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City agricultural systems, innovative alternatives for sustainability transitions: Evidence from case studies in France

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The importance of urban agriculture and gardening in cities is growing and has been recognized by various initiatives such as Milan's Urban Food Pact [1]. There is also a growing awareness of the significant contribution that a link with nature makes to our mental health and well-being [2]. Indeed, urban agriculture is a form of farming that aims to ensure food security, maintain urban ecosystem services, and improve quality of life [3]. In addition, the use and transformation of abandoned areas is proving to be an appropriate way of creating new green spaces [4]. This study focuses on the analysis of urban agriculture practices in the city of Rouen, France, where an assessment will be made of the distribution of the value created by the implementation, procedure and planning of urban agricultural practices, together with an evaluation of the benefits they bring in economic, social and environmental terms. The work consisted of interviews with stakeholders involved in the operation, including farmers, citizens, project managers and department head representatives, along with site visits for a better analysis and evaluation of each of the cases. This work employs an empirical analysis using NVivo software, which is now widely recognized for its efficiency in processing data related to qualitative research [5]. The findings show that the two social cases evaluated are both keen to ensure a better green environment for city residents, giving them the opportunity to reconnect people with nature while offering them the chance to grow their own fresh food and improve their health and well-being. Furthermore, the results show that there are a number of similarities between the different entities in terms of objectives and activities performed, along with a number of differences in terms of their structure, governance and management and the distribution of tasks.

Keywords: City farming, urban agriculture, well-being, implementation, benefits

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