



REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE
UNITY - FREEDOM - JUSTICE



Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program
(CAADP)

SIERRA LEONE

Agricultural Growth, Poverty Reduction, and Food Security *Past Performance and Prospective Outcomes*

T *The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) aims to add value to the efforts of individual countries, where necessary, to ensure that its growth and poverty objectives are achieved. Doing so requires reviewing past, current, and emerging future efforts against these objectives. This includes:*

- Examining the recent growth performance of the agricultural sector, as well as future growth and poverty outcomes based on observed trends.
- Determining how such outcomes compare with the targets established for the sector under the CAADP agenda and how they compare with the Millennium Development Goals to halve the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day (MDGI).

IS SIERRA LEONE ON TRACK TO MEET CAADP'S GROWTH AND POVERTY TARGETS?

Recent Performance and Current Trends Compared to CAADP Targets

Available data shows that Sierra Leone has not met the CAADP agricultural growth rate of 6%. During the period 2005-2007, agriculture grew by 4.2% with the crops, livestock, forestry and fishery sectors growing at 5.4%, 1.9%, 2.3% and 1.4% respectively. Generally, the production of the major food crops, which contributes 75% of agricultural GDP, in Sierra Leone has shown an increasing trend since 2002 when the civil strife was officially declared over. In fact, a steady improvement in the national food security situation is currently being experienced. For example, Rice self-sufficiency level has steadily increased from 57.4% in 2002 to 59.3% in 2003 and from 61% in 2004 to 69% in 2005 and 71% in 2007. Cassava and sweet potato production are far in excess of the national consumption requirement for the fresh tubers. The government therefore is putting modalities in place for the commercialization of cassava through value addition. Future growth trends of the crop sub-sector up till 2015 has also being made. For example, the growth trends projection shows that that the country will attain a rice

(the major staple crop) self sufficiency percentage 187.3%. It is also projected that the country will equally produce 100,435 mt of maize, 5,710,436 mt of cassava, 206,842 mt of sweet potato, 249,634 mt of groundnut, 10,000 mt of millet by 2015. The projections are based on some assumptions which include the following:

- The production level will be maintained if natural disasters such as prolonged drought and catastrophic floods do not occur.
- A preventable risk such as the brutal civil war is not likely to be repeated for decades if not for centuries.
- Land use conflicts such as the perennial conflict between crop and livestock farmers is adequately addressed at policy level and the emerging commercial interest in some major food crops such as oil palm and sugar cane for bio-fuel and corresponding land-holding is of great concern.
- There will be improvement in rural infrastructure, social services and agricultural modernization which will reverse the trend in rapid urbanization and labor migration from rural areas.
- Tariff on imported rice should be maintained at 15% instead of the current 10% because at 10% the initial effect will be that the border price of rice will fall, with corresponding falls in prices in the main urban centers. This will benefit the poor who are net buyers of rice.

Figure 1: Growth rate of agriculture, other sectors and the economy at current growth rate with the poverty rate at 46%

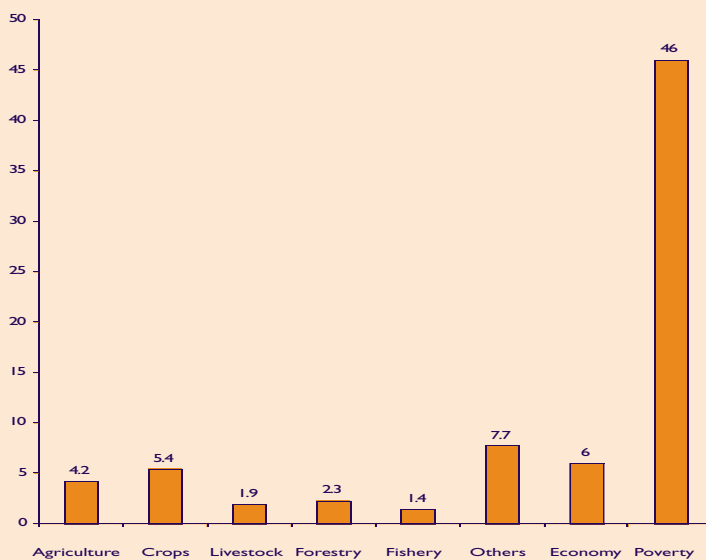
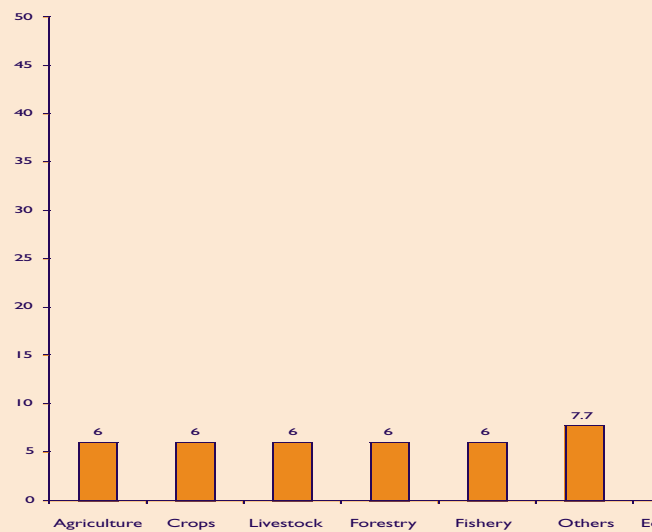


Figure 2: Growth rate of agriculture, other sectors and the CAADP growth rate of 6% with poverty rate of 44%.



CAN EMERGING GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES ACHIEVE CAADP'S GROWTH AND POVERTY TARGETS?

Overview of the Government's Strategic Objectives for the Agricultural Sector

The Government of Sierra Leone's agricultural development objectives and targets is outlined in three key strategic documents, namely, Vision 2025, Poverty Reduction Paper and Food Security Policy. The government is also formulating the National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS) and has launched the National Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy (NSADS). The documents specify objectives and targets that will be met in order to achieve food self-sufficiency in Sierra Leone with emphasis on rice which is the major staple. In fact the major thrust of Sierra Leone agriculture and food security policy is on food crop production.

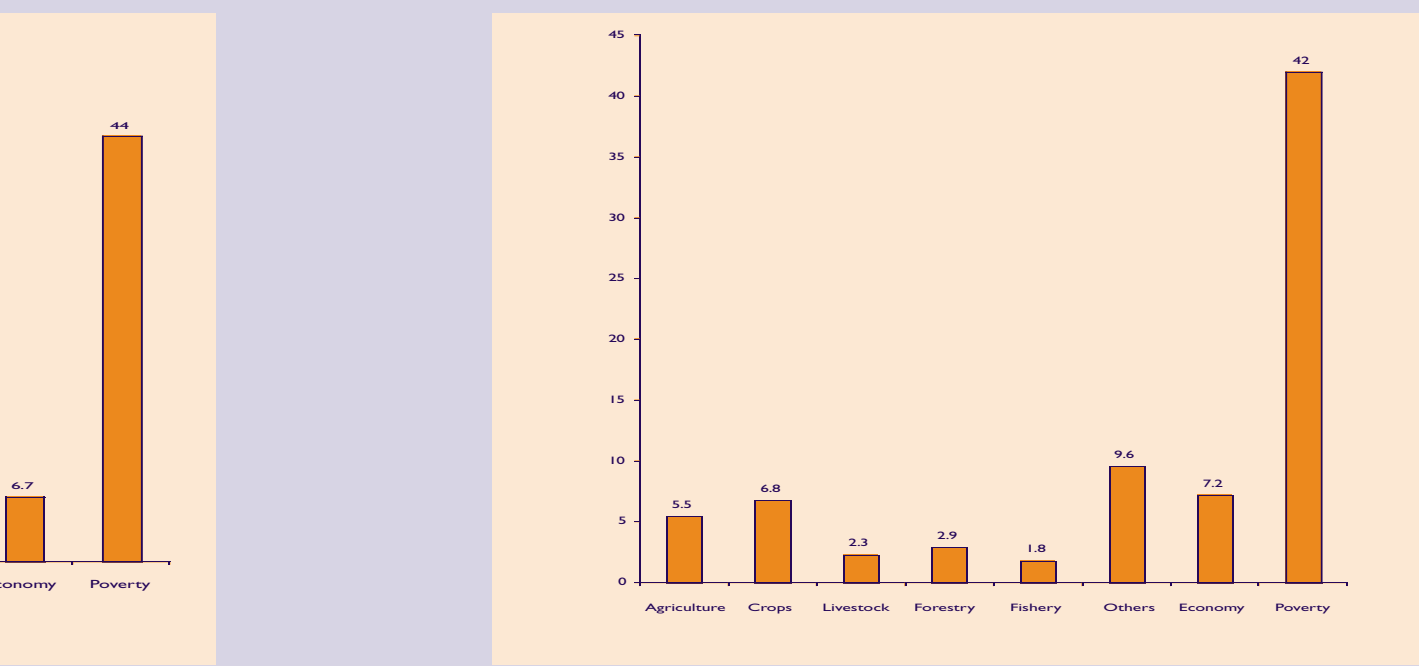
As a follow-up to the development of the NSADS and to meet the CAADP objectives, six thematic Groups, modeled on the CAADP and NEPAD pillars were tasked to carry out a stock-taking exercise on the agriculture resource base of the country, with a view to identifying, "Quick Wins" (short-term), medium, and long-term, investment potentials in the sector. The different thematic

groups have developed the final documents with targets and recommendations on the way forward to improve rural infrastructure and trade related matters, enhance food supply in relation to crops, enhance technology development, dissemination and adaptation, improve legal and regulatory framework for the commercialization of agriculture, expand area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems, and for promoting effective policy formulation, and review planning and monitoring and evaluation. For now, available data shows agriculture is growing by 4.2% with the crops, livestock, forestry and fishery sectors growing at 5.4%, 1.9%, 2.3% and 1.4% respectively; although agricultural growth has not met the CAADP rate of 6%.

ACHIEVING MDG POVERTY OBJECTIVE REQUIRES GROWTH BEYOND CURRENT GOVERNMENT AND CAADP TARGETS

Achieving MDGI target will require cutting the 2003 national poverty rate of 70% (dollar per day rate) to 42%. Growth projections show that meeting MDGI cannot be achieved with the current agricultural growth rate of 4.2%, and the other sectors and overall economy

economy at **Figure 3: Growth rate of agriculture, other sectors and the economy to meet MDGI poverty rate of 42%**

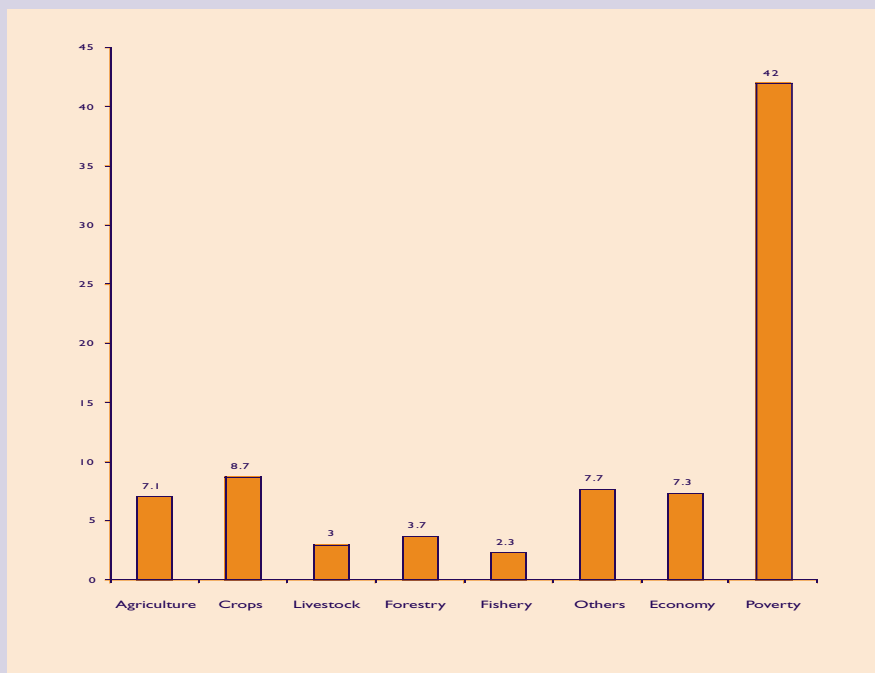


growth rates of 7.7% and 6.0% respectively; and even the CAADP agricultural growth rate of 6%. That is, Sierra Leone cannot meet MDGI even if it meets the CAADP growth rate of 6% in agriculture at the current growth rate of other sectors. The current growth rate of 4.2% and CAADP growth rate of 6% will give rise to poverty levels of 46% and 44% respectively. The outcomes of the projections are shown in Figures 1 and 2 respectively.

Growth Outcomes for Achieving MDGI Target in Sierra Leone

Growth projections for achieving MDGI target are shown in Figures 3 and 4. Growth projections show that changing the growth rates until MDGI are achieved will require agriculture to grow by 5.5% for 2008–2015 while the other sectors and the overall growth in the economy will be by 9.6% and 7.2% respectively (Figure 3). However, with the other sectors growing at current growth rates, achieving MDGI (poverty rate of 42%) will then require that agriculture grows at the rate of 7.1% (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Growth rate of agriculture, with other sectors growing at current rate to meet MDGI of 42% poverty rate



Based on research by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in collaboration with experts from Sierra Leone with financial and technical assistance from Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union Commission (AUC), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the and the Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA); The World Bank, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), ReSAKSS-West Africa, Njala University and the University of Sierra Leone.

REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

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