EcoUrbia Network

# benefits of community farms

## Social

- Community & neighbourhood building & vitality
- Better understanding of our food system
- Greater local control
- Supports food security initiatives & self-reliance
- Therapeutic & recreational opportunities
- Enhanced collaboration between government & agencies
- Outdoor venue for community events
- Multigenerational learning opportunities
- Different cultures, different food
- Improves nutritional value of our food
- Encourages healthy eating
- Disabled accessible pathways

## Environmental

- Reduced food miles & GHG reductions (from transportation & refrigeration)
- Minimize or eliminate packaging & its waste
- Composting & organic waste management
- Increased crop diversity & adaptive capacity
- Creation of microclimate & habitat creation
- Attracts beneficial insects
- Elimination of chemical fertilizers & pesticides
- Creation of agricultural land base
- Reduced water consumption through harvesting
- Reduced reliance on non-renewable energy

## Economic

- Creates local jobs, meaningful work
- Microenterprises (compost, earthworms, seeds)
- Community farmer's markets
- Community supported agriculture (CSA)
- Small plot intensive (SPIN) farming methods
- Reduce costs from farmer to consumer
- Walking index indicator, increased property value
- Sale of excess energy production