

World Bank – Program Implementation Unit



Ministry of Agriculture P.O. Box 10 – 19100 Old LIBSUCO Compound, LPRC Road – Japan Freeway, Gardnersville Republic of Liberia

Announcement

Farm-to-market roads have been a serious challenge in Liberia due to bad road conditions in most farming communities. Transportation of agricultural produce is very time-consuming and tiring, leads to an increase in post-harvest losses, and restricts agricultural production and the quantity of goods supplied to the market, thus affecting food availability and farmers' income.

The Ministry of Agriculture, through its World Bank Project Implementation Unit (PIU), has brought into the country four hundred and fifty (450) tricycles that will be operated by youths, and ease the transportation burden for rural smallholder farmers.

Youth involvement in agriculture can potentially lessen the challenges of food security and youth unemployment. This activity aims to reduce rural poverty and hunger by enhancing market access for actors within the agricultural value chain while at the same time promoting youth agricultural entrepreneurship and sustainable employment.

Beneficiaries will be selected based on the below criteria:

- 1. Be a youth (18 35 years of age),
- 2. Must be living within the community or village,
- 3. Be able to ride a motorbike/tricycle,
- 4. Good record or reputation in the community that elders can attest to,
- 5. Must have lived in the community or village for more than two years,
- 6. Be willing to pay at least 40% of the purchase cost of the tricycle (either through equity or loans from financial institutions (including community banks),
- 7. Be willing to use the tricycle to provide transportation services in and around his locality/community and region (mainly for agriculture) and
- 8. Be willing to undergo equipment management as well as business management training before taking possession of the equipment.

The selection of beneficiaries for the tricycles is based on counties involved with high agricultural production and commercialization, and there are deplorable roads in accessing markets or limited market access. The number of beneficiaries for each county will be based on the agricultural population in that county and the production capacity of the country staples (rice and cassava) in

the county from 2019 to present. Additionally, we will also look at the county's potential for high agricultural commercialization.

The following quantities have been allotted to the following counties.

Bomi: 15 Bong: 79, Gbarpolu: 20, Grand Bassa: 27, Grand Cape Mount: 14, Grand Gedeh: 18, Grand Kru: 15, Lofa: 68, Margibi: 13, Maryland: 15, Montserrado: 13, Nimba: 105, Rivercess: 14, Rivergee: 13, and Sinoe: 21.

Importantly, and in addition to the above criteria, beneficiaries should be willing to pay 40% of the procurement cost of the tricycle. At least 70% of the commodities to be transported should be agricultural products. In enforcing this, a transport equipment memorandum of understanding (MOU) will be signed between beneficiaries and the Ministry of Agriculture incorporating the above conditions. Beneficiaries will complete a monthly commodity transport form indicating the total number of crops transported within a specific value chain.

How to apply:

Interested persons are asked to visit the Ministry of Agriculture office in the various counties and collect a form that will be filled out. The form is absolutely free. Upon completion, the form should be submitted to the same office.

You can also click <u>here</u> to access the online form. Be sure to fill out all the required fields correctly and submit the form online.

All qualified persons will be contacted for the next phase of selection.