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**Title:** EFFECTS OF URBANISATION OF SUNYANI ON LIVELIHOODS OF ITS PERI-URBAN COMMUNITIES

Ghana like any developing country is facing many challenges with rapid urbanization particularly with the rapid built up environments in previously forested peri-urban communities. As cities expand, more peri-urban forest lands are converted into residential, office space and other commercial purposes. The indigenous people residing at the periphery of the cities are facing challenges that threaten their livelihoods. These communities are usually of rural nature, predominantly less educated and natural resources dependent. The land tenure system practised gives almost all land ownership to the traditional rulers who dispose them off to the highest bidders. While one school of thought sees urbanisation as a destructive agent depleting rural resources and displacing rural livelihoods without providing alternatives, another argues that urbanisation provides opportunities that promote growth and development in the adjoining areas through a transformation in local economies leading to greater entrepreneurism. The study looked at the impact of urbanisation of Sunyani, the capital of the Brong Ahafo Region of Ghana on three communities at its periphery namely; Fiapre, Abesim and Kotokrom. Household survey and key informants interviews were used to collect data. Results of the study showed that farming and natural resources were the main sources of livelihood to households. Low education levels and lack of skills training contributed to respondents’ inability to find alternative sources of employment. However, the expanding city limits have made petty trading more lucrative. Majority of respondents were of the view that the expanding city had brought more challenges than opportunities to their communities. The study revealed that interventions from local institutions are in the form of infrastructure such as roads, schools among others to support residents. However, these interventions were not primarily aimed at supporting households whose farmlands have been converted to houses. Future interventions should aim at integrating farm and non-farm livelihoods through the adoption of a more systematic approach to minimising the effects of urbanisation on peri-urban livelihoods.