

## FRUIT TREES IN PUBLIC AREAS

### POMII ÎN SPAȚIILE PUBLICE

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**Abstract.** *The fruit trees planting in public places has promising advantages for the environment, educational system, as well as the community life, stimulating people solidarity in achieving a correct long term administration frame.*

*Some of the investigated directions worldwide are the following:*

- *Widening the fruit trees planting in public gardens already subject to specialized structure assistance;*
- *Integration of the fruit trees plantations in the alignments bordering the motor vehicle or pedestrian access ways, enjoying the benefit of the community support.*
- *Promoting the concept of a "community orchard" correlated to the model of a "public garden".*
- *Educational public programs stimulating the community solidarity and responsibility in the field of environmental protection, organization and maintenance of the planted areas.*
- *Social benefits*

*Presentation of some experiences belonging to the urban communities of Vancouver and Winnipeg-Canada, Bahia de Caraquez-Ecuador, Aomori- Japan, Nairobi-Kenya, Dakka-Bangladesh will illustrate these interests suggesting specific solutions undertaken with responsibility complying with the principles of a long term urban development*

**Rezumat.** *Cultivarea pomilor fructiferi în spațiile publice are avantaje încurajatoare în ceea ce privește mediul înconjurător, sistemul educativ, precum și al vieții comunitare, stimulând solidaritatea populației în vederea realizării unui cadru de gestionare corectă, pe termen lung.*

*Câteva din direcțiile investigate în lume sunt următoarele:*

- *extinderea plantării de pomi fructiferi în grădinile publice care beneficiază deja de asistența unor structuri specializate.*
- *integrarea plantațiilor de pomi fructiferi în aliniamente care însoțesc căile de acces auto sau pietonale, beneficiind de sprijin comunitar.*
- *promovarea conceptului de „livadă comunitară”, în corelare cu modelul de „grădină publică”*
- *programe publice educative care stimulează solidaritatea și responsabilizarea comunitară în domeniul protecției mediului, al organizării și întreținerii zonelor plantate*
- *beneficii de ordin social*

*Prezentarea unor experiențe aparținând comunităților urbane din Vancouver și Winnipeg – Canada, Bahia de Caraquez – Ecuador, Aomori, Osaka – Japonia, Nairobi – Kenya, Beijing – China, Dhakka – Bangladesh, va ilustra aceste preocupări, propunând soluții specifice asumate cu responsabilitate, în concordanță cu principiile dezvoltării urbane durabile.*

The care for environment arrangement displays various ways in supporting a lasting development of towns and cities.

The considerable investments in time embodied by money and natural resources are the characteristics of this company. The fruit trees planting in public places has promising advantages, increasing the intrinsic value, the diversity of scenery compositions and the recovery of investments as well. In addition, the esthetical qualities might be revaluated so that the scenery compositions should be equivalent or even overpass the traditional ones.

Such an action contributes on the other hand to strengthening of people solidarity in achieving correctly a long term administration, in adapting various people of different groups of age and the in stirring the concern for structuring and increase of self and group responsibility in communitarian life.

The practical aspects of direct revaluation at the highest level of the fruits reached to maturity when the nutritive content and the taste qualities are the best shouldn't be neglected as well.

This guideline that reduces the distance between the nutrition source and the community contributing to the increase of the local alimentary safety is encouraged and developed in many cities from U.S.A., Canada, and Australia but also in countries belonging to the third world from Southern America, Africa or Asia.

Of maximum importance in view of good functioning is the maintenance of these plantations.

Besides the problems occurred to the esthetical aspects, some major difficulties which require adequate resolutions should be signed out.

The gathering of fruit is the moment of maximum satisfaction people may have. To create an adequate crown to the scenery composition that is required and the direct access in case of fruit development are issues of great importance. A periodical supervision for an efficient revaluation is asserted during the fruit gathering.

Difficult situations may occur through whose administration the control should be maintained in order to preserve the plantation integrity without prejudicing the visitors. In such situation may be the fruit trees that easily lose their fruits which could blot, hit or make people, pavements or resting places with no grass dirty.

There are not few cases when large crops of fruit require a quick processing or their taking over by other communities from neighbourhood.

Referring to the maintenance of the plantation, the principle of species selection that imposes a minimum of labours well adequate to the climatic conditions, even though all of them require works of cutting, fertilizing, watering, supervision and treatments against damaging insects and mushrooms should also be attended. This last chapter reveals complex problems in performing such treatments in public spaces, the access to fruits being unlimited.

In spite of these difficulties, various communities successfully implemented the fruit trees planting in public places.

Even from the 90's, the Municipal Council from Vancouver, Canada, has created a strategy for a medium and long term durable development, an important place being hold by alimentary security. In supporting this desiderates, the exploration of opportunities concerning the fruit trees planting in parks and public places is imposed.

Several non governmental organizations that have contributed to the identification of the benefits, of the problems and of the opportunities related to this subject involved in this action.

Some significant guidelines of action are drawn out in the followings:

- The expending of fruit trees plantation in public or private gardens, benefiting of professional assistance of certain organization

- The multiplication and the integration of such plantations made up especially by apple trees, pear trees, nut trees and hazelnut trees in alignments along boulevards, streets or pedestal alleys that is founded on the communitarian or volunteered support.

- Promoting the concept” communitarian orchard” in correlation with the already functioning pattern of “public garden”. This one supposes to find out unused locations at their capacity, organizations that assumes this action and a continuous communitarian counselling process .Worthy of mentioning is the program led by Laura Lopez in cooperation with “C.R.F.G”-Californian Cultivators of rare fruits, group made up of botanists, horticulturists and amateurs from 35 countries who founded an exemplary communitarian orchard in Highland Drive from California Poly Campus which should be followed by other similar experiments

- The development in parallel of certain educative public programs which should stimulate the communitarian solidarity and responsibility in environmental protection, of the organization and maintenance of the green spaces. The children and the young people from the dense populated towns and cities are the main beneficiaries.

In a similar way, such problems have been approached in Winnipeg, Canada, insisting on the educative programs which propose the implementation of modern urban education with ancient rhymes hence an experience that integrates traditionally ecological concepts, music and the art of previous and actual in harmony with the planet Earth.

Bahia de Caraquez is a town with 50.000 inhabitants from the Pacific Coast in Ecuador. In 1998 it suffered two great cataclysms, the former consisting in diluvium rains due to El Nino phenomenon that led to broad land sliding and the latter consisting in the 7, 2 degrees on Richter scale earthquake that provoked the collapse of many buildings with more floors.

The place of the disaster was called” The park among ruins “, park that was created and maintained by the community from neighbourhood that constitutes itself in an organization concerned with the ecology of the site. This activity consisting in works of versants consolidation using local means and recyclable materials having as goal the forestation of the river sides, the fruit trees planting which constitutes the source of nourishment and small economical activities have been extended along the river in a suburban area.

Similar concerns to those from the States and Canada may be also found out in Japan where in the case of Aomori town from Honshu islands it is the beneficiary of the results of the activity of the experimental resort shaped on apple tree growing hosted in this town.

Both the Local Council and the non governmental organizations from this town are interested in the implementation of a personal strategy in planting fruit trees in public places in climatic conditions specific to this island, in the industrial development initiating

communitarian politics of the citizens involvement in the management of problems of general interest that include the extension of these plantations.

In Africa, in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, the National Council of Science and Technology, recognizing the important part played by the urban and the pier-urban agriculture, in the strategy of lasting development, has in view a series of programs adapted to their own conditions that propose the decrease of unemployment, of poverty and the assurance of food safety.

Most of such programs have in view towns like Nairobi, Mombassa and Kisumm.

The urban agriculture is considered to be an important mean of cheap and of high quality fresh food productivity for urban customers but also the direct access of the poor to nourishment.

The land areas designed by the local councils and authorities become experimental lots where a great variety of fruit and vegetables is produced under the direct guidance and supervision of certain specialists, using the up to date technology and following and respecting the principles of the ecological horticulture.

The urban communities have expressed their interest in such experiments, the authorities' intention being the implementation of as many similar initiatives as possible in spite of financial, technical or even legislative difficulties that frequently occur.

In Bangladesh, one of the most hardened country continuously threatened by cyclonic storms, floods with severe sequences, causing the lose of many human lives, crops and properties damages, through the Ministry of Environment and forests involvement and the substantial support of the World Bank, starting with 1989, there have been made efforts for the recovery of the plantations from the coast and the embanking and road system as well. Making use of local materials, of indigene working equipment and technology and of a cheap labour hand, such works were extensively performed in coast areas. The roads that exist along these embanking and surroundings are guarded by vast fruit trees plantations and various species of exotic species of wood which is exported for its use in the furniture manufacturing industry. Unexpectedly, people prefer the expending of exotic wood plantations because the material benefit is quickly achieved while the administration is developing educative programs in view of expending fruit trees plantations that bring long term significant benefits.

This short review of some concerns related to the insertion and the expansion of fruit trees planting in public places in some countries from the world which are in a continuous development, being unfortunately marked by an increase of economical and technological discrepancies, illustrates the concerns in finding out particular and special solutions which are assumed with a high level responsibility and in agreement with the principles and the provisions of a lasting development.

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