

## *Participation of the allotment gardeners in the FEW-Meter Project*

What is it about?  
Within the framework of the research project “FEW-Meter” (Food, Energy, Water) studies are being carried out in Germany as well as in France, Great-Britain, Poland and the USA to



investigate the efficiency of “Urban agriculture”. Urban farming is a generic term for food production in urban areas. Worldwide the small-scale cultivation of fruit and vegetables in cities is increasing.

Urban agriculture can take many different forms:

Community gardens are included in New York City and London, but also roof farms, aquaculture, kitchen gardens and therapy gardens are conquering the cities. Allotment gardens have been an established feature in many European cities for more than a century. This development is strongly pronounced in Germany and Poland.

Allotment gardens have always been places of self-sufficiency, which have been experiencing a renaissance since the turn of the century. Allotment gardens are part of the social and ecological network of a city they are in many ways part of the good climate in the urban residential areas and are places of nature experience. Thus it cannot be denied that allotment gardens are also part of urban agriculture.

How efficient and sustainable is urban farming?

What quantities are harvested all year round?

How much water and energy are used?

Questions over questions to which the researchers want to find reliable answers.

However, biodiversity, the gardening experience, the use of the harvested products, fertilisation and plant protection are also topics that are being investigated.

In cooperation with the researchers from ILS (Institute for regional and urban development research) and the regional allotment gardeners’ federation

allotment gardeners from NRW (North Rhine-Westphalia) will record their harvested products in 2019 and 2020 and document their horticultural and ecological activities. They will be supported and advised on site by our garden expert and lecturer at the Stephan Grote State school in Münster.

The researchers Runrid Fox-Kämper and Kathrin Specht from the ILS informed about the challenging and exciting project during the opening workshop on November 10<sup>th</sup> 2018 at the State school.

It is great that 12 allotment gardeners from Bochum, Dortmund, Münster, Lünen and Oelde take part in this project.



The team of researchers of the ILS presents the „FEW-Meter“ project.  
From left to right Marco Dobrodolac, Dr. rer. agr. Kathrin Specht, Dipl.-Ing. Runrid Fox-Kämper



