



Program Management Unit (PMU)

Ministry of Agriculture

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Monsterrado, Liberia



NOTICE FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

The Government of Liberia has secured funding from the World Bank for a proposed project titled: West Africa Agriculture Transformation Project (WAATP). This project is designed to scale up adoption of technologies and innovations to increase productivity to contributing to addressing the broader issue of accelerating food availability to feed a growing and urbanized population.

The proposed project will focus on the following activities: (i) supporting the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) supported under the WAAPP to become a more viable institution for research in order to fine tune existing technologies, generate more innovations and introduce disruptive technologies at the local and regional levels, which will accelerate regional transfer of technologies from national research programs and the *Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research* (CGIAR) research system; (ii) strengthening and modernizing the public and private extension services as well as the T&I production system to accelerate the adoption of improved technologies and innovation; and (iii) improving the competitiveness of primary production and creating the enabling environment for private investment into agri-food services, processing and marketing. With respect to women and youth the WAATP will build on WAAP's experience to address the gender gap in access to agriculture services (research, extension, T&I and capacity building activities). With respect to climate change the WAATP will contribute to the participating countries' national mitigation objectives as articulated in their NDCs by modifying agri-food production techniques to reduce GHG emissions in agriculture, namely through measures that strengthen the absorptive (e.g. through measures that protect soil erosion, etc.), adaptive (e.g. through farm diversification, providing cost-effective irrigation and climate-informed advisory services to enhance the resilience of agriculture), and transformative (e.g. through shifts to higher value crop production and promoting alternative livelihood strategies) capacities of the agricultural systems.

The proposed project will be implemented through the Program Management Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture. The implementation of the WAATP will trigger the following World Bank Environmental and social Safeguards Policies:

- i. Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01
- ii. Pest Management OP/BP 4.09
- iii. Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12.

Consequently, the Government of Liberia, through the **Ministry of Agriculture**, has prepared appropriate safeguards instruments namely:

- (1) Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)*
- (2) Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF)*
- (3) Pest Management Plan (PMP)*

These frameworks would guide mitigation of any such potential impacts in accordance with the Republic of Liberia and World Bank requirements. The ESMF, PMP and RPF have been prepared, in consultations with different stakeholders at regional and national levels, to provide guiding principles for assessment and management of environmental and social aspects of all project delivery processes and activities. Both documents will also help to systematically identify, predict and evaluate beneficial and adverse environmental and social impacts of sub-projects and other activities to be financed under the Project. The frameworks also set out mitigation, monitoring and institutional measures to be undertaken during implementation and operation of the project to eliminate, off set or reduce any potentially adverse environmental and social impacts.

The ESMF outlines among others, procedures to ensure that proposed investments are adequately screened for their potential environmental and social impacts, and that correct procedures are followed to avoid or mitigate and minimize any potential negative impacts arising from the project.

The Pest Management Plan promotes the use of a combination of environmentally and socially friendly practices (hygienic, cultural, biological or natural control mechanisms and the judicious use of chemicals) and reduce reliance on synthetic chemical pesticides and ensure that health, social and environmental hazards associated with pesticides are minimized under the Project and within acceptable limit requirements of key stakeholders (i.e. primary users among farmers and their immediate dependants/families).

The RPF outlines among others, the principles, legal framework, consultation and grievances redress mechanism, principles for determining eligibility, appropriate procedures to be followed to mitigate and minimize impacts arising from the proposed activities. The documents also include institutional arrangements and responsibilities for implementation.

During implementation, if found to be necessary, site specific action or management plans will be prepared by MoA, using participatory and consultative processes guided by the Frameworks, prior to starting any project activities that entail environmental and social impacts. The Ministry is, through this publication, giving the public:

**NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE FOR THE ABOVE- MENTIONED SAFEGUARDS
INSTRUMENTS AS PART OF THE REQUIREMENT OF THE WORLD BANK
SAFEGUARDS COMPLIANCE MEASURES**

The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Pest Management Plan and a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) are now being disclosed to the Public and can be found at the following offices:

Ministry of Agriculture and its Program Management Unit, the Environment Protection Agency (EPA), the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning, the Library of the University of Liberia Agriculture College, and the Office of the Director General of the Central Agricultural Research Institute in Suakoko, Bong County.

Copies of the three (3) Frameworks can also be accessed from the following e-mail and websites addresses indicated below:

E-mail: csaygbe@moa.gov.lr; jcsaygbe@yahoo.com

- i. www.cari.gov.lr
- ii. www.coraf.org
- iii. www.moa.gov.lr

These documents will also be disclosed at the World Bank's website.

All queries and enquiries should be forwarded to:

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