

LIBERIA



PRS/LASIP PROGRAMME I

Land and Water Development

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).

Vision 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 Expected Results

The objective of this component is to ensure that the country's endowment of land and water are used to accelerate food production and facilitate income generation through proper planning, development and management. To achieve this objective, focus will be placed on ensuring that farmers have access to land and secured tenure, and are able to utilize this resource in a sustainable way. Better

land husbandry initiatives such as increased fertilizers use will be promoted to foster and sustain soil fertility, area under irrigation will be expanded particularly through on-farm and small-scale irrigation and drainage development schemes, wetlands management will be improved, and degraded land will be rehabilitated and brought into productive use.

SUB-PROGRAMS

1. LAND POLICY REFORM AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Target: Consistent with reforms emanating from deliberations of the Land Commission, this program aims to ensure that statutes and policies regarding land ownership and tenure of land are reviewed to facilitate the availability of land for sustainable crop area expansion and for investment in agriculture.

Activities:

- (i) Revise and adopt laws regarding property rights including access to land, security of tenure and utilization of land.
- (ii) Strengthen land administration to facilitate improved land management and to promote private sector involvement in agriculture.
- (iii) Resolve pervasive land conflicts

2. ENHANCED LAND HUSBANDRY

Target: To improve and maintain soil fertility and promote complementary utilization of organic, mineral and physical components of soil management in support of agricultural intensification.

Activities:

- (i) Conduct land evaluation and suitability assessments to determine the location- and farm-specificity of crops and their physiological requirements;
- (ii) Establish a national agricultural land resource database to facilitate information exchange; and
- (iii) Increase the total area protected against soil degradation through diverse schemes including agroforestry

3. EXPANSION OF IRRIGABLE LAND

Target: To increase the share of arable land under irrigation from less than 0.2% to 5%.

Activities:

- (i) Conduct a nationwide inventory of viable inland valley swamps;
- (ii) Develop a strategic irrigation investment plan; and
- (iii) Construct and promote diverse irrigation systems, including small-scale schemes utilizing water-collection techniques to support sustainable production;

4. IMPROVED WET AND DEGRADED LAND MANAGEMENT

Target: To develop and increase the total area of wet and degraded land for year-round utilization to produce food crops, particularly rice and vegetables.

Activities:

- (i) Develop and implement guidelines, including mandatory environmental impact assessments, for the adoption of environmentally-friendly practices for wet land cultivation;
- (ii) Increasingly promote community participation and encourage the private sector to invest in the development and management of wet and degradable lands; and
- (iii) Increase public sector investment in wet and degraded land development.

Cost: The estimated cost of this investment program is \$35 million. The components and associated costs are shown in the table below:

Cost of PRS/LASIP Program I: Land and Water Management (\$ millions)

Sub-programs	Cost
1. Land policy reform and capacity building	5
2. Enhanced land husbandry	8
3. Expansion of irrigable land	12
4. Improved wet and degraded land management	10
Total	35