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# Care for Our Common Home

## RNDM News

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide news of RNDM involvement in actions and activities related to our ministry of Caring for Our Common Home.

### *Good news story from Bangladesh:* **The Environmental Benefits of Rooftop Gardening**

The Rooftop garden plays an important role in the mental well-being of the gardeners as well as in amelioration of the physical environment. The production of fresh fruits and vegetables of the rooftop garden can increase the nutritional status of household members of the urban citizens and it will make a positive contribution to the environment. Rooftop gardening can give health security to produce organic fruits and vegetables and ensure food security. In **Dhaka, Bangladesh** one of the world's fastest growing mega cities, open and cultivable land has been converted to built-up areas indiscriminately and thus agricultural land has decreased at an alarming rate. Implementing rooftop gardening can be a possible solution to reduce the food supply problems, make urban living more self-sufficient and make fresh vegetables more accessible to urban individuals.



Having green spaces in cities is essential for reducing air pollution and promoting healthy communities. The air temperature in cities is warmer than in nearby rural areas, because concrete absorbs more solar radiation than plants and trees. And since concrete is more abundant than greenery in cities, it increases the local air temperature. Green roofs are a sustainable alternative to cover a concrete rooftop with vegetation.

As a result, rooftop gardens are an effective way to lower urban temperatures and improve air quality by capturing harmful gases and particulate matter in the air and reduce air pollution and remove greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere.

A rooftop garden not only makes the urban environment look healthier but also creates a habitat for wildlife. The urban growth destroys the homes of many species. Rooftop gardens can create new habitats for birds and insect pollinators, like crows, sparrows, magpie-robin, Dove Bird, Shalik, bees, butterflies and provide native species with a source of food and they can even act as a stopover for migrating birds. Our Sisters in urban communities are growing various vegetables such as, tomatoes, brinjal, spinach, chilies, gourds, beans, sweet pumpkins, water pumpkins, mint, onion, ginger are the most common vegetable items which were grown on rooftop along with dragon fruit and lemons.

That's why rooftop gardens are a brilliant solution to increase biodiversity in the urban environment and also a great way to reduce air pollution, fight climate change, and help the environment.



*Well done, Sisters!*