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Preface

This publication is a selected refereed research papers from the Humboldt International conference (Humboldt Kolleg), Ile-Ife, 2010 which was sponsored by Alexander Humboldt Foundation, Germany. The original idea of the conference which was to discuss urban agriculture emerged from two research visits to Justus-Liebig University, Giessen, Germany.

It is noted that increasing urbanization in West Africa sub-region is causing dwindling agricultural resources and accelerating deterioration in the quality of life for those living in urban areas. There are urgent and pressing challenges that need an equally urgent and adequate response from city dwellers and national authorities. It is vital that researchers, policy makers and other stakeholders involved in urban agriculture must be aware of the scope of existing problems and future urban development activities. The situations call for improved access of the urban inhabitants to adequate food and fiber, basic facilities and friendly environment. The conference was convened in order to broaden the scope of the research visits.

As it turned out, the conference attracted considerable interest and enthusiasm which was reflected in a large attendance. About one hundred and eighteen papers were submitted and presented during the conference out of which sixty were selected for peer review evaluation. This volume contains forty-four selected research papers after subjecting them to review mechanism.

The book is a component in many disciplines; which will be useful to those who have the opportunity to read it especially if considered by agriculturalists, urban researchers, geographers, sociologists, environmentalists, health workers and policy makers.

At this point I gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Humboldt Foundation without which this publication would not have been possible. Many thanks go to the staff of the foundation for making this publication possible.

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