



Program Management Unit (PMU)

Ministry of Agriculture

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Monsterrado, Liberia



NOTICE FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

The Government of Liberia has secured a project preparatory funding from the World Bank for a proposed project titled: Smallholder Agriculture Transformation And Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAR-P). This project is designed to lay the foundation for a private sector led agricultural development program in Liberia, and serve as a catalyst for the deepening public private partnerships in the agricultural sector.

The proposed project aims to increase agricultural investments and productivity and promote commercialization of smallholder farmers for selected value chains in selected counties of Liberia. STAR-P focuses on addressing critical market failures limiting the development of rice, oil palm, and horticulture value chains. The project aims at promoting competitive smallholder commercialization and facilitating private sector investment in agribusiness by fostering productive linkages between smallholder farmers and selected agribusiness firms. The project will be operational in Lofa, Nimba, Margibi, Bomi and Cape Mount counties.

Efforts at commercialization of agriculture in Liberia have been constrained by lack of organization capacity of the producers, inadequate access to productive assets and modern technology and market access issues. The inputs market is not well organized and farmers lack the capacity and information to respond appropriately. The access of these farmers to assets and credit is limited and therefore constrains their ability to expand production, increase yield or engage in partnership with major players within value chains. This project will promote productivity by strengthening existing farmers' organizations to enable productive business linkages between organized groups of smallholder farmers and selected agribusiness firms. This will be done across targeted value chains with focus on improving production system, the extension services, and enhanced opportunities for value addition and access to markets. The project will establish partnership with the private sector and entrepreneurs for effective forward and backward linkages with producers. New marketing channels will be explored including commodity off-take arrangements, contract farming, out-grower schemes etc. Agribusiness firms, Nucleus farms and MSME groups will be selected based on their innovative Business Plans and experience working with organized farmers' groups or cooperatives. The project will work with selected private nucleus farms, agribusiness firms and MSME groups that are willing to incorporate productive linkage arrangements with smallholder farmers, as part of their overall long-term business plans. The project will assess the capacity building and finance needs of the agribusiness firms and MSME groups to make them productive and competitive in their business activities since most of the agribusiness owners have weak business management capacity coupled with low level of education. Matching grants will be provided for Agribusiness firms that have business linkages with smallholder farmers through market orientation, input facilitation or

processing. The project will also explore opportunities for production scale up through mechanization service provision to smallholder farmers so as to adequately and consistently serve the already huge demand market for local rice, ensuring that the quality and taste are enhanced to compete with the imported rice.

The proposed project will be implemented through the Program Management Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture. The implementation of the STAR-P will trigger the following World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguards Policies:

- i. OP/BP 4.01-Environmental Assessment
- ii. OP/BP 4.09-Pest Management
- iii. OP/BP 4.12-Involuntary Resettlement

Consequently, the Government of Liberia, through the **Ministry of Agriculture**, has prepared appropriate safeguards instruments namely:

- (1) *Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)*
- (2) *Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF)*
- (3) *Pest Management Plan (PMP)*

These frameworks would guide mitigation of any such potential impacts in accordance with the Republic of Liberia and World Bank requirements. The ESMF, PMP and RPF have been prepared in consultations with different stakeholders at regional and national levels.

The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) outlines among others, procedures to ensure that proposed investments are adequately screened for their potential environmental and social impacts, and that correct procedures are followed to avoid or mitigate and minimize any potential negative impacts arising from the project.

The Pest Management Plan (PMP) promotes the use of a combination of environmentally and socially friendly practices (hygienic, cultural, biological or natural control mechanisms and the judicious use of chemicals) and reduce reliance on synthetic chemical pesticides and ensure that health, social and environmental hazards associated with pesticides are minimized under the Project and within acceptable limit requirements of key stakeholders (i.e. primary users among farmers and their immediate dependants/families).

The Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) outlines among others, the principles, legal framework, consultation and grievances redress mechanism, principles for determining eligibility, appropriate procedures to be followed to mitigate and minimize impacts arising from the proposed activities. The documents also include institutional arrangements and responsibilities for implementation.

During implementation, if found to be necessary, site specific action or management plans will be prepared by MoA, using participatory and consultative processes guided by the Frameworks, prior to starting any project activities that entail environmental and social impacts.

The Ministry is, through this publication, giving the public:

**NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE FOR THE ABOVE- MENTIONED SAFEGUARDS
INSTRUMENTS AS PART OF THE REQUIREMENT OF THE WORLD BANK
SAFEGUARDS COMPLIANCE MEASURES**

The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Pest Management Plan (PMP) and a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) are now being disclosed to the Public and can be found at the following offices:

Ministry of Agriculture and its Program Management Unit, the Environment Protection Agency (EPA), the Ministry of Finance & Development Planning, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Liberia Agriculture Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA), the Farmers Union Network (FUN), Liberia Business Association (LIBA), The Chairman on Agriculture of the Honorable House of Representative & Senate, the Library of the University of Liberia Agriculture College, and the Office of the Director General of the Central Agricultural Research Institute in Suakoko, Bong County.

Copies of the three (3) Frameworks can also be accessed from the following e-mail and websites addresses indicated below:

E-mail: csaygbe@moa.gov.lr; jcsaygbe@yahoo.com; rogunti@moa.gov.lr

- i. www.cari.gov.lr
- ii. www.coraf.org
- iii. www.moa.gov.lr

These documents will also be disclosed at the World Bank's website.

All queries and enquiries should be forwarded to:

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