

Urban agriculture is increasingly practiced by people from all walks of life. Support for urban agriculture is increasing, as is the demand for training. In response to this demand, Ryerson University (Toronto, Canada), ETC Urban Agriculture (the Netherlands) and RUAF (International network of Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food security) will be offering a series of unique Distance Learning courses on urban agriculture.

Starting from January 2008, students, staff from NGOs and research institutes, representatives from local and national governments as well as international organizations can sign up for the urban agriculture courses with a focus to enabling multi-stakeholder research, action planning, policy development and implementation on urban agriculture. The courses are designed in such a way that they can be accessed with low-speed Internet connection. Course materials will also be provided on CD-Rom.

Courses will currently only be given in English, in future courses will hopefully also be provided in Spanish, French and possibly Portuguese, Chinese and Arabic.

The courses will be offered in two modalities:

1. ACCREDITED (as part of the Ryersons University's Continuing Education program): Each course will run for 14 weeks or one semester. It is estimated that course participants will spend at least 3 hours/week on lessons and study. Course participants will interact with experienced course instructors and other students and participate in group discussions and assignments. Grading will be based on the level of participation as well as a final exam. Course participants will also have access to a technical help-desk and library. Upon successful completion of the course, course participants will receive an official transcript of their participation. Course fees amount to CAD \$456 (equivalent to US\$ 465) per course. Please find attached more information on the first course "Understanding urban agriculture" as well as on procedures for inscription.

2. FREE AND SELF-PACED (independent learning): From next year onwards, the materials developed for the university courses will also be offered for free on the RUAF website ([www.ruaf.org](http://www.ruaf.org)) and as a CD-Rom. In this set up, learners decide for themselves what materials to study and when. Learners do not interact with instructors or other learners, and cannot earn a diploma, certificate or any University credits. They neither have access to technical support.

#### TO INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS

Please find attached more information on the courses as well as an Expression of Interest form. Kindly fill in this form and send the completed form to Joe Nasr ([jnasr@ryerson.ca](mailto:jnasr@ryerson.ca)).

TO ORGANISATIONS WORKING IN THE FIELD OF URBAN AGRICULTURE Please circulate this email and attachments to your partners and networks. If possible, please also consider funding one of your staff or partners to participate in the accredited urban agriculture courses.

For more information:

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Joe Nasr ([jnasr@ryerson.ca](mailto:jnasr@ryerson.ca))

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The Toronto Food Policy Council manages this information service for people working on food issues with community organizations, social agencies, public health units, educational institutions, faith and justice organizations, and local governments. If you would like to share information on community gardens, urban agriculture, farmers markets, school meals, obesity, social determinants of health and diet, local food systems, or multicultural, educational and anti-hunger initiatives in your area, please send them to Wayne Roberts at [wrobert@toronto.ca](mailto:wrobert@toronto.ca) or [tfpc@toronto.ca](mailto:tfpc@toronto.ca)

Opinions expressed in items carried through this information service do not, unless explicitly stated, reflect the views of either the Toronto Food Policy Council or Toronto Public Health.

If you are interested in global food policy, please consider subscribing to an e-mail service we co-sponsor called FoodNews, at [foodnews@web.ca](mailto:foodnews@web.ca)

If you would like to view the TFPC's website, please visit us at:

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