DECLARATION and DECISIONS
FROM THE FIRST MULTI STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP ON URBAN AND PERI URBAN AGRICULTURE IN MAKENI
Makeni, 10-11 and 14-15 March 2011

We, the participants in the first multi stakeholder workshop gathered to explore opportunities in urban and peri urban agriculture in Makeni on 10-15 March 2011, including representatives of Makeni City Council, Bombali District Council, Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Secutiy (MAFFS), Ministry of Employment Youth and Sport (MEYS), farmers and farmers based organizations (FBOs), youth and youth organizations including the Youth Council, University of Makeni (UNIMAK) and local NGOs

define Urban and Peri Urban Agriculture (UPA) in Makeni as the production, processing and marketing of food products (crops, livestock and fish), forestry and plants in the city of Makeni (urban) and around it (peri urban) within a distance of 5 miles.

We know that urban and peri urban agriculture in Makeni exists and already contributes to local food production and income generation.

We believe that it is important to promote and scale up UPA in Makeni because:

- The city grows and more population demands more food.
  Urban and peri urban farming can produce more variety of food which will be ready available on the city market and more affordable because produced locally with little transportation involved.

- UPA can improve the nutritional status and health of people in Makeni.
  More availability of accessible perishable vegetables, poultry and livestock products can improve the consumption of these products among Makeni people, increasing their vitamin and protein intake with positive effects on their health. Also, specific medicinal plants can be grown in Makeni. Finally, more income created by UPA means more access to food and health services

- UPA can create jobs and improve income and livelihood in Makeni, including among youth
  Jobs and income can be created through economic activities in input production and provision, agricultural production, processing and marketing, as well as related sectors, like waste collection for composting, waste water treatment and irrigation

- UPA can make Makeni cleaner and more beautiful
  Though regular waste collection and beautification through greening of the city

- Developing UPA in Makeni will build the capacity and the skills of the people who are involved in it, including farmers, youth, processors, marketers, institutions and service providers

- UPA create stronger ties among farmers and in the communities in and around Makeni
  As farmers and communities work together they also share and face their day to day problems together.

- UPA can stimulate specialization and innovation in agricultural production, value addition and marketing in Makeni
  This can in turn create interest among potential investors and possibly create opportunity for export in the future

- Developing UPA in Makeni can have a positive impact on reducing the need for foreign exchange
  As products that were previously imported are produced locally, there is less need for foreign exchange. If new products developed through UPA start being exported or if the rural areas start focusing on export rather than on feeding the cities, this will in turn generate foreign exchange.

- Developing UPA in Makeni will remind city people of the importance of agriculture in our economy and society, encourage more youth to be part of it and encourage more children to learn more about agriculture ensuring that the potential of this sector is developed in the future
In order to develop the potential of Urban and Peri Urban Agriculture in Makeni, we have identified the following priorities:

1. Secure more land for UPA in Makeni:
   Given the land tenure system whereby most of the suitable land is privately owned, this will entail involvement of land owners and relevant authorities and negotiation of specific land agreements for UPA.

2. Increase the capacity of Makeni UPA farmers, processors and marketers:
   Training and capacity building of farmers and processors should include:
   - group formation and strengthening
   - capacity building on production, processing and marketing as needed.
   - specific training on cultivation of new produce and introduction of new techniques
   - training on identification of opportunities for value addition
   - record keeping and recording

   MAFFS extension services should be capacitated to provide quality technical training in UPA.

3. Strengthen farmers’ production systems, develop processing and preservation of produce and improve marketing along selected value chains that can create income and jobs:
   Sectors that are considered having a good potential to be explored are:
   - vegetables
   - livestock (mainly poultry and small ruminants)

   The quality and quantity of Makeni UPA produce should be improved and in order to do so farmers’ access to quality inputs (seeds, tools, fertilizers) should be enhanced. The use of natural fertilizers should be encouraged.

   Processing and preservation techniques should be tailored to local needs including consideration for simplicity of construction and use, low capital investment and running costs and creation of local jobs in the construction of the equipment used.

   Packaging should be encouraged to enhance the quality and value of the produce.

   Marketing should be strengthened and tailored initially for the Makeni market.

4. Ensure enough safe water for UPA
   Enough water for UPA in Makeni should be secured. Production should take into account the local rainfall pattern and availability of water in various ecosystems, as well as the needs for other water uses.

   In swamp areas, protected wells should be promoted. Re use of waste water should be promoted for backyard production.

5. Explore appropriate sources of finance for households involved in UPA and ensure they are accessible
   Finance is key for the development of market oriented UPA in Makeni, in the areas of input provision, production, value addition and marketing. Existing financing opportunities should be researched and made widely known, including Government, Councils, Donors and NGO programs, and opportunities for credit and microcredit with banks and microfinance institutions. If necessary, specific new finance products should be developed in collaboration with relevant institutions.
Agreements and Action points
decided by the first Multi Stakeholder Workshop on Urban and Peri Urban Agriculture in Makeni

Stakeholders agreed to take actions which fulfill the following criteria:
1. Action should be in line with the priority areas agreed (see above) and be implemented in urban and peri urban Makeni.
2. Any action should ensure equal benefits for women
3. Any action should encourage participation of vulnerable people
4. We should only propose actions that we are able to do. Actions should be feasible
5. Any action should involve all relevant stakeholders

Stakeholders committed to work together on 3 activities:

1. **Identify more land for UPA in and around Makeni and negotiate with land owners and relevant authorities so that local farmers can access it, through:**
   - Sensitisation meetings between City and District Council, land owners and public – start from 21 March 2011 (Councils and Land owners)
   - Dialogue between Councils, paramount chiefs, land owners and farmers
   - Develop MoU and Land Agreement between land owners and farmers to be signed by land family heads, Council heads, Paramount Chiefs and NAFSSL (MoU to spell out Purpose, Roles and responsibilities, Duration of the Agreement, conditions and terms)
   - Councils to institute bye laws in relation to taxes paid by land owners (some land owners present already pledged to give land for UPA during the workshop)
   - Bye laws to also consider control of animals

2. **Identify available sources of credit and finance for UPA**
   - Link to MITAF (Micro Finance Institutions Forum)
   - Ensure that groups are strengthened so that they can meet the criteria of micro finance: Stakeholders in Makeni are well placed to support groups through self organization (MAFFS, MEYS, NGOs), Savings (NGOs like Future in Our Hands, BRAC and others), opening Bank Accounts and accessing loans (through SLIBA who can also provide Business Development Services including business clinics). Given this context emphasis should be given to groups self help and progress towards banking and micro finance for sustainability.
   - Compile a list of opportunities for funding for Urban and Peri Urban Agriculture in Makeni (micro finance, banks, grants through Government, Local Councils, existing Development Programs, NGOs) with criteria and requirements for each opportunity.

3. **Design, implement and monitor a pilot project with the following characteristics:**

   **Objective:**
   To create jobs for young people and improve food security in Makeni

   **Target Group:** 100 young people with the following criteria
   a. 50 in urban Makeni (in 2 sites)
   b. 50 in peri urban Makeni (in 2 sites)
   c. Young people who are already involved and interested, preferable youth already in groups, although new groups can be formed
   d. Access to land (if negotiated through the project, they should be close to land negotiated under action n.1 above)
   e. At least 50% female and including vulnerable people

   **Expected results:**
   By the end of the project
   i. 100 young people will have established 4 businesses (mixed vegetable / poultry) which are viable and self sustainable
   ii. 100 young people will have improved their income and nutritional status
   iii. 100 young people will have completed training and be skilled in vegetable growing and poultry rearing
   iv. 100 young people will have improved their business management skills
### Foreseen Activities (timeframe to be compiled by the Steering Group)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Organization Responsible</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Resources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i. Establishment of project Steering Group, with ToR and rules</td>
<td>UniMak to convene the first meeting. Participants: MEYS Youth Officer, Youth leader, Makeni City Council, Bombali District Council, MAFFS, SLARI, SLIBA, RIU, BOMFU, FIOH, SLETU, Landowners Reps</td>
<td>By end of March 2011</td>
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<td>ii. Identification of youth and project sites</td>
<td>Steering Group</td>
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<td>iii. Training in agronomic practices</td>
<td>MAFFS, RIU, SLARI, BOMFU</td>
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<td>iv. Poultry management training</td>
<td>BRAC, MAFFS, SLARI</td>
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<td>v. Training in value addition and processing</td>
<td>SLARI, RIU</td>
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<td>vi. Training in Business Management</td>
<td>SLIBA</td>
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<td>vii. Training in water management</td>
<td>MAFFS LWDD</td>
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<td>viii. Group Strengthening</td>
<td>MEYS and Youth Council + MAFFS/FFS</td>
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<td>ix. Procurement</td>
<td>MAFFS + SLIBA</td>
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<td>x. Construction of poultry</td>
<td>BRAC, BOMFU, Adisatu M Sesay</td>
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<td>xi. Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
<td>Steering Group monitors activities Implementing Organisations report to Steering Group Beneficiaries, Community Stakeholders and members monitor the project sites</td>
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**Organisational arrangements**

In order to ensure that the work on Urban and Peri-Urban agriculture in Makeni continues, the stakeholders in the workshop have decided to institute a Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture in Makeni initially made up of the stakeholders present in the workshop and open to more participants. In order to progress the work, the participants have decided to:

1. **Nominate a Core Team made up of the following organizations:**
   - University of Makeni, MAFFS, Makeni City Council, Bombali District Council, MEYS, Youth Council, NAFFSL, SLIBA, Lands owners, Future in Our Hands

   The Core Team will be responsible to ensure follow-up to the agreements of the first Multi-Stakeholder Workshop and to communicate developments to the wider group. It will meet by the end of March to decide on internal organization, ways of working, and next steps.

2. **Nominate a Facilitator:**
   - Stakeholders asked Mr Kapotho (078388731; 088647786; ramatumfornah@yahoo.com) to act as a facilitator for the continuation of a Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture in Makeni. Mr Kapotho was asked in his capacity as lecturer in University of Makeni. The fact that he is a Councillor member of both the Development and the Agriculture Committees of the Makeni City Council was considered a plus. His initial role will be to convey meetings, make sure that all stakeholders are adequately involved and keep the momentum to follow-up on the agreed decisions. More detailed roles will be decided by the Core Team. The role of facilitator is initially entirely voluntary and non-remunerated.

3. **To form a Land and Credit Committee to follow up specifically on actions 1 and 2 specified above**
   - (1. Identify more land for UPA in and around Makeni and negotiate with land owners and relevant authorities so that local farmers can access it, and 2. Identify available sources of credit and finance for UPA).
   - The Committee is formed by the representatives of:
     - The Land owners, Makeni City Council, Bombali District Council, Sierra Leone Indigenous Business Association (SLIBA), Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS)

4. **To form a Pilot Project Steering Group to ensure that the pilot project is properly planned, implemented and monitored.**
   - The Pilot Project Steering Group is formed by:
     - MEYS Youth Officer, Youth leader, Makeni City Council, Bombali District Council, MAFFS, SLARI, SLIBA, Research into Use (RIU), Bombali Farmers Union (BOMFU), Future in Our Hands (FIOH), SL Traders Union (SLETU), Landowners Representatives, University of Makeni. The first meeting will be convened by the University of Makeni.