DESIGNING WITH NATURE

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Information about the lecture

Speaker	Prof. Dr. Julian Briz
Title	URBAN AGRICULTURE: Challenges and opportunities
Group of topics	June 21st, 2017 Architecture - Projects - Best Practice
Language	englisch
Content	In 2050 around 80 % of the population will be urban, what will originate a concentration of political power, but also unsustainable cities, with high dependence of energy, food and raw materials, great stock of residuals and a contaminated environment. One of the solution for the Urban Metabolism, in resilient cities will relay in farming, bringing back nature to the environment. In this action we have to integrate technology and innovation with socioeconomic programs. Sustainability is related to development of food production, recreation, landscape, clear air and healthy conditions. UA have to innovate in rain harvesting, and great water recycle, energy saving, carbon and energy foot print reduction, livestock keeping, in a circular economy (reduce, recycle). Socioeconomic innovations are related to production, market linkages, and social justice in an integration process, with promotion of local products, recreation facilities and employment. Although UA has a long history in urban settlement, most of the studies and research have been focused in rural agriculture. As main food supplier, institutions and policy makers have designed agricultural policies with market regulations, subsidies and extension services. It is about time to extend some of them to UA, in a new scenario identify as "rurban", a mixture of both. UA should follow some stereotypes for a business model, diversification, low cost, experience, social and political interactions. In the coming future several challenges have to be faced. In ornamental and landscape, UA is not a substitute for bad architecture, as covering walls and roofs with green foliage may be a low cost solution. High real estate prices is a serious barrier for UA, and it has to focus in useful and value products to sell in local markets. As any socioeconomic activity, there are the mentioned advantages but also risk during the performance development. Risk related to human health, with restriction in the use of agrochemical products