

A photograph showing a lush green urban garden in the foreground, with several tall, thin wooden stakes supporting climbing plants. In the background, modern multi-story apartment buildings are visible under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. A semi-transparent orange banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing text in English and Persian. A dark blue triangle is positioned in the upper right corner of the image.

Chehelbaze Urban-agriculture: The First in Iran , Mashhad

کشاورزی شهری (بوستان چهل بازه)
مشهد - ایران

A Successful Practice For Sustainable Urban Management

نمونه ای موفق برای مدیریت شهری پایدار

The Mashhad's Urban-Agriculture project was established in Jan, 2020 through a collaboration between Mashhad Municipality and Ferdowsi University of Mashhad. Mashhad is the second-largest city in Iran, located in the Northeast of the country. It holds significant cultural, religious, and historical importance. The urban agriculture project is situated within a park in the Northwest area of the city, known as "Chehelbaze" park.



There are 200 city farms on the site, each allocated to a single family. With a minimum of 3 individuals collaborating within each family, we can estimate that approximately 600 people directly and 1500 people indirectly are involved in the project and are benefiting from its initiatives. This marks Iran's first urban community gardening, designed to enhance citizens' physical and mental well-being, improve food security and increase social engagement.



During the initial phase, we explored different irrigation methods, experimented with various city farm sizes, and familiarized ourselves with legal regulations. We allocated 50 city farms to volunteer citizens, monitoring their involvement, addressing their requirements and gathering feedback.

Consequently, in the second year, we utilized the information we had collected and the project was fully launched.



The team manages the project with a focus on sustainable agricultural practices such as green manure and minimum tillage. We provide guidance to citizens on planting and maintaining their crops during the cultivation period. On-site, we strict limitations on herbicide and pesticide usage at the site offer citizens the chance to cultivate and harvest their own organic products. Implement integrated pest management strategies, including the introduction of braconid bees for biological pest control.



SOCIAL & CULTURAL

- Creates community cohesion
- Provides green space for community members to gather
- Can strengthen social connections and intergenerational relationships
- Cultural expression and maintenance of cultural heritage
- Can help immigrants to develop gain a sense of belonging



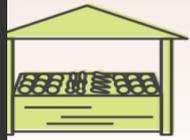
Community garden



ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Creates opportunities for youth education and development
- Increases property values
- Employment training & opportunities
- Entrepreneurial urban agriculture activity can attract capital and create business opportunities
- Creates opportunities to learn about agriculture, nutrition and sustainability

School garden



HEALTH & WELLBEING

- Increases access to fresh, organic, and culturally appropriate produce
- Increases preferences for and consumption of fruits and vegetables
- Mitigates food insecurity
- Increases food system resilience by maintaining access to food in times of crisis
- Source of physical activity
- Mental health & therapeutic benefits



Market garden

FARM
TO
FORK



ENVIRONMENT

- Increases biodiversity, including pollinator habitat
- Reduces energy and resource inputs
- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution
- Carbon sequestration by vegetation and crops
- Temperature regulation in urban areas



Multi-Functional Green Space



Fun
and Entertainment
in all Seasons
for Everyone

