



Norwegian Ministries

Strategy

Norwegian Strategy for Urban Agriculture

Cultivate Cities and Towns



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FOREWORD

The aim of the government's strategy for urban agriculture is to facilitate urban agriculture through cross-sectoral cooperation. A number of local and regional urban agricultural initiatives have been started in the last few decades. The need for contact with the soil, the satisfaction of growing one's own food and the emergence of new social meeting places are some of the drivers behind these initiatives. The government believes that more people learning about food production and using local produce is beneficial for society.

Urban agriculture is making cities and towns greener and more pleasant. It provides spaces for greater biodiversity, improves public health and increases value creation via new business models for farmers and other producers. It also makes cities more resilient in the face of climate change and increased precipitation. Using cities and towns for cultivation, planting and green structures, often combined with other purposes, should increasingly become a part of urban planning and new business development.

The UN 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide the government's main guidelines for addressing the greatest national and global challenges of our time. Many of the SDGs cannot be achieved without local input. With its local anchoring, urban agriculture can help Norway achieve many of the SDGs.

The strategy was developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, the Ministry of Climate and Environment, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health and Care Services, and the Ministry of Education and Research.

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SUMMARY

The main objective of the strategy is to facilitate urban agriculture in cities, urban areas and towns. The strategy is based on current policy in a number of white papers and other policy documents that contain goals urban agriculture can help to achieve. The government has chosen three focus areas in order to contribute to the objective: sustainable urban and local development, increased knowledge about sustainable food production, and increased sustainable value creation and business development, and has described measures for each focus area.

In order to contribute to sustainable urban and local development through urban agriculture, the government will:

- Produce a guide on urban agriculture in local land use planning, and on planting fruit trees, berry bushes and other edible plants in public parks and green areas
- Assess whether Acts and Regulations need to be amended to better facilitate urban agriculture
- Clarify that urban agriculture is one of the national expectations with respect to regional and municipal planning, which includes encouraging municipalities to facilitate urban agriculture in land use planning

In order to promote increased knowledge about sustainable food production, the government will:

- Produce guidance materials for small-scale urban agriculture and school gardens
- Invite collaboration with immigrant organisations to share knowledge and adapt measures to different food cultures
- Contribute to increased knowledge about urban agriculture through the development of programmes and courses, as well as through informal courses offered by non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- Contribute to research, competence building and innovation on urban agriculture through existing measures and programmes

In order to promote increased sustainable value creation and business development within urban agriculture, the government will:

- Encourage increased value creation and business development through measures and its efforts within business-oriented measures, subordinate agencies, county governors, county municipalities and municipalities
- Focus on urban agriculture as part of the work on the Food Nation Norway policy

Cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary cooperation at national, regional and local levels will be emphasised in the implementation of the strategy. The ministries will follow up the strategy in their areas of responsibility and an official group will be established to ensure cross-sectoral anchoring in the ministries.

A good dialogue and cooperation with the municipal sector will be required to achieve the strategy's ambitions. County governors have established an urban agricultural network for sharing experience and regional learning. At the municipal level, a cross-sectoral partnership on developing and following up local strategies for urban agriculture has proven to be a successful approach. Municipalities can benefit from this experience by developing their own strategies adapted to fit local conditions.