



URBAN AGRICULTURE POLICY

POLICY HISTORY

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ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

CBO	Community Based Organisations
DRDAR	Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform
EDTA	Economic Development Tourism and Agriculture
LRAD	Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development
NGO	Non -Governmental Organisation
NMBM	Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Science and Cultural Organisation

1. DEFINITIONS

In this policy the following words, terms and expressions will bear the meanings assigned to them hereunder, unless the context indicates otherwise:

“commercial” means aimed at making a profit.

“commonage land” means land owned by the Municipality and zoned for the purposes of agricultural development.

“food security” the state of having reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable and nutritious food.

“lease” means a contract by which one party conveys land property, service, etc. to another for a specified time, usually in return for a periodic payment.

“Municipality” means the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality a, Category A Municipality established in terms of Part 2 of Schedule 1 of Notice 85 in the Eastern Cape Provincial Gazette No. 654 on 27 September 2000, promulgated in terms of Section 12(1) of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act 117 of 1998.

“peace officer” means a civil officer appointed to preserve law and order.

“peri-urban areas” as defined by UNESCO, means zones of transition from rural to urban land uses located between the outer limits of urban and regional centres and the rural environment¹.

“previously disadvantaged persons” means persons from certain racial and ethnic groups identified in empowerment programmes to uplift previously disadvantaged person by promoting their participation and representation in various sectors of society, e.g. Broad Based Black Economic and Affirmative Action.

¹ <https://en.unesco.org/events/peri-urban-landscapes-water-food-and-environmental-security>. 12 April 2023

“small-scale agricultural activities” refers to the production of crops and/or livestock on a small piece of land. These activities can both be subsistence-oriented, meant for personal use, as well as *commercial*, with the intention of selling the produce. In small-scale farming, the scale of food production is significantly smaller compared to large-scale farming operations. Advanced and expensive technologies are generally not extensively used, and the focus is more on labour-intensive methods. Small-scale agriculture typically involves a few people, such as family members, working together. The quantity of food produced is relatively small and the primary market for the produce is often local communities or nearby markets. It's important to note that subsistence farming, which involves farming for personal use, is considered a form of small-scale farming.

“sustainable farming” refers to the practice of producing food and textile resources in a manner that addresses the immediate needs of the society, while ensuring the long-term viability of meeting those needs for future generations. It involves employing methods and techniques that prioritize the preservation and responsible use of natural resources, while minimizing negative impacts on the environment. Sustainable farming aims to strike a balance between agricultural production, economic viability, and ecological integrity. Furthermore, factors such as soil health, water conservation, biodiversity preservation, energy efficiency, waste reduction, and the promotion of resilient farming systems are considered. By adopting sustainable practices, farmers strive to achieve a harmonious relationship between agricultural activities and the broader ecological systems, ensuring a sustainable and secure food supply for present and future populations.

“the Policy” means the Urban Agriculture Policy of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality.

“topography” means the arrangement of the natural and artificial physical features of an area.

“urban agriculture” refers to carrying out of agricultural activities in an urban setup and as defined in the NMBM Zoning Scheme means the cultivation of crops, within the urban area and may include animal keeping on relatively small areas.

“*urban edge*” as defined in the NMBM Spatial Development Framework refers to a conceptual boundary delineating the urban area with the sole purpose of containing physical development and sprawl, and re-directing growth towards a more integrated, compact and efficient urban form and guided by detailed plans.

“*vulnerable groups*” means a segment of the population that is particularly susceptible to various risks, disadvantages, or challenges that may hinder their well-being, rights, or access to resources and opportunities. Vulnerable groups typically include individuals or communities who may face social, economic, cultural, or physical barriers that put them at a higher risk of experiencing discrimination, exclusion, poverty, violence, or other forms of disadvantage.

2. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

2.1 Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality recognizes the potential of *urban agriculture* to contribute to sustainable development, *food security*, and the wellbeing of its residents.

2.2 To ensure the effective management and coordination of *urban agriculture* activities within the *Municipality*, the following policy has been developed.

2.3 The *Municipality* seeks to promote, facilitate, and regulate *urban agriculture* practices in a way that ensures environmental, social and economic sustainability.

2.4 This policy aims to create an enabling environment for *urban agriculture*, promote healthy lifestyle, and enhance *food security* for residents of the *Municipality*.

2.5 This policy is intended to provide a framework for the promotion, regulation, and management of *urban agriculture* in the Nelson Mandela Bay *Municipality*.

2.6 The *Municipality* is committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of this policy, and to contribute to the wellbeing of its residents through *urban agriculture*.

3. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

3.1 This policy must be read together with and interpreted consistently with other applicable legislation, policies, regulations and procedures, *inter alia*:

3.1.1 Co-operative Act 91 of 1981: which intends to provide for: -

- a) The formation and registration of co-operatives
- b) The establishment of a co-operatives advisory board
- c) The winding up of co-operatives

3.1.2 National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998: To provide for co-operative, environmental governance by establishing principles for decision-making on matters affecting the environment, institutions that will promote co-operative governance and procedures for co-ordinating environmental functions exercised by organs of state.

3.1.3 Fencing Act 1963 Act 31 of 1963: which intends to consolidate the laws relating to fences and the fencing of farms and other holdings and matters incidental thereto.

3.1.4 Informal Trading Policy of the *Municipality*: applies to all persons who carry on the business of street trading within the area of jurisdiction of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality.

3.1.5 Land Distribution Policy for agricultural development: that is designed to provide grants to black South African citizens (Africans, Coloureds, Chinese and Indians) to access land specifically for agricultural purposes, or to make better use of land already accessed.

3.1.6 Livestock Improvement Act 25 of 1977: which provides for the breeding, identification, and utilization of genetically superior animals in order to improve the production and performance of animals.

3.1.7 Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003: that intends to secure the sound and sustainable management of the financial affairs of municipalities and other institutions in the local sphere of government.

- 3.1.8 Municipal Public Health by-law: which regulates: public nuisances arising from the keeping of animals.
- 3.1.9 Municipal Supply Chain Management Regulations: regulates the procurement and disposal of good and/or services by the *Municipality*, that apply to and governs the planning, sourcing, contracting, contract management of goods, services, and works, disposal of assets, hiring or letting activities and acquiring or granting of any right inclusive of immovable property.
- 3.1.10 Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (SPLUMA): provides a framework for spatial planning and land use management in South Africa.
- 3.1.11 National Water Use Act 36 of 1998: provides for fundamental reform of the law relating to water resources, to repeal certain laws, and to provide matters connected therewith.
- 3.1.12 Performing Animal Protection Act 24 of 1935: regulates the exhibition and training of performing animals.
- 3.1.13 Animal Protection Act 71 of 1962: To consolidate and amend the laws relating to the prevention of cruelty to animals.
- 3.1.14 Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act 70 of 1970: controls the subdivision agricultural land, and to prevent fragmentation of agricultural land into small uneconomical units.
- 3.1.15 National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998: promotes co-operative governance and ensure that the rights of people are upheld within the context of economic development.
- 3.1.16 National Environmental Management Waste Act 59 of 2008: provides measures to improve waste management practices.
- 3.1.17 Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act 43 of 1983: provides for control over the utilization of the natural agricultural resources of the country in order to promote the conservation of the soil, water and vegetation.
- 3.1.18 National Forests Act 30 of 1998: promote the sustainable management and development of forests for the benefit of all.
- 3.1.19 Environmental Sustainability Policy of the *Municipality* outlines the vision, priorities and commitments of the *Municipality* in respect of the

management of the environment, and identifies economic opportunities that encourages entrepreneurial activities and job creation.

- 3.1.20 NMBM Climate Change and Green Economy Action Plan: a plan that aims to build resilience to climate change within the *Municipality* and also proposes Agricultural revitalisation as a means to reduce food insecurity, use unproductive/underutilised land, and create jobs etc.
- 3.1.21 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: End hunger, Achieve Food Security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- 3.1.22 Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996: sets out how all the elements of government are organised and contains rules about what power is wielded, who wields it and over whom it is wielded in the governing of a country.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

- 4.1 The objectives of *the Policy* are to:
 - 4.1.1 Promote the development of *urban agriculture* by facilitating the availability of land, water, and other resources required for agriculture.
 - 4.1.2 Regulate *urban agriculture* practices to ensure compliance with health and safety standards, environmental regulations and to minimise any potential negative impacts on the community.
 - 4.1.3 Enhance *food security* by supporting and facilitating the production and distribution of healthy and nutritious food.
 - 4.1.4 Promote the social and economic benefits of *urban agriculture* to the community.
 - 4.1.5 Establish an institutional framework to facilitate the development of *urban agriculture*.
 - 4.1.6 Determine an urban agricultural assistance programme by the *Municipality*.
 - 4.1.7 Strengthen and reinforce the urban agricultural development activities and initiatives of government and beyond.
 - 4.1.8 Develop and strengthen agro-processing activities within the *Municipality*.

5. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

5.1 *The Policy* is applicable to small- and large-scale agricultural activities within the boundaries of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality.

5.2 *The Policy* is limited to the following:

5.2.1 Facilitating the availability of land for *urban agriculture*;

5.2.2 Provision of resources and support for *urban agriculture*;

5.2.3 Regulation of *urban agriculture* practices;

5.2.4 Promotion of locally produced healthy and nutritious food.

5.3 *The Policy* is developed in the spirit of co-operative governance and the building of strategic partnerships. As such, it does not contemplate to encroach on the functional or institutional integrity of other spheres of government nor necessitate the delegation of functions, powers or authority from other spheres of government.

5.4 *The Policy* does not cause the revision or change of any by-laws or regulations.

5.5 *The Policy* excludes live-stock farming within the *urban edge*.

6. URBAN AGRICULTURE STRATEGIC GOALS

6.1 The *urban agriculture* strategic goals are:

a) To enable the underprivileged to utilize urban agriculture as an element of their survival strategy (household *food security* and poverty alleviation).

b) To enable people to create commercially sustainable economic opportunities through *urban agriculture* (jobs and income).

c) To facilitate the participation of previously disadvantaged people in the land redistribution for agricultural development programme of government (redress imbalances).

- d) Empower communities through training (technical, business and social skills training) and linkages to finance and markets.

7. APPROACH TO URBAN AGRICULTURE

7.1 Role of the Municipality

7.1.1 The *Municipality* will adopt a dual approach to *urban agriculture*. On the one hand, it will focus on achieving household *food security* to alleviate poverty and improve nutrition. On the other hand, it will aim to create income opportunities for economic development.

7.1.2 The *Municipality* will act as a facilitator to create an enabling environment for urban agricultural development. This includes reducing bureaucratic processes, implementing appropriate regulations, and establishing effective management systems.

7.1.3 Additionally, the *Municipality* can play a catalytic role by facilitating the provision of land, infrastructure, land preparation / clearing for farming purposes.

7.1.4 The *Municipality* will provide project management services, advisory support, and production inputs to eligible farmers based on predefined criteria. Refer to Annexure A: Guidelines for Supporting Farmers.

7.2 Household Food Security

7.2.1 The *Municipality* aims to make a meaningful contribution towards achieving household *food security* in South Africa.

7.2.2 As part of its poverty alleviation strategy, the *Municipality* will introduce a household-level food production assistance program with the following objectives:

- a) Facilitating and supporting the establishment of food production initiatives in urban areas by groups of beneficiaries or individuals.
- b) Prioritising *vulnerable groups*, with special emphasis on initiatives involving women, children, youth, and differently-abled individuals.

- c) Mitigating household *food security* and improving the nutritional status of participating households by promoting the consumption of locally produced food, saving on household budgets, generating income through surplus production sales, and fostering cooperation and alignment of policies and strategies among national, provincial and local authorities.
- d) Promoting partnership with NGOs, the private sector, and other stakeholders to implement household-level food production initiatives.

7.3 **Economic Opportunity**

7.3.1 *Urban agriculture* presents a cost-effective means for job creation, and as such, the *Municipality* will include it in its Sector Support and Small Business programmes, with the following aims and objectives:

- a) Facilitating entrepreneurial and business development.
- b) Creating an enabling environment for new business startups and expansion of existing activities.
- c) Enabling citizens to participate in the land redistribution programmes, such as the Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development Programme (LRAD).
- d) Promoting sustainable job opportunities and income generations.

7.4 **Strategic Imperatives**

7.4.1 **Include Urban Agriculture in Land Use Management and Physical Planning**

7.4.1.1 To enhance the sustainability of *urban agriculture* more sustainable, it is crucial to formalise its status. This will be achieved by incorporating *urban agriculture* as a multifunctional component of municipal land planning and standard development processes, including land use, zoning schemes, and site plan development.

7.4.2 **Create Linkages with Other Strategies**

- 7.4.2.1 The *urban agriculture* development programme cannot exist in isolation and should be linked to various supplementary and complementary programmes within the *Municipality*. This includes internal integration and programmes such as poverty alleviation strategies, urban renewal, new housing settlements, sector and business support, skill development, local area economic development strategies, HIV/AIDS campaigns, environmental sustainability policies, climate change and green economy action plans of NMBM and others. External linkages will be established, particularly with the programmes of the Provincial Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform related to farmer settlement and support, as well as the integrated nutrition programs of the National Department of Health and Education, NGOs, and the private sector.
- 7.4.2.2 Furthermore, it is essential to integrate the *Municipality's* urban agricultural development initiative with the programmes of the National Development of Rural Development and Land Reform, particularly its LRAD Programme.
- 7.4.2.3 This programme provides, among other things:
- a) Grants for individuals to purchase commercial agricultural land, and
 - b) Grants that local governments need to acquire *commonage land* for agricultural activities by previously disadvantaged people.
- 7.4.2.4 To achieve these linkages, the *Municipality* will establish and maintain an appropriate intelligence and research database.
- 7.4.2.5 The urban agriculture sub-directorate will actively seek grant funding opportunities from various sources to augment the support offered to farmers within the *Municipality*.

7.4.3 **Establishment Urban Agricultural Consultative Forums**

- 7.4.3.1 There is a need for all relevant stakeholders and affected parties in the *Municipality* to come together to share experiences, identify and analyse problems and challenge, and reassess the mission of *urban agriculture* in the *Municipality*. The *Municipality* will promote and facilitate the establishment of the following groups:
- a) A plenary consisting of all stakeholders relevant to urban agriculture.

- b) A grouping consisting of emerging and small-scale food growers and farmers, serving as a voice for urban agricultural practitioners (Urban Farmers Association).
- c) A grouping of state role players such as the Municipality and the Provincial Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform, serving as a coordinating mechanism (Intergovernmental Committee).

7.4.4 **Build Strategic Partnerships**

- 7.4.4.1 The *Municipality* recognises that achieving maximum impact in poverty alleviation and economic development requires co-ordination, integration, and alignment of efforts among all stakeholders. Building relevant partnerships will promote the elimination of contradictions, prevent overlaps, and enhance collective resource capacity.
- 7.4.4.2 The *Municipality* will actively seek partnerships through consultation and mutual support. Where appropriate, the *Municipality* will enter into service and co-operation agreements with relevant partners.

7.4.5 **Municipal Land for Urban Agriculture Development**

7.4.5.1 **Release of Municipal Land for Urban Agriculture Purpose**

- 7.4.5.1.1 The *Municipality*, through its affected Directorates (EDTA, Human Settlements, Public Health and Infrastructure and Engineering directorates) will identify land suitable for *urban agriculture*. These designated areas will be managed by the EDTA Directorate in compliance with land use and other regulations.
- 7.4.5.1.2 The specific types of urban agricultural activities allowed on each site will be determined based on factors such as location, size, accessibility, costs to provide basic infrastructure, environmental impacts, *topography*, and the needs of the surrounding community.

7.4.5.2 Identification of Land for Urban Agriculture

- 7.4.5.2.1 Land for *urban agriculture* must be identified early in the planning process to ensure proper zoning and timely fulfilment of environmental, legal and other requirements in accordance with the Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act 70 of 1970 and the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act

(SPLUMA), and the National Environmental Management Act: Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2017, as amended), the National Environmental Management Act: Biodiversity Act No 10 of 2004, among others.

7.4.5.2.2 Without a well-considered and managed approach for the identification, demarcation and allocation, conflicts may arise in relation to *urban agriculture*.

7.4.5.2.3 The *Municipality* will identify available land that can be used for *urban agriculture*. However, land allocation must be incorporated into the urban spatial planning process to address diverse land use needs and local conditions specific to *urban agriculture*. Professional assessment of land conditions, suitability, margins, and other factors are necessary.

7.4.5.2.4 The identification and assessment of the land introduce challenges related to water availability and securing fencing, which need to be taken into consideration. These high cost items require the development of a business plan to determine development costs and responsibilities for funding when a land parcel has been identified for a project.

7.4.5.2.5 Management of *urban agriculture* will be the responsibility of the Economic Development, Tourism, and Agriculture Directorate of the *Municipality*.

7.4.5.2.6 The *Municipality* will identify and demarcate municipal land that is suitable for *urban agriculture* and provide guidelines for the future identification of such land. Such guidelines will differentiate between sustainability for crop farming and stock farming.

7.4.5.2.7 Land for stock farming must be identified outside the current *urban edge*.

7.4.5.2.8 The Urban Agriculture sub-directorate of NMBM will collaborate with the Department of Rural Development and Agricultural Reform (DRDAR) and the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) to assess the sustainability of land for the appropriate urban agricultural purposes.

7.4.6 **Land use rights**

7.4.6.1 Prospective emerging farmers / food growers will be issued permits to use Municipal owned land subject to availability, suitability, and capability.

7.4.6.2 The duration of the permit, rental prices, and types of agricultural activities will vary from site to site and will depend on the intentions of the applicants

(e.g., private entrepreneur for own income or community to provide food for old age homes, etc.).

7.4.6.3 Prospective permit holders must be legal entities with whom the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality can enter into contracts.

7.4.6.4 No land located within the *urban edge*, will be designated or zoned for livestock forming.

7.5 **Commonage Land**

7.5.1 The Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality owns *commonage land* specifically designated for urban agricultural purpose.

7.5.2 The specific type of urban agricultural activity allowed on existing commonage land depends on factors such as carrying capacity, sustainability for different activities (such as crop production), location, size, accessibility, cost of providing basic infrastructure, environmental impacts, *topography*, and needs of the users.

7.5.3 The Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR) and other sources may be considered for support and funding to improve the use and management of existing *commonage land*.

7.5.4 If needed, grant funding from the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform or other sources may be considered to purchase commercial farmland for allocation to emerging farmers in Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality through a permit system.

7.6 **Minimum Conditions for Commonages**

7.6.1 The use of *commonage land* must adhere to sustainability principles to ensure long-term environmental sustainability.

7.6.2 Environmental assessment of land usage and carrying capacity is required.

7.6.3 Access to *commonage land* is restricted to urban agricultural purposes only and not for human settlements or other purposes.

7.6.4 Beneficiaries are expected to pay some form of rental fee, nature and extent of which will be determined based on individual conditions.

- 7.6.5 Obligations and responsibilities should be outlined in a contractual agreement, which will be covered in the Commonage Management Plan to be developed by EDTA.
- 7.6.6 Certain obligations, such as limits on the number of animals on a specific piece of land, will be enforceable; and penalties may be imposed for contraventions that endanger the communal resource.
- 7.6.7 Fencing of areas must be specified in the contract, including responsibilities for fencing.
- 7.6.8 Whenever possible, alternative sustainable water sources should be used, and payment for potable municipal water should be metered and made.
- 7.6.9 On-site product sales should be allowed.
- 7.6.10 Sub-letting of *commonage land* is not permitted without permission from the Council.
- 7.6.11 Land can be allocated through a permit system to an individual or legal entity that may incorporate several farmers through a joint venture or co-operative.
- 7.6.12 In cases of collaboration, beneficiaries must contribute financially or in other ways to promote a sense of responsibility and ownership.
- 7.6.13 EDTA has developed a comprehensive commonage management plan which enables the effective operation and management of the commonages.
- 7.6.14 Failure to meet any of the stated conditions by the permit holder will result in disciplinary action, as stipulated in the comanage land plan.

7.7 **Type of Assistance**

- 7.7.1 The *Municipality* will:
 - a) Facilitate and coordinate the availability of land for urban agriculture purposes.
 - b) Facilitate access to expertise and provide support in connecting urban agriculturists with relevant experts in the field.
 - c) Establish contacts with NGOs, CBOs, and other resources to expand the support network for urban agriculturists.

- d) Facilitate assistance in drafting business plans, helping urban agriculturists develop viable strategies for their agricultural activities.
- e) Provide advice and guidance to help urban agriculturists access loans or other forms of financial support for their agricultural ventures.
- f) Support infrastructure development for *urban agriculture*, which may include activities such as fencing, irrigation systems, and other necessary infrastructure.
- g) Assist in the provision of production inputs, such as seeds, seedlings, working equipment, animal feed, water tanks, storage containers, and other necessary resources for urban agriculturists.

7.8 **Water for Urban Agriculture**

- 7.8.1 Availability of water is an important factor in relation to the nature and potential of *urban agriculture* in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality and should be utilised optimally.
- 7.8.2 Business planning for *urban agriculture* must not be premised on the assumption that the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality can supply free water, electricity, and security.
- 7.8.3 Therefore, where land is considered for the purposes of *urban agriculture*, it is essential to conduct necessary impact assessments and develop sustainable business plans that take into account geological and environmental constraints based on the intended land use. The *Municipality*, in collaboration with stakeholders, will develop these business plans.
- 7.8.4 The *Municipality* serves as both a water service provider and water service authority, meaning it is responsible for supplying potable water for domestic and *commercial* (ICI) use. The majority of the metro consists of urban areas with the majority of consumers being domestic users.
- 7.8.5 The *Municipality* also faces occasional perennial droughts, which pose a supply risk.
- 7.8.6 The primary principle regarding water provision is that it should be prioritized for basic consumption, with domestic users receiving priority.

- 7.8.7 Water provision for *urban agriculture*, livestock, and crop farming is supported on the condition that sources other than potable water will be utilized for these activities.
- 7.8.8 Discussions on provision and capital rollout will take place between the Infrastructure & Engineering (I&E) and Economic Development Tourism and Agriculture (EDTA) Directorates.
- 7.8.9 Urban agricultural projects must not use potable municipal water. Alternative water sources such as but not limited to borehole water, harvested water, and recycled water should be used.

7.9 **An Institutional Framework for Implementation**

- 7.9.1 The Urban Agriculture section a current specialised sector within Sector Development of the *Municipality*, in consultation and accommodation of multi-disciplinary teams, other relevant Directorates, must be responsible for the overall co-ordination of *urban agriculture*.
- 7.9.2 The alternative is a relatively independent programme based on the Madiba Bay Development Agency concept as a dedicated agency to implement *the Policy*. It should be realized that taking such a route imply one is just avoiding the challenge of an effective local government.
- 7.9.3 Practical advice may be provided by experienced small-holding, commercial farmers and other expertise as deemed to be appropriate.
- 7.9.4 A good working relationship between funders and implementation facilitation agencies are required to ensure that no funding is released unless there is full compliance (inter alia with the Municipal Finance Management Act) and appropriate business planning has been concluded. This must encompass all relevant issues and be based on research of the property involved.

7.10 **Livestock Keeping**

- 7.10.1 Livestock keeping in the *Municipality* raises concerns due to its potential negative health and environmental impacts, including disease transfer,

- pollution (dust, noise), road safety hazards (stray and free-roaming animals), property and landscape damage, and nuisance.
- 7.10.2 Livestock must not be kept in areas not designated for livestock farming, specifically in urban areas where people reside.
- 7.10.3 All animals (cattle, goats, sheep) kept within the Municipality's jurisdiction must be branded for identification purposes. Failure to comply will result in necessary actions such as fines, impoundment, or removal.
- 7.10.4 Goats, pigs, and cattle should only be kept in dedicated and adequately fenced *peri-urban areas* developed for this purpose. Such areas should not endanger people or impede their movement and must not pose environmental or health risks. Compliance with all health regulations is essential. Keeping livestock in areas not designated for agricultural purposes violates the Municipal Public Health by-laws.
- 7.10.5 Conditions favorable to urban livestock farming, including dip and stock handling facilities and dry kraals, are important. If regulations for such facilities do not exist, they will be established. The *Municipality* will introduce procedures for handling applications and providing service/facilities for stock handling.
- 7.10.6 Considering the above, the *Municipality* intends to explore the most cost-effective way of implementing an incubation program in phases. This program aims to support not only current informal farmers occupying farms illegally, but also other participants interested in *commercial* livestock farming. The incubation program's main objective is to develop eligible farmers' capacity through skills, mentorship, and linkages to markets and finance, enabling them to become fully-fledged commercial farmers.
- 7.10.7 The incubation program will help introduce commercial farming practices and educate informal livestock farmers about refraining from subsistence farming activities, which the City cannot accommodate due to its structural design and applicable by-laws.
- 7.10.8 The above measures will be further refined through collaboration with other stakeholders as part of the development of a strategic implementation / operational plan for *urban agriculture* in the *Municipality*.

7.11 **Urban Crop Farming**

- 7.11.1 The *Municipality* acknowledges that large-scale crop farming is not feasible within the Municipal area. Therefore, *commercial* production of crops on a large scale should be limited to demarcated *peri-urban areas* outside of the *urban edge*. There are *peri-urban areas* within the Municipal boundary that are suitable for agriculture, particularly for growing various vegetables and other crops, excluding large-scale wheat or maize farms.
- 7.11.2 The specific parameters defining large-scale crop farming and acceptable sizes for crop farming in urban contexts will be determined, taking into consideration relevant factors such as resources and crop types.
- 7.11.3 Since suitable land and sufficient water supply are prerequisites for crop farming, alternative water sources should be explored.
- 7.11.4 Small parcels of land could be allocated for intensive activities like hydroponics or arrangements similar to the "allotment" model, where families have tiny plots to grow vegetables for personal use.
- 7.11.5 Regulations regarding fertilizer use must be strictly adhered to.
- 7.11.6 Crop farming should not compromise the environmental integrity of the land.

7.12 **Support Programme for Urban Agriculture**

- 7.12.1 In cases where support programs for *urban agriculture* are currently non-existent within the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, this document serves as the foundation for the development of such programmes.
- 7.12.2 The *Municipality*, in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders, aims to offer support and assistance to community groups and private individuals engaged in *urban agriculture*.
- 7.12.3 The *Municipality* will primarily act as a facilitator, creating an enabling environment for the development of urban agricultural.
- 7.12.4 The *Municipality* will assist in accessing land and facilitate access to available resources for urban agriculturists.
- 7.12.5 Development will be guided by strategic imperatives and principles.

- 7.12.6 Appropriate regulations and management systems will be enforced to ensure responsible urban agricultural practices.
- 7.12.7 The *Municipality* will facilitate the provision of skills development and capacity building for individuals and groups involved in *urban agriculture*, aiming to promote their growth and success.
- 7.12.8 Support will be provided to urban agriculturists for marketing their produce effectively.

7.13 **Broad Criteria for Assistance**

- 7.13.1 Assistance must be given to people who have some knowledge in agriculture. Interested individuals must make themselves available for skills development, and / or can show that they have the initiative and practical experience to ensure success.
- 7.13.2 Support is granted on the basis that it benefits communities.
- 7.13.3 Contract and agreements must involve business plans with commitments.
- 7.13.4 Assistance will be provided within set time limits to prevent long-term dependence on assistance.
- 7.13.5 Assistance can only be provided if agreed performance criteria are adhered to.
- 7.13.6 Ongoing assistance will be provided to emerging farmers, and the *Municipality* will collaborate with other government agencies and departments to support the transition from *urban agriculture* to commercial agriculture.
- 7.13.7 The support provided will be geared towards achieving both environmental and economic sustainability.
- 7.13.8 The *Municipality* will introduce this programme in cooperation with other stakeholders. The specific service delivery model/system, defining the nature, extent, and criteria for support, will be determined in consultation with stakeholders as part of the development of a strategic implementation/operational plan for *urban agriculture* in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality.

7.14 **Service Delivery Model / Implementation**

7.14.1 The EDTA Directorate of the Municipality will be responsible for the overall coordination of *urban agriculture*. This section will work in consultation and collaboration with multi-disciplinary teams and other relevant directorates to ensure effective implementation.

8. POLICY APPLICATION AND REVIEW

8.1 This policy will be called the Urban Agriculture Policy and will come into effect when adopted by Council.

8.2 The Urban Agriculture Policy will undergo review every three (3) years, or sooner as per the determination of organisational needs and/or legislation.

ANNEXURE “A”: GUIDELINE FOR SUPPORTING FARMERS

1. INTRODUCTION

The development of specific guidelines, requirements and considerations enables effective implementation of the Urban Agriculture policy.

Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM) has developed the following guidelines and criteria for funding livestock production and *commercial* projects:

2. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION & COMMERCIAL PROJECTS

To qualify for funding, the project / business must:

- i) Provide proof of land ownership (*lease* agreement / permit / own land) for a minimum of 3 years.
- ii) Provide bankable business plan.
- iii) Be a registered entity (co-operative / trust / association).
- iv) Provide certified copies of identities of members.
- v) Operate in an area designated for livestock farming.
- vi) Cattle, sheep, and goats should be branded.

3. FOOD GARDENS AND CROP PRODUCTION PROJECTS

To qualify for funding the project / business must:

- i) Have an operational piece of land.
- ii) Proof of land ownership (*lease* agreement / permit / own land for *commercial* projects / hydroponics tunnels /aquaculture/ aquaponics) for a minimum of 10 years for food gardens (signed letter from authorities for a minimum of 3 years).
- iii) Operate in an area of 1 Ha or less for food gardens.
- iv) Operate in an area of 1 Ha and above for *commercial* projects (Hydroponics/Aquaculture/ Aquaponics etc.) outside the *urban edge*.

4. TARGETED FARMERS

The farmers to be assisted are categorized as follows:

1) Animal Production

a) Commercial farmers

- These include farmers operating on large areas of land for income-generating purposes (profit-making).
- They are defined by the number produced and the turnover made.

b) Small holder farmers

- These are small scale farmers operating in a small piece of land for poverty alleviation.
- They consume the produce and sell the surplus.

2) Crop Production

a) Commercial farmers

- These include farmers operating on large areas of land for income-generating purposes (profit-making).
- They are defined by the number produced and the turnover made.

b) Food gardens

- c) These include farmers operating on large areas of land for income-generating purposes (profit-making).
- d) They are defined by the number produced and the turnover made.

CATEGORIES OF URBAN AGRICULTURE INTERVENTIONS PROVIDED BY THE MUNICIPALITY

Table 1: Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Urban Agriculture Interventions outlines the categories of interventions and the corresponding maximum funding amounts provided by the *Municipality* for different categories: *commercial* farms, smallholder

farms, food gardens, and agro-processing. The interventions include infrastructure development, production inputs, and equipment. The maximum funding amounts vary depending on the category of intervention and availability of funds.

Category	Intervention
Commercial farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure
Smallholder farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure • Production inputs • Equipment
Food gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure • Production inputs • Equipment
Agro-processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure • Production inputs • Equipment

5. STAKEHOLDER FORUM AND ROLES

Table 2 depicts the various stakeholders involved in urban agriculture and the roles they may play in a forum. These stakeholders include the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM) as the chair and facilitator, government departments such as the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR) and the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT) providing funding and technical assistance, agencies like the Eastern Cape Development Cooperation (ECDC) and the Eastern Cape Rural Development Agency (ECRDA) as funders, research institutions like the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) providing research and training, and other entities such as farmers, the Department of Social Development (DSD), Department of Basic Education and Training, Department of Public Works, Agricultural Produce Agents Council (APAC), Land Bank, Southern Africa Development Bank, and Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) playing various roles in supporting and promoting urban agriculture initiatives.

TABLE 2: URBAN AGRICULTURE STAKEHOLDERS FORUM		
STAKEHOLDER		ROLE
1.	Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality (NMBM)	Chair and Facilitator
2.	Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR)	Funder and technical assistance
3.	Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR)	Technical assistance and land administration
4.	Eastern Cape Development Cooperation (ECDC)	Funder
5.	Eastern Cape Rural Development Agency (ECRDA)	Funder
6.	Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEDEAT)	Technical assistance & Funder
7.	Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS)	Technical assistance
8.	Farmers (Individuals or groups)	Beneficiaries
9.	Agricultural Research Council (ARC)	Research
10.	Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA)	Funder and training
11.	Sarah Baartman District Municipality	Funder
12.	Department of Social Development (DSD)	Funder
13.	Department of Basic Education and Training	Training
14.	Department of Public Works	Funder
15.	Agricultural Produce Agents Council (APAC)	Market research
16.	Land Bank	Funder
17.	Southern Africa Development Bank	Funder
18.	Industrial Development Corporation (IDC)	Funder