

## AWGUPA meets Policymakers in Accra

In its programme to promote the development of urban agriculture in the city of Accra, the Accra Working on Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture (AWGUPA) held a stakeholder forum with policy makers in an effort to incorporate urban agriculture into the AMA agricultural bye laws which were under review. The meeting was held at the Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI) with support from the IWMI-RUAF programme.



A section of Participants at the Policymakers Forum held at the Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI).  
(Photo by IWMI)

The AMA policy review exercise was initiated by the Accra Metropolitan Assemblies following a series of deliberations and consultations with the Accra Working Group on Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture (AWGUPA). The current bylaws were formulated over 12 years ago and needed to be reviewed to take into account some current issues affecting agricultural activities in the city.

The objective of the forum was to present the set

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of revised bye-laws to the policy makers for their comments in order to facilitate fine tuning of the bye-laws for presentation to the Agriculture sub committee of AMA for consideration and adoption.

Participants at the forum consultation were drawn from a number of key stakeholder institutions in Accra. The institutions included MOFA-AMA, MOFA-TMA, EPA, IWMI, STEPRI, and the University of Ghana. This selection of stakeholders ensured a wide representation and participation. This forum is the last in the series of stakeholder consultation workshops, which have been organized by AWGUPA.

At this forum, members of the AMA, opinion leaders, technocrats and other identifiable groups were facilitated to share and validate the revised bylaws and the proposed amendments.

Commenting on the forum and its purpose, the Chairman, Mr. Godfred Frempong, stressed the need to have the revised bye-laws in place to correct the negative perception people have about urban agricultural produce especially vegetables. He added that urban agriculture is crucial in the fight against extreme poverty and hunger in our cities. He therefore urged all stake-holders to be committed to and support this initiative.

In her contribution, Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally, Head IWMI-Ghana emphasized the importance of urban agriculture in supporting the provision of food security as well as in the generation of incomes by urban farmers.