



urban areas were reducing because of the high rate of uncoordinated urban development. At least, 28.3% of the farmers in Ibadan experienced difficulty in accessing land especially in Ido Local Government area where 80% of the farmers hired the land used for agriculture.

Ibadan is an unplanned urbanised community, a sprawling city which is expanding daily into surrounding countryside. Ibadan's physical growth and expansion are largely unplanned, which explains the chaotic developments taking place all over the city. The continuous sprawl of Ibadan into peri-urban areas is a product of poor urban planning, which is partly a result of lack of master plan (or comprehensive development plan) to direct its growth and development (Wahab, 2011). Hence, developments take place haphazardly and land use activities are mixed up without recourse to the principle of compatibility. More importantly, agriculture, in its micro and macro form, is not considered a land-use element.

The master plan for the city, which the current administration in Oyo State is partnering World Bank to prepare under the Ibadan Urban Flood Management Project, should, as a matter of policy, include agricultural land use. In addition, Section 4.1.2 of the Manual of Space Standard dealing with building coverage (Oyo State Urban and Regional Planning Board, 2011) currently in use in Oyo State should be strictly enforced in order to free 20-40% of land in all residential and institutional properties for home garden, and tree cultivation. This will reduce the rate of encroachment on peri-urban land while still encouraging agricultural activities within homes.

To prevent further encroachment of agricultural lands in Ibadan peri-urban areas, there is a need for proper monitoring of land used for urban development and agricultural production. Zonal Town Planning Authorities in all the eleven LGAs should ensure proper monitoring and control of development to ensure that people build and develop houses in strict compliance with relevant provisions of the Oyo State Urban and Regional Planning Laws and procedure to prevent further sprawl development in new areas. This will further prevent loss of agricultural lands in the peri-urban and rural areas and encourage more peri-urban agricultural practice.

In addition, the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development in the city should enact a policy for the incorporation and integration of agricultural land use into urban land use, especially through the designation of agricultural zones and land allocation for creation of more farm settlement schemes in the six less city local government areas of Ibadan. This will provide more cultivable lands for intending farmers in Ido LGA. Flood plains of all streams and rivers traversing the study area may also be acquired by the government to make land available to only farmers for both rainy and dry season farming. Individual farmers should also put in place security measures to protect their farms from physical, human and animal trespass.

Farmers should be assisted by state and local governments to have access to farmland through the establishment of more farm settlements and financially empowered through soft loans and incentives in the form of cheap seeds, fertilizers, and equipment.



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