



2012



ANNUAL REPORT



Ministry of Agriculture
Republic of Liberia



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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

| | |
|---------------|---|
| ACC | Agriculture Coordination Committee |
| ADP | Agriculture Development Program |
| ADWG | Agriculture Donors Working Group |
| AEAS | Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services |
| AfDB | African Development Bank |
| AGRA | Agriculture Green Revolution for Africa |
| ASRP | Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project |
| BMA | Bureau of Maritime Affairs |
| BNF | Bureau of National Fisheries |
| CAADP | Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program |
| CARD | Coalition of Africa Rice Development |
| CARI | Central Agriculture Research Institute |
| CCAAP | Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture Project |
| CFNS | Comprehensive Food Security and Nutrition Survey |
| DAO | District Agriculture Officer |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization |
| FBO | Farmers Based Organization |
| FSN | Food Security and Nutritional |
| GOL | Government of Liberia |
| ICCO | International Cocoa and Coffee Organization |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agriculture Development |
| LISGIS | Liberia Statistics and Geo -Information Services |
| LNRDS | Liberia National Rice Development Strategy |
| MOA | Ministry of Agriculture |
| MOF | Ministry of Finance |
| PAN | Personnel Action Notice |
| PFMA | Public Financial Management Act |
| PPCA | Public Procurement and Concession Act |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| WAAPP | West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program |

FOREWORD

I am delighted to present, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), the 2012 Annual Report which outlines the major achievements in support of the efforts of the Government of Liberia to develop agriculture.

Since 2006, the Government of Liberia has positioned the agriculture sector as the key driver in the revitalization of the economy. Placing such top priority on agriculture makes good economic, political and moral sense. Agricultural development is essential for economic growth, poverty reduction, employment creation, income generation and the attainment of food security and rural development in a low income developing country as ours. MOA recognizes increases in agriculture productivity as being most important. We know that it will not only serve as an effective driver of economic growth and poverty reduction in the agricultural sector. For these reasons, we factor it into our operation at all levels in spite of limited resources - both human and capital. Productivity increases in agriculture is currently slow but growing in response to the rebuilding and development of good rural infrastructure, appropriate institutions, access to technology and well functioning domestic markets on which it depends.

Pursuant to its mandate to coordinate the development and proper running of the sector, the Ministry, during the year under review, developed and validated two policy documents— a National Seed Policy and Regulatory Framework and a National Plant Protection Policy that outlines regulations and quality control measures that will be monitored for compliance both locally and globally. In addition, MOA prepared policy and strategy documents and guidelines to guide the work that must be carried out for development of key sub-sectors. These include: a National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS); a National Cocoa Policy; a Policy on Mainstreaming Gender Issues in Agriculture Programs and Projects in Liberia; a National Policy for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services; and a National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy.

Outside of programs and projects funded through the national budget, the Ministry finalized two grant/loan projects for implementation starting in 2013: the Smallholder Agriculture Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization (SAPEC) Project that is supported by the World Bank Global Agriculture and Food Security Trust Fund (US\$46.5 million) and a US\$6.4 million loan from the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture Project (CCAAP) valued at US\$2.5 million.

A major concern expressed in earlier reports for the years 2006-2010 related to the serious problem of illegal fishing by foreign vessels. I am pleased to report that even greater improvements were made to fight this menacing problem in 2012 than those reported by the Bureau of National Fisheries (BNF) of the Ministry of Agriculture

in 2011. We pulled in and fined more illegal fishing vessels, seized more faked licenses and issued more legal ones; granted more import and export Permits; and registered the boats of over one hundred local fishermen all of whom made payments for their permits into Government Revenues – most for the first time.

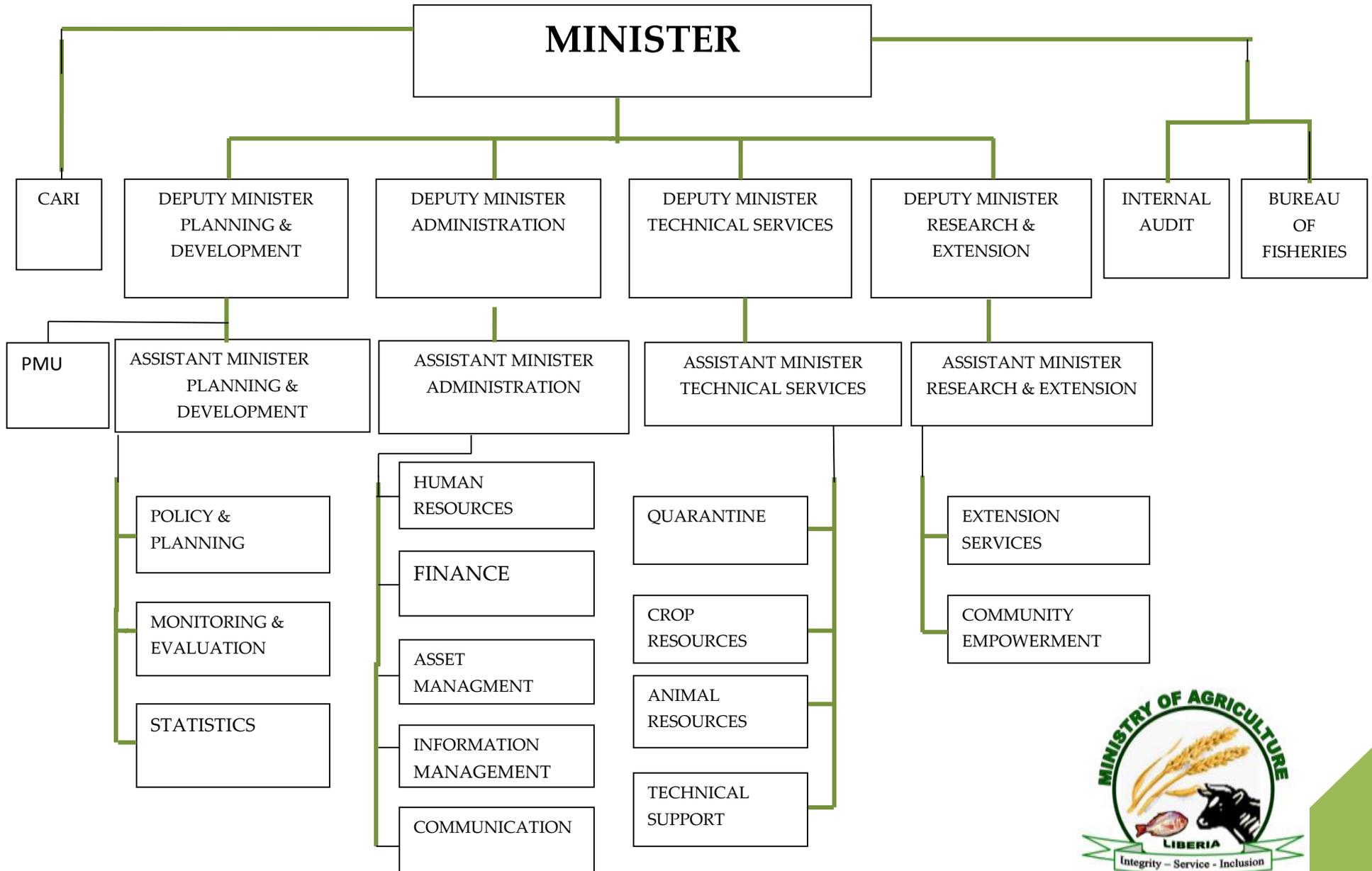
I am pleased to report that significant efforts were made towards increasing rice production through on-time support to small farmers, especially through the increased amount of high yielding seeds and the buy-back program that allows for purchase of both seed rice and paddy from farmers at “farm gate” based on a fixed and pre announced price. I am also pleased to report that we reached more farmers with these services this year. Most farmers unfortunately experienced some setbacks in their farming operations because of an unseasonably long rainy season. This led to both delay planting and harvest times and to some having to plant seeds twice because earlier ones were washed away. In spite of these setbacks, we expect to see higher rice production levels, thanks to the tenacity of our farmers.

I am also pleased to report on MOA’s achievement in its flagship program – capacity enhancement and job creation” during the year. Over one thousand students pursuing higher training levels in Agriculture (BSc and AA degrees) in local institutions were granted scholarships. We selected and sent a total of 9 additional staff for MSc and 3 for PhD degrees in specialized fields at foreign institutions. On the employment side, job opportunities in agriculture were opened to 253 persons. Of this number, 7 new staff were employed through the Civil Service Agency to fill needed gaps in our decentralized offices; 175 skilled and semi-skilled persons were hired on a one year contract at CARI, and 162 youths with BSc and AA degrees from local institutions were hired on one year (renewable one year) contracts as “Extension-staff-in-training”, and assigned to field level services around the country. I am very proud of these young men and women who have demonstrated their true interest in studying, finding jobs, and being engaged in Agriculture. We will nurture, direct and support them to dream and live their dreams of a bright future.

As we conclude another year, we express our thanks to our Government, development partners and stakeholders for your strong support.

Dr. Florence A. Chenoweth
Minister of Agriculture

ORGANIZATION CHART



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Liberia is responsible for the development of the agriculture sector. It does so by ensuring that an effective organizational structure is put in place and is manned by staff capable of planning, coordinating, implementing, and monitoring and evaluating agricultural development programs from time to time. It also ensures that its staff and the farmers are trained to cope with the challenges of the agricultural activities.

Additionally, the Ministry ensures that the agricultural problems that impede production are investigated and lasting solutions found. Farmers are provided the supportive services and the enabling environment to produce.

The Ministry's core areas of responsibility will most probably continue to consist of: agriculture, both smallholder and commercial; plantation crops; fisheries and livestock. The Ministry's major activities are coordinated through the following four departments: Administration, Planning and Development, Regional Development and Extension and Technical Services.

Concerted efforts have been made to develop policies, strategies and programs aimed at fulfilling the Ministry's overall mandates. These mandates include the attainment of self-sufficiency in food production, increasing the nation's ability to earn and conserve foreign exchange, augmenting farmers' income, and daily purchasing power. Achieving them will provide a spring board for progressively transitioning from subsistence farming to commercial farming with farmers benefitting from gains including increased productivity, incomes and overall livelihood.

During the year under review the Ministry undertook activities in keeping with its mandate that resulted to the following achievements:

Achievements

Strengthening Financial Management:

- Linked MOA financial management system with the Ministry of Finance IFMIS system to input financial data 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 of each department;
- Developed improved methodology of recording and reporting;

- Conducted risk assessment of the critical areas of the Ministry. The findings of the assessment detailed serious weaknesses in several divisions and highlighted huge capacity gaps in the Finance, Internal Audit and Assets Management Units; and
- Facilitated the admission of Liberia in the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO), a United Nations Agency. As an ICCO member, Liberia, is now eligible for technical assistance from the Organization to help develop its cocoa subsector and can better respond to world market demand.

Strengthening Human Capacity

CARI

The Institute started with one scientist borrowed on a two-year agreement basis from ECOWAS, and later supplemented by two (2) contractual foreign scientists. Today CARI has no foreign Nationals on contract as was the case up to the first quarter of 2012. Instead, it now has Liberian staffs comprising of two (2) Senior Scientists at the PhD level with over ten years of experience, four (4) Junior Scientists at MSC level; 16 Research Field Assistants at the B.Sc. level; and four (4) Technicians at the AA level. In training to further enhance staff strength, two (2) additional staff left for advance degrees at the PhD level; four (4) at M.Sc. level; and 12 at the Certificate level.

Ministry of Agriculture – Central

During the period under review four (4) Special Matter Specialists (SMSs) returned from training at the MSC level. During this same period, 1 staff was sent for advanced external training at the PhD level, and 9 at the MSC level. At the local level, over one thousand scholarships were given to students in the Colleges of Agriculture at the University of Liberia, Cuttington and William V. S. Tubman Universities; at the Technical Colleges in Nimba and Lofa, and the accelerated programs with training in agriculture at the Boker Washington Institute in Margibi County and the Methodist University in Sinoe County. The local scholarship support is provided by the Government and Golden VeroleumLiberia (GVL) Oil Palm Company which provides a yearly support of US\$ 100,000.00.

Regulations and Policy Formulation

- 1) Established seven technical working groups in the Agriculture Coordination Committee (ACC) in the areas of cocoa, cassava, oil palm, livestock, rice, rubber and urban and peri-urban agriculture. The working groups are composed of farmers and farmers' associations, agro-business entrepreneurs, and MOA, with interests in the above-mentioned subsectors.

- 2) Developed and validated a series of policy documents in its drive towards providing more regulatory and quality control services and to provide an enabling environment for better participation of private farmers and investors in the sector. These include:
- a) A National Cocoa Development Strategy, which if well implemented, will make Liberia's cocoa competitive on world markets, thereby increasing farmers' incomes and export revenues to government;
 - b) A National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS);
 - c) A National Seed Policy and Regulatory Framework (now awaiting Legislative Ratification for global application);
 - d) A National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy
 - e) A National Plant Protection Policy (awaiting Legislative Ratification for global application);
 - f) The Policy for Mainstreaming Gender Issues in Agricultural Programs and Projects in Liberia; and
 - g) A National Policy for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services.

Other Key Activities

1. Completed a draft 3-Year Pilot Program for "Strengthening Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (SEAS)". This program has the basic goal of ensuring effective and efficient public-private partnership in agricultural extension and advisory services delivery in Liberia. Arrangements are being made to solicit funding for the SEAS pilot project in five (5) counties;
2. Finalized two grant projects in its Program Management Unit (PMU), including the Smallholder Agriculture Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization (SAPEC) Project from the World Bank Global Agriculture and Food Security Trust Fund valued at approximately US\$46.5 million. Working in close collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the SAPEC Project will cover 12 counties, excluding Bong, Lofa and Nimba Counties which are also benefiting from other major projects. About 110,000 smallholder farmers will benefit directly from the project. The second grant project is the Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture Project (CCAAP). Valued at US\$2.5 million, the project is expected to serve as a vehicle for implementation of one of the priority actions coming out of the Liberia National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) under the auspices of the Global Environment Fund (GEF), and in collaboration with UNDP. The project is being implemented in Bong and Grand Gedeh Counties.
3. Conducted the 2012 Comprehensive Food Security and Nutrition Survey (CFSNS) to provide baseline information;

4. Worked with the Department of Technical Services and the Program Management Unit in the Department of Planning to carry out various outreach services to farmers and farmers' groups involved in production activities in rice, cassava, vegetable, livestock and fisheries across the country.
5. Monitored market prices in ten major markets across the country, and produced ten (10) Liberia Market Price Monitor Bulletins which were utilized by the Government and its development partners as well as the public during planning and decision-making processes.

Projects Formulation and Management

- Completed the design of 8,620 hectares (ha) of targeted swamp rice irrigation schemes in South-Eastern Liberia. Constructed a total 1,620 hectares of the 7000 hectares of irrigation schemes commenced in December 2012 in Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Maryland and River Gee Counties.
- Finalized two grant projects in the Program Management Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, including:
 - i. Smallholder Agriculture Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization (SAPEC) Project from the World Bank Global Agriculture and Food Security Trust Fund valued at approximately US\$46.5 million. The SAPEC Project will cover 12 counties, excluding Bong, Lofa and Nimba Counties.
 - ii. Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture Project (CCAAP). The project is valued at US\$2.5 million and is expected to serve as a vehicle for implementation of one of the priority actions in the Liberia National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA). It is being implemented in Bong and Grand Gedeh Counties.
- About 8,620 ha of swamp rice irrigation schemes were designed for rehabilitation/construction work. Rehabilitation/construction of 350 hectares of the designed schemes started in December 2012 and is expected to be completed in 17 months (by March 2014).
- 87 km of farm-to-market roads designed for rehabilitation in Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Maryland and River Gee Counties; 60.8 km already under rehabilitation (32% completed in 2012). Full rehabilitation is expected to be completed in March 2013.
- Through the out-grower scheme in Tian and Gwein Towns in Grand Gedeh and Fish Town in River Gee, at least 60 ha of improved lowland rice varieties which yielded 2.5 metric tons per ha were cultivated for seed to be distributed to farmers.

- Distributed 1,035 bundles of cassava sticks to four (4) agricultural community-based organizations under the cassava multiplication project in District #1, Grand Bassa County to cultivate 20 ha of cassava for value-addition purposes. Cuttings from this harvest will be distributed to 360 farmers for next planting season in District #1, Grand Bassa County.
- Distributed 110.25 metric tons (mt) of improved seed rice to 8,820 farming households, and 17,900 bundles of improved cassava sticks to 9,550 farmers in Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Montserrado and Grand Bassa Counties.
- Formed and strengthened the capacity of 489 community-based organizations (CBOs) with about 20 members each (5,275 females and 4,815 males) through targeted programs in improved farm practices for cassava and rice cultivation and livestock rearing. These CBOs will be transformed into cooperatives during the 2013 planting season to properly market their own produce.
- Mobilized and trained 167 Adult Literacy Facilitators in various communities. Those trained are currently transferring knowledge and skills acquired to over 3,000 farmers. Due to the interest generated by farmers in the project communities, some non-beneficiaries have taken advantage of the adult literacy component of the project and are enrolling in numbers in the various communities.
- Launched a three-week booster vaccination campaign in six counties at which time approximately 122,000 sheep and goats were vaccinated; and
- Successfully contained the outbreak of caterpillars (*Achaecatocaloides*) in 7 Counties (Cape Mount, Bomi, River Cess, Sinoe, Maryland, Grand Bassa and River Gee). There was very little damage to agricultural crops in affected communities.

Safeguarding Natural Resources:

Over the long years of civil unrest, Liberia's vast marine coastal belt was opened to illegal fishing that deprived the country of its much needed revenue, as well as the destruction of its marine stock. To reverse this trend, the government in partnership with the World Bank, invested over US\$12 million to strengthen the capacity of the Bureau of National Fisheries and set up a modern surveillance system to monitor and report all illegal fishing activities in our coastal waters.

As a result of this, the following achievements were made during the period under review.

- The Ministry generated US\$6.4 million from granting 24,664 import permits and five Export Permits to fishing companies. Additionally, US\$1.6 million was generated from export permits for dried fish.

- Two (2) local fishing vessels were arrested and fined US\$210,000.00; and four foreign fishing companies fined US\$3 million. Total fines collected amounted to US\$3.2 million dollars and deposited into government revenue.
- Further contribution to government revenue by the Ministry amounted to US\$10,500.00 through the issuance of import/export permits, phyto-sanitary and standard certificates to individuals, businesses and NGOs.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Liberia is responsible for the development of the agriculture sector. It does so by ensuring that an effective organizational structure is put in place and is manned by staff capable of planning, coordinating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating agricultural development programs periodically. It also ensures that its staff and the farmers are trained to cope with the challenges of the agricultural activities.

Additionally, the Ministry ensures that the agricultural problems that impede production are investigated and lasting solutions found. The Ministry also ensures that farmers are provided the supportive services and the enabling environment to produce. The Ministry's core areas of responsibility will continue to consist of: agriculture, both smallholder and commercial; plantation crops; fisheries and livestock. The Ministry's major activities are coordinated through the following four (4) departments: Administration, Planning and Development, Regional Development and Extension and Technical Services, each with units and divisions as shown in the Ministry's organizational chart on page (iv).

1.2 Our Vision, Mission and Operating Principles

1.2.1 Our Vision

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

1.2.2 Our Mission

We believe that a sustainable and decentralised agricultural system is key to poverty reduction. Our mission 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.

1.2.3 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 fulfill 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 people we serve.

Efficiency and Responsiveness

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

1.3 Importance of the Agricultural Sector

Liberia faces overwhelming reconstruction and development challenges after a long period of civil and political instability. Sixty-four percent of its nearly 3.5 million people equally divided between males and females, are poor with a per capita GDP of about US\$132 in 2008 (World Bank). The economic outlook has shown some favorable signs since the end of hostility in 2005. Liberia experienced real growth rates of 7.8%, 9.4%,

7.1%, 4.6%, 5.1% and 5.9% in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, respectively (International Monetary Fund, 2011:185). The agricultural sector continues to play a significant role in the Liberian economy, contributing close to 40% of GDP over the last five years.

In the past, budgetary allotment to the agriculture sector development was less than 1% thus impairing the sector's potential to contribute considerably to the National GDP. However, since 2006 GOL has demonstrated appreciable commitment to funding the sector from its own sources, mobilizing funding from international development partners and directing these funds towards agriculture. The GOL encourages foreign investors interested in long-term large investment opportunities to consider the sector. Reflective of this is that the agricultural sector portfolio (excluding the large scale plantations) exceeds US\$200 million with government's support from its own sources now exceeding 5% of the total budget. In return, agriculture's contribution to GDP is over 50%.

With 2015 – the year when the UN goal for its member nations to attain national food security around the corner, an estimated 41% of the nation's population is either food insecure or highly vulnerable to food insecurity. Food security in rural Liberia has remained at the same level with about every second household experiencing poor or borderline food consumption. However, insecurity has increased in the Greater Monrovia area due to food price hikes and the country's dependency on food imports. Against the back drop of the tremendous difficulties we faced with rebuilding a totally destroyed agricultural sector, concerted efforts have been made to turn things around.

2.0 MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENTS DURING 2012

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 and nutrition security.

The distribution of farming inputs, coordination of training and purchasing of crops (mainly rice) continue to be challenged by poor road conditions. On the bright side, the availability of road-worthy vehicles has help to improve the transportation of these farm implements and the delivery of services to farmers. Agricultural machineries and equipment, planting materials, including vegetable seeds, paddy rice, seed rice and other agro supplies were transported to farmers throughout the fifteen (15) counties.

The execution of the Ministry's mandate to enhance food and nutrition security and end hunger is largely dependent on qualified scientists, specialists and experts for its implementation and for the achievement of its objectives. To this end, the Ministry has instituted an aggressive training program to meet the training needs of the Ministry. Eighty six (86) individuals went on training during this period which constituted 25% of the Ministry's employees and 3% of other agriculture students. These beneficiaries were trained in specialized fields including entomology, irrigation engineering, plant breeding, water resource management, fisheries and aquaculture management, horticulture, and other fields of studies in China, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, the Philippines, South Africa and other countries. This year's training reflects an increase of 10% more in training personnel than last year.

For proper accountability and transparency of financial resources entrusted to the Ministry, the Internal Audit Division has been supported and strengthened by additional auditors from the National Internal Audit Secretariat. This move will ensure compliance with relevant laws, manage the institution's risks, strengthen internal controls and improve financial management.

Internal Audit Division has over this period reviewed all financial documents and provided consulting services systematically. This procedure has improved the Ministry's risks management, governance, and control processes.

Activities of the Department were coordinated effectively and efficiently through the Divisions of Finance, Procurement, Asset Management, Human Resource, Communication and Internal Audit.

2.1.2 Finance Section

The Finance Division of the Ministry of Agriculture 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. The Finance Division professionally coordinated and managed the Ministry's financial resources to ensure budget performance in accordance with GOL policies and procedures for improved service delivery to farmers.

2.1.3 Major Achievements

The Finance division over the period achieved the following:

- Linked with the Ministry of Finance IFMIS system to input financial data for accurate accounting and budgetary control;
- Ensured proper accountability of cashflow, reflecting transparent inflow and outflow of funds received;
- Designed system control of budgetary allotments of each department;
- Developed improved methodology of recording and reporting

2.1.4 Budgetary Appropriation

The Ministry's budgetary appropriations for operational and project budgets were US\$5,242,360.00 and US\$9,835,677.00, respectively. The operational budget for last fiscal year increased to US\$5,923,128.00 due to transfer payments of gasoline/fuel (US\$50,766.00). The core budget includes six departments with appropriation as follows:

Table 2.1: Budgetary Allotment to MOA Departments

| No. | Departments | 2012/2013 Appropriation |
|-----|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | RegionalDevelopment, Research and Extension | 674,665.00 |
| 2 | Technical Services | 229,026.00 |
| 3 | Planning and Development | 120,648.00 |
| 4 | CARI | 564,645.00 |
| 5 | Fisheries | 91,035.00 |
| 6 | Administration and Management | 3,613,109.00 |
| | Subtotal (Operation Budget) | 5,293,128.00 |
| | Project Budget | 9,835,667.00 |

Table2.2: Budget Performance

| Core Budget | Allotment Year to Date | Expenditure to Date | Balance in Allotment |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Personnel | 650,464.00 | 536,104.35 | 114,359.65 |
| Goods and Services | 2,604,909.00 | 1,950,084.70 | 654,824.30 |
| Grant to International Organization | 55,112.00 | 33,581.00 | 21,531.00 |
| Capital Expenditure | - | - | - |
| Subtotal | 3,310,485.00 | 2,519,770.05 | 790,714.95 |
| Project Budget | 695,000.00 | 589,386.00 | 105,614.00 |

Table 2.3 Expenditure by Department

| No. | Department | Personnel Service | Good and Service | Grants Int'l. Org. | Total |
|-----|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Regional | 97,644.94 | 227,380.16 | - | 325,025.10 |
| 2 | Technical | 69,889.62 | 64,170.80 | - | 134,060.42 |
| 3 | Planning | 42,039.68 | 8,712.99 | - | 50,752.67 |
| 4 | CARI | - | 264,929.82 | - | 264,929.82 |
| 5 | Fisheries | 27,569.12 | 32,243.07 | - | 59,812.19 |
| 6 | Administration & Mgt. | 298,960.99 | 1,352,647.86 | 33,581.00 | 1,685,189.85 |
| | Subtotal | 536,104.35 | 1,950,084.70 | 33,581.00 | 2,519,770.05 |

2.1.5 Procurement

In keeping with its mandate and in compliance with the regulations and procedure of the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC), the Procurement

Unit 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).

2.1.5.1 Major Activities:

- Procured goods and services amounting to US\$3,742,988.11.
Items procured include: petroleum products, solar system lighting, furniture and fixture, ICT equipment, tools and small equipment, agriculture inputs and supplies, agriculture equipment, telecommunication equipment, transport equipment, vehicle insurance, rice milling equipment, rehabilitation of office buildings and of staff residence at CARI.

2.1.6 Internal Audit

2.1.6.1 Responsibilities of the Internal Audit Unit

The Internal Audit Secretariat is inherent in Section 38 of the Public Financial Management (PFM) Act of 2009, which mandates the establishment of an Internal Audit Department for each public sector entity. The function of the Internal Audit Division is to ensure an effective and independent auditing that is not controlled by the entities that are the subject of internal auditing. It also incorporates internal audit results in the priority setting, planning and decision making processes at the various public sector entities. The Unit is to progressively build the capacity of internal audit functions in the various ministries and agencies, as the provision of financial management responsibilities is devolved to Ministries and Agencies.

2.1.6.2 Achievements

Internal Audit work falls into two main areas; namely, audit assurance as set out in the audit plan; and fraud awareness, prevention, detection and investigation. In addition, the Unit provides advice on controls and processes both via reviews and by attendance at working groups. The following explains work that has been done in major areas of intervention.

- Conducted risk assessment of the critical areas of the Ministry of Agriculture and for which findings detailed major weaknesses in the divisions and highlighted huge capacity gap in the Ministry's Internal Audit Unit which could pose serious risks to its operations if not addressed promptly.
- Payroll review of the Human Resource Division;
- Generator consumption review;
- Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation project (ASRP/IFAD) audit in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County;
- Daily review of the following audit priority areas:

- Payroll systems;
- Bank reconciliation review;
- Procurement controls;
- Asset management systems;
- Accounting and budgetary control systems;
- Pre-auditing disbursements;
- Reviewing compliance with prior audit recommendations; and
- Validating deliverables amongst others.

The deployment of Auditors from the Internal Audit Secretariat brought an enhanced independence and objectivity to the internal audit function at the Ministry of Agriculture.

2.1.7 Human Resource Division

2.1.7.1 Responsibility

The Human Resource Division is responsible to carry out 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, as well as to perform personnel advisory role.

2.1.7.2 Major Achievements

During the period under review, the Division achieved the following:

- Completed the preparation of MOA Personnel Listing;
- Processed biometric identification cards for each personnel;
- Submitted eight (8) personnel names to Civil Service Agency for pension, four (4) of which have been transferred unto the pensioner payroll at the Ministry of Finance;
- Deleted thirty two (32) employees from the payroll for job abandonment, resignation, death and pension, through the Civil Service Agency's PANs Notices.

2.1.7.3 Recruitment/Employment

- Recruited and placed on government's payroll nineteen (19) personnel from July 1, 2011 to November 2012.
- In collaboration with the RDRE and ASRP recruited five (5) persons for the position of Program Officer, Swamp/Cassava/Vegetable Technician and Literacy Supervisor/Community Monitor for MOA/ASRP/IFAD Project District # 1, Compound, Grand Bassa County.

- Recruited Administrative Assistant/Financial Officer for the Enhancing Resilience to Climate Change By Mainstreaming Adaption Concerns Into Agricultural Sector Development.
- Recruited sixty-two (62) Agricultural Extension Officers who are currently undergoing hands-on-training activities. These extension workers are graduates from the universities and technical training institutions in Liberia. For the on-the-job-training program, thirty-eighty (38) of the young graduates were assigned directly with the Chinese Experts/Technicians who are working with the Ministry of Agriculture under the South-South Cooperation (SSC) Agreement signed by the Government of Liberia, The People’s Republic of China and the Food Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The most of the remaining twenty-four (24) recruited Agricultural Extension Officers were assigned at our decentralized field offices in Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa, Maryland, Nimba, River Cess and Sinoe Counties to provide various agricultural extension services to farmers. The others were assigned with the Arjay Farmer in Montserrado and the World Food Program (WFP) Food for Purchase (P4P) program in Bong, Lofa and Nimba Counties.

The Ministry has a total number of 464 personnel; 297 persons are classified as civil servants and 167 contractual employees working on projects and other programs.

Table 2.6: Core MOA Staff Strength by Department

| No. | Department | Male | Female | # of personnel |
|-----|--|------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1 | Administration | 64 | 19 | 83 |
| 2 | Planning and Development | 3 | 16 | 19 |
| 3 | Regional Development, Research and Extension | 85 | 11 | 96 |
| 4 | Technical Services | 66 | 4 | 70 |
| 5 | Bureau of National Fisheries | 26 | 3 | 29 |
| | Total | 244 | 53 | 297 |

Table 2.7: Total PMU Staff by Projects

| | Projects | Male | Female | Total |
|----------------------------|--|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1 | PMU Management and Technical Advisory Team (AIDP/WB) | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| 2 | Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project (ASRP/AFDB) | 13 | 5 | 18 |
| 3 | Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project (ASRP/IFAD) and Smallholder Tree Crop Revitalization Support Project (STCRSP/IFAD) | 17 | 2 | 19 |
| 4 | West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP/WB) | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| 5 | Food Security and Nutrition (FS & N) | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | Smallholder Tree Crop Rehabilitation Support Project (STCRSP/WB) | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 7 | Enhancing Resilience to Climate Change by Mainstreaming Adaption Concerns into Agricultural Sector Development in Liberia (UNDP/GEF) | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Total PMU Workforce | | 46 | 13 | 59 |

Table 2.8: Other Contract Staff

| Program | Male | Female | Total |
|---|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| SES | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| TOKTEN | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Professional staff | 10 | 11 | 21 |
| Extension Officers Assigned with SSC Chinese Experts/Technicians | 32 | 6 | 38 |
| Extension Officers Assigned with MOA County Offices, WFP P4P Program and Arjay Farm | 24 | 0 | 24 |
| Para Professional | 21 | 4 | 25 |
| Total | 87 | 21 | 108 |

2.1.7.4 Transfers/Promotion:

Due to the ministry's restructuring and decentralization plan which is currently in process, several transfers and promotions took place. A District Agriculture Officer (DAO) assigned in Montserrado County was transferred to River Cess County as County Agriculture Coordinator (CAC); a DAO for Montserrado County was promoted to CAC for Gbarpolu County; and a DAO for Nimba County was promoted to CAC for that County, including several others.

2.1.7.5 Training

2.1.7.5.1 Activities

During the period under review, the Ministry of Agriculture benefited from several training programs, most of which were provided through the support of GOL international development partners. Eighty-six (86) short, medium and long terms training courses offered in fourteen (14) countries were utilized by 67 MOA staff and 19 non-staff.

2.1.7.5.2 Foreign Training

During this reporting period, 86 staff travelled to 14 different countries for training in various disciplines, including aquaculture, horticulture, entomology, agronomy, and soil and water management. As of December 2012, 58 have returned and 28 are still undergoing training, most of whom are expected to complete their training and return in 2013.

2.1.7.5.3 Local Training

The Monrovia Vocational Training Center (MVTC) trained MOA drivers assigned in Monsterrado County while the outstation drivers are awaiting training to be held in River Gee and Bong Counties to secure life and property.

- The Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Ministry hosted a retreat at the Thinkers Village Hotel to evaluate applications and short list applicants for the WAAPP-1C vacancies and scholarships, which were advertised in the local dailies and on the web for interviews. The PMU Unit also organized a five-day procurement training workshop which was mainly intended to enhance the capacity of senior staff members in procurement management.
- Staff of the Human Resource Department participated in a two-day National Capacity Development Coordination Committee Workshop was held at the Bella Casa Hotel from November 27-28, 2012 by the Civil Service Agency and the National Capacity Development Unit.

Table 2.9: Staff Training by Country

| No. | Countries that Offered Training Courses | No. of Training Courses | No. of MOA Staff |
|-----|---|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Senegal | 2 | 2 |
| 2 | Ivory coast | 1 | 1 |
| 3 | China | 9 | 13 |
| 4 | Germany | 1 | 2 |
| 5 | Egypt | 6 | 10 |
| 6 | Japan | 3 | 5 |
| 7 | Nigeria | 7 | 11 |
| 8 | Iceland | 1 | 2 |
| 9 | Malta | 1 | 1 |
| 10 | Ghana | 10 | 17 |
| 11 | India | 15 | 17 |
| 12 | Philippines | 2 | 2 |
| 13 | Burkina Faso | 1 | 1 |
| 14 | South Africa | 2 | 2 |
| | TOTAL | 61 | 86 |

2.1.8 Asset Management

2.1.8.1 Activities covered over the period:

- Continued face lift of the MOA's central office complex which include:
 - Major and minor renovation and repair works of the building and other facilities by the employees and contractors;
 - Construction of walk ways to link offices at the central office complex;
 - Construction of secured parking lot for vehicles and agriculture equipment.
- Assessed and supervised the ongoing drainage layout by USAID through the Seacom Company;
- Ensured the timely and proper repairs of vehicles by four (4) major vendors: Alliance Motor Company, Africa Motor, REELIN and the Morris C. United Brother Garage;
- Ensured the repairs and regular maintenance of the Ministry generators and other electrical appliances in the Ministry;
- Ensured repairs and regular maintenance of the Ministry motorcycles by the Morris C. United Brother Garage;

2.1.8.2 Achievement

- Established standardized mechanism to track, monitor and manage the Ministry's assets;
- Prepared a catalogue of the Ministry of Agriculture vehicles and ensured they were provided insurance coverage by the Atlantic Life and General Insurance Company.

2.1.9 Communications Division

The Communications Division of the Ministry of Agriculture is charged with the responsibility to create, capture, access, collect, and broadcast agriculture related information with a view to create awareness on various agricultural interventions that are contributing to increased food production as well as livelihood improvement of farmers throughout the country. Currently, the Division is coordinating the activities of all media related activities of the Ministry of Agriculture in close collaboration with the various project coordinators and media specialists. In an effort to accomplish the mandate of the Ministry, the Communications Division recommended the hiring of three (3) communications officers bringing to seven (7) the number of staff assigned in the Division.

2.1.9.1 Achievements

With this administrative strength, the Division carried out a number of activities during the period under review and attained the following achievements:

- In collaboration with the MOA Project Management Unit (PMU), the Communications Division is spearheading the re-designing and reactivation of the MOA website. This site will create links to various MOA's projects, including WAAPP, ASRP, Climate Change and SAPEC, in an effort to provide visibility to the activities of the Ministry;
- Wrote and circulated 70 press releases on agricultural activities through the print and electronic media Institutions throughout the country.
- One thousand seven hundred (1,700) quality photographs were taken and posted on the pictorial board during the period under review;
- Director of Division attended and participated in two international events:
 - In February, served as facilitator in 10 workshops (local and international) which included Food Security and Nutrition, OXFAM International, and a meeting with Congressional Leaders in Washington D.C.
 - In May, the Director attended a week-long seminar in Senegal, Dakar on information dissemination on climate change and its impact on food security in sub-Saharan Africa;
- Re-Launched the '*Back to the Soil*' radio program on UNMIL Radio which is aired every Monday morning at 5:00AM; also extended the broadcast of the

weekly agro-communication program, *Back to the soil* to rural radio stations in Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties. Previous counties included Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Margibi, Bong, Grand Bassa, Gbarpolu and parts of Lofa;

- Arranged and facilitated five major press conferences during the period under review;
- Published several articles with emphasis on agricultural activities in local dailies in the country;
- Assisted the Food and Agriculture Organization in the preparation of brochure on the South-South Cooperation's demonstration project sites in four (4) counties and hosted the induction of the young professional extension officers assigned with the Chinese Experts/Technicians.
- Resumed newspaper subscription;
- Facilitated launching workshops on Liberia's food production, the National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Policy, National Climate Change program, West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program(WAAPP-1C);
- Recorded and distributed radio messages (Standard and Simple Liberian English) on training opportunities and job vacancies for farmers and professional persons; rice purchase prices; availability of farming inputs, especially seeds; prices payable to farmers for their commodities, including prices of damaged crops, in the implementation of development projects;
- The Communications Team also covered several visits of Agriculture staff and documented concerns on agriculture issues at various Conferences throughout the Country;
- Staff of the Communications Division, along with selected MOA Agriculture Extension Officers completed a one-week training organized by USAID Food and Enterprises Development (USAID-FED) on the production of low-cost video materials on agricultural activities. The team produced a demonstration video on the techniques and improved methods of cassava production.

2.2 Department of Planning and Development

The Department of Planning and Development is charged with the responsibility of providing policy advice on agricultural economic issues and engaging in strategic planning and sector coordination in order to promote and stimulate agriculture development of agriculture. Its principal functions include providing guidance for planning and allied functions for the establishment and maintenance of proper direction for development purposes; developing priority programs for the enhancement of agriculture; monitoring and evaluating the performance of agricultural programs, and providing agriculture statistics for policy planning. The Department also coordinates the activities of various departments in MOA and other stakeholder

institutions engaged in agricultural programs; ensures that institutional support requirements are adequately considered in the planning process and develops information on the various support institutions.

As part of its planning functions, the Department assesses the alternative means of providing institutional support; monitors the performance of the institutional support system and develops policy recommendations relative to institutional and infrastructural support systems. Importantly, the Department ensures that all assistance from external sources is consistent with the development program of the Ministry of Agriculture and is utilized for maximum contribution to the development of the sector and the country.

The Department has four main units.

- Planning and Policy
- Agricultural Sector Coordination
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Agricultural Statistics Division

The Department of Planning and Development also oversees the Program Management Unit (PMU) which was set up in the Ministry of Agriculture in 2010 as part of its ongoing reform initiative to ensure effective and efficient management, and the implementation and coordination of donor-funded agriculture projects.

2.2.1 Agricultural Sector Coordination:

The Division of Coordination is the catalyst between the Ministry of Agriculture and development partners operating in the agricultural sector. It coordinates agricultural development activities to ensure that they are aligned with national development objectives. Coordination is done through the Agriculture Coordination Committee (ACC), a public-private body which meets monthly and provides the Ministry of Agriculture with advice for policy formulation to propel the sector to growth and development. The ACC is structured into key subsector technical working groups. Membership in each subsector working group is based on the technical knowledge of the sector. All working groups do in-depth studies and develop strategies based on good agriculture practices to increase productivity and improve the quality of agricultural commodities (especially export crops), thus enabling Liberia to compete on regional and international markets for fair prices.

2.2.3 Achievements:

For the year under review the Ministry of Agriculture has established seven (7) standing technical working groups on:

1. Cocoa
2. Cassava
3. Oil palm
4. Livestock
5. Urban and peri-urban agriculture
6. Rice
7. Rubber

With support of development partnership, the Ministry of Agriculture was able to register the following achievements:

1. Admission of Liberia in the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO), a United Nations Agency. Liberia, as an ICCO member is eligible for technical assistance from the Organization to help develop its cocoa subsector and respond to world market demand;
2. National Cocoa Development Strategy has been developed and validated. The implementation of this strategy will make Liberia's cocoa competitive on world markets, thereby increasing farmers' incomes and export revenues to government;
3. Advanced discussion with Inter-Africa Coffee Organization (IACO) for a US\$38 million grant from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to facilitate the rehabilitation of the Liberian coffee sector which has not been maintained for over twenty (20) years due to the 14-year civil crisis.

As stability and peace prevail in the country, more partners have shown interest in the agriculture sector. For the year under review, the Ministry of Agriculture accredited twenty-one (21) NGOs who are now working in various subsectors across the country as stated below:

1. Six (6) NGOs are working in Southeastern region;
2. Eleven (11) working in Northwestern region; and
3. Four(4) in Central region

2.2.4 Monitoring and Evaluation Unit

The overall objective of the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit is to improve the MOA service delivery system through the provision of adequate, accurate and timely information on the performance of the sector and MOA activities to enhance decision-making. The Monitoring and Evaluation Unit under the Department of Planning and Development demands that its planning, management, and monitoring be based on sound evidence and for which it is crucial to ensure that the level of support is sustained, available, comprehensive, and reliable with consistent up-to-date statistical data available.

2.2.5 Activities during the period under review

- The Monitoring and Evaluation Unit worked along with the various department in the Ministry and others sector players to track progress and report on programs and projects.
- Conducted a gap analysis workshop to identify various intervention areas for the implementation of the Liberia National Rice Development Strategy and for other projects and programs.
- Presented a paper on data collection and reporting by County Agricultural Coordinators.
- Designed a data collection and reporting tool for the field extension staffs in the counties.
- Provided support for the development of the logical framework and annual workplan for the climate change adaptation project that is currently being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and the FAO.

2.2.6 Major achievements

- Developed streamline data sheet to capture projects and programs funded by various Donor and partners in order to measure the impact and link to the Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program (LASIP) four (4) Components areas.
- Completion and validation of the Liberia National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) which indicates major areas for intervention along the rice value chain.
- Completed formalities for inclusion in the Coalition of Africa Rice Development (CARD) and inclusion of the NRDS on the CARD web site.

2.2.6.1 The Food Security and Nutrition Unit

A Food Security and Nutrition Secretariat was set up and placed in the Ministry of Agriculture to spearhead the implementation of the strategy of the Joint Food Security and Nutrition Program. It was set up in 1988 for monitoring food security and nutrition situation in the country as well as coordinating food security related activities and programs.

In accordance with the Unit's 2012 annual work plan, several activities were planned to achieve the following major outputs/targets:

- The National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy is reviewed and institutionalized;
- Food and nutrition security situation is assessed and monitored nationwide;
- Networking and advocacy on food and nutrition is enhanced at all levels;
- Food security and nutrition projects/programs and activities are regularly monitored;

- The regular market survey continues and market bulletins are prepared and released;
- Required reports are prepared and submitted; and
- Ad hoc assignments from the office of the Minister are performed.

Achievements

During the reporting period, the Unit achieved the following:

1. Market Price survey

In collaboration with LISGIS, the Food Security and Nutrition Unit monitored and collected the market prices for a number of commodities in ten (10) major markets across the country, and subsequently produced ten (10) market bulletins - "The Liberia Market Price Monitor" to guide planning and decision making processes.

2. Monitoring and Coordination of GOL/UN Joint Program on Food Security and Nutrition

- The Unit continued to coordinate activities of the GOL/UN Joint Program on Food Security Nutrition through technical working group meetings as well as participation in field monitoring and assessments;
- The Unit represented the Ministry on the Joint Cross-border (Liberia and Ivory Coast) Assessment Mission. The assessment was focused on food security, security threats, trends, challenges and early recovery, with a view to advance recommendations that will enhance the development of a joint cross-border strategy for stabilization and recovery;
- Chaired the JP/FSN Technical Committee meetings held to review progress and plan another milestone;
- Chaired the CBRD Technical Working Group meetings held to discuss the second phase of livelihood sustainable project and select Implementing Partners (IPs);
- Along with UNDP and the Ministry of Gender and Development, assessed and handed over food security and nutrition projects under the GOL/UN Joint Program to communities in Bong, Lofa and Nimba Counties;
- In collaboration with the Ministries of Internal Affairs, Gender and Development, monitored eleven (11) livelihood projects under the auspices of the GOL/UN project;
- Assisted the ASRP in the planning, development of assessment tools, training of field staff, pre-testing, analysis and report writing relative to the project mid-term impact assessment.

3. Comprehensive Food Security and Nutrition Survey (CFSNS)

The overall objective of 2012 CFSNS is to provide baseline food security and nutrition information that will underpin the measurement of progress in the implementation of

PRS II and UNDAF 2013-17, particularly to provide update on the profiles of food insecure and vulnerable people and their livelihoods; identify the underlying causes and risk factors of food insecurity and malnutrition and their potential impact on the most vulnerable; determine the prevalence of nutritional status of vulnerable groups (children aged 6 to 59 months) and non-pregnant women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years old); establish the linkage between household food security and nutritional status of children in Liberia; provide an analysis of food markets and their functioning; and identify the medium to long-term response options to address food insecurity and malnutrition; targeting criteria as well as information to guide the revision of the National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy.

2.2.7 Program Management Unit

The Department of Planning and Development also oversees the Program Management Unit (PMU) which was set up in the Ministry of Agriculture in 2010 as part of its ongoing reform initiative to ensure effective and efficient management, implementation, and coordination of donor-funded agriculture projects. 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 total cost of committed funds for six (6) projects in the PMU as of the end of December 2012 was about US\$149.3 million with implementation spreading over a five year period.

1. **Liberia Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation (ASRP).** This is a US\$24.37 million parallel funded project with three separate components, funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the GOL, with contributions from the beneficiaries as follows:
 - a. A 6-year grant of US\$18.3 million from AfDB agricultural revitalization activities that covers Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Maryland and River Gee Counties. Grant includes infrastructural-based interventions such as feeder roads, irrigation schemes for lowland rice production, market structures, processing and value chain processes, and construction of MOA county and district offices. The Project will also enhance production and productivity of farmers.
 - b. A 3-year US\$5 million grant from IFAD that covers Bomi, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount and Montserrado and is focused on the provision of high yielding rice and cassava varieties, poultry and small ruminants.
 - c. Total contribution by Government of Liberia and direct beneficiaries is US\$1.07 million.

The ASRP has three components designed to implement and achieve its objectives: Component One (Agriculture Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Development) concentrates on the rehabilitation/construction of feeder roads which will enable farmers get their produce to the markets; water management infrastructure – to harvest/manage water that will allow farmers have at least two harvests per annum; and community infrastructures that will build markets, agro machines for processing farmers’ produce, warehouses and daycare units for marketers’ children; Component Two (Agricultural Production and Productivity Improvement) is concerned with on-farm technology and capacity building; and Component Three (Project Management) involves the management and coordination of the ASRP/PMU activities.

2.2.7.1 Key Achievements of the ASRP

Component 1: Agriculture Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Development

- **Small Irrigation Systems:** 100% of the targeted swamp rice irrigation schemes (30) have been designed. Total area of the designed irrigation schemes is 1,620 ha. Rehabilitation/construction works for 8 Water Management Systems started in December 2012 and will continue for 17 months (up to April 2014). Construction work is worth approximately US\$5,031,285. Table 4.1 below presents details of the location, number of hectares and cost of the construction and rehabilitation of the irrigation systems.

Table 4.1: Location of small irrigation systems

| No | Location | County | No. of ha | Amount (\$US) |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1. | Barclayville | Grand Kru | 68.4 | 909,263 |
| 2. | GrandCess | Grand Kru | 19.0 | 417,585 |
| 3. | Philadelphia | Maryland | 37.0 | 525,000 |
| 4. | Pleebo A&B | Maryland | 9.2 | 318,663 |
| 5. | Jarkaken/Karweaken | River Gee | 33.7 | 643,623 |
| 6. | Fleworken | River Gee | 50.9 | 700,999 |
| 7. | Zwedru Work and See | Grand Gedeh | 75.5 | 850,000 |
| 8. | CARI | Bong | 20.0 | 666,152 |
| TOTAL | | | 313.7 | 5,031,285 |

Feeder Roads: 87 km of farm-to-market roads designed for rehabilitation in Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Maryland and River Gee Counties; 60.8 km under rehabilitation

(32% completed). Full rehabilitation expected to be completed by 30th March 2013. The fund committed to the rehabilitation of the feeder roads is US\$11,764,469.00.

Community Infrastructure: Designs completed for community infrastructures in the four southeastern counties including rice mills, warehouses, markets, child-day care units, and county agriculture offices. Construction work expected in January 2013. Estimated cost of construction of four (4) agro-processing facilities and MOA Offices is US\$1,667,655. Cost breakdown is presented in Table 4.2 below.

Table 4.2: Location of Community infrastructure under the ASRP

| No | Location | County | Amount (US\$) |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Barclayville | Grand Kru | 502,773.0 |
| 2. | Jarkaken | River Gee | 398,065.00 |
| 3. | Philadelphia | Maryland | 356,230.00 |
| 4. | Zwedru | Grand Gedeh | 410,587.00 |
| TOTAL | | | 1,667,655.00 |

Component 2: Agricultural Production and Productivity Improvement

a) Seed Rice Multiplication and On-Farm Technology

- **Rice Seed Multiplication:** Under the supervision of the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), about 60 ha of improved lowland rice varieties were cultivated as seed rice. The average yield of these rice varieties was 2.5 metric tons per ha.
- On-Farm technology (farmers learn use of mechanized farming, improved lowland rice varieties/agronomic method-planting, weeding, fertilization) in collaboration with Catholic Relief Services (CRS).
- Project targets 3,400 beneficiaries; however, initial participants of 448 farmers benefited from improved farming methods and cultivated 56.4 ha of lowland rice; supported with farm inputs/tools, yields increased from baseline value of 1.1 metric ton/ha to 2 metric ton of NERICA L 19 and WITA 4 1.2 metric ton to 1.7 metric ton. One farmer (Mr. Sheriff Nyumah from Dugboken, Maryland County) even got 5 metric ton/ha of NERICA L 19.

b) Cassava Multiplication

- Distributed 1,035 bundles of cassava under the cassava multiplication project of MOA to 4 Community Based Farmers Organization of 20 members each to cultivate 20 hectares of land with an estimate production of 400 metric tons of

cassava. Cuttings from this harvest will be distributed to 360 farmers for next planting season in District #1, Grand Bassa County.

c) Rice and Cassava Distribution to Smallholders Farmers

- Distributed 110.25 mt of improved seed rice to 8,820 households in farmers Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Montserrado and Grand Bassa Counties
- 2,271 smallholder farmers received only 56,772kg improved seed rice (25kg to each farmer) totaling 2,271 ha. Estimated yields (1.5/mt. x 2,271 = 3, 3406.5mt).
- Provided 9,550 smallholder farmers with 4,475,000 improved cassava cuttings in Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Montserrado and Grand Bassa Counties

d) Livestock Distribution to Smallholders Farmers

- Distributed 6,482 improved breed of chickens to 926 smallholder farmers
- Distributed 720 small ruminants to 324 smallholders farmers

e) Formation of Community Based Organization/Farmers Groups (CBOs)

- Formed 498 Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Montserrado and Grand Bassa Counties. Each CBO had a membership of 20 persons. These CBOs were provided training in improved methods of cassava and rice cultivation, and livestock husbandry with the aim of transforming the CBOs into Cooperatives during the 2013 planting season.
- Four (4) power tillers procured and provided to seed farmers to improve on-farm technology.

d. Agricultural Sector Institutional Capacity Building (Capacity of Targeted Households)

- Twenty (20) Subject Matter Specialists (SMSs), including 17 males and 3 females are undergoing graduate and post-graduate studies in several agricultural disciplines in various universities in Africa and the Philippines. One female has returned with a Masters of Arts degree (completed Development Studies – emphasis in Gender and Development).
- Seed Policy and Regulatory Framework – this regulatory policy will guide and direct all seed-related operations, both private and public in the country.
- Mobilized and trained 446(395 males and 51 females) Community Agriculture Facilitators in crops and animal production. Thirteen (13) trainings of trainers (TOT) were conducted by four (4) international NGOs including Action Aid, Africare, Concern Worldwide and Welthilfeshunger (formerly of German Agro Action - GAA).
- Mobilized and trained 345(297 males and 48 females) Adult Literacy Facilitators in various project communities. Those trained are currently transferring

knowledge and skills acquired to 6,255 farmers (2,355 males and 3,900 females). Due to the interest generated by farmers in these communities, some non-beneficiaries have taken advantage of the adult literacy component of the project and are enrolling in number in the various project communities.

- 9,096 youth benefited from income generating activities by clearing land for 5,275 female-headed households.

Component 3: Project Management

- Component Three handles the administration of Components One and Two
- To ensure an effective and efficient accounting system, computer-based accounting software, TEMPRO, was introduced to record financial transactions under ASRP. The installation of the new software puts an end to the use of the Excel spread sheet for recording transactions.
- The ASRP also introduced ProME, which is a web-based software, for the monitoring and evaluation of its project information system This web based monitoring system allows donors and other stakeholders to access project information.
- To assist with human resource capacity building of the Ministry, the PMU recruited 28 local professionals and 4 international experts/advisors to assist in the implementation of the ASRP and management of donor funds.

Implementing Partners of the ASRP

Most of the components of the ASRP are being implemented by various service providers/Implementing Partners (IPs). Currently, six (6) Implementing Partners (IPs) are carrying out activities, including Africare in Grand Cape Mount County, Welthilfeshunger in Bomi County, Action-Aid in Montserrado County, Concern Worldwide in Grand Bassa County, and in Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland and Grand Kru, by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the International Labor Organization (ILO) serve as partners for on-farm technology and road rehabilitation respectively. It should be noted that all these IPs have a long history of involvement in Liberia and have the immediate capacity and networks to support the PMU in its activities implementation.

2. West Africa Agricultural Productivity Project (WAAPP-1C Liberia)

The West Africa Agricultural Productivity Project is funded by The World Bank credit (US\$6 million) and Japanese Trust Fund grant (US\$8 million). The goals and the objectives of the project are to: (1) enhance food security, reduce importation of rice and increase incomes of smallholder rice producers, and (2) generate and accelerate the adoption of improved technologies in priority crops of Liberia including rice. WAAPP project will concentrate on four key areas, namely:

- a) Enabling Conditions for sub-regional cooperation: in technology generation, dissemination and adoption;
- b) Capacity Building: Strengthening of National Centers of specialization;
- c) Support: to demand-driven technology generation, dissemination and adoption; and
- d) Project Coordination: management, monitoring and evaluation.

The project was officially launched in November 2012. The WAAPP will focus on adaptive research and advisory services for rice (Japan Trust Fund) and cassava (IDA/World Bank funding). The project will also value chain processes and regional cooperation market linkages within the Mano River Union countries. The project will be concentrated in eight counties: Grand Gedeh, Sinoe, Maryland, River Gee, Gbarpolu, Margibi, Bong and Bomi Counties.

3. Smallholder Tree Crops Revitalization Support Projects (STCRSP)

Total cost is US\$46.8 million of parallel funding from the IDA/World Bank (US\$22 million) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) (US\$24.8 million) which include contributions by GOL and beneficiaries, and direct financing by participating financial institutions. Project was signed January 10, 2012. The IFAD-funded component of the STCRSP was ratified June and launched in September 2012, and is being implemented in Lofa County. The document for the IDA/World Bank funded component of the STCRSP is awaiting ratification by the Liberian Legislature in January 2013.

Achievements of the IFAD-Funded STCRSP

- 75 percent of key staff recruited
- Signed contract with two cooperatives and 1 private company (exporter) for the rehabilitation of 500 ha and 5,000 ha cocoa and coffee plantations, respectively

4. Smallholder Agriculture Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization (SAPEC) Project

Total cost is approximately US\$52.9 million supported by grants from:

- World Bank's Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) Trust Fund grant of US\$46.5 million; and
- ADF (AfDB) grant of US\$6.4 million.

The SAPEC project will cover 12 counties, excluding Bong, Lofa and Nimba counties, and is expected to begin operation in the first quarter of 2013. The project documents have been finalized awaiting ratification by the Liberian Legislature.

5. The Climate Change Adaptation Agriculture Project (CCAAP)

The Climate Change Adaptation Agriculture Project (CCAAP) is valued at U\$2.5 million and is expected to serve as a vehicle for implementation of one of the priority actions coming from the Liberia National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) started in August 2012 with an inception and launching workshop. It is being implemented in Bong and Grand Gedeh Counties. The objective of the project is to increase resilience of poor, agriculturally-dependent communities and decrease vulnerability of agricultural sector to climate change in Liberia. It has two basic components: (1) Capacity Development for Climate Change Management in Agriculture Sector, and (2) Piloting Adaptation Strategies at Community Level. It is still very early for reports of actual results and achievements because the project started in August 2012.

6. Agriculture Infrastructure Development Project (AIDP)

This is a US\$8 million grant from IDA/World Bank for the Agriculture Development Component of US\$37 million grant. Balance funds used by MPW for construction and rehabilitation of roads and bridges. The project officially came to an end on 31st October 2012. The project has three major components: (1) Policy Reform and Institutional Support, (2) Agriculture and Infrastructure Investments, and (3) Project Management and Capacity Building.

For the Agriculture component the emphasis is on strengthening seed multiplication, agricultural production and marketing; productive infrastructure, rehabilitation of rural roads; improve policy formulation and monitoring capacity; collaboration between MOA and resident farmers, via farmer-based organizations (FBOs) to increase the production and sales of quality rice seed; strengthen market oriented FBOs and improve rehabilitated marketing infrastructure.

2.2.8 Challenges of the Department of Planning and Development

1. Due to limited office space the PMU is experiencing difficulties in effectively performing their duties;
2. Limited number of MOA staff at county level makes it difficult to effectively monitor, supervise and evaluate projects that are being implemented by Partners;
3. Limited resources, especially vehicles, office equipment and supplies makes it difficult for staff to effectively perform their duties;
4. Lack of budgetary support to the Food Security and Nutrition Unit from the MOA. Currently, all the activities and running cost of the Unit have been mainly funded by donors. Basic funding under DANIDA ended December 2012. There is, however, a little over US\$200,000.00 which UNDP is aware of. It is expected

that the Unit will receive about US\$16,000.00 which will cover three (3) months activities pending the preparation and submission of a new proposal.

5. Lack of equipment and database software, etc. within MOA which is likely to defeat WFP's exit strategy for the on-going Food Security Monitoring System.

2.3 Department of Regional Development, Research and Extension

The Department of Regional Development, Research and Extension (DRDRE) is technically the operative arm of the Ministry of Agriculture with the core function of delivering agricultural extension services to farmers in order to empower them and improve their productivity, income and employment potentials. In order to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of these services to farmers, the Ministry accelerated its effort to decentralize its structure in the 15 counties with the establishment of county agricultural offices with staff at the County capitols and most district levels. These offices provide support for agricultural development endeavors in these counties. To date the Ministry has its own offices in 13 of the 15 counties; in the remaining two counties, the Ministry runs its offices out of the County Administrative Buildings. The Ministry expects to have its offices in all 15 counties by 2014.

2.3.1 Planned Activities

Agriculture in Liberia mostly involves the rural smallholder farmers who often have little access improved knowledge, information and training, and as such, production and productivity are low and their livelihood gains are limited. The Department Regional Development, Research and Extension therefore planned to enhance farmers' production through the full equipment of the completed Technology Transfer and Input Distribution Centers, which will serve as value addition centers for various farm produce, especially rice, cassava and oil palm. These centers conduct training for farmers and farmer groups. Presently, only few processing equipment have been installed as these centers. The below listed plan is meant to help provide adequate service delivery to all farmers:

- Work with farmers to prepare need assessment for inputs;
- Development and validation of the National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (NAEAS) Policy;
- Printing, binding and rolling out of the National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Policy document at decentralized level;
- Designing of AEAS programming and capacity development plan;
- Hiring, training and deployment of one hundred (100) young graduates;
- Procurement and distribution of agricultural supplies, inputs, small tools and equipment for farmers around the country;
- Training of Extension field staff;
- Establish National Farmer Registry;

- Monitoring and evaluation of all extension and project activities in the counties;
- Data collection and analysis;
- Development of extension training and teaching materials;
- Provision of technical backstopping to farmers in the counties.

2.3.2 Achievements

2.3.2.1 National Policy for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

In July, the Department of Regional Development, Research and Extension (DRDRE), with financial support from USAID-Liberia through the Modernizing Extension and Advisory Services (MEAS) project, completed the formulation of its first-ever National Policy for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (NPAEAS) for Liberia. The policy seeks to provide the legal and enabling framework for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS) delivery in the country.

Following the completion of the NPAEAS, the Ministry developed and began implementing a program description for Strengthening Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (SEAS) with the basic goal of ensuring effective and efficient agricultural extension and advisory services. Arrangements are being made to solicit funding for the SEAS project which is a three-year pilot project covering five (5) counties. The project was designed with the following objectives:

- **Year one:** Develop selected systems (training) and processes (i.e. teaching/learning materials) with initial work on rice, cassava and selected vegetables value chain;
- **Year two:** Build on systems and processes built in year one, and on experiences, lessons learned and other results of year one with an emphasis on capacity building for extension providers and clients; and
- **Year three:** Refine and document activities of years one and two and expand into capacity building in response to extension client demands.

2.3.2.2 Agricultural Extension and Advisory Service (AEAS) delivery to farmers:

Agricultural extension and advisory services delivery to clients accounted for 6,622 farmers (3,975 males; 2,652 females), who were involved in various production activities in rice, cassava, vegetable, livestock and fisheries across the country. The AEAS provided technical backstopping to smallholder farmers.

2.3.2.3 Crop Production:

Over 14,291 farmers (7,839 males; 6,452 females) were engaged in various crop production activities (rice, root and tubers and vegetables) around the country, with Nimba County reporting the highest number of engagement of 8,712 farmers (4,806 males; 3,906 males); followed by River Gee County with 1,243 farmers (645 males; 589

females). In April, harvested vegetables from women farmers' vegetable production demonstration farmer in Grand Bassa County, and donated 80% of the harvest to government hospital and prison inmates respectively in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. Distributed and conducted training workshops on the use of Treadle pumps and Jab planters in communities in Montserrado (3), Bong (1) and Nimba (1) Counties.

2.3.2.4 Fisheries Activities:

Along with MOA Fisheries Officers from the Department of Technical Services, 677 of fisher folks (325 males; 243 females) were provided extension services in the counties. The engagement of fisher folks in fishing activities was seriously affected by torrential rainfall.

2.3.2.5 Livestock and Poultry Activities

MOA Livestock Officers in the counties provided de-worming treatment, vaccination and other services to 2,259 animals (694 males; 1,565 females). An inception workshop of the joint poultry project in Lofa (Konia, Vezela and Foya) was conducted. The Department seconded DAO Preston Anderson to serve as the Project Team Leader. The poultry project in Lofa is funded under the FAO Technical Corporation Programme (TCP). It is meant to increase the source of meat protein for beneficiaries.

2.3.2.6 Securing of MOA parcels of land in the counties

- Secured title deeds for 21 acres of land for the construction of new county agriculture offices, warehouses, processing facilities and demonstration sites in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County.
- Title deed secured for 3 acres of land for the MOA Gbarpolu Office; the next step is to send deed to Land Commission/President's Office.
- Surveyed 5 acres of land for the MOA district office in Compound #1, Grand Bassa County.

2.3.2.7 Equipment and provision of logistic to field offices

Through the support of Administration, telecommunication equipment consisting of mobile phones and internet modems were procured and distributed for use by the County Agriculture Coordinators and District Agriculture Officers throughout the counties, except in Montserrado. The provision of these equipment to the field offices has enhanced communication between MOA central and field offices. New county agriculture vehicles were supplied to River Cess, Maryland and Grand Gedeh Counties. Also as a result of the Department collaborative efforts, one (1) motorcycle was donated by WHH for use by a DAO in its project area in Montserrado County.

2.3.2.8 Containment of pest outbreaks in the counties:

Through collaborative efforts with the Department of Technical Services, contained caterpillar outbreak reported in 9 counties comprising Lofa, Bong, Bomi, Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, Margibi, Maryland, River Gee and Sinoe.

2.3.2.9 Information to University Students

The Department provided advisory services, resource materials and information to students from various universities and institutions of higher learning, including the University of Liberia, Stella Marias Polytechnic and Cuttington University.

2.3.2.10 Capacity Building/Training Workshops:

As part of the efforts to enhance the productive capacity of clients, the extension field staff and farmers in all 15 counties participated in various capacity building training programs in and outside of Liberia. In all, 1,359 farmers (837 males; 522 females) received these trainings.

- **Training of farmers with special challenges**

In collaboration with AIFO-Liberia, the Department facilitated and provided technical backstopping for a three-week training workshop in vegetable production and animal husbandry for 16 farmers with special challenges (12 males; 4 females) at the BAHCAGWE National Center for Persons with Disabilities in Virginia, Montserrado County.

In collaboration with the Carter Center, the Department facilitated a two-day workshop on journalistic reporting on farmers with special challenges with emphasis on the recognition of stigma on physically challenged farmers.

- **Training of youth farmers**

In collaboration with the Technical Services Department, provided technical backstopping for a ten-day training-of-trainers workshop in Montserrado County for 4-H club members engaged in vegetable production across the country.

- **Meteorological Training**

In collaboration with the Ministries of Transport, and Lands, Mines and Energy, and FAO-Liberia, 46MOA extension staff and 97 farmers and technicians completed training on the use and installation of rain gauges to collect daily rainfall data in selected communities in the 15 counties.

- **Identification of regional training hub for extension staff**

Regional visits were made to Ghana and Sierra Leone to work with selected agricultural institutions and universities to identify collaborative areas in terms of suitable sites and structures for trainings and exchanges of best agricultural practices.

2.3.2.11 Recruitment and deployment of ASRP-AfDB Project Focal Persons

In collaboration with PMU and HR, recruited and deployed four (4) focal persons (3 Females and 1 Male) for the AfDB-funded project in the South-Eastern counties of Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Maryland and River Gee.

2.3.2.12 Collaboration with other governmental institutions

- **CBL “Access to Credit” for Liberian Farmers:**

In collaborated with the Department of Planning and Development, 30 farmers (15 males; 15 females) were identified from across Liberia to participate in the Central Bank of Liberia launching of the “Agriculture Stimulus Initiative” (US\$ 7.5 million credit facility for farmers) on November 19, 2012 at Cuttington University, Bong County.

2.4 Department of Technical Services

The Department of Technical Services comprises the Animal Resource (Livestock); Crop Resource; Land and Water Resources; and Quarantine and Environmental Services Divisions; and the Bureau of National Fisheries (BNF). It is responsible for providing technical information and support for all agricultural production entities and users within the confines of Liberia. The Department accumulates, synthesizes and evaluates technical information for applicability and adoption to Liberia farm conditions and packages them for dissemination through the Extension Department.

The Department also provides technical oversight responsibility to the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) and the Bureau of National Fisheries (BNF). The Department has also been involved in program planning, and represented the Government of Liberia in a number of sub-regional meetings and conferences on agriculture matters.

2.4.1 Animal Resources Division (Livestock Section)

The Division led and supported sustainable development of the Liberian livestock industry through the application of appropriate animal production technologies, skills development, and engagement of all stakeholders.

2.4.1.1 Planned Activities

During the reporting period, the following planned activities were carried out:

- Formulated, implemented, and monitored relevant and meaningful animal production policies;
- Provided technical guidance on all aspects of animal production - feed, house, breed livestock, and develop human resources, as well as control parasites and diseases;

- Performed quality control and engaged in private sector development of inputs;
- Promoted private sector investments in the livestock industry;
- Served as technology development liaison on animal production systems.

2.4.1.2 Achievements

- Launched the development of the National Livestock Policy and other specific regulations and guidelines including the Animal Disease Act; Veterinary Import Permit; application for the sales of veterinary drugs and feeds; licensing of abattoirs and slaughterhouses; and licensing of livestock importers and traders. This is in support of creating standards and regulations to guide livestock research and extension.
- Established a Livestock Technical Working Group (LTWG) to plan and discuss issues relating to the Livestock Sector.
- Through a UN-FAO Technical Cooperation Program (TCP), constructed poultry facilities in three towns in Konia, Vezeala and Foya in Zorzor, Voinjama and Foya Districts, respectively. The construction work will be completed in January 2013. The facilities will assist 300 beneficiaries (92% women) to engage in commercial production of chickens and eggs for income generation and improvement of their diets. In the bid to address the inadequacy of locally available feeds for the poultry industry, the beneficiaries planted several acres of cow peas, cassava and corn for feed production.



Female beneficiaries of the poultry project at the site in Konia along staff and visitors



The Vezala Poultry House



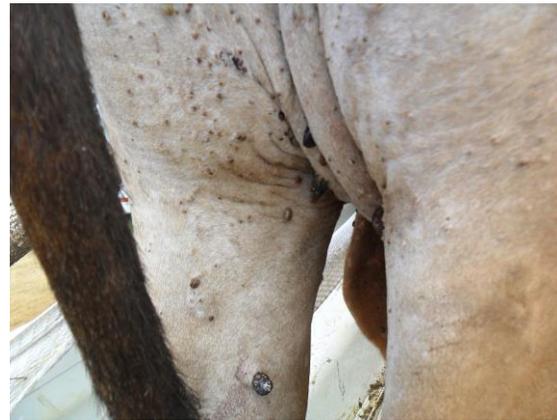
Beneficiaries harvesting cow peas at the poultry project site in Foya District, Lofa

- Several facilities of the Obasanjo Poultry Farms (located in Cape Mount County) have been constructed. These facilities include bridges, staff quarters containing 10 apartments with a total of 20 rooms and four (4) poultry houses and cages for layers (egg laying);
- Launched a three-week booster vaccination campaign in six counties at which time approximately 122,000 sheep and goats were vaccinated.
- **The Leon Ledlum Central Veterinary Laboratory** diagnosed animal diseases throughout the country; periodically collected samples of blood, feces and swabs from livestock and companion animals in the 15 Counties for diagnosis. The Lab also established database on endo and ecto parasites of veterinary importance. Information obtained from the laboratory and field sample collection exercises include the following:

- I. Total number of sample analyzed: 2,429
- II. Number of suspected cases: 1,583
- III. Confirmed diagnosis: NCD and intestinal parasites
- IV. Suspected diseases: FMD and ASF
- Established statistics on animals imported during the period under review as provided below:
 - I. Bovine: 1,432
 - II. Ovine: 620
 - III. Caprine: 240
 - IV. Feline: 21
 - V. Canine: 38
- Maintained statistics on animals slaughtered as provided below:
318



Technician collecting fecal samples of cattle



Ectoparasite feeding on a cattle

2.4.2 Crop Resource Division

The Division provides Technical Advisory Services in food and tree crops husbandry.

2.4.2.1 Planned Activities

During the reporting period, the Division planned to:

- Pre-position chemicals and equipment in the 15 counties for immediate containment exercises in the event of pests outbreak;
- Establish a pest control Rapid Response Team at the Central Office and at County level;
- Conduct regular field visitation and monitor areas prone to caterpillar infestation;
- Conduct germination tests on crops upon request;
- Provide technical support to demonstration sites throughout the country;

- Prepare training document on pest surveillance and reporting for training county technicians and farmers;
- Assess verify on the number of cocoa seedlings planted in May – October 2012 in River Gee and Grand Gedeh Counties; and
- Conduct a baseline survey in preparation for the implementation of the STCRSP project in Grand Gedeh, Nimba and Bong Counties.

2.4.2.2 Achievements

- Chemicals and equipment to contain caterpillar and other pests outbreak have been pre-positioned in all 15 counties.
- Commenced discussions on the establishment of an interim Crop Protection Service to operate alongside the Crop Resource Division pending the legislation of the Plant Protection Directorate and Regulatory Service Policy.
- Developed and submitted a training proposal “pest surveillance and pest reporting” to FAO Liberia for funding to training of County Agriculture Coordinators (CACs), District Agriculture Officers (DAOs), Farmer-Based organizations (FBOs), NGOs and other technicians on the surveillance, prevention and control of pests outbreaks in Liberia.
- Successfully contained the outbreak of caterpillars (*Achaecatocaloides*) in 7 Counties (Cape Mount, Bomi, River Cess, Sinoe, Maryland, Grand Bassa and River Gee). There was very little damage to agricultural crops in affected communities.
- Verified and classified agro-chemicals to ensure compliance to local and international requirements and safe use by Liberian farmers.
- Received 312 kg seed rice from Farmer Sirleaf’s farm for distribution to farmers.
- Performed germination tests on okra, sweet corn, groundnut, plato, hot pepper, watermelon, cowpea and 11 vegetable seed types. These tests were requested by Action Contre La Faim (ACF), FAO/DANIDA and MOA.

2.4.3 Land and Water Development Division

The Division performs facilitation roles for increased use of land and water resources for Agriculture purpose in Liberia. It supports the use of water for irrigation purpose for lowland crops and conducts land capability studies on agricultural lands. The Division provides technical support in agriculture engineering, irrigation, soils and land management.

2.4.3.1 Planned Activities

- Survey 1,000 acres of lowland in the 15 counties;
- Survey 1,500 acres upland in the 15 counties;

- Conduct soil testing and evaluation upon request of relevant persons and organizations,

2.4.3.3 Achievements

- Assessed and surveyed 1.8 acres of swamp land located in Paynesville;
- Conducted soil test and suitability studies on 50 acres of land situated in White Plains along the St. Paul River and 17 acres in Charlesville, Margibi County ;
- Assessed feeder roads and sub-component culvert construction in Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland, and Grand Kru Counties; and
- Conducted reconnaissance soil survey for “Life Agriculture Project” in Jawajeh, Cape Mount County.

2.4.4 National Quarantine and Environmental Services

The Division prevents entry into Liberia of injurious plant and animal pests and diseases existing in foreign countries; prevents the spread of such pests and diseases should they become established in Liberia; and regulates the export of plants and animals to conserve dwindling species and preserves the food supplies of Liberia.

2.4.4.1 Planned Activities

- Inspect, protect, monitor and evaluate the in and out movement of agricultural plants, animals including by-products and agro-chemicals;
- Enhance the capacity of Quarantine staff to become vigilant in their performances at all ports of entry and exit;
- Ensure that all wood processing facilities comply with the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures Number Fifteen (ISPM # 15);
- Issue Import and Export Permits/Certificates for agricultural related items;
- Pay into GOL revenue all collected Administrative Service Fees from agriculture charges.

2.4.4.2 Achievements

- Inspected and monitored the movement of Agricultural commodities, Plant and Animal products, as well as Agro-chemicals at all Seaports, Airports, Border posts, and Postal Offices;
- Issued import/export permits, phytosanitary and standard certificates to businesses, NGOs, agro-companies;
- Conducted 3 quarterly visits to agricultural product processing factories (Firestone, LAC, Morris American, Weala and Libinco Oil Palm);
- personnel received motorbikes and fuel to facilitate surveillance of posts of entry;

- 30 Personnel assigned at various entry and exit points received 60 suits of uniform (2suits each). These Quarantine Officers generated and paid US\$10,500.00 to the Ministry of Finance (MOF) as follows:
 - I. Phytosanitary Certificates (66 pieces @ US\$100) = US\$6,600.00
 - II. Export Permit (45 pieces @ US\$ 50) = US\$2,250.00
 - III. Import Permit (33 pieces @ US\$ 50) = US\$1,650.00

2.4.5 Bureau of National Fisheries

The Bureau National Fisheries (BNF) monitors, supervises and coordinates all fishing activities in the Republic of Liberia. It also enforces adherence to fisheries policies and regulations

2.4.5.1 Planned Activities

- Prepare and grant import and export permits for fish products;
- Register and license industrial & semi-industrial fishing vessels and canoes;
- Collect catch data at the various fish landing sites;
- Prepare the Ecological Risk Assessment Report of the Artisanal Fishery of Liberia under Ecological Approach to Fisheries (EAF);
- Facilitate the development of the Artisanal Fishery Management Plan under EAF-Nansen Project;
- Provide technical support to the rehabilitation of fish ponds at CARI; and
- Enforce adherence to the National Fisheries Regulations.

2.4.5.2 Achievements

- Generated US\$6,445,708.39 from granting 24,664 Import Permits and five (5) Export Permits to Star Fishing Company for frozen fish. Additionally, the Bureau generated revenues in the amount of US\$1,599.28 & L\$11, 385.00 from granting Export Permits to four (4) individuals for dry fish. A summary of fish imported: sardines (967.62MT), sardinala (3,528.83MT), horse mackerel (241.47MT), and African mixed (1,260.9MT);
- Generated US\$4,494 from the issuance of Recreational fishing licenses to 3 industrial fishing vessels;
- Generated L\$600,000 from the issuance of 250 fishing licenses to canoe fishermen;
- Generated the total of US\$3.2 million dollars in fines from 2 local fishing vessels (SETA 70 and Chinese Twin, and 4 European fishing companies (mainly from France and Spain. The local and foreign vessels were fined US\$210,000.00 and US\$3 million, respectively.
- Established a data on fish importation: 967.62MT of Sardines; 3,528.83MT of sardinella; 241.47MT of Horse Mackerel; and 1,260.96MT of African mixed.
- Contributed US\$M2.7 to the National Budget from its Special Fisheries Accounts.

- The Artisanal Fishery Management Plan (under EAF-Nansen Project) has been drafted and is pending validation.
- Developed the Ecological Risk Assessment report of the Artisanal Fishery of Liberia under Ecological Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and distributed copies to stakeholders.
- Promoted the development of aquaculture in Liberia through the establishment of links and liaison with key stakeholders of the Aquaculture Sector
- Supervised and monitored the rehabilitation of 4 fish ponds at CARI.
- Transformed 3 existing drainage canals into fish ponds at Farmer Sirleaf's Farm near Fish Market, Montserrado County.

2.4.6 Central Agricultural Research Institute

The Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) conducts applied and adoptive research on problems that effect agricultural production. Currently, CARI operates seven (7) research programs. These programs are Special Project, Natural Resource Management, Value Addition/Post Harvest, Livestock, Outstation Trial/Seed Multiplication, Tree Crop and Bio-Technology (Tissue Culture).

2.4.6.1 Planned Activities

The year 2012 represents a continuous drive to meet the increasing demand and capacity of the research institute. Rice, cassava, maize and vegetables trials and experiments were the core components of the institute's activities.

2.4.6.2 Achievements

- The continued implementation of the 2-year US\$41,000 CARI/AGRA Cassava Improvement project, which commenced June 2011 resulted to the followings:
 - I. Identified vigorous elite cassava materials from CARI, IITA and NRCRI
 - II. Farmers made aware of the production potential of good cassava varieties
 - III. Gem Bank established at stations which cataloged 13 varieties of poundable, industrious, and multiple cassava.
- The continued implementation of the US\$80,000 1-year CARI/DONATA cassava improvement project, which started January 2011 and resulted into the following:
 - I. Established demonstration sites in Nimba, Lofa, Margibi, Bassa, and Grand Cape Mount Counties;
 - II. Increased farmer access to improved cassava production methods;
 - III. Increased number of farmers evaluating improved varieties in the five counties;
 - IV. Gem Bank established one station which cataloged 13 varieties of poundable, industrious, and multiple resistant and 23 local varieties.

V. Trained farmers in the production of planting material

- Farmers are benefitting from new improved varieties of maize that were tested, developed and multiplied through the continued implementation of the US\$41,000 2-year CARI/AGRA maize Improvement project which commenced June 2011.
- The Professional and Technical capacity of CARI is enhanced as nine staffs are studying in Universities all over the world advancing themselves in the different disciplines of agriculture. They comprise two PhDs, five M.Sc.s and two Certificates;
- Observation and characterization data on groundnuts, cowpea and soya bean are being collected for analysis. The collection of these data is made possible as a result of financial support (US\$3,637) provided for continued implementation of the 7-month CARI/N2Africa Project which commenced April 2012;
- Constructed and equipped 3 green-houses for scientific cassava research through the implementation of the one year, US\$120,200 CARI/CORAF Tissue Culture Project which started January 2011;
- Tested, developed and multiplied 33 varieties of rice obtained from 5 sources (Mali, Senegal, AFRICARICE, AGRA, Bangladesh and Liberia). Farmers will have access to the approved varieties following further verification;
- Tested, developed and multiplied cocoa, papaya, citrus, guava, cashew and mango. Farmers in 4 Counties (Bong, Nimba, Lofa and Cape Mount) are testing the multiplication of these tree crops.
- Maintained a herd of cattle consisting of 2 bulls, 12 cows and 9 calves (23 in total); and small ruminant of 2 sheep and 1 ewe for research purposes; and
- Commenced the process of adding value to cassava, by transforming cassava into gari. This value addition to cassava gives it a long shelf-life and increases its cash value.

Pictorial Views of Research Activities at CARI



CARI/AGRA Upland Rice in Trial Plots at Maturity Stage



Seedling Nursery Beds For Lowland Seed Rice Multiplication (2012 Offseason)



De-tasselling being perform on female lines allowing onypollens from the male lines fertilized the females.

Multi-location trials





Out-station trial established in Cape Mount



Technician measuring cassava plant height



Cassava harvested for processing



Gari produced and packaged for sale



Three newly constructed green-houses at CARI

2.4.7 Liberia Benefits from a South-South Cooperation Program

The South-South Cooperation (SSC) Program is technical assistance (TA) program that is coordinated through the UN and involves a less developed country as the receiver

and a developing country as the provider. The program is tripartite arrangement to deliver Technical Assistance in Liberia with the Government of Liberia (GOL) as the implementing partner, the Government of the People's Republic of China (GOC) as sponsor; and the United Nations, through the FAO. The SSC will build the capacity of Liberian counterparts and farmers through technology transfer in agriculture production and food security for a period of two years.

2.4.7.1 Planned Activities

- Facilitated the arrival and deployment of 24 Chinese Experts and Technicians to transfer technology to Liberian counterparts and farmers;
- In collaboration with the Chinese Experts and Technicians, established a detailed work plan to provide outreach service and training to Liberian counterparts and farmers in the areas of vegetable production, rice production, plant protection, livestock, agro-machinery, water conservation and fishery.

2.4.7.2 Achievements

- Under a tripartite arrangement between Liberia, China and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) a South/South Cooperation Program in Agriculture was begun in June 2012. Under the program, a team of Chinese farmers comprising five (5) experts and nineteen (19) technicians are matched with thirty-eight (38) young Liberians, forming a Team that is headed by an expert at five sites in Bomi County (Klay), Montserrado County (Center Songhai), Grand Cape Mount County (Measuagoon) and Bong County (CARI and Tumutu). They live and work together under a two- years skills transfer/capacity enhancement projects in food production (crops, fisheries and livestock, and in post harvest loss technology and value addition). As the South/South Program also aims to train farmers, the Teams are strategically settled in locations close to local farmers to facilitate easy transfer of technology to farmers in animal/livestock, fishery, agriculture machinery, plant protection, rice and vegetable production techniques. Beside the young Liberian professionals, one (1) national coordinator is assigned to the Chinese. The young Liberian counterparts are graduates from universities/colleges and vocational training institutions in Liberia.
- A small-scale demonstration site in vegetables, rice and fisheries has been established at each of the 4 duty stations. Local farmers are attracted to the demonstration sites;
- The Chinese experts/technicians and their Liberian counterparts are engaged in farmers' outreach program - providing technical support to farmers in their communities as shown in the photos below.



Young Agriculture Extension Officer under hands-on-training provided by the SSC Chinese Expert/Technicians