

50 Metric tons of Improved Seed Rice off to Southeastern Liberia for Farmers

Ministry of Agriculture / WAAPP Liberia Delivering on its Promises to Feed Liberia



STAFF OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, CARI, AFRICA RICE, MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND WAAPP POSE FOR A GROUP PHOTO WITH THE PACKAGED RICE

The Ministry of Agriculture has begun the process of distributing improved seed rice to the Southeastern part of the Country.

On Thursday, March 6, at a brief ceremony held at the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) in Suakoko, Bong County to send off 50 Metric tons of improved seed rice to the Southeast, the team leader of the research institute noted that it was the effort of several valued actors along the way that made the event a success. Aaron Marshall named a young Liberian scientist Nathelyn Baysah as the staff of honor for the event.



CARI TEAM LEADER AARON G. MARSHALL AND MS. NATHELYN BAYSAH

According to the CARI Boss, Ms. Baysah has committed herself to the rice multiplication process since her return to Liberia after studies abroad.

Mr. Marshall also thanked WAAPP for the confidence CARI has enjoyed so far from the project. He noted that the 50 Metric tons of

improved seed rice packaged for transport to WAAPP project counties was just a beginning. Team Leader Marshall disclosed that over 300 Metric tons of improved seeds was also being multiplied and package under the WAAPP/CARI multiplication agreements, as well as over 48 hectares of cassava cuttings that are being packaged for transport.

Also speaking was the Assistant Minister for Planning and Development at the Ministry of Agriculture. Hon. Ousma Tall applauded the World Bank, Government and people of Japan, WAAPP Liberia, CARI and other partners for the level of work done so far.

The Junior Minister who also registered the gratitude of the Minister of Agriculture Dr. Florence Chenoweth whom he represented at the ceremony held in Suakoko, Bong County pointed out that the project was on the right trajectory in its drive to provide improved technologies to the country. This he said is a plus in shifting the thrust of agriculture, something the ministry has been working towards for several years.



**HON. OUSMA TALL
ASSISTANT MINISTER, PLANNING,
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

Hon. Tall said the process of Liberia feeding itself was well underway with developments of this kind. He said the Ministry was committed to the process of seeing Liberia become food secured in the not too distance future.



**MOTHER ESTHER
FEMALE RURAL FRAMER**

A female farmer who represented the rural female farmers spoke of the pride and joy that farmers will have after receiving improved seeds that will generate more yields. Ma Esther also stressed the need for female farmers to be prioritized, since they are ready to farm. She noted the rural female farmers depend on proceeds from their farms to educate their children.

According to her, women vulnerability is a serious issue, and single mothers are the most vulnerable.

For his part, the National Project Coordinator of WAAPP Liberia J. Cyrus Saygbe, Sr noted that it was a dream come true, something that would never have been possible without the coordinated efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture, CARI and Africa Rice.



MINISTER TALL AND J. CYRUS SAYGBE LOAD A BAG OF RICE TO THE TRUCK

Mr. Saygbe noted that the improved seeds were 98% purity certified, a goal that the MOA and WAAPP have worked to achieve. He noted that in the beginning, it seemed a long way to go, but seeing the first consignment being transported to the beneficiaries, was encouraging.

He called on the beneficiaries to use wisely the seeds and help multiply them for further distribution. WAAPP Liberia is committed to the process of achieving food security for the country.