Uganda Overview

The first three chapters in this section dealing with Kampala present research led by the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) while the fourth describes a study of health and urban agriculture that ran in parallel, led by a research-policy platform. New data in Chapter 6 show not only that the extent of farming in the city is even higher than previously measured in the 1980s, at around 49 percent of all households, but also that there are differences between urban and peri-urban farming systems. It also presents a typology of urban farming systems to allow for more effective policy and programs. Confirming and updating findings from surveys in the 1980s data show that farmers fall in four categories:

- Commercial
- Sufficiency
- Food security
- Survival

The first two types have fewer farmers who primarily need help with marketing, while the latter two types are much larger, have more women farmers and mainly need help with support and social safety nets. However, all four need help both with a supportive policy framework and encouragement with marketing.

This is followed by Chapter 7 on an experiment working with schools on urban agriculture, including using schools as centres for seed production. While the seed-production experiment was not successful, extension was more so and a great deal was learned that has since had significant follow-up in the city. Chapter 8 describes research on markets for urban and peri-urban produce, conducted rigorously but in consultation with farmers. Poultry, pigs, mushrooms, fruit and vegetables were products of interest, but with different conditions for urban and peri-urban farmers and specific needs for marketing support structures. Finally in this section, Chapter 9 describes an extensive study on the health impacts of urban agriculture. Treated more extensively in a companion book (Cole et al. 2008), the chapter presents findings of scientific studies and distills these as straightforward public health messages. These cover food security and nutrition, contaminant risks – both biological and chemical – and livestock-related benefits and risks.