Public food trees' usage and perception, and their potential for participatory edible cities: A case-study in Birjand, Iran

Supplementary Information

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1. Interview guides

1.1. Visitors

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this interview is to gain a better understanding of the socio-environmental impacts of semi-public urban orchards. You have been selected to this interview because as a resident of the city of Birjand your views and experiences will help us to improve this understanding. Your participation in this research is subject to a process and understanding of informed consent, and your participation is voluntary. With your permission, audio of this interview will be recorded. All files, recordings, transcripts, and identifiable data will be kept confidential. This interview is expected to last between 30 and 45 minutes.

CURRENT ATTACHMENT TO THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE

-Where do you live?
-Since when do you live there?
-What do you like about living here?
-What do you dislike?
-What does this place mean to you, how do you define it?
-How do you feel about this place? (To probe further if necessary) Would you be sad if you had to leave?

EXPERIENCE AND CULTURE AROUND FRUIT TREES AND FOOD FORAGING EXPERIENCE

-Do you ever pick fruits elsewhere?
-Did you have any experiences with fruit trees as a child? If yes, which?
-Do you harvest wild foods (mushrooms, hunting, fishing…)? Which, where and how?
-Do you engage in voluntary activities in your community, and if so, which ones? Why do you do this? Do you enjoy it?

-Did you ever talk and become acquainted with other people because of the fruit trees? (Probe in detail when, how, why. This could have happened even if they do not pick fruits, e.g., they started talking to someone who was picking fruits or maintaining the tree)
-Did you learn anything about food or food growing from your experiences with the fruit trees in this garden? For example, getting to know what some specific fruit trees look like, or how they should be cultivated?

USAGE AND PERCEPTION OF THE TWO GREEN SPACES: AKBARIEH GARDEN AND TOHID PARK

-So, you have visited both the Tohid park and the Akbariyeh garden.
-When do you visit them, and since when *(here and below, make sure that they specify differences)*?
-With whom do you visit them?
-What are your purposes for visiting them, are they different, or the same?
-Could you tell me, which of the two you prefer and why (*try to get at least four reasons)*?
-Can you tell me what are for you the three most important similarities and three most important differences between them?
-So, you prefer *(preferred place)*. Still, are there things you would like to see changed there, if so, which ones?

FRUIT TREE IMPACTS ON THE PERCEPTION OF THE GREEN SPACES

for both places together – ask participant to specify which he is referring to and to discuss differences if any.
-In which of the two places, garden or park, have you noticed the presence of fruit trees?
-Which types of fruit trees do you remember seeing, in both places?
-What do you particularly like about those fruit trees?
-What do you particularly dislike about them?
-What do you think is the reason why these fruit trees have been planted?
-Do you think that this was a good idea? Why or why not?
-If the fruit trees all suddenly died due to disease, what would you feel?
-Would that affect your interest in this park/garden, the frequency of your visits?
-Would that affect your perception of your city?
-Would that affect your feelings for your city?
-If the city administration decided to remove the fruit trees because they require too much work for maintenance, what would you think? Would that affect your perception of the city administration?

EXPERIENCE AND ATTITUDE IN FRUIT HARVESTING IN THE TWO GREEN SPACES

-Did you sometimes pick and eat the fruits, if so in what circumstances and how frequently? *(they should clearly specify usage in each place)*

If yes:
-How did you feel and what did you think then?
-(Probe further about social interactions and gains in food knowledge on these occasions, if any – are they social interactions that the person could not have had in other circumstances?
-Did you sometimes go to the garden specifically to pick up fruits with other people, or do you intend to do it someday? If so, with whom and when?

If no:
-Why not?

(If there differences in fruit consumption in the two places:)
-Why have you consumed more fruits in place X than Y?
(Probe further on factors that could have caused these differences, if necessary:)
-Management
-Design (site layout, design, furniture, accessibility, circulation system, garden visibility, plant diversity, etc.)
-Reasons for visit
-Social context of visits

(If the participant is unaware of the presence of some fruit trees, explain to them everything that is available, then ask:)
-Why do you think you have not noticed these fruit trees before?
-Now that you know about those trees, how likely is it that you will pick and eat their fruits in the future, why or why not?
If likely:
-Would you ever consider going to pick the fruits with other people, if so with whom and when?

PERCEPTION OF PUBLIC FRUIT TREES
-Do you think the city of Birjand should plant fruit trees in other park or public areas of the city? Why, why not?

INTEREST IN PARTICIPATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF FRUIT TREES
-If the city implemented programs and activities that would allow you to participate in the maintenance or harvesting of the fruit trees, would you be interested in participating? Why or why not?
-In which of the two places, Tohid park or Akbariyeh garden, would you be more interested in participating in such activities? Why?

ATTITUDES TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH AND FOOD ISSUES
Now I will ask you three last questions about your consumer preferences.
-When you buy your groceries, what factors help you chose your products?
-Are you at all concerned about pesticides, herbicides, or where the food comes from?
-When you buy your clothes, what factors help you chose?
-When you buy your cleaning products, what factors help you chose?

1.2. Administrators

INTRODUCTION
The purpose of this interview is to gain a better understanding of the socio-environmental impacts of semi-public urban orchards. You have been selected to this interview because as a garden administration member of the Cultural Heritage Office of the city of Birjand, your views and experiences will help us to improve this understanding.
Your participation in this research is subject to a process and understanding of informed consent, and your participation is voluntary. With your permission, audio of this interview will be recorded. All files, recordings, transcripts, and identifiable data will be kept confidential. This interview is expected to last about 45 minutes.

BACKGROUND INFO
-What do you know about the history of the Birjand garden (/Tohid Park)? What role have you played in it?

-What is your current role/responsibility in the garden/park?
-What do you think are the benefits of this garden for the visitors? For the community? For the country? *(Perception of impacts, probing before mentioning the fruit trees)*

[*If not covered:*]
-Can you tell me the history of the edible landscape in this garden?
-Did or do you play a particular role in the management of this edible landscape?

PERCEPTION OF IMPACTS
-What do you think about the edible landscape, is it a good or a bad thing?
-Why has this edible landscape component in the garden been maintained, and not been replaced for instance with purely ornamental plants?
-What do you hope the impacts of this project to be in the short term and the long term?

[*If not covered:*]
Fruit consumption
-To your knowledge, are the edible fruits of this garden consumed? By whom? How much does each of these groups consume?
-What are the main problems of management and consumption of the fruits from the perspective of administration?
-[*If not covered:*] Are you aware of conflicts over harvest between people or groups (e.g., garden administration members or garden workers and the garden visitors)?
-What is the garden administration's plan for the consumption of fruits from the garden in the future?

Garden visitation
-Do you think that the edible landscape of this garden has an impact on the number of visitors to the garden?

Sustainability
-Do you think that the edible landscape of this garden could have an impact on environmental sustainability, if so how? [*If not covered:*] For example, if this allows people to reduce their buying of fruits that have been transported, or if it sensitizes people to agricultural sustainability.

Social impacts
-Do you think that the edible landscape of this garden could have an impact on the interactions between the people in the community? If so, how?
-Do you think that the edible landscape of this garden could have an impact on the interactions between the visitors and the garden administration?

-Are you happy with how the garden and its edible landscape are doing so far?
-What would make you consider the management of the gardensuccessful? The garden?

Funding
-How does the cultural heritage office currently fund this project? *[Make sure to separate various budget allocations (trees, grass, benches, picnic tables etc.)]*
-Do you think that the office in charge could and should make changes to the way the project is funded?

Participation
-Currently, who participates in the decision making and management of the fruit trees?
-Currently, who participates in the planting and maintenance of the fruit trees?
-Would you involve (or under which circumstances) the residents of Birjand as volunteers in the planting and maintenance of the fruit trees?
-Does the edible landscape of this garden suffer from a lack of resources such as human or monetary or other resources for the maintenance of the trees? (if yes: How do you think that the office in charge should overcome this?

[If not covered:]
-In some cities, programs have been implemented in which residents are trained to maintain public trees or public fruit trees, such as in New York, Vancouver, or Seattle. Do you think that the administration of the Birjand garden should develop similar programs, or encourage their development by other entities?
-What about programs for the harvest of the fruits?

Communication
-What has the garden administration done to raise awareness of the fruit trees among the visitors?
-In your opinion, to what extent are visitors aware of the presence of the fruit trees?
-Are you happy with this level of knowledge?
-What do you think is the level of knowledge among the visitors concerning the origin and purpose of the edible landscape in Persian gardens?
-Are you happy with this level of knowledge?
[If not covered:]
-Do you think that the visitors know that they are allowed to eat the fruits?

Conclusion
-Are there any other thoughts or aspects that you wish to talk about?

1.3. Staff

INTRODUCTION
The purpose of this interview is to gain a better understanding of the social and environmental impacts of semi-public urban orchards. You have been selected to this interview because as a garden worker, your views and experiences will help us to improve this understanding.
Your participation in this research is subject to a process and understanding of informed consent, and your participation is voluntary. With your permission, audio of this interview will be recorded. All files, recordings, transcripts, and identifiable data will be kept confidential. This interview is expected to last about 45 minutes.

QUESTIONS

-What is your current role/responsibility in the orchard (gardener, guard, and servant)?
- How many years have you been working in this garden?
- What do you enjoy about working here? What do you enjoy less?
- I suppose you have seen the productive trees in this garden. Are there some things that you like about them, or dislike?

- Would you like to see more productive fruits in the garden, or less? Why?
- Has the garden management allowed you to use garden products?
- Do you harvest and consume the fruit from these trees? How much?
- Do you sometimes bring some fruits outside of the garden to give them to friends or relatives?
- Are there some fruits that you prefer over others? If so which ones, and why?
- Can you tell me the history of the edible landscaping in this garden, and the role you have played in it?
- Which part of the garden do visitors usually choose to visit: Architectural monuments, the decorative landscape or the agricultural landscape?
- What positive or negative impacts has the edible landscape had on the visitors during the years you have served in this garden?
- What positive or negative impacts have visitors had on the edible landscape of this garden?
- Do you have any special memories of this relationship?
- Do you think that people and visitors should be free to pick garden fruits?
    - If yes: Why do you think such a right must be given to the visitors?
    - If not: Why do you think such a right must not be given to the visitors?

2. Code book

Code Groups	**Code (* indicates inductive code)**
Background	*history with farming/gardening_childhood
Background	*volunteering
Background	*history with fruit trees_adult
Background	*history with farming/gardening_adult
Background	*history with wild foods
Background	*history with fruit trees_childhood
Buying habits	*buying_clothes
Buying habits	*buying_food
Buying habits	*buying_organicfood
Buying habits	*buying_cleaning products
Fruit trees_Disliked	fruit trees_TP pomegranates disliked
Fruit trees_Disliked	fruit trees_nothing disliked
Fruit trees_Disliked	fruit trees_dislike public

Fruit trees_Disliked	fruit_ease of harvesting
Fruit trees_Disliked	fruit_Akbarieh fruit taken by admin
Fruit trees_Disliked	importance of culture of care
Fruit trees_Disliked	fruit_ease of eating
Fruit trees_Disliked	*bought foods_concern for chemicals
Fruit trees_Disliked	fruit trees_concern phytochemicals
Fruit trees_Disliked	fruit_causing dirtiness
Fruit trees_Disliked	fruit trees_bitter olive disliked
Fruit trees_Disliked FruitTrees_Opinion Public Fruit Trees	fruit trees_pollution
Fruit trees_Disliked FruitTrees_Opinion Public Fruit Trees	fruit trees_maintenance
Fruit trees_Feelings	fruit trees_attachment because planted it myself
Fruit trees_Feelings	fruit trees_alive
Fruit trees_Feelings	*fruit trees_feelings if removed
Fruit trees_Feelings	*fruit trees_feelings when harvesting
Fruit trees_Feelings	*fruit trees_feelings if died
Fruit trees_Participation Interest	*fruit trees_participation_where
Fruit trees_Participation Interest	*fruit trees_participation_interest
FruitTrees_Access	fruit trees_ease of access
FruitTrees_Access	*fruit trees_belief about accessibilty
FruitTrees_Access	ideas about public usage
FruitTrees_Access FruitTrees_Opinion Public Fruit Trees	*fruit trees_opinion about free access
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees_seasons
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees needed for children
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees bring diversity
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees_beauty
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees give fruit

FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees bring greenery
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit_picked versus bought
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees bring liveliness
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees bring happiness, fun, good feelings, energy, relaxation
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees bring social interaction
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees versus non fruit trees
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees bring shade
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees_improve soil
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees_sitting under
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees bring belonging
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit_gift
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit_benefits of rarity
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees bring memories
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees bring protection from rain
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit_good for people in need
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees_smell
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees can be used
FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees draw people's attention
FruitTrees_Liked	improving the urban space
FruitTrees_Liked FruitTrees_Opinion Public Fruit Trees	fruit trees_bring income
FruitTrees_Opinion Public Fruit Trees	*fruit trees_opinion cities planting on public spaces
FruitTrees_Opinion Public Fruit Trees	fruit trees_not on boulevards
FruitTrees_Opinion Public Fruit Trees	fruit tree_should fit climate
FruitTrees_Usage	fruit_Iranian culture
FruitTrees_Usage	*species noticed
FruitTrees_Usage	fruit_reasons not picking

FruitTrees_Usage	fruit_must be washed
FruitTrees_Usage	*fruit trees_usage
Impacts	*impacts_food knowledge
Impacts	*impacts_social capital
Impacts	*park_fruit trees effect on visiting
Impacts FruitTrees_Opinion Public Fruit Trees	*fruit trees and city identity, feelings
Nature	nature_interesting, teacher
Nature	house should have a yard
Nature	nature_connection to
Nature FruitTrees_Liked	fruit trees bring connection with nature
Park perception and usage	green space_ease of access
Park perception and usage	fruit trees should fit the style
Park perception and usage	*park_disliked
Park perception and usage	*parks_similarities
Park perception and usage	park_special atmosphere
Park perception and usage	park_play area for children
Park perception and usage	park_maintenance is important
Park perception and usage	*parks_differences
Park perception and usage	park_feelings
Park perception and usage	park_traffic
Park perception and usage	park_architecture, history
Park perception and usage	*park_prefered
Park perception and usage	*park_would like changed
Park perception and usage	*park_liked
Park perception and usage	park_diversity
Park perception and usage	*park_usage

Park perception and usage FruitTrees_Liked	green space improves micro-climate,cleans air
Park perception and usage Nature	green space is appreciated
Place attachment	*place_attachment
Place attachment	*place_liked
Place attachment	*place_disliked
Place attachment	memories
Social Interactions	social interaction_importance
Social Interactions	knowing neighbors well
Tree kinds	blackberry
Tree kinds	mulberries
Tree kinds	jujube
Tree kinds	pomegranate trees
Tree kinds FruitTrees_Liked	pine trees
Which park	*Tohid
Which park	*Akbarieh

3. Summary of the views of visitor participants

Reasons for picking	**Reasons for not picking**
-Tasty fruit -Experience of eating picked fruit -Use fruit as gift -Use fruit for decoration -Feeling of receiving a gift -Participating in social event -Teaching children about biology	-Concern for phytochemicals -Concern for urban contaminants -Not possible to wash the fruit on the spot -No need (have their own trees) -Socially not acceptable to pick fruit without permission
Appreciated features	**Disliked features**
sensory pleasures: -beauty of the tree, flowers, fruits, colors -bringing visual and emotional variety in space and time to the landscape -smell from flowers or fruit -taste of picked fruit *experiential pleasures:*	-berry (mulberries and blackberries) or jujube trees: their pests can infect other trees, fallen and unpicked fruit cause a mess and attract insects. -Tohid Park's pomegranate trees: fruit is small and dry; several trees have died in the past years and this brings

-sitting at the base of the tree, in its shade, or under its blossom or fruit -picking fruit -eating picked fruit (due to taste but also the concept, as opposed to store-bought) -enhancing the feel of the seasons -enhancing the feel of nature -making the urban space more interesting in terms of natural and social phenomena *feelings, thoughts, memories:* -making people feel good -providing feelings of hope, fertility, freshness, prosperity -creating and reminiscing personal memories -learning about food *social pleasures/ benefits:* -creating positive social events (harvests) -using the fruit as gifts -teaching tool: teaching about art (light and color), teaching about plants -vector of cultural identity and memory	sadness; some people litter the park with their peels after eating them.
Reasons for attachment	**Reasons for no attachment**
Functional -Loss of appreciated features Emotional -Loss of a special living being	-Fruit trees seen only as producers of goods
Reasons for agreeing with public fruit trees	**Reasons for disagreeing with public fruit trees**
Urban design: -relieving from the dryness and monotony of the asphalt and boulevards -improving green spaces (adding services to them) -smart design (trees require maintenance so they might as well provide more services, i.e. food) -reinforce or develop the city identity (if a specific species is planted in sufficient number to become emblematic of the city). Society: -encouraging people, including children, to go to the park more and to look at their surroundings more -providing people a good feeling of "productivity" -providing a means for people to gain experience and children to get in contact with agriculture and outdoors activities -bringing social vitality to public spaces ("The city makes sense with its people. If we are all supposed to be safe inside our apartments, that's worthless." (Baraz)) Conditions needed: -careful selection of the type of species and the location. For instance, fruit trees should not be planted in places where harvesting could bother others, nor on the street sides as this may cause accidents (for instance children stopping on the road to pick fruit may get hit by a car); species producing berries should be planted in places where the dirt produced by fallen fruit would be manageable or acceptable.	-Dirtiness caused in public parks -People damage trees while picking fruit

-educating people such that the detrimental behaviors sometimes observed are minimized: vandalism (pulling and breaking branches while harvesting, stealing young trees), and overharvesting or picking of unripe fruit.	
Reasons for wanting to participate in project	**Reasons for not wanting to participate in project**
-Project is important for the city and residents	-Project is not a good idea

4. Additional quotations

3.1.1. Experience and culture around fruit trees

> In the fruit season, ... fruit is often the reason for gathering .... These are very attractive and interesting and we go and sit down and everyone eats as much as they want. Under the pretext of eating berries from morning until afternoon, you see a person you have not seen for six months, this is precious. ... [P]ersonally, I am not interested in mulberries, but I participate in its social gatherings, and when I go to the village, I always take part in mulberries picking. I do not eat more than five fruit, but I love the event. (Baraz)

3.1.3. Fruit trees of Akbarieh Garden and Tohid Park: Knowledge, perception and usage

- Desire for more fruit trees or better access to them:

> Traffic in the fruit section [in Akbarieh Garden] is limited, and if you go, you will be reprimanded. The fruitful part of the garden should be more accessible, in my opinion, because people do not go to the fruitful part of the garden, they do not reach this section. I would like this section to be designed and have chairs.... The agricultural section ... allows the public to have access to a productive landscape. It bothers me that it still has a military aspect. The presence of a guard, not a lovely guard, but a guard who ensures that you do not violate, still bothers. This situation has been present for some years and I feel that these cameras have not been installed for my safety, but so that I do not do bad things, well, and this gives a bad feeling. (Baraz)

> Akbarieh garden has a good structure. But if there were more fruit trees, especially when they are in bloom, they have a special beauty and what would be wrong with doing this. (Azar)

> P: If it were up to me, I would take more care of the green space there. I would plant trees and saplings, the whole building and the Akbarieh garden were well built, but it would be better if there was more green space and trees. I: What seedlings would you plant? P: Except pine, I would plant trees like pomegranate and grape. (Firuz)

> They could make it easier to access the underneath of the pomegranate trees in Tohid and Akbarieh. (Esther)

3.1.4. Appreciated features of public fruit trees

- Food production:

> In my opinion, the fruit tree is a priority here and the ornamental tree should be used elsewhere, because this fruit tree bears fruit, it is not the right thing to do to remove it. (Simin)

- Visual, olfactive pleasures:

> Because fruit trees make the garden more beautiful and I myself feel that every tree has a special smell, next to every fruit tree that I pass, I feel this way. (Yasmin)

> I know this exists in Japan and South Korea, for example, this whole cherry blossom street, what a commotion these flowers make in spring, how beautiful it is in summer. (Esther)

> While I buy apricots of the best quality from the store, I do not like it as much as when I pick apricots from the tree and eat them. Picking apricots is very tasty. (Baraz)

> [Laughter] Believe me, it was very appealing to them. Some of these students had a prosperous standard of living such that they could buy 500 kilograms of apricots if they wished, but this event had a special taste for them. (Baraz)

- Bringing variety to the landscape in space and time:

> Fruit trees are good in that you can see the change of seasons, but pine trees are green all year round. Fruit trees can make spring, summer, winter and autumn beautiful . . . If the fruit trees are removed in Akbarieh Garden, all seasons are the same and people cannot say that they went there in the summer to have fruit or whether it was green, they do not see the change of seasons, I do not think it is very interesting. (Firuz)

> I express my artistic perspective that different vegetation creates different moods in different seasons. A leaf that falls sooner and another leaf falls later and another leaf stays green. Planting fruit trees creates variety in autumn and in colors. (Baraz)

- Feel of seasons (something that people highly value according to Tohid Park's chief gardener, to the extent that they regularly ask the management not to sweep the leaves of the sycamore and elm trees in autumn, because they want to "walk through them and hear their noise"), and of nature:

> For example, you feel nature more. Nature and forests are not just for decoration. Every plant has a number of functions. They have products. That way, you feel the seasons more: now it sprouts, flowers, bears fruit, you feel the season more. You feel the connection between nature and man more, it is not just a decorative aspect . . . , they give a more vivid state to the environment. (Arman)

> If the fruit trees are removed in Akbarieh Garden, the whole seasons are the same and people cannot say that they went there in the summer to have fruit or whether it was green at all, they do not see the change of seasons, I do not think it is very interesting. (Firuz)

- Teaching tool:

> You cannot transmit the concept of light with 100 projectors and lamps, but in nature, someone can see the movement of light, and then grasp the concept of light. So why should one give up such a possibility . . . ? You cannot teach the concept of color even by using up to 100 books, but you can convey its concept well to the student in the presence of nature. In nature, differences in greens, differences in contrasts, differences in textures and complementary colors are visible. It really hurts if one does not use these services of nature in design education. Besides, I always tell the students to eat an omelet in nature and then go and eat a barbecue in a restaurant—which one is more delicious? The omelet. Why? Because you get a sense of reciprocity from that space, the reciprocity enhances the joy of happening and everything, and for me, these things are very valuable . . . One of the reasons why my classes are welcomed both in university and in private schools is because of my teaching method, which takes place in urban parks and gardens . . . At the very moment when I feel that the classroom is bothering and pressuring the students, I quickly set up camp. We go back to nature where we are well . . . It has had a great impact. I have a student who graduated 15 years ago and now has a personality of her own in terms of social status. Still, when we see each other, she says, "Remember that day?" That day was the day I was not her teacher, nature was her teacher. (Baraz)

> When picking, a child appears and I give him some of the fruits I have picked, or if someone accompanies me, I say come and try it, it is delicious. I: Has this happened? P: Yes, very often, as I like small children very much so if they pass near me while I am picking, I will give them the fruit. First I get permission from their mother. Because small children look at human hands so much, I am sad to eat something at that moment while that child looks with regret. (Yasmin)

> This is very attractive for [her] . . . For example, I open it and show the small unripe pomegranate seeds . . . She asks and I explain to her." (Esther)

- Bringing memories:

Having, creating and reminiscing memories seemed to have a special importance for some participants. For instance, they felt attached to their neighborhood because this is where they grew up and thus the place can easily remind them of childhood memories. Also, the Arts professor explained that his students especially appreciated him for creating events that generate memories, such that they called him 'The Master of Memories'. Some participants thus appreciated the public fruit trees for their ability to bring back memories or create new ones.

As Baraz held his Arts class in Abkarieh Garden one day, some students surreptitiously harvested a bag of apricots against the guard's will, and shared them with their fellow students in the dormitory, and years later the students still enjoyed sharing that memory:

> [Laughter] Believe me, it was very appealing to them. Some of these students had a prosperous standard of living such that they could buy 500 kilograms of apricots if they wished, but this event had a special taste for them. (Baraz)

- Feelings, thoughts, memories:

Several participants manifested the importance of feelings for them by using good or bad feelings to explain why they liked something (neighborhood, green space, yard...): they "feel good there", "it feels good there", or "it feels good to see this", or something makes a "good feeling come back to you". Likewise, several participants used good feelings to explain why they appreciated Akbarieh Garden and Tohid Park's fruit trees, or why they

thought that it was a good thing to have food trees in public green spaces, often contrasting this feeling to that conveyed by pine trees:

> Although it is more difficult to maintain and requires care and gardening, it feels better. (Arman)
>
> Greengage is a fruit that makes you feel pleasant when you see it. (Baraz)
>
> I feel good seeing fruit trees. (Azar)
>
> P: Yes, pine trees have been planted in front of Azadegan Park, and this causes depression and it is totally bad. I: Do you think pine causes depression? P: Yes, everyone knows that pine causes depression because pine is a tree that has nothing special and gives negative energy instead of positive energy. (Laleh)

One participant further described the good feeling provided by fruit trees as one of "fertility, hope, freshness and prosperity", in part because the space is actively used and not merely serves as decoration:

> It seems that when the garden is not fruitful, it is heavy, silent and frozen . . . Where there is a fruit tree it feels better. The places that do not have edibles seem to be frozen, they are just like unused decor. In the past, everything in the decor had a use . . . You see fertility, hope, freshness and prosperity in the fruit tree. The fruit tree is like a woman who gives birth and how much vitality comes with it. A house with a small child and crying sounds coming from it. But the pine and cypress trees are like old fossilized men . . . Now the forest park is mostly composed of pine and therefore it has a gloomy state, it is silent. But Tohid Park, which has a number of pomegranate trees, is more alive. Or Akbarieh garden, where this feeling is even greater. (Arman)
>
> For example, Birjand has always been known for its mulberries, pomegranates and jujube .... You saw that most houses have jujube trees; it seems it is obligatory for house-owners to plant a jujube or fig and pomegranate tree in their yard .... [Tohid Park] has only pomegranates and nothing else like eucalyptus of which we have no memory. We have a thousand memories with pomegranate. [For this reason] you feel that Tohid Park is very familiar and close to human beings. (Arman)

- Gifts:

Public fruit trees can provide fruit that one can share with others. We have seen above a case where students enjoyed sharing apricots from Akbarieh Garden with their fellow students. Likewise, their professor enjoyed gifting figs from Akbarieh Garden to his wife, a gesture that she deeply appreciated:

> I: How did you feel when you picked the fruit? P: Fantastic. Cannot be expressed. I said I'm not a fruit eater . . . This feeling was so strange to me that I did not eat at that moment, I wanted to go and share it with my family. I wanted to share this moment with them . . . When I think of others, I will definitely do it [pick fruit]. In fact, my morals are such that, first of all, I rarely do this. If I'm alone, I might not pick at all . . . Because I have a social spirit, I would like to eat with others. I always like to share with other people the events of our lives. I want our dear friends to be in these events . . . I picked three figs that day and took them home. The fact that I did not eat that fruit alone and brought them to my wife was lovelier for my wife than to get a basket of roses, . . . she told me later. (Baraz)

- Multifunctionality

> The fact that one youth is up [the tree] and one is down and everyone is holding the scarf together, God, all this makes sense. I wish I had recorded that moment if there had been a mobile phone. Do you know what happened there? Some of these students had not seen berries at all previously, they had seen dried berries, but they had not seen the berry tree and fresh berries in this way .... See how much happens: first, a need is answered, which is very important, second, an unforgettable memory is created, and third there is social interaction between people. It is possible to reconcile two friends who are upset about some issue. Most importantly, knowledge is also gained in the meantime. "Sir, what is this berry? What is its shape? Is it a soft or hard fruit? Why should you eat bread afterward?" Their food knowledge grows. I had had a class in the morning for 5 hours. With all of what happened during that half hour of eating berries, it might be the same worth as that class. (Baraz)

3.1.5. Disliked features of public fruit trees

> [I dislike] the dirt that the mulberry tree causes, the stain that remains and the dirt that it makes on the pavement. Also, the pests that those trees have may affect other old trees in the garden. (Ziba)

> It is good work to plant food trees in the cities. What's wrong with it? They may make a mess for four days, but eventually, the fruit season is over, and some people can take advantage of it. (Yahan)

> The mulberry tree has a fruit that you like to pick from the tree in groups of family and relatives. It is a tree that gathers people together to pick and eat the fruits directly from the tree. (Simin)

> But the mulberry tree can be the target of a visit to another area. Because in the private garden outside the city, the mulberry tree is a reason for visiting for us and other urban dwellers in the Birjand culture. (Baraz)

3.1.6. Attachment to Tohid Park and Akbarieh Garden's fruit trees

> It feels very bad. Especially now that I see with my own eyes that my father spent a few million last year and planted seedlings, but this year they died because it was not green and everything was dry . . . It feels very bad. Because it has its own beauty, it has its own use, you work hard but you do not see a result, it is very painful. (Simin)

> I would feel upset; the park should be green and fresh. If it is dead, people will be upset. A park that has cost so much, if its trees die, the cause must be determined. (Darius)

> It feels so scary. It's like saying that the world is over .... This happened in the gardens of Bidokht village, which our relatives ... had, I had all my childhood memories there, they were all green and we ran among the trees, the fruits fell at the foot of the trees and we picked them, they planted all the trees, there was water and it was green and we were entertaining ourselves there during the holidays. But now when you go, it looks like a museum of dry and broken trees .... About ten percent of those trees are still green. They are all broken and dry and the space is empty because there is no water .... It is as if you are having a nightmare. There was a whole

> agricultural affair and gardening procedure, now there is nothing. Everything has been abandoned and ruined .... [It makes me] feel that this culture and civilization have failed. It is a plan for life, living, society and cultural and social relations, and it seems as if it has failed. Most of all, it's horrible that the plan was in the minds of the past, they put a lot of effort into it, and now this culture is gone. (Arman)

We note that some participants didn't imagine the death of non-fruit-bearing trees as less painful than fruit-bearing ones, even sometimes more painful because they may be centuries old and irreplaceable in our lifetime, but for most of them fruit trees would cause greater sadness because of their greater number of appreciated features, compared to pine trees for instance:

> I: What if this happened to the pine tree? P: No, I would not be upset. We use pine wood. (laughs) I would be happy too if the pines dry . . . Because it has neither beauty nor shadow. Nothing can be planted under these trees because of the resin that spoils the soil. If they die, they can be made into chairs or other things made of wood. The only good thing about pine is that it is a windbreak, so it is better for this function if it is planted outside and around the city." (Esther)

- Loss of a (special) living being:

> It's really sad because you feel like you lost a living being. (Ziba)

> Wow, I would be very sorry, because the tree has not been living for a day or two or a few months, it took years for that tree to grow. (Esther)

> It does not feel good to cut the tree, it is not pleasant because the tree lives and breathes like us. I'm upset and it's not a good thing at all. (Firuz)

> I am very upset because this plant is alive, when it dies, it means that it has not been taken care of, or that, for example, a person has come and done this, which is much worse, because I believe that if someone kills a plant, because the trees are alive, his life is ruined or something bad will happen to him. (Laleh)

> The trauma that is inflicted on a person psychologically is like the loss of a loved one. (Baraz)

3.1.7. Opinion about planting more fruit trees in public spaces

> Or, for example, the mulberry trees that are planted on the side of streets, children are hanging, you look at the children, the berries that have been shed and the children are dirty. The contact of children and mulberries is like an adventure and a life. (Arman)

> I always say to myself how bad it would be if I did not have these experiences. As a child, I was involved in agriculture, shoveling, sanding, irrigation, etc., which was present in my soul and intellectual and imaginative richness, which would have been very awkward and bitter if it were not for these. You are not happy in an apartment, as if you were deprived of something as a child. You look like a prisoner. (Arman)

3.1.8. Interest in participation

> I: If the municipality has a plan, are you ready to cooperate? P: Yes 100%. I: For what reason? P: Because the restoration of human relations with plants, nature and animals is important, and human instinct demands these, and when they are absent, it seems that you lack something. (Arman)

P: Of course, I cannot irrigate, but I can contribute financially, but I cannot participate physically. I: Why would you participate? P: Because I agree with this because I know it is an important project. (Esther)

Tohid Park, because it is used by more people, is more public and over a thousand people or maybe more go there daily, and it is much more beautiful in terms of vision . . . People are encouraged to see if they might be interested in this themselves. (Esther)