

This resulted in the Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture, Hon. Clement Eledi suggesting the institution of the national award by MoFA. The RUAF has conveyed to policy makers about the benefits and contributions of urban and peri-urban agriculture to the food needs of the city. The RUAF also leads in the dissemination of knowledge and information on urban and peri-urban agriculture in Accra.

### What have been your challenges?

Land, byelaws and water are the main challenges. Another person owns greater part of the land. This has constrained initiatives towards processing milk into yoghurt. In order to address this challenge I have acquired a piece of land nearby to build a processing facility. The AMA byelaws restrict the number of live animals farmers can keep at a time. I have had to request the intervention of MoFA on some occasions to avoid seizure of animals. Finally, water has been unreliable and is addressed through purchase from neighbours' pipe connection.

### What is your request to government on urban livestock farming?

Government should continue recognizing urban and peri-urban agriculture to integrate it into its agricultural policy to ensure availability of affordable and safe meat products for the public.

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The interview was conducted by Ernest Mensah Abraham, research staff of the International Water Management Institute West Africa Office, and RUAF Knowledge and Information Management Officer.

### Launch of Accra Working Group on Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture (AWGUPA)

In the presence of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture in charge of crops, Hon. Clement Eledi,

members of AWGUPA and their institutional heads, the Accra Working Group on Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture was inaugurated in Accra in October 2006 at the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) Resource Centre. A pilot project on Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture (UPA) in Accra was also launched during the occasion.



Some of the participants at the Launch of AWGUPA in Accra

Hon. Clement Eledi pledged the support of the Ministry towards the achievement of the objectives of the working group and the RUAF programme to improve UPA in Accra. The launch gave a formal recognition to the group and its activities by the Ministry. The launch presupposes that issues bordering on farmers in the informal sector can now be brought to the attention of policy and decision makers in relevant sectors. The institutional heads also signed a multi-stakeholder agreement.

### AWGUPA and the pilot project

The pilot project being implemented by AWGUPA, has the title: "Promoting Public Education and Policy Support for Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture in Accra" and is coordinated by Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI) of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The project seeks to improve on public awareness and perception on UPA and facilitate the development of UPA supporting policy in the Accra Metropolitan Area. It is expected that the project will address relevant issues in agriculture in the city of Accra and thus improve on the food production in the city.



Urban agriculture supports the livelihood of peasant farmers

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### Urban water use for agriculture in Accra- a typical story

Mr. Abubakar Said is a 58-year old urban vegetable farmer at the frontage of the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) offices in Accra. He is married and lives with his wife and five children. Mr. Said is one of seven farmers in this area. The farmers have an informal agreement with the management of GBC to cultivate the frontage to keep it green and clean without paying any fees. Mr. Said has been farming in the area for the past seven years.



Mr. Said irrigating his farm at the frontage of GBC in Accra

He owns about 50 earth beds (0.1ha) and makes an average monthly income of 500,000-600,000 cedis (\$54-65 USD) when there is enough water. "In periods of water scarcity it is difficult to make even 100,000 (\$11 USD) a month" he said.

He said when he started farming, farmers were using water from a broken pipe of the Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL) nearby. Following repair works on the pipeline, he and his colleagues took steps to get a borehole drilled for them but were unsuccessful due to the cost involved.