



Dr. Olufunke Cofie, RUAFF-CFF Regional Coordinator addressing participants at a training workshop.

This year, 2008, marks the last year of the RUAFF-CFF programme. Implementation of all activities should be completed by October 2008 and the phase closed by the end of December 2008.

Therefore, with the closure of the RUAFF-CFF programme, it has become necessary, for programme sustainability, to gradually shift attention from policy support to strengthening farmer organizations, enhancing their capacity and promoting innovation in farming systems and their market chains. The extended (new) phase of the CFF programme was therefore titled “**From Seed to Table**” (FSTT).

The FSTT project phase of the RUAFF-CFF programme is scheduled to commence in January 2009 and to end in December 2010. The programme will provide continued support to multi-stakeholder fora, disseminate MPAP to other cities, strengthen urban farmer organizations and provide capacity development in PTD, micro-enterprise development, chain development, marketing and financing of urban agriculture activities.

The two years of FSTT are considered a period to develop and gain more experience with an integrated approach to innovation of urban farming systems to develop the necessary institutional relations to scale up the approach in future years.

The general objectives of the FSTT programme can be summarized as follows:

To consolidate the processes of multi-stakeholder policy-making and strategic planning on urban agriculture in pilot cities, initiated during the RUAFF-CFF (2005-2008) leading to improved legal status of urban farmers, better service provision to urban farmers and an increase in local financial support for urban agriculture and

To enhance the institutional capacities of at least 3 local support organizations and 6 farmer organizations in the region as well as their

knowledge and skills regarding design and implementation of farmer-led “From Seed to Table” projects. This would lead to more sustainable urban farming systems, income generation, improved food security, social inclusion and empowerment of disadvantaged groups and more efficient recycling of urban organic wastes.

The specific objectives of the FSTT are outlined in the box below:

Specific objectives of FSTT

1. *Train trainers and develop farmer training materials on FSTT*
2. *Design, implement and monitor farmer based/led FSTT projects, leading to improvement in their knowledge, skills, income and nutrition*
3. *Increase awareness among credit institutes of funding needs of urban farmers as well as their commitment to provide credit with acceptable conditions*
4. *Strengthen farmer organisations, their internal and external relations and support them in establishing a group management scheme.*
5. *Systematise experiences gained in FSTT pilot projects as a basis for information exchange, distance learning and planning of future activities*

FREETOWN BRIEF

The Freetown urban and peri-urban agriculture project (FUPAP), which is co-funded by RUAFF-CFF II programme, has received financial assistance for the development of urban farming.

FUPAP receives grant for urban farming

The project seeks to enhance vegetable production and marketing of goods and services through better production techniques and to improve post-harvest handling of urban produce as well as management practices.