



ASRP-AfDB REVIEW

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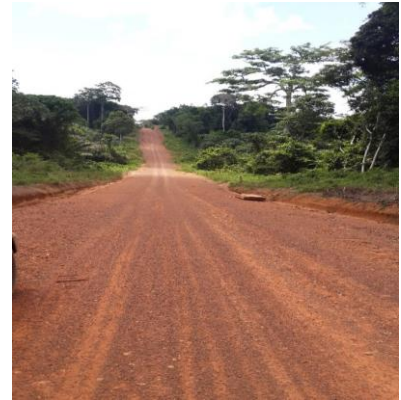


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**EBOLA IS REAL;
PROTECT YOURSELF
BY FOLLOWING
BASIC STEPS
PROVIDED BY THE
MINISTRY OF
HEALTH.**

ACRONYM

ADF	African Development Fund
AfDB	African Development Bank
ALCC	Association of Liberia Construction Contractor
ASRP	Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project
AWPB	Annual Work Plan and Budget
CAAS	Comprehensive Assessment of the Agricultural Sector
CAC	County Agricultural Coordinator
CARI	Central Agricultural Research Institute
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CI	Community Infrastructure
CRS	Catholic Relief Service
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CUSD	Community Union for Sustainable Development
DAO	District Agricultural Officer
FFS	Farmer Field School
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GPS	Global Positioning System
GOL	Government of Liberia
Ha	Hectare
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labor Organization
IPPM	Integrated Plant & Pest Management
IP	Implementing Partner
LBNO	Based Nongovernmental Organizations
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOF	Ministry of Finance
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
	NAFAPD National Foundation against Poverty and Disease
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSC	National Steering Committee
PMU	Program Management Unit
SAP	Sustainable Agriculture Program
SARA	Southeastern Agriculture and Relief Agency
SAPEC	Smallholder Agriculture Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization Project
SMS	Subject Matter Specialists
UA	Unit of Account
WMI	Water Management Infrastructure

ABOUT ASRP/AFDB-OVERVIEW

The Government of Liberia received grants from the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) to support its post-conflict food security initiative. The grants are aimed at enhancing the implementation of the country's development paradigm – the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). The target of the grants is to directly support the ASRP through the Project Management Unit (PMU) of

the MOA in four (4) of the eight (8) project counties (Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland and Grand Kru). The design and selection of project coverage

areas was informed by several documents, including the Comprehensive Assessment of the Agricultural Sector (CAAS-Lib), which was conducted by the World Bank, IFAD and FAO in 2007.

The overall goal of the ASRP is to contribute to food security and poverty reduction. Its specific objectives are to increase the income of smallholder farmers and rural entrepreneurs, including women, on a sustainable basis; and to improve the productive capacity of farmers through the rehabilitation of agriculture and other basic infrastructure, and contribute to institutional capacity building in 8 of the 15 counties of Liberia. The project is implemented under three distinct components, namely (1) Agriculture Infrastructure Rehabilitation; (2) Agricultural Production and Productivity Improvement; and (3) Project Management to achieve this objective. Component 1 focuses on rehabilitation of an estimated 314 hectares of lowland, water Management

Infrastructures, lowland, feeder road, construction of community infrastructures, MOA Offices and culverts construction. The success of this project lies directly on this component. Component 2 focuses on mobilizing, sensitizing and providing human and institutional capacities building support for enhanced production and productivity across the four (4) Southern-eastern counties of Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Grand Kru and Maryland.

Consistently, its target is to train 3,400 farmers in best agronomic practices in lowland rice production through Farmer Field School (FFS) Approach across the eighteen (18) project

communities in the four (4) counties. Component 3 focuses on effective implementation on project activities including financial management, procurement, monitoring and evaluation and auditing.

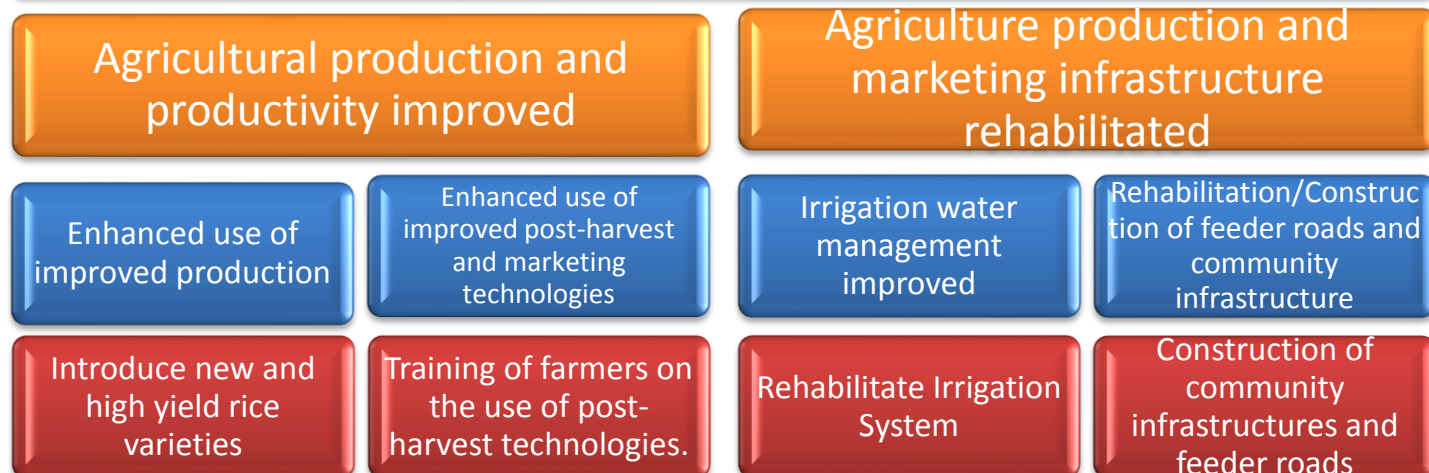
GRANT DISBURSEMENT TABLE			
Grant Details	ADF Grants		FSF Grant
	Grant 1	Grant 2	
Grant No:	2100155015318	2100155017866	5900155000352
Grant amount:	UA 6,000,000	UA 6,000,000	UA 500,000
Date of Signature:	14.05.2009	UA 6,000,000	26.08.2010
Date of Effectiveness:	30.03.2010	17.03.2010	30.03.2010
Completion Date:	30.04.2016	30.04.2016	30.04.2016
Date of First Disbursement:	26.05.2010	7.09.2011	26.08.2010
Date of Last Disbursement:	05.03.2012	17.02.2012	30.03.2012

FINANCING PLAN		
Source	Amount (UA Million)	Instrument
ADF	12	Grant
FSF	0.5	Grant
IFAD	3.4	Grant
GOL	1.7	In-Kind
Beneficiaries	0.7	In-Kind
TOTAL COST	18.3	

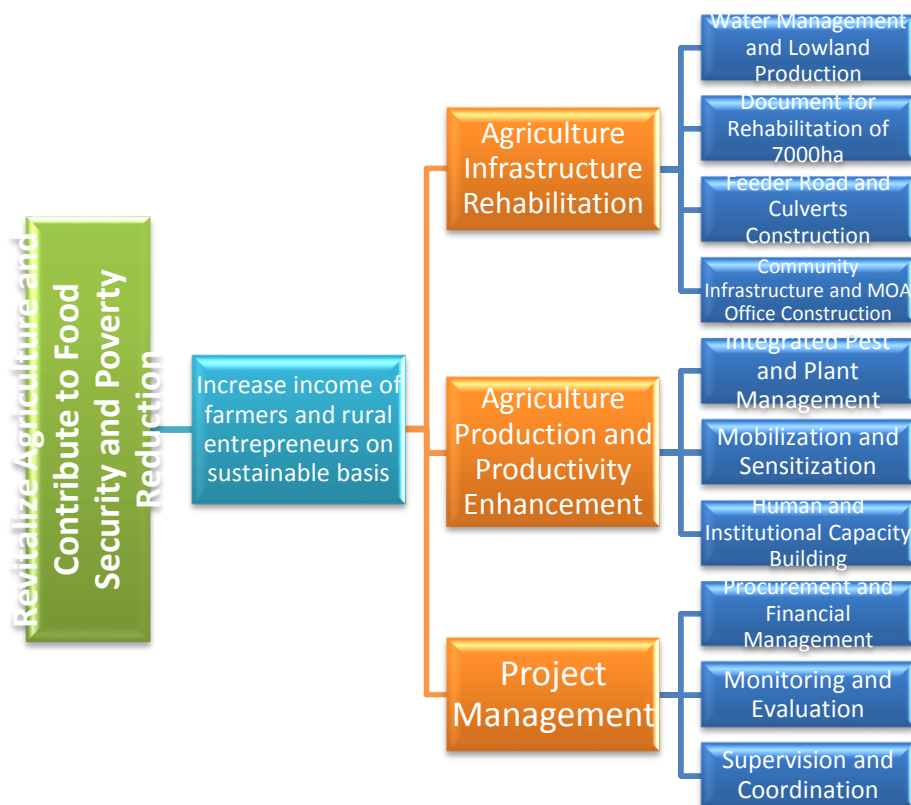
ASRP is the largest direct-assistance agriculture portfolio (US\$24 million) in post-war Liberia being managed and implemented by the Government of Liberia (GOL) through the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), with support from the Ministry of Finance (MoF). The project is implemented within six years, spanning the periods 2010-2016.

ASRP's Results Chain

GDP increased; Poverty reduced



The results chain above is reflected in the project Logical Framework Analysis (LFA) or LogFrame. This framework shows specifically a logical sequence on how the project will be implemented and results to be attained. In order to effectively manage the project and the logframe, the project was then divided into 3 sub-component as shown in the chart below:



PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT

The project scored couple of successes during the period. One of the six ultimate outputs, a representation of 17%, under Component One (**Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project**) was achieved. This was the provision of supervision services for rehabilitation of water management infrastructures covering an estimated 314 ha, feeder Road rehabilitation and the construction of MOA Offices and community infrastructures across the project counties as well as the construction of culverts along Feeder Roads at Lot 3, Grand Gedeh County. These services were completed 100%. One (1) and or 17% of said outputs was nearer to completion. It is the rehabilitation of the 27 Kilometer Zwedru-Ziah Town Road which stands at 90% completion. However, some of the outputs were unachieved but are currently on-going; key among them include: rehabilitation of water management infrastructures (46.1%), conduct of detailed technical study covering 7,000 ha (57%), culvert construction (34%) and community infrastructures and MOA (20%) respectively.

Under Component Two (**Agriculture Production and Productivity Improvement**), only 7% (1 out of 14) of the planned AWPB activities surpassed its achievement rate. It speaks to the average yields obtained by farmers ranging between 2-3.5 Mt/ha of NERICA L-19 and 2.9-3.3 MT/ha of Suakoko -8 across the project communities. This data exceeds the baseline information of 1MT/ha by 180%.

Moreover, 36% (5 out of 14) of the activities as contained in the AWPB (2013-2014) was achieved during the period. These key deliverables include but not limited to: Provision of computers and printers to extension staff to enhance their operations and basic agriculture training to CACs, DAOs and lead farmers in lowland rice production; one hundred forty four (144) mobilization and sensitization campaigns conducted and initiated across project communities, Two (2) TOTs were conducted with fifty (92) trainers to train 400 farmers, eighteen (18) farmers' groups/organizations were established and strengthened with functional defined constitutions and recognized leaderships across the eighteen (18) project communities and collaborative meetings held with farmers' groups that witnessed the signing of MOU. Each of these deliverables nets 100% completion. Hence, 7% (1 out of 14) of the planned activities were achieved and nearer to accomplishment, that is the returned home of 16 SMSs out of 19, of which nearly all 16 have been employed by the Ministry of Agriculture Central office and CARI. In addition to progress made, 57% (8 out of 14) of the agreed activities are still under-going execution.

With reference to Component Three (**Project Management**), the level of achievement was high as 90% (9 out of 10) principal targets were achieved with a completion rate of 100% each. As expected, inputs were provided by the Procurement Section and subsequently incorporated in the project's quarterly bulletin. Moreover, the third annual audit and verification of the project's assets was conducted and report submitted to AfDB. The Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) for 2013/2014 was developed and subsequently submitted to the National Steering Committee and AfDB to facilitate the effective implementation of project activities. In addition, the procurement of five local based organizations to construct culverts along strategic farm to market roads across project communities was concluded, with four of the five organizations executing their respective assignments.

Another milestone that was achieved during the reporting period was the revision of the project's implementation status and the provision of appropriate recommendations by an Independent International Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant to improve the performance of the project. The production and submission of Field Supervision and Monitoring Mission, quarterly and annual reports highlighting achievements and challenges of the project, to African Development Bank (AfDB). As components of the outputs, the project successfully convened and facilitated its quarterly review meetings across the four project counties and National Steering Committee Meetings to deliberate project implementation status, progress and challenges. However, 10% (1 out of 10) of the period's target deliverables is still pending. This relates to the conduct of the Mid-Term Review despite the submission of the Term of Reference (TOR) to AfDB for the procurement of a consultant and implementation status report of the project.

Below are key achievements per component.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST PLANNED RESULTS 2013-2014		
Planned Results	Achievements	% Completion
2.1 Agriculture Infrastructure Rehabilitation		
2.1.1 Land development and small scale rehabilitation		
Output 2.1.1.1 Water Management Structures and lowland rehabilitated at CARI, Bong.	Work on flow guiding walls at intersection ongoing, 500 culverts cast to date and work is on-going, steel fixing for Intake Structure ongoing, 8ha (200 plots) demarcated representing 40% of area developed to date.	40%
Output 2.1.1.2 Water Management Structures and lowland rehabilitated at Jarkaken & Kanweaken, River Gee.	Jarkaken: Entire swamp of 12.5 ha (312.5 plots) including extension laid out into 243 plots, 78 farmers (18 male/60 females) planting rice on site; excavation on dam has started but head work not constructed yet. Kanweaken: 9.2 ha laid out into 210 plots and ready for production. Construction of foundation for the diversion structure has started.	38%
Output 2.1.1.3 Water Management Structures and lowland rehabilitated at Flewroken, River Gee.	30ha (763 plots) demarcated to date, 237 plots under cultivation by 67 active farmers, construction work on foundation concrete diversion is at a standstill.	51%
Output 2.1.1.4 Water Management Structures and lowland rehabilitated at Pleebo A & B, Maryland.	Diversion Structure under construction approx. 30% completion, but no materials on site to continue work, entire swamp laid out into 240 plots, all plots taken up by farmers, however due to inaccessibility to water farmers grew rice in Pleebo A only.	50%
Output 2.1.1.5 Water Management Structures and lowland rehabilitated at Barclayville/Kayken, Grand Kru.	350 plots laid out but farmer are not willing to plant rice. No head works. Contractor behind schedule.	48%
Output 2.1.1.6 Water Management Structures and lowland rehabilitated at Grand Cess, Grand Kru County	93 plots laid out and ready for production. Construction of the dam/reservoir has not commenced.	38%
Output 2.1.1.7 Water Management Structures and lowland rehabilitated at Philadelphia, Maryland.	80% progress made on construction of diversion structure, works on course but slowed down as contractor mobilizes materials, entire swamp demarcated, 600 plots turned over for farming but only 214 plots planted.	76%
Output 2.1.1.8 Water Management Structures and lowland rehabilitated at Zwedru Work & See, Grand Gedeh.	356 plots laid out and 169 of these plots have been taken over by 39 farmers with 156 plots planted with high yielding rice varieties, progress on head works ongoing but too slow, blinding done for the diversion structure.	28%
Output 2.1.1.9 Construction supervision service for the rehabilitation of water management infrastructures carried out.	Service was successfully conducted with the conclusion of the contract on 31 st August 2014.	100%

Output 2.1.1.10 Detailed technical study and report for the development of 7,000ha of new swamps prepared.	Phase 1 of the study completed with 4000 ha reached /covered. Phase 2 is pending	57%
2.2 Rehabilitation/construction of feeder roads & community infrastructures		
Output 2.2.1. 27 kilometer of Zwedru-Ziah Town Road rehabilitated in Grand Gedeh.	Work technically completed, infrastructure undergoing Defect Liability Period where all necessary corrections and maintenance are effected by contractor to ensure 100% completion of rehabilitation.	90%
Output 2.2.2 Construction of Culverts along Feeder Roads in Grand Kru County (Lot 1 & Lot 2) Contractor: B-CON-Engineering Co.	Fourteen (14) Culverts completed out of forty-four (44);	32%
Output 2.2.3 Construction of Culverts in Maryland & River Gee (Lot 4 & Lot 5) Contractor: B-CON- Engineering Co.	Nine (9) Culverts completed out of thirty-six (36)	25%
Output 2.2.4 Construction of Culverts along Feeder Roads in Grand Gedeh County (Lot 3) Contractor: Sustainable Agricultural Programme for Liberia (SAP)	SAP-Liberia has 100% completed the works in the Contract of LOT-3 as planned,	100%
Output 2.2.5. Culverts constructed at Lot 2, Grand Kru County	Two (2) nr. Culverts complete at Kayken community. Construction of the balance seven (7) on-going.	22%
Output 2.2.6. Culverts constructed at Lot 4A, Maryland/River Gee Counties	One (1) Culvert line under construction, to commence work on the remaining six (6).	14%
Output 2.2.7. Culverts constructed at Lot 4B: Pronoken, River Gee County	Four (4) Culverts constructed, construction of the balance two (2) on-going.	67%
Output 2.2.8. Culverts constructed at Lot 5B: Jarkaken Rd., River Gee County	Three (3) Culverts completed, construction of the balance four (4) on-going.	43%
Output 2.2.9. Construction supervision service for the rehabilitation feeder road.	Service was successfully conducted with the conclusion of the contract on 31 st August 2013.	100%
Output 2.2.10. Community Infrastructures and MOA Office constructed in Grand Gedeh	MOA Office: Only foundation walls completed with floor slab cast. Community Infrastructure – Management facility at roofing level with the backfilling of the foundation walls of the milling infrastructure. Contract terminated.	20%
Output 2.2.11. Community Infrastructures and MOA Office constructed in Grand Kru	MOA Office: Work at foundation level Community Infrastructure – Works on all facilities are excavation levels. Contract terminated.	3%
Output 2.2.12. Community Infrastructures and MOA Office constructed in River Gee	MOA Office: Only basement constructed; site abandoned.	15%

	Community Infrastructure – Only foundation walls constructed on all facilities. Contract terminated.	
Output 2.2.13 Community Infrastructures and MOA Office constructed in Maryland	MOA Office: Infrastructure at roofing level with the roof deck fixed. Community Infrastructure – Management building at roofing level; maintenance and generator facilities at lintel levels while processing facilities are at foundation level. Contract terminated.	40%
Output 2.2.14 Construction supervision service for the construction of Community Infrastructures.	Service was successfully conducted with the conclusion of the contract on 15 th February 2014.	100%
3.1 Agriculture Production & Productivity Enhancement		
3.1.1 Enhanced use of improved production technologies		
Output 3.1.1 3,400 farmers engaged in swamp rice production.	727 farmers with 56.3% women participation, have been introduced to the improved varieties and are using these varieties during production	21.4%
Output 3.1.2 Rice under Improved Pest & Plant Management (IPPM)	87.26 ha transplanted and are under IPPM.	28.1%
Output 3.1.3 Farmers provided with inputs and tools for production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Improved swamp rice varieties including NERICA L-19 and Suakoko-8 were provided to farmers for production activities; ✚ A total of 204.3 25 kg bags of seed rice comprising 100.5 NERICA L-19 and 103.8 Suakoko-8 were provided to farmers across project counties; ✚ 100 rain boots, 100 cutlasses, 100 hoes and 8 shovels were provided for use by farmers in Grand Kru County 	
3.1.2 Domestic production of rice improved		
Output 3.2.1 Yield of irrigated rice increased 100% over baseline of 1Mt/ha.	Farmers are obtaining an average yield ranging 2.0-3.5 Mt/ha and NERICA L-19, 2.9-3.3 MT/ha of Suakoko -8	180%
3.1.3 Research, Extension and MOA operational capacity improved		
Output 3.3.1. Enhanced performance of MOA staff in project counties.	Extension staff were provided with computers and printers to enhance office's operations., CACs, DAOs and lead farmers provided basic agriculture training in lowland rice production.	100%
Output 3.3.2 Twenty (20) Subject Matter Specialist (15 for MOA and 5 CARI) sustained in graduate and post-graduate studies.	16 SMS returned home during the quarter (July – Sept. 2013) and nearly all have been employed by the Ministry of Agriculture Central office and CARI.	80%
Output 3.3.2 Four (4) MOA offices constructed with one in each project county.	4 MOA offices undergoing constructions. Infrastructures at roofing level in Maryland, basement level in River Gee, foundation level in Grand Kru and excavation level in Grand Gedeh.	20%

Output 3.3.3 Global Positioning System (GPS) provided for use in the field.	Necessary documentations and purchase order issued for the procurement of four (4) device (GPS).	50%
3.1.3. Community mobilization and sensitization		
Output 3.4.1. Mobilization and sensitization campaigns initiated across project counties.	One hundred forty four (144) campaigns (public campaigns) through radio dramas, radio talk shows, announcements, school essay competitions, FAL, community meetings and four (4) Town Halls Meetings were conducted across the project counties sensitizing potential beneficiaries and community residents on the goal and objective of the project and the benefits they stand to reap from project's intervention, eighteen (18) project communities were mobilized during the process.	100%
Output 3.4.2 10000 community residents / potential project beneficiaries reached and sensitized on the goal and objective of ASRP.	Two Thousand one hundred (2,100) community residents and beneficiaries were mobilized and sensitized on ASRP's activities.	21%
Output 3.4.3 10000 households received rehabilitation and basic capacity building support in the areas of numeracy, literacy and basic life skills.	Seven hundred ninety three (793) beneficiaries and community residents, comprising 222 males and 571 females were trained in basic literacy and numeracy skills. These beneficiaries can identify, recite and write the alphabet correctly, recognize number from 1-50, read simple sentences, draw objects as well as straight lines as well as prepare cost estimates for the purchase of farming inputs/implements and labor to cultivate the soil.	8%
Output 3.4.4 Two (2) TOTs held with 25 trainers to train a least 400 farmers.	Two TOTs were held. 36 Community Change Agents (CCAs), 8 District Agriculture Officers and 6 ADRA Project staff were trained during the first training while leaderships of farmer groups, CACs, ADRA, Field staff and 42 farmers were trained during the second training. Participants acquired knowledge in various disciplines such as Life Skills Facilitations Techniques, Community Mobilization and Organization, Group formation and its advantages, definition of agri-business, business ideas, entrepreneurial skills, record keeping, production cost estimates, etc.	100%
Output 3.4.5 Farmers` groups/organizations established and strengthened with functional defined constitutions and governing structures per scheme.	Eighteen (18) farmers groups have been established with constitutions and recognized leaderships.	100%

Output 3.4.6 Collaborative meetings held and MOU signed with farmers` groups.	Regular monthly coordination and organized meeting were held constantly with farmers and farmers` groups across project communities. MOU signed.	100%
4.1 Project Management		
4.1.1 Financial Management and Procurement		
Output 4.1.2 Quarterly procurement report produced.	Procurement inputs have been provided and subsequently incorporated in the Project Quarterly Progress Report.	100%
Output 4.1.3 Local based organizations contracted in project implementation	Five (5) local based organizations were procured to construct thirty six (36) on farms to market roads in project counties; four (4) of the organizations have constructed nine (9) culverts and the work is ongoing.	100%
Output 4.1.4 Annual Audit of ASRP`s financial accounts and portfolio conducted.	Audit and verification of project`s assets was conducted by Monbo and Company and the report submitted to AfDB.	100%
4.2.1 Monitoring and Evaluation		
Output 4.2.2 Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) developed to enhance project implementation.	The Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) for 2013/2014 was developed and submitted to the National Steering Committee and AfDB for approval to facilitate the effective implementation of project activities.	100%
Output 4.2.3 Mid-term Review conducted	Draft Term of Reference developed for the procurement of a consultant for the MTR, Status implementation report provided to facilitate the conduct of the review.	50%
Output 4.2.4 Implementation status of project activities reviewed, assessed and established.	An Independent International Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant was contracted to review the project progress, identify the strengths and weaknesses in implementation, and provide appropriate recommendations to ensure its effective completion in accordance with plan and time.	100%
Output 4.2.5 Periodic supervisions and monitoring of project activities conducted.	Four (4) quarterly supervision and monitoring missions and technical field visits were undertaken to supervise, monitor and assess the level of project progress across the project communities.	100%
Output 4.2.6 Periodic and effective analysis and reporting of project field related activities.	Four (4) quarterly reports as well as field supervision and monitoring, technical assessment and annual reports were produced and submitted.	100%
4.3.1 Project Coordination and Supervision		
Output 4.3.2 Quarterly Review fora/workshops convened for discussion on project progress and challenges.	Four (4) quarterly review meetings/workshops were conducted and facilitated in project counties with stakeholders discussing project progress,	100%

				challenges and proposing recommendations for effective completion of project activities.	
Output 4.3.3	National Steering Committee Meeting held.			Two (2) meetings have already been held, AWPB discussed and approved.	100%

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES IN PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

A total of US\$17,085,033.68 was budgeted from the overall project allotment of US\$18,000,000.00 and committed to finance activities targeted for implementation under each component during the reporting period. The amount of US\$10,082,794.61 was utilized to offset project related expenses, leaving a balance of US\$7,002,239.07 undisbursed.

Accordingly, the amount of US\$11,254,129.99, a representation of 66% in relations to the budgeted amount was appropriated to defray the costs of works under Component One (Agriculture Infrastructure & Rehabilitation Development) , US\$2,584,281.69 and or 15% to take care of expenses under Component Two and US\$3,246,622.00 or 19% for Component Three (Project Management) respectively.

The project expended 59% (US\$10,082,794.61) of the budgeted amount (US\$17,085,033.68), with Component One accounting for a lion's share US\$5,965,011.33 (59%) of the total expenditure, followed by Component Two US\$2,230,900.28 (22%) and Component Three US\$1,886,883.00 (18 %) during the period supra.

Below is a table providing detailed accounts on budgetary appropriations and amount utilized by components during the period 2013-2014.

Activity Description	Appropriated Budget	Total Utilized	Budget Balance	% Utilized (TU/AB)
I. AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE & REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT				
<i>A. Land development & small scale rehabilitation</i>				
Water Management Structures and lowland rehabilitated, CARI, Bong.	720,908.99	269,655.35	451,253.64	37.4 %
Water Management Structures and lowland rehabilitated Jarkaken & Kanweaken, River Gee.	643,623.56	128,724.00	514,899.56	20.1%
Water Management Structures and lowland rehabilitated, Flewroken, River Gee.	700,999.00	401,320.55	299,678.45	57.2%
Water Management Structures and lowland rehabilitated, Pleebo A & B, Maryland.	318,663.00	171,854.33	146,808.67	54.0%
Water Management Structures and lowland rehabilitated, Barclayville/Kayken, Grand Kru.	909,263.28	422,356.70	486,906.58	46.4%
Water Management Structures and lowland rehabilitated at Grand Cess, Grand Kru County	417,585.35	152,841.26	264,744.09	37.0%

Water Management Structures and lowland rehabilitated, Philadelphia, Maryland.	737,182.00	589,805.46	147,376.54	80.0%
Water Management Structures and lowland rehabilitated, Zwedru Work & See, Grand Gedeh.	738,772.31	147,754.46	591,017.85	20.1%
Construction supervision service for the rehabilitation of water management infrastructures.	543,850.00	401,420.00	142,430.00	74.0%
Detailed technical study and report for the development of 7,000ha of new swamps prepared.	943,477.00	405,085.00	538,392.00	43.0%
Sub-Total	6,674,324.49	3,090,817.11	3,583,507.38	46.3%
B. Rehabilitation/construction of feeder roads and community infrastructures				
Rehabilitation of 27 kilometer Zwedru-Ziah Town Road, Grand Gedeh.	1,196,926.38	1,137,080.06	59,846.32	95.1%
Construct Culverts in Maryland & River Gee (Lot 4 & Lot 5) Contractor: B-CON- Engineering Co.	146,636.88	33,758.55	112,878.33	23.0%
Construct Culverts in Maryland & River Gee (Lot 4 & Lot 5) Contractor: B-Con-Engineering Co.	153,917.93	30,783.00	123,134.93	20.1%
Construct Culverts along Feeder Roads in Grand Gedeh County (Lot 3) Contractor: Sustainable Agricultural Programme for Liberia (SAP)	40,469.40	40,468.46	0.94	99.9%
Construct culverts at Lot 2, Grand Kru County	44,668.00	21,783.60	22,884.40	49.1%
Construct culverts at Lot 4A, Maryland/River Gee Counties	42,681.17	-	42,681.17	-
Construct culverts at Lot 4B: Pronoken, River Gee County	40,398.72	9,964.84	30,433.88	49.4%
Construct culverts at Lot 5B: Jarkaken Rd., River Gee County	51,256.00	16,731.40	34,524.60	33.0%
Construction supervision service for the rehabilitation of feeder road.	790,944.00	790,944.00	-	100%
Construct Community Infrastructures and MOA Office in Grand Gedeh	410,587.74	82,117.00	328,470.74	20.0%
Construct Community Infrastructures and MOA Office in Grand Kru	502,773.02	100,554.00	402,219.02	20.1%
Construct Community Infrastructures and MOA Office in River Gee	398,065.87	203,603.31	194,462.56	51.1%
Construct Community Infrastructures and MOA Office in Maryland	356,230.39	71,246.00	284,984.39	20.0%
Design of Community Infrastructures and MOA Offices in project counties	63,900.00	57,510.00	6,390.00	90.0%
Construction supervision service for the construction of Community Infrastructures and MOA Offices in project counties	340,350.00	277,650.00	62,700.00	82.1%
Sub-Total	4,579,805.50	2,874,194.22	1,705,611.28	63.1%
TOTAL	11,254,129.99	5,965,011.33	5,289,118.66	53.0%
II. AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION & PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT				
A. Enhance use of improved production technologies & Domestic production of improved rice-On Farm Technology				
Rice under Improved Pest & Plant Management (improved seeds, fertilizers, weeds & pest management and	1,538,428.32	1,185,334.81	353,093.51	77.0%

100% increase over baseline (1MT/ha) in yield of irrigated rice by June 2014				
Sub-Total	1,538,428.32	1,185,334.81	353,093.51	77.0%
<i>B. Community capacity improved</i>				
Community Mobilization and Sensitization (ADRA & ASRP AGRONOMIST)	308,578.00	308,290.10	288.00	99.9%
Sub-Total	308,578.00	308,290.10	287.90	99.9%
<i>C. Research, Extension and MOA operational capacity improved</i>				
Twenty (20) Subject Matter Specialist (15 for MOA and 5 CARI) sustained in graduate and post-graduate studies.	737,275.37	737,275.37	-	100%
Sub-Total	737,275.37	737,275.37	-	100%
TOTAL	2,584,281.69	2,230,900.28	353,381.41	86.3%
III. PROJECT MANAGEMENT				
<i>A. Financial Management & Procurement, Monitoring & Evaluation and Project Coordination & Supervision</i>				
Goods	504,149.00	370,645.00	130,504.00	74.0%
Operating Costs	1,287,473.00	473,265.00	814,208.00	37.1%
Personnel Expenses	1,455,000.00	1,042,973.00	412,027.00	72.1%
Sub-total	3,246,622.00	1,886,883.00	1,359,739.00	58.1%
TOTAL	3,246,622.00	1,886,883.00	1,359,739.00	58.1%
GRAND TOTAL	17,085,033.68	10,082,794.61	7,002,239.07	59%

PROCUREMENT

Procurement constitutes an integral component in project/Programme implementation. It is an indispensable element and relates to contracts, negotiations, the types and amount of goods, equipment, civil works and service that are normally purchased in the execution of project activities. The project awarded six (6) contracts for the rehabilitation of feeder road including rehabilitating the 27km Zwedru-Ziah Town Road in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County and the construction of Culverts on feeder roads in Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland and Grand Kru Counties. During the period, five (5) contractors (Global Investment & International Trading Company, Bedrock Construction Company Inc, AKASI Construction Services, Sustainable Agriculture Program-Liberia (SAP) and General

Construction & Cement Products) were contracted to construct thirty six (36) culverts along various farms to market roads across these counties. It is expected that by June 2014 all of these feeder roads will be completed.

In addition, contracts are also ongoing for the construction of Water Management Infrastructures (WMI) in these project counties. These contracts are expected to be completed by the end of 2015. Moreover, the tendering processes for the construction of Community Infrastructures (CI) in the counties are in progress and it is expected that the construction works will be completed by December 2015. Consistently, the project technically scrutinized the proposals, work plans and entered into negotiations with

Four Local Nongovernmental Organizations, namely Sustainable Agriculture Program (SAP), National Foundation against Poverty and Disease (NAFAPD), Southeastern Agriculture and Relief Agency (SARA) Inc, and Community Union for Sustainable Development (CUSD) for contract partnerships as service providers in the project counties. Findings of these initiatives were transmitted AfDB for “No Objection”.

Moreover, the PMU engaged and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) to supervise the road and culvert constructions and work alongside the ASRP Engineers in supervising contractors for the WMI and CI works.

CATEGORY: WORKS

N o.	Contract Package No.	Description	Start Date	Ending Date	Contract Price (USD)	Amount Received to date (USD)	Project Implementation Status	Next Step
1	LIB/NCB/ASRP/MOA/05/03/2011	Rehabilitation of 27km Zwedru-Ziah Road in G. Gedeh <i>Contractor: PGL Construction Co.</i>	01-Feb 2012	31 March 2013	1,196,926.38	1,137,080.06 (95%)	Work technically completed, stands at 95% completion.	Infrastructure undergoing Defect Liability Period where all necessary corrections and maintenance are effected by contractor to ensure 100% completion of rehabilitation.

2	LIB/NCB/ASRP/MoA/05/02/2011 – Lots 1 & 2	Construction of Culverts along Feeder Roads in Grand Kru County (Lot 1 & Lot 2) Contractor: B-CON- Engineering Co.	10 May 2012	15 April 2013	146,636.88	33,758.55 (23%)	Fourteen (14) Culverts completed out of forty-four (44); 32% completion Rate;	Remaining thirty (30) culverts retendered for construction. Contract terminated on 02.12.2013
3	LIB/NCB/ASRP/MoA/05/02/2011 – Lots 4 & 5	Construction of Culverts in Maryland & River Gee (Lot 4 & Lot 5) Contractor: B-CON- Engineering Co.	10 May 2012	15 April 2013	153,917.93	30,783.00 (20%)	Nine (9) Culverts completed out of thirty-six (36) 25 % completion Rate	Remaining twenty five (25) culverts retendered for construction. Contract terminated on 04.08.2013
4	LIB/NCB/ASRP/MoA/05/02/2011 – Lot 3	Construction of Culverts along Feeder Roads in Grand Gedeh County (Lot 3) Contractor: Sustainable Agricultural Programme for Liberia (SAP)	02 May 2012	15 Feb 2013	40,469.40	40,468.46 (99.99%)	SAP-Liberia has 100% completed the works in the Contract of LOT-3 as planned,	Final payment disbursement confirmed.
5.	LIB/ASRP/P MU/WC/NCB /14/2014 (Lot 2)	Construction of Culverts Lot 2: Grand Kru County Contractor: Global Investments & International Trading Inc.	Mar. 19, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014	44,668.00	21,783.60 (49%)	Five (5) nr. Culverts completed out of nine (9) culverts at Kayken community and Grand Cess road with two backfilled. 56% completion rate.	Work on-going on the construction of the four (4) remaining culverts.
6	LIB/ASRP/P MU/WC/NCB /14/2014 (Lot 4A)	Construction of Culverts Lot 4A: Maryland/River Gee Counties Contractor: Bedrock Construction Company Inc.	Mar. 19, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014	42,681.17		One (1) culvert completed out of seven (7) 14% completion rate.	Contractors to be warned as he`s behind schedule.
7.	LIB/ASRP/P MU/WC/NCB /14/2013 (Lot 4B)	Lot 4B: Pronoken, River Gee County Contractor: AKASI Construction Services	Mar. 19, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014	40,398.72	19,964.84 (49.42%)	All six (6) nr. Culverts are constructed but requiring backfilling. 100% completion rate.	Backfilling the culverts followed by payment.
8.	LIB/ASRP/P MU/WC/NCB /14/2013 (Lot 5B)	Lot 5B: Jarkaken Rd., River Gee County Contractor: Sustainable Agriculture Program –Liberia (SAP-Liberia)	Mar. 19, 2014	Sept. 18, 2014	51,256.00	16,731.40 (33%)	Four (4) culverts constructed out of seven (7) but requiring proper backfilling. 57.1% completion rate	Backfill the culverts completed The remaining (3) culverts under-going construction.

9.	LIB/ASRP/P MU/WC/NCB /14/2013 (Lot 5C)	Lot 5C: Jarkaken Rd. Contractor: Interbus, Inc.	Oct. 31, 2014	Apr. 30, 2015	58,207.75		Trenches excavated for six (6) lines and three lines blinded but no progress on permanent works. The contractor has made the road in assessable and causing serious embarrassment to the project and farmers.	Culverts retendered for construction.
1 0	LIB/ASRP/P MU/WC/NCB /01/2012	Water Management Infrastructures for Barclayville & Kayken Swamps in Grand Kru County Contractor: Harding Construction	28 Jan 2013	27 June 2014	909,263.28	422,356.70 (47%)	Foundation concrete of the diversion structure/head works constructed; 350 plots laid out but farmers are not willing to take over the field;	To continue with the works.
6	LIB/ASRP/P MU/WC/NCB /02/2012	Water Management Infrastructures for Grand Cess Swamp in Grand Kru County Contractor: ADRA-Liberia	28 Jan 2013	27 May 2014	417,585.35	152,841.26 (37%)	Ninety three (93) plots laid out of the planned 475 plots and are ready for transplanting. Farmers are planting rice with the technical support of the ASRP Focal Persons and the DAO. Farmers are now growing high yield variety of rice. Dam/reservoir not constructed yet.	The contract terminated on May 27, 2014. Procure new contractor.

7	LIB/ASRP/P MU/WC/NCB /04/2012	Water Management Infrastructures for Pleebo A&B Swamp in Maryland County Contractor: ADRA-Liberia	28 Jan 2013	27 May 2014	318,663.00	171,854.33 (54%)	Entire swamp, two hundred forty (240) plots laid out and taken up by farmers, however due to inaccessibility to water, farmers grew rice in Pleebo A only. Diversion structure under construction, approx. 30% level and requires materials for continuity of works.	Contractor need to mobilize materials and continue with the works .
8	LIB/ASRP/P MU/WC/NCB /05/2012	Water Management Infrastructures for CARI Swamp in Bong County Contractor: Afrique Construction and Maintenance Company	28 Jan 2013	27 June 2014	720,908.99	269,654.55 (37.40%)	Headworks & Land Preparation: Eight (8) ha/200 plots out of 20ha (500 plots) have been demarcated representing 40% of area developed to date. RO Canal: Canal cleaned and water bailed to receive concrete bedding at RO Lake canal, 515 culverts out of 1,300 cast to date; Intake Structure form works removed	Procure new contractor to execute works. The contractor was not compliant to all schedules and could not complete the RO canal/tunnel and the head works before period of heavy rains set in. The contract terminated on 27.05.2014.
9	LIB/ASRP/P MU/WC/NCB /06/2012	Water Management Infrastructures for Zwedru Work & See Swamp in Grand Gedeh County Contractor: Ladris Construction	28 Jan 2013	27 June 2014	738,772.31	147,754.46 (20%)	Additional 2.88 ha of land has been cleared across the Kaneh road; 356 plots laid out with 169 plots taken over by 39 farmers, of which 156 plots have been planted with high yielding rice varieties.	Procure new contractor to execute works. The contract was terminated on May 27, 2014 because of non-performance by contractor's and failure to comply with work schedule

1 0	LIB/ASRP/P MU/WC/NCB /07/2012	Water Management Infrastructures for Jarkaken & Kanweaken Swamps in River Gee County Contractor: Afrique Construction and Maintenance Company	28 Jan 2013	27 June 2014	643,623.56	128,724 (20%)	<p>Kanweaken: 9.2ha laid out into 230 plots to date with an assumed 1 ha being prepared according to the site Engineer.</p> <p>Farmers are carrying on regular farming activities.</p> <p>Jarkaken: Entire swamp of 6.5ha including the extension is laid out into 243 plots, 145 plots are engaged with 61 plots transplanted to date;</p> <p>78 farmers (18 male/60 females) are currently carrying on farming activities on the site.</p> <p>Head works/dam not constructed yet.</p>	<p>Procure new contractor to execute works.</p> <p>Contract terminated on May 27, 2014.</p>
1 1	LIB/ASRP/P MU/WC/NCB /12/2012	Water Management Infrastructures for Flewroken Swamps in River Gee County Contractor: National Foundation Against Poverty & Disease (NAFAPD)	28 Jan 2013	27 May 2014	700,999.00	401,320.55 (57.23%)	<p>Construction of the concrete diversion structure/Head in progress</p> <p>30ha (763 plots) out of 50.9ha (1,270 plots) have been demarcated, 237 plots are under cultivation by 67 active farmers.</p>	<p>There is a need for attention to be given to the quality of work being executed.</p>

1 2	LIB/ASRP/P MU/WC/NCB /13/2012	Water Management Infrastructures for Philadelphia Swamp in Maryland County Contractor: Bedrock Construction Company Inc.	28 Jan 2013	18 April 2014	737,182.00	589,805.46 (80%)	Construction of diversion structure in progress, stands at 90% Work on the third intake structure within the swamp in progress with additional 2.5ha of land developed. Entire swamp demarcated, 600 plots passed for production/farming with 402 plots transplanted.	To continue with the works
1 3	LIB/ASRP/P MU/WC/NCB /08/2012	Community Infrastructure in Zwedru, G. Gedeh County Contractor: Akins Builders Inc.	19 Feb 2013	18 Dec 2013	410,587.74	82,117 (20%)	MOA Office: The foundation walls completed and casting of floor slab is 90% completed. Site abandoned. Milling Facility: Facility Management Building, generator house and maintenance shed are all to lintel level; warehouse/milling building foundation 80% backfilled.	Procure new contractor to execute works. Site abandoned. Contract terminated on May 27, 2014.
1 4	LIB/ASRP/P MU/WC/NCB /09/2012	Community Infrastructure in G. Kru County Contractor: Daz & Daz Trading Co.	19 Feb 2013	18 Dec 2013	502,773.02	100,554 (20%)	MOA Office: Only Foundation walls of MoA Office built to date, Milling Facility: Excavation of foundations done for the warehouse, maintenance shed and generator house. No further/ permanent works executed.	Procure new contractor to execute works. Contract terminated on May 27, 2014.

1 5	LIB/ASRP/P MU/WC/NCB /10/2012	Community Infrastructure in Maryland County Contractor: Ladriss Construction Eng. Co.	19 Feb 2013	18 Dec 2013	356,230.39	71,246 (20%)	MOA Office: The MoA Office built to roofing level with roof deck fixed Milling Facility: Foundation is backfilled for warehouse/rice mill. management building constructed to roofing level with the roof deck fixed, maintenance shed and generator house constructed to lintel levels.	Procure new contractor to execute works. Contract terminated on May 27, 2014 but site foreman is on site.
1 6	LIB/ASRP/P MU/WC/NCB /11/2012	Community Infrastructure in River Gee County Contractor: Afrique Construction and Maintenance Company	19 Feb 2013	18 Dec 2013	398,065.87	203,603.31 (51.15%)	MOA Office at Fishtown: Only basement constructed for MoA Office. Milling Facility at Jarkaken: Foundation walls constructed for warehouse/rice mill and backfilled up to 40%, foundation walls for the management building partially constructed (50%),	Procure new contractor to execute works. Sites abandoned. Contract terminated on May 27, 2014.
TOTAL					8,629,816.74	4,042,401.53		

CATEGORY: SERVICES

No.	Contract Package No.	Description	Commencement Date	Ending Date	Contract Price (USD)	Amount Received	Project Implementation Status	Next Step
1.	ASRP/MO A- PCU/004/S C/10	On-Farm Technology Consultant: Catholic Relief Services	10 Feb 2011	09 Feb 2014	1,538,428	1,185,334 (77%)	Trained 1,232 farmers in best agronomic practices across the project communities. Contract prematurely ended 31 st Dec. 2013.	Contract the services of local based agriculture oriented organizations to continue with training until target number (3,400) is achieved.

2.	ASRP/PM U/0057SC7 11	Community mobilization & organization for rehabilitation of 361 Ha of rice irrigation in G. Gedeh, G. Kru, Maryland & R. Gee Counties Consultant: ADRA Liberia	01 Feb 2012	31 Jan 2014	308,578.00	308,290 (99.91%)	<p>Conducted One hundred forty four (144) mobilization and sensitization campaigns (public campaigns) across the project counties.</p> <p>Sensitized Two Thousand one hundred (2,100) community residents and beneficiaries on the goal and objective of the ASRP.</p> <p>Trained One thousand four hundred twenty two (1,422) participants (beneficiaries and community residents), comprising 488 males and 934 females, in basic literacy and numeracy skills.</p> <p>Established and strengthened eighteen (18) farmers groups with constitutions and recognized leaderships.</p> <p>Trained Thirty six (36) Community Change Agents CCAs (21 males and 15 females) in Functional Adult Literacy, basic life skills techniques and community mobilization and organization</p>	<p>Empower CCAs and or procure local based organizations to continue with works/ activities.</p> <p>Contract ended 31st Jan 2014</p>
3.	LIB/ASRP/ PMU/SC/L CS/06/201 2	Supervision services for WMI in Bong, G. Gedeh, G. Kru, Maryland & R. Gee Counties Consultant: West Ingenierie	28 Jan 2013	27 July 2015	543,850.00	401,420 (74%)	<p>Supervised the execution of works;</p> <p>Contract ended 31st August 2014.</p>	Put mechanism in place to supervise works;
4.	LIB/ASRP/ PMU/SC/L CS/07/201 2	Supervision services for CI in Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Maryland & River Gee Counties Consultant: LAMDA Consultants, Ltd	19 Feb 2013	18 Dec 2014	340,350.00	277,650 (82%)	<p>Supervised the execution of works,</p> <p>Contract ended 15th February 2014</p>	Put mechanism in place to supervise works;

Project Constraints

The project encountered some major challenges/constraints that forestalled the smooth implementation of its activities during the review period. Key among these challenges are:

- ✦ Delay by contractors to execute work activities in line with plan and time; coupled with continue stoppage /neglect/ of work and abandonment of site, consistent failure to mobilize and organize staff, equipment and materials;
- ✦ Low capacity of contractors to understand and execute the work in line with the design of the project and compromising the construction of the milling/processing and dam facilities;
- ✦ Failure by engineers and contractors to collaborate and coordinate their work activities;
- ✦ Non-and untimely payments of the workforce;
- ✦ Most farmers consider lowland farming as a second choice and engage only in said farming when major farming activities in the upland are completed;
- ✦ Farmers not prioritizing ownership of project activities;
- ✦ Lack of proper water management structures in place to control the flow of water during the rainy season and ensure the flow of water to rehabilitated irrigated sites during the dry season;
- ✦ Decrease in momentum of the conducts of Farmer Field School (FFS) and Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) across project communities,
- ✦ Non functionality of water management committees at project sites;
- ✦ That all contractors present copies of their respective workplan to the Office of the Superintendents/local authority for the day to day monitoring of their respective activities. Local authority agreed to assist the process of monitoring the activities of contractors.
- ✦

Remedial Actions

In a bid to address these challenges and others not indicated hereon, the following remedial actions were proposed as a way forward to keep the project on track and ensure its timely completion in line with plan.

- ✦ That construction of the dam be separated from the swamp work and given to different contractor for construction; contractors be mandated to focus on the construction of the milling facility as a primary and top priority;
- ✦ The contract of non-performing contractors be terminated and the contracts retendered;
- ✦ Engineers and contractors advised to coordinate and harmonize their activities for the common good of the project;
That ASRP works with contractors on the payment of workers;
- ✦ That the Project Engineer and Agronomist be deployed at project sites to work with contractors and farmers in the implementation of the project;
- ✦ That ASRP, MOA and local authority continue to sensitize and educate farmers on the importance of lowland cultivation and encourage them to make maximum use of project intervention to avoid waste of resources and efforts;
- ✦ That Contractors to prioritize the construction of the dam/head dykes at sites under rehabilitation; while the CACs, DAO and Project Focus Persons to work with farmers on community initiative to open up, repair and or clean main canals and flood ways to access water to plots/swamps at sites not under rehabilitation;
- ✦ ASRP and MOA Field Technician continue to engage and encourage lead farmers and CCAs to reactivate the FFS and FAL activities in their respective communities pending the procurement of the Local Based Nongovernmental Organizations. Review the status and functions of the CCA in each community and to remedy the situation;
- ✦ Contractors and lead farmers encourage to work together to establish and or reactivate these committee at their respective sites.

FROM POTHOLES TO IMPROVED GRAVEL ROAD

The roads are a major challenge for Liberia's recovery. Much of the country's minimal road infrastructure had fallen into disrepair after the long conflict: The roads, especially in the southeastern counties, are muddy and difficult to use even during the dry season. Bridges on the dirt roads, made of logs and planks, are particularly hazardous. The very few paved roads are full of potholes and the rest of the road network is dirt or made out of local lateritic materials.

During the rainy season, segments of rural roads become

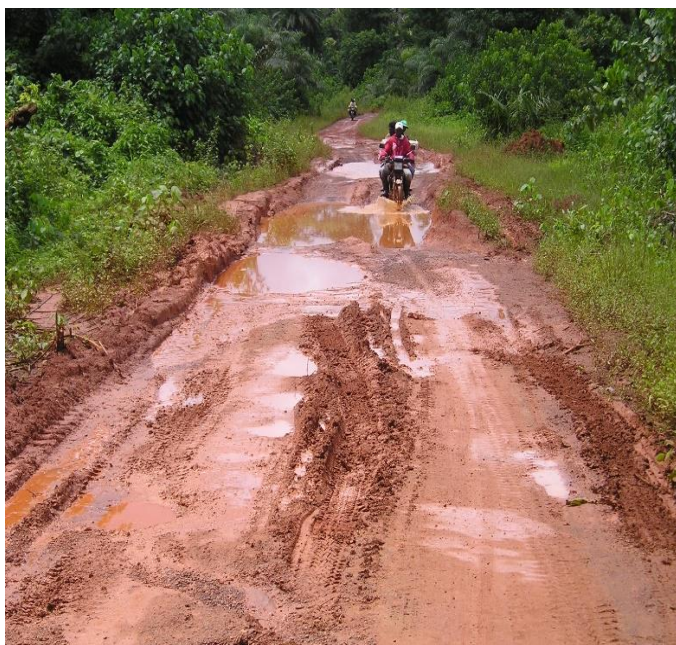


Photo 1: Before Construction of 27KM Zwedru-Ziah Town Road, in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County.

partially or completely impassable causing substantially higher transport costs for passengers and cargo, even at time with good numbers of villages having no access to vehicular travel and consequently negligible movements of produce/goods and services to and out of the region as well as total isolation of communities.

Given this shortcoming and cognizance of the fact that good road leads to development and also stimulates poverty reduction as articulated in the Agenda For Transformation (AFT), the Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project (ASRP) undertook the rehabilitation of a 27 kilometer Zwedru-Ziah

Road in Grand Gedeh and the construction of culverts along farms to market road at strategic project sites across the four project counties to address this problem of road inaccessibility and most importantly enable farmers have access to production facilities and also the markets.

On 1st February 2012, the Program Management Unit (PMU) contracted the services of Peace Glory Lawal



Photo 2: After Construction of 27KM Zwedru-Ziah Town Road in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County

(PGL) to rehabilitate the infrastructure. After years of work, PGL technically completed the rehabilitation with a 90% completion and is now maintaining and effecting all necessary corrections on the facility to ensure 100% completion.

Additionally, the PMU procured the services of five (5) local based construction companies to construct thirty six (36) culverts along farms to market roads. A total of nine (9) culverts has been constructed at selected project sites in four (4) of the five counties, thus easing the problem of inaccessibility experienced at these sites.

FROM RENTAL TO HOUSE OWNER

- A case study of a local farmer in Grand Gedeh

From time memorial, rice farming in Liberia has been largely dominated by traditional subsistence farming systems on uplands that are characterized by labor intensity-

It is clear fact that swamp/lowland cultivation offer the greatest potential for rice production; productivity per acre of swamp exceeds that of traditional upland rice, and, therefore has greater potential for producing above farm



Photo 3: Pictorial view of Hellen Zulu standing before her house

shifting cultivation, low technologies and use of rudimentary inputs, resulting in low productivity. Over 75% of the farmers` population in the country are using this system, a situation that has not improved the living condition of rural farmers but rather subjecting them to a state of low productivity, production and subsequently poverty.

Hellen Zulu: *I have been a rice farmer at the present Zwedru A Swamp since 2009. With my interest in farming, I became a beneficiary of the ASRP. During 2013 production season, I planted eight (8) plots and received compensation as “Kuu Lunch” from the project for the number of plots completed at the end of the production season. I used the money realized from the Kuu Lunch and the sales of some of the rice harvested to buy four (4) bundles of Zinc in the sum of (\$340.00 USD) to build a five-bed room house for me and family and also started a small business. Presently, I am selling and do not buy rice from the store to eat. I am happy that the project has helped and improve my living conditions.*

household consumption and transforming the livelihoods of rural farmers. Understandably, one of the best ways to increase the income of farmers and improve their standard of living in the contemporary world is to build their capacities and provide them training in agriculture best practices through Farmer Field School approach where prerequisite knowledge are acquired in improved lowland rice production technologies for increased and sustained production.

It is against this backdrop that ASRP was initiated in 2010 to train farmers in best

agriculture practices across the four project counties. A total of one thousand four hundred ninety three (1,493) has been trained in this endeavor and are currently applying the knowledge

acquired at their respective farming sites. Some of the farmers have started to reap the benefits of the interventions provided by ASRP as indicated by the testimonial below

SUCCESS STORIES FROM SOME ASRP/AfDB SUPPORTED FARMERS 2013-2014 FARMING SEASON

Ensuring food availability and sufficiency is the entry point to improving the livelihoods of farmers and thus ensuring national



Photo 4: Mrs. Assata Keita, FAL Class, Zwedru Work and See Farmer

food security and poverty alleviation. Over the period, the project has been involved in training rural farmers and communities with best agronomic practices and basic literacy, numeracy and life skills aimed at transiting them from a state of subsistence to a level of sufficiency in the rice value chain and also enhancing their capacities for improvement and sustained means of livelihood, thereby engendering poverty alleviation. The project has made significant strides in improving the livelihoods of many of the beneficiary farmers. The photo below provide insights on some of the many success stories and testimonies from some of the project farmers.

Mrs. Assata Keita: The wife of the Group Chairman for Zwedru Work and See, Mrs. Assata Keita narrated her first major successful story as a result of the Adult Literacy Program being conducted by the Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project through ADRA Liberia. According to Madam Keita, she never knew how to write numbers nor letters when she started attending the ASRP Adult Literacy School. Within a period of three (3) months she could recognize, write and spell or

pronounce simple words and/or figures. So one day she went to the Ecobank in Zwedru to transfer money to a relative. As usual she would ask someone to fill in the paper work but during this time she decided to try herself. Carefully, she wrote the letters and figures under the watchful eyes of bystanders. Friends applauded her when the teller received the slip without a comment. Madam Keita can now boast that finally she has acquired something worthy in life.

Gaye Poley: The ASRP is a great help to my family and I. It has helped me very greatly. I received compensation from the "Kuu Lunch" and used the money buy one lot to build my house. Secondly, I have not bought rice to eat since last harvest in October 2013.

Alfred V. Gwein: I owned three plots. I learned about lowland rice production from ASRP and used it during farming last year. I got more yield during harvest. After harvest, I did not buy rice for six (6) months which of course, helped me to save some money.

Elizabeth Banks: I feel very happy when I hear about the ASRP Project in my community. It has helped me a whole lot. I have a household dependents of fifteen (15) persons and do not buy rice to feed us. I still have rice in my

kitchen that was harvested from my (6) six plots last year 2013.

Amos G. Gweah: This Project has been a help to me. I sold some of the rice harvested from my (8) eight plots last production season 2013 and I was able to buy one town lot to build my house.



Photo 5: Cecelia Quaye explaining about how ASRP helped her at the 4th Quarter Progress Review Workshop in Fish Town, River Gee, County

Cecelia Quaye: The project has helped me a whole lot. From the time, I registered with ASRP and started farming, I have always have enough rice to feed my family and also sell to take care of other problems in the home.

MEETING WITH LOCAL AUTHORITY

Achieving the objective of the project requires the full participation of all stakeholders, most especially the beneficiaries and local government authorities in all aspects of project implementation. Additionally, convening consultative fora of all stakeholders with the

on course and ensure its effective and timely completion in accordance with plan.

From the inception of the project, ASRP staff and the MOA have been interfacing and engaging local authorities across the four project counties on the need to play a more pivotal role in engaging contractors to execute works and educating and mobilizing farmers to prioritize and take advantage of the intervention provided by ASRP. In addition, the project has been heavily involved in holding quarterly progress fora in fulfillment of its commitments to bring all stakeholders together on the table to discuss the project implementation and craft a way forward to ensure success.



sole purpose to critically review and assess project progress, identify challenges/constraints, share information and experiences and evolve innovative recommendations are key to keeping the project activities



Photo 9: ASRP Coordinator, Teakon Williams and Team holding consultative meeting with Superintendent George Solo and officials on progress of the Project



Photo 10: Paramount Chief Gbayoun making a point at the 2nd Quarter Progress Review Workshop in Barclayville, Grand Kru County



Photo 11: Hon. Paul Jallah, Assistant Minister for Research making a point