

PRESS RELEASE

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## **URBANE – One Health approaches to support agroecological transformation of peri urban farming**

Today more than half of the planet's population live in cities, with projections for that number to increase. In West Africa, migration of people from rural areas to cities is particularly prominent, leading to increased practicing of peri-urban agriculture. Even though intensified **peri-urban farming** has significant advantages, it also introduces concerns about zoonotic diseases, sanitary issues, local environmental degradation, antimicrobial resistance, and more. Especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), intensification of food systems is typically associated with human health risks as they transition from subsistence to market-oriented production.

URBANE addresses this challenge of **sustainable agriculture for food nutrition security, applying a One Health approach** for tackling issues related to the application and intensification of peri-urban agriculture. It also provides the necessary framework for its sustainable and safe application in different contexts. To achieve this, the project will be built around the principles of agroecology. URBANE builds on its partners' extensive experience in agroecology whilst exploiting friendly tools and methods for measuring the progress and impact of the agroecological transition of farming.

The URBANE approach will be demonstrated through 6 case studies in Africa, specifically, Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Morocco, Benin, and Burkina Faso. Transferability of the URBANE approach in other regions will also be studied and facilitated through specific tools.

URBANE is a collaborative effort developed by a multi-disciplinary team coordinated by CyRIC, Cyprus Research and Innovation Center Ltd, under the EU framework of the Horizon Europe Programme. URBANE was launched on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 and will run for four years to allow enough time for undertaking the study and performing the scientific assessments. It has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101059232.

Project partners are: CyRIC - Cyprus Research and Innovation Centre (Cyprus), National Research Council (Italy), Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), Biosense Institute (Serbia), Eindhoven University of Technology (Netherlands), University of Liege (Belgium), Université d'Abomey-Calavi (Benin), Institute Agronomique et Veterinaire Hassan II (Morocco), Hellenic Agricultural Organisation (ELGO) - DIMITRA (Greece), Carbone Fertile Centre National d'Agroécologie (France), Ver de Terre Production (France), Senseen (France), Waziup EV (Germany), Agroecology Europe (Belgium), Université Gaston Berger de Saint Louis (Senegal), Centre for Biodiversity Conservation Research (Ghana), University of Ibadan (Nigeria), Foundation for Healthcare Innovation and Development (Nigeria), Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Nigeria), Université Aube Nouvelle (Burkina Faso), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment (Senegal), National Institute of Agricultural Studies (Benin), Nigerian Academy of Science (Nigeria), REM Analytics SA (Switzerland).

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Notes for editors:

1. Horizon Europe is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme to date, with €95.5 billion of funding available over 7 years (2021 to 2027) – in addition to the private investment that this money will attract. It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market.

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