

With the support of GBC, a request for a meter and supply of water to the farmers was sent to the GWCL which turned it down because treated water was not meant for crop irrigation.

Presently, the farmers' sources of water are hand dug wells, rainwater harvested into dugouts, and drain water. These sources are partly unsafe, insufficient, and unreliable like piped water is too.



Farmers at GBC area rely on hand dug wells to access water to meet part of their needs

Though the farming activities have been profitable, he believes he is farming below his potential and could do more. His customers ranged from individuals to market women who buy the vegetables at the farm gate to sell. He has a second job as a night security person at Adabraka, a suburb of Accra, the income of which supplements what he obtains from his farm.

Mr. Said request that government or relevant institutions intervene to enable him and his colleagues access good quality water for crop cultivation, since the main problem they face is lack of access to water. He hopes for the best since plans are far advanced by MoFA to provide boreholes for farmers so as to reduce the use of contaminated water in crop cultivation.

Ernest Mensah Abraham spoke with Mr. Abubakar Said in November 2006.

Freetown

RUAF activities in Freetown

The Cities Farming for the Future (CFF) Programme of the Resource Centers on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (RUAF) was launched in Freetown in June 2006. As part of

strategies to achieve objectives of this programme, key stakeholders and capacity building needs were identified as one of the main activities to be carried out. This led to a Training of Trainers two-day workshop, which was organized in Freetown in June 2006. It was followed by the first part of the Freetown Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Project (FUPAP) five-days training on urban and peri-urban agriculture. The vision and mission of FUPAP has been defined by the stakeholders (Box 1).



Participants at first part of the MPAP training in Freetown

The second part of the training took place from the end of November to beginning of December 2006. These training activities organized by IWMI were to enhance the knowledge base of participants to ensure the successful implementation of the Freetown Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Project (FUPAP).

The ToT resulted in:

- a shared understanding of the concept of UA in Freetown and a clear understanding of FUPAP objectives and approach by all the local facilitators and resource persons
- the development of lesson plans by local facilitators, which were used in the MPAP training
- a team of local facilitators who were key in assisting the IWMI resource persons for the conduct of the MPAP training

The outputs of the ToT then resulted in a successful MPAP training. The key output of the MPAP training was the formation of the MPAP team for Freetown, which was done in collaboration with the participants. On the whole, the organization of the training events, participation, design and delivery were very good. It is expected that the MPAP team will continue its efforts to establish

FUPAP as a viable project for the benefit of Freetown and Sierra Leone in general.

After the MPAP training session, a comprehensive evaluation of the whole training event was carried out which provided useful insights into the training.

Box 1. Vision and Mission of FUPAP

"Freetown Urban Plan integrates urban agriculture policy addressing poverty reduction, food security and environmental management.

FUPAP seeks to promote the integration of UPA into urban development plan of the city authorities and maintain and sustain a vibrant platform for dialogue, consensus building and joint decision making on UPA in Freetown; FUPAP will facilitate the initiation and implementation of UPA enterprises that lead to improved livelihood of urban dwellers".

The overall assessment provided by the participants indicated that the training event provided a useful avenue for knowledge transfer and experience sharing. Participants' knowledge and understanding regarding UPA is thus broadened. It is expected that this will culminate into tangible results on the enhancement of favourable UPA policies in Freetown.



Participants at the MPAP training phase 1 interacting with inhabitants at Ogo Farms in Freetown during a field visit