



# **Urban Food Production: Putting Food First: Government and Communities Partnering to make Toronto a more food secure city**

**Debbie Field, Executive Director FoodShare Toronto, February 5, 2009**

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We live in a farm, but we  
literally have paved paradise  
and put up a parking lot....



# Part 1: Gardens

- In backyards;
- Allotments;
- Yards of Social Housing
- In City parks;
- On the sides of roads;
- In orphan spaces;
- In school yards;
- In public land.





We have a long and vibrant history of Community Gardening and Growing Food in the City

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Gardens grow more  
than vegetables...  
but when we start, the  
City, the school board,  
TCH, usually says  
No!!!!



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# Health benefits of growing fresh food

## Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating



# Gardens on roofs and balconies





Growing  
inside



Gardening can be an  
important part of income  
substitution

... and  
Import  
substitution



Winter melon

Bengali  
bottle  
neck  
gourd



Bitter  
melon

Bengali  
long  
squash





# Keeping Bees

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# Creating Edible landscapes





Planting Fruit Trees



**Corn on the banks of the  
Gardiner expressway...  
Tomatoes in the middle  
of University Avenue????**



# Keeping Small Livestock



# Part 2: Composting



**Composting:**  
successful midscale  
composting: even  
meet scraps without  
small or vermin on a  
residential street



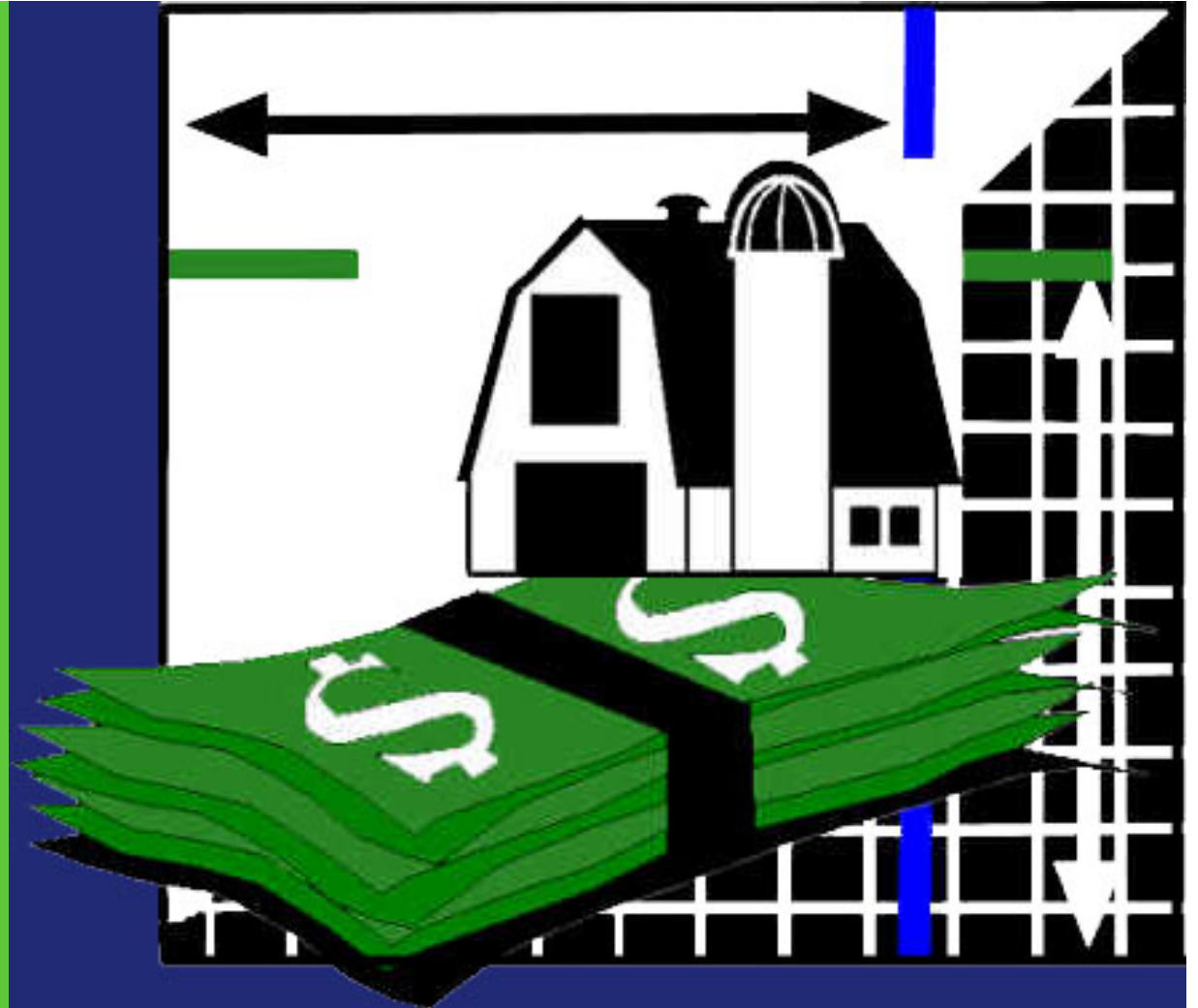


# Compost with worms



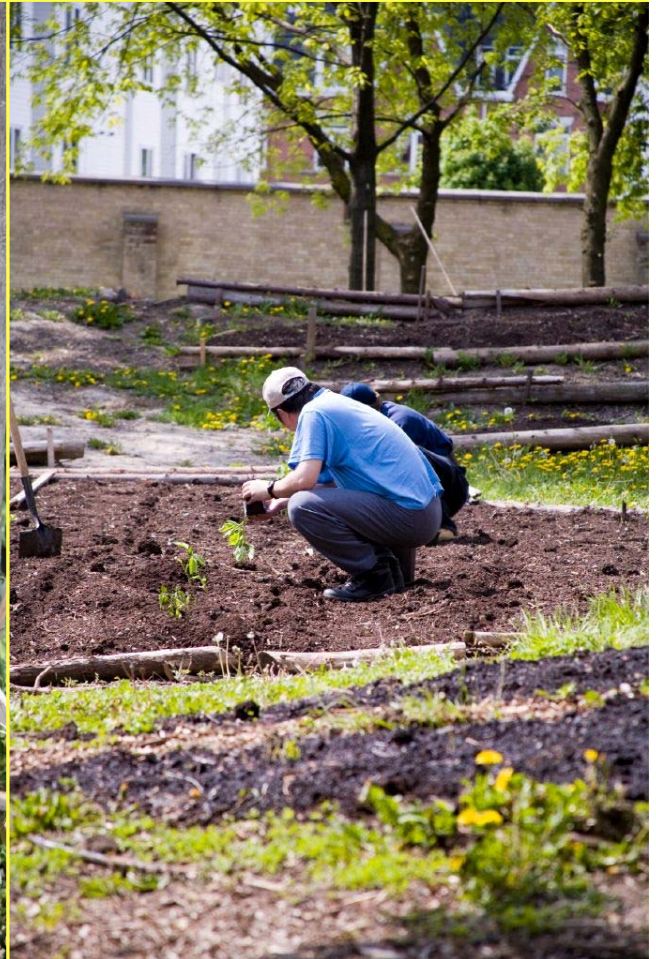
Composting in neighbourhoods

**Mid-Scale  
composting  
could replace  
the need for  
new digesters  
and help fund  
food  
community  
gardens and  
urban ag  
projects.**



# Part 3: Urban Farms:

From community gardening to urban farms on public land: hospitals, school yards.....



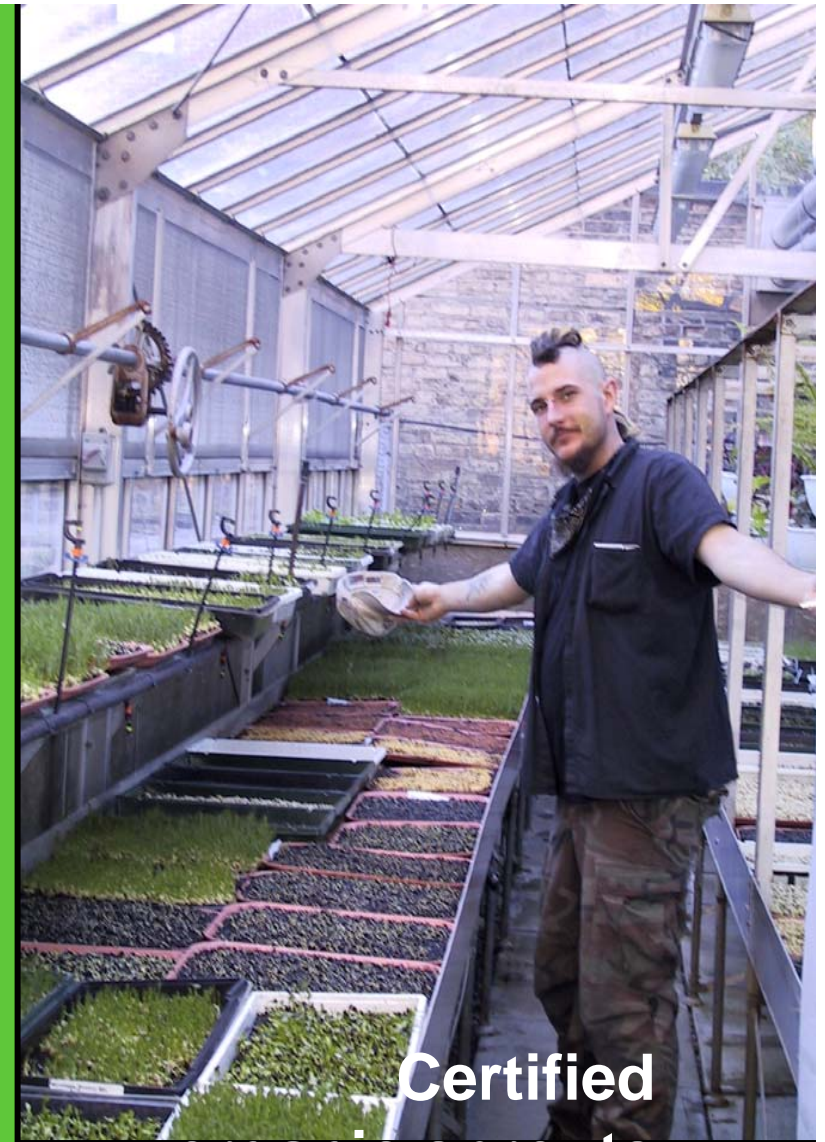


## Sunshine Garden at CAMH – only Garden that has a Market Stall

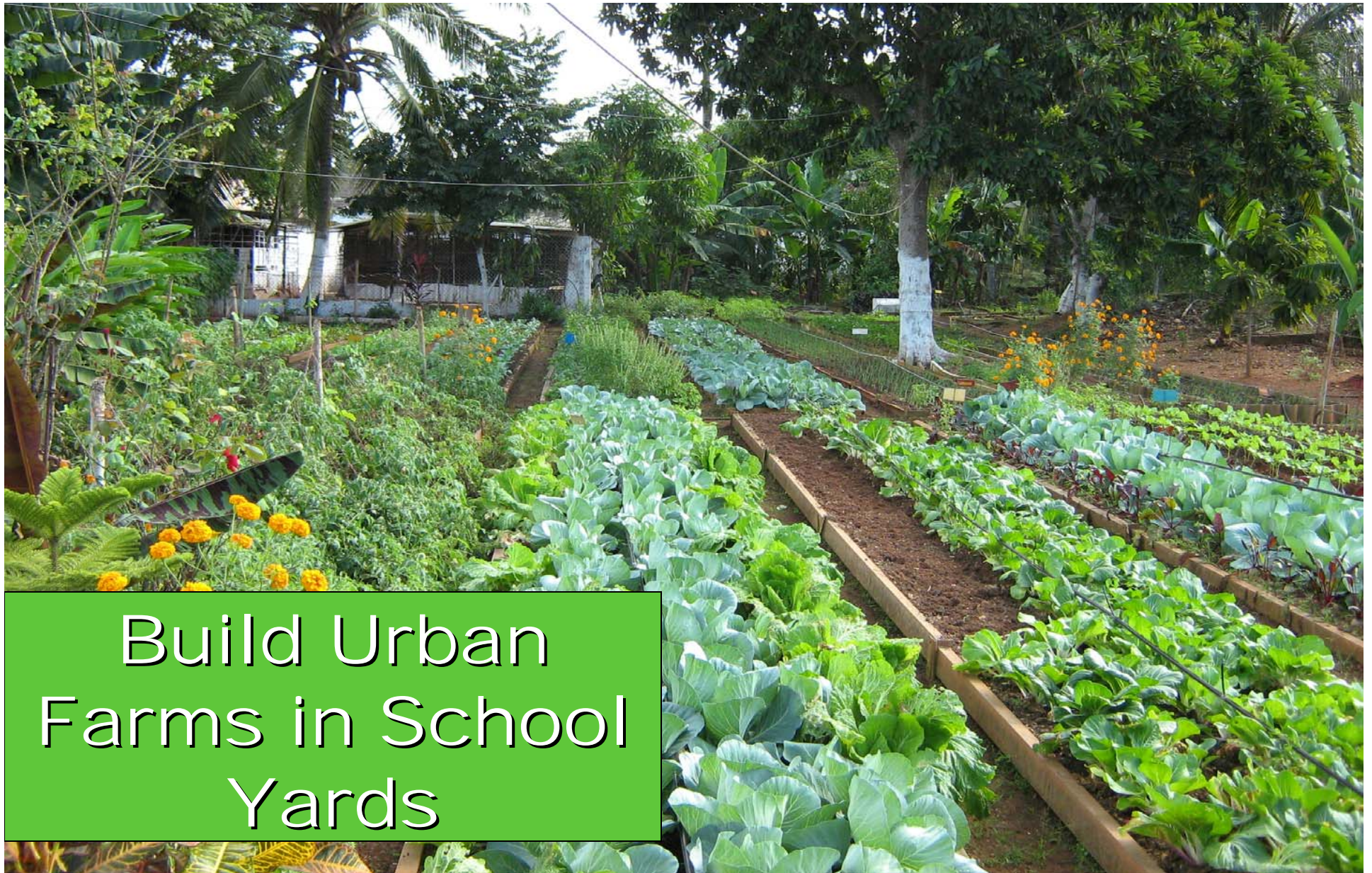
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# Greenhouse production at CAMH



**Certified  
organic sprouts**



# Build Urban Farms in School Yards

# Field to Table Schools





The Edible School Yard  
from Berkeley, California  
and the Annapolis Valley  
in Nova Scotia





**A new regulatory  
and problem  
solving process is  
needed, building on  
past City strengths**

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# TORONTO PARTNERS FOR STUDENT NUTRITION

Toronto Partners for  
Student Nutrition  
Steering Committee

Toronto  
District School  
Board

Catherine  
Parsonage

Toronto  
Catholic  
District School  
Board

Marilyn  
Rodrigues  
Wright

Toronto Public  
Health

Jan Housten  
Judie Wilkie

FoodShare

Debbie Field

Toronto  
Foundation for  
Student  
Success

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Angel  
Foundation for  
Learning

Sarah  
Camaleri

Student  
Nutrition  
Advisory  
Community  
Council

Stephanie  
Payne

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**The City saying  
YES!!! to  
Growing food  
everywhere!!**

**Breaking down institutional barriers by bringing together key departments in the City, the school boards, Toronto Community Housing and community organizations to work together to turn Toronto into a more food secure City, a community garden, edible landscape and urban farm.**

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