

The Kampala City Urban Agriculture Ordinance: A Guideline



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1. Kampala City Council is aware that food security is an important aspect of urban planning and management. That is why, in 2003, it organized public meetings to help draft these new Ordinances governing urban agriculture and food handling in the City.

2. The production of food in the City benefits health in terms of nutrition, and may have other good effects like creating a green environment. But urban agriculture can also create health hazards and damage the environment. Therefore, it must be subject to proper planning and management.

3. The Kampala City Council intends to document and regulate urban agriculture to the benefit of residents and the city population in general.

4. In the interests of effective regulation, the Kampala City Council will:

- a. Publish this set of Ordinances and the Guidelines that explain them
- b. Organize the listing of all urban agriculture activities
- c. Promote public discussion of the Ordinances
- d. Amend the Ordinances as needed
- e. Enact and enforce the Ordinances

5. Permits help to regulate and control urban agriculture in the interests of the public, and also raise revenue for the Council. Permits are intended to be affordable. They will help Council provide services to urban farmers. Penalties for offences under the Ordinance are aimed at improving the management of urban agriculture, mainly through community service.

6. Council realises that some provisions of the Ordinance – such as those on Processing Food and Beverages – may have different impacts on women and men. It is planned to make a gender survey, to find out measures that can be undertaken to ensure support for income generating enterprises, many of which are run by women, and to make sure City residents have enough supply of nutritious food according to adequate health standards.

The Different Ordinances

7. This Ordinance is about growing crops and keeping livestock. But if you are keeping livestock, even for your own consumption, you need also to read the Ordinance Guideline on Livestock and Companion

Animals. The same applies if you have a dog or cat or other animals around your place.

8. If you catch or sell fish, you need to see the Fish Ordinance Guideline as well.

9. If you process or sell meat, you must look at (and obey!) the Meat Ordinance and its Guideline.

10. And if you sell or process milk or dairy products, you must read and comply with the Milk and Milk Products Ordinance.

Urban Agriculture Permits (Clause 3)

11. These are new permits to be issued by Kampala City Council. All that will happen at first is that, if you are farming in the City and sell any of your produce, you will need to put your name and particulars on the Council's Urban Agriculture List.

12. For the time being, just having your name on the list means you have permission to farm!

13. You may have to pay Council a small amount to have your name on the list. You will be issued with a receipt which constitutes a temporary permit, so keep it carefully.

14. And, even more important, you need to read the Ordinance, and to comply with it. All the requirements that you need to comply with are also explained in this Guideline.

The Next Step – Getting a Full Licence (Clause 4)

15. If you have an established farming business, and especially if you operate on a large scale, you need to get a full Urban Agriculture Licence under Clause 4 of the Ordinance.

16. For this commercial UA Licence the City Council requires you to make a formal application, giving your name and address, the type of agricultural activity and its location.

17. Within 30 days, Council will send a Production Officer to inspect the premises. If everything complies with the Ordinance, the licence will then be issued. Otherwise, you will get advice on how to comply. Council will make a charge for this licence, which will depend on the type and size of enterprise.

18. Council decides from time to time what are the conditions of the permit or licence, and if you contravene these, you are committing an offence.

Places You Are Not Supposed To Farm

19. You cannot carry out urban agriculture in the following areas, unless the Council gives you permission:

- (a) road reserves;
- (a) wetlands;
- (b) greenbelts;
- (c) parks;
- (d) places the Council says are dangerous because of poisonous chemicals;
- (e) less than 10 feet away from an open drainage channel.

Things You Cannot Do While Farming in the City

20. No untreated human waste is supposed to be used as manure

21. If you use pesticides, herbicides or fungicides you have to make sure they:

- a. Do not pollute the environment
- b. Do not cause a health risk to anyone
- c. Are used exactly according to the manufacturers instructions

22. If you dig or make a pool, channel or trough for irrigation, you have to make sure the water does not become a breeding ground for mosquitoes, or a source of any water borne disease. If you do not do so, you may be committing an offence under this Ordinance.

23. No animals or birds you keep should be treated badly or with cruelty.

Things Others Should Not Do

24. Industries, vehicle operators, petrol stations and workshops should make sure that their exhaust fumes and waste products do not go into the air and water in a way that contaminates urban agriculture. They should obey the laws on environment protection.

25. Sump oil, or waste products from engineering works, must not be put in any open drainage channel, stream, swamp water, pool or place used for farming.

Processing Food and Beverages

26. If you are processing food or beverages for sale to the public, you have to do it on a place that is raised at least one metre above the ground, and at least ten metres away from any toilet facility or open drainage system.

27. The utensils in which the food or beverages are being processed must be properly covered to prevent them getting spoiled.

28. The place where you display cooked or processed foods and beverages for sale must be authorised by the Council.

29. The cooked or processed food or beverage displayed for sale must be placed on a rack or surface raised at least one metre above the ground, and placed in utensils properly covered to prevent them being spoiled.

Offences and Penalties

30. You commit an offence if you do not follow the terms of your permit or licence as explained in this Guideline.

31. You must not make false statements in order to get a permit or licence or get on the Urban Agriculture list. Even if you say something false to get someone else on the list or get them a permit or licence, it is still an offence by you.

32. You must not use your permit or licence to do something which is not allowed in this Ordinance.

33. If you commit any of these offences, a penalty will be imposed.

34. If you continue to do any of these offences after you have already been convicted, a more severe penalty will be imposed and your permit or licence will be cancelled.

35. If the Council decides any agricultural activity is damaging public health or the environment, it can order it to be stopped. It can also forbid the sale of any produce or product of this activity for a time it decides.

36. If you still carry on with the activity or sell the produce when Council has said you should stop, you are committing an offence.

KUFSALC

The Kampala Urban Food Security, Agriculture and Livestock Committee was set up in 2004. Its members, from university, public and civil society organizations including the Kampala City Council, are concerned to promote the availability of healthy and safe food for Kampala, and are actively involved in research, policy dialogue and public awareness.

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URBAN HARVEST

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) established Urban Harvest as a system wide initiative on urban and peri-urban agriculture in 1999. It is based at the International Potato Centre (CIP), whose regional office is in Nairobi, Kenya. Urban Harvest established a Kampala office in 2002 at the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Makerere University, and is an active member of KUFSALC which it supports through its programme.

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