



How can we scale Sustainable Urban Agriculture ?

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Background

Our society is facing a climate crisis resulting from human activity and our current food system play in a major role in the depletion of the biodiversity, of the food quality. The need to transform our food system has triggered this research. Sustainable urban agricultural represent a possible solutions to support the transition towards a sustainable food system by positively impacting the environmental, social and economic dimension of the market.

Objective

The objective of this research is to understand what sustainable urban agriculture implies, what are the opportunities and the challenges link to it and how we can scale up, scale out and scale deep sustainable urban agriculture.

The second objective of this research is to support my project of developing an urban farm company.

Introduction

The food system which has been producing our food for decades has reached its limits, the quality of the soil is poor, the biodiversity has tremendously reduced, the nutritious qualities of the food are weak and those problems are only the top of the iceberg. However, some solutions are possible. In this research, we will focus one of the possible solution: sustainable urban agriculture. To bring urban agriculture onto the front scene of sustainability, it need to be scaled, therefore this research aims to identify and understand the need for actions to be triggered in order to scale sustainable urban agriculture.

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Literature review & Method

Urban Agriculture : "any form of formal or informal agricultural production in the city region. This comprises primary or secondary agriculture. Primary agriculture refers to land uses that are primarily focused on the activity of agriculture, whereas secondary agriculture comprises all land uses that integrate agricultural activities as an add-on to their primary land use, including vertical farming, rooftop gardens on residential or commercial buildings, or window sill and house gardens" ((Kasper, C & al. 2017)

- Quantitative Research
- Six Interviews
 - Three farmers
 - One researcher
 - One public institution actor
 - One Foodtech sustainable manager

Results

In the results, we can distinguish the implications of stakeholders, the challenges which need to be overcome and the decisions actors need to take in order to successfully scale agriculture within our urban and peri-urban settings. These six topics are :

- Needs
- Political
- Education
- Financial
- Social
- Environmental

Interviewee 1: "We change the mandate, it is no longer supported. And today, it's that, because there are other priorities, again"

Interviewee 6 : "Yes, of course. In any case, when we educate, that is to say, we manage to show people that it is possible to do it in the city, that it works, that the production is not as small as that."

Discussion

Sustainable urban agriculture needs to be scaled up, out and deep in order to have a sustainable impact, but this requires some changes at every level.

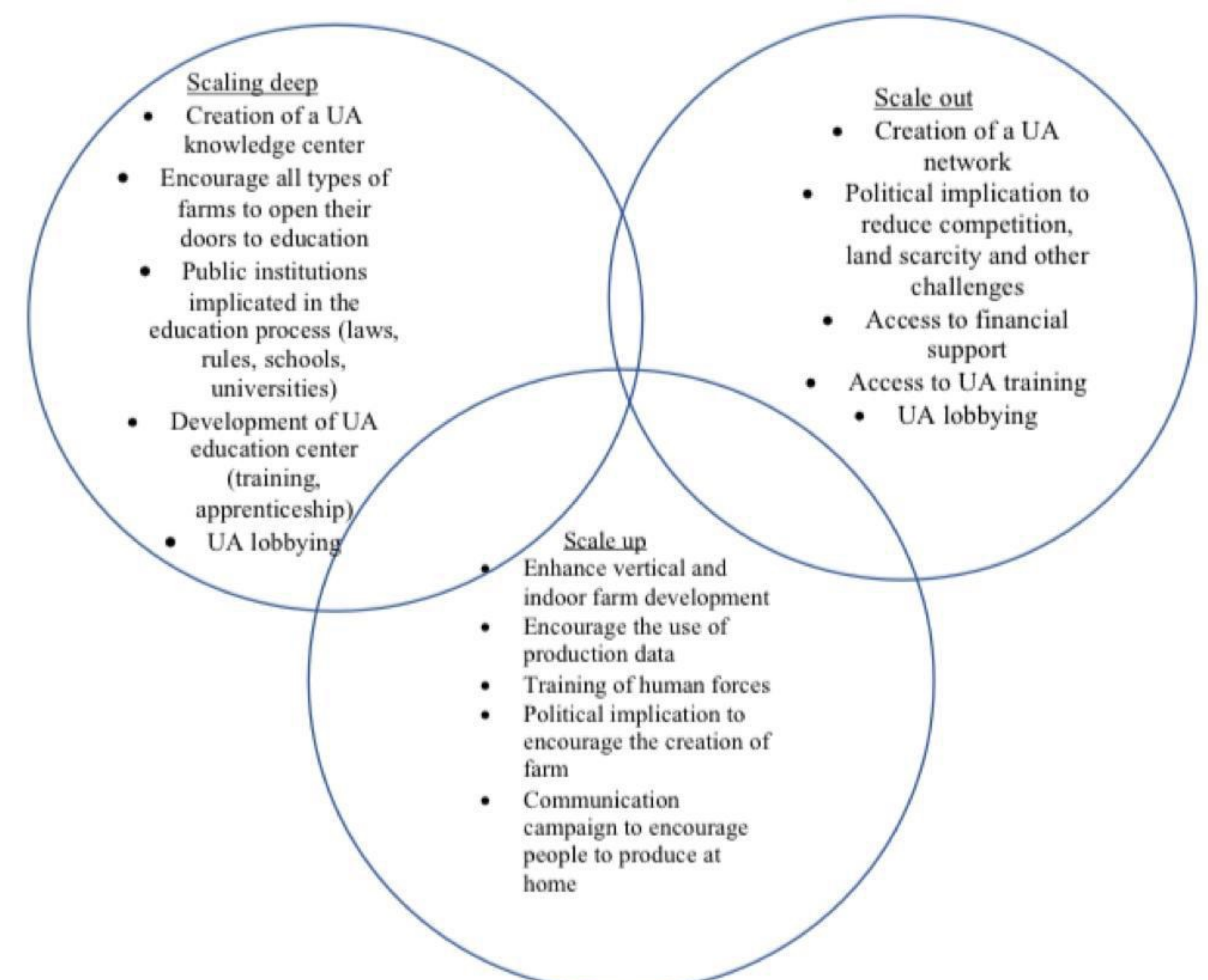


Figure 1 : Pathway to scale sustainable urban agriculture

Conclusions

To scale sustainable urban agriculture, we need to take into account all dimensions of the pathway. It can be done simultaneously or one by one. It is of paramount importance that consumers, public institutions, entrepreneurs and the society act together to transform our food system.

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