

Rooftop Republic

1. How is urban farming shaping our community?

There are many benefits to promoting urban farming at an environmental, social, economic and health levels.

2. Do you have easily access market for urban farm products?

If by "urban farm products" you mean vegetables, please note that we do not sell our harvests to the open market. Instead, our clients decide what they do with their harvests. Some donate it to local food banks, others share it amongst their stakeholders (students, teachers, company employees, others) others organise farm to table events, etc.

If you referring to the sales of our three key services -1) setting up urban farms, 2) maintaining urban farms, 3) organising all kinds of activities and events around urban farming, food and sustainable lifestyle-, we do have access to a wide range of clients from schools to corporates, restaurants, hotels home owners and government agencies.

Overall, we've seen a growing interest in urban farming in Hong Kong over the last few years. This increasing demand has been also as a result of recent food safety issues in the region, which are leading Hong Kongers to learn more about their food and demand for local and organic food.

3. Does urban farming require machines/technology?

While urban farming can be practised with little technology, there are a number of new technologies that are starting to play a critical role in agriculture that can be applied to urban farming. These technologies for example can help to get real time data on the performance of our farms and allow us to stay connected with our urban farming communities.

4. What challenges do you face in urban farming?

Urban farming receives very little support from the government. Agriculture is often overlooked by the government given its limited economic weight in the overall economy (less than 0.1% of the GDP!). Much more needs to be done to incentivise and support local farmers to build a strong and sustainable food industry and to reduce the amount of food the city has to fly in from all across the world to feed itself (more than 90% of the food we consume is imported!).

5. How do you control weeds and pest in a garden in the city?

Besides, pulling them out when they appear, we control weeds by using biodegradable 'mulches' instead of weedkillers, eg newspaper with leaf mould or horse manure.

We work to reduce pest and diseases attack by growing strong, resilient plants and practising good garden hygiene. We also encourage natural predators and use barriers, traps and scarers. When infested with pests, we use several natural and organic methods to remove them (ie. spraying aphids with a solution of garlic and water)

6. How many times can you plant and harvest in a year?

Rooftop Republic

Different plants have different growing cycles so it all depends. While you can harvest a radish within 25-60 days, a cauliflower can take up to 120 days.

Generally speaking we can do up to 4-5 harvest per year.