

*This is the maiden issue of a quarterly newsletter on Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture (UPA) within the frame of the Cities Farming for the Future (CFF) programme implementation in Anglophone West Africa. The CFF is part of the activities of the global network of Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (RUAF). The purpose of this newsletter is to create awareness on UPA and update our partners on the programme implementation in the various*



Urban agriculture is practiced as an economic activity in Accra

## Accra Working Group on Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Formed

Mrs Adzorkor Doku, who is the Metropolitan Director of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), has commended the formation of the Accra Working Group on Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture (AWGUPA). She said there are different shades of opinion on urban agriculture in Accra. In the light of this, she was hopeful the group would help establish good understanding of issues on UA for all stakeholders.

She was of the view that the activities of the working group will help correct any wrong perceptions of UA. She sees also an opportunity for the member institutions of the group to complement the work of one another. On her part, the main policy challenge to UA in the metropolis is the restrictive nature of the Accra



Mrs Adzorkor Doku, the Accra Metropolitan Director of Food and Agriculture

Metropolitan Assembly bye-laws. In her opinion, this makes the future of UA in the metropolis bleak unless efforts are made to review the current policies.

Mrs Doku stated that it is against this backdrop that the working group on UA would have to focus on: educating the general public about UA; policy change in favour of UA; and encouraging stakeholders to observe acceptable hygienic standards. She recommended the inclusion of the Food and Animal Research Institutes in the working group on UA in Accra since primarily UA provides food for the population.

The AWGUPA was constituted at a multi-stakeholder forum on UPA organized by AMA MoFA, and IWMI-RUAF on the 29th-30th November, 2005

## The RUAF Network

In 2005, the RUAF launched a new programme called Cities Farming for the Future (CFF). The CFF programme seeks to make a contribution to urban poverty reduction, urban food security, and development of local stakeholders in urban agriculture. The goal is to encourage city authorities to integrate Urban Agriculture into development planning.

The RUAF-CFF programme is coordinated by seven regional centers in the world. In Anglophone West Africa it is coordinated by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) located in Accra.

For further information on the RUAF-CFF programme contact :

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[http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/africa/west\\_africa/projects/RUAFII-CFF.htm](http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/africa/west_africa/projects/RUAFII-CFF.htm)

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