

- **No.75**
- **Capacity building in periurban area from Casablanca**

- Name: **Chahed**
 - First Name: **Ahmed**
 - E-Mail: ahmed.a.chahed@tu-berlin.de
 - Organisation: **TU-Berlin ZEWK/KUBUS**
-

- Authors: **Ahmed Chahed**

- **Abstract:**

- Morocco is affected through intensive streams of migration. Poverty and hopelessness force the people to leave their homes and migrate into large cities such as Casablanca. Other leave the city because they can not compete financially. They settle close to the city in areas like Ouled Ahmed, currently subject to a considerable pressure of transformation. Through this process villages like Ouled Ahmed become informal settlements. Because most of the inhabitants make their living resources in and from Casablanca no social networks develop in those kinds of areas. Our project “Urban Agriculture as an Integrative Factor of Climate-Optimised Urban Development, Casablanca” deals with the potentials of Urban Agriculture in future Mega Cities. The goal of the pilot project 2 is a dovetailing of agriculture with informal settlement. Particularly in peri-urban informal settlement the generation of productive, green and attractive spatial structures through Urban Agriculture offers possibilities to counteract urban sprawl and surface sealing in the region, and can support a better life for the people in informal settlements. Through cooperation with the local Stakeholders and citizens in the course of a transdisciplinary research project a Capacity building process in many levels was launched. We want to report of this experience in form of storytelling. We found people in Ouled Ahmed to know very little about agriculture in general. That’s why the Moroccan Pilot-Project-Committee chose twelve women and trained them in the field of biological agriculture. Hereby we discovered other side effects: The women became friends and built new relationships. They now choose to plan on their own and advance to new activities. For example three of these twelve women started to study the French language, three others expanded their knowledge in marketing. Moreover the women report that their lives now have a structured daily routine, they can follow. Through this process they discovered that they can accomplish more than they ever thought they could. Through reports and transfer of knowledge they now play the role of multipliers so that other women now attend these trainings as well. There even was a woman that managed to overcome her illness through this training or rather the social effects that were created. Whereas before she felt unmoored and isolated, she now finds herself integrated and welcome. Also through this development the landowner’s interests were awoken. They try to work with these women through cooperations and such.