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2.5 Implementation of Special Funded Projects

During the course of the reporting year, the Department of Technical Services implemented special funded project as detailed below:

2.5.1 The 3-year MOA/ICIPE African Bee Health Project: Project implementation is ongoing.

2.5.1.1 Achievements

- ❖ The construction of the Bee Health Laboratory (reference) in Liberia, and modern bee production facilities in project Counties has commenced.
- ❖ Bee farmers identified for participation in the project are undergoing Production, Management and Entrepreneurship training.

2.5.2 The Liberia MOA Rehabilitation and Development of Integrated Lowland Rice Farming Project: The implementation of this ‘Expansion of Irrigable Land’ in Lofa County project is ongoing with focus on the *Fangonda rehabilitation/development*.

2.5.2.1 Achievements

- ❖ Area of 120 ha general mapped out of which 58.11 ha have been detailed mapped;
- ❖ Fully developed 15 ha, and 17 ha semi developed;
- ❖ Cleared 5,280.3m road;
- ❖ Rehabilitated 3,805.58m length of main canal and 5,547.7m length of secondary canal;
- ❖ Reconstructed 12 damaged irrigation structures;
- ❖ Supported 481 community people to engage in project work;
- ❖ Established 3 demonstrations sites of 2.998m each in 3 communities;
- ❖ Rehabilitated plots cultivated by 20 farmers (13 males & 7 women);
- ❖ Distributed 1193 assorted tools to farmers;
- ❖ Developed 829m of peripheral bonds

NOTE

The Department of Technical Services exercised Oversight responsibility of CARI from 2011 up to the end of 3rd quarter of 2015. During the 4th Quarter the process of transforming CARI into a semi-Autonomous state was finalized thus ushering in a new Advisory Board and a leadership (Director General, Deputy Director General, etc.). A Master Plan for CARI was developed, validated and adopted.

- ❖ Collected USD\$188,193.30 in revenue from issuance of industrial & recreational fishing boats and canoe licenses, inspection fee, agency fee and fish import & export permits.

NOTE: Quantity of fish imported into Liberia for the reporting period amounted to 22916.38 metric tons with total cost of US\$6,797,689.95.

- ❖ Developed and presented TORs for various titles/positions to MOA Human Resource Division;
- ❖ Finalized and presented National Fisheries & Aquaculture Policy to the Government of Liberia as the preparation of Fisheries Act and revised Fisheries Regulations is ongoing.
- ❖ Signed the Liberia-EU Tuna Agreement; deal to bring in 5.6 million Euros to GOL from fisheries (tuna) resources over five years commencing 2016. Liberia-PANOFI Company also signed tuna fishing agreement. Revenue return not disclosed
- ❖ Approval obtained and funds remitted to relevant bank accounts for implementation of two regional fisheries projects; the projects include: a) Monitoring the Environment for Security in Africa (MESA) and b) West & Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (WECARD). MESA Project is financed by AU whilst WECARD is financed by a sub-grant through the University of Ibadan. WECARD is associated with Sustainable Integrated Pond based Aquaculture with Rice and Poultry Production.
- ❖ Prefabrication of the Headquarters at Omega Tower Community at 85% completion level

2.4.3.2 Challenges

- Inadequate trained Fisheries Inspectors,
- Aquaculture Technicians and Fisheries Observers for deployment at fishing landing sites and on board fishing vessels; and
- Inadequate logistics, equipment & tools

2.4.4 The Division of Quarantine

The Division is mandated to inspect and monitor the movement of Agricultural Commodities including Plant and Animal (live, active growth and processed) as well as Agro-Chemicals at the various ports of entry; Inspect Ships, Vehicles and postal and Packages at Postal Services, seaports, and airports; issue Import/Export Permits and Phytosanitary Certificates; deposit all collected funds into a special GoL account.

2.4.4.1 Achievements

- ❖ The Quarantine Director and his Deputy participated in national/regional/international specialized workshops/seminars/conferences, while 10 quarantine technicians received training in surveillance, identification of symptoms of animal diseases & inspection of livestock and documentation.
- ❖ Collected USD\$10,000.00 & LD\$45,000.00 through the issuance of Import/Export Permits and Certificates for agricultural commodities.

2.4.4.2 Challenges

- Inadequate trained Technicians for deployment to strategic ports;
- Inadequate logistics to support effectiveness of technicians; and
- Lack of appropriate communications facilities & accessories.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

Acronyms	Interpretations
ACC	Agriculture Coordination Committee
ACF	Action Contre la Faim
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFT	Agenda for Transformation
AFRISA	Africa Institute for Strategic Animal Services and Development
AIDP	Agriculture Infrastructure Development Program
APL	Adaptable Program Loan
AfricaRice	AfricaRice
ASRP	Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project
ATWG	Agriculture Technical Working Group
AU-IBAR	African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
BNF	Bureau of National Fisheries
BWI	Booker Washington Institute
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program
CCAAP	Climate Change Adaptation Agriculture Project
CAC	County Agriculture Coordinator
CAHW	Community Animal Health Workers
CARGS	Competitive Agriculture Research Grant Scheme
CARI	Central Agriculture Research Institute
CBL	Central Bank of Liberia
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CDA	Cooperative Development Agency
CFSNS	Comprehensive Food Security and Nutrition Survey
CMO	Co-Management Association
CNS	National Centers of Specialization
CORAF/WECARD	West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development
CNS	National Centers of Specialization
CSSV	Cacao Swollen Shoot Virus
DAO	District Agriculture Officer
DRDRE	Department of Regional Development, Research & Extension
DTS	Department of Technical Services
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EOI	Expression of Interest
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPO	Equatorial Palm Oil
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FBOs	Farmer Based Organization
FED	Food Enterprise Development
FFS	Farmer Field School
FSN	Food Security and Nutrition
FPIC	Free, Prior Informed and Consent
FUN	Farmer Union Network of Liberia

- ❖ In its Farmers Outreach Initiatives, the Division participated in the Rubber Out-growers scheme of the **SMALLHOLDER TREE CROPS REVITALIZATION SUPPORT PROJECT (STCRSP)** with funding from the *World Bank*, which commenced operation with the delivery of some basic farm Inputs (Budded rubber stumps, cutlasses, whippers, axes, pingalins, and Fertilizers) to Rubber Out-Growers in MARCO Plantation area, Todee District, Montserrado County
- ❖ .Coordinated the validation and domestication of the ECOWAS' Regulations on Seeds, Fertilizers and Pesticides;
- ❖ In collaboration with other Stakeholders, Division successfully suppressed a) the *Achaea catocaloides* outbreak in Gbarpolu, Bong and Lofa Counties, b) Bat infestation in Bomi County, and c) Rice Weevil infestation suppressed at Bomi and Bong warehouses - with minimum damage to agricultural crops

2.4.1.2 Challenges

- Inadequate logistics, spraying equipment/tools, chemicals, etc.;
- Inadequate trained technicians;
- Delay in finalizing the strategic plan for Management of citrus bacterial canker disease in Liberia

2.4.2 Bureau of National Livestock

The Bureau is responsible for all livestock activities including poultry and fishery. It provides support to institutions/organizations and individuals in the implementation of community animal restocking activities, controls cross borders movement of animals to avoid/control the introduction of trans-boundaries diseases and zoonosis, monitors and inspects animals at the Monrovia slaughter house and slaughter slabs in the country, creates awareness and advises farmers on bio-security measures, provides technical support to livestock officers/veterinary assistants as well as community animal health workers (CAHW).

2.4.2.1 Achievements

- ❖ 2 staffs studying at MSc level in Universities in Uganda and Kenya while 14 are studying at the BSc level at Liberian Universities; and the Coordinator and his Deputy participated in Regional and International workshops, seminars and conferences.
- ❖ Generated USD7,315.00 through the issuance of Import & Export permits for companion and food animals

2.4.2.2 Challenges

- Inadequate logistics;
- Lack of essential drugs; and
- Lack of field equipment (GPS, etc.).

2.4.3 Bureau of National Fisheries

The Bureau comprises of three Units (Marine, Research & Statistics, and Aquaculture & Inland Fisheries). It provides support to the development of the fisheries sector including capacity building (for technicians, fisher-folks, and fish farmers); value addition (good hygiene practices), monitoring, control and Surveillance (MCS) to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing; etc.

2.4.3.1 Achievements

- ❖ 9 staffs are studying at MSc level in African and USA Universities, and 2 are benefiting from short-term training in India
- ❖ 1 staff returned from the Australian National University (ANU) with postgraduate diploma and MSc Degree in Environmental Management & Development.

LOADING CITY	OFF LOADING CITY	QTY (MT)	NUMBER OF BAGS (35kg)	REDUCING BALANCE FOR RICE		CORN		TOTAL (Rice + Corn)	
				MT	BAG (35kg)	MT	Bag (50kg)	MT	Bag
Available in stock in Saclepea		100	2,857.7	100	2,857	16	320		
SACLEPEA	Zwedru	22.5	643	77.5	2,214	3	60	26	703
	Greenville	25	714	52.5	1,500	3	60	28	774
	Harper	18	514	34.5	986	8	160	26	674
	Barclayville	19.5	557	15	429	1	20	21	577
	Fish Town	15	429	0	0	1	20	16	449
TOTAL		100	2,857			16	320	116	3,177

2.3.2 Challenges

- Inadequate funding;
- Inadequate trained staff;
- No appropriated funding to place trained staff from Diaspora

2.4 Department of Technical Services

The Department of Technical Services is charged with the responsibility of providing technical information and support for all agricultural production entities and users within the confines of the Republic of Liberia. It accumulates, synthesizes and evaluates technical information for applicability and adoption to Liberia's farm conditions, and packages them for dissemination through the Extension Department. Additionally, the Department provides technical oversight responsibility to the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) and the Bureau of National Fisheries (BNF).

Units comprising the Department include a) Crop Resource Division, b) Livestock Division, c) Quarantine Division and d) the Bureau of National Fisheries.

2.4.1 Division of Crop Resource

The Division comprised two sections, namely Food and Tree Crop in the implementation of its mandate while the staff strength of the Division as at reporting time is at ten(10 employees):

The Division provides technical advisory services in food and tree crops husbandry. It Conducts germination tests on crops upon request, performs field assessment upon the individual's request, leads the MOA Team in the containment/control of pests/insects harmful to plants and surroundings, and ensures Rapid Response preparedness for the containment/control of pests/insects outbreak.

2.4.1.1 Achievements

- ❖ Developed and ensured staffs understanding of Job descriptions and Terms of Reference (ToR) for all posts within the Division;

Acronyms

GAFSTF	Global Agriculture and Food Support Trust Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environmental Fund
GEM	Governance Economic Management
GIS	Geographic Information System
GOL	Government of Liberia
GPS	Geo-Positioning System
GSA	General Services Agency
GVL	Golden Veroleum Liberia Oil Palm Concession
Ha	Hectare
ICIPE	International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICCO	International Cocoa and Coffee Organization
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
IFMIS	Integrated Financial Management System
IITA	International Institute for Tropical Agriculture
IPTT	Indicator Performance Tracking Table
IUU	Illegal Unregulated and Unreported
Km	Kilometer
LAADCO	Liberia Agriculture and Asset Development Company
LASIP	Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program
LCCC	Lofa County Community College
LiMA	Liberia Maritime Authority
LIPA	Liberia Institute for Public Administration
LISGIS	Liberia Statistics and Geo-Information Services
LNRDS	Liberia National Rice Development Strategy
LOA	Letter of Agreement
MARCo	Morris American Rubber Company
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOHSW	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRU	Mano River Union
MT	Metric ton
NAPA	National Adaptation Program Action
NCCC	Nimba County Community College
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NIC	National Investment Commission
NL	Nerica Lowland Rice
OFL	Obassanjo Farms Liberia

Interpretations

GAFSTF	Global Agriculture and Food Support Trust Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environmental Fund
GEM	Governance Economic Management
GIS	Geographic Information System
GOL	Government of Liberia
GPS	Geo-Positioning System
GSA	General Services Agency
GVL	Golden Veroleum Liberia Oil Palm Concession
Ha	Hectare
ICIPE	International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICCO	International Cocoa and Coffee Organization
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
IFMIS	Integrated Financial Management System
IITA	International Institute for Tropical Agriculture
IPTT	Indicator Performance Tracking Table
IUU	Illegal Unregulated and Unreported
Km	Kilometer
LAADCO	Liberia Agriculture and Asset Development Company
LASIP	Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program
LCCC	Lofa County Community College
LiMA	Liberia Maritime Authority
LIPA	Liberia Institute for Public Administration
LISGIS	Liberia Statistics and Geo-Information Services
LNRDS	Liberia National Rice Development Strategy
LOA	Letter of Agreement
MARCo	Morris American Rubber Company
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOHSW	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRU	Mano River Union
MT	Metric ton
NAPA	National Adaptation Program Action
NCCC	Nimba County Community College
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NIC	National Investment Commission
NL	Nerica Lowland Rice
OFL	Obassanjo Farms Liberia

Acronyms	Interpretations
PAN	Personnel Action Notices
PCU	Project Coordinating Unit
PFMA	Public Financial Management Act
PHC	Project Healthy Children
PMU	Program Management Unit
PPCA	Public Procurement and Concession Act
PPCC	Public Procurement and Concession Commission
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PSIP	Public Sector Investment Project
RB-COSOP	Result-Based Country Strategic Opportunities Program
SAPEC	Smallholder Agriculture Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization
SOCODEVI	Société de Coopération pour le Développement Internationale
SRI	Sustainable Rice Intensification
SSC	South-South Cooperation
STCRSP	Smallholder Tree Crop Revitalization Support Project
TCP	Technical Cooperation Program
TOR	Terms of Reference
TURF	Territorial Use Rights in Fisheries
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UTZ	Universal Trade Zone
UL	University of Liberia
TU	W. V. S. Tubman University in Maryland
UNICEF	United Nation Children's Fund
Vet-Gov.	Veterinary Governance in Africa
WAAPP	West African Agricultural Productivity Program
WARFP	West African Regional Fisheries Project
WFP	World Food Program
WB/IDA	World Bank/International Development Association
WMI	Water Management Infrastructure

Table 4: Technical Support provided to Farmers

County	Technical Backstopping		Visitation		Training		Grand Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Bomi	221	322	243	431	201	123	1541
Bong	322	342	124	234	210	320	1552
Gbarpolu	342	412	371	234	345	247	1951
Grand Bassa	543	654	345	426	243	321	2532
Grand Cape Mount	434	544	324	513	621	479	2915
Grand Gedeh	156	124	198	349	256	473	1556
Grand Kru	351	234	145	267	389	267	1653
Lofa	1234	2314	2345	1247	234	321	7695
Margibi	425	532	348	421	322	247	2295
Maryland	315	545	151	134	569	256	1970
Montserrado	347	438	469	345	234	301	2134
Nimba	803	1256	1578	598	735	589	5559
Rivercess	567	652	901	856	146	189	3311
River Gee	286	956	653	524	179	329	2927
Sinoe	390	389	447	387	143	268	2024
Total	6736	9714	8642	6966	4827	4730	41,615

Extension service delivery reached **41,615** smallholder farmers as seen in the tables above.

Rice seeds were distributed on a percentage level based on the number of farmers identified to plant the seed. The distribution was done at two fronts: first for the Southeastern Counties and the second for the remaining Counties.

No.	County	Available for distribution (MT)	Rate (%) of distribution	Total Allocation (MT)
1	Lofa	306	0.15	45.90
2	Margibi	306	0.15	45.90
3	Montserrado	306	0.05	15.30
4	Bomi	306	0.09	27.54
5	Cape Mount	306	0.06	18.36
6	River Cess	306	0.06	18.36
7	Bassa	306	0.07	21.42
8	Nimba	306	0.20	61.20
9	Bong	306	0.08	24.48
10	Gbarpolu	306	0.09	27.54
TOTAL				306.00

Table2: Animal Production Farmers Reached

County	Poultry	Small Ruminants	Piggery	Cattle	Animal Farmer per County
Bomi	225	325	54	15	619
Bong	423	648	105	34	1210
Gbarpolu	175	320	68	123	686
Grand Bassa	1234	275	336	23	1868
Grand Cape Mount	845	1309	5	3	2162
Grand Gedeh	340	400	75	178	993
Grand Kru	143	86	28	56	313
Lofa	108	279	136	52	575
Margibi	180	146	85	11	422
Maryland	350	155	75	96	676
Montserrado	375	90	185	105	755
Nimba	2300	2600	225	40	5165
Rivercess	125	70	85	23	303
River Gee	345	860	5	16	1226
Sinoe	186	98	110	12	406
Total	7354	7661	1577	787	17379

Table3: Fishery Farmers

County	Marine	Fresh Water	Fishery per County
Bomi	0	6	6
Bong	0	15	15
Gbarpolu	0	23	23
Grand Bassa	45	20	65
Grand Cape Mount	573	77	650
Grand Gedeh	0	35	35
Grand Kru	340	10	350
Lofa	0	17	17
Margibi	43	22	65
Maryland	52	22	74
Montserrado	110	12	122
Nimba	0	286	286
Rivercess	26	13	39
River Gee	0	6	6
Sinoe	35	5	40
Total	1224	569	1793

The complete listing and location of the farmers are available in the Department
The fisher folks for fresh water include inland fisheries and aquaculture activities; listing location available.

FOREWORD

I am delighted to present, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), the 2015 Annual Report which outlines the Ministry's major achievements in support of the Government of Liberia's (GoL) efforts to develop the Agriculture Sector in fulfillment of the core functions of the Ministry and the Government's Agenda for Transformation (AFT).

Since 2006, the Government of Liberia has positioned the Agriculture Sector as the key driver in the transformation of Liberia's economy. The Sector is very strategic for employment creation, income generation, poverty reduction, and attainment of food security and nutrition. Today, with Mining and Rubber Sectors still experiencing global price fall, the Agriculture Sector remains the prime pillar for economic recovery and long term economic growth.

On behalf of the GoL, the Ministry wishes to recognize the collaborative efforts of our partners during the year 2015, through which significant accomplishments were realized in the Agriculture Sector. The overall food security has improved despite the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease that affected our farmers. The Ministry of Agriculture is committed to achieving self-sufficiency in food production particularly rice, cassava and other food crops.

To date, the Ministry continues its efforts aimed at increasing rice production through on-time support to small farmers. Complimenting this effort is the Ministry's introduction of high yielding seed rice for farmers and the buy-back program that allows for the purchase of both seed and paddy rice at competitive fixed and pre-announced prices at farm-gate. During the year in review, the MOA's Paddy Rice Project purchased 3,004 MT of paddy at farm-gate. The project milled and packaged 371 MT (about 14,840 /25kg bags) of clean rice and turned over to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) for sales.

Since the passage and enforcement of the Fisheries Regulations and the strengthening of the surveillance capacity of Liberia, there has been significant improvement in the reduction of Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) fishing activities in the Liberian waters. Further, the GoL has endorsed the National Aquaculture and Fisheries Policy document. Similarly, the Ministry of Agriculture negotiated and concluded a Sustainable Fisheries Agreement with the European Union (EU).

To enhance agro-business in Liberia, the Ministry purchased and distributed to lead farmers fifteen (15) power tillers, fifteen (15) motorized threshers, 5 (27KVA) generators, 5 treadle pumps and 3 rice mills with de-stoners.

In furtherance of the Ministry's capacity building and job creation initiatives, 22 Liberians received specialized training Courses in New Dimensions of Agriculture Extension Management in Japan and India. Sixty-two (62) of the eighty-eight (88) Liberians benefitting from the Ministry's scholarship program have returned with diplomas and Degrees in various disciplines as follows: Four (4) PhD holders, thirty-six (36) Master's Degree holders, and 22 Certificate holders.

At the local level, the MOA and the Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL) provided scholarship support to students pursuing Bachelor of Science and Associate of Arts Degrees at agricultural institutions of higher learning: namely, the University of Liberia (UL), Booker Washington Institute (BWI), William V. S. Tubman University (TU), Cuttington University (CU), Sinoe Methodist College, Lofa County Community College (LCCC) and Nimba County Community College (NCCC). MOA's support was provided through an annual scholarship fund of One Hundred Twenty Thousand United States Dollars (US\$120,000.00) and Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL), One Hundred Thousand United States Dollars (US\$100,000.00).

On behalf of the Ministry, I am very proud of these young men and women who have demonstrated their true commitment, interest and career goals within Liberia's agricultural sector. We will continue to nurture, direct and support them to dream and live their passion for a bright future in our beloved Liberia.

With respect to employment, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) engaged the services of 87 persons. Of this number, Ten (10) were employed through the direct replacement of staffs who resigned, got dismissed or passed-away. The Ministry currently has a workforce of eight-hundred and fifteen (815), including civil servants, contractual employees and staff serving in various capacities with the MOA projects.

As we conclude another year, we must remain grateful to all the stakeholders in the sector for the level of coordination that has brought mutual benefits to all and, we want to express our thanks to the Almighty God, our hardworking Government, development partners, stakeholders and our farmers for the strong support received by this Ministry.

Thanks for your strong support.

Moses M. Zinnah
Minister of Agriculture

2.3.1 Achievements

- ❖ Motivated 57,657 smallholder food crop farmers (10,179 in lowland ecology, 20,165 upland ecology, 18,798 in cassava cultivation, 8,515 in vegetable production), and 20,192 cash crop farmers; and 64,847 smallholder livestock farmers (30,534 in poultry production; 31,273 in small ruminant rearing; 2,568 in piggery production; and 472 in cattle rearing) and they adopted and up-scaled improved technology and enhanced their productivity.
- ❖ Provided agricultural inputs (rice, corn and vegetable seeds as well as assorted hand tools) to 19,504 farmers;
- ❖ In collaboration with the Technical Services Department, DRDRE provided technical backstopping including advice on net size and registration of 2,218 fisher folks,
- ❖ Facilitated training of 1,400 farmers and extension staff in Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) in crop, livestock and fisheries production
- ❖ Provided extension and advisory services to 82,353 farmers

Table1: Farmers provided Extension Services

County	Rice	Cassava	Vegetable	Tree Crop	Total Farmer reached
Bomi	185	74	9	324	592
Bong	5729	2712	1241	897	10579
Gbarpolu	2700	97	105	275	3177
Grand Bassa	967	1246	532	175	2920
Grand Cape Mount	289	293	102	42	726
Grand Gedeh	1185	18	31	408	1642
Grand Kru	117	80	16	133	346
Lofa	8095	1082	301	2050	11528
Margibi	79	77	123	765	1044
Maryland	212	94	39	27	372
Montserrado	235	978	1245	842	3300
Nimba	4316	1815	1573	8795	16499
Rivercess	1479	89	75	69	1712
River Gee	4326	2173	1351	3813	11663
Sinoe	342	523	210	423	1498
Total	30256	11351	6953	19038	67598

- ❖ Provided staff development support (instructor recruitment and capacity building) to the College of Agriculture & Forestry of the University of Liberia. Contract arrangements were concluded with 9 Instructors to beef up the number of qualified instructional staff at the College.
- ❖ Selected 12 Local NGOs and 36 FBOs for capacity building.
- ❖ Rehabilitated a soil and crop laboratory for the College of Agriculture & Forestry of the University of Liberia.
- ❖ Construction of a soil and crop laboratory for the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences of the William V.S. Tubman University in Harper, Maryland County is 50% complete.
- ❖ Supported capacity building exercises at the Cooperative Development Agency (CDA). The project renovated 3 field offices; paid rent for office building; procured 1 pickup (4x4); 4 motorbikes; 1 generator (5KVA); and supported internet services.
- ❖ Provided support to Agricultural Offices across the 12 project counties (12 pickups – 4x4, 7 generators (5KVA), and assorted office furniture and ICT equipment).
- ❖ Recruited and assigned 12 Project Focal Persons, 40 Extension Technicians and 12 Drivers to the 12 project counties to provide agricultural delivery services to farmers.

Component 4: Project Management

- ❖ Contracted the services of a Local Consulting Firm, ADEAS, to conduct Socio-Economic Baseline Study in the project counties. The World Bank’s Development Economics Impact Evaluation unit (DIME) is providing backstopping support to the entire exercise. A Field Coordinator has been assigned to the project from Washington.
- ❖ 2 Annual Work Plans & Budgets developed and endorsed by National Steering Committee and cleared by the AfDB.
- ❖ Conducted Annual Audit of the project for the fiscal period ended 30th June 2015. Auditing Firm Parker and Associates to audit the financial statements of the SAPEC Project for the period ended 30th June 2015.

2.2.4.9.2 Challenges

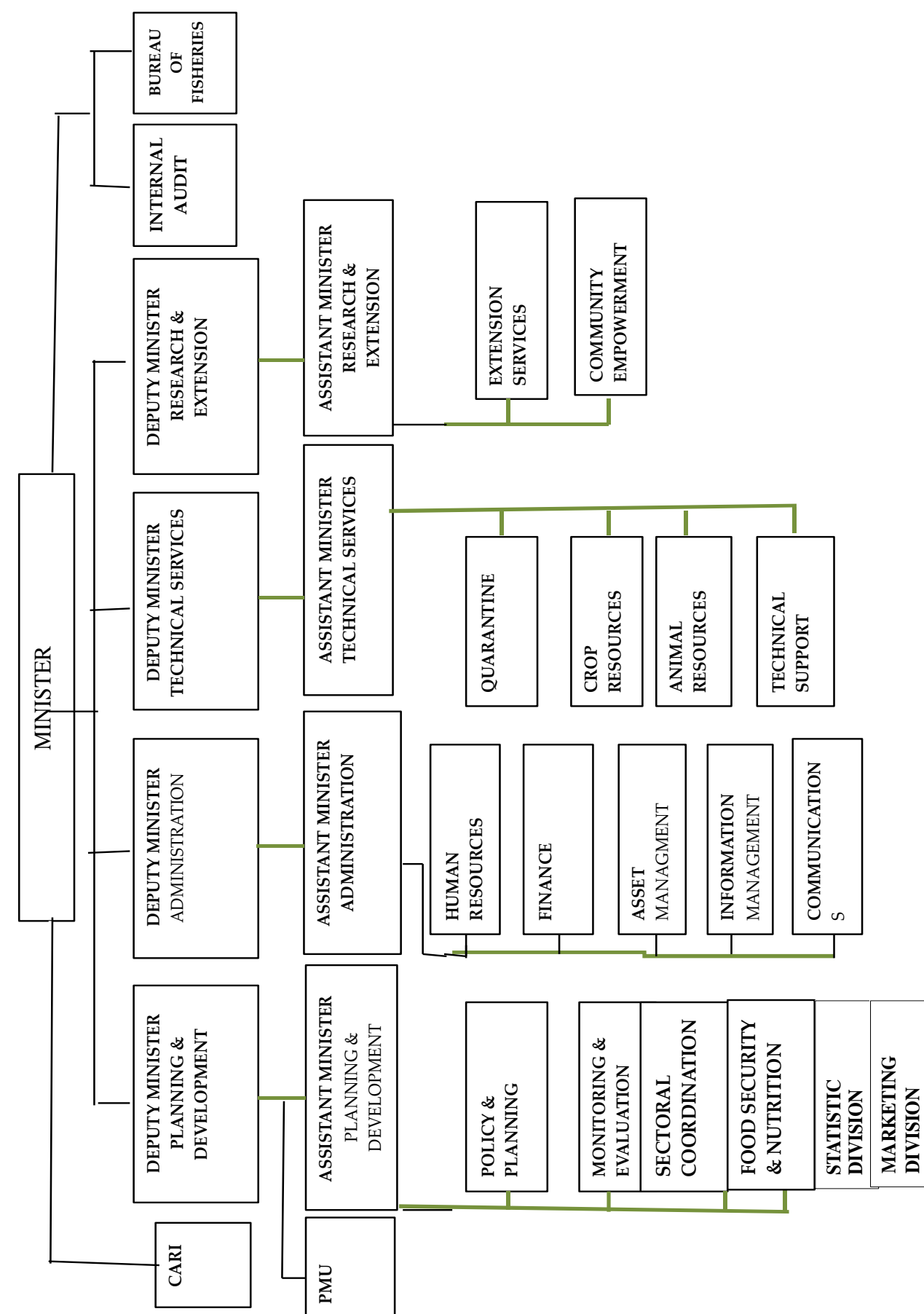
- Undue delay to implementation of project activities caused by the protocols of a) the Bank in granting ‘No Objections’ to project request, and b) the MFDP in approving withdrawal applications and direct payment requests.

2.3 Department of Regional Development, Research and Extension

The Department of Regional Development, Research and Extension (DRDRE) is the MOA’s outreach arm of delivering agriculture services to farmers. It has the mandate to closely collaborate/cooperate with the Ministry’s Departments, particularly the Department of Technical Services (DTS) and the CARI as local and international agricultural research institutions in research-information-exchange and dissemination of results there from.

To achieve its mandate, the MOA is accelerating its decentralization initiatives whereby County Agriculture Offices are present in all of the 15 Counties. This approach brings the agriculture services at the door steps of the rural farmers.

ORGANIZATION CHART



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) of the Republic of Liberia is mandated to formulate policies and strategies to guide the growth and development of the Agriculture Sector. To realize efficient and effective results, the MOA ensures that a well-structured organizational chart is in place to plan, coordinate, monitor, and evaluate performance of Agricultural Development Activities in the country.

Through four (4) established Departments including Administration, Planning and Development, Regional Development, Research and Extension, and Technical Services the Ministry's activities are performed.

1. Strengthening Human Resource Capacity

In the year under review, 36 Liberians returned with MSc. Degree and 4 with PhD in various areas of Agriculture; 9 out of 37 students supported in local Universities (33 at UL and 4 at CU) graduated (7 from UL and 2 from CU); and 19 students are studying at the MSc level in 7 international universities in 4 Countries.

One hundred (100) rural women from five counties (River Gee, Maryland, Sinoe, Grand Bassa and Margibi) benefited from training in leadership, mainstreaming gender in agriculture, and nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

2. Accelerating Private Sector Participation in the Agriculture Sector

Amongst the MOA's current initiatives to promote private sector intervention in Liberia's agriculture sector, it has outsourced components of its projects to private companies and firms for implementation.

Through MOA and the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) collaboration, US\$1.99M has been provided by GoL for the Agriculture Stimulus Initiative (ASI) to provide agribusiness finance and credit facility to empower Liberian Farmers.

With support from USAID-GEM, the MOA developed a Financial Management Policies and Procedures Manual that safeguards MOA's assets from waste, mismanagement and abuse. Towards the fight against corruption, the MOA appointed a senior member of its staff to represent the Ministry at the Open Government Partnership (OGP) taskforce, a global consortium, to foster transparency and accountability in Government.

3. Support for the Revitalization of the Smallholders Tree Crops

With the support of this scheme, 1) seven (7) cooperatives sold a total of 265,891 MT of cocoa beans amounting to USD 510,510.72 to LAADCO, a private partner while cocoa seedlings from 189 village cocoa nurseries established in the 7 Districts of Lofa were distributed to 3,500 poor rural farmers 2.) 8 Farmer Coops, 3 Farmer Associations and 48 Farmer-Based Organizations in Bong, Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties availed of technical support and GAP training; and 3) six hundred (600) ha Plantation deeded to Dube Multi-Purpose Farmers Cooperative (DMFC) by Land Commission.

Reference EPO-LIBNCO Oil Palm Out-growers Scheme (Grand Bassa 600 ha) 54 farmers are to benefit from credit support by the Afriland Bank and Plan finalized (signed MoU) to support 20 farmers in the rehabilitation of 40 ha for oil palm cultivation. Reference MARCO Rubber Out-growers Scheme (Margibi: 1,800 ha), 300 ha planted in rubber and 150 farmers (111 males, 39 females) are benefiting from the Long Term Credit Facility.

Reference Long Term Credit (LTC) Line/Facility Management (Oil Palm and Rubber Sub-Components), Out-growers in Montserrado, Margibi and Grand Bassa Counties: Long Term Credit Facility for Rubber and Oil Palm Out-growers Account B designated and opened at Agent Bank (LBDI) and participating Financing Institutions (Afriland First Bank Liberia) accepted by MFDP, MoA, and WB; Supported Bill submitted for the LPMC to be transformed to Liberia Agriculture Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA) Institutional Building and Preparation of the Long Term Program Supported Draft Bills on i) Cooperatives Act; ii) Regulations; iii) Policy; and, iv) CDA Act on Autonomy are all currently being reviewed;

The total cost of the project is estimated at US\$54.4 million with contributions from the GAFSP/World Bank Grant of (US\$46.5 million); ADF Loan of (US\$6.4 million); and GOL In-kind contribution of (US\$1.5 million).

2.2.4.9.1 Achievements

Component 1: Sustainable Crop Production Intensification

- ❖ Conducted feasibility study and prepared technical designs/drawings for 915 ha of lowland for rice production;
- ❖ Registered 5,000 farming households comprising 1,000 upland rice farming households; 500 lowland rice farming households; 3,000 cassava farming households; and 500 vegetable farming households across the 12 project counties for the 2015/2016 farming season;
- ❖ Distributed 70 kg of assorted vegetable seed (pepper, eggplant, cucumber, cabbage, etc.) and 100 bags of sweet potato vines to 500 farming households across the 12 project counties.
- ❖ Signed MoUs with Africa Rice Center and IITA to provide advisory and implementation services to farmers. This includes the procurement of 70 metric tons of high quality seed rice (50 metric tons for the upland ecology and 20 metric tons for the lowland ecology), and 60,000 bundles of cassava sticks for distribution to 4500 farming households during the 2015/2016 farming season.

Component 2: Value Addition & Marketing

- ❖ Identified 270 km of farm to market roads in Grand Gedeh (60km), River Gee (50km), Grand Kru (45km), Maryland (35km), Sinoe (40km), and River Cess (40km) Counties for rehabilitation/construction. Recruitment of consulting firms to do road condition survey, feasibility studies, technical designs and supervision of works is ongoing.
- ❖ Identified 12 markets, 3 technology transfer centers, and sites for 9 agri-business centers for rehabilitation/construction. Recruitment of consulting firms to design, prepare technical specifications, bidding documents and supervise the works is ongoing.

Component 3: Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening

- ❖ Provided support (payment of fees and allowances) to 37 undergraduate students studying general agriculture at the College of Agriculture and Forestry of the University of Liberia (33 students) and Cuttington University (4 students). 9 of the students (7 from CAF/UL and 2 from CU) graduated during the reporting period.
- ❖ Provided support (payment of fees and allowances) to 19 graduate students pursuing studies in various fields of agriculture in the following universities:
 - Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana) – 5 students
 - Makerere (Uganda) – 2 students
 - Sokoine (Tanzania) – 6 students
 - Eastern Africa Statistical Training Center (Tanzania) – 1 student
 - University of Nairobi (Kenya) – 3 students
 - Jomo Kenyatta (Kenya) – 1 student
 - Kenyatta (Kenya) – 1 student.

2.2.4.8 Climate Change Adaptation Agriculture Project (CCAAP) – Global Environment Fund and UNDP

Project Titled: Enhancing Resilience to Climate Change by Mainstreaming Adaptation Concerns into Agriculture Sector Development.

Climate change has been identified as a major threat to human existence, development and the ecosystems. As such, it continues to affect the socio-economic sectors of developed and developing countries thereby hindering the attainment of the MDGs.

This 4-year (August 30, 2012 to August 30, 2016) project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and is a Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) project. It is a vehicle for implementing priority interventions for the agriculture sector identified in Liberia's National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA). The project seeks to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience (enhance adaptive capacity) by addressing the additional risks posed by climate change in the agriculture sector. Its pilot phase in Bong and Grand Gedeh Counties is targeted to benefit 60 Technical staff (30 males and 30 females) of the sector, 30 sector field staff (15 males and 15 females), 100 university students (50 males and 50 females), 200 farmers (100 males and 100 females), NGOs/CSOs and Policy makers.

2.2.4.8.1 Achievements

- ❖ Developed a Climate Risk Management (CRM) Strategy for the agriculture sector.
- ❖ Trained 15 County Agriculture Coordinators (CACs) and 8 District Agriculture Officers (DAOs) in climate vulnerability/risk assessment.
- ❖ Trained 200 students selected from 8 schools in Bong and Grand Gedeh counties in climate change sensitization and reporting

2.2.4.9 Smallholder Agriculture Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization (SAPEC) Project – GAFSP/World Bank and AfDB

The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing the Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization (SAPEC) Project with funding from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), the African Development Fund (ADF), and the Government of Liberia. The goal of the SAPEC project is to reduce rural poverty and household food insecurity. Its objective is to increase, on a sustainable basis, the income of smallholder farmers and rural entrepreneurs, particularly women, youths and the physically-challenged. The project, being implemented in 12 of the 15 counties (Grand Kru, Grand Gedeh, Maryland, River Gee, Sinoe, River Cess, Grand Bassa, Margibi, Montserrado, Bomi, Gbarpolu and Cape Mount) over a period of five (5) years, is designed to transform Liberian agriculture by moving 25,000 food insecure and low income farming households to commercially oriented agriculture with the aim of fostering economic growth.

The SAPEC Project has three thematic components: (a) Sustainable Crop Production Intensification which is aimed at increasing crop yield and production through the promotion of the adoption of improved technologies; integrated soil, crop and water management; and production modernization; (b) Value Addition and Marketing with focus on enhancing the market competitiveness of smallholder's farm products and family income on the overall. It will also be used to generate employment opportunities for the rural population, including youths and women through the activities of value addition in the production enterprises of rice, cassava and vegetables; (c) Capacity Building & Institutional Strengthening addressing the acute shortage of skilled manpower for planning and supervision of sector development activities; and (d) Project Management providing resources for the effective coordination and management of project implementation, including timely execution of activities, monitoring and reporting.

Smallholder Agriculture Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization (SAPEC) Program – World Bank and AfDB, through the farmers' support initiative and to bridge the seed-gap previously experienced by farmers, distributed assorted seed rice, cassava planting material, and vegetable seeds to 5000 farming households (1,000 upland rice farming households; 500 lowland rice farming households; 3,000 cassava farming households; and 500 vegetable farming households) across the 12 project counties; conducted feasibility study and developed database for 915 ha of lowland; and signed MOUs and disbursed advance payments to IITA and AfricaRice to procure 70 MT of certified seed rice and 60,000 bundles of cassava cuttings;

4. Infrastructural Development for Lowland Rice Production

This initiative supported the rehabilitation of 83 km of farm to market (FTM) road in all 7 Districts of Lofa County rehabilitated

5. Revitalization of the Livestock sub-sector

The National Livestock Bureau collected USD\$7,315.00 through the issuance of Import & Export permits for companion and food animals. A total sum of US\$7,315.00 was generated in revenue through the issuance of import/export permits. Monitored the slaughter of 3,593 cattle, 765 goats and 728 sheep and ensured that the animals were healthy for human consumption.

The 3-year MOA/ACIPE African Bee Health Project: Project implementation is ongoing. The construction of West African Regional Center in Liberia, and modern bee production facilities in project Counties has commenced. 500 Bee farmers identified for participation in the project are undergoing Production, Management and Entrepreneurship training

6. Agricultural Research

With the Support of the Engineering Department of CARI, purchased and distributed 490 MT of certified seed rice, 79 MT maize and 100 MT cowpea to 90,000 farmers; distributed 500 MT of improved seed rice produced by CARI to farmers in the 8 WAAPP project Counties of Bong, Margibi, Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland & Sinoe; provided support for 15 FBOs to engage in rice and cassava value chain activities, and this support increased GARI processing in Bomi County. AfricaRice, BRAC, USAID-FED and other seed companies multiplied 40 MT of foundation seeds; and CARI multiplied cassava cuttings on 50 ha and distributed them to farmers in the 21 established Innovation Platforms in the 8 project counties of Bong, Margibi, Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland & Sinoe for both rice and cassava.

7. Regulations and Policy Formulations

The Ministry continues to support the development and validation of a number of policy documents in its drive towards providing more regulatory and quality control services. The MOA domesticated three (3) ECOWAS Regulations on Seeds, Fertilizers and Pesticides in alignment with National Documents. National Fisheries & Aquaculture Policy finalized and presented to the Government of Liberia as the preparation of Fisheries Act and revised Fisheries Regulations is ongoing. Liberia-EU Tuna Agreement signed.

The development of a Climate Risk Management Strategy for stakeholders in the agriculture sector with specific focus on women is 60% completed.

8. Safeguarding Natural Resources-Fisheries

The BNF collected USD188,193.30 revenue from issuance of industrial & recreational fishing boats and canoe licenses, inspection fee, agency fee and fish import & export permits. Deal to bring in 5.6 million Euros to GOL from fisheries (tuna) resources over five years commencing 2016. Liberia-PANOFI Company also signed tuna fishing agreement. Revenue return not disclosed. Funding for implementation of two regional fisheries projects approved and remitted to their respective bank accounts. The projects are titled: a)

Monitoring the Environment for Security in Africa (MESA) and b) West & Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (WECARD). MESA Project is financed by AU whilst WECARD is financed by a sub-grant through the University of Ibadan. WECARD is associated with Sustainable Integrated Pond based Aquaculture with Rice and Poultry Production. The construction of the Bureau of National Fisheries' Headquarters at the Omega Tower Community is at 85% completion level.

1.0: INTRODUCTION

This report covers activities of the MOA performed from the period 1st January – 31st December 2015. It presents deeper insights of activities performed, approaches/best practices used, their achievements, challenges/constraints, lessons learnt and recommendations advanced for the improvement of the Sector's performance.

1.2 Our Mission and Vision Operating Principles

1.2.1 Our Mission

Our mission therefore is to create an enabling environment for a more dynamic and vibrant agricultural sector to ensure sustainable food security and employment opportunities for all Liberians.

1.2.2 Our Vision

We envision a self-sufficient, self-reliant and sustainable agricultural sector by the year 2030.

1.2.3 Our Operating Principles

Excellence and Professionalism

We shall strive to achieve the highest standards in our service delivery and shall actively explore opportunities to improve on those standards. We shall also ensure that performance management, as a service delivery culture, will be integrated into all our operations.

Commitment

We commit ourselves to be an effective agent of agricultural transformation and, therefore, will embrace a culture of customer service. The farmer, service providers and all our stakeholders will be central to our operations.

Diligence and Courtesy

We shall be at our places of work during official hours of duty and shall diligently devote ourselves wholly to our work. We shall treat all of our valued clients and colleagues with courtesy.

Integrity

We shall uphold high moral integrity in the provision of our services. To this effect, we shall refrain from seeking, offering or accepting favors or inducements, financial or otherwise, in the course of discharging our duties. We shall not use public property or official time to fulfil private needs; and we shall not use information acquired in the course of official duties to gain personal advantage.

Gender Equity

Taking cognizance of the key role of women in production and marketing of agricultural products, we shall endeavor to promote gender sensitive practices and culture within our staff and the wider agricultural stakeholders.

Partnership-Building

We will promote and embrace partnerships and participatory processes in policy formulation and implementation of our activities. Active participation of our stakeholders, especially the private sector and grassroots communities, will enhance ownership of programs and projects.

Accountability and Transparency

We shall be accountable and transparent to the government and to our clients.

Efficiency and Responsiveness

We will serve our clientele in an efficient manner, ensuring that all requests are dealt with promptly.

- ❖ The project is also managing the multiplication of the 40 metric tons of foundation rice seeds support to Africa Rice Center and CARI with its multiplication in Kpatawee, Bong County and Gbedin, Nimba County. The expected output of this foundation seed multiplication is estimated at 2,500 metric tons of certified seeds. A harvest of 164 hectares with an anticipated yield of 500 metric tons was launched by the Vice President of the Republic of Liberia in Gbedin, Nimba County.
- ❖ For its cassava innovation activities, IITA has introduced 5 new varieties and have conducted a farmer field day for over 300 farmers from Bong, Gbarpolu, Bomi and Margibi and presented such varieties which will be released later.
- ❖ The project is supporting Bomi GARI through the provision of improved cassava cuttings of which 30 hectares is ready for harvest. The increase in processed GARI to meet the needs of Mary's meal for the Bomi school feeding program is promising. Bomi Gari has been incorporated and cassava processing equipment provided.
- ❖ Three regional Cassava Nurseries have been established in Margibi, Bomi and Gbarpolu counties to serve as farmer field school for farmers to adopt new technologies.

Component 4: Project Coordination, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

Establish effective project coordination and management system

- ❖ The project recruited and posted 8 Extension staff in Bong, Gbarpolu, Maryland, Sinoe, Rivergee, Maryland, Gbarpolu and Bomi Counties.
- ❖ The project also recruited an Internal Auditor and ICT Specialist for the Program Management Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture. Two staff that are 100% supported by the project.
- ❖ The project also recruited a Procurement Specialist that served the PMU for a year to build local procurement officers capacities and worked on a major contract with Sheladia, the firm responsible for the CARI Master Plan.
- ❖ The project supported 4 persons from the Ministry of Agriculture and WAAPP on a study tour to Gambia to study Innovation Platforms operations.
- ❖ The project hosted two Regional Meetings (System of Rice Intensification for WAAPP Anglophone countries and the Mano River Union scaling up of rain-fed lowland rice in the Mano River Basin).

Component 3: Funding of Demand-Driven Technology Generation and Dissemination

- ❖ As part of its in country mobilization for improved seeds, the project supported the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), in the multiplication of 500 metric tons of Seeds (NERICA 19 and 14, LAC 23 and Suakoko 8) which was distributed to over 35,000 farmers. Additional 100 metric tons of seeds have been multiplied, packaged and stored at CARI.
- ❖ The project supported CARI to produce 50 hectares of improved cassava cuttings that were distributed to over 15,000 farmers in Gbarpolu, Bong, Margibi and Bomi Counties.
- ❖ Cassava cuttings have been multiplied in various project counties utilizing the improved cuttings produced at CARI- 30 hectares in Bomi, 50 hectares through WHH, 20 hectares in Gbarpolu and 15 hectares in Margibi.
- ❖ As a support to the Extension Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Project procured one 4X4 Toyota hardtop, furniture and Equipment to the Ministry of Agriculture.
- ❖ The Project supported the Department of Extension for the establishment of eight Demonstration Sites (4 rice demonstration Sites in Grand Gedeh, Maryland, Rivergeee and Sinoe Counties and 4 Cassava Demonstration sites in Margibi, Bomi, Gbarpolu and Bong counties) in Project counties for technology dissemination.
- ❖ The Project supported FARA to facilitate one week training in Liberia on Innovation Platform for over 215 farmers and farmer organizations.
- ❖ For its Youth in Agriculture pilot program, the Project supported over 50 students at the Booker Washington Institute to cultivate 2.8 hectares of lowland rice as hands on experience.
- ❖ The Project hired Ansumana Jarju an Innovation Platform Expert from WAAPP Gambia for the establishment of Innovation Platforms in the eight WAAPP Counties. WAAPP through the County Agriculture Coordinators and District Agriculture Officers including the WAAPP focal Points are strengthening the Innovation Platform
- ❖ 20 Innovation Platforms (8 Cassava Platforms & 12 Rice Platforms have been established through 5 NGOs (Oxfam, Welthungerhilfe, ADRA, SAMJACK and Agency for Economic Development & Empowerment (AEDE) in the WAAPP 8 counties for the purpose of technology dissemination and value addition. The Platforms include producers, processors, Policy makers, Marketers, transporters, fabricators of local agricultural tools, etc.
- ❖ Distributed the 451.6 metric tons of certified rice seeds to 90,810 farmers in the 15 counties in Liberia. The new varieties (Nerica 8 and Nerica L19) have shorter duration (2.5 months) and yield is higher (upland- 2 tons per hectare & Lowland 3-4 tons per hectare). This will enable farmers to increase their yield and ensure increase in productivity.

2.0 DEPARTMENTS: Activities, Achievements, Challenges/Constraints and Recommendations

2.1: Department of Administration

The Department of Administration is mandated to ensure proper management and coordination of administrative processes and procedures for the implementation of all agriculture programs and projects for the enhancement of food security and nutrition.

During the period under review, the Department ensured that service delivery to beneficiaries (farmers) and staff were effectively implemented.

Distribution of farming inputs, coordination of training and purchasing of crops (mainly rice) continue to be challenged by poor road conditions. However, agricultural machinery and equipment, planting materials, including vegetable seeds, paddy rice, seed rice and other agro supplies were distributed to farmers throughout the fifteen (15) counties.

In recognition of the human capacity development needs, the Ministry instituted an aggressive training program to realize success in the execution of its mandate.

For proper accountability and transparency of financial resources entrusted to the Ministry, the Internal Audit Division has been strengthened by additional auditors from the National Internal Audit Secretariat (NIAS). This move ensures compliance with relevant laws, effective risk management, strengthened internal controls, and improved financial management. Additionally, the Division systematically reviewed all financial documents and provided consulting services.

The Department is comprised of six (6) Divisions; namely, Asset Management, Human Resource, Communications, Finance, Internal Audit, and Procurement. These Divisions have worked collaboratively to provide logistic and administrative support for all programs and projects executed during the period in review. Highlights of the Department achievements are hereunder indicated by Division:

2.1.1 Division of Asset Management

The Division of Asset Management of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) has oversight responsibility to maintain the assets of MOA under the direct supervision of the Deputy Minister for Administration.

2.1.1.1 Achievement

- ❖ Ensured the repairs and regular maintenance of the Ministry Vehicles, generators and other electrical appliances.

2.1.2 Division of Communications

The Division of Communications is set up to implement strategies that highlight activities of the Ministry of Agriculture. As part of its core functions, the Division captures, manages, and disseminates agricultural information to the general public; and adopts media strategies aimed at making agricultural developments visible. It coordinates all activities of the Ministry of Agriculture in close collaboration with all MOA Departments, MOA Donor Funded Projects and Media Institutions.

2.1.2.1 Achievements

- ❖ Developed and implemented a communication awareness strategy on promoting the effects, impact and farmer's resilience and adaptation of climate change, with the objective of sharing lessons learned from farmer field schools, in water management and swamp rice production, from demonstration sites in Sia-Quelleh, Forquellah, Garmue and the Belemue communities in Bong County, and Tien Town, Zleh Town, Zwedru City, in Grand Gedeh County;
- ❖ Produced, edited and presented Fifty One (51) editions of, "Back to the Soil Radio" program from July to today's date, for the purpose of ensuring that the Ministry of Agriculture's mandates are widely understood, and address food insecurity and food production within the country;
- ❖ Produced a number of short documentaries with the aim to convey policies, interests and success stories, and create a favorable public image of the Ministry of Agriculture;
- ❖ Aired a mini documentary on the recent Food Security Assessment Report for the purpose of informing the public and stakeholders on the status of food security in Liberia;
- ❖ Produced and aired a 20-minute documentary highlighting the success story of a cocoa farmer in Grand Gedeh County. The objective of this initiative is to motivate increasing participation of community residents in cocoa farming; and
- ❖ Produced and broadcast a 3-minute promo of MOA activities called, "Stakeholders Dialogue" aimed at restoring the Ministry's image. This video is currently running on youtube. <https://youtu.be/8ldtUkwxdA>

2.1.3 Division of Finance

The Division is responsible to ensure accurate and appropriate financial accounting and management of resources made available to the Ministry for effective execution of projects and programs. It professionally coordinates and manages the Ministry's financial resources in order to perform in accordance with GOL policies and procedures.

2.1.3.1 Achievements

- ❖ Collaborated with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) to introduce and adopt the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMIS) for accurate accounting and budgetary control;
- ❖ Ensured proper accountability of cash flow, reflecting transparent inflow and outflow of funds received;
- ❖ Designed system control of budgetary allotments for each department; and
- ❖ In collaboration with the USAID/GEM, supported the development, understanding and adoption of Financial Manual.

2.1.3.2 Budgetary Appropriation

The Ministry's budgetary appropriations for operational and project budgets were in the tone of **US\$4,716,853.00** and **US\$820,000.00** respectively as legislative budgets. The core budget includes six (6) Departments, with appropriations as presented below:

- ❖ Three Women Leadership Workshops were held for over 500 women leaders in Agriculture for the purpose of educating them on Gender Base Violence, and Rape.

Component 2: Establishing a National Center of Specialization (NCS)

Upgrading of core facilities at CARI and other national institutions

- ❖ A Ten Year Strategic Plan has been developed, published and disseminated for the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI). As part of the Strategic direction, A Master Plan is nearing completion that will focus on the human capacity and infrastructural developments. The project also facilitated the autonomy of the Research Institute.
- ❖ Laboratory equipment for the Seed Lab at CARI have been identified with the procurement processed being launched. The lab will assist the Research Institute conduct first hand test for seeds produced in country and sourced from the region.
- ❖ The project also supported 37 Liberians (32 Masters and 5 PhDs) who are perusing their studies in the Universities of Makerere (Uganda), Sokoine (Tanzania); Cape Coast (Ghana); GIMPA (Ghana) and Nairobi (Kenya). About 15 of these students have returned with their respective Master degrees while the remaining 17 are all expected by June 2015. The project is expected to provide a year salary for these graduates under WAAPP 2C and post them at the Ministry of Agriculture and the Central Agricultural Research Institute in their various specialized areas. The 5 PhDs are expected in Liberia by September 2016.
- ❖ As part of her support to the Research Institute, the project contracted the services of Africa Rice Center and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) with three scientists being posted at the Research Institute to support in country research activities and mentor young researchers.
- ❖ As a means of accommodating these scientists, 4 residential buildings were renovated and furnished at the Research Institute.
- ❖ The Project provided 2 vehicles to Africa Rice Center and 1 vehicle to IITA to help with it's in country operations.
- ❖ The Project supported CARI to host four short term trainings (Mechanization, fruits and vegetables production, seed multiplication and roots and tubers production) for 145 technicians.
- ❖ As capacity building for the Research Institute, the Project procured four motorbikes and one 4X4 Toyota Hilux Pickup for the Central Agricultural Research Institute.

2.2.4.7.1 Achievements

Component 1: Enabling Conditions for Regional Cooperation and Market Integration

Seed and Pesticides

- ❖ The Project with support from the Ministry of Agriculture and ECOWAS has put into Official Gazette the ECOWAS Regulations on Seeds, Fertilizers and Pesticides. 300 copies of each of the Regulations was published and circulated to various stakeholders;
- ❖ The three ECOWAS regulations on Seeds, Fertilizer and Pesticides have been domesticated and validated in collaboration with USAID Food Enterprise Development project.
- ❖ With respect to regional collaboration and technology adoption, 451.6 metric tons of certified rice seed were brought into the country from Guinea and Burkina Faso; 40 metric tons of foundation rice seed from Togo; 79 Metric tons of Maize seed from Mali and 100 metric tons of Cowpea seed from Niger as a sign of implementation of the ECOWAS regulations on Seeds, Fertilizer and Pesticides.

Gender National Action Plan

- ❖ A Gender focal point was identified by the MOA and supported by the Project. 2 leadership workshops for Women leaders in Agriculture were held to educate women on their role as farmers. An Ebola impact Assessment was conducted to ascertain the impact of the EVD on female farmers. Office Equipment were provided and the facilitation of the Gender Focal point to CORAF/WECARD international training was supported under the project.

Communications

- ❖ The Project supported the reactivation and redesigning of the MOA website (www.moa.gov.lr), with a WAAPP and CARI portals attached, which was dormant over 8 years and recruited a Web Manager and an ICT Specialist to manage this site. A VSAT was also erected at the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) to ease communication problems and also enable the Research Institute get in contact with other Research Institutions around the world
- ❖ 180 journalists from over 8 community radio stations were trained by the project to enable them adequately report on Agriculture activities;
- ❖ 500 copies each of the National Rice Development Strategy and the Cassava National Strategy were printed into handouts, CDs, and Booklets and were distributed to various stakeholders in the Agriculture sector.
- ❖ As part of her support to key partners within the Agriculture sector, the project equipped the offices of the National Cassava Sub-Sector with Office equipment, generator, furniture and other office supplies;
- ❖ The project supported the development of a gender strategy and gender action plan for the Ministry of Agriculture.

Table 2.1: Budgetary Allotment to MOA Departments

Table 2.2: Core Budget Budget/International Organization Grant/PSIP Performance			
Code Budget	Allotment to Date	Expenditure to Date	Balance in Allotment
Personnel	1,761,349.00	1,761,349.00	0
Goods and Services	1,941,878.80	1,841,884.89	99,993.91
Grant to International Organization	77,000.01	77,000.01	(0.01)
Capital Expenditure	101,205.00	101,205.00	0
Legislative Budget	820,000.00	820,000.00	0
Total	4,701,447.80	4,581,483.90	99,993.90

2.1.4 Division of Procurement

The Division within the MOA, in keeping with its mandate, and in compliance with the regulations and procedures of the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC), prepares the Ministry's annual procurement plans, requests for proposals bidding documents and invitation to bid; conducts bid-opening procedures and ensures that procedures and processes are in compliance with the provision of the Public Procurement and Concessions Act (PPCA), 2009 and Amended & Restated Act of the Public Procurement & Concessions Commission, 2010. It conducted generally procurement of goods and services amounting to US\$808,488.63 (Eight Hundred and Eight Thousand, Four Hundred Eighty Eight and 63/100 United States Dollars). The major items procured include, 1) Goods: Petroleum product, stationery, agriculture supplies & inputs, transport equipment; and 2) Services: Repairs & maintenance of vehicles, printing services, guard & security services, vehicle insurance services, etc.

2.1.4.1 Achievement

- ❖ Developed an effective procurement system that supports the classification and analysis of transactions relative to specifications and standards contained in material/logistics requests.

2.1.5 Division of Internal Audit

The Division of the MOA comprises of resident auditors (MOA Staff) and auditors that are recruited, deployed and intermittently transferred by the NIAS. Although they function as an integral part of the MOA, the Internal Auditors carry out independent financial assessments of the activities within the Ministry. In addition to the internal auditing, the Ministry is also audited by external auditors, who usually provide an annual opinion on the Ministry's financial transactions.

The key internal audit priority areas include payroll systems, bank reconciliation, procurement controls, asset management systems, accounting and budgetary controls, pre-audit of disbursements, prior audit recommendations, processing time efficiency, and deliverable validation.

2.1.5.1 Achievement

- ❖ The MOA established the Audit Recommendation Implementation Committee (ARIC) with technical support from the Internal Auditors. Of the seventy two (72) recommendations from the last Audit, ARIC successfully implemented thirty (30).

2.1.5.2 Challenges

- Inadequate office equipment and supplies; and
- Low remuneration (allowances) and benefits to motivate staff for better and improved assurance of service delivery.

2.1.6 Division of Human Resource

The Human Resource Division is responsible to implement requests for recruitment/employment, replacement, dismissal, processing of pension documents, Personnel Action Notices (PANs), social security documents, group insurance, implementation and enforcement of Civil Service Standing Orders.

2.1.6.1 Achievements

- ❖ Recruited ten (10) personnel including a Comptroller for the MoA through direct replacement of employees who resigned, dismissed, or passed away; and hired 87 security personnel for the MoA through contractual agreement;
- ❖ In collaboration with the CSA recruited 74 contractual employees (12 project county focal persons, 40 extension technicians, 1 M&E Specialist, 2 Administration & Finance officers, 2 Accountants and 17 drivers) for the PMU Projects (ASRP/AFDB, SAPEC, and STCRSP);
- ❖ Conducted a working session awareness workshop, in collaboration with USAID-GEMs and CSA on the Performance Management System with MoA senior staff; and
- ❖ Processed medical refund payment in favor of an employee; while 115 employees received medical treatment from various clinics and hospitals under the Group Insurance covered by Secure Risk Insurance Company.

2.1.6.2 Workforce

The Ministry of Agriculture has a total workforce of 815 employees. 290 persons are classified as civil servants and 112 contractual personnel working with MoA, 231 staff at CARI and 182 staff serving in various capacities with the MoA/PMU projects.

Table 2.3: Core MOA Staff Strength by Department

No.	Department	Male	Female	No. of Personnel
1	Administration	60	20	80
2	Planning and Development	12	3	15
3	Regional Development, Research and Extension	84	13	97
4	Technical Services	65	8	73
5	Bureau of National Fisheries	23	2	25
	Total Civil Servants	244	46	290

- ❖ 8 Community Grain Reserves (CGR) equipped with rice mills and post-harvest parboiling tanks in Bomi, Gbarpolu and Grand Gedeh;
- ❖ 1,424 women (534 in Gbarpolu, 356 in Bomi and 534 in Grand Kru) efficiently operate the mills and parboiling equipment; and
- ❖ 154.7 MT of paddy rice available in the 8 CGR

Strengthening Agriculture Value Chains

- ❖ Established 12 FBO clusters comprising 80 Farmer Based Organizations (FBO) with a total membership of 2,000 in Bong and Lofa Counties.

2.2.4.7 West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program (WAAPP)

The West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP) was officially launched in 2012. The Project is funded by World Bank, Japan and Government of Liberia. The goal and objective of the project are to: (1) achieve self-sufficiency and export capacity for rice and cassava production whilst improving productivity in rice and cassava along their respective value chains and (2) Improving the productivity of rice and cassava along their value chain in order to enhance Liberia's food self-sufficiency and regional competitiveness.

The project is implemented in eight (8) counties (Bong, Margibi, Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland and Sinoe). It has an implementation period of five (5) years, July 2012- June 2016 under four (4) components namely:

Component 1: Establish enabling conditions for regional cooperation and market integration: aims at establishing, rehabilitating and strengthening key national mechanisms, regulations and institutions, so to allow Liberia to benefit fully from the regional cooperation and market integration, as partner in the regional WAAPP.

The component targets the following four key areas: (i) adoption and mainstreaming of ECOWAS regulations on genetic materials and agrochemicals; (ii) support to the formulation and implementation of national seed policy (NSP), an agricultural research policy, and a policy and development strategy for agricultural advisory services; (iii) support to regional rice market integration and trade; and (iv) knowledge management, communication and information systems.

Component 2: Establishing National Centers of Specializations: seeks to rebuild basic national rice and cassava research capacity at CARI that would liaise with Regional Centers of Specialization of WAAPP (RARC in Sierra Leone, National Center for irrigated rice in Mali, Africa Rice in Cot, IITA, etc.) in the area of research along the rice and cassava value chains

Component 3: Funding for demand driven technology generation and dissemination and adoption: to accelerate the adoption of readily available technologies and the generation and dissemination of adapted technologies for rice and cassava.

Component 4: Project Coordination, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation: aims at establishing an effective coordination, management and M&E system.

Small-scale Oil Palm Revitalization

- ❖ In collaboration with the Land Commission, six hundred 600 ha Plantation deeded to Dube Multi-Purpose Farmers Cooperative (DMFC) for better management for the benefit of Konobo District communities;

- ❖ **Reference EPO-LIBNCO Out-growers Scheme (Grand Bassa 600 ha):**

- 54 farmers identified for credit support by the Afriland Bank;
- MoU signed to support 20 farmers in the rehabilitation of 40 ha for oil palm cultivation.

Rubber Revitalization

- ❖ **Reference MARCO Out-growers Scheme (Montserrado: 800 ha):**

- 300 ha planted and 150 farmers (111 males, 39 females (26%) in Todee District identified to benefit from the Long Term Credit Facility.

Reference Long Term Credit (LTC) Line/Facility Management (Oil Palm and Rubber Sub-Components): Out-growers in Montserrado, Margibi and Grand Bassa Counties:

- ❖ Long Term Credit Facility for Rubber and Oil Palm Out-growers Designated Account B opened and funding provided at Agent Bank (LBDI) and on-lending participating Financing Institution is Afriland First Bank Liberia accepted by MFDP, MoA, and WB.

Institutional Building and Preparation of the Long Term Program

- ❖ Supported Draft Bills on i) Cooperatives Act; ii) Regulations; iii) Policy; and, iv) CDA Act on Autonomy are all currently being reviewed;
- ❖ Supported the feasibility study consultancy and Bill submitted to the Legislature for the LPMC to be transformed to Liberia Agriculture Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA)

2.2.4.5.2 Challenges

- Weak and dormant farmer cooperatives
- Inadequate Designated Account B Fund (US\$300,000) for Long Term Credit

2.2.2.6 Agriculture Infrastructure Development Program (AIDP)

The AIDP is a grant from the World Bank. It is anchored on the following three components:

Component 1: Seed Multiplication component to establish basic seed for out-growers in collaboration with AfricaRice;

Component 2: The development of productive agricultural Infrastructures in collaboration with WFP;

Component 3: Strengthening Agriculture Value Chains in collaboration with FAO

2.2.2.6.1 Achievements

Seed Multiplication Component

- ❖ 10 MT of foundation and breeder seeds produced and distributed to 27 out-grower groups in Lofa County.

The development of productive agricultural infrastructures

- ❖ 71.5 ha of lowland fully developed in 3 Counties (27.5 ha in Gbarpolu, 40.0 ha in Bomi, and 4.0 ha in Grand Kru);

Table 2.4: Contract Employees (Professional & Non-Professional)

No.	Type of Contractual Employees	Male	Female	Total
1	Professional Staff	4	6	10
2	Semi-Professionals			
	A. Physically Challenged Staff	3	2	5
	B. Fish Hatchery Attendants	2	2	4
	C. Livestock Officers	2	0	2
	D. Drivers	2	0	2
	E. Warehouse Clerk	1	0	1
	F. Gardener	1	0	1
	G. Securities	81	6	87
	Total Professional & Non- Professionals Staff for 2015	96	16	112

Table 2.5: Total PMU Staff by Projects

No.	Project	Male	Female	Total
1	Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project (ASRP/AfDB)	21	1	22
2	Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project (ASRP/IFAD & Smallholder Tree Crop Revitalization Support Project (STCRSP/IFAD)	20	2	22
3	West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP/WB)	18	1	19
4	Food Security and Nutrition (FS & N)	1	2	3
5	Smallholder Tree Crop Rehabilitation Support Project (STCRSP/WB)	8	2	10
6	Smallholder Agriculture Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization (SAPEC) Project	64	13	77
7	West Africa Regional Fisheries Project (WARFP)	22	3	25
8	Climate Change Adaption Agriculture (CCAAP)	4	0	4
	Total PMU Workforce for 2015	158	24	182

Table 2.6: Summary of MOA Workforce December 2015

No.	Departments and projects personnel of MOA	No. of Personnel
1	MOA Workforce Civil Servants as at December 2015	290
2	Contractual Employees (Professional & Non-Professional)	112
3	Total PMU Staff by Projects	182
4	Central Agriculture Research Institute	231
	Total workforce of payroll staff and non-payroll staff currently at MOA	815

2.1.6.3 Training

The Ministry of Agriculture benefited from several training programs, most of which were provided through the support of GOL International development partners. Sixteen (16) short term training courses offered in two (2) countries (India and Japan) were utilized by 22 MOA Staff; sixteen (16) obtained certificates.

Sixty-two (62) of the eighty-eight (88) Liberian benefitting from the Ministry's scholarship program have returned with diplomas and Degrees in various disciplines as follows: Four (4) PhD holders, thirty-six (36) Master's Degree holders, and 22 Certificate holders. There are 26 persons pursuing studies at different levels in International Universities (2 at BSc, 21 at MSc and 3 at PhD).

2.1.7 Division of Information Technology

The Division is responsible for the development, installation, and implementation of computer systems and applications. The Division deals with the use of electronic computers and computer software to securely convert, store, protect, transmit and retrieve information. Its technicians perform a variety of duties that range from installing applications to designing complex computer networks and information databases.

2.1.7.1 Achievements

- ❖ Installed and configured networking infrastructures of the entire Ministry with internet facilities; and
- ❖ Moved the MOA website to its official GOL domain. More than 20 PMU and 30 MOA staff have been trained in the effective use of the new email system.

2.2 Department of Planning and Development

The Department is responsible for providing policy advice on agricultural economic issues and engaging in strategic planning and sector coordination in order to promote and stimulate the development of agriculture. Additionally, it oversees the Quick Impact Paddy Rice Project (GoL Funded Post-EBOLA recovery projects), Paddy Rice Project, and the Project Management Unit (PMU).

Currently the Department has four (4) Divisions, namely; Planning and Policy, Sector Coordination, Food Security and Nutrition, and Monitoring and Evaluation. In recognition of the dire need of positive contributions that emanate from the disciplines of Statistics and Marketing, the MOA is striving to resuscitate these disciplines as Divisions of the Department.

2.2.1 Division of Sector Coordination

This Division is the catalyst between the Ministry and its Development Partners. It coordinates agricultural development activities to make certain that they are aligned with the National Development Objectives. The MOA established the Agriculture Coordination Committee (ACC) with the mandate to, a) stimulate dialogue between the MOA and Actors of the Sector, b) promote active Public-Private-Participation (PPP) in the Sector, and c) to furnish the Ministry with advice on policy formulation for the Sector's growth and development. Towards the realization of its mandate, the ACC's function is structured to primarily demonstrate subsector orientation. Each subsector provides update on in-depth analysis of the situation reflective of assessed needs and strategizes appropriate actions/interventions to address the needs.

2.2.4.5 Smallholder Tree Crop Revitalization Support Project (STCRSP) World Bank/GoL

The Smallholder Tree Crops Revitalization Support Project (STCRSP) seeks to increase access to finance, inputs, technologies and markets for smallholder tree crop farmers in Liberia, and to develop a long term development program for the tree crop sector.

The project constitutes the first phase of a longer term tree crop development program, targeting smallholders. It will test different rehabilitation, replanting and new planting models and associated implementation and financing mechanisms for revitalizing the tree crop sector. These models will be implemented in partnerships with concessionaires/large firms, NGOs, Farmer Organizations (FOs) and financial institutions in the six counties of Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, and Grand Bassa.

The total costs of the project is estimated at around US\$23.1 million equivalent, funded by an IDA credit of US\$15 million, GoL funding of about US\$1.1 million, financial institutions contributions of US\$800,000, and beneficiaries in-kind inputs of around US\$6.2 million.

The Project was approved on June 5, 2012 and became effective on May 13, 2015 for stakeholders implementation. The project includes a strong learning initiative and is anchored on the following components.

Smallholder Tree Crops Revitalization: focuses on Cocoa/Coffee Revitalization: rehabilitating, replanting and extension of cocoa/coffee farms (7,500 ha) in Bong, Nimba, and Grand Gedeh counties; technical and management advice to smallholders and their farmer organizations (FOs); quality promotion and market linkages; enhancing access of cocoa and coffee farmers and FOs to adapted financial services; and development of small scale processing.

Small-scale Oil Palm Revitalization: relates to the revitalization of the Dube Oil Palm Plantation in Konobo District in Grand Gedeh run by smallholders; including support to rehabilitation/replanting (600 ha), capacity building of the existing cooperative, and development of intermediate processing technologies; and promotion of an out growers scheme (600 ha) around a concessionaire, EPO-LIBINCO in Grand Bassa County.

Rubber Revitalization: focuses on their planting and extension of rubber farms (2,600 ha) in Margibi and Montserrado Counties in partnership with two concessionaires and one large Liberian estate; and, rehabilitation of critical markets access roads in project areas.

Institutional Building and Preparation of the Long Term Program: aims to strengthen MoA's Technical Services (the Programs Management Unit at Headquarters and County Agricultural Offices) and of the Cooperative Development Agency (CDA); elaborate national strategies for FO development, master plans for the targeted tree crops; securing land use rights of targeted smallholders; provides support to adaptive tree crop research; and preparation of the long term tree crop development program.

Project Coordination and Management: ensures an effective coordination, management and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the project.

2.2.4.5.1 Achievements

1. Smallholder Tree Crops Revitalization:

- ❖ Provided technical support and GAP to eight (8) Farmer Coops, 3 Farmer Associations, and 48 Farmer-Based Organizations in Bong, Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties and rehabilitation is ongoing on 1,800 ha of cocoa and 184 ha of coffee. Harvesting has also started.

Component 3: Institutional Capacity Building

- ❖ 2 community warehouses constructed/rehabilitated in Lofa County.

2.2.4.3 The Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project - II (ASRP-II/IFAD):

ASRP-II: is an extension of ASRP I and its emphasis is on piloting an extension service delivery model involving both farmer organizations and the MOA at field level.

GoL, through MFDP and MOA, finalized negotiation with IFAD for USD13m loan and USD4.5m grant for replication of the success stories of Lofa County in Nimba County.

No-Cost extension for the project approved for 18 months (January 2016 – June 2017)

ASRP adopted a three-pronged approach for the implementation of project activities in Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, and Montserrado Counties: (a) Capacity Building of FUN to enhance delivery of Extension Services to farmers, (b) Capacity Building of CACs and DAOs to improve their effectiveness in outreach activities, and (c) Supervision, monitoring and evaluation of FUN activities.

2.2.4.3.1 Achievements

- ❖ 280 Lead farmers benefitted from Hands-on-Training in Food Crop (rice, cassava and vegetables) production techniques; and
- ❖ 100 Lead Farmers from Cape Mount, Bomi Montserrado and Bassa Counties trained by CDA in pre-cooperative formation.

2.2.4.4 Italian Supplementary Funding (IT-67/ IFAD)

The IT-67 project fosters farmers and farmers' organizations capacity building for effective management of programs and projects leadership and ownership, to farmers and their organizations regarding their structuring, institutional and economic issues in order to be proactive stakeholders within agricultural and food security programs and policies. The GoL

(MFDP) and IFAD signed a US\$669,000.00 Financing Agreement for Italian supplementary grant (IT-67). The Project Implementation Unit//PMU signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Farmer Union Network of Liberia (FUN) for implementation of farmers' consultation, advocacy and strengthening FUN's organizational capacity.

With the collaboration of MFDP and CBL, and in support of the Ministry's desire to enhance pro-poor smallholder rural farmers' access to finance, IFAD committed USD\$7M loan and US\$0.5M grant for thirteen (13) Rural Community Finance Institutions (RCFI).

2.2.4.4.1 Challenges

- Lack of access to credit and inputs, extension services and training, infrastructure, organizational and structural issues affecting FO's, market and information, etc.
- Lack of a framework to regulate the prices of commodities
- The Bank protocol in granting 'No Objections' to project request causes undue delay to implementation of project activities

2.2.1.1 Achievements:

- ❖ Issued 19 (nineteen) Accreditations to in-coming organizations and renewed 9 (nine) existing organizations; and
- ❖ Restructured the ACC for alignment with the Liberia Agricultural Transformation Agenda (LATA).

2.2.1.2 Challenges

- Inadequate staff
- Inadequate logistics

2.2.2 Division of Monitoring and Evaluation

The overall objective of this Division is to provide guidance in setting indicators, tracking performance trends, identifying blunders and issuing of early warnings, and recommending corrective actions.

2.2.2.1 Achievements

- ❖ Collaborated with USAID/FED and developed an M&E technical roadmap and a 12- month work-plan;
- ❖ Trained five lead users to manage the established mini cadastre at the Ministry; and
- ❖ Conducted the First Accessing Survey which qualified the Government of Liberia/MOA to benefit from the EU Grant.

2.2.3 Division of Food Security and Nutrition

This Division was established in 2008 to oversee the implementation of the Joint Food Security and Nutrition Program. Additionally, it monitors food security and nutrition situation in the country and coordinates food security related programs and activities.

2.2.3.1 Achievements

- ❖ Validated the National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy;
- ❖ Produced and published the monthly market bulletins for public consumption;
- ❖ Trained 100 rural women in leadership, mainstreaming gender in agriculture, as well as nutrition-sensitive agriculture; and
- ❖ Launched results of the Liberia Food Security Assessment (LFSA) which was conducted in May 2015 to determine the impact of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) on food security and livelihoods.

2.2.3.2 Challenges

- In adequate budgetary allocation
- Insufficient logistical support;
- Insufficient office space to accommodate the Mano River Food Security Hub equipment and the food security database system;
- Limited human resource capacity in data analysis and report writing; and
- Limited technical staff to enhance field activities including assessments and monitoring.

2.2.4 Program Management Unit (PMU)

The PMU oversees the implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of various donor-funded agriculture projects in the MOA within the framework of the Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program (LASIP). The PMU directly falls under the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) of the MOA and is headed by a Director.

The Unit manages and coordinates seven (7) distinct agriculture projects designed to rehabilitate the Agriculture Sector in a holistic manner as presented below:

2.2.4.1 Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project (ASRP/AfDB)

The specific objective of the ASRP is to reduce poverty of the pro-poor by increasing income of farmers and rural entrepreneurs and contribute to food security through lowland rehabilitation and development, construction of farm to market roads and technical capacity building of the sector stakeholders. In support of this, the Government of Liberia (GoL), through the MOA received a grant of US\$24 million (UA 18.3 million) from the African Development Bank (AfDB) to implement the ASRP.

The project has a life span of six (6) years (2010-2016) under three (3) components:

Component 1

Agriculture Infrastructure Rehabilitation & Development focuses on the rehabilitation of water management infrastructures (barrages, canals and production fields) on an estimated 314 ha. for lowland cultivation in Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Grand Kru and Maryland Counties; rehabilitation of feeder roads; and development of Community Infrastructures (MOA local offices, processing facilities, etc.) across the project counties.

Component 2

Agriculture Production and Productivity Improvement equips beneficiary farmers with agronomic best practices for enhanced productivity and sustained income generation; builds the capacity of agriculture institutions; establishes and trains Community Change Agents to facilitate transaction between farmers and agriculture inputs suppliers and/or produce buyers; and builds the capacities of communities associated with the project to ensure project sustainability.

Component 3

Project Management supports efficient management and effective technical backstopping of the project.

2.2.4.1.1 Achievements

Component 1: Agriculture Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Development

- ❖ Rehabilitated and brought under production 136 ha. of lowland in Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, River Gee and Maryland Counties; and
- ❖ Supported the rehabilitation of 27 km of Ziah town to Zwedru farm to market road

Component 2: Agricultural Production and Productivity Enhancement

- ❖ 1,629 lowland rice farmers, trained in GAP and exposed to improved rice varieties (NL-19, WITTA-4, etc.) have increased productivity from 1.5 MT to 3.5 MT per hectare in Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, River Gee and Maryland Counties; and
- ❖ The 19-project-supported subject matter specialists at various degree levels have returned to the delight of the MOA.

2.2.4.1.2 Challenges

- Delay by contractors to execute work activities in line with plan and time;
- The Bank protocol in granting ‘No Objections’ to project request causes undue delay to implementation of project activities;
- The preference of upland rice farming by most farmers is a limitation of their participation in rehabilitation and development of lowland rice farming projects.

2.2.4.2 Smallholder Tree Crop Revitalization Support Project (STCRSP) - IFAD

This is a 5-year pilot project (2012–2017) with a total cost of US\$24.9 million, including the International Fund for Agricultural Development’s (IFAD) highly concessional loan of US\$16.8 million, private sector exported contribution of US\$5 million, beneficiaries’ contribution of US\$900 thousand, and the Government of Liberia (GOL’s) contribution of \$2 million.

The STCRSP specific objectives are: (i) increase the quantity sold and price received by smallholder farmers for cocoa and coffee by revitalizing plantations, (ii) improving access to markets through rural roads rehabilitation and maintenance system development; and (iii) strengthening the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and/or private extension services as well as Farmers Based Organizations in Lofa County.

2.2.4.2.1 Achievements

Component 1: Revitalization of Cocoa and Coffee Plantations—15,000 hectare

- ❖ Seven (7) cooperatives sold a total of 265,891 MT of cocoa beans amounting to USD 510,510.72 to LAADCO, a private partner; and
- ❖ Cocoa seedlings from 189 village cocoa nurseries established in the 7 Districts of Lofa were distributed to 3,500 poor rural farmers.

Component 2: Rehabilitation of Farm-to-Market Roads

- ❖ 83 km of farm to market (FTM) road in all 7 Districts of Lofa County rehabilitated;