



**USAID** | **LIBERIA**  
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# FOOD AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (FED) PROGRAM FOR LIBERIA

**MONTHLY REPORT: NOVEMBER 2014**



This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development USAID, and prepared by DAI.

**Contractor:** DAI  
**Program Title:** Food and Enterprise Development Program for Liberia (FED)  
**Sponsoring USAID Office:** USAID/Liberia  
**Contractor:** DAI  
**Date of Publication:** December 15, 2014

**Photo Caption:** *Center for Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) Technician and USAID FED staff inspecting Cassava screening site in Lofa 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	Agency for Economic Development and Empowerment
APDRA	Association Pisciculture et Development Rural en Afrique
AVTP	Accelerated Vocational Training Program
AYP	Advancing Youth Project
BSTVSE	Bureau of Science, Technical, Vocational and Special Education
BWI	Booker Washington Institute
CARI	Center of Agriculture Research Institute
CAHW	Community Animal Health Worker
CBF	County Based Facilitator
CILSS	Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CoE	Center of Excellence
CYNP	Community Youth Network Program
DAI	Development Alternatives Inc.
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECREP	Evangelical Children Rehabilitation Program
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
EO	Extension Officer
FtF	Feed the Future
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FUN	Farmer Union Network
GBCC	Grand Bassa Community College
GCAP	Green Coast Agricultural Program
GPS	Global Positioning Systems
IBEX	Investing in Business Expansion Liberia
IFDC	International Fertilizer Developmental Center
IITA	International Institute for Tropical Agriculture
IP	Implementing Partner
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contract
KRTTI	Kakata Rural Teachers Training Institute
LABEE IPG	Liberia Agriculture Business Enabling Environment Inter-Agency Policy Group
LAUNCH	Liberia Agriculture, Upgrading Nutrition & Child Health
LCCC	Lofa County Community College
LIFE	Livelihood Improvement for Farming Enterprises

LIPAS	Liberia Integrated Professional Agriculture Service
LMEP	Liberia Monitoring and Evaluation Program
LNGO	Local Non-Governmental Organization
MFI	Micro Finance Institution
MIS	Market Information Systems
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoP	Muriate of Potash
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
NDA	National Diploma in Agriculture
NCCC	Nimba County Community College
NIC	National Investment Commission
PERSUAP	Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan
PIDS	Performance Indicator Database System
PMP	Performance Management Plan
PUA	Peri-Urban Agriculture
R&RF	Rights & Rice Foundation
RFTOP	Requests for task order proposals
RRA	Rapid Rural Appraisal
TAMIS	Technical Administrative Management Information System
TSP	Triple Super-Phosphate
TVET	Technical, Vocational Education and Training
UDP	Urea Deep Placement
UL	University of Liberia
USADF	United States African Development Foundation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VET GOV	Veterinary Governance in Africa
WAAPP	West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program
WAFP	West Africa Fertilizer Project
WASP	West Africa Seed Project
WFP	World Food Program

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## Background

The USAID Food and Enterprise Development (FED) Program for Liberia is a USAID-funded development program that was launched in September 2011. USAID FED uses an all-inclusive strategy incorporating MSME farmers, processors, suppliers, women, and youth while partnering with the government of Liberia and local civil society to achieve food security.

The goal of USAID FED is to increase food availability, utilization, and accessibility by building an indigenous incentive structure that assists agricultural stakeholders in adopting commercial approaches.

This incentive structure is built upon:

- Improved technology for productivity and profitability
- Expanded and modernized input supply and extension systems
- Commercial production, marketing, and processing
- Enterprise services
- Workforce development

USAID FED works with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), civil society and the private sector in providing communities access to agricultural inputs, extension services, nutrition messages, processing services, market information, transportation, credit, agro-business education, training, and business development services.

In five years, USAID FED's thrust to expand market linkages is expected to lead to substantial increases in income and job opportunities. USAID FED aims to significantly boost the production, processing, marketing and nutritional utilization of rice, cassava and vegetables, and to enhance the productivity of goat farming in the counties covered by the program.

These initiatives are being carried out in Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Montserrado, and Margibi counties. USAID FED focuses on these counties because they are situated along regional development corridors that are crucial in promoting intra and inter-county commerce. These growth corridors are expected to improve food availability and access for all Liberians.

USAID FED's methodology is market-led and value chain-driven; it is committed to developing indigenous capacity building, with a specific focus on Liberia's women and youth.

USAID FED is implemented by five partners: Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), Winrock International, International Fertilizer Developmental Center (IFDC), Louisiana State University (LSU), and The Cadmus Group.

## Executive Summary

Five USAID FED supported VSLA groups created the first Village Savings Groups Credit Union in Nimba County. Zoedoar Women VSLA, Karnplay Women VSLA, Dioplay VSLA, Garplay VSLA and Lapea # 1 VSLA contributed a total of US\$ 500,000 towards the establishment of the Zoedoar Women Village Saving Groups Credit Union.

USAID-supported industrial rice processor, FABRAR Liberia, commenced rice procurement from USAID FED farmers in Bong, Nimba, and Lofa counties. In October, FABRAR Liberia secured a contract to supply 90 MT of rice to the World Food Programme (WFP). FABRAR supplied 90.55 MT of milled rice to WFP valued at US\$63,385 in November. It is anticipated that FABRAR will procure an additional 148 MT of paddy rice valued at US\$50,320 from USAID FED-supported rice farmers during the month of December.

USAID FED facilitated the third inspection by Center of Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) technicians of the two screening sites with improved cassava varieties imported from the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in FY14 in Lofa County. During the inspections, varieties were inspected for adaptability, sprouted cuttings and reactions of genotypes to Cassava Mosaic Disease. USAID FED maintained 2 supervisors, 2 technicians and 30 laborers to provide day-to-day management and maintenance support to these sites.

USAID FED contracted input supply dealer, Gro-Green, resumed the establishment of greenhouses in the FY14 vegetable clusters. By the end of November, Gro-Green had installed 4 greenhouses in Mawah, Chosen General Church Women and Youth Empowerment Project (CGCWYEP), Mulleh and White Plane clusters. USAID FED is expected to construct a total of 20 protected cultivation sites across the 4 counties in the FY14 implementation sites.

USAID FED, in collaboration with international development organization BRAC and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), planned to conduct a Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) vaccination campaign in October 2014. However, due to the Ebola outbreak, BRAC and MoA deferred the activity to FY15. Meetings were held with the BRAC Country Representative to plan for the implementation of the PPR vaccination campaign in Q2 (March to April). USAID FED and BRAC are awaiting a response from MoA in December regarding the Ministry's commitment to purchase the required vaccines. It is expected that at least 150,000 animals will be vaccinated nationwide.

USAID FED developed a nutrition poster in collaboration with MoA. The poster is intended for use in disseminating nutrition messages, and was tested during a one day Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA) Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop by VSLA chairladies and Community Field Officers (CFOs) in Lofa County. During the workshop, a total of 25 participants (2 male, 23 female) received nutritional messages and learned about diet diversification and the importance of proper nutrition for pregnant women and children. In addition, participants learned about the importance of disseminating accurate messages to members of their groups and respective communities.



## Component One: Increase Agricultural Productivity and Profitability

### Task 1A: Increased Productivity and Profitability of the Rice Value Chain

#### Rice sales from FY14

During the month of November, 5.25 MT of rice paddy crop was sold with a value of US\$2,390. Cumulatively, a total of 7.65 MT of FY14 rice crop was sold for US\$3,519.40 (Table 1). Sales figures for the harvest of FY14 rice are expected to increase substantially starting in December, when Lofa, Nimba and Grand Bassa counties start submitting sales reports.

Table 1: FY14 Rice crop sales.

County	October Sales Volume (MT)	October Sales Value (US\$)	November Sales Volume (MT)	November Sales Value (US\$)	Total Rice Sales Volume YTD (MT)	Total Rice Sales Value YTD (US\$)
Lofa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nimba	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bong	2.40	1,129.40	5.25	2,390	7.65	3,519.40
Grand Bassa	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>1,129.40</b>	<b>5.25</b>	<b>2,390</b>	<b>7.65</b>	<b>3,519.40</b>

#### Activity 1.A.1 Improving productivity and profitability of upland rice

##### Task 1.A.1.1 Identify and recruit 11,025 new upland farmers to produce upland rice

By the end of November, USAID FED had identified and verified 10,255 upland farmers (6,138 male and 4,117 female) against a FY15 target of 11,025 beneficiaries (Table 2). Target beneficiary identification and verification exercises will be completed by the end of December. The delay in identifying the remaining 770 beneficiaries is due to the fact that the County Teams want to avoid duplications and are implementing a more strategic verification process.

Table 2: FY15 Upland rice farmer recruitment

County	FY15 Upland Farmer Target	# of Farmer Groups Identified	# of Farmers Identified by Oct	# of Farmers Recruited and Verified as of Nov	# of Male Farmers		# of Female Farmers		# of FY15 Farmers Selected YTD
					No.	(%)	No.	(%)	
Lofa	1,750	41	2,729	1,912	934	(49%)	978	(51%)	1,912
Nimba	4,550	23	4,550	4,553	2,684	(59%)	1,869	(41%)	4,553
Bong	4,060	201	2,600	3,020	1,950	(65%)	1,070	(35%)	3,020
Grand Bassa	665	32	700	770	570	(74%)	200	(26%)	770
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,025</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>10,579</b>	<b>10,255</b>	<b>6,138</b>	<b>(60%)</b>	<b>4,117</b>	<b>(40%)</b>	<b>10,255</b>

##### Task 1.A.1.2 Recruit Local NGOs to provide implementation support to upland rice farmers

USAID FED developed Scopes of Work (SOW) for Local Non-Governmental Organizations (LNGO) in each county that will support upland rice production in FY15. It is anticipated that the recruitment of LNGOs will be completed by January 2015 (Table 3).

Table 3: FY15 LNGOs target per county.

County	LNGOs target
Lofa	1
Nimba	2
Bong	2
Bassa	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

## Activity 1.A.2 Expanding lowland rice productivity

### Task 1.A.2.1 Identify and recruit 7,175 new lowland farmers to produce lowland rice:

By the end of November, USAID FED had recruited and verified a total of 12,100 lowland beneficiaries against a FY15 target of 7,175 new beneficiaries in Bong, Nimba, Lofa and Grand Bassa counties (See Table 4). The number of potential new beneficiaries exceeds the target and will therefore be reduced to the targeted number following additional verification and confirmation in January.

Table 4: FY15 Lowland rice farmer recruitment

County	Fy15 Lowland Farmer Target	# of Farmer Groups Identified	# of Farmers Identified by Oct	Total # of Farmers Recruited and Verified by Nov	# of Male Farmers	# of Female Farmers	# of Fy15 Farmers Recruited YTD
Lofa	1,400	48	2,612	2,536	1,285	1,240	2,536
Nimba	4,060	116	4,324	5796	3,359	2,437	5,796
Bong	1,400	78	3,216	3,279	1,826	1,477	3,279
Grand Bassa	315	27	415	489	399	90	489
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,175</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>10,567</b>	<b>12,100</b>	<b>6,762</b>	<b>4,979</b>	<b>12,100</b>

### Task 1.A.2.2 Recruit Local NGOs to provide implementation support to lowland rice farmers

USAID FED developed SOWs for LNGOs in each county that will support lowland production in FY15. It is anticipated that recruitment of six targeted LNGOs will be completed by January 2015. Please see Table 3 above for the breakdown of the target per county target.

## Activity 1.A.3 Enhancing mechanization for lowland rice production

### Task 1.A.3.1 Identify 30 youth entrepreneurs to invest as machine operators

By the end of November, USAID FED had identified a total of 100 youth from Bong, Nimba, Lofa, and Grand Bassa counties as potential entrepreneurs to provide power-tiller services (Table 5). Final vetting of 30 selected youth will be completed in December based on the established selection criteria, which include their ability to cost share in establishing the enterprises.

Table 5: Youth entrepreneurs as machine operators.

County	# of Youth Identified	FY15 Selection Target
Bong	31	10
Lofa	31	9
Nimba	24	10
Grand Bassa	14	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>30</b>

### Activity I.A.5 Promoting two rice crops per year

#### Task I.A.5.1 Identify new rice production sites with access to year round water supply

During the reporting period, USAID FED verified and selected a total of 24 potential sites out of 53 identified sites in Bong, Lofa, Grand Bassa and Nimba counties for the construction of new irrigation spillways (Table 6). The 24 sites cover 120 hectares of lowland rice. It is anticipated that up to 30 sites will be selected in FY15.

Table 6: FY15 Identified lowland swamps for spillways by county.

County	# of Identified Sites	# of Sites Verified	# of Ha Verified
Bong	26	8	42
Nimba	15	4	27
Lofa	9	9	36
Grand Bassa	3	3	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>120</b>

### Activity I.A.6 Enhancing post-harvest management practices

#### Task I.A.6.1 Identify 10 sites for new community rice business hubs

By the end of November, USAID FED had identified 10 potential sites for rice business hubs in the four counties; Bong (3), Lofa (3), Nimba (3) and Grand Bassa (1) (Table 7). In addition to 10 business hubs established in FY14, these hubs will provide mechanized services to rice farmers in the clusters and at the same times serve as aggregation centers for rice trading with large traders and industrial buyers.

The 10 rice business hubs established in FY14 provide threshing, drying, milling and storage services to rice farmers for their harvest from the FY14 crop.

Table 7: FY15 Rice business hubs.

County	# of Hubs (FY15 Target)	Location
Bong	3	Felela town, Gbenequleleh and Zowenta
Lofa	3	Kahenjala town, Buzagiza town and Kondu town
Nimba	3	Karnplay town, Gorkorpa and Zoe-luapa
Grand Bassa	1	Garkpee

## Activity I.A.7 Stimulating private sector investment in commercial rice production

### Task I.A.7.1 Identify 2 large scale land owners to cultivate 200 ha lowland rice

In November, USAID FED pre-identified four land owners in Lofa, Montserrado and Bong counties. These land owners claim to have large land holdings that will be verified by the USAID FED GIS Officer and M&E team. More updates will be provided in the December report on the actual size of the available land areas.

### Task I.A.7.5 Facilitating linkages between FABRAR, government agencies and institutional buyers

During the month of October, FABRAR Liberia secured a contract to supply 90 MT of rice to the World Food Programme (WFP). In November, FABRAR supplied WFP with 90.55 MT of rice sourced from USAID FED farming clusters valued at US\$63,385.

FABRAR Liberia also commenced the procurement process for rice from USAID FED farmers in Bong, Nimba, and Lofa counties. It is anticipated that FABRAR will procure 148 MT of paddy rice valued at US\$50,320 from these farmers during the month of December.

## Task IB: Increased Productivity and Profitability of the Cassava Value Chain

### Activity I.B.1 Facilitating access to high yielding cassava varieties

#### *FY13 Cassava crop harvests and sales*

In November, a total of 9.64 ha of FY13 cassava was harvested from USAID FED demonstration sites (Table 8). In addition, a total of 68.19 ha of cassava was harvested from farmer adaptive fields (Table 9). A total of 1,743.92 MT of cassava crop valued at US\$205,422.57 was traded (Table 10). 216.22 MT of these sales came from the USAID FED supported demonstration sites, and 1,527.70 MT from individual farmer fields.

Table 8: FY13 Cassava harvest-Demonstration sites.

County	Total Area Planted FY13 Crop (Ha)	Area Harvested by Oct (Ha)	Volume Harvested in Oct (MT)	Area Harvested in Nov (Ha)	Volume Harvested in Nov (MT)	Total FY13 Area Harvested (Ha)	Total FY13 Crop Harvested (MT)
Bong	15.70	1.73	5.20	0.83	18.72	2.56	23.92
Nimba	24.16	24.16	21.60	0.00	0.00	24.16	21.60
Lofa	17.90	17.90	14.00	0.00	0.00	17.90	14.00
Grand Bassa	67.20	8.32	14.90	8.81	197.50	17.13	212.40
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>124.96</b>	<b>52.11</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b>9.64</b>	<b>216.22</b>	<b>61.75</b>	<b>271.92</b>

Table 9: Cassava harvest-farmer fields.

County	Total Area Planted FY13 Crop (Ha)	Area Harvested by Oct (Ha)	Volume Harvested in Oct (MT)	Area Harvested in Nov (Ha)	Volume Harvested in Nov (MT)	Total FY13 Area Harvested (Ha)	Total FY13 Crop Harvested (MT)
Bong	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nimba	0	0	0	67.15	1,504.33	67.15	1,504.33
Lofa	0	0	0	1.04	23.37	1.04	23.37
Grand Bassa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>68.19</b>	<b>1,527.70</b>	<b>68.19</b>	<b>1,527.70</b>

Table 10: FY13 Cassava sales.

County	Sales Volume Target for FY13 Crop (US\$)	Fy13 Crop Volume Sold in Oct (MT)	FY13 Crop Value Sold in Oct (US\$)	FY13 Crop Volume Sold in Nov (MT)	FY13 Crop Value Sold in Nov (US\$)	Total FY13 Crop Volume YTD (MT)	Total FY13 Crop Value YTD (US\$)
Bong	351.68	5.20	723.50	18.72	1,274.80	55.88	4,818.30
Nimba	541.18	21.60	2,969.00	1378.70 <sup>1</sup>	189,512.3 <sup>2</sup>	1932.03	265,633.54
Lofa	400.96	14.00	926.00	23.37	1,576.47	81.17	6,367.18
Grand Bassa	1,505.28	14.90	1,380.00	197.50	13,059.00	256.40	24,411.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,799.10</b>	<b>55.70</b>	<b>5,998.50</b>	<b>1,618.29</b>	<b>205,422.57</b>	<b>2325.48</b>	<b>301,230.02</b>

In addition, FALAMA, a small processor based in Montserrado County, procured 25 (50 kg) bags of raw cassava tuber from Bong and Montserrado counties. The company produced 2.5 MT of gari and 0.25 MT of cassava chips which were sold at a total of US\$1,180.00. The sales were made to World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) (2 MT Gari) and 12 supermarkets (0.25MT of cassava chips). FALAMA is one of the small processors identified by USAID FED for support in FY15.

### Activity I.B.1 Facilitating access to high yielding cassava varieties

During the month of November, USAID FED facilitated the third inspection by Center of Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) technicians to the two screening sites with improved cassava varieties imported from the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Lofa County (Figure 1). During the inspections, varieties were inspected for adaptability, sprouted cuttings and reactions of genotypes to Cassava Mosaic Disease. Manual weeding was conducted, and



Figure 1: Canopy of high yielding cassava variety.

<sup>1</sup> Represents volume sold from farmers' field.

<sup>2</sup> Represents farmers' field sales value.

cuttings that failed to sprout were replaced with sprouted stakes of the same age derived from extras collected from the border rows. In general, the inspection and assessment confirmed that the two screening sites were performing well. USAID FED is maintaining 2 supervisors, 2 technicians and 30 laborers to provide day-to-day management and maintenance support at the sites.

### Activity I.B.2 Identification of cuttings requirements for 40 commercial nurseries

In November, USAID FED determined the cuttings requirement for the 40 commercial nurseries established in FY14. USAID FED developed a procurement plan to facilitate the purchase of a total of 8,424 bundles of cassava cuttings (Carica 1, Carica 2 and TMS Series - 3 feet) for subsequent distribution to the commercial nurseries (Table 11).

Table 11: Cuttings requirements by county.

County	# of Bundles Required	# of Bundles Carica 1	# of Bundle Carica 2	# of Bundles TMS Series	# of Commercial Nurseries	Quantity of Bundles per Nursery
Bong	1,625	541	542	542	8	203
Lofa	975	325	325	325	4	244
Nimba	3,484	1,162	1,161	1,161	16	218
Grand Bassa	2,340	780	780	780	12	195
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,424</b>	<b>2,808</b>	<b>2,808</b>	<b>2,808</b>	<b>40</b>	

### Activity I.B.3 Enhancing knowledge on improved technologies and varieties:

#### Task I.B.3.2 Identify and recruit 12,960 new farmers in 648 Kuus towards FY15 cassava production

During the reporting period, USAID FED identified a total 12,707 new beneficiaries in 635 kuus across the four counties (Table 12). The selection and verification of all target beneficiaries will be completed in December.

Table 12: Cassava farmer recruitment.

County	FY15 Farmer Targets	FY15 Kuu Target	FY15 Farmers Identified by Oct	FY15 Farmers Identified by Nov	Total FY15 Farmers Identified YTD	Male		Female		# of Kuus YTD
						No.	(%)	No.	(%)	
Bong	2,500	125	1,310	389	1,699	780	(46%)	919	(54%)	85
Nimba	5,360	268	2,142	3,562	5,704	3,135	(55%)	2,569	(45%)	285
Lofa	1,500	75	1,500	0	1,500	870	(58%)	630	(42%)	75
Grand Bassa	3,600	180	2,258	1,546	3,804	2,560	(67%)	1,244	(33%)	190
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,960</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>7,210</b>	<b>5,497</b>	<b>12,707</b>	<b>7,345</b>	<b>(58%)</b>	<b>5,362</b>	<b>(42%)</b>	<b>635</b>

#### Task I.B.3.4 Recruitment of LNGOs

In November, USAID FED developed a SOW for the recruitment of LNGOs to support program activities for high yielding cassava in each county. It is anticipated that the recruitment and selection of LNGOs will be completed by January 2015.

## **Activity I.B.5 Facilitating access to financial services for processors**

### ***Task I.B.4.1 Identify 33 micro and small cassava processors and their purchasing needs***

During the reporting period, a total of 14 cassava small-processors signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with USAID FED for the implementation of FY15 activities. It is anticipated that the 15 remaining micro-processors will sign MoUs in December. MoUs will also be signed with three small Monrovia-based processors when baselines are conducted.

## **Activity I.B.7 Supporting aggregation and transportation capacities**

### ***Task I.B.7.1 Identify and recruit 29 youth towards establishment of transport enterprises***

In October, USAID FED re-advertised the request for Expressions of Interest (Eoi) for youth to engage in transport enterprises. USAID FED conducted cost analyses for this enterprise to determine the optimal pricing structure.

During the month of November, the advertised Expressions of Interest (Eoi) for potential transport providers was closed, and selection is expected to be completed by December 2014.

## **Task I.C: Increased Productivity and Profitability of the Horticulture Value Chain**

### **Task I.C: Improving Productivity and Profitability of the Horticultural Value Chain**

#### **Activity I.C.1 Improving access to affordable seeds of improved vegetable varieties**

##### ***Task I.C.1.3 Identify financing needs of continuing and new farmers***

In November, USAID FED assessed a total of 20 FY14 vegetable clusters to determine their financial needs. A total of 14 (Montserrado- 6, Margibi- 8) out of the 20 clusters were selected and proposed to a microfinance institution, LEAD, to access loans on the basis of their cohesion, management capabilities, production capacity and their potential to repay the loans (Table 13).

Table 13: FY14 farmers selected for LEAD loans.

<b>County</b>	<b># of clusters</b>	<b># of farmers</b>	<b>Loans requirements (US\$)</b>
Montserrado	6	134	27,794
Margibi	8	149	36,794
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>64,588</b>

##### ***Task I.C.1.4 Link farmers to financial service providers and identified agro-dealers***

The financing requirements for the 12 clusters under Task I.C.1.3 were forwarded to USAID FED's Access to Finance Officer for review and submission to LEAD for due-diligence and final award of loans. It is expected that these clusters will receive the requested loans in December.

## Activity I.C.2 Promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices

### Task I.C.2.1 Identify 3,750 farmers and establish 18 demonstration plots in six counties

By the end of November, USAID FED had identified a total of 179 horticulture clusters (Table 14) in the six participating counties. Within these clusters, a total of 3,453 beneficiaries (2,045 male and 1,408 female) were identified (Table 15). It is anticipated that beneficiary verification will be completed in December.

Table 14: FY15 Cluster identification.

County	FY15 Target Clusters	# of Clusters Selected in Oct	# of Clusters Selected in Nov	Total Clusters YTD
Montserrado	48	35	7	42
Margibi	41	29	6	35
Nimba	28	35	0	35
Lofa	25	25	0	25
Grand Bassa	19	21	0	21
Bong	27	21	0	21
<b>Totals</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>179</b>

Table 15: Horticulture farmer recruitment.

County	FY15 Farmer Targets	# of Farmers Identified in Oct	# of Farmers Identified in Nov	Total # of Farmers YTD	# of Men		# of Women	
					No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Montserrado	967	720	140	860	510	(59%)	350	(41%)
Margibi	777	580	36	616	368	(60%)	248	(40%)
Nimba	569	686	0	686	432	(63%)	254	(37%)
Lofa	509	485	0	485	221	(46%)	264	(54%)
Grand Bassa	379	391	0	391	285	(73%)	106	(27%)
Bong	549	415	0	415	229	(55%)	186	(45%)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,750</b>	<b>3,277</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>3,453</b>	<b>2,045</b>	<b>(59%)</b>	<b>1,408</b>	<b>(41%)</b>

## Activity I.C.4 Farmers produce vegetables for the market during the dry and wet seasons

### Task I.C.4.5 Improving wet season vegetable production through protected cultivation

In November, input supply dealer Gro-Green resumed the establishment of greenhouses in the FY14 clusters. By the close of the month, Gro-Green had installed four greenhouses in Mawah, Chosen General Church Women and Youth Empowerment Project (CGCWYEP), Mulleh and White Plane clusters (Figure 2). Gro-Green trained a total of four lead farmers from the clusters on greenhouse installation and management. Onward training by the lead farmers is ongoing



Figure 2: Greenhouse in CGCWYEP, Margibi County.



in the four clusters for 76 farmers. It is anticipated that the remaining 16 sites will be completed by January 2015.

#### **Task I.C.4.6 Enhancing linkages with local and high value vegetable markets**

##### **Vegetable harvest and sales from FY14 sites**

During the month of November, a total of 28.92 MT of vegetables were harvested and sold at a value of US\$11,715.51 (Table 16). In addition, the Monrovia Vegetable Sellers Association sold a total of 2.1 MT of vegetables at a value of US\$3,887.60 (Table 17).

Table 16: Vegetable sales from clusters.

<b>County/Cluster</b>	<b>Volume of Sales in Oct (Kg)</b>	<b>Value of Sales in Oct (US\$)</b>	<b>Volume of Sales in Nov (Kg)</b>	<b>Value of Sales in Nov in (US\$)</b>	<b>Total Volume of Sales YTD (Kg)</b>	<b>Total Value of Sales YTD (US\$)</b>
<b>Montserrado</b>						
Bokays Town	635.00	245.11	2587.00	950.00	3,222.00	1,195.11
CGCWEP	881.60	264.11	666.70	317.88	1,548.30	581.99
Central White Plane	1,239.00	468.23	425.00	174.58	1,664.00	642.81
Low Cost Village	504.00	268.11	249.00	193.35	753.00	461.46
Kollieman Town	213.00	120.00	375.00	178.82	588.00	298.82
Mawah	680.00	1,583.47	7,826.00	1,893.12	8,506.00	3,476.59
Mulleh Farm	0.00	0.00	1,430.00	485.88	1,430.00	485.88
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>4,152.60</b>	<b>2,949.03</b>	<b>13,558.70</b>	<b>4,193.63</b>	<b>1,7711.30</b>	<b>7,142.66</b>
<b>Nimba</b>						
Yekepa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sanniquelleh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ganta	0.00	0.00	6,300.00	4,079.00	6,300.00	4,079.00
Gbedin	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>6,300.00</b>	<b>4,079.00</b>	<b>6,300.00</b>	<b>4,079.00</b>
<b>Margibi</b>						
Kpoyea's Town	316.00	294.70	730.00	398.82	1,046.00	693.52
Joeblow Town	214.00	218.82	866.00	254.7	1,080.00	473.52
KollieKan Ta	1,608.00	425.58	1,318.00	425.52	2,926.00	851.10
Francis Lewis	2,157.00	1,096.52	1,033.50	669.41	3,190.50	1,765.93
Weala	182.00	148.23	1,297.00	477.64	1,479.00	625.87
Nyanka Ta	410.00	337.64	1,685.00	544.47	2,095.00	882.11
Gbofollah	800.00	576.47	1,375.00	504.09	2,175.00	1,080.56
Horton Farm	245.00	123.23	754.00	168.23	999.00	291.46
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>5,932.00</b>	<b>3,221.19</b>	<b>9,058.50</b>	<b>3,442.88</b>	<b>14,990.50</b>	<b>6,664.07</b>
<b>Grand Bassa</b>						
Tubmanville	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
New Buchanan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,084.60</b>	<b>6,170.22</b>	<b>28,917.20</b>	<b>11,715.51</b>	<b>39,001.80</b>	<b>17,885.73</b>

Note: no harvest information was provided for the Bong Office

Table 17: Vegetable sales from trader associations.

Group	Volume of Vegetables Sold in Oct (Kg)	Value of Vegetables Sold in Oct (US\$)	Volume of Vegetables Sold in Nov (Kg)	Value of Vegetables Traded in Nov (US\$)	Volume of Vegetables Sold YTD (Kg)	Value of Vegetables Traded in YTD (US\$)
Monrovia Vegetable Marketing Association	3,150.00	5,765.83	2,104.00	3,887.60	5,254.00	9,653.43
Kukutona (FY13 VSLA Group)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
United Farmers Association (FY13 VSLA Group)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Zoedoar Farmers Association (FY13 VSLA Group)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Menlehkoyee (FY13 VSLA Group)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,150.00</b>	<b>5,765.83</b>	<b>2,104.00</b>	<b>3,887.60</b>	<b>5,254.00</b>	<b>9,653.43</b>

## Task ID: Increased Productivity and Profitability of the Goat Value Chain

### Activity I.D.1 Promote goat shelters

#### FY14 Goat production intensification sites - kidding rates

In November, USAID FED recorded a total of 304 new kids (122 male and 182 female) from the FY14 goat production sites (Table 18), which brings the total herd size in FY14 sites to 6,033 animals (3,304 does, 714 bucks and 2,015 kids).

Table 18: Herd statistics for FY14 sites.

County	Fy14 Farmer Targets	# of Farmers Recruited for FY14	# of Male	# of Female	Total # of Goats YTD FY14	# Does	# Bucks	# Kids	Kids Recorded in Oct	Kids Recorded in Nov
Nimba	600	693	341	296	826	527	140	181	158	117
Grand Bassa	180	275	166	111	815	452	184	204	0	0
Bong	500	596	493	179	1,954	1,297	388	441	353	187
Lofa	400	496	260	214	1,605	1,083	148	374	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>2,060</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>6,033</b>	<b>3,304</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>304</b>

#### FY14 Goat production intensification sites - Goat sales

During the month of November, a total of 201 goats (146 bucks, 55 does) from the FY14 goat production sites were sold for US\$15,805 in Bong, Nimba, and Grand Bassa counties (Table 19). As of the end of November, a total of 431 goats valued at US\$30,587 were sold across the four counties in FY15.

Table 19: Goat sales from FY14 goat production sites.

County	# of Goats Sold in Oct FY15	Value of Goats Sold in Oct (US\$)	# of Goats Sold in Nov	Value of Goats Sold in Nov (US\$)	# of Goats Sold YTD	Value of Goats Sold YTD (US\$)
Nimba	35	955.00	42	2,105.00	77	3,060.00
Grand Bassa	7	535.00	16	1,720.00	23	2,255.00
Bong	142	11,740.00	143	11,980.00	285	23,720.00
Lofa	46	1,552.00	0	0.00	46	1,552.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>14,782.00</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>15,805.00</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>30,587.00</b>

### ***FY14 Goat shelter construction***

USAID FED established a total of 83 out of the 84 FY14 goat production intensification sites in the four counties. The pending site in Bong County is expected to be completed during the month of December.

### **Activity I.D.I Promote Goat Shelters**

#### ***Task I.D.I.1 Identify lead farmers in Bong (22), Nimba (26), Lofa (19) and Grand Bassa(10)***

By the end of November, USAID FED had identified a total of 73 lead farmers in the four targeted counties (Table 20). The remaining four lead farmers in Lofa will be identified in December.

Table 20: FY15 Goat lead farmer recruitment.

County	FY15 Lead Farmers Target	# of Lead Farmers Identified	# of Male Lead Farmers		# of Female Lead Farmers	
			No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Bong	22	22	22	(100%)	0	(0%)
Nimba	26	26	23	(88%)	3	(12%)
Lofa	19	15	11	(73%)	4	(27%)
Grand Bassa	10	10	9	(90%)	1	(10%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>(89%)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>(11%)</b>

#### ***Task I.D.I.2 Contract and train 8 sawyers to cut wood for shelter construction***

In November, USAID FED developed SOWs for the LNGOs in Bong, Nimba, Lofa and Grand Bassa counties. It is anticipated that recruitment and contracting of LNGOs will be completed in January 2015. The LNGOs will be required to supervise all activities of the sawyers related to identification, recruitment and contracting.

### **Task I.D.1.3 Contract and train 8 carpenters (2 per county) on shelter construction**

During the month of November, USAID FED developed SOWs for LNGOs based in Bong, Nimba, Lofa and Grand Bassa counties. It is anticipated that recruitment and contracting of LNGOs will be completed in January 2015. The LNGOs will be required to supervise all carpentry related activities relative to identification, recruitment and contracting.

### **Task I.D.1.4 Determine shelter material requirements for 77 shelters**

In November, USAID FED completed all shelter requirements for the 77 sites and developed procurement plans (Table 21). The specifications and requirements will be advertised through a Request for Proposals (RfP) during the month of December.

Table 21: Goat shelter material requirement by county.

County	# of Sites	Galvanized Fence Wire 75ft Long and 8ft Wide (rolls)	Drinkers	Hinges pieces	14 Gauge Zinc Bundle	2" Wire Nails cartons	3" Wire Nails cartons	4" Wire Nail cartons	5" Wire Nails cartons	Zinc Wire Nails cartons
Lofa	19	266	57	190	114	38	38	38	38	38
Nimba	26	364	78	260	156	52	52	52	52	52
Bong	22	308	66	220	132	44	44	44	44	44
Grand Bassa	10	140	30	100	60	20	20	20	20	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>154</b>

### **Task I.D.1.5 Design and construction of two wells in Grand Bassa County**

In FY14, wells at the Neorpeh and Blaygbah sites in Grand Bassa County were sunk but did not reach the water table. As a result, alternative sites had to be selected for new wells in these two affected goat production sites. USAID FED developed a SOW for the construction of these wells. It is anticipated that a request for proposals will be issued in December and a water well construction company will be selected to undertake this task.

## **Activity I.D.2 National PPR Campaign**

### **Task I.D.2.1 Acquire MoA agreement to provide PPR vaccine and contract BRAC to implement PPR campaign**

USAID FED, in collaboration with international development organization BRAC and MoA, planned to conduct a Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) vaccination campaign in October 2014. However, due to the Ebola outbreak, BRAC and MoA decided to delay the activity. USAID FED and the Country Representative of BRAC have agreed to implement the PPR vaccination campaign in Q2 (March to April), and USAID FED and BRAC are currently waiting for a response from MoA regarding their commitment to purchase the required vaccines. Approximately 120,000 animals will be vaccinated nationwide.

### **Activity I.D.3 Access to Veterinary Treatment and Drugs**

#### ***I.D.3.3 Identify eight new agro-pharmacists and acquire MoA authorization for them to stock***

MoA is planning to convene a meeting with USAID FED in December to finalise the authorization.

### **Activity I.D.5 Formalizing Livestock Marketing**

#### ***Task I.D.5.1 Develop database of traders willing to participate in market events with farmers***

The trader database was developed in October 2014.

#### ***Task I.D.5.2 Identify BRAC and Samaritan Purse goat farmers willing to participate in market events***

USAID FED will report on this task in December 2014.

#### ***Task I.D.5.4 Identify location venues for goat marketing events at county and cluster level***

USAID FED will report on this task in December 2014.

### **Activity I.D.6 Improving nutrition for higher livestock value**

#### ***Task I.D.6.1 Develop databases for forages most suitable for Liberia***

USAID FED developed a SOW for a Goat Forage Production Expert (local STTA) to identify, test, select and recommend high yielding forages for cultivation at the goat production intensification sites. Parameters to be considered are nutrient content, yield potential, resource requirements to cultivate and achieve optimal yields and impact on the environment. It is anticipated that the expert will be selected and recruited by February 2015.

#### ***Task I.D.6.2 Test cultivation of selected forages to determine which ones have highest yields and rates of success***

The testing of selected forages is subject to the completion of the forages database. Following the completion of the database the testing of these forages will start in February 2015.

## **Sub Task I.1 Special Studies and MoA Data Collection System Development**

### **Activity I.1.2.4 Firms and CSOs engaged in agriculture operating more profitably**

#### ***Task I.1.2.4.1 Preparation and approval of concept note for firms and CSOs in agriculture***

USAID FED developed a draft concept note on firms and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) operating more profitability in agriculture. USAID FED is attempting to assess the project's impact on firms and CSOs as well to determine their sustainability.

#### ***Task 1.1.2.4.2 SOW's designing, reviewing and validation for implementation***

USAID FED designed a SOW to conduct a study on firms and CSOs engaged in agriculture operating more profitably. The SOW is under review and supports Task 1.1.2.4. A one day validation workshop is scheduled for December 2014.

#### **Activity 1.1.2.5 Gross margin per unit of land or animal of selected products (baselines)**

##### ***Task 1.1.2.5.1 Organizing internal technical meetings to come up with an approach in determining baselines***

USAID FED organized a gross margin technical capacity development meeting for the Project's technical leads and County Managers in Montserrado County. A total of 29 participants (26 male, 3 female) learned about gross margins, the 5 data points collected to measure the gross margins and how to calculate market prices. Following the meeting the participants are expected to improve reporting on their value chain's gross margins.

##### ***Task 1.1.2.5.2 Carrying out surveys to gather missing baselines and processing the data***

USAID FED met with USAID-supported L-MEP to discuss the feasibility of collecting FY12 to FY14 data. The survey is scheduled to take place in December.

The recruitment for the Special Studies and Surveys Advisor who will be responsible for implementing this activity is underway.

##### ***Task 1.1.2.5.3 Consensus with management and USAID on the baselines***

USAID FED exchanged emails with USAID on data collection points. The surveys will be conducted by the last week of December.

#### **Activity 1.1.4.1 Recruitment of data repository system consulting firm**

##### ***Task 1.1.4.1.1 Contracting of data development firm***

USAID FED identified a data development firm to develop an online database management system. USAID FED is finalizing the recruitment process.

#### **Activity 1.1.4.2 Piloting/quality assurance of the database system design**

##### ***Task 1.1.4.2.1 Training materials, manual and modules approbation***

USAID FED is identifying the Project's and MoA's needs in order to establish areas of engagement for the USAID FED contracted firm. This activity is linked to the mainstreaming of the online database system in the USAID FED office.

## Sub Task 1.2 Improved access to Agricultural Inputs

### Activity 1.2.3.4 UDP+SRI research

#### **Task 1.2.3.4.1 Complete UDP+SRI research and carry out comparative analysis of cost and benefits vs. UDP only and SRI only**

During the month of November, construction of a diversion canal for water storage at the Taylay UDP SRI site in Nimba County was completed. At the Garmue 2 site, construction of mini irrigation and drainage canals for two plots/polders were successfully completed (Figure 3). The layout and construction of plots/polders and peripheral and drainage canals in Gbarngasiequelleh were also completed. In the 4 sites in Bong and Nimba the establishment of nurseries was started.



Figure 3: UDP nursery site in Garmue, Bong County.

## Sub Task 1.3: Agricultural Extension Support

### Activity 1.3.3 Development of extension material and information access points

#### **Activity 1.3.3.1 Extension material and packages covering technical aspects of production techniques, production planning, integrated pest and disease management, variety selection and post-harvest handling developed for rice, cassava, goats and horticulture value chains**

USAID FED visited several sites in Lofa County between November 10 and 15 to document (using video) the harvests from fields where Urea Deep Placement (UDP) technologies were applied. Interviews were conducted with farmers and beneficiaries at the following sites:

- Kobake Farmer Association in Gwenimah, Lofa County (Figure 4)
- Agriculture Infrastructure Investment Corporation in Sarkonidu, Quardu Gboni District, Lofa County
- Rice and Food Crops Farmer Union in Foya, Lofa County
- Mayor Farmer Association in Foya, Lofa County (Figure 5)
- Bayer Farmer Association in Foya, Lofa County



Figure 4: Kobake Farmer Association members harvesting rice, Lofa County.



Figure 5: Official launch of Mayor Farmers' Association Harvest, Lofa County.

## Sub Task I.3: Sub Task I.4 Youth in Agribusiness

### Activity I.4.1 Establishment of agribusiness horticulture pilots

#### Task I.4.1.1 Identification of 500 youth in 25 clusters in 2 counties of Montserrado and Margibi

During the reporting period, USAID FED identified a total of 22 clusters in Margibi and Montserrado counties (Table 22). A total of 440 youth (271 male, 169 female) were identified and recruited to participate in the FY15 agribusiness pilots (Table 23). Each of these youths is anticipated to cultivate a minimum of 0.25 ha under vegetable production.

Table 22: Identification of youth clusters.

County	FY 15 Cluster Targets	FY15 Youth Targets	# of Clusters Identified in Oct	# of Clusters Identified in Nov	# of Clusters Identified YTD
Montserrado	18	360	13	3	16
Margibi	7	140	6	0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>

Table 23: Recruitment of youth farmers.

County	FY 15 Cluster Targets	FY15 Youth Targets	# of Youth Identified in Oct	# of Youth Identified in Nov	# of Youth Identified YTD	Total Male		Total Female		Total Ha
						No.	(%)	No.	(%)	
Montserrado	18	360	260	60	320	191	60	129	40	80
Margibi	7	140	120	0	120	80	67	40	33	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>110</b>

### Activity I.4.2 Supporting job creation through youth extension aides

#### Task: I.4.2.1 Identify and recruit 25 youth extension aides from peri-urban localities in 2 counties

In November, USAID FED developed a SOW for recruitment of youth extension aides. While it is anticipated that the youth extension aides will be recruited in January, the youth extension aide recruitment process is expected to be undertaken by LNGOs that will be contracted as part of the horticulture value chain activities in the two counties.

### Activity I.4.3 Supporting job creation through youth enterprises as transport service providers

#### Task: I.4.3.1 Identify and recruit 49 youth for the establishment of transport businesses to support 29 cassava processors and 20 rice business hubs

By the end of November, USAID FED had identified 40 youth as potential entrepreneurs to establish transport service businesses in FY15 (Table 24). In December, 9 additional youth will be identified and the



capital requirements of the 49 youth will be determined. It is anticipated that the selected youth will receive training and be equipped with *tuk-tuk* motors to start their businesses.

Table 24: Identification of youth entrepreneurs (Transport services)

County	FY15 Youth Targets	# of Youth Identified in Oct	# of Youth Identified in Nov	# of Youth Identified YTD	Male	Female
Bong	17	0	9	9	8	1
Lofa	13	0	10	10	8	2
Nimba	15	5	12	17	9	8
Grand Bassa	4	0	4	4	4	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>11</b>

#### Activity 1.4.4 Supporting job creation through youth enterprises as power tiller service providers

**Task: 1.4.4.1 Identify and recruit 20 youth towards establishment of power tiller businesses to support lowland rice farmers in land preparation**

In November, USAID FED identified a total of 18 youth as potential entrepreneurs to establish power tiller service businesses in FY15 (Table 25). In December, two additional youth will be identified and the capital requirements of the 20 youth will be determined. It is anticipated that the 20 youth will receive training and be equipped with power-tillers during Q2 of FY15.

Table 25: Identification of youth entrepreneurs (power tillers).

County	FY15 Youth Targets	# of Youth Identified in Oct	# of Youth Identified in Nov	# of Youth Identified YTD	Male	Female
Bong	5	0	5	5	5	0
Lofa	7	0	5	5	4	1
Nimba	5	0	5	5	5	0
Grand Bassa	3	0	3	3	3	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>

#### Activity 1.4.5 Supporting job creation through training youth as machine operators

**Task: 1.4.5.1 Identify and train 58 youth towards operation of cassava processing and 40 youth towards operation of rice milling equipment**

USAID FED identified a total of 45 youth as potential employees to be seconded to cassava and rice processing enterprises (Table 26). The selection of the youth will be completed in December and the youth will be deployed in Q2 to interested cassava and rice processors.

Table 26: Identification of machine operators (cassava processing, machine and rice mill).

County	FY15 Youth Targets	# of Youth Identified in Oct	# of Youth Identified in Nov	# of Youth Identified YTD	Male	Female
Bong	33	0	18	18	16	2
Lofa	24	0	8	8	7	1
Nimba	25	0	10	10	7	3
Grand Bassa	10	0	6	6	6	0
Montserrado	6	0	3	3	3	0
<b>TOTALs</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>6</b>

### Activity 1.4.6 Supporting job creation through blacksmiths and carpenter enterprises

#### Task: 1.4.5.1 Procure and distribute start-up kits equipment and distribute to 16 apprentices

During the month of November, USAID FED distributed start-up kits to 16 carpentry apprentices in Bong, Lofa, Nimba and Grand Bassa counties. Each of the start-up kits included safety goggles, hammer, crosscut saw, clamps, wood chisels, nail puller, measure tape, utility knife, tool box, sliding T bevel, working gloves, putty knives and tool bag value at US\$399 per apprentice. The youth carpenters will assist with the construction of FY15 goat production shelters in the counties. They will also receive training on managing small enterprises during Q2 of FY15.

#### Task: 1.4.5.2 Conduct training for 8 master blacksmith and 16 youths as blacksmiths

During the reporting period, 16 youth blacksmiths started a 90 day apprenticeship with eight master blacksmiths in Nimba, Bong, Lofa, and Grand Bassa counties (two master blacksmiths and 4 apprentices per county are participating in the training). The apprentices are being trained on the fabrication of local farming tools. The apprenticeship program is anticipated to end in February 2015.

## Sub Task 1.5: Improving Human Nutrition

#### Task 1.5.1.1 Hiring of Behavior Change Specialist

In November, USAID FED completed the SOW for the recruitment of a Behavior Change Specialist (International STTA). The position was advertised by DAI and a total of five CVs were shortlisted. The interviews of these potential candidates will be conducted in December. Tasks 1.5.1.2 to 1.5.1.7 will be carried out by this STTA.

### Activity 1.5.2 DBCC Strategy implemented and monitored

#### Task 1.5.2.1 Community materials printed and multiplied for dissemination

This activity is reliant on the development of the Diet Behavior Change Communication (DBCC) strategy by the Behavior Change Specialist (International STTA), and will be carried out between February and September 2015.

### **Activity 1.5.3 Nutrition messaging outreach to more households**

***Task 1.5.3.1 Revise existing material, develop posters, flyers and radio messages conveying nutrition messaging with specific focus on behavior change targeting: diet diversification within HH I general and for pregnant women and children under two years.***

USAID FED developed a nutrition poster in collaboration with the MoA. The poster will be used in disseminating nutrition messages. It was tested during a one day Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA) Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop by VSLA chairladies and Community Field Officers (CFOs) in Lofa County. During the workshop 25 participants (2 male, 23 female) received direct nutritional messages and learned about diet diversification and the importance of proper nutrition for pregnant women and children. The training also emphasized the need to disseminate accurate messages to members of their groups and respective communities.

## **Component Two: Stimulate Private Sector Growth and Investment**

### **Task 2: Enabling Policy Environment for Private Sector Growth**

#### **Policy Reform Activities**

Due to the Ebola crisis and the limited in-country availability of both USAID FED and partner staff, operations of the technical working groups have been suspended until further notice. This includes the Liberia Agriculture Business Enabling Environment Inter-agency Policy Group (LABEE IPG) and the technical working group to be established to push forward the seed certification processes.

#### **Subtask 2.1: Access to Financing**

Since Q4 of 2013, USAID FED has supported the creation of 123 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) for 3,400 farmers (mostly women). Through the month of October 2014, the VSLA groups have generated access to capital for investment in agricultural activities in the amount of US\$150,196.

VSLAs that have 'graduated' and shared out after the first cycle are eligible to apply for loans from the Central Bank's Loan Extension and Availability Facility (LEAF). The loans, which are typically three years with quarterly payments at 3% annual interest rate, will be used by the VSLAs for on-lending to their members.

The Central Bank of Liberia facilitated the creation of The National Association of Village Savings and Loan Association (NAPEX) to streamline the application process. NAPEX has elected leadership structures from a base of existing VSLAs at the national, county and district levels throughout the 15 counties.

NAPEX is intended to enhance the delivery of information among member VSLAs in a coordinated fashion, provide the opportunity for feedback on the implementation of activities, and help the Central Bank improve risk management by assisting in loan origination due diligence and the repayment process. All VSLAs wishing to apply for loans through LEAF will be required to register with NAPEX.

## **VSLA Action Audit and Cash Share Out**

USAID FED trained 2 VSLA groups from Montserrado and Margibi counties in share out/audit operations. The New Generation Women (23 females) and Yanwellie Agriculture Project (30 females) learned about cash out sharing procedures. The training is done at the close of the VLSA cycle to demonstrate the impact of the share out procedure in building confidence, transparency and accountability amongst members (Figure 6).

Within the period of one year, the New Generation Women generated a loan pool of US\$2,570 in total savings including interest while New Yanwellie Agriculture Project generated a loan pool of US\$3,959 USD.



*Figure 6: New Generational Women members at the VSLA Action Audit and Cash Share Out exercise, Montserrado County.*

## **VSLA Micro-credit Union**

During the reporting period, a total of five USAID FED supported VSLA groups in Nimba County established Zoedoar Women Village Saving Groups Credit Union. Zoedoar Women VSLA, Karnplay Women VSLA, Dioplay VSLA, Garplay VSLA and Lapea # 1 VSLA contributed a total of US\$500,000 towards the establishment of the Credit Union. A women interim management team comprising 10 members has been formed to develop the Credit Union's constitution.

## **Subtask 2.2: Access to Business Development Support (BDS) Services and Enterprise Service Centers**

### **Establish Five Enterprise Service Centers**

In November, USAID FED issued a Request for Proposal (RfP) to identify a master business service provider to train five business service providers in Montserrado/Margibi, Bong, Lofa, Nimba and Grand Bassa counties in business development. The deadline for submissions is December 10.

The five Enterprise Service Centers (ESCs) will support the growth of new businesses and the formalization of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Ideally, these hubs will use a self-sustaining, fee-for-service business model in providing business advisory services and marketing outlets.

### **Business Training and Mentorship to Access Finance**

Due to the Ebola crisis and the limited in-country availability of both USAID FED and partner staffing, there were no activities implemented under this activity during the reporting period.

## Subtask 2.3 Women Participation in Agribusiness

### Leadership and business incubation for women entrepreneurs

USAID FED trained 43 participants from Nimba (14 women, 8 girls) and Grand Bassa (14 women, 9 girls) counties in Modules 5 and 6 of the Leadership and Business Incubation program. Participants learned about Strategic Planning and Business Registration (Figure 7). The training sessions included:

Module 5 topics:

- Introduction to Strategic Planning
- Creating Vision and Mission
- Setting Goals
- Defining Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT)
- Developing Action Plan and Timeline
- Selecting indicators to monitor success

Module 6 topics:

- Introduction to Business and Finance
- How to keep Records
- Business Registration

USAID FED designed the Leadership and Business Incubation program for Women Entrepreneurs to address two critical constraints facing women: lower human capital (leadership and business skills) and limited access to networks and information. The project uses a combined capacity development approach through basic leadership and business skills training followed by mentorship and virtual business incubation.



Figure 7: Participants during a break out session, Grand Bassa County.

## Component Three: Build Local Technical and Managerial Human Resource Capability

### Task 3 Develop Existing Vocational Centers into Centers of Excellence in Vocational Agriculture Education (CoE)

#### Booker Washington Institute

USAID FED Senior Engineer and the Booker Washington Institute (BWI) technical team conducted an assessment and estimate review for the renovation of four classrooms. The BWI principal solicited USAID FED's support for the rehabilitation of the four classrooms set aside for the NDA program roll out. The required renovations include:

- Window and chair reconditioning and painting
- Arm chair repair
- Renovation of four classrooms adjacent to the Agriculture Department to host NDA students
- Library renovation to improve ventilation, lighting system and the general outfitting

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The NDA program is expected to commence during the 2014/2015 academic school year.

## **ICT Support in Library and Agriculture Department**

### **Nimba and Lofa County Community Colleges**

USAID FED procured and delivered assorted ICT equipment including V-sat (for internet) for installation at the libraries, career and resource centers of both Nimba County Community Colleges (NCCC) and Lofa County Community Colleges (LCCC). The items are at the CoEs pending an assessment and grounding of internet facilities. The grounding system and equipment installation are expected to be completed before the reopening of schools.

### **Agriculture Science Laboratories**

During the reporting period, BWI Principal Alexander Massey approved the soil science laboratory plan. Grand Bassa Community College authorities did not submit the signed document approving the design of the soils laboratories to USAID FED. USAID FED conducted an on-site compliance, design and estimates review of the technical draft reports submitted by architecture and engineering firm Global Construction and Mechanical Company (GCMC) contracted for the construction of the four Centers of Excellence. GCMC completed the assessments and designs in line with their scope of work.

### **NCCC Student Demo Farm Activities**

USAID FED and NCCC Marketing and NCCC Business Managers conducted a three day market survey of cassava products, covering 25 vendors in Voinjama, Lofa County, as part of the development of the CoE's cassava enterprise plan. The compiled field data has been submitted to the NCCC Marketing Manager for analysis.

In November, NCCC completed goat shelter construction while the wire fencing required to cover the 1 ha area is nearing completion. USAID FED recruited a lead carpenter, supervised by the USAID Goat Value Chain Officer in Nimba County and assisted by a total of six volunteer agriculture students, to construct the goat shelter. Goat shelter construction supports the development of farm enterprises at NCCC. The shelter will officially be turned over to NCCC in December.

### **LCCC Student Demo Farm Activities**

During the reporting period, LCCC threshed and bagged a total of 57 (50 kg) bags, or 2.85 MT of paddy rice (Nerica-L-19) from 3 ha. A total of 48 out of 60 plots were under cultivation. USAID FED's support to the LCCC demo farm commenced in September and November when the rice had already been transplanted and was in its physiological stage. This made it difficult for the project to conduct the necessary technical site pre-assessment and establish corrective measures before transplanting. Additionally, there was no timely application of fertilizer and agro-chemicals during and after transplanting.

USAID FED procured farming tools totaling US\$4,306. These were delivered but not yet utilized by LCCC. A shipment of 5 bags of USAID FED procured urea fertilizer was also not utilized during the 2014 farming season due to its late arrival. The farming tools and urea fertilizer will be utilized in the 2015 season. USAID FED will procure seed rice, agro-chemicals and additional fertilizer materials for the 2015 farming season.

USAID FED will put the following measures in place to achieve the Project targets:

- Work with USAID FED Water and Irrigation Management Specialist to conduct site assessments and provide technical advice for the next planting season
- Time the various planting seasons and start early preparations/TAMIS approvals for the activities
- Commence early procurement of farming inputs such as agro-chemicals to be dispatched to the field.

### **BWI Farm Development Activities**

During the reporting period, the BWI production unit conducted major crop maintenance activities and site expansion targeting a 1 ha plot for vegetable production required for this dry season. According to the BWI Farm Manager, an additional 2 ha vegetable site will be cultivated in January 2015 to meet the markets' demands. A total of 3 ha production sites will be used for student research and demonstration sites to enhance production activities at BWI. Fencing of the demo farms to protect crops from animals and thieves is a major task, while pest control is ongoing.

BWI Head of Agriculture, Jacob Swee, requested a water pump and hoses to irrigate the vegetable sites during the dry season. He noted that crops are experiencing reduced water intake and slow soil moisture reduction. BWI contracted a team of plumbers to assess the water reservoir tank near the vegetable site and concluded that it would be too costly to repair the tank. Purchasing a water pump would be a cheaper solution.

In November, USAID FED met with BWI Principal, Alexander Massey and the entire BWI Vegetable Enterprise Team to discuss the way forward for the vegetable enterprise. The following is a summary of pertinent points discussed during the meeting:

1. The BWI Vegetable Enterprise Management Team will have to work together for the success of the enterprise. The Business Manager and Marketing Manager will have to get more involved in enterprise operations.
2. BWI must provide the pipes needed to supply water to the vegetable farm.
3. Selective harvesting must be done at regular intervals for the okra and cucumber crops to bear.
4. BWI Principal spelled out the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Business and Marketing Managers. USAID FED advised that BWI Principal gives each member of the Vegetable Enterprise a letter of appointment with their ToRs to enable them to better function.
5. It was agreed that the BWI Management will employ five persons to help produce compost. Compost making commenced on November 27, 2014.
6. BWI is awaiting a final response from USAID FED regarding the renovation of the four classrooms.
7. BWI must finalize and send the financial policies and marketing plan to USAID FED.

The BWI Principal agreed to provide the pipes needed to supply water to the vegetable site while USAID FED constructs the well and irrigation system. The BWI Business Manager promised to complete the financial policies by December. The BWI marketing plan was submitted to USAID FED in November.

### **GRAND BASSA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

During the reporting period, USAID FED met the Grand Bassa County Community College (GBCC) Vegetable Enterprise Team to discuss the progress of the operation. The clearing of the vegetable

cultivation site is in progress, and the 1 ha of land for cultivation is 85% complete. The chili pepper, bitter ball and eggplant crops are planted in nurseries.

USAID FED and GBCC visited the vegetable enterprise site under cultivation at the Paynesberry Campus. During the visit, USAID FED confirmed that GBCC received the USAID FED procured wood chipper. GBCC has hired 5 casual workers who are presently clearing the site. Transplanting seedlings will commence soon.

### **Update on LCCC Goat shelter**

During the reporting period, LCCC received 488 planks of wood required for goat shelter construction. The wood was identified in Voinjama, Lofa County and was part of LCCC's contribution towards the construction of the goat shelter. The recruitment of a lead carpenter is in process and the carpenter is expected to commence work in December.

### **Goat and Lowland Rice Enterprise Business Plan**

USAID FED and the LCCC Marketing Manager and Farm Manager conducted a one day marketing survey for seed rice and paddy rice sales and goat sales covering vendors in Kolahun, Foyah and Voinjama. The survey is intended to support the establishment of the goat and rice enterprises at LCCC.

The data has been compiled and submitted to the Marketing Manager for interpretation. The results of the survey will feed into the market analysis for the business plan development. During the exercise, the survey team visited the New Foya Market, several cooperatives in Foya, the Kolahum Brothers Cooperatives and Kolahum Central Market.

### **Library facilities upgraded, outfitted and effectively maintained**

USAID FED contracted a Specialist Librarian, Mr. Forkpa Kemah, to train local librarian and library staff from BWI, LCCC, NCCC and GBCCC on how to effectively improve library management and operations at Suakoko, Bong County. The four day intensive training and workshop is the first phase of the two phases of the activity. The next activity is scheduled for March 2015.

In March, the Specialist Librarian will travel to each of the four CoEs to mentor the librarians and assess the operation and maintenance of the libraries. The librarians are expected to manage books and reference materials in hard and electronic copies that will support the roll-out of the National Diploma in Agriculture (NDA).



## Component Four: Cross-Cutting Activities

### Task 4.1: Communications/Knowledge Management

#### USAID FED Media Stories

USAID FED was not featured in any media reports during the month of November.

### Task 4.2: Environmental Compliance

USAID FED developed an environmental monitoring tool for the FY15 field activities across the value chains to ensure compliance with USAID and Government of Liberia (GoL) environmental regulations.

In keeping with the GoL regulation on the operation of biomass generation, USAID FED supported the issuance of an environmental permit for the installation and operation of the biomass power generator that will provide electric power to the FABRAR Liberia rice milling facility in Kakata, Margibi County.

### Task 4.3: Monitoring & Evaluation

#### Other M&E Activities

##### *Rapid Rural Assessment (RRA)*

USAID FED completed data collection activities under the RRA in all 44 districts in Lofa, Nimba, Bong and Grand Bassa counties. Table 27 shows the coverage of the RRA in these four counties.

Table 27: Rapid Rural Assessment coverage by county.

County	District	No. of CLAN	No. of Focus Group Discussions (FGD) Conducted per CLAN	Total No. of CLAN Surveyed and Completed to Date
Bong	Boinsen	2	2	2
Bong	Fuamah	5	5	5
Bong	Jorquelleh	5	5	5
Bong	Kokoyah	2	2	2
Bong	Kpaai	2	2	2
Bong	Panta	3	3	3
Bong	Salala	4	4	4
Bong	Sanoyeah	7	7	7
Bong	Suakoko	3	3	3
Bong	Tukpahblee	2	2	2
Bong	Yeallequelleh	4	4	4
Bong	Zota	5	5	5

<b>S/Total Bong</b>	<b>12 Districts</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>44</b>
Grand Bassa	Commonwealth2	14	14	14
Grand Bassa	District # 1	10	10	10
Grand Bassa	District # 2	10	10	10
Grand Bassa	District # 3	14	14	14
Grand Bassa	District # 4	9	9	9
Grand Bassa	Neekreen	11	11	11
Grand Bassa	Owensgrove	2	2	2
Grand Bassa	St. John River City	10	10	10
<b>S/Total GB</b>	<b>8 Districts</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>
Lofa	Foya	3	3	3
Lofa	Kolahun	6	6	6
Lofa	Quardu Boundi	1	1	1
Lofa	Salayea	3	3	3
Lofa	Vahun	3	3	3
Lofa	Voinjama	3	3	3
Lofa	Zorzor	3	3	3
<b>S/Total Lofa</b>	<b>7 Districts</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>22</b>
Nimba	Boe & Quilla	4	4	4
Nimba	Buu-Yao	7	7	7
Nimba	Doe	5	5	5
Nimba	Garr-Bain	3	3	3
Nimba	Gbehlay-Geh	4	4	4
Nimba	Gbi & Doru	4	4	4
Nimba	Gbor	4	4	4
Nimba	Kparblee	4	4	4
Nimba	Leewehpea-Mahn	4	4	4
Nimba	Meinpea-Mahn	5	5	5
Nimba	Sanniquellie Mahn	2	2	2
Nimba	Twan River	7	7	7
Nimba	Wee-Gbehyi-Mahn	4	4	4
Nimba	Yarwein	4	4	4
Nimba	Yarpea Mahn	5	5	5
Nimba	Yarwein Mehnsonnoh	3	3	3
Nimba	Zoe-Gbao	5	5	5
<b>S/Total Nimba</b>	<b>17 Districts</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44 Districts</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>220</b>

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## **Mapping**

USAID FED developed initial maps for the RRA data collected from Nimba and Grand Bassa counties. To date, maps on project lowlands and major production areas for the 5 districts in Nimba County have been developed.

USAID FED also generated maps projecting the overlay of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) cases in USAID FED's zones of influence in all counties to inform decision making and program implementation.

## **Task 4.4 Market Development Fund Management**

### **MDF Disbursements**

During the month of November, the Market Development Fund (MDF) expended US\$156,143.25 on 31 MDF activities across USAID FED's three components.

### **MDF Commitments**

During November, activity development under MDF/TAMIS ramped up for the 2015 agricultural season, with the team entering FY15 work plan activities into TAMIS, and finalizing budgets and SoWs. The MDF Technical Committee reviewed and approved five activities under CLIN01, one activity under CLIN02, and two activities under CLIN03, with a total value of US\$1,084,490.05.

### **Fiscal Year 2015 MDF Expended as of November 30, 2014**

The estimated FY15 MDF Budget for all three CLINs is US\$9,123,529.96 and as of November 30, 2014, US\$908,034.64 (or 9.95% of the budget) had been expended.