# Question/Answer Webinar 5th May ”Fostering civic participation through agriculture education in urban schools”

-           **How do you water the plants n harvest n tend to the garden during the holidays? How can we maintain school gardens during holidays especially when the holidays are for one month?**

*We usually use drip irrigation we call it "drop by drop" watering system .) It is very cheap and available  and efficient.*

*Watering plants during holidays is biggest challenge and that is why I was talking about necessity for taking this initiative by school, not by outside NGO. But, in our practice we used to organize us or volunteers or even parents to visit school garden. We organize schedule and responsibilities so we shift every time. In our climate zone it is enough to visit garden every second or third day, so it is not a huge obligation for any of us.*

*The best solution probably would be if teachers and other school stuff start this initiative. Then, if you have school keeper/gardener, that could be his field. (In our school we have these guys, but they do not care what we are doing, they do not feel obligated to help or contribute :( )*

**-            Do schools use any sprays for insects not to go in?**

*At the moment we use some additional herbs in a garden for some basic protection. (exp> onion in combination with Tagetes (Marigold) protects garden from some sort of insects). You can learn more about that from permaculture gardening "good and bad neighbors" in a garden.*

*But, Usually we do not spray, we consider garden as a biological and botanical lab,  and we want to show all process to kids, so even invasion of insects is good learning example. But, in the moment when we will need more harvesting or we reach level to upgrade our garden toward creating some school meals we will use more organic or biological elements, for example: nettle water against fungi; combination of garlic, chilly against insects etc.*

**-            How many years has urban agri been carried out? especially in school. Has the habit been continued even when the students graduate?**

*In general and historical way, urban agriculture has a long story, almost one hundred years including city development between two world wars, or even schools and monasteries. We still do not have data what happens with gardening habits when students graduate. That depends of a lot of factors, but in our context, school gardens are good to bring agriculture, soil closer to the children and make them more aware and environmental citizens.*

**-            What things should be kept in mind while having an herbal garden?**

*Ecological requests such as water availability, enough sun, and how to organize harden space. It is good to start from a small pilot project, to see how everything works.  In human context initiators have to think about schedule and responsibilities and how to sustain in managing the concept. If kids are small, very important is safety in the garden.  Finally, Most important thing - garden should be fun and useful for learning.*

**-            Where can I get good information on setting up hydroponics in school? Can this be done cheaply or using recycling containers?**

*It could be done cheaply, but with a lot of work. Depends form your location, but I think information about this system are available everywhere.*