

URBAN AGRICULTURE

A STRATEGY FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION AND RISK PREVENTION

The Jarillón is a barrier that was built to protect the eastern part of the city from the floods caused by the overflow of the Cauca River and to allow agricultural activity in a sector that some decades ago was far away from the city and was suitable for crops. The project began to be executed in the year 1958 and was delivered in 1962.



However, over the years, the riverside margin of protection of the river was populated due to a combination of factors, including administrative errors, lack of authority of the entities that protect the environment, clientelism by politicians and the arrival of thousands of people affected by poverty and violence, especially in the Colombian Pacific zone.

The families who settled along the riverside are in a humid zone where risk cannot be mitigated, and their presence puts the entire city at risk. In addition to the billion-dollar losses that would be recorded and the social and environmental calamity, it would take about 25 years for Cali to rebuild itself if a natural disaster occurs.

Keys for Success:



The governance model should be supported by a local working group involved in the process since the beginning.



Community engagement, with the support of the Secretariat of Territorial Development and Citizen Participation of Cali. Successful example of collaboration between institutions and communities.



Involve different municipal areas (environment, education...)



Provide technical assistance, seeds, and materials to gardeners.



Emphasize the importance of maintaining organic production, no pesticides and encourage self-consumption gardens.

Training sessions, awareness workshops for children, youth, and community leaders, support for community initiatives of pedagogical urban planning, and interventions in the territory because of processes of sensitization and appropriation of the territory.

The Jarillon Plan

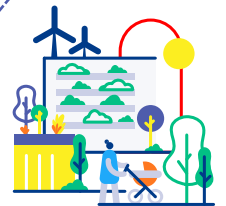
The Jarillón Plan in Cali is a city megaproject and is classified as the largest resettlement project in Latin America. This project was born due to the winter wave of 2010-2011 when many families were affected by heavy floods throughout Colombia and the Jarrillón area. In a meticulous and rigorous census, 8,777 families were identified as beneficiaries of this project. The Jarillón Plan aims for resettlement with a full guarantee of rights, improving their quality of life, and living in areas of non-mitigable risk. The strategy is accompanied by a social inclusion project of community gardens that contribute to the construction of a more sustainable territory.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

The improvement of the quality of life and accompaniment of the people who were registered in 2013 as beneficiaries of the Jarillón area.



Governance over the territory, generating special use and care of the plant reservoir that makes up the Jarillón.



Carry out the work to reinforce the Jarillón dam that protects the entire city from a possible flood.

VEGAS - VENECIA



Before



After

SAMANES



Before



After

Technical Considerations of urban gardens in Jarillón

1

Soil Preparation

The soil is one of the most important components thanks to the different services it provides to all the organisms that inhabit and interact with it, including farmers and the community in general. For the edaphic conditions of Jarillón, due to its fragile quality of soil, it was necessary to formulate individual substrates that favoured the establishment and development of crops. For each of zone, a composition was made based on black soil, sand, and compost improved with arbuscular mycorrhizae-forming fungi (AMF), and part of the soil with organic material remnants from previous crop cycles to improve some nutritional properties. The proportions used for the physical mixture varied according to the nutrient supply of each soil as evaluated according to laboratory analysis.



2

Sowing

The cultivation of various vegetables, including tomatoes, peppers, onions, lettuce, beans, squash, melon, and herbs, in different orchards. The work was carried out with the help of classroom instructions and practical implementation, and the planting was done in pairs or trios considering various factors. Plant species were exchanged between orchards to address shortages.



3

Fertilization

The fertilization plan is based on the results of the physical and chemical analyses of the soil in each orchard and the nutritional requirements of each crop since the beds or alveoli need to have layers of soil between them (20 - 25 cm in height), composed of a mixture of black soil and sand.

In addition to the planting work, fertilization is needed. This activity was coordinated with tutorials and technical assistance on the type of products and fertilization (foliar and edaphic), with support also provided via WhatsApp for each leader.



4

Control of Pests and Diseases

In each orchard, a biological control plan was generated for cutting insects harmful to crops. Some crops were also reinforced which presented symptoms of latent pathogens in the environment that were activated by climatic changes and the increase in humidity due to irrigation. This activity was carried out with theoretical-practical work in all the orchards.