

However, she also drew attention to some of the challenges associated with crop production in the city, especially vegetables, which are often irrigated with polluted water and the difficulties farmers had been encountered prior to the intervention from the stakeholder institutions which promote safer irrigation practices. She commended the organizers of the forum because it is only by facing common reality that lasting solutions for more hygienic food production can be found.

The participatory nature of the forum resulted in many useful comments from the participating institutions. Ms. Selina Fenteng, the legal officer from AMA, contributed immensely to the shaping and fine tuning of the bye-laws, and further explained, in detail, some of the legal implications of the provisions in the bye-laws.

Mrs. Fenteng also advised AWGUPA to take seriously, all the comments from the participants and incorporate them into the bye-laws before final presentation.

Overall, the Policy-makers forum was a success as a lot pertinent issues, which would go a long way to fine tuning the revised bye-laws, were brought up and discussed to the satisfaction of all participants.

The next step is the final presentation of the revised bye-laws to the Agriculture Sub- committee of AMA for consideration and adoption for implementation, in order to help further develop urban agriculture in the city.

RUAF Coordinators for Anglophone West Africa receive training

As part of facilitating the successful completion of the RUAF-CFF II programme, the RUAF Anglophone West Africa regional office organized a five-day planning workshop for the West Africa city coordinators from the 3rd to the 7th of March 2008 at the Continental Plaza Hotel in Accra.

The main issues addressed during the workshop included refresher discussions on the multi-stakeholder Processes on Action Planning and Policy formulation (MPAP), sharing of City Plans and experiences (successes, challenges, lessons learnt, and possible adaptations, RUAF monitoring methods and tools for process monitoring, impact analysis, documentation and reporting and Project cycle management. The various City Plans were also reviewed prior to the development of City Implementation Strategic Plans for 2008 with technical support from the regional coordinator and the MPAP training officer.

As the RUAF-CFF programme entered its last year (2008) of implementation, all activities be to completed by October 2008 and the phase closed by the end of December 2008, it became necessary to take the pilot

project coordinators through some key implementation issues to ensure the completion of all project activities within the approved project implementation dates. Workshop participants were drawn from Accra, Cape Coast, Tamale (Ghana), Ibadan, Akure (Nigeria) and Freetown (Sierra Leone). The training workshop was residential for all participants except for participants from Accra. However, enough arrangements were made to allow for interaction and extensive sharing of experiences beyond the workshop schedules.

Beside the technical presentations made by Dr. Funke Cofie (Regional Coordinator) and Mr. Theophilus Larbi (MPAP Training Officer), representatives of cities presented their action plans to update other participants on the kinds of activities and the level of completion of each activity in the focus cities. Each of the presentations made by the cities was followed by question and answer sessions.

The main outputs of the workshop included the development of City Implementation Strategies, City plans for the rest of the year and the ability of the participants to understand and relate to the various project implementation management concepts introduced to them at the workshop



Participants at the RUAF Anglophone West Africa Regional Planning Meeting held in Accra. (Photo by IWMI)

The participants expressed their appreciation to the organizers of the workshop. They added that their knowledge and understanding of project planning and management had increased and promised to share all the lessons learnt with other city team members to ensure the successful completion of the programme.

The Next Phase of RUAF Programme: From Seed to Table (FSTT)

The RUAF-CFF programme commenced in 2005 and had as a core objective, the development of regional training and planning, facilitating multi-stakeholder policy-making and action planning for urban agriculture in pilot cities.