This Agreement is made in Freetown on the Day ______ Month________ Year 2010

Between

Sierra Leone Ministry of Land Country Planning and Environment (MLCPE), Represented by the Honorable Minister Dr. Dennis Sandy

Sierra Leone Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security, Represented by the Honorable Minister Dr Joseph Sam Sesay

Freetown City Council (FCC), Represented by the Honorable His Worship The Mayor Herbert George Williams

Western Area Rural District Council (WARDC), Represented by the WARDC Chairman Alhassan Cole

WHEREBY:

(i) The above mentioned institutions recognize the importance of urban and peri urban agriculture for socio economic development, food security, employment and environmental management in and around Freetown

(ii) The above mentioned institutions play a key role in harnessing the power of urban and peri urban agriculture in Freetown and Western Area and have been collaborating closely through their representatives in the Freetown Urban and Peri Urban Agriculture Platform (FUPAP)

(iii) The above mentioned institutions recognize that identifying suitable land for agriculture in and around Freetown and allocating it securely to recognized existing farmers groups who will utilize it productively according to established rules could bring substantial benefits to the population of Freetown and surrounding areas in terms of food security, income and job creation and environmental management

THE ABOVE MENTIONED INSTITUTIONS THEREFORE AGREE THE FOLLOWING:

1. To identify and map land currently used and/or land not used but suitable for urban and peri urban agriculture in Freetown and Western Area, starting from lowlands and valleys.

   1a. The Ministry of Lands Country Planning and Environment, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, FCC, WARDC and FUPAP will proceed to identify sites currently used or not used but suitable for urban and peri urban agriculture, starting with lowlands and valleys. The first identification will be done using the digitalized maps and mapping systems of MLCPE.

   1b. Once the sites have been identified, a team made up of the four institutions’ representatives will visit the sites to verify existing information and gather additional information regarding accessibility, suitability, use and feasibility of the site.

2. To officially designate the identified sites for urban and peri urban agriculture use
2a. The Ministry of Lands Country Planning and Environment and FCC or WARDC will officially declare the identified sites permanently allocated to urban and peri urban agriculture.

2b. Any other use of the designated sites will be considered an illegal and punishable offence. Penalties will be established, made public and inflicted against offenders.

3. To give the rights of use of the identified sites to groups registered with the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security and FCC or WARDC for a fixed renewable period of 5 years.

3a. FCC or WARDC will sign a formal agreement with a registered farmers’, youth or women group for the use of the land for a fixed renewable period of 5 years. The agreement will be countersigned by the MLCPE.

3b. The Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security and FCC or WARDC will ensure support and supervision to the group so that they use the allocated land productively and accordingly to the covenants in the signed land usage agreements.

3c. The Land will be assigned to the groups free of charge, provided that the groups use it productively and respect the signed land usage agreements.

4. To implement the present agreement according to the following timescale

4a. The actions outlined in points 1 and 2 of the present agreement will be implemented by the end of February 2011 for all lowlands and valleys in Freetown and Western Area.

4b. The identified sites (lowlands and valleys) will be allocated to the farmers, women or youth groups between March and April 2011.

4c. The actions outlined in points 1 and 2 of the present agreement will be implemented between March 2011 and July 2011 for all other areas suitable for urban and peri urban agriculture in Freetown and Western Area (beyond lowlands and valleys)

4d. The further sites identified will be allocated to farmers, women and youth groups in August and September 2011.

5. To monitor the timely implementation and evaluate the impact of the present agreement.

5a. The four institutions signatories to this agreement will nominate one representative each to work collaboratively as a FUPAP Committee. The representatives will report directly to their political Heads.

5b. The Committee with have the following tasks:
- to monitor the timely implementation of this agreement and act upon any delay;
- to evaluate the impact of the implementation of this agreement on food production, food security, income generation, employment and environmental management for vulnerable communities
- to agree on a mechanism for the resolution of any conflict and dispute arising from the present agreement.
Annexes:
(1) Guidelines for mapping and allocation of land for urban and peri urban agriculture in Freetown and Western Area
(2) Template Land Usage Agreement

Signed:

Sierra Leone Ministry of Land Country Planning and Environment (MLCPE),
Honorable Minister Dr. Dennis Sandy
Date:
Signature:_________________________________________________________________

Sierra Leone Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security,
Honorable Minister Dr Joseph Sam Sesay
Date:
Signature:_________________________________________________________________

Freetown City Council (FCC),
Honorable His WorshipThe Mayor Herbert George Williams
Date:
Signature:_________________________________________________________________

Western Area Rural District Council (WARDC),
Honorable Chairman Mr. Alhassan Cole
Date:
Signature:_________________________________________________________________

Witnessed By:
National Federation of Farmers Sierra Leone (NAFFSL)
President Mr. Jesse Olu John
Date:
Signature:-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------