

Training in the use of the treadle pump was designed for 30 selected urban farmers in the community, but nearly 150 farmers participated in the training. Farmers were taught water management skills, different irrigation skills and use and maintenance of the treadle pump that was supplied to the community to assist them irrigate their crops. The training mode consisted of lots of demonstrations and hands-on practices in urban agriculture production.



*Urban Farmers receiving training in use of the treadle pump (Photo by FANP)*

All the participants, including the Mayor of Freetown, Mr. Herbert George-Williams appreciated the outcome of the training and accepted that irrigation was appropriate for the type of farmers who will be the ultimate beneficiaries, and that prudent use of the pump will surely help them increase their urban agriculture production. The training ended with a nice lunch, which everyone enjoyed and heart-felt felicitations were exchanged as a gesture of appreciation for a fruitful day's work.

The role of policy makers in securing the future of UPA in the city of Ibadan is of great importance. This has been clearly identified as crucial to the success of the MPAP in Ibadan.

At the outset of the MPAP process in Ibadan in 2007, there was no measurable technical or financial support for UPA among policy makers in government and in private institutions. Reasons for this gap were attributed largely to limited awareness creation on the potentials of UPA in addressing the problems of food security and safe environment. Furthermore, a majority of the Heads of partner Institutions and Government establishments were also not familiar with the activities of the Forum for UPA in the city.

## IBADAN BRIEF

### Mobilizing Policy Makers' Support for UPA in Ibadan; Emerging Opportunities and Challenges

In order to address these gaps, strategic lobbying and advocacy efforts were designed to target and engage policy makers in the process at different levels as partner institutions and government establishments with relevant mandates to the development of UPA both at the state & local government levels. Initial efforts in this direction were focussed on identifying specific policy makers who are crucial to the advancement of the course of UPA in the city and designing appropriate strategies to reach out to different categories of these stakeholders.

For more effective outreach, a highlevel advocacy team was constituted with representation from different partner Institutions (and sometimes taking advantage of RUAF Officials from Ghana) who visited the identified policy makers to expose them to emerging potentials and challenges of UPA in addressing the problems of food security, unemployment and safe environment in the city. This effort was consistent with the priorities of the present State government. The policy makers were also briefed on various activities of the Forum for UPA and their support was solicited to promoting the course of UPA in the city.

In the last 6 months, advocacy visits were consistently made to the Directors of Partner Institutions (NIHORT, IAR&T, JDPC), Executive Chairmen of selected local governments (Ibadan North, North-West and Akinyele), Ministry of Agriculture (Director of Planning Research & Statistics, Permanent Secretary, Commissioner for Agriculture) and Political Leaders in the State as well as Traditional Leaders to brief them on progress and challenges of urban agriculture and to secure their support.



*Advocacy team charting with NIHORT Director (Photo by IUAP)*