

## Ministry of Agriculture Boosts Human Capacity Development for Liberia

*Liberian Students at various African Universities under the WAAPP Liberia Scholarship Perform with Distinctions.*

*Staff Writer*



Some Students at the Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, Tanzania

Reports reaching Monrovia have spoken of outstanding performances from several Liberian students studying abroad. According to dispatches from the Makerere University in Uganda, the Sokoine University in Morogoro, Tanzania the University of Nairobi in Kenya and Cape Coast University in Ghana, all 37 students currently pursuing higher education in various agricultural related fields at these universities have shown high performances in their studies.

Thirty seven students were selected after a thorough vetting and screening process and placed in various universities across the continent beginning May, 2013. The Report comes after they completed a full school year at their various universities.



**Some Students at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana**

There are five students currently pursuing their Doctorate studies and are expected to complete within the next two years, while the remaining are doing their Masters and are expected back into the country within a year.

Those doing their masters are presently engaged with

research works, preparing for their thesis. The students are expected to return to Liberia after studies in agro related sciences like Animal and Crop Sciences, irrigation, Soil and Water Management, Biotechnology, Agronomy, Plant Breeding among others.

These students, upon their return are expected to serve the Government of Liberia through the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) and the Ministry of Agriculture for a two year term as part of their commitment to the country. The project has placed twenty one of these at the Makerere University in Uganda, 7 at the University of Cape Coast and 1 at GIMPA in Ghana. Also, six of the students have been placed at the Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania and two at the University of Nairobi in Kenya

WAAPP Liberia, a ten year project with two equal phases is concentrating mainly on both human and institutional capacity building for the first phase. In addition to the students currently studying abroad, the project has initiated a local scholarship scheme with hundreds of students expected to benefit from placements at local universities and colleges under its “Youth in Agriculture” program.



**Students at the University of Makerere University in Uganda with the Liberian Flag**

The West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP) Liberia is a regional program funded by the World Bank and governments of Japan and Liberia, and is currently being implemented in 13 West African countries. The Liberia project is mainly focused on increasing the productivity of rice and cassava while adding value, as well as the provision of new technologies along the value chain. WAAPP is being implemented in 8 counties in Liberia, namely; Bomi, Bong, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, Margibi, Maryland, River Gee and Sinoe.