

# POTENTIALS OF URBAN AGRICULTURE

## THE CUBAN EXAMPLE

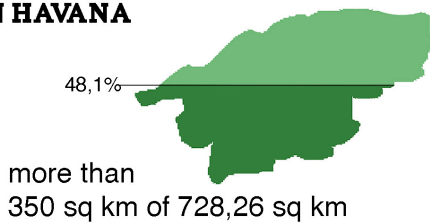
Urban agriculture is the production of agricultural goods by urban residents. Urban agriculture may have a role to play in addressing urban food insecurity and poverty problems, sustainability and environmental issues.



Over the last fifteen years, Cuba has developed one of the most successful examples of urban agriculture in the world. Havana, the capital of Cuba has played a prominent role in the evolution and revolution of this type of agriculture.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the ending of trade with COMECON on rather favorable terms, Cubans had to start growing their own food rather than importing it, without oil, chemical fertilizers, pesticides etc., that were similarly imported from the USSR before.

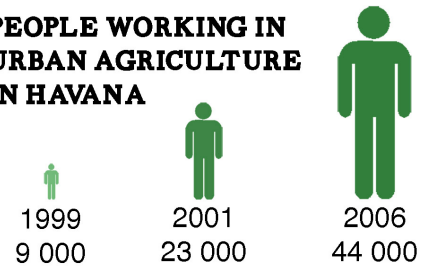
### LAND USED FOR AGRICULTURE IN HAVANA



### SOURCE OF HAVANA'S FRESH PRODUCE

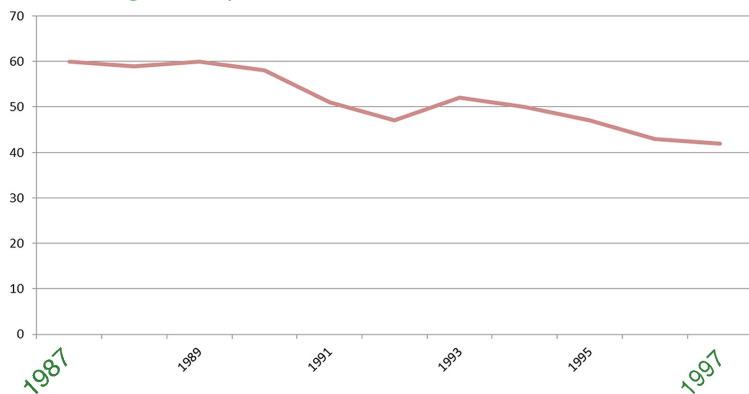


### PEOPLE WORKING IN URBAN AGRICULTURE IN HAVANA



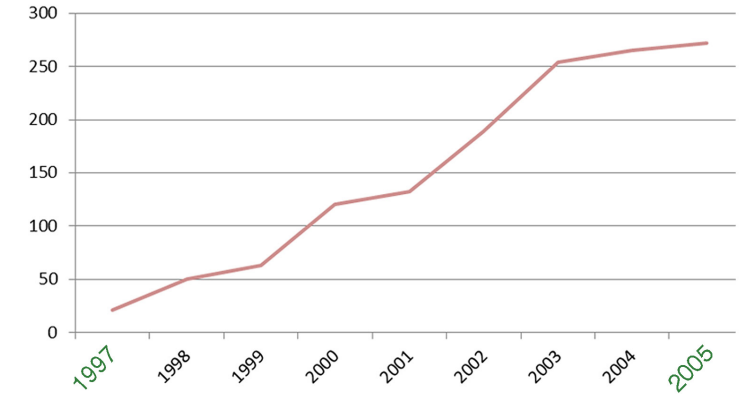
### FOOD IMPORT DEPENDENCY

Percentage of imported food

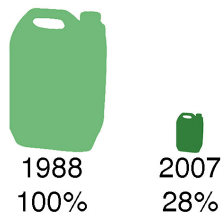


### ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF VEGETABLES IN HAVANA

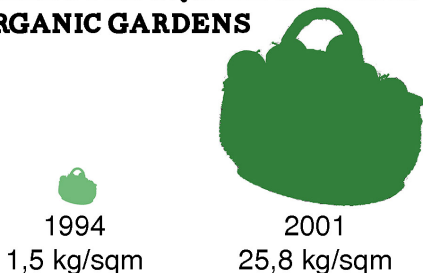
Thousands of metric tons



### CHANGE IN AGROCHEMICAL USE DURING PRODUCTION OF GENERAL VEGETABLES



### YIELDS PER SQUARE METER IN ORGANIC GARDENS



### URBAN AGRICULTURE IN HAVANA COULD BE A MODEL OF URBAN SELF-SUFFICIENCY WORTHY OF IMITATION.

Urban agriculture is not just about economics, i.e., about producing food, and creating employment. It is also about community development and preserving and improving the environment, bringing a healthier and saner way of life to the cities.

### SOURCES

- <http://monthlyreview.org/2009/01/01/the-urban-agriculture-of-havana>
- <http://www.monthlyreview.org/2012/01/01/the-paradox-of-cuban-agriculture#en2>
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organop%C3%B3nicos>
- <http://www.cubaagriculture.com/agriculture-today.htm>
- <http://www.yale.edu/agrarianstudies/colloqpapers/01premat.pdf>