

# Brussels as Food-enabling City

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## **What is it all about?**

Brussels as Food-enabling City formulates proposals that position healthy food production at the core of healthy urbanisation dynamics. Agriculture, biodiversity and the water system are intertwining with the growing city, rather than being oppressed by it.

## **More**

The Brussels region is one of the most densely populated areas in Europe, with a total of four million people and a density of 820 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>. Due to advancing urbanisation, but also due to the dispersed urban pattern in the agglomeration around Brussels, agricultural land is highly fragmented and farmers are pushed further and further away. Local food production is being compromised. And with that the biodiversity, the space for water, the ventilation of the city too - in short, the health of this urban area.

Brussels as Food-enabling City is looking for new ways to align healthy food production for the local market with urbanisation dynamics. Together with Brussels actors from the food sector (farmers, auctions, markets, food processing companies, etc.), we identify the obstacles and opportunities for embedding food production and

distribution in the metropolitan city space. We then formulate proposals for the transformation of both the food chain and urban organisation. The objective is to come up with a metropolitan development that cannot exist at the expense of, but in synergy with, food production.

The action research in Brussels is part of an international collaboration on agroecology and urban development. We bring international knowledge, expertise and practices from Argentina, Great Britain, Latvia and the Netherlands to Brussels. Conversely, the insights gained from Brussels research can also feed foreign cases. The three-year exchange program starts in September, with an international symposium and a work session in Brussels.