

Who owns the UPA sites in Freetown?

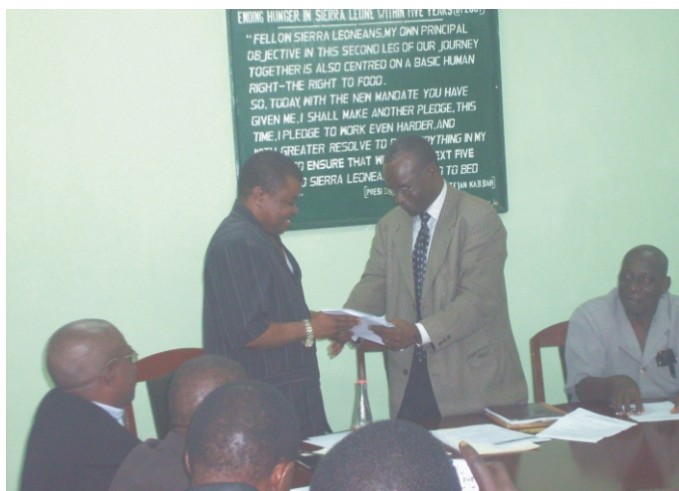
In Freetown, UPA takes place on lands owned mainly by four different groups. These are the Central Government lands (Public Lands) which are mainly lands along the coast and green areas within the city which is constrained by saline water intrusion. Lands belonging to institutions such as the Sierra Leone Police (Barracks), Sierra Leone Port Authority and the Electricity Company (beneath pylons). The UPA in Freetown also takes place on privately owned lands and on sites with mixed ownership.

Change of Baton: New Minister Assumes Duty at MAFFS, Freetown

Thursday, 25th October 2007, was a colorful and memorable occasion in the history of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS), when a Minister of the newly-elected party took the mantle of MAFFS from the out-going government.

The ceremony was with both pomp and emotions as the outgoing Minister, Dr Sama Mondeh officially handed over the stewardship of the MAFFS to Dr Joseph Sam Sesay. Dr Mondeh congratulated the new Minister on his appointment.

Dr Mondeh lauded the professionalism of the staff of the Ministry and urged Dr Sesay to tap the available expertise within it. In response, the new Minister, who incidentally was one-time the Director of the Planning Evaluation Monitoring and Statistics Directorate (PEMSD) of MAFFS, commended the efforts of Dr Mondeh. He said his administration will be concerned with achieving set targets and entreated staff to brace up for the challenges ahead. The MAFFS is a member of FUPAP implementation team.



The out-going Minister, Dr Mondeh (right) hands over to Dr Joseph Sesay (left). Photo: Theophilus Otchere Larbi

Freetown Pilot project

Within the frame of the RUAF-CFF programme implementation, FUPAP implementation team in Freetown has developed a pilot project with the title: "Value addition to UPA (products) towards increased marketability". The project seeks to address the unavailability of water during certain periods of the year, the untimely and inadequate supply of farm inputs to farmers, inadequate crop health management practices and the inadequate processing and post production handling of vegetables, in two communities (Congo water and Pattoh-Levuma) in the Freetown Municipality.

In order to address these issues, the project will develop capacities of farmers through training, extension/advisory services and demonstrations, and provide farm inputs. It will also facilitate access to processing and packaging facilities.

It is expected that the marketability of UPA products will be enhanced through high productivity and value addition. The project which was put together from the Action plan developed by FUPAP implementation team in 2007 is being funded by RUAF and will be completed in October 2008.

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Ibadan

Urban Agriculture in Ibadan and the Growing Stakeholder Participation

At the beginning of 2007, the RUAF-CFF programme was started in Ibadan, the capital city of Oyo State, in Nigeria. The main objective of the programme is to facilitate the development and integration of UPA into development agenda of city authorities and development agencies.

Until this time, UPA had received little or no attention corresponding to the belief among government and NGO circles that the level of agricultural activities in the urban and peri-urban areas is insignificant. Consequently, nearly all agricultural interventions are focused on rural areas and their residents to the detriment of urban and peri-urban agriculture practitioners.