colonial laws

- Conventional wisdom - inherited colonial laws forbid UA
- UA actually allowed or even promoted, while Medical Officers of Health (MOH) given enormous powers
- Nairobi City Council by-laws obtained in 1987 state:
 - crop growing allowed except on paved roads
 - small livestock allowed, large required a permit
 - anyone can object to neighbour's activities(nuisance)
 - MOH can forbid anything any time to prevent disease
 - City to promote crop growing in times of drought

Attitudes of African urban elites

- Public statements by officials often perpetuate a mis-reading of the law as completely restrictive
- Usually based on their own ability to resort to powers under the Public Health Act to control and restrict crop growing and livestock keeping whenever necessary
- It has been the practice of local governments throughout the region to slash crops from time to time and also the destroy livestock, such as the public burnings of pigs in Nakuru in 2005

Kampala and Nakuru reviews

- New draft legislation began by totally prohibiting UA
- Shifted after consultative processes (Kampala held Divisional and District consultations including general public and famers)
- Establish permits for UA. Authorities claim to have capacity to implement, but not clear UA will be easier
- Kampala committed to public awareness of new regulations and the health risks involved in urban livestock keeping in particular, so that UA can be practised in a healthier environment than at present

Urban food production and public health

- Book to help authorities balance UA benefits and risks
- Many urban Africans consume food they produce
- Animal source foods from urban livestock play role in better child nutrition and household food security
- Richer and not poorer families are able to do this
- African urban elites limit ability of urban poor, esp. women headed households, to produce food
- Public health thinking of the 19th C led to conceptual split of town and country, with food production (including plots zoned for agriculture) associated with dirt and poverty

Need for a Right to Food approach

- Public health thinking needs ecological vision of urban living
- Right to food of significant proportion of urban population currently limited by law enforcement practice
- “Right to food” approach needed to evaluate health risks and benefits of UA and when formulating UA laws
- Not just laws that need revision but attitudes of law enforcers
- Colonial legislation served interests of rulers and excluded local populations. Critique needed, but more exclusionary practices aimed at the urban poor should also be critiqued
- Approach to nuisance contains reasonable civic behaviour norms, with disputes between neighbours resolved in court. Fairer than slashing food crops and exterminating livestock

THANK
YOU!

