

## Food and Nutrition Security

The Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program (LASIP) identifies priority areas from which investment projects aligning national objectives and the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) are to be developed. These objectives are embodied in Liberia's national vision and goal for the agriculture sector as stated in the Lift Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), as well as the food and agriculture sector vision contained in the Food and Agriculture Policy and Strategy (FAPS).

### Visions and Goals

According to the national PRS vision, Liberians want to build a new nation that is peaceful, secure and prosperous, with democratic and accountable governance based on the rule of law and sustainable livelihoods and other economic opportunities. The PRS seeks to revitalize the food and agricultural sector to contribute to shared, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth and development, provide food security and nutrition, increase employment and income, and measurably reduce poverty. The goal of the Food and Agriculture Sector Vision (FAPS) is to create a nation with food security and nutritional adequacy that enables a nourished population, thus contributing to the optimal health, education and training, economic growth and development, and improved and sustained quality of life of the people. The Agriculture Sector Investment Program (LASIP) seeks to transform Liberian agriculture and in so doing maximize the sector's contributions to economic growth through employment and income generation, food and nutrition security, and poverty reduction. To overcome pervasive structural impediments and a poor policy environment which have undermined agricultural growth and development (i.e. low yields, depleted infrastructure, weak institutional capacity and poor market linkages), LASIP adopts a pro-poor approach to raising agricultural productivity, strengthening institutions, and making markets work for households and communities through commercialization and private sector initiatives. The key performance indicator for agriculture is the Expansion of agricultural production by about 3.6% per annum through 2011 and 6% per annum by 2015 to sustain food and nutrition security, increase employment and income, and reduce poverty. The LASIP will have four major programs:

1. Land and Water Development
- 2. Food and Nutrition Security**
3. Competitive Value Chains and Market Linkages
4. Institutional Development.

### Objectives and Outcomes

This component aims to achieve the goal of the National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy (FSNS), which is to ensure that all Liberians have reliable access to the food they need and are able to utilize that food to live active and healthy lives. This will be accomplished by increasing food production, making it accessible to all, including vulnerable segments of the population, and improving its utilization and systems for coordination and information management. It necessitates increasing crop yields, taking essential nutrition actions particularly on behalf of children under five and pregnant and lactating women, rehabilitating and expanding smallholder tree crops, building the capacity of artisanal fisher folks, restocking small ruminants, and involving women and youth along the crops, fisheries and livestock value chains.

### SUB-PROGRAMS

#### I. FOOD CROP PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT

*Target:* Making food available, accessible and moving towards achieving MDG1 by 2015.

*Activities:*

- (i) Encouraging diversification in the production and consumption of other crops other than rice and cassava;
- (ii) Improving production knowledge and skills, planting materials and other inputs and expand application of integrated plant nutrients and pest management methods;
- (iii) Developing and implementing a special fertilizer distribution and utilization program.

- (iv) Improving pre- and post-harvest activities to minimize losses and increase yield; and
- (v) Promoting value addition activities in the food crop sub-sector.

## **2. IMPROVED NUTRITIONAL STATUS AND MANAGEMENT OF FOOD EMERGENCIES**

*Target:* To enhance access to food and facilitate improved food utilization by 2015 particularly for children under five and pregnant and lactating women.

### *Activities*

- (i) Complete the development and begin the implementation of a multi-sector nutrition strategy and program to complement the pro-poor, agricultural transformation by directing direct nutrition-focused interventions;
- (ii) In collaboration with other stakeholders, take steps to improve food utilization and nutritional status by promoting child growth, taking essential nutrition actions, saving acutely undernourished children, addressing the food and nutrition needs of those affected by HIV, and improving nutritional caring practices;
- (iii) In collaboration with other stakeholders, promote the local production and consumption of micronutrient-dense food crops (e.g. fruits and vegetables) and animal products, fortify food with micronutrients as appropriate, enforce food standards, diversify diets, and increase access to safe water, sanitation and proper housing;
- (iv) Improve emergency preparedness, response and contingency to ensure household food security during natural and man-made hazards by maintaining national grain reserves and appropriate humanitarian programmes, collecting food security information and conducting regular vulnerability analyses; and
- (v) Supporting the very poor with productive safety nets such as food-or cash for work, vouchers and school feeding.

## **3. SMALLHOLDER TREE CROPS AND AGRO-FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT**

*Target:* Increase small holder participation in the tree crop and forestry sub-sector by 50% between 2011 and 2015.

### *Activities:*

- (i) Rehabilitation and replanting of existing smallholder farms;
- (ii) Revitalization and expansion of seed gardens to provide improved planting materials;
- (iii) Rehabilitation and expansion of appropriate post-harvest infrastructure;

- (iv) Development of out-grower (smallholder) tree crops programs in cooperation with agricultural concessions and other partners;
- (v) Promotion of agro-forestry; and
- (vi) Reframing the marketing system for tree crop and agro-forestry products.

## **4. SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES SUB-SECTOR DEVELOPMENT**

*Target:* To increase fisheries contribution to food supply and the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

### *Activities:*

- (i) Institute good governance and sustainable management of fisheries;
- (ii) Reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and
- (iii) Increase the contribution of fisheries to the economy.

## **5. LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION**

*Target:* To expand domestic livestock production to satisfy 50% or more of domestic demand by 2015.

### *Activities:*

- (i) Reviewing and upgrading existing legislation and regulations pertaining to veterinary services and sanitation.
- (ii) Improving the institutional environment and infrastructure for livestock and strengthening zoo sanitary standards;
- (iii) Preserving, improving and exploiting the common pastoral property resources of the country;
- (iv) Expanding existing programmes to re-stock the national herd, with a focus on small ruminants;
- (v) Initiate micro-projects to pilot animal production centers in selected villages; and
- (vi) Strengthening inter-ministerial coordination between MOA and other agencies such as MOHSW and MCI to better regulate and expand trade in livestock products.

## **6. SPECIAL WOMEN AND YOUTH INITIATIVE**

*Target:* To empower women as agricultural producers and value chain producers and value chain creators and increase youth involvement in agricultural related activities by 50% by 2015.

### *Activities:*

- (i) Supporting women's role as agricultural producers and participants in the creation of rural value chains;
- (ii) Promoting women's participation in new economic areas;
- (iii) Strengthening the institutional framework to address gender issues in rural policies and programmes and

remove social barriers that limit the contribution and participation of women;

- (iv) Developing and implementing an integrated youth in agriculture program that includes sensitization about opportunities in the sector, provides skilled based training, and supports accessibility to input and output markets; and
- (v) Promoting effective participation of youths, particularly graduates of programs such as Centre Songhai and Sinoe Tumutu Agricultural Training Programs, in out-grower or smallholder schemes and similar undertakings.

Cost: The estimated cost of this investment program is \$60 million. The components and associated costs are shown in the table below:

Cost of PRS/LASIP Program 2: Food and Nutrition Security (\$ millions)	
Sub-programs	Cost
1. National food security and nutrition security	11
2. Improved nutritional status	5
3. Smallholder tree crops and agro-forestry development	10
4. Sustainable fisheries subsector development	15
5. Livestock development and promotion	9
6. Special women and youth initiative	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>