





Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research

## "Zero-acreage farming (ZFarming)"

Potentials of roofs, facades and set-aside buildings for urban food production

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#### Outline

- Introduction
  - Definition
  - Background
- Application of a participatory approach (ROIR)
- Social acceptance and potential conflicts



### Urban agriculture- Background





#### Challenges of the present agricultural food production

- By 2030, the majority of the rising world population will live in cities (United Nations 2004)
- Cities account for more than 70 % of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Urban growth dynamics have posed questions towards sustainable food production, processing, transport and consumption



Credit: http://en.mercopress.com; Russ Kinne (Comstock); Peter Michael Beierl



#### Zero acreage farming (ZFarming)

- Densely build up areas: space confined growing
- ZFarming ="Zero acreage farming" describes the non-use of farmland
- Includes all possible types of urban agriculture in and on buildings
- Such production might include the installation of rooftop gardens, rooftop greenhouses and vertical farms, as well as further innovative forms such as edible green walls or indoor factories.
- Differentiates the building- integrated forms of urban agriculture from those in parks, gardens, urban wastelands...

Definition from: Specht, K. et al. (2014) **Urban agriculture of the future: an overview of sustainability aspects of food production in and on buildings.** Agriculture and Human Values 31, 1, 33-51.



# Technological innovation and visions of food production - Rooftop greenhouses



Gotham Greens, N.Y. (USA), Eli Zabar



### Rooftop gardens



Credits: Regine Berges, Axel Dierich



Eagle Street rooftop farm



#### Vertical greenhouses

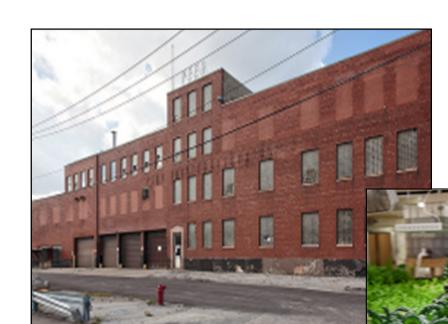


Credit: Knafo Klimor Architects and Town Planners

AgroHouse Concept, Knafo Klimor Architects and Town Planners



### Indoor urban factory



Credit: www.plantchicago.com





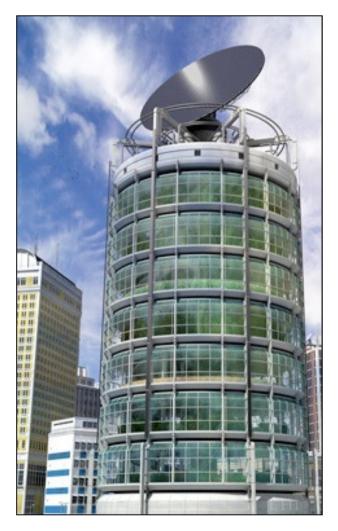
### Facade/ Balkony







# Vertical Farm







Living Skyscraper Blake Kurasek

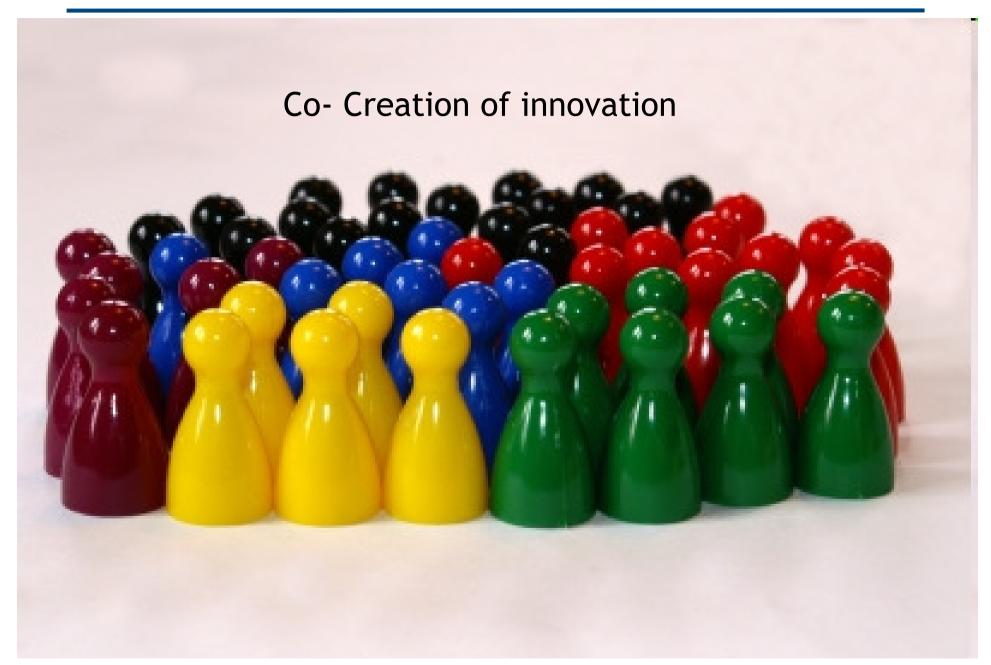
Living Tower SOA Architects

Circular Vertical Farm Chris Jacobs

Bildnachweis: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/15/science/15farm.html Bildnachweis: http://blakekurasek.com/thelivingskyscraper.html



### Participatory process (ROIR)



#### Participatory process (ROIR)

I. Selection of regional experts



II. Selection of the specific innovation



III. Development of the innovation concept



IV. Roadmap for implementation



I. Selection of regional experts

Activists & projects

Associations & unions

Planning & construction

**ZFarming** 

Policy & administration

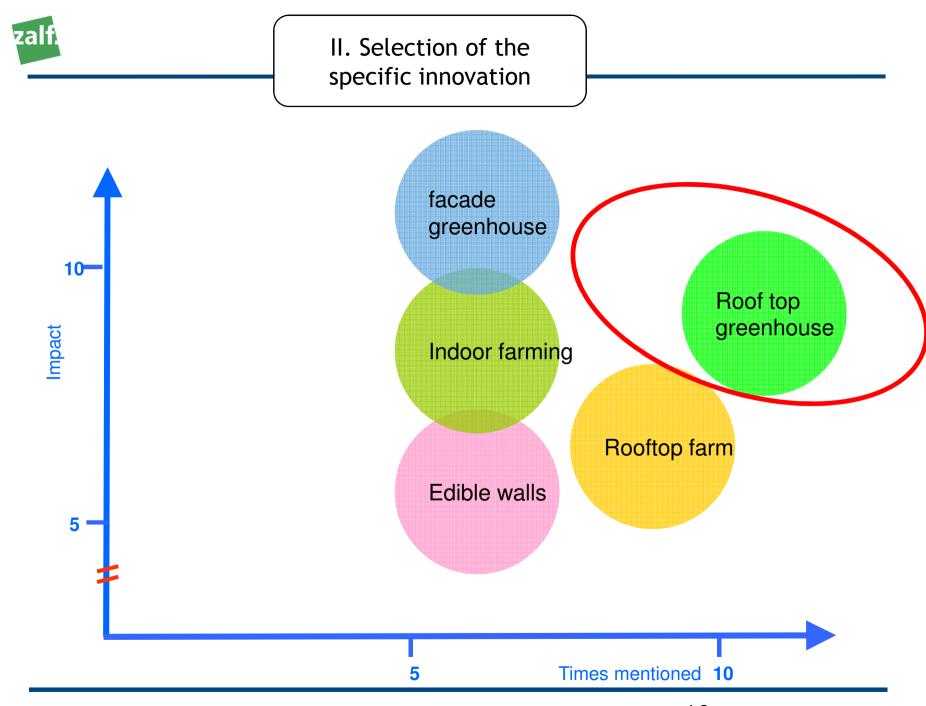
Research

Sale & distribution

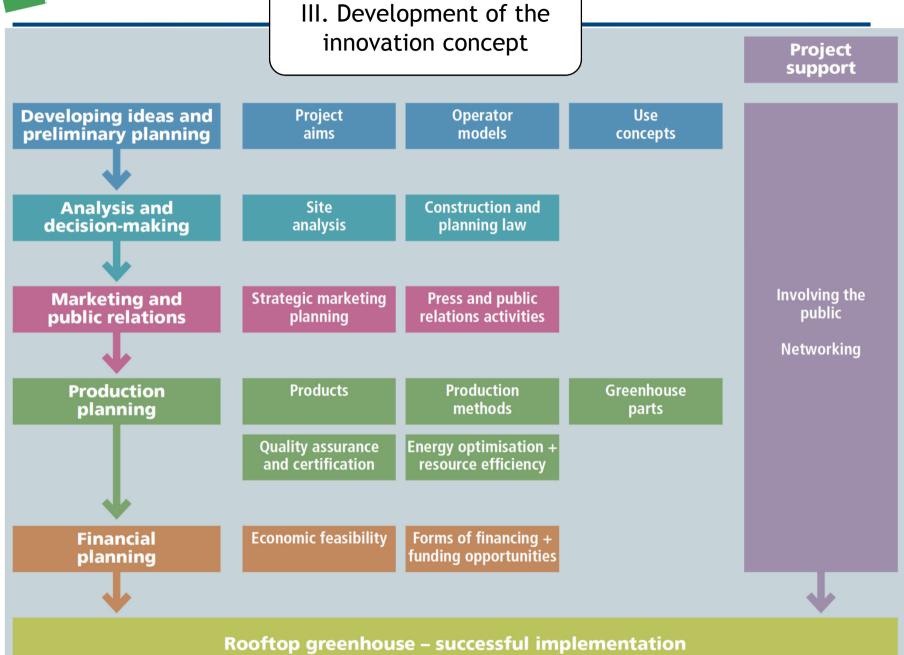


### Urban agriculture of the future - Berlin













GEFÖRDERT VOM







#### Social acceptance

- 2 major research studies on perception and acceptance
- First: Key stakeholders
- Second: General public (Berlin & Bologna)
- Perceived benefits (e.g. improved consumer awareness, education, opportunities for resource savings, new business models, repurposing of abandoned buildings etc.)
- Perceived risks (e.g. growing techniques are considered "unnatural", health risks (due to urban pollutants), conflicts with images of traditional agriculture, rejection of animal production, projects being too expensive

#### On POTENTIAL BENEFITS AND LIMITATIONS

Specht, K. et al. (2014) **Urban agriculture of the future: an overview of sustainability aspects of food production in and on buildings**. Agriculture and Human Values 31, 1, 33-51.

#### On the PARTICIPATORY PROCESS

Specht, K., Zoll, F. & Siebert, R. (2016) Application and evaluation of a participatory "open innovation" approach (ROIR): the case of introducing zero-acreage farming in Berlin. Landscape and Urban Planning 151, 45-54.

#### On PERCEIVED RISKS AND PERCEPTIONS

Specht, K. & Sanyé-Mengual, E. (2017) **Risks in urban rooftop agriculture: Assessing stakeholders' perceptions to ensure efficient policy-making.** Environmental Science & Policy 69, 13-21.

Specht, K. et al. (2016) **Socially acceptable urban agriculture businesses**. Agronomy for Sustainable Development 36, 1, Article: 17.



#### Thank You for Your Attention!

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#### Bild- und Quellennachweise:

S. 1, 22 (von li nach re): S. Thomaier, A. Dierich, A. Dierich, R. Berges)

S.3: R. Berges

S. 18: Titelblatt Freisinger et al. (2015) There's something growing on the roof. Bild: Copyright Laboratoire d'urbanisme Agricole, <u>www.lua-paris.com</u>

