The city’s surrounding municipalities supply most of its produce. This creates problems for the city around food transport emissions, waste management, and inaccessible fresh produce.

HOW IT WORKS

Cultiva Floripa aims to strengthen local and sustainable agricultural practices, increase access to healthy food, and reduce emissions and food waste, while creating more green spaces and economic opportunities. It was created through a city decree and is led by a team of several city departments.

The city government provides agricultural training to communities in partnership with the Rede Semear agroecology network and the Centre for the Study and Promotion of Group Agriculture, an organisation founded by small-scale farmers. Within its first year, the network completed over 50 workshops.

The city created retail spaces such as fairs for small producers to sell directly to the public. They also support local producers through advice on public policies such as the PAA (National Food Acquisition Programme) and PRONAF (National Family Agriculture Programme).

A partnership with CAIXA bank’s Socio-Environmental Fund is funding additional city-wide composting services, including homemade vermicompost, decentralised community composting yards, and city-managed composting in apartment blocks.

LESSONS

Cities can turn commitments on sustainable agricultural practices into workable programmes. Identifying priority intervention areas and partners is important. Cultiva Floripa’s focus on training and creating clear economic opportunities was key, as was working with organisations outside of government.

Similar programmes can have positive knock-on climate benefits and cities can play a critical enabling role in the process. For example, more urban gardens and composting leads to increased urban greening and healthy food access.