

President Sirleaf Launches the System of Rice Intensification, (SRI) in Monrovia.

Calls on the Ministry of Agriculture to get more involved into interventions of this kind that will help deliver food to the people.



PRESIDENT ELLEN JOHNSON-SIRLEAF CUTS THE RIBBON TO THE FARM ENTRANCE AS AGRICULTURE MINISTER CHENOWETH AND CHAP DIRECTOR BIMBA HELP. (R) MONTSERRADO COUNTY DISTRICT 4 REPRESENTATIVE FAHNBULLEH LOOKS ON

Liberian president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has launched the System of Rice Intensification, (SRI) in Liberia. Speaking on Friday, May 9, 2014 at a ceremony held at the office of the Community of Hope Agriculture Project (CHAP) in Zubah Town, Duport Road, the Liberian Leader called on the Ministry of Agriculture to get more involved in initiatives that will help provide food to the local people. President Sirleaf who also recounted her government's promise to make Liberia food secure said this is the kind of intervention that is going to make that promise a reality. In response to a request made earlier by the CHAP Executive Director Rev. Robert Bimba, President Johnson Sirleaf promised to work with the appropriate authorities to issue a title land deed, that will give CHAP the right to own the land for development purposes.

The President so encouraged the young people within the community to take up jobs and contracts on the CHAP agriculture field, something she is prepared to finance to enable them pay their school and other fees. She said it was now time to discourage hand-downs to young energetic people who can use their hands to work.



**MADAM ELLEN JOHNSON-SIRLEAF
PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA**

It can be recalled that in her annual address to the Nation in January 2011, the Liberian Chief Executive mentioned the CHAP intervention in the Duport Road community as a wonderful endeavor with the propensity of significant gains.



**DR. FLORENCE A. CHENOWETH
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**

Speaking earlier, agriculture minister Dr. Florence Chenoweth reiterated her ministry's commitment to making Liberia food secure in keeping with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). According to the Agro Scientist, there are several interventions that the ministry is presently involved with in all 15 counties of Liberia, and the CHAP initiative was just one. Madam Chenoweth who joined President Sirleaf, Montserrado County District 4 Representative Hon. Boima Fahnbulleh and other dignitaries to cut the ribbon to the farm entrance and harvest the first bash of improved rice under the SRI program also encouraged the local people to get more involved in growing food. This, she said will be their little contribution to the fight against poverty.

Community of Hope Agriculture Project (CHAP) is a faith-based entity that has worked in urban and rural communities in Liberia since its establishment in August 2008. Founded by Apostle & Mrs. James M. Bimba, CHAP seeks to reduce hunger in the country and is a development arm of Abide in the Vine Fellowship Inc.



NEWLY HARVESTED RICE FROM THE CHAP SRI FIELD

It is geared towards training local farmers, women and youth and to provide them with basic farm tools and equipment to increase their productivity and provide them with job opportunities. CHAP which also

receives part of its funding from the

Ministry of Agriculture through the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP) Liberia, is specialized in the production of certified seed rice, vegetables, maize, and cassava cuttings. The Organization is also engaged in capacity building through adult literacy, organizational development, and with expertise in SRI rice production. CHAP is a member of the Farmers Union Network, (FUN).

The new method of rice planting was introduced at a workshop hosted in December 2013, by the Ministry of Agriculture and CHAP, with funding from WAAPP Liberia. The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) program was discovered in Madagascar by the French Jesuit Henri de LAULANIE, an agricultural engineer. SRI is an innovation that changes the conventional practices of rice-growing. In practice, it consists of producing rice with less seeds, water and fertilizers on a soil rich in organic matter and well ventilated.



A HAPPY FAMILY AT HARVEST