



# ANNUAL REPORT 2006



**Ministry of Agriculture  
Republic of Liberia**

19<sup>th</sup> Street, Sinkor  
Monrovia, Liberia

# Acronyms

<b>ACC</b>	Agriculture Coordination Committee
<b>CAADP</b>	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
<b>CARI</b>	Central Agricultural Research Institute
<b>FAO</b>	Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GMO</b>	Genetic Modified Organisms
<b>GOL</b>	Government of Liberia
<b>Ha</b>	Hectare
<b>IITA</b>	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
<b>INGO</b>	International Non-governmental organization
<b>IPM</b>	Integrated Pest Management
<b>LAC</b>	Liberia Agricultural Company
<b>LEAP</b>	Liberia Employment Action Program
<b>LEEP</b>	Liberia Emergency Employment Program
<b>LMO</b>	Living Modified Organisms
<b>LNGO</b>	Local Non-governmental organization
<b>LRDA</b>	Liberia Rubber Development Authority
<b>MOA</b>	Ministry of Agriculture
<b>MPEA</b>	Ministry of Planning & Economic Affairs
<b>MPW</b>	Ministry of Public Works
<b>Mt</b>	Metric Ton
<b>NEPAD</b>	New Partnership for Africa's Development
<b>NERICA</b>	New Rice for Africa
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>SC-UK,</b>	Save the Children - UK
<b>STCP</b>	Sustainable Tree Crops Program
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNMIL</b>	United Nations Mission in Liberia
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme

# Table of Contents

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
<b>Acronyms</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Message from the Minister</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Situation report on Agriculture and Food security in Liberia</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Overview of the Ministry of Agriculture</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Summary of Activities in 2006</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Department of Administration</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Department of Planning</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Department of Regional Development, Extension &amp; Research</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Department of Technical Services</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Looking Forward: 2007 Plan</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Milestone Projects</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>MOA activities in pictures</b>	<b>21</b>

# Message from the Minister

This Annual Report represents activities of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2006 in support of Government's effort to restore productive capacities in the agricultural sector.

Because of its strategic role for employment creation, poverty reduction, food security and income generation, the Ministry prepared an interim policy document as a precursor for the formulation and promulgation of a Comprehensive Agricultural Development Policy and a National Agricultural Investment Strategy.

With funding from the current fiscal budget, which was increased by over 250% from a five-year outlay of less than US\$1 million to over US\$3.2 million, the Ministry, among other things, began rehabilitating the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) located in Bong County. As a result, nine New Rice of Africa (NERICA) varieties and four high yielding local varieties are under multiplication at CARI. Additionally, 19 elite IITA cassava cultivars are being multiplied at CARI and 241 IITA cassava genotypes are undergoing testing at CARI and in six other counties. Similarly, the Ministry began reactivating the national extension system, providing assistance to local initiatives such as the Kpein Seed Multiplication Project in Nimba County.

While contributing to food security and poverty alleviation, these efforts are also helping reestablish government's presence and visibility throughout the country.

Funding from Government and the building of partnerships with stakeholders internally as well as internationally were two opportunities the Ministry took advantage of in achieving its mandate.



***Dr. J. Chris Toe  
Minister of Agriculture***

Government's funding level to the Ministry is an indication of its commitment to the sector and a positive signal to all those desirous of assisting in resuscitating the agricultural sector.

During the 2006 rice cropping season, the Ministry successfully distributed US\$1 million dollar worth of assorted farming tools donated by the Chinese Government to vulnerable farmers throughout the country, while 47,250 farm families received 355 metric tons of seed rice with funds provided by the Liberian government through the intervention of President Sirleaf. The Ministry has also started replenishing the livestock sub-sector with the restocking small and large ruminants.

It is pleasing to note that the National Task Force on Rubber Plantations successfully repossessed the Guthrie Plantation in Bomi and Cape Mount counties, and changed the unscrupulous management of the Cavalla Rubber Plantation in Maryland County. These two actions have resulted in the employment of over 3,000 Liberians and they have generated over \$3 million US dollars in revenues since May, 2006.

The Ministry chairs the Agriculture Coordination Committee (ACC) which groups all key stakeholders and players including relevant government ministries and agencies, UN System and donor agencies, NGOs, media, farmers and rural women groups and the private sector. As a result of this chairmanship, the Ministry has responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the UN Human Security Project funded by the Japanese Government. The Minister directly leads the Food Security Cluster Steering Committee whose goal is to coordinate food availability, accessibility and utilization in the country. The latter is now overseeing a UN emergency assistance program that is providing seeds and pest management assistance to farmers in various counties.

Considering the potential threat of Avian Influenza to Liberia, the President constituted a multi-sectoral National Task Force for the Control and Prevention of Avian Influenza in Liberia which has established hotlines and formed local task forces in all 15 counties that will serve as the first line of defense against a potential pandemic. With funding from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), a central veterinary diagnostic laboratory is being constructed at the University of Liberia Fendell Campus to test blood samples of suspected birds and provide training for the science students and veterinary technicians.

Additionally, the Ministry is currently mediating the land dispute between some citizens of Grand Bassa County and the Liberian Agricultural Company (LAC), leading Government's review of the 2005

Firestone agreement, and continuing to seek harmony at Cocopa, Sinoe and other conflict-ridden rubber plantations.

The year 2006 saw the Ministry of Agriculture building capacity and supporting the transition from war and emergency to peace and recovery. Staff is being trained, computers, automobiles and other essential equipment and supplies are being provided, and institutional strengthening is now underway. A specific example is the Minister's chairmanship of the Provisional Board of Directors that was recently established by President Sirleaf to study options for restructuring agricultural parastatals such as LPMC, CDA, LRDA, etc.

The agricultural sector is surely on the move, thanks to the support of the PRESIDENT and VICE PRESIDENT, the effectiveness of the staff, and the collaborative efforts of the donors and diligent farmers who are committed to attaining food security in Liberia. Vivid evidence of this was demonstrated in November 2006 when the Ministry of Agriculture staged the most successful celebration of World Food Day ever in Liberia in Ganta, Nimba County.

It is anticipated that budgetary allocation to agriculture will be increased annually to comply with the Maputo Declaration, which calls on African Heads of State and Governments to commit at least 10% of their national budgets to the agricultural sector.

The Ministry's accomplishments and challenges are discussed in-depth in this report.

**Dr. J. Chris Toe  
Minister of Agriculture**

# 1. Situation Report on Agriculture and Food Security in Liberia

According to the 2005 FAO/WFP Food and Crop Assessment Mission to Liberia, the current food and agriculture situation in the country is generally alarming due primarily to prolonged periods of instability, which has disrupted the production cycle and displaced large segments of the farming population. As a result, Liberia remains among the most food insecure countries with less than 10% of the arable land being cultivated. It is estimated that at least 50% of the farming population have not had access to seeds and tools provided by NGOs and UN agencies directly involved in the agriculture sector. Women constitute at least 60% of the farming population and carry out 80% of the farming activities. However, they received less than 50% of the emergency assistance of farming inputs provided by NGOs in 2005.

Relative to yields of cassava and rice, the mission observed a gloomy picture of the current situation. It estimated that less than 30% of the baseline figure (FAO/MOA Baseline Survey 2001) is currently being produced. Estimated average rice and cassava yields (Baseline Survey, 2001, MOA) are 1.3 mt/ha and cassava 7.8 mt/ha, respectively. The main reason is the heavy attacks of pests, mainly ground-hogs (rodents), birds and bush animals. Moreover, heavy infestation of Cassava Mosaic Virus (CMV) disease prevails in all regions of country.

Early rains, coupled with access to markets and production centers resulted to food insecurity in large parts of the country. Mainly imported food commodities were available in local or urban markets but highly unaffordable by a large mass of the population due to high prices. In general, there is no inherent problem in accessing land for farming; although fewer than 20% of the population may have to arrange for farmland through local authorities. Worthy of recognition is the adoption of low input technology by smallholder farmers (cutlasses and hoes), which, coupled with limited or no access to extension services, processing equipment and related inputs, resulted to low agricultural productivity. Additionally, poor infrastructure and transportation network limited marketing and related support services. With an estimated 80,000 hectares to be planted mainly in rice crop, it is further estimated that a total of 4,000 tons of seed rice will be required in 2007 assuming 50 kg/ha in the farming season.

## 2. Overview of the Ministry of Agriculture & Its Contributions to the Economy

The agricultural sector has long played a significant role in the Liberian economy. It accounted for about 37% of the GDP prior to the civil war in 1987. After the crisis, the sector's contribution to GDP stood at 53% (MOA Liberia, 2006; NEPAD-FAO, 2006), owing largely to the decline in iron ore mining, which was the largest contributor to GDP up to 1987. Almost 70% of the economically active population of Liberia is engaged in the agricultural sector (MOA Liberia, 2006; NEPAD-FAO, 2006). Prior to the war, the numerical strength of the MOA was about 1,000 personnel and nearly 70% of this figure accounted for field level practitioners. At present, the total number of employees is estimated at 500.

Budgetary allocation to agriculture sector development over the last two decades has been less than 1% making it difficult to contribute significantly to GDP. However, since the inception of this

Government, it has made major efforts in positioning the agricultural sector as a key sector of the economy for employment creation, poverty reduction, attainment of food security and income generation, but more importantly as the prime pillar of the economy for recovery and, indeed, for long-term economic development. To this end, major efforts have been devoted to the definition of a well-articulated policy environment to ensure that the sector fulfills its established mandate.

To achieve its objective, the Ministry, in collaboration with its partners, has set in motion a process at the conclusion of which Liberia can boast of having a *Comprehensive Agricultural Development Policy(CAADP)* and *A National Agricultural Investment Strategy* for Sustainable agricultural development in all the sub-sectors with food security as one of its prime objectives.

In general, Government's agricultural recovery and development strategy within the context of its Policy Intent Statement seeks to achieve the following:

- ❖ *Sustainable resettlement of all vulnerable groups (IDPs, returnees and conflict affected host communities);*
- ❖ *Enhancing food security and achieving self-reliance in main staples, particularly increased and stable supply and availability of food products; improvement of access to food for the most vulnerable social groups; and enhancement of the nutritional absorption capacity of the population;*
- ❖ *Increasing income of the small holders through improved production, marketing and value addition with emphasis on gender issues in agriculture;*
- ❖ *Rejuvenating the vibrant commercial and plantation sector;*
- ❖ *Restocking of livestock and rehabilitation of fisheries sector;*

- ❖ *Institutional and policy reforms directed at addressing the main pillars of governance including decentralization, economic management, and food security; and*
- ❖ *Increasing investment, both private and public, to jump-start the sector contribution to the overall economic development.*

## **2.1. Short and Medium Term Objectives of Agriculture Sector**

The vision of the Government for the agriculture sector is a holistic development of agriculture with special focus on the transformation of smallholder agriculture into a sustainable, diversified, income-generating, modernized and competitive sector well integrated into the domestic and international markets. To realize this vision, the Ministry of Agriculture has defined short and medium term objectives for the sector.

The short term plan has three strategic objectives:

- ❖ Building capacity
- ❖ Supporting the transition from relief to recovery and development; and
- ❖ Ensuring food security.

In the medium and long term, the objectives include:

- ❖ Food and nutrition security;
- ❖ Productivity enhancement and employment generation;
- ❖ Sustainable development of natural resources;
- ❖ Strengthening institutional and human resources; and
- ❖ Rehabilitating and expanding rural productive infrastructure and roads to facilitate cost-effective movement of inputs and produce in order to enhance competitiveness of domestic production.

### 3. Overview of Activities in 2006

The Ministry of Agriculture, since the inception of this Government, has made major efforts in positioning the agricultural sector as a key sector of the economy for employment creation, poverty reduction, attainment of food security and income generation but more importantly as the prime pillar of the economy for recovery and, indeed, for long-term economic development. To this end, major efforts have been devoted to the definition of a well-articulated policy

environment to ensure that the sector fulfills this mandate.

To achieve this objective, the Ministry, in collaboration with its partners, has set in motion a process at the conclusion of which Liberia can boast of having a *Comprehensive Agricultural Development Policy* and *A National Agricultural Investment Strategy* for sustainable agricultural development in all the sub-sectors with food security as one of its prime objectives.

#### 3.1. Activities and Achievements

The following documents have either been finalized or are in an advanced stage of preparation by the Ministry of Agriculture:

Activity	Achievement
❖ A Statement of Policy Intent	Finalized
❖ Contribution to the National IPRSP	Completed
❖ National Medium-Term Investment program, (3 bankable investment projects within the context of NEPAD-CAADP)	Finalized
❖ National food security and nutrition survey	Completed
❖ Plan of action for the next 18 - 24 months	Completed
❖ An issue paper for positioning the agricultural sector as an entry point to poverty reduction	Completed
❖ Concept note on the revitalization of CARI	Completed
❖ Plan of Action for complete rehabilitation of CARI	Initiated (to be completed 06/07)
❖ Comprehensive Assessment of the Agricultural Sector	Initiated (to be completed 03/07)
❖ A National Agricultural Investment Strategy	Initiated (to be completed 06/07)
❖ Comprehensive Agricultural Development Policy	Initiated (to be completed 12/07)
❖ Revised fishery regulations	Drafted in final stages of preparation

## 3.2. Other Major Activities of the MOA

Activity	Achievement
• Setting up of the Rubber Task Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Management structures in place for conflict-ridden rubber such as Guthrie, Cavalla. Sinoe Rubber &amp; others are in process</li> <li>○ Reintegration &amp; employment of ex-combatants at these plantations was effected</li> <li>○ <i>Proposals for a new more responsive structure for MOA in advance stage of preparation</i></li> </ul>
• <i>Restructuring of the MOA</i>	
• Establishment of seed multiplication sites (Gbedin, Suakoko and Kpein)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1.5 metric tons of NERICA donated by WARDA under multiplication at Gbedin &amp; Kpaine</li> <li>○ 25 hectares under multiplication at CARI</li> <li>○ <i>US\$1 million donation by China provided: 105,000 cutlasses, 105,000 files, 52,500 hoes, 51,500 rakes, 52,500 diggers, 500 shovels</i></li> <li>○ 47,250 family received 355 metric tons of seeds provided by GOL</li> </ul>
• <i>Distribution of tools to farmers</i>	
• Distribution of seeds to farmers	
• <i>National Task Force on the control and prevention of Avian influenza set-up</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>National Avian Flu telephone hotline established in all counties and at border posts</i></li> <li>○ <i>US\$ 231,000 FAO funding used for: training &amp; incentives for 19 vet technicians; renovation of the central veterinarian lab; provision of equipment &amp; furniture, and the hiring of two vets and one lab specialists from the region.</i></li> <li>○ ACC established and meets monthly to coordinate activities of all partners in the sector</li> <li>○ <i>Successfully organized &amp; attended by over 10,000 persons</i></li> <li>○ Nine NERICA &amp; four other lowland varieties under multiplication at CARI.</li> <li>○ 19 elite IITA cassava cultivars under multiplication at CARI and in six counties</li> <li>○ 241 IITA cassava genotypes under testing at CARI &amp; in six counties</li> <li>○ <i>The Board constituted and meets regularly</i></li> <li>○ 13 goats and 199 sheep restocked in thirteen communities in Gbarpolu County</li> <li>○ 100 pigs restocked in Bong County</li> <li>○ 685 small ruminants and 10 large ruminants in 142 communities in Lofa, Bomi, Montserrado, Cape Mount and Gbarpolu Counties</li> <li>○ <i>150 field technicians trained in methods &amp; techniques in Integrated Pest Management</i></li> <li>○ <i>By end-December 06, 8,000 field level technicians will have been exposed to IPM training</i></li> <li>○ <i>19,300 farmers will have benefited from IPM training &amp; support</i></li> </ul>
• Agriculture Coordination Committee (ACC) at national and county levels	
• <i>Organization of the World Food Day program</i>	
• Initiation of germ-plasm testing and multiplication for cassava and rice	
• <i>Setting-up of a Joint Board of Directors of Parastatals</i>	
Re-stocking of livestock	
<i>Integrated Pest Management program to combat pests &amp; diseases</i>	

### **3.3. Challenges & Opportunities**

The rising or higher level of funding relative to the immediate past from Government and the building of partnerships with stakeholders internally and internationally are two opportunities the Ministry must capitalize upon in achieving its mandate. Government funding level is an indication of its commitment to the sector and a clear signal to everyone. This greatly enhances the Ministry in its negotiations with other partners for additional support. It is therefore necessary and important that

these opportunities are seized upon to overcome the challenges ahead.

The MOA must capitalize on these opportunities to address major challenges such as: revitalization of CARI; training & placement of personnel to support agriculture recovery; strengthening the National Extension System & the Technical Regulatory Services; improving planning and development capabilities; and setting up adequate offices for its personnel at Headquarters and in the Counties.

### **3.4. Constraints**

In 2006 the Ministry faced many constraints, four of which cut across all aspects of the Ministry's functions, and are expected to be relevant in 2007.

#### **Human Resources**

The availability of trained man power (in quality & quantity) to ably man key positions and undertake vital functions is a major constraint, as most of the trained personnel in the sector either left the country, were killed during the civil crisis, or have sought alternative sources of employment, notably with NGOs. The development of a manpower recruitment and training plan for the sector is therefore a priority.

#### **Offices**

The agricultural sector was perhaps the hardest hit by the protracted civil conflict in the country. All MOA locations throughout the country were either destroyed, vandalized, or were occupied by successive warring factions. Consequently, by the time of this administration, even the MOA Headquarters had ceased to be available to government. The offices of the

Ministry of Agriculture at the Headquarters as well as in the counties are inadequate and unsuitable for a conducive working environment. This calls for urgent action, in view of Government's expectation from the sector.

#### **Inaccessible Roads**

The road condition in the country affects the agricultural sector perhaps more than any other sector. It poses a hindrance to the MOA in adequately reaching its primary clients - the farmers, but also prevents MOA headquarters from easily maintaining contact with its field personnel. Secondly, poor roads pose a major impediment to getting produce from farms to potential markets and consumers. Consequently, the country is losing an unusual proportion of farm production in a situation where nearly half of the population is food insecure.

## **Non-Availability of Agricultural Inputs & Equipment**

The non-availability in-country of essential agricultural inputs and equipment is a major constraint to be addressed as a matter of priority. Firstly, it constrains the Ministry's ability to adequately implement its programs aimed at supporting farmers' efforts to increase production. In addition, it makes it difficult for the Ministry to take full advantage of the funding provided by Government for the provision of needed inputs and equipment for timely implementation of its programs.

## **3.5. Recommendations**

**W**ith a view to improving the operations of the Ministry of Agriculture in 2007, and build on the gains made in 2006, the following recommendations are worth considering:

- ❖ An aggressive manpower recruitment and training program for the Ministry needs to be put in place to enable it meet the targets set in its interventions under the IPRSP.
- ❖ Accelerate the adoption process for proposals on the re-organization of the Ministry and its parastatals so as to acquire the necessary legal instruments attuned with the realities of today.
- ❖ Budgetary allocation to be increased annually by 2% to attain conformity with the Maputo Declaration which calls for 10% of national budgets to be committed to the agricultural sector.
- ❖ Priority should be given to adequately house the Ministry and its County Offices in conducive working environment.
- ❖ The MOA should collaborate with MPW and other relevant agencies of government in drawing up a national road transport rehabilitation plan that seeks to provide easy access between production centers and consumers/markets.
- ❖ Government needs to urgently set in place a mechanism to ensure that agricultural inputs and equipment are readily available, at affordable prices, to ensure that farmers have the opportunity to optimize their operations.

## **4. Structure and Activities of the Departments in 2006**

Brief statement on the organizational structure of the Ministry

### **4.1. Administration**

The Department is headed by a Deputy Minister and assisted by an Assistant Minister for Administration, and has the full responsibility for all administrative activities and functions of the Ministry of Agriculture. These activities and functions include internal administration, procurement and supply of materials, personnel matters, financial and accounting services, transportation support, communications, maintenance of all facilities and equipment, general housekeeping and security activities. They are discharged through the Personnel Services, General Services and Procurement Divisions, each headed by a Director.

#### **4.1.1. Activities**

- ❖ Setting up a personnel attendance tracking system;
- ❖ Upgrading organizational structure and developing quality control measures for employment;
- ❖ Follow-up on Group Insurance Scheme for payments to clients;
- ❖ Recruitment and employment;
- ❖ Preparation of personnel listings; and
- ❖ Setting up of a comprehensive personnel database

#### **4.1.2. Achievements**

- ❖ Employees attendance significantly improved from 40% to 70%;
- ❖ Terms of reference developed and quality control measures upgraded and augmented;
- ❖ 66 persons benefited from Group Insurance and Pension Policy in the order of L\$ 63,709 and US\$ 1,700 as medical benefits for one of the 66 beneficiaries;
- ❖ 28 former pensioners received payments against retirement pension claims amounting to L\$ 44,100, while 12 employees received disablement and survivors' benefits in the tune of L\$ 10,248 and L\$ 9,361, respectively;
- ❖ A total of 12 personnel have been recruited and assigned to relevant departments;
- ❖ Successfully facilitated the procurement of Ministry of Agriculture vehicles and related equipment;
- ❖ Successfully established Rubber Task Force at Guthrie Rubber Plantation, Bomi and Cape Mount Counties and Cavalla Rubber Plantation, Maryland County;
- ❖ 10 metric tons of agro-chemicals purchased and subsequently distributed to relevant departments;
- ❖ Coordinated and successfully hosted this year's World Food Day Celebrations in Ganta, Nimba County;
- ❖ Eight vehicles procured and distributed to relevant departments;

- ❖ Successfully established Ministry of Agriculture Task Force (MTF) and Department Task Force (DTF) to restructure and recommend measures for strengthening MOA capacity; and
- ❖ Facilitated and coordinated the Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) surveillance team that toured the entire country to sensitize the people on the threat of the deadly disease.

#### **4.1.3. Constraints**

- ❖ Lack of appropriate staff to enhance planned activities of the department;
- ❖ Inadequate logistical support to accelerate planned activities;
- ❖ Limited office space to accommodate existing staff of the department; and
- ❖ Lack of adequate trained personnel.

#### **4.1.4. Recommendations**

- ❖ Commence immediate recruitment of relevant staff to strengthen existing capacity;
- ❖ Provide additional logistical support;
- ❖ Create additional office space to accommodate existing and expected staff; and
- ❖ Upgrade skills and knowledge of existing staff and provide training to new staff.

## **4.2. Planning and Development**

The Department is headed by a Deputy Minister and supervises the divisions of Planning and Policy, Statistics and Marketing, and Monitoring and Evaluation. Its principal functions include providing guidance for planning and allied functions for the establishment and maintenance of proper direction for development purposes; developing priority programs for the enhancement of agriculture; and monitoring and evaluating the performance and progress of agricultural programs and projects. The Department also coordinates the activities of various departments in MOA and other stakeholder institutions engaged in agricultural programs, designs training programs for the manpower needs of the

Ministry, ensures that institutional support requirements are adequately considered in the planning process, and develops information on the various support institutions.

As part of its planning functions, the Department assesses alternative means of providing institutional support, monitors the performance of the institutional support system, and develops policy recommendations relative to institutional and infrastructural support systems. Importantly, the Department ensures that all assistance from external sources are consistent with the development program of the Ministry of Agriculture and is utilized for maximum contribution to development objectives.

#### **4.2.1. Activities**

- ❖ Reviewed Policy Intent Statement of MOA;
- ❖ Preparation of MOA's contribution to Liberia Emergency Employment Program and Liberia Employment Action Program (LEEP/LEAP);
- ❖ Preparation of multi-year projections on expenditure 2007/2008;
- ❖ Coordination of the Agriculture Coordination Committee, (ACC);
- ❖ Coordination of the Roundtable Conference on Cocoa Marketing Board of West Africa;
- ❖ Coordination of and participation in the Comprehensive Food Security and Nutrition Survey;
- ❖ Coordination of and participation in the Human Security Project and Market Survey with major partners (UNDP, FAO, WFP, SC-UK, STCP);
- ❖ Coordination and participation in the acreage and yield measurement initiated by CRS; and
- ❖ Coordination and participation in the Capacity Building Workshop of MOA.

#### **4.2.2. Achievements**

- ❖ Prepared and finalized revised Policy Intent Statement of the MOA and circulated to major stakeholders;
- ❖ Contributed to the Establishment of a Secretariat of the Liberia Emergency Employment Program and Liberia Employment Action Program (LEEP/LEAP);
- ❖ Coordinated and participated in the Comprehensive Food Security and Nutrition Survey, which was completed and report circulated to major stakeholders;
- ❖ Coordinated and participated in the roundtable conference on Cocoa Marketing Board of West Africa, which was successfully held and lessons learned to be used as a basis for strengthening the capacity of smallholder cocoa/coffee farmers;
- ❖ The Human Security and Marketing projects principally of UNDP/WFP/FAO are being implemented; and
- ❖ Coordinated and participated in Capacity Building Workshop of MOA.

#### **4.2.3. Constraints**

- ❖ Limited quality staff to enhance the capacity of the Department;
- ❖ Lack of appropriate survey instruments to conduct assessments/surveys;
- ❖ Logistical support is generally inadequate; and
- ❖ Inadequate office space to accommodate existing staff.

#### **4.2.4. Recommendations**

- ❖ Commence immediate quality staff recruitment;
- ❖ Provide appropriate survey instruments;
- ❖ Provide additional logistical support to enhance capacity; and
- ❖ Create additional office space to accommodate existing and new staff.

## **4.3. Department of Regional Development, Research and Extension**

The Department is headed by a Deputy Minister with full responsibility for providing extension services to farmers and discharging these responsibilities through national and regional development framework. It further ensures that agricultural development activities at the field level are properly coordinated, identifies extension needs of farmers, and provides effective feedback

to obtain appropriate response. Additionally, it liaises with other departments on extension and regional requirements for technical and institutional information and related support. These activities and functions are discharged through the following divisions: Extension, Rural Youth and Home Economics.

### **4.3.1. Activities**

- ❖ Restructuring the Department and scrutinizing quality of personnel to suit current needs;
- ❖ Identifying suitable sites for seed rice/cassava stems multiplication;
- ❖ Holding consultations with relevant stakeholders to determine appropriate extension policy for the sector;
- ❖ Conducting needs assessment on a county-wide basis;
- ❖ Budget review to determine financial position; and
- ❖ Establishing county offices.

### **4.3.2. Achievements**

- ❖ Partially rehabilitated CARI field production sites for roots, tubers and rice;
- ❖ Rehabilitated the Kpein irrigation scheme to carry out rice seed multiplication for onward delivery to target farmers;
- ❖ Distributed assorted seeds and tools through County authorities for onward delivery to target farmers;
- ❖ Introduced the NERICA rice variety for the first time in Liberia, which is currently being multiplied for onward distribution to farmers;
- ❖ Introduced 241 cassava germplasm materials for onsite trial and evaluation;
- ❖ Multiplication of the 4000 cassava cuttings both in CARI and on farmers' field; and
- ❖ Drafting of extension policy under way.

### **4.3.3. Constraints**

- ❖ Limited required staff to augment the capacity of the department;
- ❖ Inadequate logistical support to enhance planned activities;
- ❖ Improper departmental structure to plan accordingly;
- ❖ Lack of a well-crafted extension policy;
- ❖ Lack of available information technology on improved farming; and
- ❖ Improper medium for information dissemination.

#### **4.3.4. Recommendations**

- ❖ Immediate staff recruitment should commence to augment and strengthen Department's capacity;
- ❖ Timely supply of relevant logistical support;
- ❖ Proper departmental structure capable of delivering upon present realities;
- ❖ Commence the formulation of a well-articulated extension policy that takes into consideration poverty reduction and food security;
- ❖ Dissemination of information technology;
- ❖ Improved linkage and networking between CARI and MOA; and
- ❖ Make MOA visibility in the 15 counties a reality.

## **4.4. Department of Technical Services**

The Department is headed by a Deputy Minister, and comprises the Quarantine, Fishery, Livestock, Land Development, Food Crops and Tree Crops Divisions. It is responsible for providing technical information support for all appropriate users, which includes accumulating and assembling technical information, evaluating it for applicability to Liberian farm conditions, and organizing it for dissemination. Further, it provides some level of technical expertise to backstop extension requirements and provides direct extension support to commercial farms. The Department develops and devises strategies for improvement of the livestock and fisheries sectors, including veterinary and regulatory services, and executes and implements specialized agriculture projects.



*Five tractors and accessories donated by the Libyan Government to the Government of Liberia for use by Liberian farmers to boost food production*

#### **4.4.1. Activities**

- ❖ Conduct a frame survey of the industrial fishery sector;
- ❖ Revision of the fishery guidelines;
- ❖ Issuance of licenses and permits;
- ❖ Revision of fishery regulations;
- ❖ Collection of catch data from the various landing sites;
- ❖ Rehabilitation of the Fishery premises;
- ❖ Conducted Integrated Production and Pest Management (IPPM) training for farmers and technicians;
- ❖ Participated in comprehensive land and water resources assessment of Liberia;
- ❖ Issued permits for live animals and animal products;
- ❖ Set up national taskforce on Avian Influenza;
- ❖ Communicated to local and international NGOs with regards to restocking of livestock;
- ❖ Conducted diagnostic survey on mortality of restock animals in Lofa County;
- ❖ Formulating Tree Crops project proposals; and
- ❖ Conducted a nationwide assessment of GOL owned plantations (oil palm, rubber, coffee & cocoa).

#### **4.4.2. Achievements**

- ❖ 2.208 million tons of fish imported during the period and valued at US\$ 826,815.40;
- ❖ Eight staff benefited from local workshops and four person benefited from international workshops/seminars.
- ❖ Registration of fishery guidelines completed and distributed to stakeholders;
- ❖ Nineteen canoe licenses, thirty-four industrial licenses and eleven import/export permits issued;
- ❖ A total of US\$ 18,000 (eighteen thousand United States dollars) generated from the issuance of permits and licenses;
- ❖ Thirty-one import permits were issued valued at US\$ 1,680.00; three export permits at the value of US\$ 75.00 and twenty-five phyto-sanitary certificates issued and valued at US\$ 300.00; all deposited into government revenue;
- ❖ Two staff benefited from local and international training workshops on Bio-safety, Environment Impact Assessment and Phyto-sanitary Measures; and
- ❖ Conducted training for the application of methyl bromide for two persons.

#### **4.4.3. Constraints**

- ❖ Lack of legislation and policy on National Plant Protection Policy for Liberia
- ❖ Lack of transportation to facilitate data collection and periodic assessment and monitoring of field activities;
- ❖ Lack of equipment (soil and water analysis, cadastral survey equipment).
- ❖ Inadequate manpower to cover the entire country; and
- ❖ Lack of capacity to conduct coastal surveillance.

#### **4.4.4. Recommendations**

- ❖ Commence the process of enacting legislations and policies that will address issues of plant protection in Liberia;
- ❖ Provision of required equipment and logistical support; and
- ❖ Strengthen capacity to conduct coastal surveillance of fishery resources.

## **5. Looking Forward: 2007 Action Plan**

The year 2006 can be considered as successful and a good basis for determining the appropriate path in pursuing realistic programs that seek to improve agricultural productivity. Towards this end, a strategic program framework and milestone projects have been put into place, which clearly identify specific projects and programs that are expected to be undertaken in 2007:

## Milestone Projects

Activity	Department	Due Date
Conduct market survey	Planning	March 2007
Develop crop forecast	Planning	July 2007
Publish production estimates	Planning	December 2007
Develop NGO database and coordination arrangements	Planning	February 2007
Roll-out human security project	Planning	February 2007
Prepare FY 2007/2008 Budget	Planning	February 2007
Complete staffing and reorganization	Planning	February 2007
Roll out Centre Songhai		February 2007
Develop a database of secondary information	Planning	March 2007
Open five (5) seed multiplication sites	Extension	End-January 2007
Provide offices for every county agriculture team	Extension	January- March 2007
Complete extension staffing and restructuring	Extension	End-March 2007
Roll out National Food security Program	Extension	February 2007
Automate basic HR, assets and financial management processes	Administration	April 2007
Implement interim organizational structure	Administration	January 2007
Complete payroll audit (plus pensioners)	Administration	March 2007
Complete assessment of physical assets	Administration	March 2007
Implement new automobile management policy	Administration	January 2007
Conduct Consultative Workshop on Food Security Summit held in Abuja	(To be included in Sector Assessment Workshop)	March 2007
Complete prioritized renovation works of Ministry's facilities	Administration	May 2007
Establish veterinarian laboratory at University of Liberia	Technical	April 2007
Change management of slaughterhouse and improve condition of building	Technical	March 2007
Complete assessment of economic resources and natural quarantine centers	Technical	January 2007
Finalize MOU between MOA, MHSW and MCI	Technical	January 2007
Prepare and submit KR2 proposal to Japanese	Technical	February 2007
Complete staffing and restructuring	Technical	
Rehabilitate the Tumutu Training site	Technical/LRDA	
Adopt CARI Strategic Plan	CARI	March 2007
Finalize and implement institutional arrangements (Board and Management)	CARI	January 2007
Begin operations at sites other than CARI	CARI	June 2007
Begin implementation of Technical Co-op Agreements (Nigeria and Ghana)	CARI	April 2007
Prepare National Response to Gates and Rockefeller Foundations PASS Program	CARI	February 2007
Recruit and train core staff	CARI	January 2007
Initiate renovation of offices and residences	CARI	January 2007
Build linkages with technical partners and donors	CARI	June 2007
Complete, publish and begin implementation of fishery guidelines	Fisheries	January 2007
Implement monitoring system for vessels compliance	Fisheries	February 2007
Establish coastal surveillance	Fisheries	April 2007
Rehabilitate three (3) fish ponds	Fisheries	
Complete staffing and reorganization	Fisheries	

## MOA ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES



*President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf at the Freeport of Monrovia to take delivery of the Chinese Government 1 million dollar worth of farming tools donated to the Liberian Government*



*High ranking Liberian government officials and Chinese Ambassador, Lin Songtian at the tools presentation ceremony at the Freeport of Monrovia*



Vice President Joseph N. Boakai (in black T-shirt and cap) inspects newly cultivated NERICA varieties at the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) in Suakoko, Bong County.



CARI Director General, Dr. J. Qwelibo Subah, explains about the agronomic characteristics about the NERICA varieties to Vice President Boakai and entourage

Some beneficiaries of the Government of Liberia and the People's Republic of China donated seeds and tools undertake the task of rouging their rice fields in order to obtain quality seeds



Agriculture Minister Dr. J. Chris Toe and FAO Representative, Dr. Winfred Hammond sign a project document on forestry reform



(L-R) Ms. Wadei Powell, Inventory Control Manager of Firestone, Mr. Keith Jubah, President, Rubber Planters Association of Liberia (RPAL), Dr. J. Chris Toe, Minister of Agriculture and Dr. Wilbur Thomas, USAID Director signing the MOU on Rubber Alliance



*Rice seedlings growing vigorously in nursery beds*



*Newly transplanted seedling on CARI rice field*



*New Rice for Africa (NERICA) varieties under multiplication at CARI site*





(R – L) Hon. Robert Kamei, Nimba County Superintendent, Dr. J. Chris Toe, Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Winfred Hammond, FAO Resident Representative, Hon. James Logan Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Planning & Development and Dr. J. Qwelibo Subah, Director General of CARI awaiting the arrival of the President of Liberia, Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf at Programs Marking World Food Day 2006 in Ganta, Nimba County



((L – R) Mr. Mohamed Khaled, FAO Emergency Coordinator, Ms. Sita Kaikai, WFP, Mr. Steven Ursino, UNDP Country Director, and another UNDP staff



(R – L), Dr. Winfred Hammond, FAO Representative, Dr. J. Chris Toe, Minister of Agriculture, Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf President of Liberia and Mr. Alan Doss, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General at the platform



(L- R) CRS Agriculture Manager, Augustine Laveleah, World Vision National Director, Ms. Etmonia Tarpeh and CCF staff in front row, while CONCERN Country Director Ms.. Marianne Byrne seats back of Ms. Tarpeh



Cultural performances during the program

## World Food Day 2006 Theme

# Invest in Agriculture for Food Security

# Invest in Agriculture for Food Security



*Commerce Minister, Olubankie King Akerele performs symbolic rice harvesting at the Kpein Rice Project in Nimba County, while Agriculture Minister Dr. J. Chris Toe points his fingers at the impressive rice fields in appreciation of the farmers' efforts*



*School children patiently await the President, Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf at the airstrip in Ganta to welcome her upon arrival*



*Agricultural produce on display at the WFD program*



*Rural Women of Liberia at the World Food Day program in Ganta, Nimba County*



*An inmate of the Ganta Leprosy & Rehab Center presenting a position statement to Dr. Toe*