



REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE
Unity Freedom - Justice



Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program
(CAADP)

SIERRA LEONE

Review of Ongoing Agricultural Development Efforts

Agriculture is the largest contributor to the economy of Sierra Leone. It accounts for about 45% of the GDP and is the primary source of employment for the majority (60–70%) of the population. The crop sub-sector, with rice dominating, contributes about 75% of agricultural GDP, the fisheries sub-sector, 9.4% and the livestock sub-sector, about 4%. The contribution of the forestry sub-sector varies between 9 and 13%.

Between 2005 and 2007, domestic food production has steadily increased, with estimates showing that the share of households with adequate food increased from 56% in 2005 to 71% in the 2007, yet hunger and poverty is still prevalent. Although self-sufficiency in rice, the country's staple food, rose from 57.45% in 2002 to 69% in 2005, and then 71% in 2007, Sierra Leone still imports substantial proportion of rice, which has increased from 120,000 tons per annum during the pre-war period to 230,000 tons post war, a quantity short of the national require-

ment of 530,000 tons of milled rice per annum.

A key factor for the shortfall is that food production is carried out by resource poor farmers who use unimproved varieties, limited fertilizer, and ineffective farming practices. During the 2004/05 cropping season 56% of farming households cultivated less than 1 ha while 44% cultivated 1 ha and more. Rice field area per household ranged from 0.25 ha to 5.5 ha with an average of 1.06 ha, in a country with 7.2 million ha of land area.

LONG-TERM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES & AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS

Agriculture in Vision 2025

Overall vision of Sierra Leone's longer-term development agenda is articulated in Vision 2025 which was set out in 2003. This document identifies the key objectives that need to be attained for Sierra Leone to create a future of peace, stability, and wealth creation to replace the vicious circle of poverty and underdevelopment. Although there were no specific targets as regards agriculture, one of the strategic areas of focus that concerns agriculture is to ensure sustainable exploitation and effective utilization of natural resources while maintaining a healthy environment. It is believed that this cannot be realized without effective policy implementation and support to the agriculture sector.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)

The full PRSP, which was completed in 2005, described Sierra Leone's macroeconomic, structural and social policies as well as programs that the country would pursue until 2007. The PRSP represents a comprehensive development framework that is country-owned, result-oriented, based on long term perspective and domestic and international partnership for poverty reduction. The major challenges are promoting food security and job creation through achieving high and sustained broad-based economic growth, particularly in rural areas where agricultural development and increased food production are central. The performance indicators against targets for the 2005–2007 period for some specific crops is shown in the Table 1 below. Whilst food production continued to increase from 2002 to 2006 (at the time when the donor

financial stream was still running), there was a sharp fall in 2007.

National Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) developed a draft Agricultural Development Strategy whose objectives include: enhancing increased agricultural productivity and production; promoting production diversification in domestic food and exports; reducing imports (import substitution); boosting diverse and increased production of agricultural raw materials; promoting efficient and effective sector governance and partner confidence; promoting sector infrastructural development (roads, markets, post-harvest facilities); and mainstreaming cross-cutting themes: gender, youth in development, farmer health (including HIV/AIDS).

The Food Security Policy

Sierra Leone's Food Security Policy (FSP), the current agricultural policy, came through a presidential proclamation in 2002, avowing that "no Sierra Leonean should go to bed hungry by 2007". The FSP document was formulated based on the political, social and economic contexts of the country. It is exhaustive in scope and content and its participatory methodology and synergy with other development programs provides the credibility for donor assistance. The FSP is based on the following pillars:

- (a) Agricultural Intensification which underscores the need to cultivate improved varieties through appropriate agronomic practices, including the use of fertilizers and pesticides to ensure increased yields;
- (b) Crop Diversification which promotes the cultivation of improved varieties of other crops other than rice through sensitization and awareness raising on the nutrient value of other crops in order to reduce the dependence and demand for rice;

Table 1 – Performance Indicators Against PRS Targets

Crop	2005 ('000 Mt)			2006 ('000 Mt)			2007 ('000 mt)		
	Target	Actual	Achievement of Target (%)	Target	Actual	Achievement of Target (%)	Target	Actual	Achievement of Target (%)
1. Rice (paddy)	540	552	102	875	875	100	875	637.983	73
2. Cassava	1,935.22	2,287.06	118	2100	2,973.1	142	2100	1,236.85	59
3. Sweet Potato	160.86	191.50	119	185.39	168.13	91	168,13	158.22	94
4. Groundnut	95.68	167.20	175	110.27	115.20	104	115,20	118.85	103
TOTAL									

- (c) Natural Resource Conservation which encourages the prudent use of water and watershed resources in an effort to increase agricultural land resources; and
- (d) Food Safety Nets which provide food aid support to farmers and their dependants during famine seasons to prevent them from eating seed rice and reduce their vulnerability to sicknesses.

The specific objectives are to: increase diversified agricultural production and food availability, raise rural incomes and employment while ensuring adequate protection of the environment, maximize foreign exchange earnings from agriculture and ensure balance regional growth and equitable distribution of income.

These objectives are to be achieved through coordinated short and medium term strategies and measures in the key sectors that influence the various dimensions of the country's food problems. Interventions include addressing availability and sustainability of food supply and accessibility at the household and national levels in the short to medium term; diversification of the crop mix in the uplands, and intensification of production from the small hectares cultivated in the lowlands. Government is also encouraging private sector investment in agriculture, provision of inputs and appropriate farm machinery on a cost recovery basis or favorable credit terms as appropriate. Extension support is central to this strategy. Also, government is working through local authorities to facilitate access by private sector operators to land for commercial cultivation and markets and storage facilities.

In the medium term, support to small-scale farmers aims at increasing their capacity to produce enough to meet their own input needs directly or through established input and output markets. Emphasis is also placed on increasing the stability and reliability of food supplies through a comprehensive feeder (farm-to-market) roads

program and the provision of market, storage and drying floor infrastructure in all chiefdoms in the country.

National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS)

The goal of the NRDS is to lay out a framework for significant increases in rice production in order to contribute to the improvement of food security and economic development in Sierra Leone. The specific objectives are to:

1. Ensure an increase in the sustainable productivity and production of rice in Sierra Leone
2. Promote appropriate post harvest handling, processing and marketing of rice
3. Develop appropriate infrastructure for rice production and marketing
4. Improve the capacity of stakeholders and institutions involved in the rice sector.

The Government's goal is to achieve self sufficiency in rice by 2013 by extending the total land area for production to 830,000 ha and increasing the average rice yield/ha to 2 mt/ha. A further extension of the area to 1,100,000 ha over the next five years, and an increase in the average yield of rice to 4 mt/ha (ranging from 1.5 mt/ha in the uplands to 4.0 mt/ha in the Inland Valley Swamp (IVS) will result in the production of over 3 million tons of rice in 2018. The strategy for increasing rice production is two pronged: (a) increase the area cultivated, mainly in the lowlands where there is much underutilized capacity, and (b) increase productivity per unit area in all ecosystems.

Table 2 – Cultivated area and production output for rice in 2007 and projected targets for 2013 and 2018

Ecology	2007			2013			2018		
	Area '000 ha	Yield Mt/ha	Production '000 Mt	Area '000 ha	Yield Mt/ha	Production '000 Mt	Area '000 ha	Yield Mt/ha	Production '000 Mt
Upland	363.895	0.72	349.561	400	1.25	500	425	1.50	637.5
Inland Valley	170			225	2.50	562.5	400	4.00	1,600
Mangrove	70			100	2.25	250	125	3.50	437.5
Riverine	5.593	1.23	324.442	25	2.50	62.5	50	3.50	175
Boliland	50			80	1.50	120	100	2.50	250
TOTAL	659.487	0.97	637.983	830	2.00	1,495	1,100	4.00	3,100

Table 3 – Rice self-sufficiency level in 2008 and projections for 2009–2015 (metric tons)

Year	Paddy Production	Milled Production	Milled Requirement	Self-sufficiency (%)
2008	702,000	421,200	557,297	75.6
2009	966,000	579,6000	567,885	102.0
2010	1,062,000	637,560	578,675	110.0
2011	1,168,860	701,316	589,670	118.9
2012	1,714,328	1,028,597	600,874	171.0
2013	1,800,044	1,080,026	612,290	176.4
2014	1,890,046	1,134,028	623,924	181.8
2015	1,984,548	1,190,729	635,778	187.3

INVESTMENT PROGRAMS UNDER THE NRDS

Improving Rural/village Infrastructure

This involves rehabilitation and construction of new feeder roads in selected locations as identified by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) and in keeping with the overall objective of agricultural development in the country; provision of community service infrastructure appropriately designed to eliminate bottlenecks from the initiation of the cultivation process to marketing the produce; and provision of appropriate production infrastructure, within easy access of communities for post-harvest processing of produce on the farm and at the village level.

Reclamation and Development of Inland Valley Swamps:

This project supports the expansion of community involvement in the restoration of priority swamps at a rate of about 20,000 ha/annum; the initiation of field schools in land and water management in swamp rice production, and equipping farmers to sustain production.

Rehabilitation and Expansion of Feeder Road Network:

The objectives of the roads infrastructure policy are to encourage effective and efficient methods of infrastructure rehabilitation using appropriate labor intensive technologies, local resources and inputs and employment generation.

Rehabilitation and Expansion of rural Markets: Many existing markets need upgrading and some and new ones need to be built. They need permanent structures including facilities for easy loading and unloading vehicles. Markets with stalls, lockable stores, warehouse, food

processing and sales bars, drains, toilets, water supply, waste disposal facilities, adequate lorry loading and unloading facilities, a car park and link fencing will be built.

Efficient Provision of Agricultural Services

This involves research (to enhance the capacity for technology development, effective extension delivery system and data collection and market information system.

Research (Enhance Capacity for Technology Development):

The aim is to generate appropriate and reliable technology for use by farming communities. The principal stakeholders (researchers, extension agents and farmers) will be involved in the process of technology generation, diffusion and adoption.

Extension Delivery and Management: The investment program is to create a semiautonomous National Agricultural Advisory Service which will gradually take over the agricultural extension delivery and management form MAFFS. Primary responsibility will be vested in the farmer groups that will be the prime clients of the advisory services. The extension program will be enhanced through research.

Data Collection and Market Information System:

Reliable data is important for policy makers and planners including private sector participants and donor agencies for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of developmental strategies and programs, especially those in support of increased food security and agricultural production. Market information system is also critical for the commercialization of the rice sector.

The cost implication of these investments and duration/period are shown in Table 4.

AGRICULTURAL FUNDING AND PUBLIC SECTOR INSTITUTIONS

Agricultural Funding

Funds for agricultural development in Sierra Leone come from government and mainly from donor agencies. The Sierra Leone financial sector is relatively small although the entire financial system is undergoing some reform. The reform is being addressed through a comprehensive Financial Sector Development Plan (FSDP) coordinated by the Bank of Sierra Leone. The FSDP seeks to address the needs of long-term funding for agricultural finance through the establishment of a private finance company, among others.

The current draft of the Ministry of Agriculture’s agricultural development strategy calls for a long-term financing vehicle dedicated to agricultural credit. A proposal has already been made in this respect by a number of stakeholders for the establishment of a dedicated agricultural finance bank. In this respect, the Private Sector Development Strategy Program (PSDSP) of the Ministry of Trade and Industry proposes to motivate banks to lend to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) by establishing a partial credit guarantee scheme that will reduce the risk the banks face in advancing loans to MSMEs. The pilot program is to be known as Salone BEST – Salone Business Expansion Scheme Trust. Also, the Ministry of Agriculture manages a \$6.3 million IFAD-funded project with the objective of expanding rural finance through the establishment of new Community Banks. In addition, both the MTI and the MAFFS are collaborating on a US\$30 million World Bank-funded rural and private sector development program.

Public Sector Institutions

To facilitate an effective implementation of its agricultural programs, the government of Sierra Leone has some institutions that it can rely on. These include the **Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security, Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI), Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) and National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA)**. Summary of the activities of these institutions are presented below.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) is the central government agency responsible for promoting the development of agriculture in Sierra Leone. The ministry has five central divisions and fourteen district offices headed by District Directors of Agriculture and supported by subject matter specialists drawn from the different divisions.

To fulfill its mandate, MAFFS held a retreat at the Kimbima Hotel from the 13th to the 15th October 2008, to develop the Framework and Plan of Action to articulate the National Sustainable Agricultural Development Plan (NSADP) as the National Agricultural Investment Programmes in the context of the Cumulative Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). As a follow-up, six thematic groups, modeled on the ECOWAP/CAADP pillars were tasked to assess the agriculture resource base of the country, with a view to identifying, “Quick Wins” (short-term), medium, and long-term investment potentials in the sector.

The Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI): SLARI, which was recently established by an act of Parliament, is the arm of MAFFS that coordinates

Table 4 – Cost implications for the investment in NRDS and duration

Activity/Intervention	Duration/ Period	Total cost ('000 US\$)
1. Development of IVS and small scale irrigation	2009–2015	7,500
2. Rehabilitation and Expansion of Feeder Road Network	2009–2018	4,300
3. Rehabilitation and Expansion of rural Markets	2009–2014	1,500
4. Enhancing the capacity for technology development	2009–2014	6,550
5. Requirements for effective extension delivery and management	2009–2018	1,500
6. Collection of reliable data	2009–2014	1,321
TOTAL	2009–2018	22,671

and manages agricultural research through the activities of its eight research centres, two of which had existed as research institutes: the Rice Research Station (RRS) at Rokupr and the Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR) at Njala, which carries out research on all other food crops.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR): The MFMR is responsible for the management and conservation of aquatic resources including all fisheries. A large part of the work of the ministry relates to the monitoring, control and surveillance of Sierra Leone's Exclusive Economic Zone.

The National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA): NaCSA (formerly the National Commission for Reconstruction Resettlement and Rehabilitation) was established in 2000 to support post-conflict rehabilitation and development. During its initial years (2000 to 2003), NaCSA funded a range of agricultural rehabilitation projects through the Emergency Relief Support Fund (ERSF) and Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP). Over this period, agriculture accounted for one-quarter of all projects funded. NaCSA is now managing the National Social Action Project (NSAP) designed to empower local communities which may include a few agricultural projects.

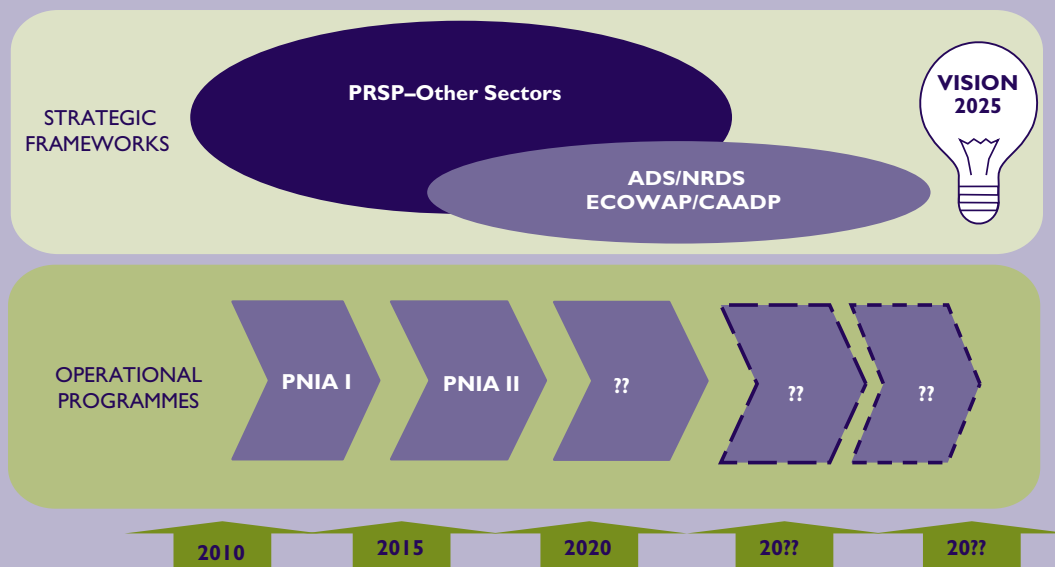
The producers (farmers) are organized into **Farmer-Based Organization (FBOs)** comprising of 25–30 members at community level. These could either be a Farmer Field School (FFS) – a channel to pass extension messages. The FFS after graduation are expected to organize themselves into an Agric Business Units (ABUs) that is responsible to market inputs and agriculture products to their members (a combination of few FFSs). The FBOs further organize themselves into a Chiefdom FBO, and then the District FBO, Regional FBO. There are several FBOs in the country grouped under the National Farmers of Sierra Leone (NaFSL), National Farmers Cooperative Union (NaFCU), Women's Cooperative, FFS/ABUs. All of these groupings have

formed the National Federation of Farmers in Sierra Leone (NAFFSL). This the national umbrella organization for farmers. It is basically responsible to advocate for farmers with regard to services such as improve inputs, fertilizers, tractors, etc. They also advocate for good prices for agriculture products. Cooperatives for cash crops like cocoa are now organizing themselves to export directly instead of through exporters.

VISION 2025 FSP, NRDS, AND CAADP

The goal of the Common ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) and Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) is to serve as a framework for intervention in agricultural policies and development strategies in West Africa and in Africa, respectively. These frameworks are also intended to be integral parts of national efforts to promote agriculture sector growth and overall economic development in the countries. The overriding goal of ECOWAP/CAADP is to help African countries increase their economic growth through agriculture-based development. This goal is in close harmony with Sierra Leone's PRSP, FSP, and NRDS. For instance, an important aspect of the PRSP is that it seeks to make various international covenants, such as the CAADP and MDGs and of which Sierra Leone is signatory, relevant to the poverty reduction objectives of the strategy. Vision 2025 represents the core strategic issues that must provide the objectives for all development agendas, plans, policies and programs that aim to contribute to the development of Sierra Leone. The objective of ensuring sustainable exploitation and effective utilization of natural resources while maintaining a healthy environment covers the pillars and objectives of ECOWAP/CAADP. The FSP pillars and objectives are also in line with the pillars/objectives of ECOWAP/CAADP. Also, increasing the land under rice cultivation and thus increasing production of rice as outlined in the NRDS meets the CAADP objectives of increasing food supply and reducing hunger.

Figure 1 – Relations Between Vision 2025, FSP, NRDS AND CAADP



Definitions and Descriptions

Programmatic Relationships

Vision 2025: A long-term, national-level strategic framework that is indicative in nature.

PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper): A medium-term, multisector, comprehensive framework, guided by the Vision 2025, with a current time horizon to 2007.

CAADP (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program): A long-term agricultural sector-specific framework, embedded in but reaching beyond the current PRSP.

NRDS (The National Rice Development Strategy): A framework for modernizing the rice production sector and a catalyst for rural transformation, food security in line with the goals set for the sector in the PRSP.

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Presidential Task Force on Agriculture
c/o Office of the President, State House, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security
1st Floor, Youvi Building, Freetown, Sierra Leone

For further information and comments please contact:
Mr Prince Kamara, NSADP/CAADP Formulation Coordinator,
Email: kotho2005@yahoo.com
Web: www.maffs.gov.sl
Tel: +232-33416124 or +232-76657660