

Topic Title: Investigating the demand for urban agriculture of support in townships during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Abstract:

❑ Background

Urban gardening is an activity which has been largely practised by a few people and the elderly people in South Africa. This is due to the negative connotations surrounding it, for instance, urbanites viewing it an activity belonging to the rural areas. However, during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic several supporting organisations recorded a surge in the request for support for urban gardening support. Therefore, this research investigated the motivations behind this demand for urban agriculture support during the period in question.

❑ Objectives

The overall objective of the study is to investigate the increase of urban gardening activities in Cape Town, South Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

❑ Design/Methods

The study will locate the gardens through snowball sampling A mixed-methods approach consisting of an examination of land-cover changes, a questionnaire survey, and semi-structured interviews will be utilized to collect data among identified gardeners in Cape Town, South Africa. Key informant interviews and a systematic literature review will be pursued to argument questionnaire and semi-structured interview findings. Quantitative data will be analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) where cross-tabulations and frequencies will be employed to identify possible patterns and associations emerging from the collected data. Qualitative data will be thematically analysed.

❑ Main Results

The main result indicates that most of the respondents started to garden on their own due to the fact that they had ample time restricted to their households and had no other activity to conduct. Most of them also reported seeing the success of neighbours hence wanting to partake in the activity.

❑ Interpretation

This shows that urban gardening is a potentially powerful tool which can keep people busy and simultaneously contribute to the food nutrition and security of individuals

❑ Conclusions

The results suggest that crucial stakeholders need to continue to support urban agriculture activities and increasing awareness as it can contribute to household food security and nutrition.