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# PEOPLE, RULES, AND ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF ECOSYSTEM RESOURCES (PROSPER)

QUARTERLY REPORT, FY16 Q3  
1 April – 30 June 2016



JULY 2016

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Tetra Tech ARD.

**Front Cover Photo:** Community members arriving for the Fourth Annual Outreach and Awareness Campaign Launch in Monrovia, March 2016

**Photo Credit:** Jackson Nobeh, PROSPER Component One Lead

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## **DISCLAIMER**

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

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# ACRONYMS

ACC	Agriculture Coordinating Council
AGRHA	Action for Greater Harvest
AML	ArcelorMittal Liberia
APM	Advanced Participation Methods
ASNAPP	Agribusiness in Sustainable Natural African Plant Products
AYP	Advancing Youth Program
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
BGF	Big Gio Forest
BOTPAL	Botanical Products Association of Liberia
CA	Community Assembly
CDC	County Development Committee
CDSC	Community Development Steering Committee
CDWG	Curriculum Development Working Group
CF	Community Forestry
CFDC	Community Forestry Development Committee
CFG	Community Forest Guard
CFMA	Community Forest Management Agreement
CFMB	Community Forestry Management Body
CFOC	Community Forest Organizing Committees
CFWG	Community Forestry Working Group
CI	Conservation International
CJPS	Center for Justice and Peace Studies
CM	Community Mobilizer
COA	Communications and Outreach Advisor (PROSPER)
COP	Chief of Party (PROSPER)
CPG	Cassava-producing Group
CPOP	Commercial Palm Oil Producers

CRL	Community Rights Law
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CWG	Cocoa Working Group
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party (PROSPER)
EA	Educational Advisor (PROSPER)
ELI	Environmental Law Institute
ENNR	East Nimba Nature Reserve
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ETD	Environmental Threshold Decision
FDA	Forestry Development Authority
FED	Food and Enterprise Development Project
FFI	Fauna and Flora International
FFS	Farmer Field School
FMC	Forest Management Concession
Ftf	Feed the Future
FTI	Forestry Training Institute
GAP	Good Agricultural/Agroforestry Practices
GIO	Gender Integration Officer
GOL	Government of Liberia
GVL	Golden Veroleum Liberia
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
JCFMB	Joint Community Forestry Management Body
L-MEP	Liberia-Monitoring and Evaluation Project
L/EDOA	Lead for Education Development and Outreach Activities (PROSPER)
L/LEDA	Lead for Livelihood and Enterprise Development Activities (PROSPER)
LA	Livelihoods Advisor (PROSPER)
LAC	Liberian Agriculture Company
LC	Land Commission
LFSP	Liberia Forest Support Program
LRCFP	Land Rights and Community Forestry Program
LTTA	Long-term Technical Assistance

LTTP	Liberia Teacher Training Program
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
M&E Specialist	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (PROSPER)
MDA	Minerals Development Agreement
MoE	Ministry of Education
NAEAL	National Adult Education Association of Liberia
NBST	National Benefit Sharing Trust
NBSTB	NBST Board
NCCSC	National Climate Change Steering Committee and Secretariat (NCCSC)
NFRL	National Forestry Reform Law
NNBSG	Northern Nimba Biodiversity Stakeholders Group
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NTFP	Non-timber Forest Product
ODGA	Organizational Development and Governance Advisor (PROSPER)
PAD	Public Awareness Department for the FDA
PES	Payment for Environmental Services
PIDS	Project Information Database System
PMP	Performance Management Plan
PROSPER	People, Rules and Organizations Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources
PUP	Private Use Permit
SADS	Skills and Agricultural Development Services
SAMFU	Save My Future Foundation
SCFA	Senior Community Forestry Advisor (PROSPER)
SCNL	Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia
STEWARD	Sustainable and Thriving Environments for West African Regional Development
STTA	Short-term Technical Assistance
TSC	Timber Sale Contract
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

USFS	United States Forest Service
VPA-SU	Voluntary Partnership Agreement Support Unit
WONGOSOL	Women's NGOs Secretariat of Liberia

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To build on previous United States Government investments in the forestry and agricultural sectors, particularly the Land Rights and Community Forestry Program (2007–2011) and the Liberia Forestry Support Program (2011–2012), USAID contracted Tetra Tech ARD in May 2012 to implement a new, five-year program (2012–2017) entitled People, Rules, and Organizations Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources (PROSPER). The overall goal of the program is to introduce, operationalize, and refine appropriate models for community management of forest resources for local self-governance and enterprise development in targeted areas of the country. The three primary objectives of the program are:

1. Expand educational and institutional capacity to improve environmental awareness, natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, and environmental compliance;
2. Improve community-based forest management leading to more sustainable practices and reduced threats to biodiversity in target areas; and
3. Enhance community-based livelihoods derived from sustainable forest-based and agriculture-based enterprises in target areas.

This Quarterly Report provides a description of the activities undertaken by PROSPER during the third quarter of fiscal year 2016 (FY16Q3), April - June 2016.

During FY16Q3, PROSPER supported the work of four (4) STTAs on the project to provide the following technical assistance:

1. Emiko Guthe – GIS Expert (June 2016)
  - a. To provide follow on training in GIS skills to PROSPER and FDA GIS Specialists and field staff including spatial data management, analysis and cartography skills. An emphasis was put on working with the FDA to agree upon a map for posting demarcation results.
2. Andrew Wilson – Education and Curriculum Development Specialist (May 2016)
  - a. Review of lessons learned, best practices, and assessment of the development of environmental education curriculum, in fulfillment of PROSPER Deliverable 24;
  - b. Assessment of Environmental Curriculum Materials in collaboration with partners, in fulfillment of PROSPER Deliverable 4a.
3. William Cordero – Forest Resource Inventory and Land Use Specialist (May 2016)
  - a. Develop a report on proposed best practices for community-based low impact timber harvesting in Liberia made available to stakeholders, in fulfillment of PROSPER Deliverable 18.
  - b. Develop an appropriate methodology to inventory the timber and non-timber forest products in community forest pilot areas, for use by community-level forest management bodies in taking stock, keeping track of and sustainably using their forest resources.

4. Erica Dunmire – M&E Specialist (June 2016)
  - a. Review institutional capacity assessment tools and ensure M&E staff are able to utilize the tool for annual assessment;
  - b. Provide training to the M&E Specialist and Officer in data collection, management and reporting.

The community level rollout of the Fourth Annual Outreach campaign began in March, at the end of the last quarter; however, activities peaked through May and June. Driven by CF leaders, the exercise covered thirty-six (36) towns and villages in PROSPER zones in northern Nimba, fifty-four (54) towns in southern Nimba, and thirty-nine (39) towns and villages in Grand Bassa County.

The extended outreach activities to the three new PROSPER counties (Sinoe, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh) included training of radio broadcasters in the respective counties and the airing of radio programs and dramas. PROSPER's Extended Outreach Coordinator made several follow up trips to the counties to monitor progress of the outreach. She continues to work with the radio stations to ensure the programs are correctly monitored and that the people in the communities are receiving the intended messages from the activities. A more detailed report will be included in the annual report.

Throughout the quarter, PROSPER and the FDA worked closely together to continue with demarcation exercises in all of the PROSPER sites. While it was anticipated that Demarcation notices and SER survey results would be posted in April 2016, actual postings did not commence until the end of the Quarter due to ensuring all necessary government agencies and officials in the respective counties were properly informed before the process commenced.

There were 13 deliverables actively worked on during FY16Q3, which included eight deliverables that were carried over from previous quarters and one submitted ahead of schedule. Seven deliverables were submitted and approved, two were submitted and are pending approval, and the remaining four are nearly complete. A more detailed summary of the deliverables is found in Annex 5, below.

In addition to PROSPER's contractual obligations, there has been close coordination between PROSPER and the new USAID/FIFES project to ensure continuity of PROSPER's work and progress in the Community Forestry. Bi-weekly coordination meetings between the COP's and inclusion of FIFES staff during workplanning sessions has assisted with the transfer of knowledge to FIFES. PROSPER has also signed an MOU with FIFES regarding the shared use of PROSPER guest houses in Tappita, Sanniquellie and Buchanan.

## **FY16 Q3 HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Component I: Education, Outreach, and Awareness**

- In collaboration with community mobilizers and students, PROSPER designed and supported the implementation of programs for nature clubs across the various sites;
- Organized and conducted a daylong Education Review Workshop with the CDWG to review lessons learned, best practices, and to assess the EE-curriculum development process;
- Field teams supported CF leaders to plan activities to rollout the 4th Annual Outreach Campaign across PROSPER zones in communities in Northern and Southern Nimba, and Grand Bassa Counties;
- In conjunction with the Public Awareness Department (PAD) of the FDA, PROSPER developed training materials for community radio broadcasters and national level media partners;

- Trained sixteen (16) community radio producers from PROSPER's three (3) target zones in southeastern and western Liberia, in the design and production of interactive talk shows;
- Supported the broadcast of a forty-two (42) episode drama, and radio messages on the CRL, on community radio stations in Nimba and Grand Bassa;
- Began monitoring weekly radio drama and radio programs on community radio stations across sites through collaboration with the FDA;
- Developed three (3) core messages, a monologue, and radio content for community radio stations;
- In collaboration with FDA, conducted extended outreach and awareness in the communities in southeastern and western Liberia;
- Observed and assessed the implementation of the FTI curriculum, with a specific focus on the delivery of the CF curriculum, and documented this in an M&E Assessment Report;
- Completed the Nine Steps Handbook, and had it approved and adopted by the FDA's Community Forestry Department, which is now using it to inform the community forestry program more broadly.

### **Component 2: Forest Management and Biodiversity**

- Provided training to CFMBs in financial policy and business management;
- Supported the FDA to ground-truth and address issues arising from the preliminary demarcation;
- Supported the CF governance bodies to participate in County-level forums;
- Conducted exchange visit from the Golama Community with Society for the Conservation of Liberia;
- Completed Deliverable 26, for a total of 12 Policy Briefs that PROSPER has written. They will be distributed to relevant stakeholder;
- Progress on the harmonization of CRL Regulations with FDA.

### **Component 3: Livelihood and Enterprise Development**

- Completed second phase of introductory training in proposal writing skills and business plan development to the three CFMBs (Blei, Gba and Zor) in Sanniquellie;
- Completed Deliverable 18 - *Report on proposed best practices for community-based low impact timber harvesting in Liberia made available to stakeholders*;
- FY15 Oil palm nursery farmers begins out-planting;
- FY16 oil palm nursery farmers complete payment toward the establishment of four new oil palm nurseries;
- Farmer-to Farmer exchange visits organized for FY16 oil palm nursery farmers in Q4;
- Cocoa rehabilitation field days organized;
- 253 (59 male, 194 female) new crop diversification farmers participate in Farming as a Business and Crop Diversification trainings;
- Provided technical assistance to 33 crop diversification groups;
- Cocoa reference price launched on Tappita community radio station;
- Universal Outreach Foundation (UOF) organized five new beekeeping groups in five towns and recruited 103 farmers to participate in FY16 beekeeping activities;
- Extension support provided to FY15 Beekeeping groups;
- Three hives harvested in two communities;
- Nine additional hives colonized.

# I.0 PROSPER SITES

The following map and matrices list the established and proposed Community Forests being supported under PROSPER.



	County	Town	Community	Hectares (Approx)	Comments
1	Grand Bassa	Buchanan	Barconnie	611	Pilot Community
2	Grand Bassa	District 4	Kpogblean	11,903	Pilot Community
3	Nimba	Tappita	Gblor	8,176	Pilot Community
4	Nimba	Tappita	Gbear/Gblor	8,834	Pilot Community
5	Nimba	Tappita	Kparblee	10,707	Pilot Community
6	Nimba	Tappita	Boe Quilla	7,675	Pilot Community

7	Nimba	Tappita	Sehzuplay	9,410	Pilot Community
8	Nimba	Sannequellie	Sehyi	667	Pilot Community
9	Nimba	Sannequellie	Gba	10,939	Established CF under LRCFP
10	Nimba	Sannequellie	Zor	1,112	Established CF under LRCFP
11	Nimba	Sannequellie	Blei	614	Established CF under LRCFP

# 2.0 MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

## 2.1 STAFFING

Personnel changes for FY16Q3 affecting PROSPER included the following:

1. In May, the vacant M&E Officer position was filled by Harris Belleh.
2. All positions are filled at this time.

## 2.2 SUBCONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

### National Subcontractors

There were no significant administrative actions taken with the two national subcontractors, the National Adult Education Association of Liberia (NAEAL) or the Center for Justice and Peace Studies (CJPS).

### International Subcontractors

- PCI Media – Contract complete.
- Rutgers University – No significant administrative changes.
- ASNAPP – No significant administrative changes.
- ACDI/VOCA's - No significant administrative changes.
- FFI – No significant administrative changes.
- dTS – No significant administrative changes.

## 2.3 CROSS-CUTTING TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

### Gender Integration:

#### Introduction & Summary

In support of PROSPER's plan to mainstream gender in the Community Forestry sector, two speakers were identified for the social inclusion forum during the quarter. On April 29 and May 27, respectively, two separate presentations were delivered by Moriah K. D. Yeakula, the Assistant Labor Minister for Administration, and Hon. Darlington S. Tuagben, the Deputy Managing Director for Operations of the FDA, to the students of the Forestry Training Institute (FTI) in Tubmanburg, Bomi County. In total, approximately 140 students attended the presentations.

In support of its community empowerment initiatives, PROSPER also presented outreach materials to WONGOSAL – the umbrella organization for NGOs addressing gender issues in Liberia – during this reporting period. The presentation was made at WONGOSAL's office in the YWCA compound on Tubman Boulevard, in Monrovia. PROSPER staff explained that the purpose of the presentation was to share information on sustainable Community Forest management with the various organization under

the WONGOSAL umbrella. PROSPER staff encouraged attendees to reach out to forest communities and raise awareness about the Community Rights Law (CRL), the CRL Regulations, and other supporting laws and regulations.

Also in support of PROSPER's plan to mainstream gender, a leadership and inclusive group facilitation skills training was conducted for nine (9) new Crop Diversification Small Groups (CDSGs) in Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties. The objective of the training was to raise the technical capacity of the CDSGs in Nimba and Grand Bassa to the same standard as other CDSGs, who had already benefited from similar training; help each group formally structure its leadership and define the roles and responsibilities of each position within the leadership, through a consensus-based approach; and to generally improve the leadership skills of group members.

#### FTI/PROSPER Social Inclusion Forum

In continuation of PROSPER's promotion of gender mainstreaming in Community Forestry, two speakers were identified to talk to the students at the Forestry Training Institute in Tubmanburg, Bomi County, at the social inclusion forum.

On May 27, Hon. Moriah K. D. Yeakula, the Assistant Minister for Administration at the Ministry of Labor, delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the theme: "The Importance of Formal Education in Today's World." In her presentation, Hon. Yeakula emphasized the need for formal education in the forestry sector, as opposed to apprenticeships, which are emphasized in some other professions, and informal education. She emphasized the benefits of formal education with regard to critical thinking and problem solving, as well as marketability for employment. She argued that formal education is the surest way to a better life, as it increases income levels and is critical to nation building and development.

The second presentation was given by Hon. Darlington S. Tuagben, the Deputy Managing Director for Operations of the FDA. On May 27, Hon. Tuagben delivered a presentation on the theme: "Growing Gender and Social Mainstreaming in the Forest Sector of Liberia". Hon. Tuagben explained the critical role of gender in development strategies, and how effective inclusion of gender sensitive strategies and mainstreaming contributes to the elimination of hunger, reducing poverty, and promoting peaceful, sustainable and equitable development. If progress in these areas are to continue, he argued, greater attention must be given to promoting and eradicating gender inequality. African women constitute more than half of the population; therefore, any effective development strategy that is adopted to promote sustainable development cannot ignore the critical role of gender. He encouraged the students, especially women, to remain focused and complete their studies, rather than pursuing employment for short-term gain – they would personally benefit in the long-term, and the country needs mid-level technicians to support local communities in the forestry sector.

The two presentations provoked healthy discussion between the presenters and students, leading the students to call for more presentations and speakers to provide guidance and mentorship.

#### Presentation of outreach materials to WONGOSAL

On Monday May 2, the PROSPER Gender Officer presented outreach materials to WONGOSAL. The presentation was made at WONGOSAL's office in the YWCA compound on Tubman Boulevard, in Monrovia. Outreach materials that were distributed included illustrated posters outlining the Nine Steps, calendars, copies of the CRL and the CRL Regulations, and flyers illustrating protected wildlife. The Gender Officer explained that this was PROSPER's way of sharing information on sustainable Community Forest management with organizations in the WONGOSAL network. She encouraged attendees to reach out to forest communities and raise awareness about the CRL, the CRL Regulations, and other supporting laws and regulations – women in forest communities have interests and concerns relating to sustainable CF management and need to be included.

Marpu Spare, the Executive Director of WONGOSAL, received the items, recognized PROSPER for the donation, and promised to use the materials for the purpose intended. She pledged her institution's commitment to continuous collaboration and partnership with PROSPER, to work to ensure that women in forest dependent communities are equitably represented and participate in the same manner as their male counterparts in the management of community forests.

Leadership and Inclusive Group Facilitation Skills Training for 9 new CDSGs in Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties.

May 20 to June 11, and June 20 to July 1

As part of PROSPER's plan to promote gender mainstreaming in Community Forestry, a training program was conducted to improve leadership and inclusive group facilitation skills for nine (9) new CDSGs in Nimba and Grand Bassa counties. In total, the program brought together three-hundred-and-twelve (312) participants from the nine (9) forest communities. The objective of the training was to raise the technical capacity of the CDSGs in Nimba and Grand Bassa to the same standard as other CDSGs, who had already benefited from similar training; help each group formally structure its leadership and define the roles and responsibilities of each position within the leadership, through a consensus-based approach; and to generally improve the leadership skills of group members.



Training methodologies included practical demonstrations by PROSPER staff, dividing participants into small groups for the purpose of focused discussions, and roleplaying. Due to the low literacy of the majority of participants, Gio, Mano and simple English were used to ensure that everyone was able to understand the content of the training program.

During the program it became clear there were organizational issues that needed to be addressed, especially with regard to the way in which the leadership of the new CDSGs was structured. For instance, in some of the groups CDSG officers competed for authority – in some cases there was both a President and Chairwoman, and a Vice-President and Co-Chairwoman. It was also clear that more senior CDSG officers, such as the Chairpersons, were oftentimes performing the functions of treasurers and field managers, which undermined the system overall. This created serious problems in some of the groups.

Training programs were held between May 30 and 31 in Gorpa Town, Zor community, and between June 6 and 10 in Zordah and Ben's Towns, in Harmonsville community and Farr town in District # 4, respectively. The training program in the Tappita area was held between June 20 and 30 in Marlay, Yriah, Old Yourpea and Gboutuo towns, respectively.

At the end of each two-day training program, the group's farms were visited, where discussions were held about the various challenges and successes the CDSG had experienced. All of the groups reported difficulties in getting the full membership to attend on working days. PROSPER staff reminded members

of the need to work as a team, and encouraged them to use what they learned from the spider web exercise to ensure the group remains cohesive and effective.

Following the training programs, CDSGs recognized that restructuring the leadership and clarifying the various roles and responsibilities was the best way to avoid misunderstandings, overlapping authority, and duplication of work. More broadly, the program encouraged members to take the lead in driving development initiatives in their communities, and provided them with the self-confidence to do so.

Sangay Mambo, FIFES' Gender Coordinator, accompanied PROSPER staff to observe the training on behalf of the Kwakerdoe women's group in Gboutuo. Participants overwhelmingly expressed their satisfaction with the training program that was conducted and their hope that similar exercises would be pursued under FIFES.

# 3.0 COMPONENT I: EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND AWARENESS

## COMPONENT I STATEMENT

The goal of Component I is to increase educational and institutional capacity to improve environmental awareness, natural resource management (NRM), biodiversity conservation and environmental compliance. Activities under this component support the Ministry of Education (MoE) to develop and pilot test curriculum materials including lesson plans and accompanying teaching and learning aids to strengthen formal primary school instruction on environmental and natural resource matters; engage the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and civil society organizations (CSOs) to increase public awareness of natural resources and environmental management issues; and support the Forestry Training Institute (FTI) to develop and deliver a community forestry curriculum.

## COMPONENT I ACTIVITIES

### ACTIVITY I.1: COLLABORATIVELY SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND/OR MODIFICATION OF PRIMARY, FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL SCHOOL CURRICULA TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING RELATED TO NATURAL RESOURCES, THEIR MANAGEMENT, AND THE RELATED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENT AND CITIZENS

#### RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q3)

**(Deliverable 24)** – Year I Education Review Workshop with the CDWG to review lessons learned, best practices, and to assess the development of formal and non-formal curricula

**(Deliverable 4a)** – Assessment of Environmental Curriculum Materials, in collaboration with partners, the MoE and the CDWG

In collaboration with community mobilizers, and students and teachers-in-charge (TICs), PROSPER designed and supported the implementation of programs for nature clubs across the various sites **(Result)**

#### Deliverables due during this quarter

- a) Deliverable 24 – Education Review Workshop with the CDWG to review lessons learned, best practices, and to assess the development of formal and non-formal curricula has been completed and a report submitted. An STTA worked with the PROSPER team to conduct a field assessment, and organize a one-day workshop with representatives from the MoE and the CDWG. The report is complete and currently being reviewed by PROSPER. This deliverable will be submitted in Q4.

- b) Deliverable 4a – The assessment of the environmental curriculum materials, in collaboration with partners, the MoE and the CDWG, in fulfillment of Deliverable 4a, has been completed and is currently being reviewed by PROSPER. An STTA worked with the PROSPER team to review the EE-curriculum and teaching materials. This deliverable will be submitted in Q4.

### **Major Achievements**

- In collaboration with community mobilizers, and students and TICs, PROSPER designed and supported the implementation of programs for nature clubs across the various sites;
- Organized and conducted a daylong Education Review Workshop with the CDWG to review lessons learned, best practices, and to assess the EE-curriculum development process.

*In collaboration with community mobilizers, and students and TICs, PROSPER designed and supported the implementation of programs for nature clubs across the various sites*

PROSPER collaborated with community mobilizers, education field coordinators and TICs, and developed programs for nature clubs in fifteen (15) public schools across PROSPER sites in Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties. While some of these extra curricula activities are based on the EE-curriculum, TICs and mobilizers showed initiative by outlining and scheduling outdoor activities to educate club members about their natural environment.

One of the key events of the quarter was the celebration of World Environment Day (WED 2016), which took place in early June. PROSPER collaborated with the EPA to support school administrators to organize three programs in Sanniquellie, Tappita, and Buchanan. These programs were intended to encourage students to participate in public events that promote environmental issues and to stimulate their interest in protecting the environment.

### **Key features of World Environment Day 2016 programs included:**

**Street parade:** - In each of the sites, TICs, community mobilizers and education and outreach coordinators worked with club members from all fifteen (15) schools and prepared them to participate in street parades. Over 400 students paraded with marching bands through the streets of Sanniquellie, Tappita, and Buchanan, joined by their teachers, representatives of the EPA, and other partners. Participants wore colorful T-shirts displaying messages encouraging the protection of wildlife and the environment. Other promotional materials included large banners designed with the theme of WED 2016, and local slogans adopted by the nature clubs.

**Indoor programs:** - Following the street parades, the students and their teachers, guided by community mobilizers, were assembled at venues across the sites where they participated in organized programs, which included speeches delivered by local authorities. To motivate club members to participate in public forums, and to encourage girls to be more active, the PROSPER education team mentored female

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<sup>1</sup> Nature Clubs are led by a Teacher-in-Charge (TIC) who has been appointed by the school administration. The students membership appoint their leaders. The leaders work with their TICs with technical guidance from an assigned PROSPER staff to develop their environmental activities based on lessons from the EE curriculum materials. These range from outdoor observation of the physical school environment, ecosystem functions, identification of environmental challenges, and environmental actions (e.g. establishment of school gardens, essays, etc.)

members of the nature clubs to read the National Proclamation on WED 2016. Selected boys and girls also gave speeches about some of Liberia's protected wildlife, including hornbills and chimpanzees.

**Environmental competition:** - As a climax to the activities, the clubs performed dramas, which were designed to promote sustainable forest management and highlight the importance of the environment. In Northern Nimba, the EE-club of Dulay public school emerged as the winner of the drama competition, while the Zor theater troupe clinched the prize for the environmental skit. In Southern Nimba, students who correctly answered questions during the environmental quiz received prizes. In Grand Bassa, students who drew or painted the best environmental picture also won prizes, including items such as book bags, notebooks, pencils, geometric sets, wall-clocks, and raingear.

Organized and conducted a daylong Education Review Workshop with the CDWG to review lessons learned, best practices, and to assess the EE-curriculum development process

In late May, PROSPER, with the support of an Education and Curriculum Assessment Specialist, organized a daylong workshop to review lessons learned, best practices, and to conduct an assessment of the development of the environmental education curriculum, in fulfilment of Deliverable 24. The workshop participants included members of the Curriculum Development Working Group (CDWG), representatives of the EPA, representatives from the office of Liberia's Deputy Minister for Instruction, and a team from the MoE's Center of Excellence for Curriculum Development and Textbook Research. Prior to holding the workshop, the PROSPER education team and the STTA visited twelve (12) public schools in the zones where PROSPER works. During the visit, a total of twenty-nine (29) teachers were interviewed about the effective delivery and efficacy of the EE-curriculum.

## **ACTIVITY 1.2: COLLABORATIVELY SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF NATURAL RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

### **RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q3)**

**(Deliverable 5a)** – Assessment of Del. 5 - Public outreach and awareness building approaches field tested with relevant GOL agencies, target communities, and other identified stakeholders along the themes of sustainable natural resource management, land tenure and property rights, environmental compliance, and community-based forest management

**(Deliverable 11a)** – Series of brochures, radio programs, Community Theater, and video products developed to educate the Liberian public in community forest development, land tenure and rights, and environmental awareness.

**(Deliverable 15a)** – Series of brochures, radio programs, Community Theater, and video products developed to support community forest management in Liberia.

**(Deliverable 17)** – Series of brochures, radio programs, Community Theater, and video products developed to support community-based forest products and agricultural enterprises in Liberia.

**(Deliverable 17a)** – Assessment of Del 17. - Series of brochures, radio programs, Community Theater, and video products developed to support community-based forest products and agricultural enterprises in Liberia.

## RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q3)

Trained sixteen (16) community radio producers from PROSPER's three (3) target zones in Southeastern and Western Liberia, in the design and production of interactive talk shows  
**(Result)**

Rollout the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Outreach Campaign at community level **(Result)**

Developed three (3) core messages, a monologue, and radio content for community radio stations **(Result)**

Broadcast of the 42-episode dramas on community radio stations **(Result)**

### Deliverables due during this quarter

- a) Deliverable 5a - Assessment of Del. 5 - Public outreach and awareness building approaches field tested with relevant GOL agencies, target communities, and other identified stakeholders along the themes of sustainable natural resource management, land tenure and property rights, environmental compliance, and community-based forest management. This deliverable has been delayed as PROSPER waits for more information from the Ministry of Education. To be completed in Q4.
- b) Deliverable 11a – Series of brochures, radio programs, Community Theater, and video products developed to educate the Liberian public in community forest development, land tenure and rights, and environmental awareness. This deliverable was submitted and approved by USAID.
- c) Deliverable 15a – Series of brochures, radio programs, Community Theater, and video products developed to support community forest management in Liberia. This Deliverable was submitted and approved by USAID.
- d) Deliverable 17 – Series of brochures, radio programs, Community Theater, and video products developed to support community-based forest products and agricultural enterprises in Liberia. This deliverable was submitted and approved by USAID.
- e) Deliverable 17a – Assessment of Del. 17 - Series of brochures, radio programs, Community Theater, and video products developed to support community-based forest products and agricultural enterprises in Liberia. This deliverable was submitted and approved by USAID.

### **Major Achievements**

- Field teams supported CF leaders to plan activities to rollout the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Outreach Campaign across PROSPER zones in communities in Northern and Southern Nimba, and Grand Bassa Counties;
- Rollout of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Outreach Campaign at the community level;
- In conjunction with the Public Awareness Department (PAD) of the FDA, PROSPER developed training materials for community radio broadcasters and national level media partners;
- Trained sixteen (16) community radio producers from PROSPER's three (3) target zones in Southeastern and Western Liberia, in the design and production of interactive talk shows;
- Supported the broadcast of a forty-two (42) episode drama, and radio messages on the CRL, on community radio stations in Nimba and Grand Bassa;
- Monitored weekly radio drama and radio programs on community radio stations across sites, including the new areas where broadcasts were introduced this quarter;

- Developed three (3) core messages, a monologue, and radio content for community radio stations;
- In collaboration with FDA, conducted extended outreach and awareness in the communities in Southeastern and Western Liberia;

Field teams supported CF leaders to plan activities to rollout the 4th Annual Outreach Campaign across PROSPER zones in communities in Northern and Southern Nimba, and Grand Bassa Counties

In March, community mobilizers, field coordinators and FDA cadre staff provided guidance to CF leaders in Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties to plan the village-to-village outreach campaign. This exercise was intended to support the national launch of the annual outreach campaign, and represented a significant part of PROSPER's capacity development support to CF leaders. Key areas of support to CF leaders and outreach taskforces covered preparation of programs, issuing of invitations, scheduling of activities, logistical planning, and mobilization of local leaders and communities for outreach activities.

Rollout of the 4th Annual Outreach Campaign at the community level

The community level rollout of the 4<sup>th</sup> annual outreach campaign began in March, at the end of the last quarter; however, activities peaked through May and June. Driven by CF leaders, the exercise covered thirty-six (36) towns and villages in PROSPER zones in northern Nimba, fifty-four (54) towns in southern Nimba, and thirty-nine (39) towns and villages in Grand Bassa County.

The village-to-village outreach campaign targeted local leaders, authorities at the county level, and youth, women and forest user groups. Theater troupes trained and equipped by PROSPER performed skits on the CRL and CRL Regulations, while members of the outreach taskforce distributed illustrative materials and booklets of the CRL and CRL Regulations to community residents. At the beginning of each rollout activity, CF leaders in PROSPER zones organized formal programs in central locations, and invited local chiefs and representatives from adjacent towns to participate. These mini-events served as platforms through which CF leaders could communicate outreach messages to target audiences.

In northern Nimba, PROSPER supported the Gba and Zor CFMBs to promote awareness about their rules and permitting systems. The rules and permitting system awareness exercise was carried out at the same time as the rollout of the 4<sup>th</sup> annual outreach campaign. The campaign was supported by the FDA, the CFWG, and PROSPER's community mobilizers and field coordinators.

In conjunction with the Public Awareness Department (PAD) of the FDA, PROSPER developed training materials for community radio broadcasters and national level media partners

In preparation for the radio producer training, PROSPER and the PAD of the FDA produced relevant training materials. The materials were designed to build the capacity of local radio producers and presenters so they could effectively moderate discussion panels and address the issues raised during the forty-two (42) episode drama. The materials covered notes and handouts explaining the mandate and functions of the FDA; the objectives of USAID|PROSPER, its key accomplishments, and its relationship with FDA; and the principles which should guide radio presentations.

Trained sixteen (16) community radio producers from PROSPER's 3 target zones in southeastern and western Liberia in the design and production of interactive talk shows

At the beginning of May, PROSPER, in conjunction with the PAD of the FDA, trained sixteen (16) community radio producers and co-producers on how to present live phone-in interactive radio programs. The training was in preparation for the broadcast of the forty-two (42) episode drama. Six of the community radio producers came from three community radio stations in southeastern and western Liberia, while ten of the community radio producers were drawn from community radio stations in PROSPER zones. These radio stations were selected following PROSPER's USAID-compliant procurement process. Two staff members from each radio station – of eight (8) stations in total – were trained: one as the main producer, and one as the co-producer. Training two members of staff per station was a precautionary step, agreed upon by both the FDA and PROSPER to ensure that broadcasts were consistently aired, as target audiences may not otherwise remain engaged throughout the broadcast period.

Supported the broadcast of a forty-two (42) episode drama and radio messages on the CRL on community radio stations in Nimba and Grand Bassa Counties

To date, at least ten (10) episodes of the drama have been aired at different times across PROSPER zones on radio stations in Sanniquellie, Karnplay, Tappita, Buchanan, and Compound #3, near District #4. In the extended areas in the south east and west of Liberia, a similar number of episodes have been aired on radio stations in Zwedru and Greenville where PROSPER is supporting the FDA to carry out extended outreach.

Community radio stations working with PROSPER to broadcast the forty-two (42) episode drama and other radio programs in PROSPER zones are: Radio Nimba, located in Sanniquellie, which reaches approximately 90% of the Gba community; Kahn Voice of Peace in Kahnplay, which covers all of the Zor Community; and the Voice of Tappita, which covers Tappita and surrounding villages. In Grand Bassa, PROSPER has partnered with Radio Gbehzohn and Radio Wee to broadcast the drama and other shows relating to Community Forestry: Radio Gbehzohn reaches all of the Barconnie community, while Radio Wee covers a significant portion of District #4.

During these broadcasts, PROSPER field teams have been supporting the radio producers to mobilize guests for the interactive phone-in segment of the program. In the extended areas in the southeast and western Liberia, the PROSPER Communications and Outreach Coordinator has been engaged with the radio producers, helping them to mobilize guests for the interactive sessions of the radio programs. FDA staff at the national level have been hosted via phone link from Monrovia, which has helped to effectively address some of the debates and concerns emanating from town hall meetings that have been held in the extended areas.

Monitored weekly radio drama and radio programs on community radio stations across sites

While the radio dramas and messages have been aired, PROSPER field staff have conducted periodic monitoring to ensure consistency of broadcast, the timely airing of prerecorded messages, and the effective presentation of the interactive live phone-in segment of the drama.

In the areas in which the extended outreach in the south-east and west of Liberia is being conducted, PROSPER has contacted civil society organizations (SCNL and SAMFU), who are members of the CFWG, to support the monitoring of the radio programs.

A tool was developed and is being used to monitor radio programs by tracking which audiences listen to the program, where they are located, and other indicators, such as gender and age. This monitoring tool also captures the audiences' concern/s as they relate to the topic of discussion and the content of the drama. Radio presenters were also mentored to use the monitoring tool when they participated in the radio producer training.

Developed three (3) core messages, a monologue and radio content for community radio stations

During the quarter, PROSPER produced three core messages using extracts from provisions in the CRL and the CRL Regulations. The messages were designed to support radio outreach in the extended areas and to boost public understanding of the CRL and CRL regulations in PROSPER zones. To further build awareness on the nine-step process, a monologue was also produced. Each message was studio mixed with the "Make Rights Real" theme song, in one-minute slots for radio broadcast. The messages were recorded in simple Liberian English and local Liberian languages (Krahn, Kru, Grebo, Bassa, Kpelle, Gola, and Vai), and were distributed to community radio stations in the areas where the extended outreach is being conducted, as well as in existing PROSPER zones.

In collaboration with FDA, conducted extended outreach and awareness in communities in southeastern and western Liberia

Since March, PROSPER has been engaged with representatives of forest dependent communities through outreach and awareness activities in the southeast and west of Liberia. Three town hall meetings were initially held in March in Zwedru, Greenville and Bopolu, which stimulated debate and allowed PROSPER staff to gather information about the level of knowledge communities had about the community forestry program.

Based upon what was learned during the first series of town hall meetings, PROSPER and the FDA designed presentations, which were tailored to address many of the outstanding issues and concerns raised by members of forest dependent communities. The presentations included the following headings: Community Forestry in Liberia – Overview, Options and Opportunities; Making Community Forestry Rights Real; Understanding Basic CF Principles; Community Rights and Responsibilities; Becoming an Authorized Forest Community; and the Nine-Step Process. A total of 198 representatives from applicant communities attended the second set of meetings that were held in Zwedru, Greenville and Bopolu.

**ACTIVITY 1.3: DEVELOP A CF CURRICULUM AND SUPPORT CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF FTI STAFF TO IMPLEMENT**

**RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q2)**

No contractual deliverable due this quarter.

Observation and assessment of the implementation of the FTI curriculum, with a specific focus on the delivery of the CF curriculum (Result)

HOO and PROSPER field staff delivered lecture on the CF curriculum **(Result)**

Deliverables due during this quarter

- a) No deliverables due this quarter

**Major Achievements**

- Observation and assessment of the implementation of the FTI curriculum, with a specific focus on the delivery of the CF curriculum
- HOO and PROSPER field staff delivered lecture on the CF curriculum

Observation and assessment of the implementation of the FTI curriculum, with a specific focus on the delivery of the CF curriculum

PROSPER, in close collaboration with FTI Faculty, had previously designed and delivered a community forestry curriculum in FY14 (Deliverable 8), which was later revised in FY15 (Deliverable 8a). Consistent with the scope of work, PROSPER commenced periodic observations and assessments of the delivery of the CF curriculum, to ensure effective delivery. Periodic observations and assessments began on February 19 using monitoring checklists, and have continued until very recently. However, in response to the end of the academic year and the closure of the school, PROSPER has temporarily concluded the in-class observation and assessment of the FTI curriculum. An evaluation of the students on the delivery of the curriculum has been conducted.

HOO and PROSPER field staff delivered lecture on the CF curriculum

At the close of the quarter, PROSPER conducted a lecture at the Forestry Training Institute (FTI) in Tubmanburg, followed by an interactive discussion. The exercise was designed to provide community leaders and people involved in community forestry an opportunity to share their experiences with FTI students. Over 150 students and staff, representatives of the FDA, and community people participated in the forum.

Eugene Gibson, PROSPER's head of office in Buchanan, delivered a lecture on the topic, "Community Forestry in Practice – USAID|PROSPER and Community Experience." Saye Thompson, the Chairman of the Joint Forest Management of the Blei CF explained in detail how CF activities are practically implemented, based upon his experience in northern Nimba. Nancy Gongbay, a representative of enterprise development groups in southern Nimba, explained the value of sustainable forest management. Mrs. Gongbay discussed how to improve livelihoods through enterprise development, and argued that community forestry can succeed if community members accept new ideas and practices, which will provide them income and reduce their dependence on the forest.

**ACTIVITY 1.4: WORK WITH CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS AND COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT POLICY DIALOGUE, DEVELOP COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION STRATEGIES, AND SUPPORT EFFECTIVE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NRM, LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

With USAID concurrence, since FY14 AWP, Activity 1.4 has been combined and reported with Activity 2.2. For activity details, please see Component 2.2.

**ACTIVITY 1.5: SUPPORT THE FDA TO IMPROVE THE PROCESS OF ISSUING NEW COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS**

**RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q3)**

**(Deliverable 9)** Handbook on the Nine Steps, including checklists, produced and being used by the FDA's Community Forestry Department to guide the due diligence processes in the issuance of new

Deliverables due during this quarter

- a) Deliverable 9 – Handbook on the Nine Steps, including checklists, produced and being used by the FDA’s Community Forestry Department to guide the due diligence processes in the issuance of new Community Forestry Management Agreements. The “Nine Steps Handbook” was submitted to USAID in Q2, and was approved by USAID during Q3.

**Major Achievements**

- Completed the Nine Steps Handbook, and had it approved and adopted by the FDA’s Community Forestry Department, which is now using it to inform the community forestry program more broadly.

Handbook on the Nine Steps, including checklists, produced and being used by the FDA’s Community Forestry Department to guide the due diligence processes in the issuance of new Community Forestry Management Agreements

After the production of an initial draft, the Nine Steps Handbook was submitted to the Technical Manager of the Community Forestry Department for review and comment. Comments and recommendations were then incorporated, and the Nine Steps Handbook resubmitted to the Technical Manager for final authorization. There were numerous iterations of this process – and there will be more in the future – ensuring that the Nine Steps Handbook accurately represents the procedures adopted by the FDA that will need to be completed.

The FDA is already using the Nine Steps Handbook for purposes of planning, specifically with regard to informing the forthcoming Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP), which is being funded by the Government of Norway and overseen by the World Bank. Additionally, the Nine Steps Handbook will form the basis for forthcoming trainings, which USAID|PROSPER intends to conduct in the proceeding months.

As the nine-step process is further developed, the Handbook will be updated, to ensure that any and all changes are accurately reflected. This is essential for the institutionalization of the nine-step process, and is also a contractual requirement – Deliverables 9a and 9b foresee the Handbook being updated, as the Nine Steps are further developed.

# 4.0 COMPONENT 2: FOREST MANAGEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY

## COMPONENT 2 STATEMENT

The goal of the forest management and biodiversity component is to develop viable models of community-based forest management that lead to more sustainable forest management practices and reduced threats to biodiversity in target areas. Activities under this component seek to build the institutional and human capacity of communities, FDA, and CSOs to implement sustainable forest management while developing an enabling legal framework that is informed by stakeholder experience.

## COMPONENT 2 ACTIVITIES

### ACTIVITY 2.1: BUILD COMMUNITY CAPACITY FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT

#### RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q3)

No Deliverables due this quarter

Use of Community Forest Management Plans leads to increased community capacity to manage their natural resources and interact with outside actors more equitably in support of their interests **(Result)**

Increased capacity of CFMBs in target sites to manage land and resource conflicts between communities, with GOL and other stakeholders, leading to a reduction in open access to natural resources, increased community oversight of natural resource use, better compliance with environmental law, protection of biodiversity, and promotion of best practices **(Result)**

#### Deliverables due during this quarter

a) No Deliverables due this quarter.

#### Major Achievements

*Continued Support to CFMBs in Older Sites in the Gba, Blei and Zor Communities in Northern Nimba*

- Supported the Gba, Zor, and Blei CFMBs to develop presentations for CDSC meeting
- Supported the biomonitoring program
- Supported the promotion of community forest rules and permitting systems

*All Community Forest Sites*

- Provided training to CFMBs in financial policy and business management
- Supported the FDA to ground-truth and address issues arising from the preliminary demarcation
- Supported the CF governance bodies to participate in County-level forums
- Exchange visit from the GolaMA Community

## **Continued Support to CFMBs in Older Sites in the Gba, Blei and Zor Communities in Northern Nimba**

### **Supported the Gba, Zor, and Blei CFMBs to develop presentations for CDSC meeting**

The Sanniquellie field team worked closely with the CFMBs in the Gba, Blei and Zor communities to develop their individual presentations on community forest activities for the County Forest Forum (CFF). Unfortunately, the CFF was not convened this quarter.

### **Supported the biomonitoring program**

Beginning in May, and running throughout June, Flora and Fauna International (FFI) – the USAID|PROSPER subcontractor – provided biomonitoring training to the Gba, Blei and Zor community forest leadership, and other relevant stakeholders. The 18 community leaders were drawn from the three CFMBs, ECs and Community Forest Guards (CFG). One member of the FDA cadre and three staff members from PROSPER’s implementing partners also benefited from the training. The training culminated in the establishment of biomonitoring transects across the Gba CF.

### **Supported the promotion of community forest rules and permitting systems**

During the quarter, PROSPER supported the Gba and Blei CFMBs to develop their community forest rules and permitting system. The permitting system included the physical permits, permit registration logs, and monitoring and reporting mechanisms. PROSPER supported each of the CFMBs to print copies of their permits, which were then issued to community members.

In Q2 (March 7- 12) the Sanniquellie field team provided one extensive training to the Zor, Gba and Blei CFMBs and CFGs on effective outreach and awareness techniques, in preparation of community outreach on rules and permits system. In total, 9 CFMBs and 15 CFG members participated in the training.

Following the outreach training throughout Q3, the PROSPER field team provided support to the CF leaders to plan and implement awareness programs that promoted their respective CF rules and permitting systems. In all, 1083 persons benefited from the awareness programs – 545 males and 538 females.

## **All Community Forest Sites**

### **Provided training to CFMBs in financial policy and business management**

The Business Development Advisor (BDA) continued business management training for CFMBs which included one three day training for all 3 CFMB. Crop Diversification Groups (CDGs), CPOP, and CPG received fourteen trainings to enhance the business planning and management capacities of these groups. This included 18 communities and 409 community members (177 female and 232 male). As part of this, CFMBs were mentored on how to develop and implement effective financial policies, and were encouraged to develop business proposals. To achieve this, attendees of the training identified and agreed upon clear roles and responsibilities, based on their respective CF bylaws. The PROSPER BDA will provide further support to the CFMBs in Q4 to finalize their business proposals and financial plans for the use of funds, in line with the draft financial policies developed.

### **Supported the FDA to ground-truth and address issues arising from the preliminary demarcation**

### **General capacity strengthening for effective GPS use**

The PROSPER GIS specialist, with guidance from the TetraTech home office Geospatial Expert, continued to provide mentorship to GPS users and GIS support to all of the field teams. This contributed to the successful conduct and conclusion of the validation exercises at PROSPER pilot sites.

#### Sehyi proposed CF

Verification of the mapping data was organized and conducted in the Sehyi-Delton forest, in collaboration with the FDA and community members. Data on the entire perimeter was again gathered and compared with existing data, which was found to be accurate.

The verification exercise unearthed new farms at the fringes of the forest. When this was brought to the notice of the Sehyi community leadership, a community meeting was convened and the matter was addressed in the presence of the District Commissioner. The farmers responsible for the encroachment recognized their error and appealed to their leadership to be allowed to conclude the current farming season, after which they will permanently move to other available farmlands. Each farmer signed a resolution to this effect.

With the renewed confidence in the community forestry process, the community stakeholders decided to expand their proposed community forest to an adjacent parcel of forest, called Konneton forest. With approval of the proposed extension by the FDA, PROSPER worked with a joint team comprising FDA, community members, and project staff to conduct the demarcation of the area of forest resources.

#### Barconnie and Harmondsville proposed CF

In the past quarter, PROSPER brought to the notice of the Barconnie/Harmondsville community the fact that the preliminary demarcation results indicated their total proposed forest area was only approximately 251 hectares. Upon realization that the small size of the four parcels of forest could pose management challenges, the community embarked on a program of peer sensitization among the participating towns. Once they secured commitment for expansion of each of the component forests, they invited the FDA and PROSPER field team to support them in the demarcation of the expanded areas.

Starting in early April, the FDA-PROSPER team worked with the communities and validated the data collected in the Donnie, Kokpeh, Paye and Varyacon forests. The provisional total forest size has now risen to 611 hectares.

The Kokpeh, which is also called the Yewele forest, is found in upper Harmondsville. The validation team was curious as to why only white paint was used on boundary markers and not in combination with the red-flare paint. The community guides informed the team that it is taboo to use red cloth, paint or any kind of red marker in the forest. They explained that since the days of their ancestors nothing red could be taken into or associated with their forest, not even sacrifices. Fortunately, the field team made all enquiries surrounding cultural norms before commencing any fieldwork.

#### District #4 – Kortro and Martro proposed CFs

Validation of demarcation data for both the Kortro and Martro forests was conducted. Geo-referencing data was again collected on the entire perimeter of each of the forests by the field teams, including FDA, community members, and PROSPER field staff. The joint FDA-PROSPER validation team from Monrovia provided support to the field teams in the data validation exercise. The preliminary data was found to be good, though there were some gaps. However, the missing data was collected through the validation exercise. In some cases data was not collected because field teams believed that natural boundaries,

such as streams, would be visible using satellite imagery, so did not collect waypoints – in most instance, this turned out not to be the case.

#### Tappita – Big Gio Forest (BGF) and Gblor

The FDA, PROSPER project staff, and communities worked closely to validate the internal boundaries of the Big Gio Forest (BGF). The strategy, wherein joint teams comprising community members sharing a common boundary were put together, worked extremely well. In addition to those required for technical work and labor, an elder from each of the communities sharing a boundary was present in each joint team.

Since the demarcation of the internal BGF boundaries was largely dependent on the use of the GPS tracking function, special training was provided for all demarcation teams, including community members. New GPS units with more reliable tracking functions were procured. Distances to be covered by each joint team were accurately measured and, based on the forest types and terrain, daily indices were also calculated. This greatly improved the efficiency of the team throughout the demarcation exercise. The demarcation exercise for all internal boundaries of the BGF was completed during the quarter, and all of the data validated.

During Q4, PROSPER will provide support to the FDA and communities of the BGF to re-clean the external boundaries of the forest.

#### Supported the CF governance bodies to participate in County-level forums

During the quarter, the Community Development Steering Committee (CDSC) meeting in Grand Bassa County was organized. The Buchanan field team supported the CFOCs in the development of their presentations. PROSPER facilitated the participation of two members from the CFOCs in District #4, Kpoblen, and Barconnie/Harmondsville, to attend the meeting in Buchanan on April 28, 2016.

In the Tappita and Sanniquellie sites, the CDSC meetings were not convened. However, CF leaders were provided support to develop presentations in anticipation of submitting them when county authorities are ready to host a meeting.

#### Exchange visit from the GolaMA Community

The Tappita CF pilot communities, supported by USAID/Liberia PROSPER, hosted community members and leaders from the SCNL-supported GolaMA project based in Gbarpolu County, between April 5-8, 2016. The GolaMA team was comprised of 18 males and 2 females. The purpose of the cross-site study tour was to ensure that the communities and project staff understood the processes that led to the current status of the Tappita CF sites.

The GolaMA community members, along with the SCNL staff were taken to some of the livelihood sites around the BGF by members of the CFOCs. They visited the oil palm nursery sites in Toweh Town and Old Yourpea, the bee hives and CDSG farm in Diallah, and the cocoa demonstration site in Old Yourpea.

The CFOCs and the visiting community members held discussions at Zeongehn, a town in Sehzieplay where they were hosted. Experiences and views were shared amongst participants, about the challenges and achievements of working toward securing authorized forest community status.

## ACTIVITY 2.2 AND 1.4: STRENGTHEN CAPACITY OF FDA, EPA, AND CSOS TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

### RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q3)

No contractual deliverables due this quarter

FDA/PROSPER coordination meetings **(Result)**

Capacity building of FDA cadre **(Result)**

Capacity building, coordination and cooperation with stakeholders **(Result)**

#### Deliverables due during this quarter

a) No deliverables due this quarter

### Major Achievements

- FDA/PROSPER coordination meetings
- Capacity building of FDA cadre
- Capacity building, coordination and cooperation with stakeholders and other donors

#### FDA/PROSPER coordination meetings

Throughout the quarter, the FDA and PROSPER held several coordination meetings, resulting in a marked improvement at the FDA with improved communication with the Community Forest Technical Manager. This has helped to build momentum and support for the nine-step process, and facilitated the effective implementation of the extended outreach program. Much of this can be attributed to the addition of the PROSPER FDA Advisor who meets almost daily with the CFTM.

#### Conducted capacity building coordination and cooperation with stakeholders and other donors

During Q3, PROSPER continued to coordinate with the FDA, support capacity building of the FDA cadre, and coordinate and cooperate with other stakeholders and donors. The FDA cadre participated in the demarcation and validation of GIS data in the field. In Northern Nimba, the FDA cadre were also taught about biomonitoring and data collection techniques, which included practical exercises such as the establishment of transect lines across the Gba CF.

Additionally, PROSPER's FDA Advisor began attending meetings between the FDA and the World Bank in preparation of the forthcoming Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP), of which Community Forestry will play a central part. The FDA Advisor has begun to develop a good working relationship with the World Bank team, and has been able to provide them with clarity and guidance on various procedural and legal issues. This is important, because the LFSP will build upon what PROSPER helps to establish; and ensuring that all stakeholders and donors understand and support the nine-step process as it is being developed will lead to a more stable and resilient system in the long-term.

#### Development of Forest Inventory and Planning methodology

PROSPER engaged a forest inventory and planning specialist to work with the FDA, the Forestry Training Institute (FTI), and project staff to fulfill two objectives:

- i. Propose best practices for community-based low impact timber harvesting in Liberia; and
- ii. Propose an appropriate methodology to inventory the timber and non-timber forest products in pilot community forests.

From May 30 to June 7, the consultant provided training, oversaw fieldwork and facilitated knowledge exchange forums, in pursuance of the above objectives. The training was based on a forest inventory

manual for timber and NTFPs developed for use in Liberia, and a software application for designing such forest inventories. The training participants pre-tested the methodology in the Kokpeh forest in the Barconnie/Hammondsville area. Training participants included 6 FDA staff from the Community Forestry Department and the Research and Development Department, a Dendrologist from FTI, and PROSPER project staff, including two FTI alumni. The personnel were selected to form the core Liberian technical team to serve in up-coming forest inventory exercises, first in the pilot sites and then in the rest of the country.

Provided support to the FDA to compile demarcation data and develop appropriate maps

The collection and processing of data during the period was successfully completed, with comprehensive data collected from all PROSPER pilot sites and transferred to the FDA. The TetraTech home office GIS Expert was able to source up-to-date satellite imagery from USAID Washington to enable the team to produce high quality maps. Various samples of map types and scales were printed and submitted to FDA, so that staff could get a clear understanding of what the satellite imagery covering community forests will look like. Sample maps of two of the pilot forests were generated to demonstrate what will be required to print maps at the scale of 1:5000, which is established by the CRL Regulations. It soon became clear that committing to such a scale was impractical for large forests. Since the harmonization of the CRL Regulations remains ongoing, the FDA’s Technical Manager on CF and the GIS Unit has unanimously agreed that the current provision on the map scale must be amended.

## **ACTIVITY 2.3: SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CF AND LTPR**

### **RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q3)**

**(Deliverable 26d)** – Three Policy Briefs

**(Deliverable 14b)** – Support of Legislative Reform Efforts

Policy briefs approved **(Result)**

Deliverables due during this quarter

- a) Deliverable 26d - Three policy briefs – These have been submitted and approved by USAID (see below comments under Major Achievements)
- b) Deliverable 14b – Support of Legislative Reform Efforts. This deliverable was not complete as it is dependent on FDA’s Harmonization of the CRL Regulations. It is anticipated that this harmonization process will be complete by April 2017. (see below comments under Major Achievements)

## **Major Achievements**

Three Policy Briefs

USAID staff reviewed and commented on the three policy briefs that had been submitted in Q2, and returned them to PROSPER for consideration. Following incorporation of some recommendations, PROSPER resubmitted the briefs to USAID for final approval, which was granted in June. The three policy briefs were on the following subjects:

- 1) The importance of Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC): strategies for realization;
- 2) The Voluntary Partnership Agreement: backstopping the community rights law; and,

### 3) The Proposed Local Government Act: Community Forestry and Decentralization

#### Further progress on the harmonization of CRL Regulations

The PROSPER Advisor on CF has been working closely with the Technical Manager of the CF Department to develop a first draft of the updated CRL Regulations, which can then be shared with stakeholders before it is then subjected to the national vetting process, as required by Regulation 101-07. A working draft has been submitted to the Technical Manager of the CF Department, but clarification on the issues of the length of CFMAs and the payment of land rental still need to be worked out before the draft can be finalized. Once the Managing Director and the FDA's legal counsel provides more direction, the process of harmonization is expected to accelerate.

## **ACTIVITY 2.4: INCREASE KNOWLEDGE OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS AND DESIGN APPROPRIATE INTERVENTIONS**

### **RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q3)**

**(Deliverable 13a)** Annual revision of Deliverable 13 (Biodiversity Monitoring Handbook for Community Forest Managers is revised/developed and available for communities and their partners)

Supported capacity building for biomonitoring **(Result)**

#### Deliverables due during this quarter

- a) Annual revision of Deliverable 13 (Biodiversity Handbook for Community Forest Managers is revised/developed and available for communities and their partners (Deliverable 13a). This deliverable was finalized by FFI, PROSPER's biodiversity partner, and the draft has been submitted to USAID and is pending approval.

### **Major Achievements**

- Supported Capacity Building for Biomonitoring

#### Presented Biomonitoring Handbook to Stakeholders

The revised biomonitoring handbook, which was developed by FFI – PROSPER's biodiversity sub-contractor – was presented to stakeholders. These included international conservation NGOs, such as the World Resource Institute (WRI) and Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF); local conservation NGOs, including SCNL; forest sector projects, including FIFES and VPA-SU; and the FDA Conservation and Community Forestry departments.

There was an overwhelming acceptance of the proposed system, as it matches those being used by other partners in Liberia and the West African region. Some issues were raised, and clarification was sought on the methodology used to establish transects. For instance, the WCF was concerned that clear-cutting paths within the forest would interfere with the normal functioning of the ecosystem – such paths could end up being used by big mammals such as leopards, and hunters and poachers could use them to access the forest and install traps.

Overall, the document was well received, keeping in mind the need to prevent transect lines from undermining the objectives they are supposed to achieve, i.e. support biodiversity.

#### Supported capacity building for biomonitoring

PROSPER's biodiversity sub-contractor, FFI, continued with the capacity building program to enable communities to establish and manage their biomonitoring systems. Starting on May 26, FFI conducted an intensive seven-day theoretical and practical training for 18 community members (one female, 17 males), from the Blei, Gba and Zor communities, one FDA official, and three PROSPER project staff. The practical element of the training involved the establishment of 19 transects, each 2km in length, across the Gba community forest. Attendees were also trained in the collection of bio-monitoring data.

The establishment of transects is expected to be replicated in both Zor and Blei community forests in the next quarter.

#### National Strategies for Biomonitoring and Law Enforcement

On Monday, June 27, PROSPER attended a forum at the FDA, organized in consultation with FDA, WCF and FFI. The meeting was to launch an initiative to form a technical working group to develop national strategies for biomonitoring and law enforcement.

Both WCF and FFI presented their ongoing biomonitoring projects, including those in the Grebo National Forest, Sapu National Park, East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR), and the PROSPER sites in Northern Nimba. Emphasis was placed on the need to establish a comparable biomonitoring system that facilitates data collection, analysis and sharing easier. Open-source and user-friendly software and technologies are already available and widely utilized in most parts of the world.

Some of the key challenges identified include technical capacity, challenges to effective security and law enforcement, and adequate community participation, especially in data collection. A technical working group was set up to determine key areas that need to be examined more closely.

# 5.0 COMPONENT 3: LIVELIHOOD AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

## COMPONENT 3 STATEMENT

A key objective of PROSPER is to identify and scale up sustainable community-based livelihoods and forest-based enterprises in order to support sustainable forest management activities while reducing the threats to biodiversity. This includes the development and strengthening of value chains for non-timber forest products (NTFP) through capacity building of collectors' groups and the introduction of processing equipment to add value and decrease labor demands. Under PROSPER additional activities are piloted to demonstrate other ways by which communities can increase their income while supporting sustainable forest management.

## COMPONENT 3 ACTIVITIES

### ACTIVITY 3.1 INCREASED NUMBER OF SUSTAINABLE AGRO/FOREST-BASED ENTERPRISES

#### RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q3)

Development and assessment of series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community-based forest product and agricultural enterprises in Liberia and annual revision (**Deliverable 17 & 17a**) *NB: reported in Comp 1.2 above*

Agriculture and Community Forest Enterprise Management Manual developed that provides overall guidance to individuals and organizations in the development of sustainable natural resource-based enterprises and annual revision (**Deliverable 16 & 16a**)

Agriculture and wood based enterprises members trained in financial and business management (**Result**)

Oil palm processing capacity expanded (**Result**)

Oil Palm Processing Group Based Enterprises establish and operational (**Result**)

#### Deliverables due during this quarter

- a) Deliverable 16 - Agriculture and Community Forest Enterprise Management Manual developed that provides overall guidance to individuals and organizations in the development of sustainable natural resource-based enterprises. Submitted and approved by USAID
- b) Deliverable 16a – Assessment to Del 16. This will be completed in FY16Q4 or FY17Q1 in order to properly assess materials.
- c) Deliverable 17 – See Comp 1.2 above
- d) Deliverable 17a - Annual revision of Deliverable 17 – See Comp 1.2 above

## Major Achievements

- Three publications branded and printed (part of Del. 17)

The three publications (crop diversification, oil palm nursery management, and oil palm out-planting) submitted to Tetra Tech ARD during Quarter 2 for branding as part of Deliverable 17 (Community Forestry outreach and training materials) were printed. One hundred copies of each publication was printed and will be disseminated by ACDI/VOCA to partners in Quarter 4 through the Agriculture Coordination Committee (ACC) and its sub-sector working groups and to farmers as well.

- Deliverable 16 approved and printed

During the quarter, TetraTech ARD branded and printed twenty copies of the Agriculture and Community Forest Enterprise Management Manual (Deliverable 16). One copy was sent to each of the field offices in Buchanan, Sanniquellie, and Tappita for staff review and preparation for the rollout. The roll-out process began at the end of Quarter 3 and will continue through quarter 4, at which time comments and feedbacks from various livelihood groups will be reviewed and incorporated in the revised vision.

## ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES – AGRICULTURE AND WOOD-BASED ENTERPRISES

During the quarter, support was provided to the CFMBs in proposal writing skills and business plan development.

## Major Achievements

- Second phase of introductory training in proposal writing skills and business plan development to the three CFMBs (Blei, Gba and Zor) in Sanniquellie

The PROSPER Business Development Advisor (BDA) continued the second phase of the introductory training in proposal writing skills with the three CFMBs (Blei, Gba, and Zor) in Sehyikinpa near Sanniquellie. The training began in Quarter 2, but due to the low level of understanding of some topics such as sales and cash flow forecasting and marketing it was determined that it would be best to run the training in multiple phases at a slower pace to ensure better comprehension by the participants.

Therefore, during the quarter, a three-day second phase training of business plan and basic proposal writing was held for CFMBs. The training was attended by 20 (14 male, 6 female) participants from the three CFMBs. The three communities (Blei, Gba and Zor) have each identified a project around which a business plan will be developed through the guidance of the BDA. The projects identified are:

- a) Cultivation of improved cocoa variety for the Blei community that will enable them to generate income in the future;
- b) Establishment of a saw mill by the Gba CFMB to process logs from family lands and logs that will be outside the demarcated Community forest; and
- c) Cultivation of improved oil palm variety for the Zor community to enable them generate income.

These proposals are being developed by the BDA which will be submitted to the Community Assembly in Quarter 4.

## Lessons Learned

Though the business plan and proposal writing training was successfully carried out with the three CFMBs, participant feedback suggest that CFMB members still would not be able to write a business plan or develop a proposal without external support due to their limited understanding of business development. However, the exposure to the training has had a positive impact on their understanding and they can now confidently contribute meaningfully to the process under the guidance of the BDA.

## **ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES – OIL PALM-BASED ENTERPRISES**

### **Oil Palm Nurseries**

#### **Major Achievements**

- FY15 Oil palm nursery farmers begin out-planting
- FY16 oil palm nursery farmers complete payment toward the establishment of four new oil palm nurseries
- Farmer-to Farmer exchange visits organized for FY16 oil palm nursery farmers

The four oil palm nurseries established in FY15 have reached their final stage of the management process. These are located in Beatuo where there are 8 male and 2 female members; Behwallay where there are 8 male and 2 female members; Old Yorpea where there are 8 male and 3 female members; and Toweh Town where there are 18 male and 2 female members. During the quarter, Kwakerdoe provided technical guidance and support to begin the out-planting process by working with members of the four oil palm nursery groups, starting the lining and pegging process, digging of holes, and the distribution of seedlings to farmers. The lining, pegging, and the digging of holes for the palm seedlings to be planted began in mid-May and has lasted through June. Forty five (88%) of the 51 farmers that participated in the nursery establishment had completed lining, pegging and digging of holes on their individual farms to pave the way for out-planting in the field where the seedlings will stay permanently. The out planting is expected to be completed in July which coincides with the peak of the rainy season to ensure that the seedlings are well established. Each farmer is expected to plant sixty seedlings that will cover one acre of land. Prior to the beginning of the lining and pegging, ACDI/VOCA field staff based in the communities had toured the various farm sites and old palm farms that farmers had planned to out-plant their seedlings. The tour of the sites was to ensure that farmers were not taking the seedlings close to the proposed Community Forest.

Meanwhile, the successful establishment of four (4) oil palm nurseries in FY15 with four groups of oil palm farmers on a cost-sharing basis around the Big Gio Forest has motivated other farmers to also invest in improved *Tenera* oil palm seedlings to establish nursery to replace their old palm trees. As it was reported in last quarter that 13 (9 male, 4 female) oil palm farmers in three communities (Doeyelay, Graie and Marlay) had paid an amount of 857 USD for pre-germinated oil palm seeds toward nursery establishment. During the quarter, the number of farmers paying for pre-germinated seeds has increased from 13 to 47 (22 male, 16 female) in four communities (Doeyelay, Graie, Kwipea and Marlay) and paid the amount of 2,300 USD for 2,300 pre-germinated oil palm seeds including extra seeds to counter losses due to risk of seed mortality. The amount has been turned over to Kwakerdoe to order the seeds from the Ivory Coast. It is expected that the pre-germinated seeds will arrive in Liberia in early July 2016.

In addition, ACDI/VOCA PROSPER staff organized and conducted a one day oil palm nursery farmer-to-farmer exchange field visit for each of the four new oil palm nursery groups in Kwipea, Doeyelay, Graie and Marlay to visit two of the nurseries established in FY15. A total of 33 (22 male, 11 female) new farmers participated in the farmer-to-farmer exchange visit. The oil palm nurseries in Toweh Town and Beatuo were selected for the field visit due to their close proximity. The exchange field visit afforded

the new oil palm nursery farmers the opportunity to visit existing nurseries, observe the work done by their colleagues, interacted with nursery owners who shared their experiences with the visiting farmers. In Toweh Town, the visiting farmers also had the opportunity to visit the second round of new nursery being established by their colleagues without PROSPER support. The visiting farmers were highly encouraged to see the second round of nursery and to hear from their colleagues that they are managing the second nursery on their own.

The nursery owners told the visiting farmers that the oil palm seedlings that are being supported by PROSPER are now on the main nursery. The seedlings will be ready for out planting in June 2016 following the completion of field lining and pegging, and digging of planting holes. Mr. Enoch Ben, co-chairman of the Oil palm nursery farmers in Toweh Town, told the visiting farmers, *“the second round of the oil palm nursery activities that you people have seen on the pre-nursery is being managed by ourselves based on the training we have achieved from Kwakerdoe during the first nursery activities supported by PROSPER.”*



*Farmer Enoch Ben of Toweh Town (far right) responding to question asked by visiting farmers as they tour the main oil palm nursery*

The visiting farmers were keen listener to their colleagues who explained the activities that are involved in oil palm nursery establishment beginning with pre-nursery activities to main nursery and the skills they learned through training from Kwakerdoe. Mr Ben continued *“as a result of the training Kwakerdoe gave us on oil palm nursery establishment and management, we were able to handle and sow the pre-germinated oil palm seeds, because if you don’t know how to skillfully handle the seeds, you will damage all, we can successfully operate/separate two seedlings that are joint together from one kernel and also do lining and pegging using the triangular method as you have seen in the main nursery, these are things that we never knew prior to the oil palm nursery activities with Kwakerdoe for which we are grateful to PROSPER.”*

As the visiting farmers became more interested in technical details of the process, nursery owners further explained to them that all of their questions about oil palm nursery establishment and management will be part of the training package Kwakerdoe will provide to their groups and therefore encouraged them to attend and actively participate in those trainings because it will benefit them as a group and as individuals.

## **Lessons Learned**

One main lesson learned during the farmer-to-farmer exchange visits was that nursery owners were able to clearly explain to their visiting colleagues the link between oil palm activities and biodiversity conservation. They explained that once they are able to make money from the management of their tree crop farm like oil palm, they would turn their backs on the community forest, and further stated that it is for the protection of the forest that they are receiving the support from PROSPER. The understanding of the biodiversity-tree crops link is very crucial and demonstrates that forest community farmers can understand such concepts and have the capacity to pass such information to their peers to ensure long term sustainability. As such, peer-to-peer exchange of information could prove successful for the fast adoption of production best practices and enterprise establishment driven by rural community ownership.

## Oil Palm Processing Support

### a) Post Freedom Mill training assessment

As reported in the second quarter, eight new oil palm processing groups that had contributed toward the purchase of the Freedom Mills participated in Freedom Mill operations and maintenance training. However, two of the groups (Bonglay and New Yourpea) reported some mechanical faults while processing their palm fruits during the quarter. In light of this, the Moonlight (manufacturer of Freedom Mills) technician in collaboration with PROSPER field staff conducted post-training assessment on five new Freedom Mill groups that were trained ( Grupea, Bonglay and New Yourpea in Tappita, Baintowin in Sanniquele and Baye town in Buchanan). The technician used the visits to interact with group members and operators, and addressed problems that operators had encountered while processing on their own after the training. After the repairs, the Freedom Mill was tested and operated for farmers to be sure that the problem was addressed and that they could continue processing.

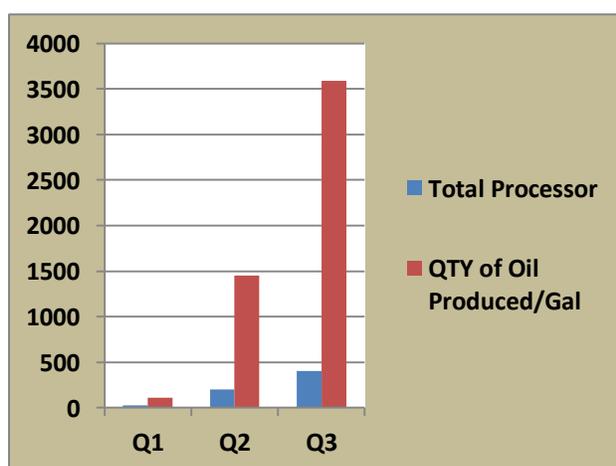
### b) Oil palm processed

Palm oil production tremendously increased during this quarter (Q3) as wild palm fruits collectors and smallholders increase the production of palm oil using the Freedom Mills. Though this quarter marks the peak of the palm fruits harvesting season, the reduced labor required and the efficiency associated with the usage of the Freedom Mill are major contributing factors for the significant increase in the number of processors and the volume of palm oil.

The table below shows the progression in the number of processors (farmers) and the quantity of palm oil produced in Q1, Q2 and Q3 FY16.

Table 1

Period	Total Processors (farmers)	QTY of Oil Produced/gal
Q1 - FY16 (Oct.-Dec)	24	111.0
Q2 - FY16 (Jan- March)	203	1,448.5
Q3 - FY16 (April-June)	406	3,588.0



**Figure 1:** Bar chart shows the graphical progression in the number of oil palm processors and the quantity of palm oil produced in Q1, Q2 & Q3 FY16. Coincidentally, the beginning of project fiscal year also marks the beginning of palm oil production season. As it is shown in both the table and bar chart, the number of processors and the volume of oil produced progressively increases from Q1 through Q3 which marked the peak harvest season. Production is expected to drop in Q4 due to the heavy down pour of rains and the risk associated with harvesting palm fruits from tall palm trees which are mostly slippery. (Both *Dura* and *Tenera* are easily distinguished at

the farmers level or at processing sites because the Freedom Mill has the *Dura* spring as well as *Tenera* spring. PROSPER M&E data collection tool did not include oil palm distinction, but only named the processor, sex, volume of oil produced, and date of process. Only very few of PROSPER communities have both *Dura* and *Tenera*, but a majority process *Dura*. This is why farmers are showing a strong interest in growing *Tenera*)

From the above table and as reflected on the chart, during this quarter (Q3 FY16), 406 farmers (male: 252; female: 154) processed 3,588 gallons of palm oil using Freedom Mills. Interestingly, about 38% of those who processed palm fruits during the quarter were women because some widows have started harvesting palms from their late husbands' farms as a result of the reduced labor associated with the usage of the Freedom Mill.

Based on the Tappita regional market information, farmers income is most likely to increase as the price of palm oil increased significantly from 3.05 USD/gallon in Q2 to 3.80 USD/gallon in Q3.

c) Seven oil palm processing groups participated in constitution consultations

As part of the process to formalize the oil palm processing groups into enterprises, the Business Development Advisor facilitated the constitution consultation with seven oil palm processing groups; one group in Sanniquellie (Baintowin), and six groups in Tappita (Doeyelay, Korlay, Kparblee, Kwipea, and Yorlay # 1&2). The groups' participated in the formulation of their draft constitutions in well-attended sessions. They agreed on various names as the official names of the associations; established clear leadership structures with defined roles and responsibilities; and defined their functions and other rules to govern their associations. At the end of the sessions, they expressed satisfaction with the document as it will commit them more to the activities of each association and better unite them toward a common goal.

Business skills trainings were also conducted with the groups in basic financial management and organizational development. The topics covered included stages in business development, concept of Farming-as-a-Business, cash management, recording business financial transactions, basic organizational development, etc. At the end, they were grateful to PROSPER for organizing such trainings, and have applied their knowledge to develop and adopt constitutions, and are using ledger books to track activities and sales. Training efficacy is being monitored by the PROSPER M&E team.

## Challenges

Two of the oil palm processing groups operators' of the Freedom Mills in Baintowin and Baye town in the Sanniquellie region and Buchanan (District #4) respectively, reported that it is taking some oil palm farmers and those collecting palm fruits from the wild time to get adjusted to the use of the Freedom Mill. Farmers still believed that the Mill will not process their fruits as efficiently as traditional methods despite the output/performance of the machine during the demonstrations. They continue to prefer to take more of their palm fruits to the pit (traditional method of processing) and only take a limited quantity to the mill until they can be fully convinced on the operation of the mill. This is their first time they have seen such a technology and this is their first experience of processing palm fruits using Freedom Mill. As a result, the adoption period for the mill in these communities will remain low until individuals are more comfortable with the technology.

## ACTIVITY 3.2 REDUCE THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY LINKED TO LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES

RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q3)
No deliverables due in FY16
Livelihood group members have basic understanding about Community Forestry and the importance of the forest on their livelihood <b>(Result)</b>
Cocoa farmers apply yield improving practices that they have seen on the cocoa demo field days on their own cocoa farms <b>(Result)</b>
Farmer's Groups are able to produce (vegetable) crops in the dry season <b>(Result)</b>
Cocoa farmers can receive farm gate price information through the Liberia Market Prices SMS response system 24/7 <b>(Result)</b>
Beekeepers produce and sell honey from hives in or around Community Forests <b>(Result)</b>

### COMMUNITY FORESTRY OUTREACH THROUGH EXISTING GROUPS (FED FFS, ETC.)

During the quarter, Component 3 field staff rolled-out the community forestry outreach messages through the PROSPER crop diversification, oil palm nursery farmers, and cocoa rehabilitation groups. The materials rolled-out included the messages on shifting cultivation/farming and hunting/poaching. These messages are very relevant to these groups especially shifting cultivation which is identified as the most practiced type of farming activity carried out by the community dwellers.

During the roll-out, farmers expressed their satisfaction about the awareness being created by PROSPER on shifting cultivation/farming practices because that is the only method they have ever known. They have come to realize that tree crop farming as being emphasized by PROSPER would invariably reduce shifting cultivation and increase income for them rather than rice farming activities carried out year after year from one place to another. PROSPER will continue the outreach messages on the effect of shifting cultivation, and promote livelihood activities that will reduce shifting cultivation through permanent farming systems and soil amendment techniques. It is assumed that when farmers see the impact, it will motivate farmers to minimize shifting cultivation activities.

### COCOA REHABILITATION

#### Major Achievements

- Cocoa rehabilitation field days organized

The cocoa rehabilitation activities continued during the quarter on the four demonstration plots in Marlay, Yoelay #1, Old Yourpea and Behwallay around the Big Gio Forest in April and May. A total of 110 (98 male, 12 female) of the 113 farmers attended the field days demonstrations. Wienco field technicians demonstrated the cultural practices which included first weeding, Chopons and dead husk removal and they explained the rationale to have a well-maintained and weed-free cocoa farm. It was also explained that dead husks harbor pests in the farm which makes it "mandatory" for any cocoa farmers to remove it. Farmers had the opportunity to ask questions on the importance of these cultural practices and their effect on yield increase.



*Wienco field technician(L) explains cocoa farm management and best practices as Marlay cocoa farmers*

Wienco field technicians explained the significance of every cultural practice on cocoa production. One of the technicians, Mr. Junior G. Quempenpen said to the farmers *“though most of the cocoa farms are old and even older than some of us. Some cocoa farmers that inherited the cocoa farms from their fathers can agree with me that the farms were planted before they were born or when they were children. And they have not received any training on cocoa production best practices. And most of us farmers only visit the cocoa farm during harvesting period without giving any care to the trees that produce the cocoa. Once we say we are cocoa farmers, then it is important that we go through this kind of training to improve our cocoa farms.”* He further told the farmers that Wienco is not only interested in the farmers going through this training, but for farmers to adopt these practices on their individual farms.

About 90 percent of the participating farmers (100) had completed cultural practices such as under brushing, de-barking, and de-shading on their individual farms in the four communities.

## Lessons Learned

The adoption rate on pruning<sup>2</sup> is low between 10-15% due to fear by farmers who are participating in the cocoa rehabilitation demo activities for the first time. They see pruning as destruction to the cocoa trees. Most of the farmers said they will observe the demonstration plots this year, and if the pruning does not cause any harm to the cocoa trees, then they will gradually take on the practice. This slow adoption rate, particularly on pruning, is consistent with previous experiences by Wienco in other areas they support as well as by ACDI/VOCA in other activities supporting cocoa farmers.

## CROP DIVERSIFICATION

### Major Achievements

- 253 (59 male, 194 female) new crop diversification farmers participate in Farming as a Business and Crop Diversification trainings
- Three groups participate in constitution consultation
- Provision of technical assistance to thirty three crop diversification groups

A two-day training on Farming as a Business (FaaB) and Crop Diversification was conducted simultaneously for each of the nine new Crop Diversification groups in eight towns; four towns in Tappita (Gboutuo, Yriah, Marlay, and Old Yourpea (two groups) around the Big Gio Community Forest,

<sup>2</sup>Pruning is the selective removal/cutting off some branches of the cocoa tree to stimulate the remaining branches to bear more cocoa pods

three towns in Buchana (Ben's Town, Farr Town and Zorda), and one town (ZorGorpa) in Sanniquellie. A total of 253(59male, 194 female) farmers participated in the training.

In Farming as a Business, farmers were trained to view farming as a sustainable business in order to change from subsistence farming to farming for profit. The training was aimed to stimulate a change in farmers' attitudes by creating a class of farmers that will use business concepts in farming including planning, production season, marketing and record keeping. The training was participatory and interactive as farmers were given the opportunity to provide their personal views on Farming as a Business using their own farming experiences. The topics that were covered during the FaaB training included: the importance of Farming as a Business with the two key words (Farming & Business); who is a business farmer; how the business farmer starts (what to grow, when to grow, how to grow and who to grow for); farmer's planning tips, crop budgeting; parts of a crop budget and crop budget review and adjustment; why crop budget review and adjustment; and the value addition to prevent post-harvest losses in time of surplus.

At the end of the training, farmers were quick to admit that they have been doing hard work with little return due to the lack of business knowledge. In Zordah, the chairlady of the crop diversification group Mrs. Bendu Sulenteh, stated: *"I have never heard the word farming as a business because I did not know that farming can be done as a business."*

The crop diversification training focused on best farming practices that encourages farming on one parcel of land using crop rotation and soil amendment techniques to minimize shifting cultivation, and the growing of other crops driven by market opportunities. Topics covered included: the meaning of crop diversification, importance of crop diversification, advantages of crop diversification, crops classification (family), crop rotation guide and crop diversification and the reduction of threat to biodiversity. During the training, farmers were pleased and expressed that practicing crop diversification to grow short duration crops (pepper, beans, ground nuts) and at the same time grow long term crops (i.e. plantain) would help them do well with their farming activities and increase their income. Leaders from the groups appreciated PROSPER for the training and promised to practice what they learned.

The Business Development Advisor facilitated constitution consultation with three crop diversification groups; two groups in Sanniquellie (Lugbeyee and Zorgowee) and Tappita (Dialla). A total of 62 (18 male, 44 female) participated in the process. The groups adopted various names as the official names for their associations, and set up leadership structures and defined functions of the positions (chairlady, vice chairlady, secretary, treasurer, and chaplain-were the major positions). They welcomed the structure proposed by the constitution and agreed to restructure the association to reflect the new positions. They expressed satisfaction with the document as it will clearly define the role each member will play in the association and increase individual commitments to the group.

The provision of technical assistance continued during the quarter with the crop diversification groups. The technical assistance included site selection for the cultivation of beans and ground nuts intercropped with pepper, the construction of elevated nurseries for the sowing of vegetable seeds, application of liquid manure on crops, integrated pest management (IPM) through the use of soap solution to control insects, etc. In addition, field staffs continue to guide farmers in intercropping vegetable crops (okra, corn, pepper, bitter-balls, and beans) with plantain to maximize the use of the land to generate income.

Two of the crop diversification groups; one in Baintowin and the other in Zorgowee began harvesting their vegetables (bitter-balls, pepper, okra and corn) during the quarter. The Baintowin group harvested about 50 kg each of bitter-balls and pepper, and generated an amount of 65 USD. The group in Zorgowee harvested about 45 kg of corn and 10 kg of okra which amounted to 11 USD. The amounts generated by the two groups are interesting to note due to their ability to put into practice the record

keeping learned from the farming as business training. The groups are encouraged to continue the crop diversification activities to generate income with these short duration crops.

## **IMPROVED MARKET INFORMATION**

### **Major Achievements**

- Cocoa reference price launched on Tappita community radio station

PROSPER launched the cocoa reference price on the Tappita community radio station to ensure that cocoa farmers are well informed about the dried cocoa beans price set by the Liberia produce and Marketing Corporation (LPMC)<sup>3</sup> The cocoa reference price is announced monthly by LPMC in relation to the world market price to make sure that cocoa farmers are not exploited by unscrupulous middle men and buyers. PROSPER is assisting to have prices announced weekly (3 times every Sunday, which is what the farmers suggested). This support is scheduled to continue through March 2017.

## **BUSH MEAT ALTERNATIVE-BEEKEEPING**

### **Major Achievements**

- Universal Outreach Foundation (UOF) organized five beekeeping groups in five towns and recruited 103 farmers to participate in FY16 beekeeping activities
- Extension support provided to FY15 Beekeeping groups
- Three hives harvested in two communities
- Nine additional hives colonized

During the quarter, based on the subcontract to establish additional five new beekeeping groups in Buchanan for FY16, Universal Outreach Foundation (UOF) organized five groups in five towns (Kaykay town, Mandeh-Dou and Zordah in Barconnie and Farr town and Korjuah in District #4) to participate in beekeeping activity. As a result of the expressed interest shown by traditional beekeeper in Yarweh and with close proximity they were merged with the group in Mandeh-Dou. Subsequently, they recruited 103 (13 female, 72 male) farmers who were enthusiastic and willing to participate in the beekeeping activities in their various communities.

After the recruitment process, UOF organized a three-day beekeeping training in each community. The training covered various topics including the life of the bee, site selection, hive management, stands methods, how to keep safe, baiting, how to make a standardized bee hive, and more.

Particular to this workshop was the opportunity for farmers to personally construct their beehives under the supervision of UOF technicians. They were taught the measurements and how to assemble the hives to get best results. Some participants from the 2015 training also attended the hives construction demonstration to give them a first-hand experience of how bee hives are built.

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<sup>3</sup> LPMC is the Liberia Government's institution that is responsible to set dried cocoa beans price

The table below shows the beekeeping starter packages that were distributed to each of the group.

Items	Kaykay's	Maneh duo/Yarweh	Zordah	Farr Town	Korjuah
Extractor	1	1	1	1	1
Bee hive	10	10	10	10	10
Knife	1	1	1	1	1
Table spoon	2	2	2	2	2
Basin spoon	1	1	1	1	1
Filter	2	2	2	2	2
Smoker	1	1	1	1	1
Hive tool	2	2	2	2	2
Tray pan	2	2	2	2	2
Hand-out	40	35	40	35	35

Beekeeping extension support was provided by UOF to each of the FY15 five groups which included regular visitation of hives, re-baiting and relocation of hives to increase the chances of colonization. Universal Outreach staff on-site visits and interaction with various groups increased groups' members understanding on how to check for bees' enemies such as ants and termites, and the various preventive measures they should take. Groups' members also understood some of the environmental problems that may hinder the early colonization of the hives such as bee enemies, the unavailability of pollens as well as the delay in the production of honey by the bees after colonization which may be due to the small population size of the bees.

Extension support in harvesting of honey was also provided to two groups (Korlay and Diallah) in Tappita. Korlay and Dialla harvested two and one hive respectively which amounted to a total of three gallons of honey; one gallon from each hive. In Dialla, this quarter was their first harvest of their hive and therefore it was important that Universal Outreach staff were present to demonstrate the harvesting procedures to the group. One of the hives in Ben's town in Buchanan was harvested but the quantity of honey was about one liter, too small to be sold therefore it was left to be consumed by group members mainly their children. It was later observed that there is limited availability of fruit trees in that part of the Barconnie community.

In addition, nine hives were colonized with the FY15 groups. In total, 29 of the 50 hives (58 percent) provided to the beekeepers have been colonized. The increased colonization of the hives is building momentum among the beekeepers as they continue to express their satisfaction with the beekeeping activities because as they put it, "we will get free money" meaning that the labor involve in beekeeping is very minimal compared to other farming activities.

### Lessons Learned

The low harvest of honey experienced in Kaykay Town in the Barconnie community after the hive was colonized for more than nine months is being associated with less fruit trees in that part of the

Barconnie community which is not very close to the proposed community forest. The lesson learned is that though a hive might colonize early, due to environment issues like the limited availability of fruit trees that will produce pollens and nectars for the bees to collect to make honey, honey production might not be substantial. Beekeepers were advised to begin to think about planting fruit trees such as oranges and improved oil palm for the long term sustainability of the beekeeping and honey business.

## ALTERNATIVE CHARCOAL PRODUCTION

ACDI/VOCA is in the process of finalizing the recruitment of a Dendrologist based on Roy Hagen's (charcoal consultant) recommendation to do forest inventory in Barconnie. ACDI/VOCA and Tetra Tech have agreed for the assignment to be carried out in October or November due to the unavailability of the consultant at this time, coupled with heavy down pour of rains in Liberia between July to September.

### ACTIVITY 3.3: WORK WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK/SHARE LESSONS LEARNED IN BEST PRACTICES, WORKABLE APPROACHES, AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES

#### RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q3)

No deliverable due in FY16

Two (2) publications disseminated through the Agriculture Coordination Committee (ACC) and other technical committees **(Result)**

#### Major Achievements

PROSPER attended both the Cocoa Sector Technical Working Group and the ACC meetings in April and June. The Ministry of Agriculture cancelled the meeting in May due to travel engagements by authorities involved in organizing the ACC. During the May meeting, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) asked partners to develop a database of all farmers in Liberia that they are working with which will help the MoA to plan properly. This is because the Government of Liberia is developing an agriculture policy document called the Liberia Agriculture Transformation Agenda (LATA), and the goal is economic diversification and inclusive growth. This is necessary due to the economic down-turn in the iron ore mining sector. The process of registering farmers was also emphasized in the June meeting.

### ACTIVITY 3.4: ESTABLISH AND MONITOR COMMUNITY-BASED LOW IMPACT TIMBER HARVESTING IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AREAS IN LIBERIA TO DETERMINE BEST PRACTICES FOR MINIMUM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND MAXIMUM ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

#### RESULTS & DELIVERABLES (Q3)

Report on proposed best practices for community-based low impact timber harvesting in Liberia made available to stakeholders **(Deliverable 18)**

Increased knowledge of community-based low impact timber harvesting in Liberia and recommendations made available to GOL decision makers regarding sustainable community based timber harvesting as an environmentally and economically viable activity **(Result)**

Deliverables due during this quarter

- a) Deliverable 18 – This report was completed by the STTA William Cordero and submitted July 19, 2016. Pending USAID approval

### **Major Achievements**

*Submitted “Report on proposed best practices for community-based low impact timber harvesting in Liberia made available to stakeholders” in fulfillment of Deliverable 18.*

*Completed report on “A Methodological Guide for Inventories of Timber and Non-timber Forest Products*

- This report was completed by the STTA and is currently being reviewed by PROSPER. It will be submitted to USAID as part of the STTA final report.

# 6.0 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

In order to assess progress toward PROSPER's three IR's and 13 sub-intermediate results, the PROSPER team, in consultation with USAID, updated PROSPER's Performance Management Plan (PMP) in October, 2015. During the update the indicator matrix was modified from 22 indicators to 18. These included four *FACTS* indicators, two *Feed the Future* (FtF) indicators and twelve IP custom indicators. PROSPER Year-4 targets were established for all of the 18 Indicators. A new M&E Officer was hired in May, 2016.

A third review of the PROSPER M&E system was conducted from June 2-17, 2016 by STTA Erika Dunmire, whose report was submitted to USAID.

At the end of this quarter, the M&E Team summarized the results of target data collected and analyzed by completing a performance indicator tracking table which is submitted as an annex to this report. It is expected that this same data will also be enter routinely into USAID Liberia's on-line Performance Information Database System (PIDS), which has not been accessible because of database maintenance not caused by PROSPER. Quarterly information will be input into PIDS when the system is available.

The M&E Team attended a four day PIDS training at the LSA conference hall from July 5-8, 2016. During the training, all USAID IPs M&E Staff were introduced to the USAID new Performance Indicators Database System. The new system incorporates all IPs existing data from the former PIDS. According to the new system design, each IP will need two login account one for the person responsible for data entry and one for a verifier who will verify and submits to the COR for certification.

In connections with other reporting, PROSPER M&E team have started tracking all trainings '16' hours and above to USAID TRAINET website on a weekly and monthly basis.

## **ATTAINMENT OF TARGETS**

PROSPER reports on 18 key performing indicators quarterly and annually. There are 13 quarterly indicators and 5 annual indicators. During this quarter, Q3 FY-16, 5 indicators met or exceeded its target, 3 indicators have already exceeded the LOP targets, and data is in file for three (3) indicators awaiting proper documentation and validation to be reported next quarter. At USAID's request, PROSPER prepared a comment column explaining all instances in which target attainment was ten percent or more above or below the projected levels. As indicated, the reasons were quite variable and involved both internal and external factors. Details concerning PROSPER's attainment of targets in Quarter 3 Year 4 are summarized in the Performance Indicators Tracking Table (Annex 3).

# 7.0 ANNEXES

## ANNEX I: STAFF LIST (30 JUNE 2016)

Total	Per Site	Last	First	Location	Title	Organization
1	1	Meadows	Paul	Monrovia	Chief of Party	TTARD
2	2	Cole	Eugene	Monrovia	Deputy Chief of Party	TTARD
3	3	Aldinger	Peter	Monrovia	FDA Advisor	TTARD
4	4	Vesselee	Martin	Monrovia	Deputy Lead, Component 2	TTARD
5	5	Jackson	Nobeh	Monrovia	Deputy Lead, Component 1	TTARD
6	6	Johnson	T. Doe	Monrovia	Education Advisor	NAEAL
7	7	Gartayn	Vivian	Monrovia	Outreach and Communication Advisor	TTARD
8	8	Akoi Forkpa	Laveto	Monrovia	Lead LEDA	ACDI/VOCA
9	9	Queejay	Marvelous	Monrovia	Senior Field Coordinator	ACDI/VOCA
11	11	Miller	Esthella	Monrovia	Gender Integration Officer	TTARD
13	13	Glaydor	Garnahweh	Monrovia	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	TTARD
14	14	Belleh	Harris	Monrovia	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	TTARD
15	15	Ndorbor	Macdonald	Monrovia	GIS	TTARD
16	16	Thompson	Daniel	Monrovia	Business Development Specialist	TTARD
17	17	Dunbar	Audrill	Monrovia	FDA Liaison	FDA
18	18	Tarr	Vera	Monrovia	Office Manager	TTARD
19	19	Williams	Joshua	Monrovia	Finance Manager	TTARD
20	20	Mulbah	Henry	Monrovia	Finance Officer	TTARD
21	21	Paye	Edward	Monrovia	Administrative/Finance Assisant	TTARD
22	22	Wheigar	Sando	Monrovia	Procurement/Contracts Officer	TTARD
23	23	Sartee	Alvis	Monrovia	Administrative Operations Officer	TTARD
24	24	Dugbeh	Sam	Monrovia	Administrative /Finance Assistant	TTARD
25	25	Saylee	Moses	Monrovia	Caretaker	TTARD
24	24	Johnson	Frederick	Monrovia	Head Driver	TTARD
26	26	Dukuly	Abraham	Monrovia	Driver	TTARD
27	27	Habah	John	Monrovia	Driver	TTARD
28	28	Weltee	Othello	Monrovia	Driver	TTARD

29	29	Boykai	Joel	Monrovia	Driver	TTARD
30	30	Kollie	Henry	Monrovia	Driver	TTARD
31	31	Gant	Garretson	Monrovia	Driver	TTARD
32	32	Goflee	Evelyn	Monrovia	Caretaker	CJPS
33	1	Paypay	William	Sanniquellie	Acting Forestry Officer/Head of Office	NAEAL
34	2	Koffa	Ben	Sanniquellie	Field Office Administrator	TTARD
35	3	Johnson	Jallah	Sanniquellie	Driver	TTARD
36	4	Nyumah	John	Sanniquellie	Coordinator	NAEAL
37	5	Mahn	Robert	Sanniquellie	Mobilizer – Zor	NAEAL
38	6	Gomah	Marcus	Sanniquellie	Mobilizer - Sehyi	NAEAL
39	7	Wruor	Garsaynee	Sanniquellie	Mobilizer - Gba	NAEAL
40	8	Saye	Ruth	Sanniquellie	Coordinator	CJPS
41	9	Sayekea	Ophelia	Sanniquellie	Mobilizer - Gba	CJPS
42	10	Baimie	Chyrrei	Sanniquellie	Mobilizer - Sehyi-geh	CJPS
43	11	Deemie	Michael	Sanniquellie	Mobilizer - Zor	CJPS
44	12	Dahn	Julius	Sanniquellie	Caretaker	CJPS
45	13	Zonen	Leona	Sanniquellie	Field Facilitator - Sehyi-geh	ACDI/VOCA
46	14	Kerkula	Thomas	Sanniquellie	Coordinator	ACDI/VOCA
47	15	Kennedy	Wilmot	Sanniquellie	Field Facilitator - Zor - Zorgowee	ACDI/VOCA
48	16	Zayzay	Joseph	Sanniquellie	Extension Officer - Sanniquellie	FDA
49	1	Biah	D. Nuah	Tappita	Forestry Officer/Head of Office	TTARD
50	2	Maximore	Gibson	Tappita	Field Office Administrator	TTARD
51	3	Nambo	Francis V. A.	Tappita	Driver	TTARD
52	4	Brisbane	Joseph	Tappita	Coordinator – Tappita	NAEAL
53	5	Quaye	Williamson	Tappita	Mobilizer - Gbear Gblor	NAEAL
54	6	Dweh	Oliver	Tappita	Mobilizer - Boe-Quilla	NAEAL
55	7	Kabakollie	Isaac	Tappita	Mobilizer - Kparblee	NAEAL
56	8	Gayflor	Joseph	Tappita	Mobilizer - Sehzieplay	NAEAL
57	9	Younquoi	Viola	Tappita	Coordinator -	CJPS

58	10	Lorseh	Arthur	Tappita	Mobilizer - Gbear Gblor	CJPS
59	11	Yoko	Daniel	Tappita	Mobilizer - - Boe-Quilla	CJPS
60	12	Sangar	Martin	Tappita	Mobilizer - Kparblee	CJPS
61	13	Gibson	Sam	Tappita	Caretake	CJPS
62	14	Quaye	Sampson	Tappita	Coordinator Tappita	ACDI/VOCA
63	15	Wehyie	Patrick	Tappita	Field Facilitator - Boe-Quilla	ACDI/VOCA
64	16	Kamara	Mcdonald	Tappita	Field Facilitator - Kparblee	ACDI/VOCA
65	17	Dwana	John	Tappita	Argo Forestry Ranger - Tappita	FDA
66	1	Gibson	Eugene	Buchanan	Forestry Officer/Head of Office	TTARD
67	2	Ville	James	Buchanan	Field Office Administrator	TTARD
68	3	Manobah	Folley	Buchanan	Driver	TTARD
69	4	Kennedy	Winifred	Buchanan	Coordinator	NAEAL
70	5	Gorvego	Roland	Buchanan	Mobilizer District 4	NAEAL
71	6	Blama	Aloysius	Buchanan	Mobilizer Barconnie	NAEAL
72	7	Folley	Isaac	Buchanan	Coordinator	CJPS
73	8	Benson	Josiah	Buchanan	Mobilizer - District # 4	CJPS
74	9	Davids	Robertson	Buchanan	Mobilizer - Barconnie	TTARD
75	10	Johnson	Rufus	Buchanan	Caretaker	CJPS
76	11	Mynen	Joe	Buchanan	Coordinator	ACDI/VOCA
77	12	Newman	Kollie	Buchanan	Field Facilitator District #4	ACDI/VOCA
78	13	Kpainay	Joseph	Buchanan	Regional Extension Officer, Grand Bassa County	FDA
79	14	Johnson	Boima	Buchanan	Agro Forestry Ranger District # 4	FDA

## ANNEX 2: LIST OF REPORTS SUBMITTED

Title	Reference (Deliverable/Reporting Requirement)	Submission Date	Approved
FY16Q3 Quarterly Report	RR-5	April 18, 2016	Approved July 12, 2016
FY16Q2 Quarterly Accruals Report	RR-7	June 16, 2016	NA
FY16Q2 Quarterly Financial Report	RR-6	April 18, 2016	Approved June 18, 2016
STTA Report - Dunmire - M&E Consultant	RR-12	June 28, 2016	NA
STTA Report - Cordero - Inventory/Landuse	RR-12	July 19, 2016	BEST PRACTICES Report submitted. Inventory Report to be submitted in Aug.
STTA Report - Gunthe - GIS Specialist	RR-12	Pending	NA
STTA Report - Wilson - EE Curriculum review	RR-12	Pending	NA
Del. 11a - Assessment	D-11a	June 18, 2016	Approved July 13, 2016
Del. 15a - Assessment	D-15a	June 18, 2016	Approved July 13, 2017
Del. 17a - Assessment	D-17a	June 18, 2016	Approved July 13, 2018
Del. 13a - Annual Revision of Biomonitoring Handbook	D-13a	May 4, 2016	Pending Approval
Del. 9 - Community Forestry Issuance Handbook	D-9	April 27, 2016	Approved June 1, 2016
Del. 16 - Agriculture and Community Forest Enterprise Management Manual - ACDI/VOCA	D-16	April 5, 2016	Approved April 29, 2016
Del. 26d - Three Policy Briefs - P. Aldinger	D-26(d)	April 1, 2016	Approved June 24, 2016
Del. 17 - Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community-based forest product and agricultural enterprises in Liberia.	D-17	April 11, 2016	Approved June 20, 2016

### ANNEX 3: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TRACKING TABLE

Performance indicators and types	Explanation - +/- 10% of Quarterly Target	FY 2016 Target	2016 Q3 Target	2016 Q3 Actual	2016 Q3 % Actual vs Target	% LOP Actual vs LOP Target
<b>Intermediate Result 1:</b> Increased educational and institutional capacity to improve environmental awareness, NRM, biodiversity conservation, and environmental compliance						
1.1 Number of institutions with increased capacity to improve environmental awareness, NRM, biodiversity conservation, and environmental compliance – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	This is an annual indicator, the Q3 target is zero	3	0	0	0%	<b>50.00%</b>
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 1.2:</b> Improved capacity of CSOs to design and conduct outreach campaigns to increase public awareness of natural resource and environmental management issues						
1.2.1: Number of CSO members involved in the design and conduct of outreach campaign activities that incorporate best practices – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	Because of the 4th Annual Outreach activities, there were more CSO and community based organizations members involved in the rollout campaign at our field level	40	20	48	240%	<b>135%</b>
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 1.3:</b> Improved capacity of FTI to develop and deliver a community forestry curriculum						
1.3.1: Number of technical/vocational students trained in revised FTI curriculum incorporating community forestry elements – <i>Custom /Output</i>	In-Class observation data is on file for this indicator but will be reported next quarter because this is an annual indicator.	90	20	0	0%	<b>12%</b>

1.3.2: Number of individuals supported by program to conduct applied research at one or more of the program's pilot sites – <i>Custom/Output</i>	PROSPER is working with the FTI administration in line with the academic calendar in order to send the students on the field for applied research. This will be reported next quarter.	15	3	0	0%	<b>40%</b>
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 1.4: Improved capacity of civil society and community organizations to contribute to NRM, land and environmental policy development</b>						
1.4.1: Number of policy briefings and presentations made to national leadership by forestry stakeholders regarding LTPR and forest resource protection and management – <i>Custom/Output</i>	Implemented as planned.	4	1	1	100%	<b>96%</b>
1.4.2: Number of presentations at County Development Committee meetings by communities on policy-related issues – <i>Custom/Output</i>	Two presentations were made by the District 3 and District 4 CFOC at the CDC meeting in Grand Bassa	10	2	2	100%	<b>68%</b>
<b>Intermediate Result 2: Improved community-based forest management leading to more sustainable practices and reduced threats to biodiversity in targeted communities</b>						
4.8.1-26(a): Number of hectares in areas of biological significance under improved management as a result of USG assistance – <i>FACTS/Outcome (ref: 2.1)</i>	Annual Indicator	10,823	-	-	0%	<b>56%</b>
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 2.1: Increased community capacity for forest management</b>						

4.8.1-26(b): Number of hectares under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance – <i>FACTS/Outcome (ref. 2.1.1)</i>	Annual Indicator	70K	-	-	0%	<b>15%</b>
2.1.2: Number of community members trained in the management of their community forestry areas (e.g., biomonitoring, permitting) – <i>Custom/Output</i>	The LOP target for this indicator as set in the 2015 approved PMP has been exceeded by 205.	40	10	0	0%	<b>157%</b>
2.1.3: Number of community members who have applied conflict management skills to manage land conflict issues – <i>Custom/Outcome</i>	Three community members from the Gba, Sehyi and Sehzueplay CF in Nimba County applied conflicts management skills.	35	10	3	30%	<b>72%</b>
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 2.2: Strengthened capacity of FDA, EPA and CSOs to support sustainable forest management</b>						
2.2.1: Number of FDA, EPA, and partner CSO staff trained in the practical steps involved in developing community forestry management bodies and plans incorporating conservation, community, and commercial values – <i>Custom/Output</i>	The LOP target for this indicator as set in the 2015 approved PMP has been exceeded by 38.	10	2	0	0%	<b>154%</b>
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 2.3: : Legal framework for community forestry and LTPR improved and simplified on the basis of recommendations from stakeholder consultations</b>						
4.8.2-28: Number of policies, laws, agreements, or regulations promoting sustainable natural resource management and conservation that are implemented as a result of USG assistance – <i>Custom/Outcome (PROSPER 2.3.1)</i>	Fully implemented as targeted.	8	4	4	100%	<b>50%</b>
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 2.4: Increased use of forest ecosystems data to support the design of community outreach materials and programs</b>						

2.4.1: Number of outreach/awareness products (public reports, brochures, radio messages, documentaries, etc.) that incorporate data from monitoring of biodiversity and/or the carbon footprint of farming and forestry activities that have been disseminated – <i>Custom/Output</i>	During the 4th annual outreach campaign five outreach/awareness products were disseminated (Posters on chainsaw logging, biodiversity calendar, bee pollination posters, radio messages on the 9-steps and radio messages on the CRL)	5	1	5	500%	<b>67%</b>
<b>Intermediate Result 3: Improved community-based livelihoods derived from sustainable forest and agricultural-based enterprises in targeted communities areas</b>						
4.8.1- 6: Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable NRM and conservation activities as a result of USG assistance – <i>FtF/Outcome(PROSPER 3.1)</i>	Data for this indicator is on file but the M&E Team will validate and report next quarter.	100	20	0	0%	<b>94%</b>
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 3.1: Increased number of sustainable agro/forest - based enterprises</b>						
3.1.1: Number of new agribusiness/forestry enterprises formed to support program-assisted value chains – <i>Custom / Outcome</i>	Data for this indicator is on file but the M&E Team will validate and report next quarter.	7	2	0	0%	<b>120%</b>
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 3.2: Reduced threats to biodiversity linked to livelihood activities</b>						
4.5.2-7: Number of individuals who have received USG-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity training – <i>FACTS/Output (PROSPER 3.2.1)</i>	Data for this indicator is on file but the M&E Team will validate and report next quarter.	400	100	0	0%	<b>73%</b>
4.5.2-5: Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance – <i>FtF/Outcome(PROSPER 3.2.2)</i>	The LOP target for this indicator as set in the 2015 approved PMP has been exceeded by 404. There are more data on file but the M&E Team will validate and report next quarter.	120	30	0	0%	<b>172.00%</b>
<b>Sub Intermediate Result 3.3: Increased information available to stakeholders concerning best practices, to improve effectiveness of forestry and agricultural enterprises.</b>						

3.3.1: Number of extension publications disseminated through the Agriculture Coordinating Committee and other national and local fora to interested stakeholders -- <i>Custom/Output</i>	Three publications has been finalized pending dissemination provided Agricultural Coordinating Committee meetings are held next quarter.	2	0	0	0%	<b>40%</b>
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**ANNEX 4: WORKSHOPS, MEETINGS AND OTHER EVENTS ORGANIZED IN FY16Q3**

<b>WORKSHOPS, MEETINGS, AND OTHER EVENTS ORGANIZED BY PROSPER PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD April to June 2016 (Q3 FY-16)</b>										
#	Date	Title	Objective	Location / Community	CF Site	# of Days	# of participants			
							F	M	Staff	Total
	April 28-29, 2016	Roll out of outreach campaign activities	To support CF leaders at the 4th annual outreach campaign	Grand Bassa and Nimba	Buchanan	2	9	14	4	27
	April 20-23, 2016	Build and equip theater troupes	To support local theater troupes conduct outreach and awareness activities	Grand Bassa	Barconie & Benzohn Town	4	12	18	4	34
	3-May-16	Presentation of draft Bio-monitoring Hand Book to FDA	To enable biomonitoring partners have an input into the draft biomonitoring hand book	Monrovia	FDA	1	3	11	4	18
	29-May-16	Leadership and Inclusive Group Facilitation Skills Training	To improve leadership skills of group members in the CDSGs	Nimba	Sanniquellie	2	13	10	3	26
	April 19-29, 2016	To conduct trainings for Community Organizations to Roll out the 4th Annual Outreach Campaign at Fields levels	To enable Communities clearly understand some threats to biodiversity in their community forest.	Grand Bassa and Nimba Counties	Buchanan, Sanniquellie, and Tappita	10	16	32	17	65

	<b>29-Apr-16</b>	<b>PROSPER/FTI Social Inclusion Forum</b>	<b>To deliver presentation at FTI on Gender and social mainstreaming in the forest sector of Liberia</b>	<b>Bomi County</b>	<b>Tubmanburg</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>107</b>
	<b>May 3,2016</b>	<b>Presentation of Biomonitoring Hand Book -FFI</b>	<b>To enable partners have an input in the draft biomonitoring hand book</b>	<b>Monrovia</b>	<b>Monrovia</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>
	<b>April 5,2016-May 9,2016</b>	<b>To support FDA to ground truth,to validate the preliminary CF demarcation line in three of PROSPER operating zones,</b>	<b>To validate preliminary demarcation result in Buchanan,Sanniquellie,and Tappita.</b>	<b>Grand Bassa and Nimba Counties</b>	<b>All Community Forest areas in PROSPER zones.</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>80</b>
	<b>April 26-29,2016</b>	<b>To increase farmers economic benefit derived from sustainable NRM and Conservation activities across the project sites.</b>	<b>To track people with increase economic benefits derived from time and labor saving technologies</b>	<b>Grand Bassa and Nimba Counties</b>	<b>Areas fall in PROSPER zones</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>151</b>

## ANNEX 5: DELIVERABLES

During FY16Q3 the following deliverables were action items:

No.	Deliverable	DUE	STATUS	COMMENTS
9	<b>Community Forestry Issuance Handbook including checklists produced and in use by the FDA Community Forestry Department to guide the due diligence processes in the issuance of new Community Forestry Management Agreements.</b>	FY16 Q1	Approved	Approved by COR June 1, 2016. Comments and suggestions by COR will be incorporated with revision 9a in Sept 2016
16	<b>Agriculture and Community Forest Enterprise Management Manual developed that provides overall guidance to individuals and organizations in the development of sustainable natural resource- based enterprises.</b>	FY16 Q1	Approved	Submitted 5 April 2016. Approved 29 April 2016 by ACOR (Mulbah Jackollie)
17	<b>Series of brochures, radio programs, community theater, and video products developed to support community-based forest product and agricultural enterprises in Liberia</b>	FY16 Q1	Approved	Approved 20 June 2016 by COR.
26d	Deliverable 26 - Three Policy Briefs	FY16 Q3	Approved	Submitted 1 April 2016. Pending approval. Need to discuss with USAID what is still needed for approval
11a	Assessment of Deliverable 11	FY16 Q2	Approved	Submitted 18 June 2016. COR approved 13 July 2016
15a	Assessment of Deliverable 15	FY16 Q2	Approved	Submitted 18 June 2016. COR approved 13 July 2017
17a	Assessment of Deliverable 17	FY16 Q4	Approved	Submitted 18 June 2016. COR approved 13 July 2018
5a	Formal Assessment of Deliverable 5.	FY16 Q2	Delayed	Will move to Q4. Waiting for more information from MOE. Leif
24	<b>Year 1 Education Review Workshop with the CDWG to review lessons learned, best practices, and to assess the development of formal and non-formal curricula</b>	FY16 Q2	In Process	Complete - being reviewed by PROSPER

4a	Assessment of Environmental Curriculum Materials in collaboration with partners	FY16 Q3	In Process	STTA Wilson - Currently working on this.
14b	Deliverable 14 - Support of Legislative Reform Efforts	FY16 Q3	In Process	FDA - Aldinger - Harmonization Plan if Legislative approval needed. Currently being reviewed by FDA.
13a	Annual revision of Deliverable 13	FY16 Q1	Submitted	Submitted 4 May 2016 to USAID. Under review by COR. Need guidance from USAID how to proceed with getting this approved.
18	<b>Report on proposed best practices for community-based low impact timber harvesting in Liberia made available to stakeholders.</b>	FY16 Q3	Submitted	Submitted 19 July 2016. Pending COR approval

## ANNEX 6: SNAPSHOTS



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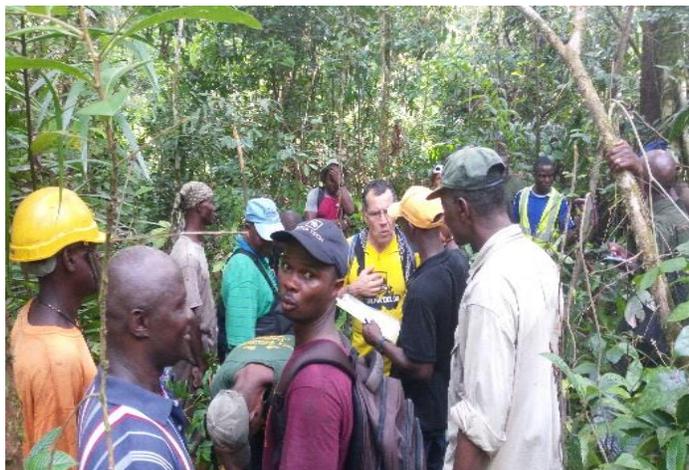
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## SNAPSHOT

### **KWAKERDOE OIL PALM NURSERY – Donor Dependency to Self-Reliance**

Under the Community Rights Law and Implementing Regulations the FDA is to provide technical support to Authorized Forest Communities (AFCs) to help them practice sustainable community forest management. In helping the FDA work towards this objective, and in support of Authorized Forest Communities, USAID PROSPER employed a consultant to train community members and staff from the FDA, the Forestry Training Institute (FTI), and from its field offices in improved forest inventory and planning methodology.

Although many of the technicians from the FDA, FTA and USAID PROSPER had extensive experience



in conducting inventories using existing methodologies, they quickly recognized the benefit of the technology – the software package, Forest Counter – being introduced. Participants of the training exercise embraced the new method, realizing that there were significant gains in effectiveness and efficiency.

As an example of the gained efficiency, this new technology now allows for 6 team members to

conduct an inventory of 600 hectares in half the amount of time that it would take a team of 12 members. The methodology also allows the uploading of transect lines on GPS units for future reference and tracking.

*PROSPER field staff, including FDA and FTI personnel conduct an inventory exercise with Matro Forest Community Members in District 4 of Grand Bassa with the guidance of Inventory Expert, William Cordero. May 2016*

Working with the leadership of the FTI, and the GIS and Community Forestry Departments at the FDA, USAID PROSPER is helping to establish a core team, drawn from participants of the forest inventory training program, which will support AFCs take stock of the forest resources in their community forests and develop simple, clear, and sustainable Community Forest Management Plans.



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# SNAPSHOT

## Investment in New Technology Increases Productivity

Yriah Town is one of the many palm oil producing communities in southern Nimba County bordering the proposed Big Gio Community Forest. Throughout this area, palm oil is processed using a traditional pit method which demands time, resources, and labor from both men and women for collecting firewood and water; boiling palm nuts; and pounding, washing and boiling the palm butter to extract the oil.



In Q1 FY16, PROSPER organized a field day for oil palm farmers in southern Nimba including farmers from Yriah to demonstrate the processing of palm fruits using the Freedom Mill (oil palm press). After the demonstration, farmers from Yriah organized themselves into a group to raise money to invest in their own Freedom Mill.

By the end of Q1 FY16, the Yriah Town oil palm farmers' group raised 300 USD, or 30% of the total cost of one Freedom Mill and requested PROSPER's support through a cost sharing arrangement for the purchase of the Freedom Mill. PROSPER accepted the request and contributed 700 USD (70%) to procure

the Freedom Mill which was introduced in Yriah Town in January 2016 (Q2 FY16) accompanied by training on how to use and maintain it.

Freedom Mill installation along with operation and maintenance training in Yriah Town as group members keenly look on.



ACDI/VOCA Director, Brandie Maxwell (r) visits Yriah Town palm oil processing site and participated in processing activities.

Sam Doegoliah, head of the Yriah Town oil palm farmers' group explained the change the Freedom Mill has made to their group: *"Before the Freedom Mill was introduced to us, we used to process one drum of palm fruits for about 8 hours and generated about 5.5 gallons of oil. Now that we have the Freedom Mill, processing one drum of palm fruits takes about 1½ hours and we generate about 8.5 gallons of oil."*

According to the group's records, they have been able to process 670 gallons of palm oil between January and June 2016. In addition, the group has invested the funds from service fees it has received from customers who use the mill to produce 135 gallons of palm oil that the group is planning to sell as the price of palm oil has increased from 3.05 USD/gallon in Q2 to 3.80 USD/gallon in Q3.



PROSPER CoP, Paul Meadows tours Yriah Town palm oil processing site and interacts with processors to understand farmers view on the usefulness of the Freedom Mill.

The group leader told the PROSPER CoP that the group does not intend to stop there: *"We have stockpile of kernel as a result of the use of the Freedom Mill and we intend to raise some money and invest*

*in kernel cracker to crack the kernels so as to benefit more from oil palm activities.”*

The success of the Freedom Mill in improving palm oil production has brought increased recognition of the value of the community forest resources. As a result, the community has put in place rules and guidelines for the nondestructive harvest of palm fruit to ensure sustainable use of the forest palms for years to come.

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