



**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
MONROVIA, LIBERIA**



**REPORT ON THE  
Training Of  
Poultry Production For Farmer Households In Liberia  
Jointly Implemented By The Government Of Liberia Through The  
Ministry Of Agriculture (Moa) And The Food And Agriculture  
Organization (FAO) Of The United Nations**

**Held at the  
Headquarters of the**

Voinjama District Women Organization For Peace And Development  
Voinjama City, Lofa County- Liberia  
10 – 15 June, 2013

Submitted By: Henry Goffa  
**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**

## **Summary**

A five-day training in Poultry Production and Management jointly organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and the FAO took place on June 10-15, 2013 in Konia, Voinjama and Foya in Lofa County.

More than 60 poultry farmers attended the training from the three areas, where the MOA and FAO are partnering in the setting up of poultry programs for over 300 females in the sub-sector.

Several technical papers were presented. There were also group discussions followed by Q & A. The training is aimed at increasing the skills and knowledge of the participants in Poultry Production and Management.

The MOA Communications Officer, Mr. Henry Goffa, officiated as Master Ceremony declared the workshop opened thereby Mr. J. Emmanuel Paivey, Programme Assistant at FAO gave the overview of the workshop.

In his opening remarks, the FAO official, J. Emmanuel Paivey gave a short historical background of the training and its functions and benefits to Liberians. This was preceded by statements made by personalities from the Ministry of Agriculture, (MOA), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) and Ministry of Gender and Development, (MoGD).

The speakers stressed the responsibilities of their various institutions and promised to assiduously work with the project management team to achieving its objectives. The team was later taken on a tour of agriculture-related sites in Voinjama and its surroundings.

**Mr. Jean Alexandre Scaglia**, FAO representative in Liberia also paid a visit to the area. Mr. Scaglia said he was proud of the farmers and expressed delight over their activities. He reminded them that are the future of Liberia and must do all they can to raise the profile of the country to new heights in the sector.

Mr. Scaglia reiterated the FAO's commitment to buttress government's efforts to prioritize agriculture, noting that Liberia needs farmers to produce local eggs and poultry meat. He assured the women of Lofa, that FAO stands ready to support any meaningful agriculture project they intend to undertake to improve the quality of their lives and make Liberia a poultry producer.

Speaking later, the Coordinator of National Livestock Bureau at the Ministry of Agriculture, Mrs. Seklau Wiles, informed the gathering that 45 female participants are part of the 300 households that are already benefitting from the poultry program.

She said she was glad that the farmers were taking part in the knowledge sharing exercise. The training was facilitated by Chinese Veterinarians from the South-South Cooperation, an Ethiopian veterinarian, Dr. Etage D. Belay of Price Trading Liberian Inc, an animal pharmaceutical store located in Gardnersville.

Meanwhile, **Assistant Agriculture Minister for Regional Development, Research & Extension, Paul Jallah** has stressed government's commitment to strengthen all sectors of agriculture. He emphasized Agriculture Minister, Dr. Florence Chenoweth's willingness and commitment to training more poultry farmers to manage these facilities to produce eggs and home-made poultry meat that would provide source of protein and income generation for poultry farmers. Zorzor, Foya and Voinjama poultry currently house a combined stocked of 1500 layer of chickens and 6000 broilers for a massive production of meat and eggs in the region, Assistant Minister Jallah said.

### **Background and Justification**

Activities of the TCP Project started nearly a year ago with initial assessment of beneficiaries groups which was quickly followed by conduct of an inception/launching workshop in May 2010, and improved crop production (maize, groundnuts cowpeas and cassava) intended to train beneficiaries in production of raw materials for local formulation.

The intervention would be focused by providing support to the GOL's effort in its agriculture sector recovery and development through increased agriculture production and development of agro-business that would sustainably improve the living standards of the people in an environmentally friendly and socially acceptable manner. It would also provide an alternative source of protein and income generation for the participating beneficiaries.

At least one facility in each of three sites in Zorzor, Voinjama and Foya Districts has been completed. They were constructed at the cost of US\$68,000. All three facilities have broilers and layers for the production of meat and eggs.

With the completion of the buildings, the next priority will be the stocking of the necessary materials but only after beneficiaries have been trained in the management of birds and other important topics that are required for sustained poultry production. Hence, the need to conduct a training workshop focusing on improved poultry production cannot be overemphasized.

Over the years, the availability of modern and intensive poultry management skill development for poultry farmers has been and continues to be a major challenge. It is expected that the project would address challenges faced by farmers through the training of poultry production and management.

Against this background, a Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop in poultry production and management was proposed with emphasis on modern and intensive poultry management. The workshop will target a maximum of 15 beneficiaries from each of the three project locations.

**The Result of the Workshop summarized as followed:**

- Forty-five poultry farmers received training;
- Ensured that 300 farmers from the three poultry sites in Konia, Voinjama and Foya District in Lofa County, acquire the requisite skills in modern and intensive poultry management;
- Acquired some basic accounting principles and record keeping in poultry farm management; and,
- Catalogued the proceedings of the workshop and present same to policy decision makers, donors and some key stakeholders for their information and re-action.

**Workshop Strategy**

The workshop was participatory in nature and allowed more participants to discussions. The facilitators and moderators simplified the technical presentations. The subject or skill areas included project infrastructure – intensive poultry production management, barns, feed mills, warehouses, well water towers, wastes management. Rural veterinary services and basic marketing were also included.

The participants were granted more time to share their experiences through dialogues and group working discussions.

**FINAL WORKSHOP RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, we, the participants, being consciously aware of the enormity of the challenges and resources requirement in the quest for high protein especially poultry production and management in Lofa County, Liberia;

**Aware** that the lack of awareness on poultry production and management and in support of the activities of MOA in ensuring the work goes on smoothly;

**Cognizant** of the important role MOA plays in the socio-economic development in this country in effecting food security;

**Perceiving** the need for sustained capacity enhancing for the MOA; and,

**Convinced** that successful implementation of programs and projects are contingent upon the fulfillment of expectations for inspiring through our leadership;

**IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, DO HEREBY PUT FORWARD THE FOLLOWING:**



L-R: Poultry houses in Konia and Vezelela, and Dr. Etag demonstrate vaccine administrations