



REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE  
Unity - Freedom - Justice



Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program  
(CAADP)

# SIERRA LEONE

## Strategic Options and Sources for Agricultural Growth, Poverty Reduction, and Food Security

**S**uccessful implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as the main poverty-reduction strategy in Sierra Leone and other African countries requires a thorough understanding of the impact of agriculture and its dif-

**ferent sectors on income and poverty** levels levels of households in the different regions of the

country. This will help facilitate policy implementation especially in terms of the sectors that will be focused in each region in order to champion pro-poor growth in the country and at the same time help to maximize and broaden the impact of such growth on poverty reduction.

Hence, the essence of this brochure is to bring out the role being played by different sectors in poverty reduction across households in different regions of Sierra Leone. It also shows poverty rates at different growth scenarios.

## Agricultural Sector Growth and Poverty Reduction in Sierra Leone

Although the Sierra Leonean economy registered impressive growth during 2005–2007, Real Gross Domestic Product grew by 7.3%, 7.4% and 6.8% in 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively but decreased to 6.4 in 2008. Due to weak overall economic performance, poverty is enormous considering the 2003 poverty rates. The rates show that the Eastern, Western, Northern and Southern regions have poverty head count rates of 83%, 21%, 81% and 66% respectively. To facilitate poverty reduction, there is need to focus on agriculture, which employs over 70% of the population. Agricultural sector growth in Sierra Leone is expected to contribute to poverty reduction due to its demand linkages, and because agricultural and related activities tend to be more labor-intensive. To pin down the importance of agriculture in poverty reduction in Sierra Leone, the GoSL's 2009 budget identifies a prime objective as: "to accelerate economic growth by scaling up investment in agriculture and infrastructure as well as improving the business climate."

## POVERTY REDUCTION WITH DIFFERENT GROWTH SCENARIOS

The growth rates for different scenarios are shown in Table 1. The scenarios are Business as Usual (BAU), CAADP, MDG-A and MDG-B. The growth rate for BAU, CAADP, MDG-A and MDG-B for agriculture is 4.2%, 6.0%, 5.5% and 7.1% respectively.

The rate of poverty reduction with different growth scenarios is shown in Figure 1. The Figure shows that, it is only the MDGA and MDGB growth rates (5.5% and 7.1% for agriculture, 9.6% and 7.7% for other sectors and 7.2% and 7.3% for the entire economy respectively) that can achieve the required 42% poverty rate at the 2003 poverty rate (dollar per day) required by 2015. Thus even if agriculture grows at the CAADP rate of 6%, the required poverty rate will not be achieved. For

the different regions, the Figure shows that it is only the growth rate of MDG-B (7.1% for agriculture, 7.7% for the other sectors and 7.3% for overall economy) that can achieve the required poverty rates of 49%, 12% and 48% for Eastern, Western and Northern regions respectively, required by 2015. While MDG-A growth rates can achieve the required poverty rate for the Western region only, none of the different growth rates cum scenarios can achieve the poverty rate target by 2015 for the Southern region. Thus achieving the required poverty rate of 39% (dollar per day at 2003 rates) for the Southern region will require a growth rate that is beyond that of CAADP and even MDG-A and MDG-B growth rates. Thus it is most likely that the government must perform some magic to achieve the required poverty rate by 2015 for the Southern region specifically.

## Priority Agricultural Products Towards Achieving Poverty Reduction

Recent analysis shows that for poverty reduction goals to be achieved in Sierra Leone by 2015, five (5) priority products should be focused on: rice, cassava, fisheries, oil palm and forestry. However, in terms of location, analysis shows that the relative importance of commodities varies regionally. The result in Table 2 shows that rice, cassava, forestry, sweet potato and oil palm are the five (5) most important in the eastern region where poverty is hardest hit. Thus reducing poverty in the region will require intervention programmes and projects to focus on these crops.

In the Western region the most important commodities are cashew, mango, Irish potato, pepper, and plantain. In the Northern region, the five (5) most important commodities in terms of their ability to reduce poverty are rice, cassava, oil palm, forestry and fish while in the Southern region, cassava, fish, rice, oil palm and forestry are the most important commodities. Generally, besides the Western region, the same commodities, namely, rice, cassava, forestry, fishery and oil palm are the most important in terms of poverty reduction in all the different regions and in entire Sierra Leone. Focusing poverty reduction interventions on these crops will have greater impact on poverty reduction as these regions are the ones with the highest level of poverty.

Table 1: Growth Scenarios

	Growth Rates						
	Agriculture	Crops	Livestock	Forestry	Fishery	Others	Economy
<b>BAU</b>	4.2	5.4	1.9	2.3	1.4	7.7	6.0
<b>CAADP</b>	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	7.7	6.7
<b>MDG-A</b>	5.5	6.8	2.3	2.9	1.8	9.6	7.2
<b>MDG-B</b>	7.1	8.7	3.0	3.7	2.3	7.7	7.3

# MAJOR AGRICULTURAL POLICY TO ACHIEVE POVERTY REDUCTION

## Impact of Subsectoral Growth on the Reduction and Distribution of Poverty among Household Categories

Planned strategies under the PSTA are projected to generate strong growth across all subsectors and for all rural household categories. The distribution of growth and its impact on poverty is shown, however, to vary significantly among categories. Incomes are projected to increase relatively faster among male-headed households, households producing export crops, and households with greater access to cropland, as compared to female-headed households, households that do not produce export

crops, and households that have less than 0.3 ha of cropland. Since the latter groups of households tend to have initially lower incomes than the first set, the differences in income growth rates are likely to lead to a widening of the income and poverty gaps between the two, as indicated in Figures 4 and 5.

## Possible Equity Effects and How to Address Them under Current PSTA Targets

To achieve poverty reduction, the Sierra Leonean government is embarking on several major policy initiatives. These initiatives, which were formulated based on vision 2025 and the CAADP pillars, are as follow:

National Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy: The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) developed the National Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy (NSADS) which was recently launched. Agricultural development objectives

Table 2: Ranking of Commodities According to Ability to Increase Household Income and Reduce Poverty

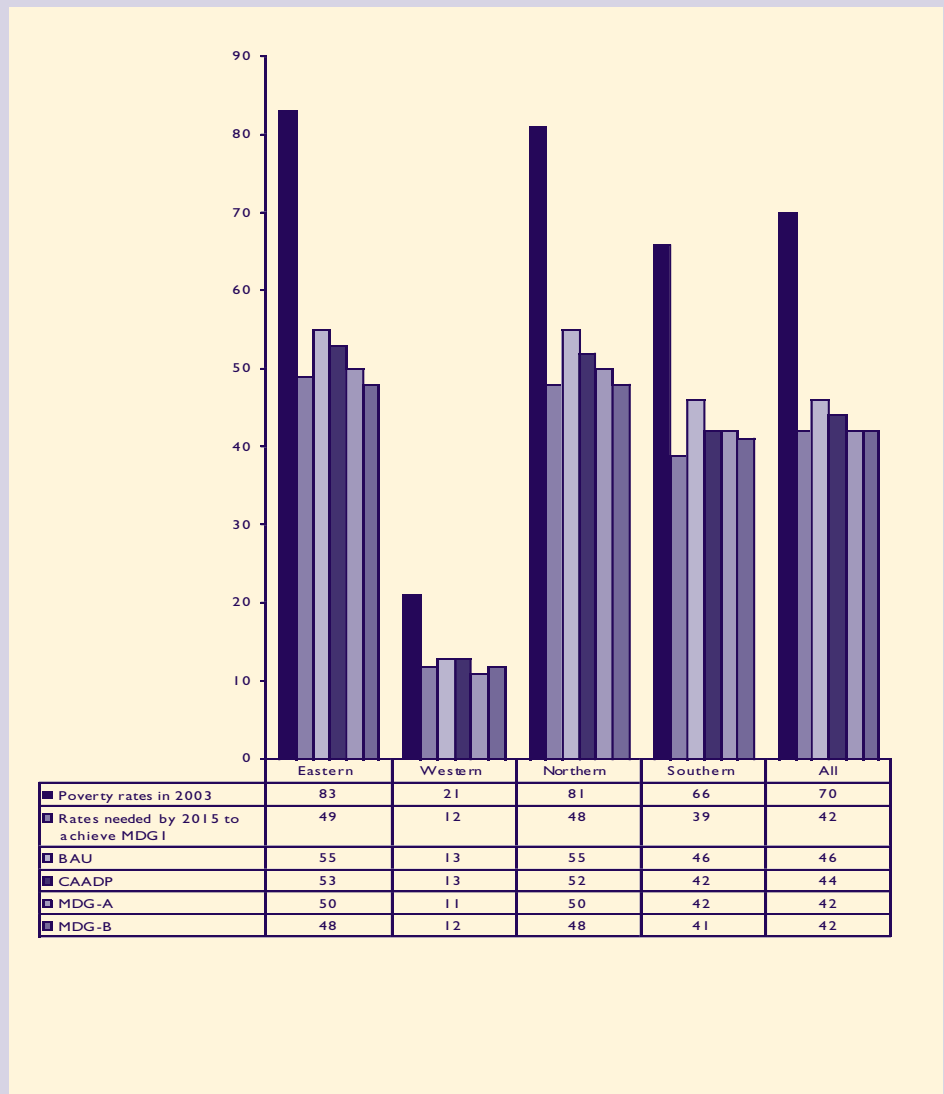
	Eastern	Western	Northern	Southern	Sierra Leone
Rice	1	23	1	3	2
Cassava	2	21	2	1	1
Maize	12	14	14	8	12
Coffee	23		25	25	26
Cocoa	24		26	26	27
Yams	8	7	23	22	20
Cashew	19	1	22	21	18
Plantain	10	5	17	12	10
Banana	11	6	18	14	11
Mango	14	2	11	11	8
Groundnut	6	15	7	6	7
Oil palm	5	20	3	4	4
Sweet potato	4	13	6	7	6
Pineapple	18	12	24	19	25
Pepper	17	4	19	18	14
Ginger	16	8	13	10	9
Millet	9	9	20	15	16
Sorghum				9	22
Irish potato		3	21		17
Cattle	21		9	24	24
Goat	20	18	10	16	19
Sheep	22	16	8	23	23
Pigs	15	11	16	20	21
Poultry	7	17	12	13	15
Other livestock	13	10	15	17	13
Forestry	3	19	4	5	3
Fish		22	5	2	5

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).

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 rice sector.

Figure 1: Poverty rates for different growth scenarios



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