

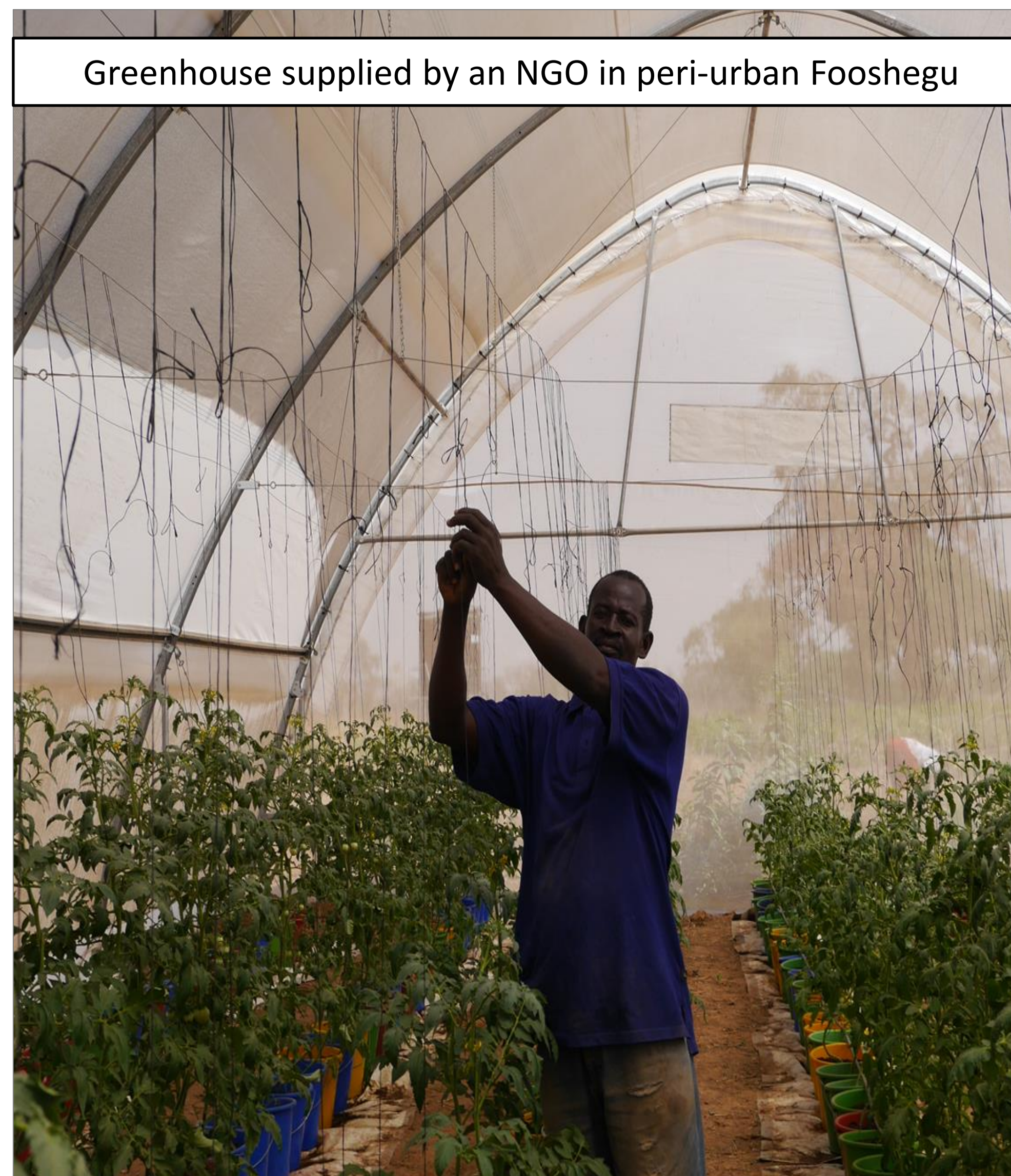
Introduction

Food insecurity is prevalent in Sub-Saharan Africa, where urban agriculture (UA) is not formalised and institutional conflicts threaten its contribution to food and nutritional security. This study finds that conflict between traditional and government institutions over land ownership and management has inadvertently led to innovative provisioning in vegetable production in the city. This is a result of cordial relationships that have developed between farmers and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) who see urban agriculture as a dynamic, viable activity and a survival strategy for urban and peri-urban dwellers.

Results and Discussion

Land ownership and management is in the hands of traditional authorities, families and government in Ghana. The chiefs are custodians of 90% of the land, in trust for the community. Individual family heads manage their land. The government, according to the 1992 constitution, is supposed to manage customary and state land through several institutions like the Town and Country Planning Department, Stool Land Administration and Lands Commission. Overlaps in their functions have exacerbated conflicts over land allocation and use.

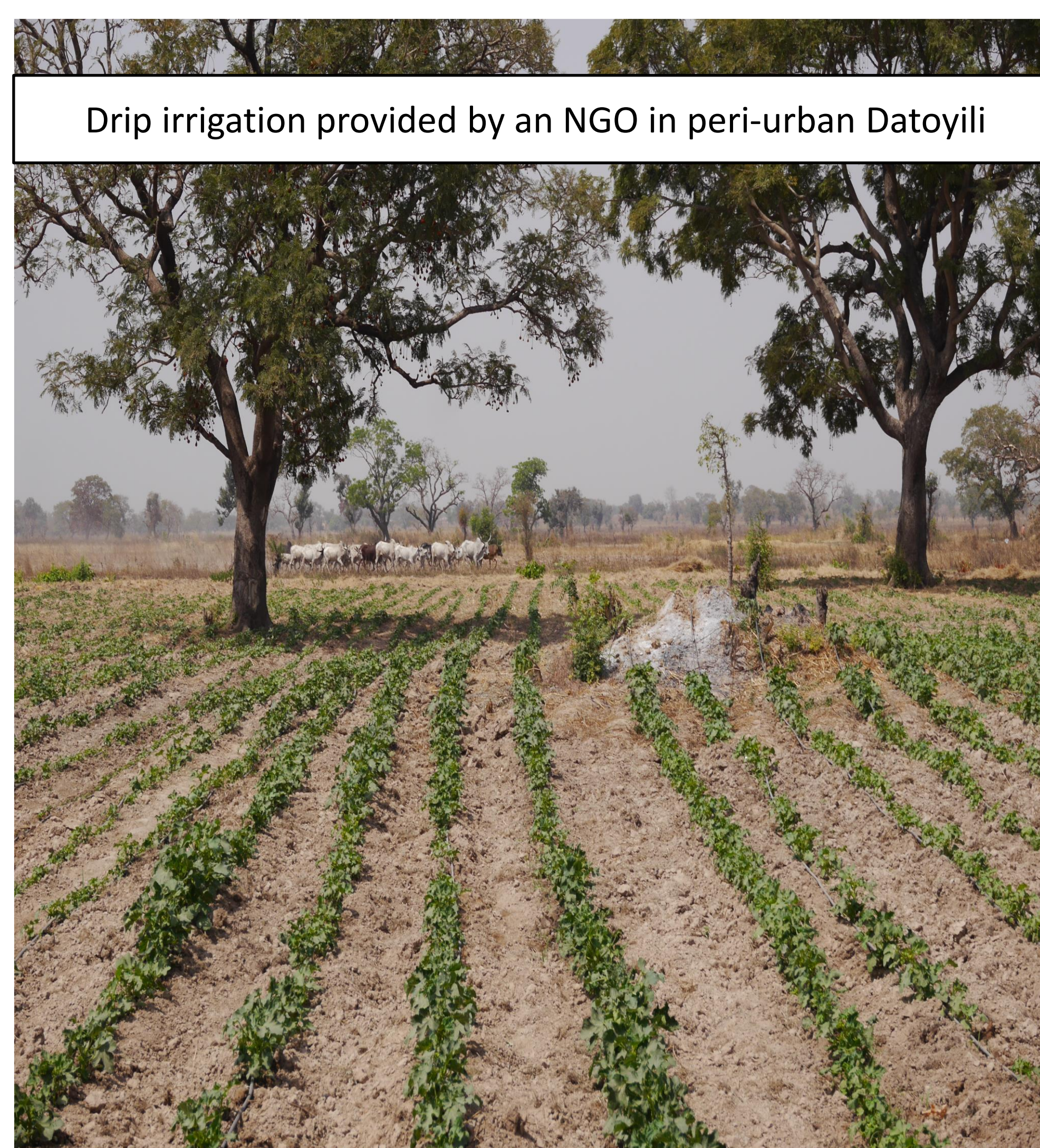
Areas at risk of flooding are designated state-owned green belts, but chiefs have nevertheless attempted to sell them for private use. They have been obfuscated by local government representatives. In the interim, farmers have the opportunity to use the vacant land, and have been supported by local NGOs.



Greenhouse supplied by an NGO in peri-urban Fooshegu

Highlights

Institutional conflicts between traditional authorities and government about land have been exploited by farmers, who form close relationships with non-governmental organisations towards improving the productivity of this agricultural system.



Drip irrigation provided by an NGO in peri-urban Datoyili

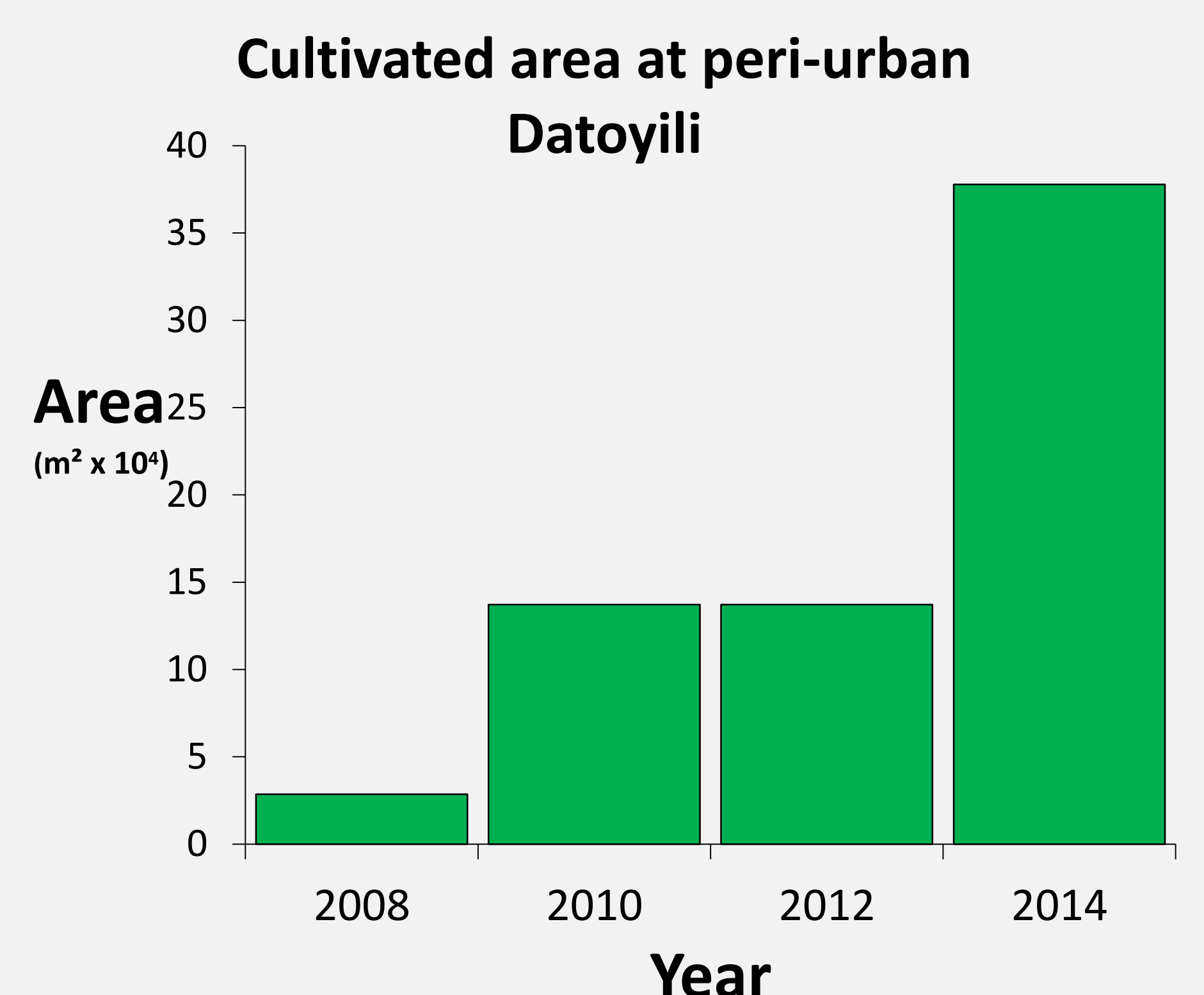
Methods

Ethnographic field work was carried out between October 2013 and December 2014 to understand resource politics in dry season vegetable farming in Tamale.

The objectives of the study were:

- To find out farmer's routes of access to land, water and seed as well as non-material resources such as knowledge.
- To understand farmers' strategies in coping with complex socio-political realities such as lack of a legal framework for urban farming, institutional conflicts and overlaps in land tenure management systems.

NGOs have facilitated development of new peri-urban field sites. They have introduced new technologies such as improved seeds, drip irrigation, solar water pumps and greenhouses. This new cooperation has increased cultivated area and widened the range of crops produced. This in turn has raised farmers' income and improved dietary diversity of urban consumers.



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