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Title: Urban agriculture in Asia: a review

Abstract: Since just last year, more than half of Asia's population has been living in cities. The unparalleled scale and pace of urbanization in this region has led to increased pressure on food systems. While urban agriculture (UA) is not a new phenomenon, literature on the subject has only recently started to explore the potential of UA for sustainable urban development. This paper presents the results of a systematic review of the literature on the human dimensions of UA in Asia. Evidence from the literature reveals diverse motivations and aspirations behind UA initiatives. Findings indicate that while some projects are supported by local governments, others require strategic maneuvers to circumvent the various barriers to farming on urban lands. Results suggest that UA can provide farmers with access to healthier foods in some cases, while polluted urban environments can lead to the contrary, particularly for people on the margins. There is no consensus on whether UA can or should be part of sustainable urban futures. Regardless, many cities have begun supporting UA activities in recent times. This review is the first to focus on UA in the region and is essential in identifying the challenges and opportunities for UA in contemporary Asia.

Keywords: urban agriculture, sustainability, food security, urban development, Asia.