

# URBAN AGRICULTURE IN LIBERIA



## A POLICY NARRATIVE

Focus on Greater Monrovia, Tubmanburg and Gbarnga



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This policy Narrative on urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA) in Liberia is based on a situation analysis of UPA in Greater Monrovia, Tubmanburg and Gbarnga, facilitated by Welthungerhilfe, CARE Liberia and RUAF, under their UPA programmes (EU funded). The situation analysis was undertaken by core teams of representatives from major stakeholders in these cities (called “Local Facilitating Teams”) who jointly analysed existing information on urban agriculture: mapping of land use, major farming systems, stakeholders and related policies (the latter supported by the Liberian Institute for Public Administration). The text has been approved by the Multi Stakeholder Platforms in these three cities (the participating institutes are mentioned in the annex). Additional information gathered under the Welthungerhilfe and CARE programmes (such the base line study undertaken by the University of Liberia), as well as documents from the Ministry of Agriculture and other NGOs have also been used.

A first draft of this Policy Narrative has been discussed at the first Multi-stakeholder Forum in Monrovia in 2011. In the second and third meetings of these forums, the issues in this Policy have been further discussed and analysed, and activities related to UPA by the various stakeholders are written down in City Strategic Agenda’s on Urban Agriculture in each of these cities (summarised in this document).

*April, 2012*

# INTRODUCTION

The total population of Liberia is estimated at 3.9 million with an annual average growth rate of 2.1 (GoL, 2011a). Almost 50 percent is living in urban areas, and Liberia is rapidly urbanizing with an annual urban population growth of 4.5 percent (ACF, 2010; GoL, 2010). The majority of this urban population, estimated at around 1.2 million, lives in Greater Monrovia, but due to rural-to-urban migration and continued unrest in the region, smaller urban settlements, such as Gbarnga (approximately 35,000 inhabitants) and Tubmanburg (approximately 20,000) are also growing rapidly. Attention to sustainable development of these smaller cities is increasingly seen as important (UN Habitat, 2006, GoL, 2011b). Greater Monrovia stretches over 20,000 ha, including the city of Monrovia, several townships and the city of Paynesville. The organisation under the Greater Monrovia City is being discussed.

The years of civil war, which ended in 2003, seriously disrupted the Liberian economy, and led to an overall impoverishment of the country. Liberia is still emerging from two decades of conflict and political turmoil. The efforts of the Government of Liberia (GoL) to rebuild the economy, maintain peace and security, while improving the livelihoods of its inhabitants, is strongly supported by the international community. However, Liberia's national recovery and development processes are confronted with many challenges, varying from rising food prices, slow decentralization and local revenue collection capacity, to a high dependency on imported food. These challenges greatly impact the urban poor.

Liberia is one of the least developed low-income and food deficit countries in the World. Extreme poverty affects over 50 percent of the rural population and 30 percent of the urban population (GoL, 2008, 2011b). Well over 60 percent of the Liberians are estimated to be food insecure (GoL, 2011a), while severe food insecurity affects 13 percent (current dietary intake is grossly inadequate and unable to meet nutritional requirements (ACF, 2010). This situation got worse in 2011 (GoL, 2011a) Urban food insecurity is often overlooked since at aggregate level, economic and social conditions in urban areas are much better than those in rural areas. Rural-to-urban migration combined with limited employment opportunities in the cities is leading to a shift in the focus of poverty alleviation from rural to urban areas. Urban poverty is increasing. The majority of the urban poor do not have access to a regular source of income. Formal unemployment is high: estimated to be between 80 and 85 percent (ACF, 2010). In Monrovia and increasingly so in smaller cities like Tubmanburg and Gbarnga, urban poverty and unemployment go hand in hand with growing food insecurity and malnutrition. The share of expenditure on food is high among the poor households making them particularly vulnerable to food price hikes.



Major underlying reasons for the high prevalence of food and nutrition insecurity in Liberia are widespread poverty and high levels of unemployment. Low agricultural productivity, limited infrastructure and high food prices exacerbate the situation. These combined factors lead to the weak resilience of Liberian households to withstand external shocks, as highlighted by the food crisis of 2008.

The climate is tropical, hot and humid. Liberia is one of the wettest countries in the world with an average rainfall of 4,650 mm per year in the coastal areas and 2,240 mm in the interior. The rainy season lasts from late April to October, and the dry season from November to April. Especially in the last months of the dry season farmers experience lack of access to clean water. Temperatures range from 24–30°C.

Agriculture is seen as the backbone of Liberia, but it is estimated that Liberia only meets a third of her

total food consumption requirements from local production (GoL, 2008, 2011c). More than half of the Liberians make their living through agriculture, but few of them see it as a business. Liberia's economy has always relied on exports (wood, ore, rubber) and imports (food, manufactured products). Food is the second largest import, after petroleum, with rice representing over 65 percent of imported food. Liberia is thus highly sensitive to the adverse impacts of food price volatility. The agricultural sector is highly underdeveloped. Agriculture is at the centre of reconstruction and development efforts as mentioned in the Poverty Reduction Strategies in 2008 and in the draft of 2011 (GoL, 2008, 2011b). The Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP, 2009) has proposed budget increases to address the key agricultural sector constraints, which include high pre- and post-harvest losses, lack of processing and storage facilities, limited use of improved seeds and access to markets, while the



Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program (LASIP, 2010) support this, adding emphasis on food and nutrition security, developing competitive value chains and market linkages, institutional development, and land and water development.

Outside the scope of national attention, many urban households are seeking to increase their own food production, as a way to provide their families with fresh and nutritious food, and some of them also sell this on the market. Only recently has the value of this food production in and around urban areas received attention. Cities are quickly becoming the principle territories for intervention and planning of innovative strategies that aim to eradicate urban hunger and improve livelihoods. Urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA) provides such a strategy, contributing to enhanced food security and improved nutrition of the urban poor. When well planned and regulated it can also contribute to local economic development, poverty

alleviation and social inclusion of the urban poor, women in particular, as well as to the greening of the city, the productive reuse of urban wastes, and adaptation to climate change. Recently, the Government of Liberia and some major donor agencies and NGOs started to promote urban agriculture. This policy brief aims to inform the parties involved and stimulate the development of National Policy and City Strategic Agenda's on UPA.

# URBAN AND PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE IN LIBERIA

Intra-urban and peri-urban agriculture (urban agriculture) is defined as the growing of plants and the raising of animals within and around cities and related activities (production of inputs, processing, marketing, provision of services to agricultural producers and agro-enterprises).

There are many different types of urban agriculture. The most important aspects that make it part and parcel of the urban system are the main actors involved, the location where the activity takes place, specific kind of products, type of technologies used, scale of production, and the main motives of the people involved (RUAFA, 2010).

Although considered small in terms of contribution to GDP (and often neglected by statistics), small-scale (household) farmers make up the majority of farming and hence also the livelihoods of rural and urban Liberia. These farms are characterised by low-tech management of production and limited use of inputs. Urban agriculture has been practiced in Monrovia and other Liberian cities long before the civil war, but grew in importance during and after the conflict.

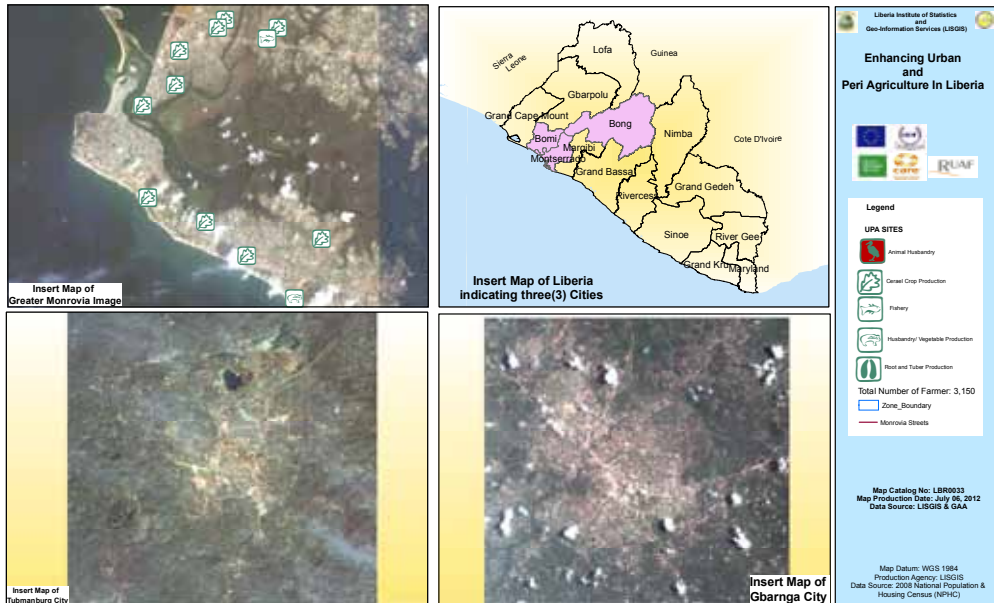
There are no clearly defined areas for urban agriculture in Liberian cities. Cultivation takes place on privately owned backyards (in the built up areas), in open spaces in the city (upland and lowland (swampland), government owned and privately owned) or in the peri-urban areas of Paynesville, the townships of Greater Monrovia, Gbarnga and Tubmanburg. Commonly there is no formal arrangement for the use of these peri-urban areas. The maps on page 7 and 8 show an overview of the three cities, and some of the areas identified in the situation analysis where urban agriculture activi-

ties are commonly practiced, and where the WHH and CARE projects support urban farmers, or areas which could potentially be allocated to agriculture (in Tubmanburg, other maps are being prepared).

In the situation analysis and baseline study, 75 sites with a total land area of 413 hectares were visited in Greater Monrovia, 13 sites in Tubmanburg covering 165 hectare and 20 sites of in total 67 hectares in Gbarnga city (based on the baseline survey for CARE and Welthungerhilfe projects, in 2010 by the research institute of the University of Liberia). The largest tracks are located in the peri-urban areas and most sites include low lying areas (swamp areas). Urban agriculture especially takes place during dry season, but there is very limited water available in April and May. With adequate water management these sites could be more productive. In the rainy season, urban farmers turn to rice production or use the higher areas, if available to them.

Land used for farming either belongs to government institutions, individuals, families or traditional authorities. In the surveys done in 2010, over 60 percent of the land under cultivation (including backyards) appeared to be privately owned, but not always by the farmer. Farmers claim traditional land rights, have squatter agreements, or are renting or leasing the land. It is common, that others cultivate the land on behalf of or instead (informally) of the owner. However, landowners may convert the land any time to other purposes. Use of peri-urban land is often for free, but many urban farmers are paying land rent of on average 7,000 Liberian dollars per cropping season per hectare in Greater Monrovia. These fees, if existent, are lower in Gbarnga and Tubmanburg.

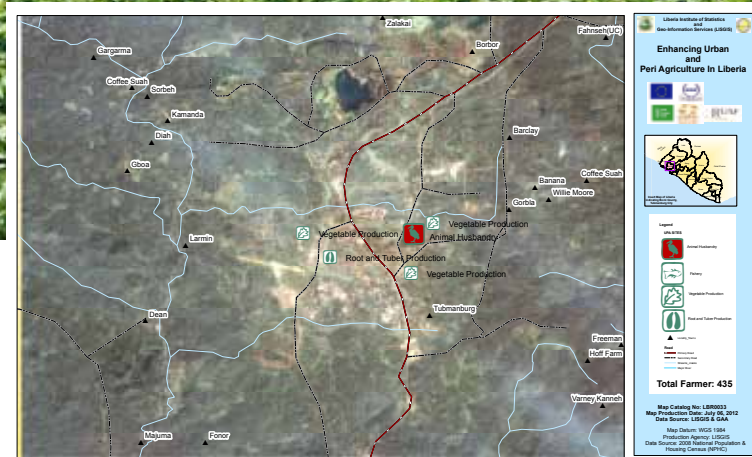




Thus, uncertainty affects a sizeable group of the urban farmers, who do not know for how long they can continue working on the plots that they are currently cultivating. Some households have access to two plots: one near the house for the rainy season and one on the edge of a nearby swamp for the dry season. Potential areas for urban agriculture on both public and private lands were identified in the situation analysis, but adequate lease arrangements need to be developed for proper use (as suggested in the action plans in the cities).

It is estimated (based on the baseline and the situation analysis) that over 5,000 households are engaged in urban agriculture in Greater Monrovia, Tubmanburg and Gbarnga, although many more do grow some crops in their backyards (on average 40 percent of urban households are estimated to be engaged in backyard farming in Africa (RUAF, 2010). Urban agriculture is undertaken by men and women: the vegetable gardeners are mostly women, while the livestock keepers are mostly (elderly) men. Approximately 75 percent of all farmers are women. Women also are responsible for marketing. This is a positive indication for house-

hold food security as in practice the women remain mostly responsible for household welfare, the welfare of children and vulnerable elderly. Two thirds of urban farmers in all three cities directly produce up to half of the food consumed by their households. Six percent produce all the food that their households need. Vegetable production is by far the main source of beneficiaries' income in all three cities surveyed. The various forms of urban food production in Liberia include crop production, livestock, fisheries, and related services.



## Crop production

Most urban farmers (over 90 percent) produce vegetables and some fruits (backyards and open spaces), which fetch good prices at the local markets. The main crops cultivated during the dry season in Monrovia, Tubmanburg, and Gbarnga are indigenous and exotic vegetables such as bitter ball, okra, cabbage, sweet potatoes, corn, tomatoes, lettuce, water melon, cucumber, pepper, and collard greens. Rice and cassava are the main staple crops in Liberia and there is some potential for production on the larger open spaces and swamps in the peri-urban areas. Rice is grown year round in both dry (only irrigated lowland rice) and rainy seasons. Rice and Cassava (also see the marketing study by CARE and WHH) are well studied, while

vegetable production is less known. There is also potential for (more) maize (corn) production. Vegetables have higher potential in the (larger) open spaces in both peri-urban areas as in backyards and smaller locations in the built up urban areas (using specific technologies). Vegetables may fetch good prices, and there is a growing market for exotic vegetables, fruit and poultry products. Fruits such as pineapples, avocados, and mangos are high in demand in supermarkets and hotels. There is high potential for adding value in vegetable production (both exotic and local), but improved production and post harvest practices are required. Pests and diseases may affect production: post-harvest losses are exceptionally high for many farmers (rice and cassava up to 25 percent, and in

vegetable production about 45 percent losses are mentioned, GoL, 2011b). CARE, Welthungerhilfe, FED, ACDIVOCA (and several others) are working in their UPA programmes to improve vegetable production in urban and peri-urban areas, most of them with a low external input approach, promoting organic farming principles and conservation agriculture, composting, mulching, inter- or companion cropping, home made organic pesticides, soil improvement, and crop preservation, both in the indigenous vegetable production and in the more market oriented exotic vegetable farming.

### Livestock production

Many farmers are engaged in some form of livestock production, mostly for additional income and savings as well as home consumption. Commonly reared animals include, chickens, sheep, goats and ducks with some households rearing pigs. Chickens are by far the most common type of livestock, with

intensive production (fenced) at 75 percent and 25 percent free range (observed in the surveys), mostly in the peri-urban areas. Peri-urban households commonly raise a few pigs for market in backyard sheds (pig production is about 85 percent commercial). Poultry and mini-livestock had high market opportunities (market survey CARE, WHH, 2011). In addition the production of rabbits, grass-cutters, guinea-pigs and snails is gaining in popularity (and has a high potential in space confined urban areas). Livestock owners indicate problems in accessing local feed, water, veterinary health care, theft, and complaints for nuisance (smell, noise) in residential areas. To support production and marketing, adequate arrangements such as zoning (specific locations for livestock) and stimulation of local production (import restriction), improving markets and slaughterhouses, etc. would be needed. Manure can be collected and used as fertilizer for crops and sometimes sold to other farmers.



### Institutional gardens

Despite the high potential, only a limited number of institutions have gardens, although there is some attention for developing school gardens. The Ministry of Agriculture and several NGOs support this, producing poultry, maize, potatoes, cabbage, green peppers, and onions. WHH is supporting the development of a garden for the Monrovia Central prison, Tubmanburg prison and two schools. The Ministry of Agriculture is also promoting an institutional garden at the JFK Hospital in Sinkor. Many institutions, though, lack sufficient land for gardening. The schools also identified the need for tools and the non-involvement of parents as problems. There is a potential for collaboration between the school and surrounding communities for maintenance and skills building.

### Ornamentals

Flowers and ornamentals are cultivated in Greater Monrovia along the roadside. Flower production and marketing in Monrovia provide numerous benefits to those involved, such as employment and income generation (especially for the youth and women involved). Selling hibiscus and various local ornamental plants for garden use, can provide an income up to 120- 250 USD a month.





### Aquaculture

Fishing is a dominant activity in some communities along the coast, especially in West Point Township and Popoe beach in Monrovia, where up to 75 percent of the population depends on sea fishing. Fresh fish is sold at the fish market in Sinkor or by street vendors. Dried or smoked fish is sold at most local markets. Small-scale sea fishing is hampered by large-scale (often illegal) fishing. This is given attention in national and international forums, but little can be done to protect local fishermen. The FAO through the PISCA project recently launched a scheme based on the promotion of sea fish drying. In addition many farmers with access to swamps are engaged in inland fisheries (about 21 percent of the population in Gbarnga and Tubmanburg), while in Monrovia, mainly in the Saint Paul's and Mesurado river. Most of the farmers indicated inland fish is used for household consumption, but some are also drying or smoking this fish for sale on the informal market.

Fishponds are a midterm investment since time is required between building the infrastructure and fish collection. In the past, numerous fish farms were operated in Montserrado, Bong, and Nimba counties. Both marine as inland fisheries has a great potential, but there is a lack of extension support for aquaculture.



### Inputs and Services

Urban farmers adopt different strategies to minimize inputs and maximize outputs, which vary depending on the farming system. Major inputs include labour, land, water, equipment, simple farm tools, organic and inorganic fertilizer, pesticides, and seeds. Vegetable farmers use pig or chicken manure or, if available, chemical fertilisers (preferred by most of them according to the survey by UoL, WHH and CARE, 2010). All farmers indicated a lack of proper tools and good seeds. FAO and NGOs supported by EU and USAID, are supporting MoA in providing tools and seeds to urban farmers, but more attention is needed for sustainable access (for example through farmer organisations). Almost none of the urban farmers surveyed had access to formal credit systems, as they are not able to meet the requirements of financial institutions. Some farmers have arranged informal credit systems, and CARE Liberia has initiated Village Savings and Loans (VS&L) groups. In the survey,

most households indicated limited contact with government or NGO extension services. There are various missing links or weak connections between research, extension and farmers needs. Cuttington University and University of Liberia have a role to play, as well as the Farmer Unions, the NFU or LINFU (Liberian National Farmer Union) and the FUN (Farmer Unions Network).



### Processing and Marketing

Processing is limited to the drying of some vegetables and is done in a very basic fashion, only for household consumption. The most common dried vegetable is pepper followed by bitter ball and okra. The process for drying consists of placing vegetables on a metal sheet. A majority of the farmers do not sell their own produce, those who, mostly women, merchandise fresh vegetables, ornamental plants and small livestock usually at the farm gate. Cabbage, lettuce, corn, okra, pepper, eggplant and tomato are most often sold, approximately 70 percent of production (WHH and CARE survey, 2010). Restaurants, hotels, mining companies, supermarkets and hospitals provide a major expanding outlet for urban agriculture produce, especially poultry and exotic vegetables, but adequate storage facilities and post-harvest technologies (hence access to finance) are needed. NGOs like ACDI-VOCA, CARE Liberia, FED and

Welthungerhilfe in cooperation with MoA are supporting farmers to add value to their production by developing indigenous incentive structures, improving production and marketing capacity and connecting farmers to hotels, major restaurants, and supermarkets, or developing specific farmers markets in Greater Monrovia, Gbarnga and Tubmanburg.



The two largest markets are Douala and Red Light, through which a majority of food from and to Monrovia passes (WHH and Care, marketing study 2011). There are 32 other markets in Greater Monrovia under the supervision of the Liberia Marketing Association (LMA). The problem of waste and spoiled food is serious at these markets and negatively impacts on business, hygiene and environment. There is a high potential here for collection and composting of organic wastes.

### **Urban Farmer Organizations**

Most of the urban farmers visited in Monrovia, Tubmanburg and Gbarnga were not organised in groups or associations, and were not member a national farmer organisation (baseline and situation analysis). NGOs working with these farmers seek to organize the farmers at group level, such as the farmer field schools and farmer groups initiated by CARE and Welthungerhilfe in their programmes, other NGOs such as ZOA, ACDI VOCA,

ACF, as well as MoA supported by FAO and local NGO's organise farmer or backyard gardener groups. Welthungerhilfe has initiated the establishment of the Federation of Liberian Urban and Peri-urban Farmer Associations (FLUPFA), which was inaugurated in May 14, 2011, representing urban farmers in Monrovia. A similar initiative was taken in Tubmanburg. In addition to joint buying and selling services, such an (urban) association gives farmers a united front, especially also when linked to national farmer representation, and will increase their capacity to advocate, manage and or negotiate with other stakeholders, as in the Multi-stakeholder Forums in the three cities.



## Major stakeholders

Economic growth, agricultural development, population growth and urbanisation are interactive components requiring interactive policy responses. Guided by GoL, and in close collaboration with IO's, NGOs, CBOs and private sector, action needs to be undertaken to develop long-term policies and strategic interventions which include the role of urban and peri-urban agriculture to manage the food security and urbanisation challenges.

Many institutions and organisations are involved in or influencing urban agriculture in Liberia. Different categories of stakeholders have been identified: *direct stakeholders*, such as farmers, their organisations, vendors, marketers, transporters, input suppliers, consumers and *indirect stakeholders*, those involved or influencing urban agriculture, such as government departments, municipalities and townships, IO's, NGOs, universities, and *other interested parties* (an overview is provided on page 37-38)

While some of them can play a significant role in facilitation, networking and policy advice, the government departments in particular need to

provide policy support. All actors are required for action planning and policy formulation, and successful integration and coordination of these stakeholders on urban agriculture related issues, will facilitate its development in Liberia.

Key stakeholders, in terms of mandates and potential role in influencing the development of urban agriculture, in Greater Monrovia, Gbarnga and Tubmanburg have been identified, and are involved in the Multi-Stakeholder Forums in these cities.

# BENEFITS OF URBAN AGRICULTURE

Urban agriculture contributes to enhanced food security and improved nutrition of the urban poor. In addition it can contribute to local economic development, providing jobs and income, poverty alleviation and social inclusion and contribute to, if properly managed, the greening of the city, mitigation of ambient temperature, the productive reuse of urban wastes, and adaptation to climate change.

## Food security and nutrition

The contribution of urban agriculture to food security and healthy nutrition is probably its most important asset. Food production is often a response of the urban poor to inadequate, unreliable and irregular access to food, and the lack of

purchasing power. In addition to enhance food security and nutrition of the urban producers themselves, urban agriculture produces large amounts of food for other portions of the population. Locally produced food is fresher, more nutritious, diverse and affordable than imported food products bought in supermarkets. It also leads to more regular food intake, which is of crucial importance for young children, the elderly or sick household members (e.g. people living with HIV/Aids). Producing these commodities in and around the city reduces the need for food imports and thereby saves on foreign exchange. It also decreases dependency on food imports, thereby increasing resilience. Often, locally produced food is also cheaper.



## Poverty alleviation, employment generation and local economic development

Over one third of all farmers interviewed in the three cities (UPA surveys 2010 and 2011) see their household as being in a better position (from an income perspective) when compared to other households in the same area. In general terms, the large majority of the beneficiaries see their households as being on or above the average-income line in their respective areas of residence. Urban agriculture is a source of additional household income for farmers, which can be used for the payment of school fees, house rent, hospital bills and other domestic expenses. In addition to the farmers themselves, several other people are employed in farming, marketing, and processing activities.

Poor households involved in urban and peri-urban agriculture benefit economically from their production activities by:

- *Sales* of surplus crops and livestock production.
- *Saving* on food expenditure. Since food is a major part (often 60-70 percent) of the expenditures of a poor urban household, such savings can be substantial.

In addition, poor urban households may benefit from production and sales of processed products and of agricultural inputs. In and related to urban agriculture numerous jobs can be generated, which may be important particularly to vulnerable groups, such as youth and women, in the city. There can also be a wider economic impact through savings on government expenditures for the maintenance of open spaces, community activities, or through payment of taxes, for instance through the Liberia Marketing Association.

## Gender and Social inclusion

Urban agriculture in Liberia also plays a role in the social inclusion of marginalised groups (unemployed youth, persons with disabilities, those afflicted by HIV-AIDS, refugees, female-headed households etc.) by providing them an opportunity to feed their families and raise an income, while enhancing self-management and entrepreneurial capacities. They feel enriched by the possibility of working constructively, building their community, working together and in addition producing food and other products for consumption and for sale. Providing marginalized groups with a decent livelihood prevents social problems, and supports governance, and linkages with environmental management (such as in green jobs) may be created. Urban agriculture may provide some advantages to women over other jobs and income earning opportunities, like the low capital needs to start farming, or the possibility to combine this activity with attending to children. Women play a critical role in the production and processing sectors and are often dynamic entrepreneurs.

## Productive use of urban land and water

Urban agriculture may have a comparative advantage over rural farming due to its proximity to urban consumers and lower transport and cooling costs. Refrigeration is particularly important for perishable products (green vegetables, milk, eggs, etc.) and in places where roads and other infrastructure facilities are poor.

Urban agriculture, to a large extent, makes productive use of land that is not fit for construction (flood or earthquake-prone areas, land under power lines and in buffer zones) and adds value to land that might not otherwise have an economic output. It can generate income from temporarily idle land through urban and peri-urban infill, and is compatible with public parks and open space planning. Questions are sometimes raised regarding the sustainability of urban agriculture in the context



of a dynamic urban market with high competition for land, soaring land prices and largely uncontrolled urban growth, if it is not protected by Municipal laws and programmes and combined with other functions.

As competition for water in densely populated zones intensifies, producers close to cities increasingly make use of wastewater for irrigation in agriculture and aquaculture (either treated waste water, wastewater diluted in water bodies and untreated wastewater). Treatment of wastewater in centralized treatment plants is prohibitively expensive for many cities. Using (partially treated or untreated) wastewater safely may provide the poor urban and peri-urban producer a regular supply of irrigation water as well as nutrients (replacing expensive industrial fertilisers). The WHO expects that “*urban agriculture, with urban wastewater as a common resource, will play a more important role in supplying food for the cities*” (WHO, 2006). The last two decades have seen a strong move towards alternative decentralised and low-cost treatment of wastewater that allows reuse of wastewater and nutrients or include aquaculture or agriculture as part of the wastewater treatment process.

### Reuse of solid organic wastes

Urban agriculture is part of the urban ecological system and can play an important role in urban environmental management. Growing cities produce more and more organic wastes (often up to 80 percent of total waste). The disposal of wastes has become a serious problem. Waste management (collection, transport and disposal) is one of the most costly responsibilities of Municipal authorities. Urban agriculture can help to solve such problems by turning urban wastes into a productive resource, thus reducing costs for local governments whilst providing income-generating opportunities for urban poor (especially youth, RUAFA, 2007). Quality compost is an important input that can bring a good



price, offering business opportunities, and an alternative to chemical fertilisers. It can also alleviate problems related to groundwater contamination from residues of agro-chemicals. Fresh waste from vegetable markets, restaurants and hotels, as well as food processing industries, could also be used as a source of feed for urban livestock.

### Adaptation to Climate Change

Urban agriculture is also getting recognition as an important strategy for climate change adaptation taking steps to minimise the predicted impacts of climate change and, to a lesser extent, mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. Urban agriculture helps cities to adapt to climate change and become more resilient by:

- Reducing energy use and green house gas emissions by producing fresh food close to the city;
- Maintaining green open spaces and enhancing vegetation cover in the city with important adaptive (and some mitigation) benefits, such as improved infiltration, flood control, preventing landslides, and city greening;
- Reducing the vulnerability of most vulnerable urban groups and strengthening community-based adaptive management.

# CONSTRAINTS FOR ENHANCING URBAN AGRICULTURE

Many citizens of Monrovia, Tubmanburg and Gbarnga are growing a portion of their own food in their backyards or on open spaces. Increasingly, the government is promoting urban agriculture, and the issue is being put on the agenda at both the municipal level (ordinances, land use zoning) and within the Ministry of Agriculture, who launched a national programme on UPA in 2011. Despite this recognition of its benefits, urban agriculture in Liberia is faced with a number of constraints limiting its acceptability and development. These differ per city but there are commonalities. The following issues are based on analysis of urban farming in Greater Monrovia, Tubmanburg and Gbarnga (CARE, WHH, RUAF surveys, 2010). Tackling or minimizing these constraints will require concerted effort by policy makers and other stakeholders (*meanwhile developing this document, initiatives might have been taken to turn these constraints into opportunities*).

## Lack of land security and regulation of land

Land tenure in Liberia is governed by eminent domain under which all the land is publicly owned and vested in the institution of the Presidency. Access and security to urban land is by way of a right to occupancy granted by the government and extension of customary occupancy. Urban agriculture is allowed, but not yet acknowledged as urban land use in policies and legislation, hence there is no security for urban farmers:

- Farmers have no formal land rights and may be ejected at any time by the government (such as in central Monrovia) or private (often absent) landowners when construction starts;
- No clear right of squatters' to farm on government or idle private land;
- No clear land tenure system, which is unfavourable to urban farmers who wish to rent land for food production, while if so, the cost is high of land rental for the poor urban farmers;
- Lack of linkages between institutions and sectors, and no information base on land;
- No proper land use zoning (policies) to allow for urban agriculture;

*The Lands Commission is facilitating a committee under the Multi-Stakeholder Forum of Monrovia on this.*

## Inappropriate farm management

Currently the management capacity of most urban farmers is low, resulting in low harvests, subsistence orientation, and abandoned projects; this remains one of the main areas of intervention, *and MoA, WHH, CARE, and several other NGOs have started to work on this.*

- Inefficient agricultural knowledge and skills amongst urban farmers and a lack of (access to) knowledge;
- Lack of access to inputs (proper seeds, tools, etc);
- Pests and diseases are a major source of loss during cultivation.
- Dependency of urban farmers on chemical fertilizers and pesticides (if available) and danger of pollution;
- Lack of access to and affordability of water (and pumping and irrigation equipment) during dry seasons;
- Contamination of crops with pathogens, due to irrigation with polluted water (for example the Liberia Water and Sewer sewerage tank) or unhygienic marketing practices;
- Inappropriate and uncoordinated agricultural extension services;



- Lack of access to credit and other forms of financial assistance from banks and financial institutions due to insufficient collateral and nature of agricultural production;

### Inappropriate processing and marketing

Various factors inter-play here, ranking from unreliable access to power, to lack of robust marketing strategies. Marketing is often very basic and done at farm gate or local markets. Processing is limited to the drying of some vegetables and is done in a very basic fashion.

- Lack of adequate storage methods and capacity at the level of producers and traders;
- Lack of market infrastructures and transport facilities for urban agriculture farmers eg, market stalls, tricycles etc.;
- Lack of appropriate information and links to buyers;
- Competing products: similar products coming from other regions tend to have a higher demand than those locally produced with low level technology; Very weak linkage to commercial agricultural sector in terms of supplies, marketing and sharing of opportunities;

### Organisation of farmers

Urban farmers are poorly organized and have many differences in educational, cultural, and economic background.

- Limited group formation of farmers at their location, hence difficult to organise capacity building efforts and manage distributing inputs and finance;
  - Lack of a specific urban agricultural association advocating for the welfare and well-being of urban farmers (including dealing with consumers or middlemen). The existing Farmer Unions, NFU or LINFU (Liberian National Farmer Union) and the FUN (Farmer Unions Network), both have limited coverage and funding.
  - NGOs often start their own farmer groups and organisations, not always properly linked;
- WHH is supporting the organisation of urban farmers, who also participate in the Multi Stakeholder Forums.*

### Support services

The Government of Liberia promotes a pluralistic approach in which agricultural innovations and extension services are more varied including government, private sector, CSOs and NGOs, this includes the farmer unions and groups. But there are various missing links or weak connections between research, extension and farmers needs. Other applied research at Cuttington University and University of Liberia also needs to be connected to extension efforts.

- Although attention for and support to urban farmers is increasing, and some actors exchange information, there is no coordinated effort by relevant stakeholders to assist urban farmers.
- Lack of clear information on roles and mandates of different actors and their relation to urban agriculture;
- Confusion about responsible agency for food security and food production in and around the city: MoH MoA, MCC, etc. and as of yet, no clear decentralisation policy.
- Inadequate amount of staff and funds with the Ministry of Agriculture to attend to all urban farmers and their organisations;
- Lack of coordinated provision of inputs: seeds, tools, etc.
- Lack of information on markets and database;
- Lack of specific financial services to poor urban farmers.







### No clear policies and regulation

There is still no clear government policy promoting or regulating urban agriculture.

- The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) is developing its urban agriculture policy (GoL, 2011b), but this needs to be more actively propagated;
- Urban planning by Ministry of Public works and Ministry of Internal Affairs does not provide for urban agriculture;
- City Ordinances (some exceptions) are not available or ignore or forbid urban agriculture;
- There is no coordinated and synchronized national recognition of urban agriculture as a key poverty reduction, food security and employment opportunity which factors in the national poverty reduction strategy in Liberia.
- Weakness in consultation, collaboration, coordination and participation between and among principle stakeholders at the height of policy making

- There is also a real need to raise awareness among stakeholders and policy makers about both the importance of urban agriculture in Liberia and the challenges.

*Support to the development of the PRS II and of ordinances in the cities by WHH, CARE and RUAF, seeks to include UPA.*

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCING AND PROMOTING URBAN AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

Urban food production contributes to food security and nutrition for urban vulnerable households, which is a major focus currently in and around Liberian cities. Promotion of food production in backyard gardens and open spaces should go along with enhancing other functions like improvement of income and job creation, and needs to be part of longer term development perspective in which contributions to resilient cities is considered. This has been acknowledged in the three cities.

## Developing a joint vision

The stakeholders gathered in the forum will seek to agree on a joint strategic agenda on urban agriculture that reflects the needs of farmers, and the interest and mandates of the individual institutions. In the first two sessions the members of these forums, discussed and agreed on a joint vision for urban agriculture and on the opportunities that exist in their city to further enhance urban agriculture.

## Vision Greater Monrovia

*Productive use of available land for urban and peri-urban agriculture, and promotion of sound environmental practices, thereby enhancing and promoting food security by 2020 in reducing poverty and hunger (MSF II report, 2011)*

## Political commitment

The Government of Liberia considers agriculture to be the primary source for poverty reduction, food security and economic recovery in Liberia. In the past major attention in agricultural development was on rural agriculture, assisting large and medium scale farmers. The importance of small-

scale farmers, including those operating in and around the city, is acknowledged, and is highlighted in major policy frameworks in Liberia, such as the Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy paper (GoL, 2008, 2011), the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (GoL, 2009), Food and Nutrition Security report (GoL, 2010), the Agriculture Sector Investment Programme (LASIP: GoL, 2010) and in various donor support programmes of the EU and USAID. Urban and peri-urban agriculture is actively supported in Liberia by NGOs, and is now on the agenda of MoA. Decentralisation offers opportunities to link MoA expertise to the cities and townships.

The Ministry of Lands and the Lands Commission, with UN Habitat's urban sector development support, are dealing with urban issues very related to UPA (on the use of land, land use mapping, and the many stakeholder consultations); the National Environmental Policy developed by the Environmental Protection Agency deals with areas such as waste management and use of protected zones; the mandate of the Ministry of Public Works do relate to and have opportunities for urban agriculture. *Under the Greater Monrovia Multi-stakeholder Forum, the Lands Commission, together with MoA and Ministry of Lands and Mines, initiated a working group on this issue.*

The "back to soil" initiative initiated by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who herself has an urban garden, and who repeatedly refers to the need for regulation of unused land in the city, highlights this increase in attention for urban food production by the Government.



International organisations, EU and USAID funded have initiated programmes to support urban and peri-urban agriculture, mostly working with MoA (Welthungerhilfe, CARE, FED, FAO). There is a need for coordination of these initiatives. MoA, at National and County levels, has a coordinating role to play. There are technical working groups and a working group on urban agriculture under the MoA (ACC meetings). The Multi-stakeholder Forum in the three cities will include a wider field of actors, most importantly the Municipalities, townships and the farmers themselves, to continue information sharing, but also in joint action planning. These platforms need proper facilitation and to be linked to other initiatives.

### Policies and Legislation

Urban agriculture related issues fall under the jurisdiction of different levels and types of authorities: city, district, county, and national. There is no specific policy on urban agriculture, while legislation often doesn't specifically refer to agricultural activities within the city limits.

Although there are many legal documents prescribed to and impacting on urban agricultural activities in Greater Monrovia, it is not prohibited and in principal can take place under certain controlled conditions. For example backyard gardens are allowed as well limited small livestock (usually chickens). The Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) seeks to regulate land use and aims to develop a greener city, through a comprehensive waste collection programme. By regulating urban agriculture, in a form adapted to the city such as parks, gardens (such as the recent initiative on Vai Town Waterfront) and low space techniques, both

greening and productive use of spaces could be enhanced. Also Painesville City Corporation is open for food production within its boundaries, but current ordinances (zoning and public works) barely refer to urban agriculture. Further development of these ordinances (*currently on-going in Tubmanburg, Gbarnga and Painesville, facilitated by RUAF and WHH*) provides opportunities for support and regulation of food production and productive linkages with other sectors. The recently drafted ordinances of a number of townships, such as Congo Town, New Georgia, and Barnesville do seek to regulate agriculture within its boundaries and enhance its positive impact.

The protection of human safety in food markets, particularly in Liberia is a challenge that must be addressed through internationally recognized health and food safety system that will ensure consumers are informed and protected from the risks of food borne diseases. A number of agencies are involved in Liberia (MoCI, MoH, MoA, MCC) and there is need for coordination. There is currently no integrated legal framework on Food Safety, and sectoral legislation is outdated (FAO is supporting standardisation, standards and guidelines at international level). *Under the Multi Stakeholder Forum in Monrovia there is a committee on Food Safety, including MoA, MoH and MCC, and in the new EU funded programme of ACF and WHH there will be attention to this also.*

### Support services

There are many stakeholders and role-players in Greater Monrovia with (part of their) mandate to enhance urban farming, but a major problem is the availability of information, communication and cooperation.

Under appropriate regulation, active support to peri-urban producers and micro retailers is required. Capacity building of the direct stakeholders needs to prioritize sustainable and profitable practices, as well as the development of value chains and the establishment or strengthening of

farmer organisation and associations. NGOs and the GoL collaborate in further developing the existing pluralistic extension system, using participatory approaches. Improvement of the marketing system requires targeting farmers (and their organisations), market institutions and improvement of physical infrastructure and development of appropriate market information services. *WHH and CARE have organised value chain workshops in the last year on Cassava, Vegetables and on Medicinal herbs.* Provision of inputs, such as good seeds is undertaken by MoA with FAO, and needs continuous effort. Also provision of tools and (organic) fertilisers needs attention, through private sector and using the farmer resource centres. The private and financial sector needs to be involved in these interventions too. In Liberia as in many developing countries the financial sector is not adapted to offering financial services to the poor and low-income, such as urban farmers. NGOs have started to support urban farmers with savings and loans programmes, but access to credit and finance need further attention.

### Marketing and Value chain development

Several value chains have been identified in the market survey conducted by CARE and Welthungerhilfe in 2010 (including cassava, vegetables, livestock, medicinal plants). Other NGOs are undertaking similar exercises (ACF on cassava and vegetables for instance), FED, etc. In general, still very little value addition currently takes place, due to short chains and often confined to only two or, at best, three stages. Differences in prices between the farm gate and the point of sale to the end consumer in most cases are also low. There is a great potential for the development of these value chains (adding value) to enhance the return on farmers' products and developing sustainable businesses, but this needs organisation and capacity building.

In addition to improving food security of the producer's households, urban agriculture immedi-



ately supplies the markets with easily perishable produce. A number of vegetables are produced for the market, but potential markets, such as supermarkets high-income residents, tourists, and restaurants, prompt harvests by their demands. Also there is an increasing demand for organic food. Therefore, in addition to improved production management, facilities need to be built for preserving and processing crops, as well as improved marketing such as product labelling, new packaging methods (preferably based on local available or recycling materials). Training in the use of integrated pest management and the use of organic pest controls need to be widely promulgated to increase ecologically sound practices. Also prices of chemicals for pest and disease management should be raised, in order to stimulate the use of organic alternatives in urban agriculture within Greater Monrovia, Tubmanburg and Gbarnga cities.

### **Productive use of Land, Water and Waste**

As in any urban context, land is scarce for food production with many competing needs (land for housing the most critical one). Preliminary maps made by WHH and CARE, show that, in addition to peri-urban agricultural areas, there are many small pieces of waste-land, public and private open spaces in the residential/industrial areas of Greater Monrovia which could be utilized for vegetable gardening.

### **Improving access to land**

There is plenty of land available, but not all the land is suitable, or really accessible for agriculture. A large part of actual and potential land for urban agriculture does not belong to the State. Farming households have traditional land rights, squatter agreement, or are renting or leasing the land. There is room for improvement, particularly in the outskirts of Greater Monrovia, where land plots are



generally larger and more suitable for production. Not all households have access to low lying areas, and even when there is access, often it is not secure in the long term. Other development potential exists in government areas that are no longer used (such as the army barracks), or are being used as small plots of land located adjacent to houses. These open spaces are commonly neglected and dirty, but potentially fertile given the quantity of organic residues dumped in the vicinity. Their use would not require any significant investment other than some manpower for clearing, fencing, land preparation, and protection by government. Various plots in peri-urban areas are abandoned and would need adequate drainage systems in order to be properly developed. Those willing to develop need secure tenure, at least for a couple of years, to take initiative to do this. Stakeholders and NGOs should advocate for relevant land allocation for urban agriculture to Government. Partnerships need to be formed with willing and supportive

private landowners. *Land use mapping and zoning, including urban agriculture, has started by WHH and CARE, and development of GIS systems with LIS GIS, the Ministry of Lands and supported by the Lands Commission.* This needs to be closely linked to development plans and zoning of the cities and townships.

#### **Access to clean water**

Access to (clean) water, especially in the months before the rainy season would also enhance urban agriculture. Shallow wells are already in use around Monrovia on a limited scale, but the water is not always of good quality. *Already the use of small hand or foot pumps for irrigation from shallow wells to support urban and peri-urban agriculture activities is being propagated (ZOA, CARE, WHH), and stimulated, while solar energy also offers opportunities.* Alternatives, like storing rainwater for use also needs to be explored. Addressing the health and environmental risks in these efforts will



help boost the confidence of the public in purchasing urban agriculture products.

### **Solid waste management**

Urban agriculture could potentially act as one of the solutions to organic waste management in Liberian cities (Monrovia, but also in Gbarnga and Tubmanburg) if the bio-degradable components are used for the production of composts. A major facility is under construction by WB/GoL in Greater Monrovia (Fiamah community) to support solid waste management. *Also CHF (funded by USAID) is collaborating with the City of Monrovia in managing organic waste and seeking linkages to its productive use. In Gbarnga, a garbage disposal site has been identified that could provide compost.* Selling compost to farmers and using compost for greening the city could enhance (financial) sustainability of the required infrastructure and stimulate businesses operating in waste management.

### **City Greening**

Greening of the city of Monrovia is one of the priorities, which could be enhanced by engaging abandoned public and private lands. Pieces of land owned by government and private individuals, which now are left unattended (serving as hide-outs for criminals or terrain for waste dumping) could be cleaned through agricultural activities, also providing employment opportunities.

### **Employment, youth and women**

Urban agriculture provides employment opportunity for individuals in the urban areas who do not have sufficient education for employment in the formal sector of the economy. Mainstreaming gender considerations is tremendously important. Improving women's involvement in and access to credit, farming inputs, extension services, and business opportunities must be prioritized.

During the civil conflict many people with considerable experience in agriculture sought refuge in the cities from rural towns and villages. Many of them are already engaged in agriculture. Many youths are likely to become involved in agriculture or related activities. Hence, the empowerment of youth to become self-reliant is a driving force in (green) job creation and enterprise development related to urban agriculture. Focusing on young women and disabled youth, efforts addressing life skills, conflict management, and entrepreneurial ability empower youth while providing them with a voice

### Awareness and Education

Regardless of the many opportunities and recent interest, urban agriculture still perceived as not urban or not related to a “modern” city, including in current training and education programmes. It is important therefore that these perceptions are addressed, and that public awareness on the potential of and support for urban agriculture activities is increased, including the role of producers and consumers in ensuring food safety. Training and education curricula need to be developed inclusive of urban agriculture. In that respect the initiative of the University of Liberia, as a partner in the EU programmes on UPA should be mentioned, as well as linkages to Cuttington University in Gbarnga. Stimulating food production and related activities in institutional areas like schools will provides fresh food, stimulates attendance, which may prevent drop-outs.





# TOWARDS A CITY STRATEGIC AGENDA

There is an acknowledged need in Greater Monrovia, Tubmanburg and Gbarnga, to jointly formulate and agree on policies and activities that seek to manage the risks and opportunities of urban and peri-urban agriculture through an integrated package of measures, involving all stakeholders. A number of crucial issues requiring invention promoting urban agriculture have been identified by the LFTs and brought forward to the Multi-Stakeholder Forums in the three cities.

Obviously, the Multi Stakeholder Forum for Greater Monrovia faces the biggest challenge, due to unsolved issues on responsibility and boundaries

among municipal and township authorities, in the light of the expanding city, and in seeking to develop a comprehensive development framework and agenda. But also the rapidly growing cities as Gbarnga and Tubmanburg require a joint visioning and comprehensive planning.

Successful development of urban agriculture for the future should be based on the integration of a variety of strategies that combine social, economic and environmental concerns in the context of current institutional setting. The future habitability of cities will depend on whether decision-makers and urban planners develop and adhere to



coherent policies for managing the urban and peri urban areas. These urban development policies should be based on guidelines and models of expansion that take into account the need to reserve areas for greening and agricultural purposes. This gives the city and its outskirts the opportunity to feed a significant part of the population with local fresh products. It is further necessary to design urban development plans that impose specific rules for utilization of land, banning unauthorized structures and creating areas for agricultural production within sustainable systems in the city and the immediate surroundings. An adequate legislation, leasing of plots and gardens through a contract recognized by the municipality and correctly registered are measures which would guarantee rights by the potential farmers, vegetable growers and livestock producers

To guide joint analysis, planning and implementation of the many stakeholders involved, there is need for consensus on a City Strategic Action Plan (CSA), which describes the ongoing and necessary activities, but also seeks to link specific stakeholders and, if available, budgets to these activities. In addition linkages to the wider policy framework of agriculture, food security and urban development needs to be made.

The following is a list of issues that have been identified in the situation analysis and discussed by the Multi-Stakeholder Forums in the three cities and are currently being prepared by working groups for discussion and agreement (*the cities where this issue explicitly was mentioned are added between brackets*).

### 1) Institutional Development and (improved) Coordination of Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture

Currently the MoA coordinates project activities on urban agriculture in Liberia through the working group under the ACC, it has been agreed that city councils also need to coordinate activities.

- Create and coordinate a multi-stakeholder platform for discussion, information sharing, planning and policy development related to urban agriculture (*Tubmanburg, Gbarnga, Greater Monrovia*);
- Explore and harmonise with other cities and projects in Liberia;
- Assign lead stakeholder(s) to coordinate the MSF and open communication means (list server, website, etc.);
- Create an urban agriculture office, within the MoA, and in the main cities, as part of decentralisation efforts (*on-going*);

*Major Stakeholders involved: MoA, Cities, NGOs, University*

### 2) Adequate Policies and Legislation on UPA

- Formalize urban agriculture as an urban land use;
- Analyse current legislation and propose necessary changes or new ordinances, laws, bylaws and laws, etc (*Tubmanburg, Gbarnga, Greater Monrovia*);
- Define standards on design, location, health, etc of urban agricultural use;
- Develop national programme on UPA (MoA);

*Major Stakeholders involved: Relevant Ministries, Lands Commission, Cities, Townships, Community and Farmer organisations.*



### 3) Awareness Created on the Contribution of UPA to Sustainable Urban Development (including Food Security, etc.)

- Awareness creation and public sensitisation on the benefits and improved practices of urban agriculture, through regular contributions to radio journals, information campaigns, schools, and (curriculum development at) universities;
  - Develop and maintain a website on UPA in Liberia;
  - Develop an exhibition garden in Monrovia;
  - Provide Books and Handouts on UPA to Students;
  - Develop Curricula at University of Liberia;
- Major Stakeholders involved: Relevant Ministries, Cities, Townships, Community, NGOs, UoL, Media.*

### 4) Improved Availability of and Access to Land for UPA,

- Formalize urban agriculture as an urban land use;
  - Finalise the inventory of available land, tenure arrangements and build a (GIS) database (land bank) (*Greater Monrovia*);
  - Integrate urban agriculture in land use planning and city/township zoning and ensure protection of these lands (*Tubmanburg, Gbarnga, Greater Monrovia*);
  - Facilitate (temporary) arrangements for informal / squatter farmers;
  - Prepare a (draft) Legal Framework on (urban) Land for UPA;
- Major Stakeholders involved: Relevant Ministries, Lands Commission, LISGIS, Cities, Townships, Community and Farmer organisations.*

### 5) Food Security and Nutrition of the Urban Poor Enhanced through UPA

*In the third MSF of Greater Monrovia this was added as a separate issue, including:*

- Analysis and Coordination on Food Safety;
- Stimulate Backyard Gardening, proved awareness and capacity building on food and nutrition;

*Major Stakeholders involved: Relevant Ministries, Cities, NGOs, Communities.*

### 6) Support to Urban Farmers: Sustainable Urban Agriculture Practices and Business Promoted and Supported

- Improve extension and capacity building of farmers, by NGOs, Government and Farmers' organisations, (focus IPM, seeds, livestock, value chain development: processing, storage, marketing, develop farmer resource centres, etcetera) (*Tubmanburg, Gbarnga, Greater Monrovia*);
- Improvement of access to inputs of seeds, live-

stock and tools, preventing hand-outs, incentives to farmer organisations, or establishment of lease/repayments;

- Assist farmers in access and use of basic irrigation tools and water pumps.
- Linking water and waste management to environmental programmes (composting, protection of swamps, etcetera.).
- Improve infrastructure for marketing, roads and market regulation (stimulating local produce) (*Tubmanburg, Gbarnga, Greater Monrovia*);
- Stimulate the organisation of farmer groups, and secondary associations, to enhance services to their members and to enhance advocacy and negotiation in urban platforms: Under the UPA programme in Liberia WHH supports the formation of a Federation of Urban and Periurban Farmers Associations FLUPFA in Monrovia (Monserrado), and a sister organisation TUPUFU in Tubmanburg (Bomi);

*Major Stakeholders involved: MoA (coordination), NGOs, FAO, CARI, EPA, Marketing Ass., Restaurants,*





*Hotels, Universities.*

- Stimulate savings and loan programmes linked to urban agriculture;
- Grant subsidies on expensive inputs, by providing financial support through farmer organisations;
- Analyse availability of credit and finance to urban farmers and their needs, building linkages between banks, micro-credit providers and support in collateral;

*Major Stakeholders involved: NGOs, Banks, Micro-credit organisation, Farmers Organisations.*

### **7) Support to Urban Farmers: Urban Farmer Groups and Associations Organised and Linked to National Farmers Organisation**

- Stimulate the organisation of farmer groups, and secondary associations, to enhance services to their members and to enhance advocacy and negotiation in urban platforms: Under the UPA programme in Liberia WHH supports the forma-

tion of a Federation of Urban and Periurban Farmers Associations FLUPFA in Monrovia (Monserrado), and a sister organisation TUPUFU in Tubmanburg (Bomi);

- Support active participation of farmer organisations in MSFs;

*Major Stakeholders involved: MoA (coordination), NGOs, FAO, CARI, EPA, Marketing Ass., Restaurants, Hotels, Universities.*

### **8) Improved Environmental Management of Waste and Water and its use in UPA.**

- Assist farmers in access and use of basic irrigation tools and water pumps.
- Linking water and waste management to environmental programmes (composting, protection of swamps, etcetera).
- Analysis and Coordination on Food Safety;

*Major Stakeholders involved: MoA, EPA, NGOs, Farmers and their organisations.*

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*All photos are made by CARE, WHH and RUAF.*

# STAKEHOLDERS IN URBAN AND PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE IN LIBERIA

In **bold** the current members of the Multi Stakeholder Forum

Sector	Greater Monrovia	Tubmanburg City	Gbarnga City
<b>Government</b>	<b>Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)</b>	<b>MoA (CAC)</b>	<b>MoA (CAC)</b>
	<b>Ministry Internal Affairs (MIA)</b>	<b>MIA</b>	<b>MIA</b>
	<b>Lands Commission</b>	<b>Min. Gender</b>	
	Min. of Health		
	Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy		
	Ministry of Public Works		
	<b>Monrovia City Corporation</b>	<b>Tubmanburg City Corporation</b>	<b>Gbarnga City Corporation</b>
	<b>Paynesville City Corporation</b>	<b>Tubmanburg City Council</b>	<b>Gbarnga City Council</b>
	<b>New Georgia Township</b>		
	<b>Federation of Transport</b>		
	<b>Barnesville Township</b>		
	<b>Dixville township</b>		
	<b>Township of Congo Town</b>		
<b>Gardnerville Township</b>			
<b>Caldwell township</b>			
<b>Johnsonville township</b>			
<b>New township</b>			
<b>Semi-Govt</b>	<b>EPA</b>		<b>MPEA</b>
	LIPA		
	<b>Liberia Marketing Association</b>	<b>Liberia Marketing Association</b>	<b>Liberia Marketing Association</b>
	Liberia Water & Sewer Corporation		
National Tourism Society of Liberia			
<b>Farmers</b>	<b>National Farmers Union</b>	<b>National Farmers Union</b>	<b>National Farmer Union</b>
	<b>Federation of Liberian Urban and Peri Urban Farmers Associations</b>	<b>Tubmanburg Urban and Peri Urban Farmers Union</b>	

Sector	Greater Monrovia	Tubmanburg City	Gbarnga City
<b>NGOs</b>	<b>CARE Liberia</b> <b>Welthungerhilfe</b> <b>HDF</b> <b>A2N</b> <b>ACDI-VOCA</b> <b>FED (DAI)</b> <b>ACF</b> <b>VOSIED-AFRICA</b> <b>ZOA</b> Samaritan Purse CHF CONCERN WORLD-WIDE BRAC CHAP NRC WOCHIDO PADS Check List youth organisation, etc. Liberia United Agriculture Relief Service Environmental Foundation International	<b>Welthungerhilfe</b> <b>HDF</b>  RADIO	<b>CARE Liberia</b>  <b>A2N</b>  REFOUND <b>Bong Youth for Development</b>
<b>International Agencies</b>	<b>FAO</b>  <b>UN-HABITAT</b>		
<b>Research/ Universities</b>	<b>University of Liberia</b> Cuttington University CARI	<b>CARI</b>	Cuttington University CARI



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The development of the policy narrative and the city strategic agenda's on urban and peri-urban agriculture in Greater Monrovia, Tubmanburg and Gbarnga are facilitated by Welthungerhilfe, CARE Liberia and RUAF, as part of the EU funded UPA programmes.

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Gbarnga City  
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