

Farming is his only occupation and he enjoys cultivating crops. The family feeds on some of the crops and most importantly he is happy with his annual income of about twelve million cedis or \$1,304.

### Launch of Freetown Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Project (FUPAP)

The Minister of Agriculture and Food Security Dr. Sama S. Monde has launched the Freetown Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Project (FUPAP) at the conference Hall of the Ministry in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The Trumpet, a Freetown based newspaper in its June 12, 2006 edition reported that Dr. Sama S. Monde was very grateful for the initiative adding that his ministry had endeavoured as far back as 2003 to secure fund to embark on urban agriculture project in the country. He expressed the hope that the Freetown Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Project will contribute to the goal of national food security. He stated that when Urban Agriculture is well planned it would contribute to a thriving socio-economic system, which will improve the livelihood of communities. FUPAP has been launched in the frame of the RUAF-CFF programme. Dr Monde assured the support of his Ministry and urged other stakeholders to work assiduously to achieve the goals of the project.



Participants at FUPAP launch, Youyi Building Freetown, June 2006.

The Director general of the Agriculture Ministry, Mr. Patrick Hanmer, addressing participants indicated that the project was an attempt to address the growing problems of urban dwellers including their livelihood and how it could be sustained. In placing the project in context of other Agricultural projects

in the ministry, he said there are 20 agricultural development projects with outside funding of 117 million US dollars but none addresses UA as FUPAP.

In her contributions, the Regional Coordinator of the International Network of Resource Centers on Urban Agriculture and Food Security, Dr. (Mrs) Olufunke Cofie, indicated that Urban Agriculture has an important contribution to make in tackling the problems of urbanization including the production, processing and marketing of food and other food products. The Deputy FAO Country Representative Mr. Cyril Lahai also spoke about the numerous challenges and threats to Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture. He cited among many others, the challenges of urban farmers in having access to land. He was in favour of development of appropriate policy guidelines to address the different issues and challenges. FUPAP is funded by DGIS (Directorate General for International Cooperation) (Netherlands), IDRC (International Development Research Center) (Canada) and the local partners.

*For further information on FUPAP contact: Mrs. Pamela Konneh, Director for Agriculture Freetown City Council or Dr. Saidu Kanu at 'saiduupakanu@yahoo.com'*

### URBANET, Tamale, announced winner of the 2005 Call for pilot project proposal on UA

Urban Agriculture Network (URBANET), based in Tamale, Northern Ghana has been announced winner of 2005 RUAF-CFF call for pilot project proposal. The Pilot project is titled: *'Enhancing Urban Food Security through Sustainable Urban Vegetable Production and Farmer Group Development'*. The project is jointly funded by RUAF-CFF and URBANET. Key participating stakeholders in this project are: Fooshegu Farmers Association, Garizegu Farmers Association, ActionAid International and the Metropolitan Co-operative Department all based in Tamale. The project seeks to enhance food and nutrition security through sustainable urban vegetable production. The

expected results of this project are: increased food security to the Poor especially women, people living with disabilities and the youth.

increased household income of Urban farmers.

improved capacity of farmers to Implement ecologically sustainable agricultural practices.

favourable urban agricultural policies.

enhanced community- based leadership development

and advance the voice of women as beneficiaries of agricultural projects.

The pilot project, which became effective on 1<sup>st</sup> August, is expected to last for 18 months

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### UA Study Visit to Uganda

The Metropolitan Director of MoFA, Mrs Adzorkor Doku and the Presiding member of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly Honourable Ben Annan embarked on a 10-day study visit to Uganda from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2006. The visit which was sponsored by RUAF-CFF offered the two leaders the opportunity to learn and share experiences in Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture in Kampala. Watch out for details in the next issue.

### RUAF in the News

The network featured in several articles in the Ghanaian dailies in the year 2005. This created awareness on the RUAF-CFF programme.

### Next issue

Available in December and will include RUAF activities in Freetown, Sierra Leone, Ibadan, Nigeria and other interesting stories

### Comments

Keep them coming, as our doors are always open.

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