The COVID-19 crisis disrupted urban rural linkages due to lockdowns bringing with it food insecurity for the majority of urban dwellers, especially the poor. To build a more resilient food system in urban areas, urban agriculture can be a sustainable way to bridge the food gaps experienced. With rapid urbanization and population growth, the severity of environmental and social issues in Vellore, Tamil Nadu is increasing, threatening the health and safety of human and ecological populations. Increased production through urban farming can help alleviate some of these problems. This thesis is a study of the existing practice and future potential of urban farming in Vellore city. Space limitations, rapid urbanization, an influx of immigrants, makes Vellore an interesting context for the study of urban agriculture potentials. Survey analyses reveal that the vast majority of people living are interested in growing their own food, and have an interest in seeing a growth in the urban farming movement. Analysis is done to understand the public perceptions of potential strategies to accommodate various urban farming activities, as well as understandings about, reasoning of, and motives for growing food within the city limits. This thesis includes the study of the potential for incorporating urban farming into the existing urban fabric in Vellore based on availability of vacant, developing, or existing surface area to develop a sustainable urban food system which is inclusive, safe, resilient and diverse. It also includes recommendation for various policies & programmes to foster urban agriculture along with development control rules to regulate the various urban agriculture activity.

The goal of the study is to operationalize Urban Agriculture in the city through planning practices, which provides food security, environmental sustainability, alleviate poverty, and contribute to improved health & community resilience”.

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