

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

#### **Mandate of the AWGUPA**

The working group seeks to:

Enhance public awareness and motivate the target population to actively participate in issues on UA

Build trust and cooperation among

The main actors in UA

Review and advice on policy and legal frameworks on UA

Develop action plans, coordinate and monitor their implementation and provide systematic feedback To UPA stakeholders for joint Decision making.

The following institutions constitute AWGUPA:

1. AMA -Town and Country Planning
2. AMA Planning and Co-ordinating Unit
3. AMA Metro Public Health Department
4. Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA)
5. Crop and Livestock Farmers Association
6. Environmental Protection Agency
7. General Agricultural Workers Union
8. Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Science and Technology Policy Research Institute

9. EnterpriseWorks
10. University of Ghana
11. New times Corporation (media)
12. IWMI

*For further information on AWGUPA*



A group of Participants from government, NGO, research and farmer departments brainstorm at a Multi-stakeholder training in urban agriculture.

In September 2005, the members of the core team and 20 others selected from governmental, non-governmental, research and farmer organizations were trained in MPAP on urban agriculture at Shai Hills resort hotel in Tema. Subsequently in November 2005 a multi-stakeholder forum on UPA was held at the Institute of Local Government Studies in Accra to discuss issues arising from the exploratory study.



Mr. Paul Boateng a representative of Grasscutter Farmers Association at the MPAP training held at Shai Hills, Tema proudly expresses his joy as he shows the certificate awarded him.

At the forum, the emerging issues were prioritized for action. The forum was attended by 54 participants drawn from several relevant governmental, non-governmental and private institutions. The core team was expanded to fifteen members at this forum to constitute the working group on urban agriculture in Accra. The lessons and key issues at the forum formed the basis for a policy seminar held at the M-Plaza Hotel in Accra in December 2005.

This seminar was attended by key policy makers including the Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture, Honourable Clement Eledi who led a session to write a statement of consensus (see box 1) on urban and peri-urban agriculture in Accra. Participants at the seminar numbered 30 and were drawn from governmental, non-governmental, research, civil society, as well as farmers' representatives.

The AWGUPA together with the IWMI-RUAF team are presently moving forward the CFF programme in Accra to achieve the next milestone, implementation of a pilot project on urban agriculture (UA) in Accra.

#### **Emerging Issues at the Accra Multi-stakeholder Forum on UA**

The following were the key issues which emerged during the multistakeholder forum held on the 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> November 2005. Issues have been listed according to order of priority accorded by the forum.

1. Policy and legislative support for UA
2. Education and public Awareness on UA, and urban food safety towards positive perception of UA
3. Standards and quality assurance: strategies to minimize health and environmental risks associated with UA
4. Promotion of UA enterprises
5. Capacity building for farmers: facilitate the formalisation of farmer associations
6. Development of collaborative UA projects/ programmes among key stakeholders
7. Improvement in post-handling of farm produce-processing and marketing
8. Land tenure and UA
9. Monitoring and evaluation of UA projects
10. Coordination, networking and Linkages of stakeholders.