



# FOOD AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR LIBERIA (FED)

BI-WEEKLY REPORT: JANUARY 1-15, 2013



This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by DAI/FED.

## **BI-WEEKLY REPORT: JANUARY 1-15, 2013**

**Program Title:** Food and Enterprise Development Program for Liberia (FED)  
**Sponsoring USAID Office:** USAID/Liberia  
**Contract Number:** 669-C-00-11-00047-00  
**Contractor:** DAI  
**Date of Publication:** January 15, 2013  
**Compiled:** Nelson Kanneh

**COVER PHOTO:** Farmer Dahn is harvesting his Cabbage at Kpain Demo Site, Nimba County.

### **DISCLAIMER**

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

## **ACRONYMS**

AEDE	Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics
AYP	Advancing Youth Project
BCCC	Bong County Community College
BSTVSE	Bureau of Science Technology, Vocational and Special Education
BWI	Booker Washington Institute
CAC	County Agriculture Coordinator
DAI	Development Alternatives, Inc.
ED	Enterprise Development
FED	Food and Enterprise Development
FRC	Farmer Resource Center
GBCCC	Grand Bassa County Community College
IFDC	International Fertilizer Developmental Center
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contract
IT	Information Technology
L/STTA	Long/Short Term Technical Assistant
LBBF	Liberian Better Business Forum
LCCC	Lofa County Community College
MoCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
MoE	Ministry of Education
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME	Micros/Small and Medium Enterprise
NCCC	Nimba County Community
PUA	Peri-urban Agriculture
R&R	Rights & Rice Foundation
RFTOP	Requests For Task Order Proposals
SBA	Subah Belleh Associates
SME	Small Medium Enterprise
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VMHS	Voinjama Multilateral High School
VTNFES	Vocational Training and Non-formal Education Specialist
VTTS	Vocational Teacher Training Specialist

## Table of Contents

<b>ACRONYMS</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Geographic Reach of FED</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>BACKGROUND</b> .....	<b>4</b>
.....	<b>5</b>
<b>COMPONENT ONE: INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Task 1.3: Input Supply Interventions</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Task 1.5 Increased Production and Profitability of Quality Rice</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Task 1.6 Increased Production and Profitability of Quality Cassava</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Task 1.7 Peri-urban Vegetable Production</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Task 1.8 Goat Interventions</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>COMPONENT TWO: STIMULATE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Activity 2.3.A.i Profile Commercial Buyers and Activity, 2.3.A.ii.a – Profile and Select Lead Producers, FBOs, and Enterprises.....	<b>8</b>
Activity 2.3.A.ii.e – Targeted Technical Support .....	<b>8</b>
<b>COMPONENT THREE: BUILD LOCAL HUMAN CAPACITY</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Task 3.1 Creating Centers of Excellence</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b> .....	<b>11</b>

# Geographic Reach of FED



## BACKGROUND

The Food and Enterprise Development (FED) Program for Liberia is a USAID-funded initiative that began in September 2011. FED is helping the government of Liberia achieve food security — in terms of food availability, utilization, and accessibility — by building an indigenous incentive structure that assists a range of agricultural stakeholders to adopt commercial approaches and actively incorporates women and youth.

This incentive structure is being built upon:

- Improved technologies for productivity and profitability;
- Expanded and modernized input supply and extension systems;
- Commercial production, marketing, and processing;
- Enterprise Services; and
- Workforce and Human Capacity Development.

FED's activities work with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the private sector to link communities to extension services, agricultural inputs, improved technologies, processing services, market information, transportation, credit, and appropriate education, training, and business development services.

Over the life of the five-year FED program, expanded market linkages will lead to substantial income and job growth and increases in the production, processing, marketing, and nutritional utilization of rice, cassava, vegetables, and goats in Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Montserrado, and Margibi counties. These counties are part of expanding development corridors that aim to foster intra- and inter-county commerce, and improve food availability and access for all Liberians.

FED's methodology is market-led, value chain-driven, continuously dedicated to indigenous capacity building, and specifically focused on benefiting Liberia's women and youth. FED's approach aims to be collaborative, catalytic, and driven by the goals and objectives of our partner clients. It will lead to increases in incomes for rural households, new employment opportunities for Liberians, increased access to food and improved household dietary diversity scores for food-insecure Liberians, and the adoption of improved inputs, farming practices, and the modern technologies which will boost agricultural productivity.

FED is implemented by Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), supported by subcontracts with the Cadmus Group, International Fertilizer Development Center, Louisiana State University and Winrock International.

•

# MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ONGOING ACTIVITIES

## COMPONENT ONE: INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

This report highlights activities carried out from January 1–15, 2013, which includes the following:

### Task 1.3: Input Supply Interventions

The Input Supply Specialist was on leave; below are couple of highlights of planned input supply activities for 1-15 January, 2013:

- Farmers' capacity building: i) planning input supply, delivery and demonstration of the use of agricultural equipment with ARJAY Farm rice outgrowers;
- Agro-dealers' capacity building: implementation of proposed investment plans for setting up 4 sales points in the counties.

### Task 1.5 Increased Production and Profitability of Quality Rice

During this period, two interviews were conducted for the Irrigation Engineer position; Mr. Patrick Farnaga was identified as the most qualified for this post. Mr. Patrick K. Farnaga will work with the FED team to provide simple water management strategies for its rice fields. The Rice Officer visited Bong and Nimba counties to verify the farmer groups preselected for year two rice value chain activities and to identify potential areas for good water management. During the trip, the Rice Officer visited 14 of the 33 project sites in five districts in Nimba county and visited seven of the 43 preselected project sites in two districts in Bong County. In Nimba, 5 of the 14 sites visited have begun clearing while in Bong, 3 of the 7 sites visited have started clearing their land in preparation for the 2013 production. The site verification visit continues till the end of the month.

### Task 1.6 Increased Production and Profitability of Quality Cassava

#### Grand Bassa County

The Cassava Value Chain Manager made a field visit to Buchanan, Grand Bassa County and met with the FED County Manager to strategize the recruitment plans for cassava farmers in that County. He visited some tentative sites and processors in the cassava value chain. The three communities visited in the search of improved high yielding planting materials as well as cassava processors were Varmah, Kingsville, and Edina. We found processing activities in all three communities, in the form of fufu and gari. The FED intervention scheme was partly discussed with two groups in Varmah and Kingsville and they seem interested in the intervention, and they look forward to working with the FED led enterprise development initiative.

In the Edina community, there is an ongoing structure being erected for cassava processing. We were not fortunate to meet any of the group members, but the conversations with the County Manager included a follow-up visit to this area, and hopefully we should be able to make contact pretty soon.

The County Manager for Grand Bassa is quite well versed with the cassava work at hand and is making headway in the recruitment, identification, and selection of possible suppliers of improved cuttings in the priority areas.

### **Nimba County**

The tour in Nimba commenced with field visit to Tarlo's Mixed Farms in Kpaytuo, to identify and ascertain the possibility of acquiring cuttings for FED's 2013-2014 targets. At this site there are currently nine improved varieties that were purchased from CARI and being multiplied for planting. The quantity is quite small, but could be okay for the setting up of multi-locational nurseries within the county. This aspect was discussed and agreed in principle.

A visit to the Concerned Women group Ganta/Tonglaywin's demo farm, which FED was a partner to, proved not to be in accordance with FED's expectations. They got a late start on activities and the qualities of planting materials used at the site were poor. Similar observations were made at the Venn Town Demo site near Ganta. These two communities should be revisited and FED needs to work with them to develop a more effective implementation strategy. The team also visited the Agape Church demo site in Ganta and recommend that FED uses a similar implementation approach to what is being employed in Tonglaywin and Venn Town.

### **Bong County**

The tour to the selected communities of Bong commenced at the FED's office where discussions were held with the County Manager on the entire recruitment process, the extension plan, and strategy for a way forward to achieve the targets for both rice and cassava, given the limited FED Extension Officers currently employed for these activities.

The resumption of input supply identification continued to new areas that were previously not visited in the county to ensure the cultivation of improved high yielding cassava cultivars for this planting season – 2013-2014. The visit to the Wainsu and its environs revealed some new processors and potential farmers that could be incorporated into this season's recruitment. A stop over at the weekly market in Wainsu enabled discussions with gari vendors, who were processors from nearby villages. The quality of gari was fair and marketable, but could be improved upon with the use of improved technology and requisite training. The price was quite reasonable and sales encouraging. Due to the shortness of the stop (which was not originally part of the planned visit), FED could not capture full details of the marketing aspect; this would have to be explored in future studies.

During the visit, the FED team saw another 2012 demo site in Warta. The potentials at the Warta demo site are great, but it needs to be encouraged. They currently have about 15 acres of farm land, processing equipment; the farmers here seem enthusiastic and have plans to expand their production activities this farming season.

## **Task 1.7 Peri-urban Vegetable Production**

During this reporting period the Peri Urban Agriculture team carried out the following activities:

- A total of 51 vegetable groups were identified in the six counties for 2013 vegetable production
- Seeds distributed to each site:
  - a. 40 grams of local pepper
  - b. 40 grams of local bitter ball



- c. 40 grams of collard greens (kale)
- d. 66 grams of okra
- e. 200 grams of water melon
- f. Cabbages ( precisely Nimba)
- 33 sites have carried out nurseries construction, sowing of seeds , field layout with direct planting of okra and water melon, and full crop establishment with bitter ball and cabbages at 3 of the 33 sites
- Site clearing and nurseries construction is ongoing at the other 8 sites

## **Task 1.8 Goat Interventions**

FED selected its first Volunteer through the USAID funded, ACIDI/VOCA implemented, Farmer to Farmer, volunteer assistance program. The volunteer is performing initial training to Goat Pass-on scheme lead farmers in goat shelter and fencing technologies, along with general herd management techniques. The volunteer arrived in early January to work with the FED Goat Value Chain Specialist in organizing and designing training modules, along with executing initial training contacts with selected lead goat producer farmers in the field in Nimba, Lofa, and Bong counties.

## **COMPONENT TWO: STIMULATE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE**

During the month of January 1-15, 2013, the Enterprise Development (ED) team accomplished the following activities:

### **Activity 2.3.A.i Profile Commercial Buyers and Activity, 2.3.A.ii.a – Profile and Select Lead Producers, FBOs, and Enterprises**

#### **Stakeholder Survey Project**

Subah Belleh Associates (SBA) completed the Stake Holder Profile surveys in the six counties. The total number of interviews conducted exceeded 500. SBA has prepared and submitted a draft report of their findings awaiting feedback from FED technical team for presentation and finalization of final report.

A survey form was created by the ED Intern; the objective was to create awareness within the FED six working counties on cassava preservation methods. (PARAFFIN WAX and SHRINK WRAP), in support of the value chains in cassava and long life span for those that producing huge quantity of their product for markets and export purpose.

### **Activity 2.3.A.ii.e – Targeted Technical Support**

#### **Organization Strengthening Training**

Rights & Rice Foundation (R&R), an IQC holder, has currently conducted the first round of Organization Strengthening training for nine groups (267 participants, 189 female & 78 male) in Bong, Lofa, Nimba, and Grand Bassa counties. To date, R&R has completed the training of nine groups in the four primary Counties (Bong, Lofa, Nimba and Grand Bassa). The overall draft report is expected the week of the 21 of January, 2013.

Interim reports and field reports from FED team has highlighted that the training was rewarding to the beneficiaries.

### **Future Training**

The ED team released two requests for task order proposals (RFTOP) for Organization Strengthening and Financial Management training for 16 producer groups (216 males, 231 females) in FED's four primary counties on November 30, 2012. To date, The Task Order proposal for the two activities (Second Organizational strengthening and Financial Management training has been reviewed, and comments made and incorporated and posted in TAMIS for approval. Activity is expected to commence the latest part of January or first week in February 2013 with 16 groups in the four primary Counties.

## **COMPONENT THREE: BUILD LOCAL HUMAN CAPACITY**

### **Task 3.1 Creating Centers of Excellence**

#### **Ministry of Education, Bureau of Science, Technical, Vocational and Special Education Services**

During this period, Component Three is responding to the request of the MoE's BSTVSE request for financial and technical assistances to complete the National Diploma in Agriculture for Post-Secondary School's Job Readiness TVET mandate. James Cooper is taking the lead to follow through on a mutually agreeable way to move forward. In this request, a document is to be created and approved so that Community Colleges and other post-secondary institutions will have a curriculum that is standardized for the country and meets the requirements of the ECOWAS TVET guidelines. A panel of ten experts, five technical and trade specialists, three advisors and two facilitators will convene for a three day workshop to complete the National Agriculture Diploma Curricula.

#### **Internship**

Catherine Karmo is actively contacting universities, community colleges, and post-secondary institutions to offer 170 internship positions for the second phase of the FED-sponsored internship program. The University of Liberia, United Methodist University, Cuttington University, Stella Maris Technical University, BWI, GBCC, NCCC, LCCC are all considered for internship opportunities, provided they have qualified agriculture and business senior and/or recently graduated students who can apply and pass a rigorous interview process. The next phase of the FED Internship program is scheduled to start in mid-February 2013.

#### **Booker Washington Institute**

Classes resumed at BWI on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The Vocational Teacher Training Specialist (VTTS), James Cooper, has contacted the administration of BWI to re-invigorate the Memorandum of Understanding between FED and BWI. A regular meeting with the Vocational Instructors with James Cooper, VTTS to assist them with instructional and practice based teaching.

The demonstration site for the Peri-Urban Agriculture has not been well attended for the past few weeks. BWI is faced with challenges in finding technical staff. It is hoped that the next phase of FED Internship program would provide two well-qualified interns to assist with practical activities that relate to the curriculum.



**Photo 1: Peri-Urban Agriculture Demonstration at BWI**

### **Schools Garden in Kakata**

On Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, the VTNFES met with the executive director of Green Coast Agricultural Program (GCAP) at the FED-BWI office. We then walked to the nearby Mawoda Elementary School to observe the volunteer-run school garden. The MAWODA Elementary Public School was established in 2009 and runs from Kindergarten to Grade Six and has an enrollment of four hundred and sixty two students. Out of these students, (215) are males, while (247) are females. The FED team was pleased to see a good size field of cabbage and chili pepper growing along with a compost pit, a corn field is being established, and an elevated nursery bed.



**Photo 2: Principal, teachers, GCAP Founder, and Two Staff at Garden of MAWODA School**

The Founder and Executive Director, Aloysius Tamba, wishes to partner with FED to expand and improve the project. It is hoped that FED can work with this highly ambitious and innovative group to grow and re-establish a previous Schools Garden Program that was active before the war.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

During the month of January 1-15, 2013, the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team accomplished the following activities:

- Data collection for the Rice Crop Yield survey is currently being analyzed;
- M&E Coordinators conducting spot-check at vegetables seedling production sites;
- Data for FED demo sites total rice harvest yield is currently being collected in the counties M&E Officers continued to follow-up with the 17 vegetable seedling producers on sales, inputs, and quantity of sales;
- Qualified shortlisted candidates for the positions of M&E Coordinator and Assistant have been finalized and submitted to Human Resource and tentative schedule for interview was also submitted;
- Stakeholders profile and New Generational women baseline survey reports are currently under revision for comments;
- GIS mapping for Enterprise stakeholders profile survey and new sites complete listing are yet to be submitted for mapping purposes;
- Rain gauge reading across counties and Monrovia is “Trace” – No rain for this period;
- Bids were finally opened for M&E Indefinite Quantity Contract holders and Technical Evaluation Committee is currently reviewing and finalizing selected IQC holders Final stages ongoing for the implementation of the RRA;
- Individual Farmer Household survey tool is being finalized; and
- Follow-up activities are underway for enterprise development MoCI Business awareness campaigned, Teacher Training and Organizational Development training.