Faculty of Business & Economic Sciences
Managing tomorrow

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Title: URBAN AGRICULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD: A CASE STUDY OF MIGRANT WOMEN IN JOHANNESBURG

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Due Date: 30 /11/2014
Urban agriculture for sustainable livelihood: A case study of migrants’ women in Johannesburg

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A research report submitted to the Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Development Studies

2014
# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEDICATION</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1. Rationale and background to the study</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 The research problem</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Research aim</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Research questions</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 Research objectives</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 Scope of research</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7. Profile of Turffontein</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8. Chapter outline of the report.</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.9 Summary</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER TWO</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LITERATURE REVIEW</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1. Introduction</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2. Migration</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 An overview of urban agriculture.</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4. The link between urban agriculture and sustainable livelihood</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 The role of urban agriculture and food security</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6. Urban agriculture in South Africa.</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7 The role of women</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER THREE</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH METHODOLOGY</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1. Introduction</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2. Research approach</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Data collection tools</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.4 Data analysis ........................................................................................................................................... 30
3.5 Scope and area of study ......................................................................................................................... 30
3.6 Ethical consideration ............................................................................................................................ 31
3.7 Limitation of Study ............................................................................................................................. 30
3.8 Limitation of the study ......................................................................................................................... 32
4. Conclusion ............................................................................................................................................. 32

CHAPTER FOUR ........................................................................................................................................ 34

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS. ............................................................................................................................ 34

4.1 Introduction ........................................................................................................................................... 34
4.2. The process of leaving and arriving of migrants in Johannesburg ......................................................... 34
4.3. The numbers of year spent in South Africa ............................................................................................. 37
4.4 How do they manage livelihood on arrival to Johannesburg? ................................................................. 38
4.5 Why migrants engage in urban agriculture as a strategy to sustain livelihoods. ...................................... 39
4.5.1 Access to land for urban agriculture. ..................................................................................................... 40
4.5.2 Seeds acquisition and crops seed ......................................................................................................... 41
4.6 Role of urban agriculture. ..................................................................................................................... 43
4.7. Challenges faced by women migrants .................................................................................................... 47

CHAPTER FIVE ........................................................................................................................................ 50

CONCLUSION/RECOMENDATION .................................................................................................................. 50

5.1 Recommendations. ................................................................................................................................. 52

6. References .............................................................................................................................................. 54
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My utmost gratitude goes to God Almighty, the source of my inspiration and guidance, and also to my supervisor for guiding me through her corrections and giving directions making it possible for this work to be what it is.

Special thanks go to my beloved wife Francisca Agho for being there for me always when I needed her most; and also for her tireless effort in encouraging me to continue to the final stage of this study.

Special thanks also to Roger and his family for always being there for me during the time this report was in progress, thank you, Sir, and God bless you.

I would like to acknowledge the Cameroonian community in the inner city of Johannesburg, who dedicated their time to answer some of my questions during the interviews.

To my family, especially my mother, I am grateful for everything you have done for me. A special thanks to all my pastors and prayer group members for sustaining me with their prayers. And to everybody in the church who in one way or the other has supported me financially and morally, I say a very big thank you.
DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to my late father pa Theophilus Andongacho Agho for the solid foundation he provided in my life on the importance of education. And above all to Christ Jesus who is the author and finisher of my faith, Glory be to God.
This research examines how urban agriculture contributes to the sustainable livelihood of migrants’ women living in the inner city of Johannesburg. The study focuses on the Cameroonian women community living in Turffontein. It explores the significant process of migration into the Republic of South Africa and the inspiration behind the choice of urban agriculture in the inner city of Johannesburg by women.

The research report assesses the impact of urban agriculture on sustainable livelihood in the life of Cameroonian women living in Turffontein. It also examines the constraints encountered by these Cameroonian women in Turffontein in the practice of urban agriculture for sustainable livelihood. The findings of this study reveal that urban agriculture is used as a strategy for sustainable livelihood to a lot of Cameroonian migrants’ women living in Turffontein.

The study has also shown how through urban agriculture these migrants’ women have been able to raise substantial income to support their respective families both in South Africa and in Cameroon. The study is based on a purposeful sample of Cameroonian migrants’ women living in the inner city of Johannesburg practicing urban agriculture. It uses a mixed method of approach with a transect walk to the area where this women practice the urban agriculture. It also included an in-depth face to face interactive interview and written sources such as journals, books and research reports where combined to gather relevant data. Thematic content analysis was used to analyse the data.
CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

For the hundreds of thousands of African immigrants to South Africa, urban agriculture has become an important source of livelihood. The early 21st century has been accompanied by a proliferation of research projects, conferences, and publications dedicated to the study of human movement. The preferred destination of many migrants has been the USA and some other western countries, but stringent regulations put in place by immigration officials in these countries have made it difficult for migrants to penetrate them, especially those from Africa. As a result of these restrictions placed by developed countries, many African immigrants have settled in the inner city of Johannesburg.

Because of the mass movement into South Africa by citizens of other African countries, the inner city of Johannesburg has become highly diverse and dynamic. This is because the city, for various reasons, is fast becoming Africa’s pre-eminent economic, educational and cultural centre. The inner city of Johannesburg has become a magnet for many migrants because of the different opportunities that the city offers. The migrants’ movement to the city is a response to poverty and lack of employment in their countries of origin. Although migrants may be involved extensively in the economic growth and social dynamism of the city, they are also particularly vulnerable to social and economic exclusion and poverty (Gardner & Osella, 2003).

Migrants living in urban areas are unlikely to receive the level of monetary or nutritional assistance giving by the home government to their citizens. Most of them are faced with serious living
challenges; Landau and Jacobsen (2003) point out some of these challenges to be prohibition on employment, lack of identity documents or papers demonstrating professional qualifications, and discriminatory hiring practices and inability to access banking services, either by savings or by credit. With the difficulties associated with urban living, most migrants who do not receive a form of assistance or subsidies rely on other forms of income generation to sustain a livelihood (Gardner & Osella, 2003).

Migrants from Cameroon are not excluded from these challenges. Though not all Cameroonians are forced migrants, many are faced with the above challenges of living in the inner city of Johannesburg. Because of these challenges, migrants negotiate their livelihood by using different strategies in order to earn a living. The present study seeks to determine the impact of urban agriculture as a strategy for livelihood survival among Cameroonian women living in the inner city of Johannesburg.

Unemployment, poverty and wars in many African countries have made the city of Johannesburg attractive for many people in search of safety and a better life. Home to over two million migrants from across Africa, the city of Johannesburg has seen the level of unemployment steadily increase. The high influx of migrants into the city of Johannesburg has had a great impact on service delivery, the housing environment and access to opportunities. These are the challenges faced by people living in most urban cities in Africa. Not only do these issues affect migrants but also local communities. This situation has resulted in many migrants struggling to create a livelihood. Most of these migrants, particular the women, do not possess the skills or education to enable them to secure well-paid jobs in the formal sector.
In order to overcome these challenges, urban agriculture can play an important role in the lives of these migrants. It involves the production of food and rearing of domestic livestock, within, or immediately adjacent to, a built-up settlement. Urban agriculture has the potential to ensure that a supply of fresh food is consistently available to urban households, thus providing a livelihood for these migrant women. This study will focus on identifying the challenges faced by migrant women in the process of practising farming in their urban locality. The emphasis will also be on finding out how urban agricultural practices among these women have shaped their livelihood strategies.

The study will identify the livelihood strategies of migrant women living in Johannesburg, in an environment where the majority of the host population face the same livelihood challenges. This study is therefore important for the following reasons. The study will provide information on how urban agriculture among the women in Johannesburg helps in sustaining a livelihood for them; in other words, it will assist in understanding the impact of urban agriculture on the lives of migrant women. The study also seeks to understand the challenges faced by these migrant women in terms of obtaining inputs into the process of urban farming, other challenges such as access to land, seed procurement, and where, how and when to market their output. In addition, this study is important in the sense that it will enable us to understand how migrant women in the inner city of Johannesburg overcome other challenges, such as language barriers, in their pursuit of earning a living in South Africa.
1.2 RESEARCH PROBLEM

Urban areas are affected by a particular combination of factors which in turn produce a wide range of vulnerabilities (Rogerson, 1996). Migrant women in Johannesburg are immersed in the cash economy but have limited opportunities for earning in cash. The income that they earn is low, erratic and unreliable. They are forced to prioritize their basic needs, and food is normally one of them. Due to restrictions on, and difficulties in, finding formal employment, many migrant women in Johannesburg have turned to urban agriculture as a livelihood strategy.

1.3 RESEARCH AIM

The aim of this research is to examine how migrant women in Johannesburg use urban agriculture as a strategy to sustain a livelihood, with a further aim to explore the challenges and the potential of urban agriculture as a livelihood strategy for the urban poor.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What is the contribution of urban agriculture to a sustainable livelihood among Cameroonian women in Turffontein, Johannesburg, South Africa?
- What role does urban agriculture play in ensuring household food security among Cameroonian women in Turffontein?
- What are the constraints encountered by these women in the practice of urban agriculture for a sustainable livelihood in Turffontein?
What recommendations can be made to enhance urban agriculture for a sustainable livelihood in Turffontein?

1.5 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This study will aim to achieve the following research objectives:

- Assess the impact of urban agriculture on sustainable livelihood in Turffontein;
- Examine the role of urban agriculture in ensuring household food security among Cameroonian women in Turffontein;
- Examine the constraints encountered by Cameroonian women in Turffontein in the practice of urban agriculture for a sustainable livelihood; and
- Make recommendations that can enhance urban agriculture for a sustainable livelihood in Turffontein.

1.6 SCOPE OF RESEARCH

This research study will be conducted in the inner city of Johannesburg among women migrants living in Turffontein. The population of this study will be the Cameroonian community living in Turffontein. The choice of Johannesburg and the Cameroonian community in Turffontein is justified by the fact that, despite the absence of a refugee camp in Johannesburg, the city provides economic opportunities for migrants since it is the largest single metropolitan contributor to the national economic product. Johannesburg is also chosen because of its high level of economic activity and community solidarity and, in addition, hosts the largest number of Cameroonian
migrants in the country. The researcher has selected the Cameroonian migrant community because he is a member of that community, and therefore ease of access and communication are available to him.

1.7 PROFILE OF TURFFONTEIN

Turffontein is a suburb of Johannesburg, South Africa. It is set in the southern suburbs of Johannesburg in region F and is also the home of the Turffontein racecourse, established in 1887 by the Johannesburg Turf Club. This area is very easy to get to via the M2 highway. Hundreds of tourists on a weekly basis arrive here from different parts of the world and from within the country to watch horse racing at Turffontein. It is interesting to note that many Cameroonian women have settled there because they have joined relatives and friends who arrived there in earlier years. A fair number of Cameroonians in this area also own property which in turn has attracted other Cameroonians who are seeking employment and also space to cultivate crops.

1.8 CHAPTER OUTLINE OF THE REPORT

This research report consists of five chapters. Chapter one presents the introduction and background of the study. It also looks into the research problem, research aim, research questions, research objectives, scope of research study, profile of Turffontein and a summary. The second chapter is a review of the relevant literature. Chapter three outlines the methodology that deals with aspects such as the research approach, research design, data collection and analysis method, as well as validity and reliability. The fourth chapter will present the findings and discussion of
the research. Finally, in chapter five the researcher will present recommendations and concluding thoughts based on the study conducted.

1.9 SUMMARY

The large influx of people within and around big cities in Africa has led to severe unemployment, housing and environmental problems. Foreign migrants in Johannesburg faced with these challenges have resorted to a variety of strategies to sustain a livelihood. One of these is urban agriculture. The next chapter of this study focuses on the review of relevant and existing literature on migration, livelihood strategies and urban agriculture.
CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

“In a world of plenty, no one, not a single person, should go hungry. But almost 1 billion still do not have enough to eat. I want to see an end to hunger everywhere within my lifetime.”

(Ban Ki-moon, 2012)

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter is based on the literature that examines migration, livelihood strategies and urban agriculture. The chapter undertakes an exploration of urban agriculture for a sustainable livelihood, the key focus of this treatise. Despite extensive research having been conducted on these issues, there has been very little focus on the livelihood of the Cameroonian community in South Africa, particularly in the inner city of Johannesburg.

2.2 MIGRATION

The rapid increase in population in many regions of the world has led to an increase in the level of poverty and an insecure food supply. According to Grain (2009), there are over one billion people permanently hungry worldwide. The migration of people will normally occur as a solution or a response to socio-economic, political and demographic problems. Related to both the departure point and the destination of migrants, there are a number of factors, known as the push and pull factors that influence migration (McNeil, 2005). According to this author, the push factor is usually influenced by widespread unemployment in the home country as well as poverty, injustice
and armed conflict. This can be seen from the work of Nancy and Birdstall (2004) that shows how in the past 30 years the number of international migrants has increased. It is estimated that about 190 million people have left their countries of origin for other countries in search of safety and a sustainable livelihood. These migrants form a kind of network that incorporates all forms of social capital identified by Portes and Sensenbrenner (1993). They facilitate value incorporation because they support the socialization of people into a “culture of migration” (Kandel & Massey, 2002). They function as reciprocity exchanges in which favours are extended as part of a generalized system of exchange in which migrants help friends and relatives. This does not occur because those who give expect immediate repayment, but because it is anticipated that help will be extended to them or their kin at some future date (Massey et al., 1987:170). Migrants in their network bring a bounded solidarity to reinforce the ties of kingship, friendship, and common community origin. They are also characterized by enforcing trust, since migrants who refuse to help friends or family may be ostracized or punished by relatives and friends at home and abroad (Goldring, 1992).

2.3 OVERVIEW OF URBAN AGRICULTURE

Urban agriculture is a recent phenomenon compared to rural farming. Several researches and authors have described urban agriculture in various ways on the basis of location or time of agricultural activities. Bryld (2003) stipulates that any agricultural activity that is practised in a city is considered as urban agriculture and that activities related to urban agriculture are rarely isolated from rural areas. Activities in rural and urban areas are often interlinked across space and sectors. City borders are fluent, which is further emphasized by the active rural-urban interaction taking place in peri-urban areas. Therefore, it is important that urban agriculture be seen as a dynamic concept (Bryld, 2003). Mireri et al. (2006) explain the feature of urban farmers as passing
through three common sequential stages in the course of looking for a better income and greater survival options for themselves and their family members.

Some research studies have stipulated that the head of a household most often starts to work in the informal sector, thereafter becomes a tenant and waged farm labourer, and finally becomes the occupier of state land which leads to the formation of producer cooperatives (Egziabher, 1994). The differences in form, functions and size of urban agriculture contribute to the difficulty in precisely defining it. Notwithstanding, its place in the farming systems of the urban landscape is readily recognized. Mbiba (1995) sees urban agriculture as the production of crops and livestock on land which is administratively and legally zoned for urban uses while Kekana (2006) looks at urban agriculture from a different dimension. He explains urban agriculture as an informal set of activities focusing on farm production in an urban setting.

The South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) defines urban agriculture as any form and scale of agricultural activity that happens within boundaries of the urban environment, which can include horticulture, floriculture, forestry, aquaculture and livestock production (Reuther & Dewar, 2005). Urban agriculture can also be viewed as any activity associated with the growing of crops and some form of livestock rearing in or very near cities for local consumption, either by the producers themselves or by others where the food is being marketed (Rees, 1992). According to Mougeot (2005), urban agriculture is an “industry located within (intra-urban) or around (peri-urban) a city which grows and raises, processes and distributes a diversity of food and non-food products using largely human and material resources, products and services found in and around that urban area” (2005:121).
A comprehensive definition of urban agriculture is that given by Premat (2005) in which he expands on Mougeot’s (2005) definition. Premat defines and explains urban agriculture as including “all activities located within (intra-urban) or on the outskirts (peri-urban) of a settlement, city or metropolis, independently or collectively developed by people for self-consumption or commercialization purposes; involving cultivation or raising, processing and distribution of a diversity of products whether edible or not, but via the reutilization of human and material resources, products and services located in and around the urban area in question, and in turn contributing considerable material and human resources to that area” (2005:157).

Urban areas are sometimes not designed to carry out urban agricultural activities easily, but this has not stopped urban farmers from using techniques to make good use of available space and soil. As a result, urban agriculture is carried out on private, leased or rented land in peri-urban areas, in backyards, on vacant industrial or residential lots, roadsides and on semi-public land, such as school grounds (Hovorka et al., 2009). Several studies of urban agriculture have shown the important role it can play. Urban agriculture can have marked influence on the environment by providing a way to reuse solid waste and water (Ruel et al., 1998). It can have a great impact on food security especially in urban areas.

Thus urban agriculture plays an important role at household level. It can be a source of income as earlier mentioned, can provide direct access to a large amount of nutritionally rich and more varied food, and increase the stability of household food consumption against seasonality or other temporary shortages (Zezza & Tasciotti, 2010). However, Mbiba (1995) also gives the underlying reasons as to why the sector has long been ignored and regarded as having no relevance in the modern environment. He emphasizes that it is a misnomer to talk of urban agriculture when the definition of urban agriculture is based on the non-existence of agriculture itself. In most countries
of the world, official policy deems the activity of urban agriculture illegal considering it to constitute a health risk, to be environmentally unsuitable and also a violation of formal town planning regulations (Mibia, 1995). Foeken (2008) observes that by-laws in most African cities forbid all agricultural activity within the boundaries of the urban centre. Meanwhile, the activity is seen by some as being one of the many strategies enabling low income households to manage risks and reduce vulnerability (Reuther & Dewar, 2005). Studies have also shown how some state governments have been open enough to invite farmers, social organizations and other stakeholders to a planning process in order to achieve a plurality of thinking (Grain, 2009). This has resulted in an appreciation of urban agriculture as a way of ensuring food security and providing employment for urban residents.

It is indisputable that growing crops on open and undeveloped spaces within urban zones in most African cities has become an important source for food security (Bryld, 2003). It has been seen that in most African countries, the urban population is expanding rapidly without a corresponding increase in economic opportunity for employment. In addition, economic reforms have led to the removal of subsidies on food commodities and retrenchment in the formal employment sector (Bryld, 2003). However, it is reported by Godfrey (2006) that a result of this is that vulnerable households have resorted to urban agriculture to sustain a livelihood.

However, Boraine (2004:41) in the State of City Report reiterates that “urban agriculture can be regarded as a reflective response for the survival of people with few options and at other times the thoughtful long-time organization of resources to moderate the harshness of the urban environment”. Potgieter (1999:54 considers urban agriculture as any “process that produces traditional subsidence, nutrition or commercially profitable food or other grown or raised product removed from the rural domain and instead cultivated in a special intensive condition.”
Rogerson (1996) explains that, regarding availability, urban agriculture has the potential to ensure that a supply of fresh food is consistently available to urban households. Urban farming households are able to produce their own food for household consumption and for the sale of urban agricultural produce. These households are able to mobilize resources to access appropriate food for nutrition. As regards food utilization, urban agriculture has the potential to ensure nutritional security through dietary diversity and intake of quality food.

2.4 LINK BETWEEN URBAN AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

The increasing urbanization and growing poverty trend of most African cities has caused most families within the city to consider alternative means to supplement their diet and income (Landon-lane, 2004). He also observes that urban gardens in most African cities have evolved rapidly with the increased rate of urbanization. Kekana (2006) reiterates that farming in an urban environment has been found to benefit poor households through direct savings on food purchases, the income generation through the sale of produce, and the provision of a varied range of nutritious products. Reuther and Dewar (2005) propose that the greatest part of urban agriculture is undertaken as a means of survival by individual households, generally in backyards, to augment household real income. Other authors, such as Barton (2009), have maintained that urban agriculture is not a luxury but a necessity which usually arises from the need for solutions to a wide range of life problems.

Livelihood is a broad term which encompasses many kinds of livelihoods. A commonly adopted definition of a livelihood is that it comprises the capabilities of assets that are both material and social resources and activities required for a means of living (Carney, 1998). However, it is argued
from the “sustainable livelihood perspectives’ (Carney 1998; Chambers & Conway, 1992; Scoones, 1998) that a livelihood is pursued within the context of vulnerability and structural processes that influence livelihood outcomes. However, Grown and Sebstad (1989) use a concept of livelihood system which refers, to “the mix of individual and household survival strategies, developed over a given period of time that seeks to mobilize available resources and opportunities” (2-26).

A livelihood is only sustainable if people can cope with and recover from stress and shock, maintain or enhance the capabilities and assets that lead to sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation and which enhances the net benefits to another livelihood at the local and global levels and in long term (Krantz, 2001). A livelihood is involved with all resources that can support the living conditions of an individual, family or entire society. Thus, livelihood is embedded in the whole social system and requires a specific approach to understand it. It is clear, however, that addressing livelihood and in particular understanding it, is not easy. The researcher has focused on a simple understanding of livelihood in this study, that is to say, a means of living, because the study aims at looking at urban agriculture for a sustainable livelihood. Urban agriculture is identified in the literature among many researchers’ respondents as a livelihood strategy. As seen by authors like Scoones (2009), urban agriculture is important in improving food security status and employment.

2.5 ROLE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Urban agriculture is by no means a new concept or invention as seen earlier. This practice has been in place in different forms in many different parts of the world for thousands of years. Today urban
agriculture is estimated to be practised by over eight hundred million people in all regions in both industrialized and developing countries (Bengwi, 2009). Urban agricultural practice is a livelihood strategy and an alternative source of income for those who cannot secure formal income opportunities. It allows especially women to realize their role in securing family food security and nutrition while being less subject to market fluctuation (Rogerson, 1997).

In addition, it helps these women to achieve greater independence by generating additional income from the sale of surplus and by saving cash on food expenditure which can be used for other purposes (Rogerson, 1997). Furthermore, it allows women to work close to the homestead and combine farming with other tasks. Urban agriculture can be undertaken with relatively low capital, technology and inputs that are attainable and affordable for women with limited education and resources. Most urban farming is practised by the urban poor who consume most of the production and supply the surplus to market (Bryld, 2003; Mireri et al., 2006). The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) report of 1996 emphasizes the role of urban agriculture.

Economically urban agriculture can be a good source of income for the urban poor especially if it is practised in the formal sector. Bryld (2003) is sceptical whether urban agriculture makes a significant contribution to the macro-economies of cities, although he does state that urban farming has great economic relevance as it helps the urban poor not only to put nutritious food on the table, but also enables them to use their non-farm income for other purposes instead of purchasing food, and as a result improves the overall welfare of these farmers. The Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture And Food Security (RUAF,2007) reports that poor households in most developing countries spend close to 70% of their income on purchasing food; this illustrates the benefit of self-grown crops or other forms of agriculture by the urban poor.
However, looking at the social advantages that the practice of urban agriculture has on society, some researchers (RUAF, 2007; UNDP, 1996) comment in their report that actors of urban agriculture might come from different groups of people within or outside the community, while the participation of women and other vulnerable households in the sector implies and draws attention to the role of the sector in poverty alleviation. The UNDP report of 1996 stipulates that urban farming improves social equity by improving the health and productivity of the poorer section of the population by providing them with an opportunity to earn additional income.

Several researchers have also indicated how, in most cases, urban agriculture is practised in marginal spaces in cities and on the outskirts of towns where land is not suitable for other purposes. They therefore claim that because of this there are created beautiful scenarios and landscapes and improved microclimates and nutrient recycling (Bryld, 2003; Deeltra & Girardet, 1999).

2.6 URBAN AGRICULTURE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Several researches have presented the scale of urban agriculture conducted in South Africa as relatively small in comparison to the scale of urban agriculture in other developing countries especially those in Africa (Rogerson, 1993). This can be associated with the fact that there are many other social supports that the population of the country benefits from. Eberhard (1989b; 1989c) explains that in the townships of South Africa’s largest cities, building a backyard shack to accommodate lodgers can bring in a larger and more certain income than using the land for agricultural purposes. In this respect, urban farming competes directly for scarce city space with the pressing demands for shelter for the poor which comprises a part of the apartheid legacy (Eberhard, 1989).
May and Rogerson (1995) suggest that agricultural activities are not the most significant means of survival for urban farmers in either the urban or peri-urban areas, though it is an activity that often represents one important survival strategy adopted by the marginalized. Meanwhile, Thornton (2008) in his investigation reports on the viewpoint of black urban youths in South Africa who regard urban agriculture as something that their parents were forced to do as a consequence of apartheid policies and hence it lacks support from the youth.

### 2.7 ROLE OF WOMEN

Women are accounted by most researchers as more likely than men to engage in urban agriculture both at home and in community gardens to supplement the home’s food supply (Maxwell et al, 2000). In Kampala, Uganda, it has been found that there is an even distribution of male and female urban agricultural practitioners (Maxwell, 1994). And in Ethiopia because of the traditional system of household membership and headship, women are largely responsible for the needs of the household (Egziabher, 1994). In a study by Lee-Smith and Memon (1994) on household involvement in cultivating communal or cooperative gardens, it appears that women were more involved than men, even though both genders participated. In contrast, Foeken and Mwangi (2000) explain that low-income single women in Kenya practise cultivation only as a last resort. Their report shows that with the lack of employment opportunities, 56% of urban agriculturalists in Kenya are women while in the capital city of Nairobi alone the figure is 62%. A similar situation has been found in South Africa (Kekana & Van Rooyen, 1999).

This of course has given reason for most researchers to focus on urban agriculture as a strategy to assist women to protect and supplement their other sources of income, as Maxwell (1996) puts it,
that urban agriculture also assists women to have some control over the source of food that is not dependent on the urban food market or income. Women can therefore be regarded as the main beneficiaries of urban agriculture; the practice of urban agriculture contributes significantly to the reduction of gender inequality and improvement in wealth distribution. One of the reasons for women’s dominance in urban agricultural practices is that farming meshes well with women’s other household activities such as cooking and child care (Maxwell, 1996).

The above fact most often can be attributed to the relatively low level of education of women in comparison with men (Foeken & Mwangi, 2000). Mireri et al. (2007) and Egziabher (1994) also note that women actively participate in cultivating land, especially if their household owns the land they cultivate. This is the case according to a number of authors (Hovorka, 2003; Maxwell, 1995; Mougeot, 2000; UNDP, 1996) who explain, firstly, that women bear the prime responsibility for household sustenance and well-being. Secondly, women tend to have a lower educational status than men and therefore encounter greater difficulties in finding formal employment (Hovorka, 2003).

As seen from the above, some studies focus on the role that urban agriculture plays in ensuring food security in the lives of households by looking at the economic and social advantages that urban agriculture plays in the lives of those that practise it in the country. Yet many have not investigated how people from one country living in another country may have to use urban agriculture as a strategy for sustaining livelihood, especially the Cameroonian women of the population living in Turffontein, Johannesburg. The present study aims at filling this gap.
CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Research methods are the means by which knowledge is acquired and constructed within a discipline (Lynda & Myers, 1995:14). This study has employed a mixed-method approach in its procedures for collecting and analysing data. The qualitative method is the main method of data collection. A mixed method helps to provide a better understanding of the research problem. This section of the study shows the methodology used to achieve the desired result of the study. The qualitative approach has been used as the main method to help determine the impact that urban agriculture has on the lives of Cameroonian women living in the inter city of Johannesburg.

3.2 RESEARCH APPROACH

The researcher used working field notes to keep detailed information about what was observed, and to record the conversations with Cameroonian migrant women involved in urban agriculture in Turffontein. The researcher conducted interactive interviews, which are “conversations on purpose”, in the form of a “give-and-take” discussion where the researcher and the farmers share ideas and experiences in relation to the research question. A questionnaire was used as a guide to the interactive interviews. The study employs a mixed-method approach in the procedures for collecting and analysing data, that is the qualitative and the quantitative approaches. The qualitative method will be the main method of data collection. A mixed method will help to provide a better understanding of the research problem.
The study uses a case study approach. A case study can be looked at as an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context, in this case, the context of Cameroonian migrant women in Turffontein. A case study enables a researcher to gather close first-hand information of the field situation (Gulati, 1998). With the use of a case study informants are spontaneous with the researcher and thus willing to give the information needed. A case study is useful at bringing to understanding complex issues by extending experiences or adding strength to what is already known (Eisenhardt, 1989). However, Stake (1995) adds that case studies will emphasize detailed contextual analysis of a limited number of events or conditions and their relationship. The reason for the case study approach on the migrant women practising urban agriculture in the inner city of Johannesburg is also so that the knowledge gained by the researcher in understanding the respondents’ situation may be viewed in its totality. Gulati (1998:99) stipulates that case studies enable a researcher to understand the reason behind a particular decision because one learns to put oneself in the shoes of the respondent.

3.3 DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

The data was collected using two main research techniques, namely, interview and observation. These methods were combined in order to collect the necessary data to answer the study’s research questions.

3.3.1 Sampling technique

The purposive sampling survey method was chosen to collect the appropriate data that was needed to answer the research question. To say you will engage in a purposive sampling signifies that you see sampling as a series of strategic choices about with whom, where and how, you as a researcher,
intend to do the research. Purposive sampling represents a group of different non-probability sampling techniques also known as judgemental, selective or subjective sampling.

A purposive sample of Cameroonian migrant women practising urban agriculture in Turffontein, Johannesburg, was selected. Their selection was based on their particular experiences and location in their communities. This was achieved through a transect walk and purposeful selection of the migrant women, which combines observation with interactive interviews. From this process 30 purposefully selected Cameroonian women who were directly involved with urban farming were identified for collection of data using a questionnaire as guide and a tape recorder and notebook to record data.

Purposive sampling relies on the judgement of the researcher when it comes to selecting people, cases or organizations that are to be studied. The sample to be investigated is usually quite small, especially when compared with those in probability-sampling techniques (Bemard, 2002). However, the main goal of purposive sampling is to focus on the particular characteristics of a population that are of interest and which will best enable the researcher to answer the research questions (Bemard, 2002). The sample being studied is not representative of the population, but for the researcher pursuing qualitative or mixed-method research designs, this is not considered a weakness.

By contrast, it is a choice, the purpose of which varies depending on the type of purposive sampling that is used. As clearly seen this study is guided by the precept that urban agriculture plays a significant part in the livelihood of migrant women in the inner city of Johannesburg. The total population of migrant women in the inner city of Johannesburg (Turffontein) is too large to be studied in totality; that is why a sample of the population had to be taken in order to obtain the
precise data that is needed. Sometimes social research, such as that conducted in the present study, takes place in a situation that does not necessarily permit the kind of probability sampling that is feasible in a large-scale social survey. On this point, Babbie (2001) defines sampling as a process of selecting representatives from a population that can portray the overall attributes of the population being studied. Choosing a purposive or judgemental sampling for this study is very necessary, in the sense that it is suitable for selecting a sample on the basis of knowledge of the population and for the purpose of the study.

Purposive sampling is virtually synonymous with qualitative research. However, because there are many objectives that a qualitative researcher might have, the data collection was done through observation and interactive interviews with the Cameroonian women practising urban agriculture in the area. Because of the high level of suspicion and mistrust existing among the migrant population in the area, it was necessary for the researcher to take time to familiarize himself with the target group before the investigation started. The researcher is from Cameroon and knowing the language of the migrants helped to build trust and overcome suspicion and, in addition, to be able to communicate informally with the respondents. The process involved the use of a hard copy questionnaire with open-ended questions from which the researcher drew questions in the interview. A questionnaire is important because it has the following roles: exploring the boundaries of a problem; obtaining evidence for a problem identified; evaluating potential solutions; and managing the research process. The questionnaire provided questions which helped to access information from the Cameroonian women of Turffontein, Johannesburg (Babbie, 2001).

The researcher believes that a description and analysis of the collected data using the qualitative method result in a valid and the most coherent explanation of aspects of social behaviour that are
best understood within their natural setting, as opposed to abstract findings of a purely quantitative nature. It is for this reason that the study combines both the qualitative and quantitative methods of data analysis. In this way, qualitative and quantitative research techniques are essential in exploring individual attitudes, perceptions, concepts, and priorities by observation and testing the results.

3.4 DATA ANALYSIS

The significance of this stage of the study was to obtain holistic information on the meaning of urban agriculture in the livelihood of the Cameroonian migrant women, and analysing this to answer the research objectives. However, Hindle (2004) identifies data analysis techniques as a method for analysing data, irrespective of either the methodical cluster within which the techniques are applied or the method used to collect the data. Having the above in mind, after collecting data from the interactive interviews with the aid of the tape recorder, the researcher found that the questionnaire guide and the notebook in which important or necessary information concerning the study was written were also useful in meeting the research objectives. The data was coded, transcribed upon completion, and then analysed and the findings presented.

3.5 SCOPE AND AREA OF STUDY

Most migrants settle at their first port of entry with the idea of maintaining a closer link with their country of origin (Rogerson, 1996). This research study was conducted in the inner city of Johannesburg among women migrants living in Turffontein. The local government of Johannesburg has been decentralized into 11 regions. Each region is operationally responsible for
health, housing, sports and recreation, libraries, social development and other local community-based services. The population of this study was Cameroonian women living in Turffontein. The choice of Johannesburg and the Cameroonian community in Turffontein is justified by the fact that, despite the absence of a refugee camp in Johannesburg, the city provides economic opportunities for migrants since it is the largest single metropolitan contributor to the national economic product. Johannesburg was also chosen because of its high economic activity and community solidarity and because it is inhabited by the largest number of Cameroonian migrants in the country. Besides this, the researcher chose the Cameroonian migrants community because he too is a member of that community.

3.6 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

This study complied with the ethical standards in social science research of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth. Following this, all respondents (participants) have to be above the age of eighteen in order to be included in the study population. Respondents were made to understand the purpose of this study, which is purely academic. At the beginning of the study respondents must be made aware of the type of question to be answered in the questionnaire. It is also necessary for participants to be informed that the decision to participate is voluntary, and that if they want to withdraw from the project at any time they are free to do so without any consequences.

Respondents are assured that their identity and the information that the researcher collects from them will be kept in strict confidentiality. To do so, code numbers are essential to allocate to respondents in their area of investigation instead of names. The questionnaire has to avoid
questions that respondents might consider as a violation of their privacy. In addition, respondents are advised of their right to observe silence on any question that they would be uncomfortable in answering. Respondents are informed that if they agree to participate to the study no compensation should be expected except for the appreciation of the researcher.

3.7 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Unfortunately, it is sometimes very difficult to evaluate the reliability of the researcher when using purposive sampling. But normally one can say the best way to avoid sampling error is to choose the best and most experienced in the field of study (Gulati, 1998). When it comes to the sampling process, with a case study approach it mostly depends on the researcher’s judgement since no randomisation is used in obtaining the sample. It is also worth noting that members of the study population might not have an equal chance of being selected. The consequence of this could be the misinterpretation of the entire study population which can sometimes limit the generalization of its results (Stake, 1995).

3.8 CONCLUSION

Livelihood is a phenomenon with a wide scope. This is because it manifests itself in various forms and perceptions. The study had to assume that most respondents were unemployed at the time of the interactive interview because they are practising urban agriculture. The study was limited to urban agriculture as a strategy for livelihood. The scope of the study is limited to an area only in and around Turfontein, a suburb in the inner city of Johannesburg and is based only on Cameroonian women practising farming in that area. This choice was made because the researcher was born in Cameroon which allows him to communicate easily in both French and English and this gave him additional advantages in the collection of data.
CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The major findings of the research will be discussed in this chapter based on the information gathered from the respondents. The focus of the research was to find out how migrant women from Cameroon living in Johannesburg, South Africa, use urban agriculture as a strategy to sustain their livelihood.

This study seeks to understand how urban agriculture is playing a crucial role as a strategy for livelihood among Cameroonian women settled in the inner city of Johannesburg. This chapter explains how, through urban agriculture, these Cameroonian migrant women have been able to obtain a livelihood. In this section, the chapter presents an analysis of the data collected to prove that urban agriculture is one of the major survival strategies for a sustainable livelihood among migrant women in Johannesburg. Details of the respondents’ process of leaving and their arrival in the inner city of Johannesburg are analysed in this section. It is important to note that the analysis in this research draws to a great extent from information provided by the people who participated in this research.

4.2 PROCESS OF LEAVING AND ARRIVING OF MIGRANTS IN JOHANNESBURG

In order to understand the process by which Cameroonian women became involved in urban agriculture, it is important to first of all identify the reasons that prompted their moving to South
Africa, particularly to the inner city of Johannesburg. Most respondents in this study come from the English-speaking part of Cameroon, namely, the north-west and south-west regions. For some, coming to South Africa was not their first option. They had planned to go either to Europe or to America where they have relatives. The data gathered from the respondents through the interactive interview on their planned destinations shows that the majority of the migrant women had not planned to establish themselves in South Africa. Only three among the respondents responded that their initial plan was to come to South Africa. One had this to say:

*My initial plan was not to come to South Africa. I had planned to go to America to further my studies, but when I got married and my husband at the time was living in South Africa, I had no option but to join him.*

It is also important at this point of the study to mention that social networks played a very important role in assisting most of the migrant women during the process of leaving Cameroon for Johannesburg. However, several researches have indicated that the majority of women migrating to another country do so because they want to join their family members who have already settled in the other country (Rogerson, 1996)). South Africa, since 1994, has been one of the countries that more migrants have entered compared to other countries on the continent (Rogerson, 1996). South Africa was the last option they had because of family who were already established in South Africa, as previously mentioned. One respondent alluded to the fact that she came to South Africa to join her brother who was running his business:

*It has always been my dream to come to South Africa to stay with my only brother after the death of our parents. So when my brother finally decided that I should come to meet him, I knew at once that my dreams had been fulfilled.*
Respondents were asked to give reasons why they chose to come to South Africa and why they settled in the inner city of Johannesburg. Apart from the fact that the South African visa was easier to obtain, the pursuit of a better life, higher education and mind-opening experiences, were the most prevalent among the reasons given by the majority of respondents in this study. Another respondent also had this to say:

*I came to South Africa to join my brother, as he had already established a business in Johannesburg, I did not have any other choice other than staying and living in Johannesburg.*

Respondents 6 and 9 both came to South Africa for economic reasons. In contrast, respondent 12 came to South Africa for political reasons. She explained that because she belongs to the same geographical region as the leader of the main opposition political party of the government in Cameroon and being one of the leaders of an NGO defending the rights of women in Cameroon, she felt that her life was threatened. She decided to leave Cameroon and come to live in South Africa.

On the other hand, respondents 2 and 7 came to South Africa to further their education. From the various reasons given by respondents, it is clear that South Africa was chosen by the majority of the respondents in this study as an alternative to other western countries. It is also clear that the majority were influenced to choose to come to South Africa by their relatives or friends who had been established in South Africa for a number of years.
The interviews that were conducted reveal that the process of coming to and settling in the inner city of Johannesburg was influenced by several factors, among them is included the South African visa which was easier to obtain than visas of Western countries. Also influential was the presence of relatives in the inner city of Johannesburg who encouraged them and in some cases even assisted them. In all these cases, entry into South Africa was facilitated by possession of a valid South African visa, with Johannesburg International Airport being the point of entry. None of the respondents in the sample reported that they had arrived by road or by any other means of transport.

4.3 NUMBER OF YEARS SPENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

This section looks at the length of time spent in Johannesburg by respondents and the impact on their livelihoods. It also asks whether being in Johannesburg for a long time opens up opportunities in terms of a livelihood for migrants. It further considers the legal status of the respondents and whether those without proper documentation find it more difficult to find employment. When asked how long they had been living in South Africa, most migrants from the age of 40 and above indicated that they had lived in the country for more than seven years.

Of the 30 Cameroonian migrant women that made up the population of this study, a few reported having refugee status, while the rest have a permanent resident visa. The legal status of a migrant plays a very important role in the life of each respondent in relation to livelihood (Bengwi, 2009). The fact that a few of the migrant women have only refugee status impacts negatively on their livelihoods as one of the respondents had to say:

The documents that I have do not allow me to find a good job because I waste a lot of time every month going to the Department of Home Affairs to renew my permit. I sometimes work for
my brother, it is easy for him to understand my situation since he himself went through the same experience before he got the paper that he is using now (respondent 14).

It is true to say that the legal status of a migrant has an impact on the person’s livelihood strategy. Those who are using a permit under section 22 of the Refugee Act No 13055 of 1998 seem to be negatively affected because of the denial of services or formal employment. The data collected also indicates that the length of stay in the country where migrants settle also plays an important role in their livelihood, in the sense that those who have been living here for a long time no longer totally depend on relatives or friends for their livelihood. The majority of these women have either a permanent residence visa (this status is mostly acquired by those Cameroonian women married to South African men) or refugee status. All respondents who reported to be under section 22 of the Refugee Act were those who had been in South Africa for less than two years. Irrespective of their educational background, a migrant from Cameroon cannot obtain steady employment because of his/her status. This is why they look for other means of survival, since they cannot be formally employed.

4.4 HOW DO MIGRANTS OBTAIN A LIVELIHOOD ON ARRIVAL IN JOHANNESBURG?

With regard to their survival strategies, most of these migrants indicated that upon arrival in South Africa, contacts played an important role in helping newcomers. The majority of the respondents explained that they met their contacts on arrival at the airport. All those who said that they did not meet their contacts at the airport indicated that they got in touch with other fellow Cameroonians through South Africans or other migrants from different African nations. Respondent 3 reported
that the first person she made contact with was a Congolese woman who had been established in Johannesburg for a long time.

The interviews reveal that contacts were also from a small, cultural association that has been in existence for quite some time now in South Africa and that these contacts were established even before the migrants arrived in the country. The support that they received from a member of the cultural association that they belong to is often not enough, as reiterated by one of the respondents when asked how she supported herself. She had this to say:

*My cultural association that is the “ngie” people which is a cultural group from Cameroon has established a branch in South Africa. This branch has been very helpful to some of us as it supports us sometimes with basics, such as food and shelter.*

Despite having such support both from the association and from family and friends, most of the respondents testified to the fact that the small amount of money that they get is not enough to meet all their basic needs. It is for these reasons that most of them have now turned to urban agriculture as a strategy for a sustainable livelihood.

### 4.5 WHY MIGRANTS ENGAGE IN URBAN AGRICULTURE AS A STRATEGY TO SUSTAIN A LIVELIHOOD

At the same time, the study wanted to know why these women became involved in urban agriculture and their level of involvement in agricultural activities. It also helps to know if at any time, these migrant women had practised urban agriculture before leaving Cameroon. The majority of respondents acknowledged that they were involved in some form of agricultural practice in one
way or the other. During the interview, one respondent also had this to say when she was asked why she practises urban agriculture:

*Agriculture has been part of our upbringing. In my father’s house, we grew up doing agriculture, because it was our main source of income. In fact, it is through agriculture that our parents were able to send us to school. So it has become part of our lives.*

With their experience of what urban agriculture contributed in their lives back in Cameroon, most of the migrant women could easily turn to urban agriculture as a livelihood strategy. About 20% of the migrant women practising urban agriculture stipulated that it is a cultural practice that they follow right from childhood and another 60% of the women interviewed explained that they became involved in urban agriculture because they had no job and wanted to make money to support their family back home and abroad. Then 10% from the sample said the only reason why they involved themselves in urban agriculture was to be self-employed and remain busy. And the last 10% of migrant women interviewed about urban agriculture reported that urban agricultural practice is a type of hobby. However, another important factor that is being investigated is how these migrant women got the access to the land on which they farm.

### 4.5.1 ACCESS TO LAND FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE

Access to land has always been one of the most difficult factors as far as urban agriculture is concerned. This situation is prevalent because of government policies that put many restraining orders on the practice of urban agriculture in most towns or cities of the world (Bengwi, 2009). This author further explains that land for urban agriculture is accessed in many different ways. The majority (60%) of the migrant women indicated that the land they use for urban agriculture consists
of open areas of land, given to them by caretakers of flats and owners of single-standing houses where they are renting. Meanwhile, 5% of these women have borrowed money from their “stokvels” or ‘njangi, as it is called among the Cameroonians, to buy the small piece of land that they farm on, while 35% have acquired their farmland through begging space from friends or neighbours in order to sustain a livelihood.

Most of the migrant women involved in urban agriculture confirm that, on the one hand, having the land is easy, but on the other hand, acquiring seed for planting is a problem. Hence the next paragraph will look at the type of seed these migrant women are planting, and their acquisition thereof.

![Figure 4.5.1: Percentage of land access for urban agriculture by Cameroonian migrant women in the inner city of Johannesburg](image)

**4.5.2 SEED ACQUISITION AND CROP SEED**
The majority of the migrant women interviewed (95%) indicated that acquiring the seed that they plant is not easy, while the remaining 5% do find it easy to access seeds and in a more satisfactory manner. The difficulty that arises is because the majority get their seeds from Cameroon. This happens because the Cameroonian community and migrants from other west and central African nations such as Nigeria, Gabon and the Central African Republic are their target market. From the interview, 95% of the migrant women plant seed such as okra, maize, beans and different vegetables, such as huckleberry which is commonly known as “country njamajama” among the Cameroonian community. A great portion of these women confirm having received the seeds they plant from a parent and close relatives from Cameroon, whenever an opportunity comes for somebody to travel to South Africa. Apart from the maize seeds they get from South Africa, almost all the other seeds come from Cameroon. It is also of great significance to note at this point that most of the seeds these women acquire are all natural seeds because genetically modified seeds are sometimes very expensive (Bengwi, 2009). However, with these migrant women involved in the process of urban agriculture their livelihood is more bearable than before. It is on this note that the next section elaborates on the role that urban agriculture plays in the lives of these migrant women’s families both here in South Africa and in Cameroon.
4.6 ROLE OF URBAN AGRICULTURE

Urban agriculture over the years has been of great importance to a lot of families who are involved in the process (Egziabher, 1994). During the observation and interactive interviews with the migrant farmers, 90% of the respondents confirmed the above statement to be true. For their survival, urban agriculture has been the key essential in the livelihood of the respondents. Responses from the interview show that the majority of the women have depended on harvested vegetables and other crops from their gardens over the years for their survival. Respondent 13 had this to say:

"After several attempts to find formal employment failed, I had to switch to urban agriculture in order to raise money for my upkeep and family well-being. And for the past five years, I have been coping as I could sell the majority of my produce and raise some money and
buy other things that I cannot plant, pay school fees for my two kids and also sent some money abroad to Cameroon for my parents’ upkeep.

However, even though the majority of the respondents of this study did not intend in the first place to engage in urban agriculture, the results indicate that over 90% of them are really benefiting from the practice, as can be seen from the above. Some of these women not only grow crops for food consumption, but also sell a portion to local inhabitants in the area. They also have no option but to immerse themselves in the practice of urban agriculture which was the only thing they had in mind at that time and that has so far been lucrative, ensuring that they and their families have an adequate livelihood. Respondent 18 explained as follows:

*To have sufficient food that you and your family can feed on is the most important thing that could happen in a family. With urban agriculture I have been able to help and support my husband to eat and pay the house rent for the family, while the small money that my husband brings home from his small trading we saved for precaution motive in case someone from my house falls ill or for an emergency that might arise.*

About 5% of the respondents informed me that their main intention was not to do urban agriculture for the rest of their stay in Johannesburg, but to raise capital and engage in other businesses. Respondent 23 said she had been a saloon owner in Cameroon; she has been involved in urban agriculture to make money that will enable her to operate her saloon business in Johannesburg. This proves that urban agriculture for some of the respondents has been a strategy to raise money in order to sustain a livelihood. With the income generated from urban agriculture, these women are able to cater for their family especially in times of sickness. That is to say, that of the small
earnings that they make from selling their crops, a part is saved. They also use the income they generate to help many other people in Cameroon. All the respondents in this study informed me that they had remitted money back home to support their family members in Cameroon. The amounts range from 50,000 cfa to 100,000 cfa which is R1, 250 and R2, 500 respectively. This is an indication showing that urban agricultural practice has a vital role in the lives of the migrant women living in the inner city of Johannesburg. It ensures food security and generates income from the sales of food cultivated. The issues of insufficient household food have for some time now been a serious problem in most African nations (Egziabher, 1994). However, as mentioned earlier, the study shows that the majority of the migrant respondents who are engaged in urban agriculture in the inner city of Johannesburg are guaranteed food security. Several respondents made statements similar to that of Respondent 11:

*It is through urban agriculture that I have been able to put food on the table that I and my family could eat and be satisfied. The vegetables that I produce; I sell part of it and eat the rest. With the money that I make from the small sales, it enables me to buy other food items that I cannot produce, items such as meat, salt, cooking oil, spices and many others.*

It is also important to mention that the issue of poverty alleviation is of great concern in the life of the migrant women. Their involvement in urban agriculture has alleviated their poverty situation to a certain extent. The majority of them also indicated that with the liquid cash that they make from their sales of produce from their gardens, the issue of poverty is now a thing of the past. Most of them explained that they now have money to pay their rent by themselves and that they now live a comfortable life compared to what they were still living in Cameroon even though the price of other commodities that they do not produce is still high. For instance, respondent 24 said:
My life situation has much improved unlike in the past when I just came into South Africa, all thanks to urban agriculture.

However, it has not always been easy with urban agriculture as the majority of the respondents mentioned. There have been numerous challenges faced by these migrant women as they are involved in the process of urban agriculture in the inner city of Johannesburg.

![Remittances sent by age groups](image)

Figure 4.6: Percentage of money remitted home by Cameroonian migrant women practising urban agriculture according to their age groups

Before explaining some of the challenges faced by these Cameroonian women as they continue to practise urban agriculture in Turfontein, it is necessary at this point to mention where they market the surplus food produced on their farms. A lot of them sell at the local market in Turfontein to both local and foreign inhabitants, while a few of them go as far as the Yeoville market to sell
foreign vegetables. The reason is that many foreigners live in and around the Yeoville neighbourhood.

4.7 CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN MIGRANTS

The study found a number of challenges that migrant woman in the inner city of Johannesburg face as they carry on their day-to-day urban agricultural work. However, the greater part of the women, informed me that having a proper space for farming is a matter of concern. About 70% of the migrant women mentioned the issue of space as one of their greatest challenges. They informed me that, identifying an available growing space for farming has been extremely challenging for them. In view of the above, this is one of the most significant factors that limit the growth of urban agriculture among migrants in Johannesburg. Another challenge of great concern that the interviewees expressed is the issue of limited finance. All the women testify that they lack appropriate financial support to enable the sustainability of the urban agricultural practice. This includes the need to buy seeds from Cameroon and also to have enough financial capability to rent land. Limited financial resources are a constraint on their ability to grow food, look for workers to work on their farms or gardens and also in making improvements to their farms (Egziabher, 1994).

More than half of the migrant women also indicated that finding labour to work on their farm or in their garden is also one of their largest costs or challenges. This is so because most of the migrant women find it hard to do the job on the farms alone, so they have at employed at least one or two persons to help with the work. It is important to note that apart from the constraints mentioned above, about 25% of the migrant women also spoke about the challenges of getting water for their gardens. Information gathered from the migrants during the interviews shows that because of the
high municipality water bill and lack of streams and rivers around their gardens to build small irrigation tracks and the lack of rainwater, the issue of getting water at all times for their farms has really been a great challenge. This issue of water has impacted negatively on the quantity of their production. It has particularly impacted on their production that is of low quality and also because of the challenge of lack of water; the quantity of their crops is affected negatively.

Another challenge mentioned by a few of the migrant women relates to documentation. About 25% of migrant women practising urban agriculture in the inner city of Johannesburg state that because of the time they spend at the Department of Home Affairs to adjust their permit or temporary visa, their farms are left unattended as it can take close to two weeks to settle everything with Home Affairs.

Another challenge comes from some of the landlords who own the land on which these migrant women cultivate their garden in the inner city of Johannesburg. A few of the landlords have for some reason been harsh towards these migrants. During the interactive interview, about 15% of the migrant women revealed that their landlord was a big problem to them, as they always want to control what is planted in their yard and take command of what ought to be planted. Because of this, the seed brought from Cameroon is sometimes spoilt. Respondent 24 of this study mentioned that her landlord is afraid that she might plant dangerous of illegal seeds, such as marijuana, instead of planting vegetables.

From the interactive interview the issue of theft was also raised by the majority of the migrant women. The high rate of unemployment in the inner city of Johannesburg and the high influx of
migrants, both national and international, has resulted in the commission of far too many crimes in and around the city (Deelstra, et al., 2000). This issue of crime has been a serious problem to the migrant women as it affects the supply of some of their produce to their customers. Because of insufficient finance the migrant women are unable to hire security personnel. This challenge and those mentioned earlier sometimes cause migrant women to want to quit. But the big issue is: If they quit, how will they survive? Their livelihood depends almost solely on urban agriculture.
CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSION

This chapter summarizes the major findings presented in this study in relation to its aims and objectives. The purpose of the present study was to look at urban agriculture as a sustainable livelihood among Cameroonian migrant women in the inner city of Johannesburg. The study has given attention to how migrant women survive through their strategy of livelihood, namely, urban agriculture. The study also investigates the role that urban agriculture plays in the lives of these migrant women living in the inner city of Johannesburg as well as the challenges that these women face.

This report provides a clear understanding, albeit on the basis of a small sample, of the lives of Cameroonian migrant women in the inner city of Johannesburg who are practising urban agriculture as a strategy for livelihood. The research report highlights how and what prompted some of these migrant women to travel to South Africa. This research report has demonstrated how some of the migrant women originally had no intention of engaging in urban agriculture. However, because they could not find a formal job they were forced to attempt urban agriculture, because it was the only livelihood strategy they had to support the family or a husband.

The study has also revealed the importance of urban agriculture in the lives of Cameroonian migrant women living in the inner city of Johannesburg. Like any other livelihood strategy, urban agriculture has been a source of survival to a lot of Cameroonian women. The research has shown
how these women, through urban agriculture, raise a substantial income to support their different households. This money or income that they raise from selling their produce, as indicated above by the migrant women is used to buy other food items that they cannot produce, and the many other needs of their families. The study has also revealed that part of the money generated through the process of urban agriculture by these Cameroonian migrant women is being used to pay school fees for their children in South Africa and also supports relatives back in Cameroon.

In light of the above, it can be said that urban agriculture plays a very important role in the lives of Cameroonian migrants in the inner city of Johannesburg in terms of food security. The majority of Cameroonian migrant women that practise urban agriculture here do not have a problem with food insecurity. They can ensure their own food security. The study also identifies a number of challenges facing these women as they carry on with the process of urban agriculture. The issue of water is one of the challenges identified and shows how this challenge might determine low productivity and sometimes a low supply of produce to their customers. The study indicates the fact that because of limited space to plant, these migrant women cannot increase their production. Lack of capital has also been identified as a challenge; for this reason they could not diversify their products and could plant only those seeds that they are able to purchase. Another challenge facing these women is theft of some of their produce as most of the area where they practise their farming is not well protected either by a fence or by security. Sometimes theft occurs because of the high level of unemployment in and around the area of Turfontein.

In addition, one thing that this study has established is the fact that urban agriculture is used as a livelihood strategy for Cameroonian migrant women living in the inner city of Johannesburg.
Urban agriculture has helped Cameroonian migrant women to survive like any other migrant group in the inner city of Johannesburg. It has helped in alleviating poverty among them to a great extent. It has helped to generate household income and, most importantly, it has helped in food security.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The government should encourage urban farming; for that reason it should be embedded in its policies and planning frameworks. However, because of the role that urban agriculture plays in the lives of many city dwellers in poverty reduction and food security, it should not be excluded from urban development planning but rather an attempt should be made to understand and optimize its role in the urban system. There is a need to facilitate a proactive programme that will support urban agriculture by low-income urban residents. And this can be done mostly through government policies and also through the municipal city’s review processes. The government should support the provisional use of urban farm projects and also encourage gardening in small spaces in the inner city of Johannesburg. It should also make land available for urban farming, assist with water by providing tanks and by digging gutters that will direct water to farmyards and also assist in harvesting. The government must also develop an improved strategy for the infrastructure for food distribution such as local markets and production. Legal and institutional support should be afforded to the urban agricultural sector, so that systematically it will integrate into the urban farmers’ regular requirements.

The concept of an urban area really does matter. It should be one of integrating development and be based on a structure emanating from the needs of urban residents themselves. Urban agriculture
can be used by the South African government as a strategy for poverty alleviation in order to improve people’s livelihoods, create employment and for income generation.
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Dear Participant

My name is Njenyuei Gideon Agho, I am a masters student at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University Port Elizabeth South Africa. As part of the fulfilment of a master’s degree in Development Studies, I am examining Urban Agriculture for sustainable livelihood. A case study of migrant women in Johannesburg. Because you are a migrant who is involves in urban agriculture, I am inviting you to participate in this research study by completing the attached survey.

The interactive interview and observation will require approximately 25-35 minute completing. There is no compensation for responding or any known risk. Please in order to ensure that all information is confidential you might not mention your name. If you chose to participate in this project please respond to all questions as honestly as possible. Thank you for taking the time to assist in my educational endeavour. Completion and return of the questionnaire will indicate your willingness to participate in this study. If you require additional information or have questions, please contact me at the number above. If you are not satisfied with the way and manner in which this study is being conducted, you may report if you so choose any complaints to the department of development studies NMMU by calling +27415044275.

Sincerely

Njenyuei Gideon Agho

Tel: +27717647657/email: njenyueiagho@gmail.com
DEVELOPED QUESTIONNAIRE

Please mark an x over the correction option.

2. Age:


3. Please indicate country of origin.

4. What prompted your moving into South Africa?

5. How long have you been in South Africa?

6. How do you meet your needs?
7. What made you to practice or engage in urban agriculture?

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8. And for how long have you been practicing urban agriculture?............................................................

9. Is the government in support of the practice of urban agriculture in this area?

.......................................................... .......................................................... ..........................................................

10. How did you get access to the land in which you farm on?............................................................

11. What crop seeds do you plant?

12. Where are the seeds from?...................................................................................................................

13. How do you acquire them?.................................................................................................................

14. If Cameroon seeds, how do you acquire?............................................................................................

15. Are these seeds genetically modified or natural?................................................................................

16. Have you been receiving any support from the south African government or the municipality of this area as you engage in urban agriculture?............................................................................................................

17. If no, with what source of finance have you been managing your farm?.............................................

18. Where do you get your water, to water your farm?.............................................................................
19. Do you farm to sell or for home consumption?

19. If to sell, how do you market your produce?

20. Who are your target market?

21. Are you affected by the big market?

22. Is income from selling enough to meet your needs?

23. How much income?

24. Is your family from your home country benefiting in any way from the sale you make from your produce?

25. Now what are the difficulties that are involved as you engage in urban farming in the city?

26. And how have you been handling this?

27. If you are to improve on the urban agricultural sector of the city what will be your recommendations?