



# WAAPP LIBERIA INFO

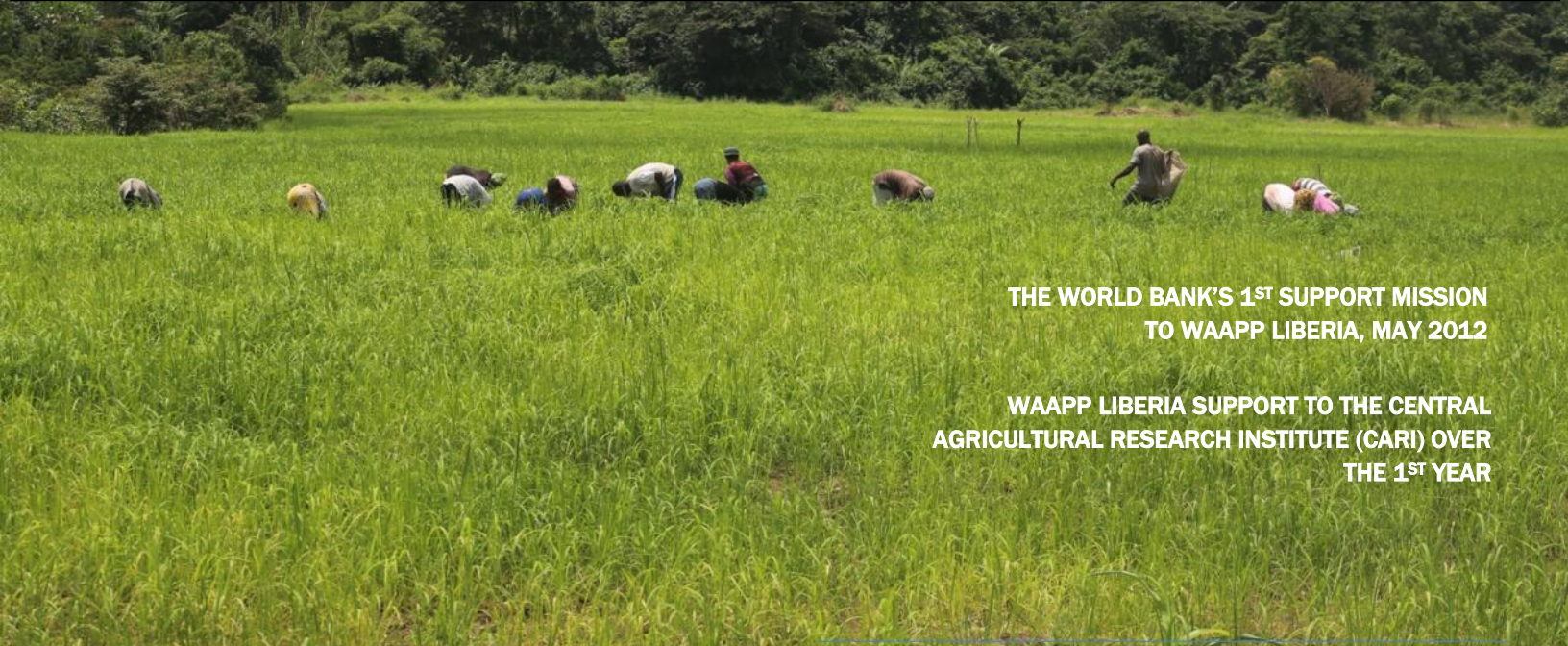
WAAPP / PPAAG

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NEWSLETTER 001 – October 2013

WEST AFRICA AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAM

PROGRAMME DU PRODUCTIVITE AGRICOLE DE L'OUEST



THE WORLD BANK'S 1<sup>ST</sup> SUPPORT MISSION  
TO WAAPP LIBERIA, MAY 2012

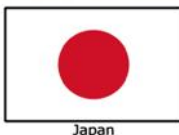
WAAPP LIBERIA SUPPORT TO THE CENTRAL  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CARI) OVER  
THE 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR



WAAPP FLIGHT 1001: LOOKING BACK AT ONE YEAR  
OF IMPLEMENTATION

THE BIRTH OF WAAPP LIBERIA  
THE NATIONAL LAUNCH  
FULL TEXT OF THE SPEECH DELIVERED BY  
H.E. JOSEPH N. BOAKAI  
VICE PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA

THE WAAPP LIBERIA TEAM



**AfricaRice**  
Rice science at the service of Africa  
La science rizicole au service de l'Afrique

**IITA**  
Research to Nourish Africa

## Editor's Note

### LOOKING BACK, ONE YEAR AGO



**ELVIS H. SIRLEAF**  
**EDITOR**

It was mid-November 2012 when the project was officially launched, and there are too many activities to talk about. We have managed to package in the first ever issue of the WAAPP Liberia Newsletter, some of the key activities that took place over the first year of the project. It has been a journey I will label “remarkable”, with a lot of new lessons learned and new areas explored. There were ups and downs, as it is with any worthwhile process. But on the over all, it has been a life-touching expedition. With this being the beginning, as there is still four more years left in the first phase of this project, with a high possibility of another five years to be added, we can't wait to put pen to paper, telling of all the wonderful things that happen as the years progress. I am indeed most delighted to be a part of the process to transform Liberia in this capacity.

This issue highlights activities from the recruitment of project staff, official launching ceremony, WAAPP's support to capacity building and the latest activities that occurred up to early October, 2013. WAAPP Liberia is proud to showcase some of its great achievements in this manner, and at the same time appreciate all those who contributed. The external editorial team led by Mr. Philip Wesseh of the Inquirer Daily played a major role.

Don't ask my opinion about the achievements thus far, because it is a difficult thing not to be passionate about something you have great passion for. Working with one of the best groups of persons I have ever met is more than enough to be thankful for. When people come from different backgrounds, it is not an easy task settling in and adjusting to new ways of life and methods of going about activities. It is the collective effort of all staff, partners and stakeholders that has made this edition a reality, and they are the ones to thank after our Maker who is above. It is good to see that we are moving on, gradually but progressively. We have gone from learning the jargons and activities of an agricultural project to mastering them. We have grown from saying we are the new kid on the block at regional meetings to saying we too have success stories to report. We have grown from a disbursement rate of 0.002% to over 17%. We have grown from saying that a particular process is ongoing to saying that this process has successfully completed. We have grown from all the staff occupying a small single office at the Ministry of Agriculture, to having space in abundance at the Program Management Unit Complex outside the Capital. As mentioned earlier, this issue covers the entire first year of the project. As such, I am going to close with a commentary I have entitled;

### **WAAPP FLIGHT 1001, THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY COMMENTARY**

Three hundred and Sixty Five days ago, we all boarded a flight and waited as the crew prepared for takeoff. It was a wonderful morning and the sun was just coming up, brightening the day as passengers made their way down the jet bridge to get on board. It was easy settling in, especially that the wonderful ground crew with the likes of Nyada

Yoba Baldeh, Peterson Nyemah and Vivian Gweaqmee, had cushioned the arena for the flight crew to begin with.

Passengers were delighted when the flight crew was announced. It was a clear evidence that Veteran Pilot Moses Zinnah and his team had put together a wonderful team that included; Captain J. Cyrus Saygbe, Sr. Co-pilot Edward P. Borloh, First Officer Elvis H. Sirleaf, Logistics Edwin R. Tucker, Navigator Henry H. Sele and Head Hostess Ora M. Barclay. Of course we didn't fly a gigantic carrier of this kind without engineers. Jerome D. N. Boymah, Amos Kiafa, Anthony Sartee, Victor Biddle and William Flomo all came on board. Also boarding the flight was Flight Marshall Foday G. Kiazolu.

When the head hostess Barclay came on the intercom and announced that we had all in place and was ready for takeoff, she also mentioned that we had celebrities like Africa Rice Center, IITA, Farmers Union Network, Cassava and Rice Sector working groups, CRS, FED and others onboard the flight. Everyone clapped and was delighted to be on board the same flight with these stars.

Captain Saygbe announced the takeoff after the ground crew had given us the green light to use runway 101. Being experienced and supported by staff that were all trained and ready to perform their various duties, the takeoff was smooth like riding a sports bike on a newly constructed road.

The Captain has been a great Pilot, taking us through thick clouds and so has Co Pilot Borloh who fills in when Captain takes his breaks. First officer Sirleaf has delivered regular updates on the flight progress, and we have been kept on top of what has been happening. The Skills of Navigator Sele has been outstanding. Thankfully, Tucker got us all we need for such a trip, and Head Hostess Barclay has been serving us with all we need to keep us comfortable. A passenger was overheard saying he almost missed the flight and would have regretted missing out on all this. Engineers Boyma, Kaifa, Sartee, Biddle and Flomo made sure all our gears, electronics and other equipment function well to keep us safe. Marshall Kiazolu quietly played his role. He watches throughout the flight without being detected.

It wasn't the best of season to fly, so yes there was nature in the form of turbulences along the way. But God above being the reason for the season, and as trained and experienced as the crew is, it has been a ride that not a single passenger or crew member will willingly want to end. However, duty called for Marshall Kiazolu and Engineer Flomo to board another flight and offer their wonderful and committed services there, and on this day that we are making our first touching down for refueling and maintenance work, the two will disembark for their called duties on another carrier.

Ladies and Gentlemen, from the flight deck this is your first officer speaking. We applaud all those who made our 1st year a success. It has been a life touching moment. Please sit back in your seats with your seatbelts securely fastened as we prepare to take off. Again, on behalf of the captain J. Cyrus Saygbe, Sr. Co-pilot Edward P. Borloh, Logistician Edwin R. Tucker, Navigator Henry H. Sele, Head Hostess Ora M. Barclay, Engineers Jerome D. N. Boymah, Amos Kiafa, Anthony Sartee and Victor Biddle, I am Elvis H. Sirleaf, your first officer on this flight, welcoming you on board flight WAAPP Liberia.

  
**Elvis H. Sirleaf**

## Message from the Director of the Program Management Unit



**DR. MOSES M. ZINNAH**  
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM MANAGEMENT  
UNIT (PMU)

Celebrating one year of implementation of the WAAPP project in Liberia is indeed a beginning of the long term development effort for the country. It is now, I am even more confident that Liberia is on the path of genuine transformation in the Agro sector. It seems as if it was yesterday when we gathered

in a hotel room in Accra to put together a document for the implementation of this regional program in our own country, Liberia. Looking at the level of work that has been achieved so far, and looking back at all the gallant men who contributed meaningful ideas and debated for several hours for the few days, I can humbly say, we did a wonderful job.

Agriculture revitalization is very significant to our nation's growth. WAAPP is just one of the several projects at the Program Management Unit (PMU) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) that is making its contribution to making Liberia a food secure nation. I am most delighted to be a part of this process, serving in this capacity.

Visibility is important to what we do at the Program Management Unit, as it helps tell the story of what is really happening within this sector of our economy. This way, we reduce the wide spread perception that nothing is being done by the Ministry of Agriculture. I strongly encourage the WAAPP Liberia team to continue on this trajectory, and do more, as this is what is expected from such a wonderful team made up of some other finest brains this country can boast of.

To our partners, seeing these endeavors to the end will be my humble request. Sustainability has always been a problem with developing countries. But judging from your present commitment to ensuring Liberia grows more food, I am of the conviction that your commitment will remain.

Let us all keep up the good work, and may God bless Liberia.

## Message from the National Project Coordinator



**J. CYRUS SAYGBE, SR.**  
NATIONAL PROJECT COORDINATOR  
WAAPP LIBERIA

The WAAPP was designed with the main objective of improving agricultural productivity, while promoting regional integration as instruments for promoting shared growth and poverty reduction in West Africa.

Also, the approach adopted for the project is based partly on the integration and harmonization of national agricultural policies and secondly, the establishment of close links between research, extension, producers and private operators. In doing so, the WAAPP works to establish collaboration, often lacking among researchers, support services boards and universities to enable them to work in partnership with farmers, private sector and civil society to better respond comprehensively to the needs and opportunities for innovation in the sector. This approach which involves all stakeholders inclusive of research and development is one of the original WAAPP.

WAAPP-Liberia comes with a different focus as it primarily targets growth in the agricultural sector with a particular emphasis on increase in yields and production through research. It presupposes the Generation, Dissemination and Adoption of improved agricultural technologies i.e. (Verities of crops and where applicable machineries). It is implemented through the value chain approach where key players along the line of production play a significant role in making sure there is adequate value addition to agricultural commodities.

The project is being implemented in 8 counties: Bomi, Bong, Grand Gedeh, Margibi, Maryland, Rivergee and Sinoe counties.

WAAPP Liberia's major objective for the first five years is to ensure the revitalization of the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) in Suakoko, Bong County. This is something that the project, including the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), and our funders, are committed to.

I have been blessed with wonderful team players who are committed to ensuring that we deliver on our promises, and fulfill the task which has been assigned to us. Together we can build a vibrant agricultural sector and encourage our farmers to deviate from subsistence farming to seeing farming as a business.

## THE WEST AFRICA AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAM

Staff Writer



The West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) is a two-phase, 10-year Adaptable Program, each of five years duration. The first phase, referred to as WAAPP 1A involves three countries; Ghana, Mali and Senegal. These countries started implementing the WAAPP over five years ago. With the exception of Mali, the other countries have completed and moved on the second phase. The civil unrest in Mali caused the suspension of several developmental activities, including the WAAPP Project. The second group of countries known as WAAPP 1B includes Burkina Faso, the Ivory Coast and Nigeria, while Benin, the Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Niger, Sierra Leone and Togo are in the WAAPP 1C group. WAAPP 1D which will include Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Mauritania is still being processed.

The West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (WECARD/CORAF) is the sub-regional co-ordinating institution. WECARD/CORAF main office is located in Dakar, Senegal.

The development objective of WAAPP is to generate and disseminate improved technologies in the participating country's top priority commodity sub-sector that are aligned with regional priorities.

### Project Components and Approach

The WAAPP project has four components which clearly direct the approach of the implementation.

#### **Component 1: Establish Enabling Conditions for sub-Regional Cooperation and Market Integration.**

Aimed at strengthening and harmonization of systems (regulations, mechanisms and procedures) for recording and broadcasting technology products (genetic material, pesticides and other protection products for crops) to facilitate their marketing and distribution in the sub region. For regulations for the registration of genetic materials and pesticides at the ECOWAS level, WAAPP is to support the following efforts: WAEMU and CILSS on the establishment of rules and common technical standards for the seeds and pesticides; ECOWAS on the implementation of a common framework of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

National Committee for registration materials and pesticides in the participating countries, WAAPP is to support: revision, if necessary, of national procedures to align them with regional identification of improved technologies that exist but are not officially published; Implementation of procedures for dissemination of new technologies, ensuring their access to private producers and the agro-food; Documentation on the characteristics of technology; The constitution of a file on technologies approved and disseminated; And promoting these technologies to the media.

For information system on agricultural technologies and expertise in regional research, WAAPP is to support the strengthening of the scientific information system established by the regional implementing agency; CORAF/WECARD to consolidate databases on technologies and expertise in agricultural research available in the sub region. As part of formal implementation of this component, the WAAPP is to finance consultant services to study and evaluate the policies, regulations and procedures existing in trade and technology diffusion; Seminars and workshops to promote the participation of private producers and the agro-food regulations in the preparation and evaluation of improved technologies; Short-term trainings to improve skills in the areas of information technology and communication; And finally the services of consultants to conduct studies to reduce operational costs related to dissemination of improved technologies (examples field trials, tests Culinary promotional materials, etc.).

#### **Component 2. Establishing National Centers of Specializations (NCOS).**

National Centers of Expertise intended to strengthen compliance with national priorities with regional priorities within the national agricultural research systems (NARS). Rehabilitation of essential equipment for the National Centers of Specialization, NCOS. WAAPP is to support the implementation of civil works (if required) and acquisition of equipment and scientific equipment in order to enhance sustainability, operability and attractiveness of the regional center. In the area of capacity building of researchers, WAAPP is to support programs on the job training and exchange programs. It is to also provide support for research costs and living expenses (airfare, per diem, housing, limited business expenses) of participating researchers. Also support to the Research and Development (R&D) focused on the development of plant material and reducing constraints (post-harvest losses) throughout the sectors, to promote adoption of improved technologies with the participation active producers and agribusiness. Another form of WAAPP support is to farmers for surveys and analysis of referral pathways, identifying research priorities and monitoring and evaluation of outcomes and impacts of technology transfer on agricultural productivity.

#### **Component 3. Funding for Demand- Driven Technology Generation and Dissemination.**

Financing Application Development and Adoption of Technologies aims to strengthen mechanisms for transparent financing of Research and Development in the participating countries in the sub region. CORAF/WECARD, who assumes the function of Regional Management Unit, will be responsible for managing the funds of competitive regional hub (and whose implementation is delayed further). The National Coordinating Units or Units of National Project Management (UNGP) will manage the funds of competitive national banking. As part of formal implementation of this component, the WAAPP will finance research programs of the participating countries focusing on priority sectors of the region (rice, cereals, tubers and groundwater); cross-border partnerships for both the supply side (research, extension, universities) for the application (producer organizations, private sector, civil society) working on issues of

common interest; participation of producer groups or associations of agro-industry in conducting Research & Development at regional level.

#### **Component 4. Project Coordination, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation.**

This component aims at establishing a structure and instruments of effective coordination, management and monitoring and evaluation. In addition, WAAPP / PPAAO aid in establishing effective coordination mechanisms between regional and participating countries. At the regional level, WAAPP / PPAAO is implemented by the CORAF which was mandated by ECOWAS to carry out the functions of Regional Management Unit of the Project (URGP). Nationally, WAAPP / PPAAO is implemented by National Units Project Management (UNGP) mandated by their respective governments. In Liberia, the Ministry of Agriculture is the National Government agency with the Mandate.

#### **THE BIRTH AND NATIONAL LAUNCH OF WAAPP LIBERIA**

*Staff Writer*

On November 14, 2012, several persons gathered at the Samuel K. Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville, Montserrado County for the national launch of the project. The Director of the Program Management Unit at the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Moses Zinnah explaining how the WAAPP Liberia project was put together said: “it was the tireless efforts of a group of Liberians who were locked up in a hotel in Accra Ghana, drawing up a document on behalf of Liberia that was later presented to the World Bank”. He noted that it was after negotiations that the document was approved and Liberia was included on a list of other West African Countries already participating in the Regional Project. The collaborated efforts of great Task Team Leaders also played a major role in the establishment of WAAPP Liberia.

After the approval of the program, an interim team was brought on board to begin the process of recruiting project staff. They included Mr. Nyada Yoba Baldeh; Project Management Consultant & Interim Team Leader, Mr. Peterson Nyemah; Project Assistant and Ms. Vivian Gweaqmee; Administrative Assistant. The team was supervised by the PMU Director. Sitting at the main office of the Ministry of Agriculture on Somalia Drive in Gardnersville near Monrovia, the interim team began its mandated task. Terms of References (TOR) were advertised, applications were received, interviews and background checks were done and the seven staff were selected to begin and carry out the project.

J. Cyrus Saygbe, Sr. National Project Coordinator  
Edward P. Borloh Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

Elvis H. Sirleaf Communications Officer  
Fodey G. Kiazolu Internal Auditor  
Edwin R. Tucker Procurement Officer  
Henry H. Sele Project Accountant  
Ora M. Barclay Administrative Assistant



**THE WAAPP LIBERIA TEAM**

The team took office on October 1, 2012 with a formal welcome ceremony. WAAPP Liberia was in full swing.

The project is now being implemented in 8 of the 15 counties within the country, and will concentrate on increasing the productivity of rice and cassava, as well as adding value to these produce. The counties are Bomi, Bong, Gbapolu, Grand Gedeh, Margibi, Maryland, Rivier Gee and Sinoe counties.

On the day of the National Launch, various Agro Stakeholders and other prominent individuals attended and witnessed the ceremony. The event, colorful and organized, was also characterized by several presentations and speeches. Performing the official launching ceremony, the Vice President of Liberia Ambassador Joseph N. Boakai spoke of his pleasure and delight to form part of what he referred to as another effort in our persistent drive to spur that [agriculture] sector of our economy on which the mainstay of our economy should rightly be constructed.

**See full text of the Vice President’s Speech.**



**H.E. AMBASSADOR JOSEPH N. BOAKAI,  
VICE PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA  
DELIVERS HIS KEY NOTE ADDRESS**

*Senator Frederick Cherue, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture*

*Honorable Josephine Francis, Chairlady of the House of*

*Representatives Committee on Agriculture  
Madam Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Florence A. Chenoweth  
Mr. Minister of Finance, Honorable Amara Konneh  
Representatives of the World Bank, JICA, ECOWAS, and other  
Development Partners  
Representatives of the Farmers’ Organizations Present  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:*

*We are back here again today at yet another calling of the Ministry of Agriculture—still another effort in our persistent drive to spur that sector of our economy on which the mainstay of our economy should rightly be constructed.*

*I am always pleased and honored to be a part, and to play an active role, in undertakings that focus on our agricultural sector. Our gathering here today is of particular great interest to me, considering the primary reason for our convergence here this morning.*

*We come together today not simply as another showcasing of our abiding quest to stimulate our agricultural sector. More than that, it is evidence of our commitment to live by the much slogan, “Produce what you eat and eat what you produce.”*

*On recollection, our last rendezvous here, on that Monday morning of September 10 of this year, was about enhancing our production in the area of cash crops—coffee and cocoa. At that occasion we gladly launched the “Smallholder Tree Crops Revitalization Support Project.”*

*Today, it’s about an area that I consider to be sitting at the top tier of national areas of concern--our country’s two primary staples---RICE and CASSAVA. I need not belabor the point about the high importance, and strategic nature, of rice in the lives of our people. We Liberians can never forget what rice wrought on this country during the Rice Riots of 1979.*

*Even more recently, we all know full well how high the value of rice rose during our civil crisis in this very Monrovia when it simply became known as “gold dust.”*

*It therefore does not require Rocket Science to conclude that real success at resolving our rice question will inevitably herald that sustainable peace and wellbeing that we crave as a nation.*

*We are here today to launch the Liberia Project of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP 1C), the goal of which is the achievement of food self-sufficiency and possible export capacity building. This World Bank-funded Program being executed under the auspices of ECOWAS has a project area also comprising Benin, The Gambia, Guinea, Niger, Sierra Leone and Togo.*

*The inauguration of such a Project in Liberia is a welcome development, especially noting its aim of rendering agriculture more productive and sustainable as well as promoting regional integration.*

*That is why we again want to abundantly thank our foreign donor partners for their support in this vitally important area. We express our gratitude to the World Bank, the Japanese Government, and ECOWAS for partnering with the concerned West African countries in formulating such a relevant program.*

*The relevance of heightened productivity in rice production, no doubt, is laden with that great potential to inflict a gash on our elusive food self-sufficiency quagmire right at its nerve center.*

*We register our acknowledgment of the bold and courageous efforts of Agriculture Minister Chenoweth and her various special Teams at the Agriculture Ministry.*

*We implore them to remain steadfast in their relentless effort to do the justice to our Agriculture sector that it so unquestionably deserves.*

*For scores of years now, successive governments have searched for a program that will serve as a catalyst to meeting self-reliance in food production. It is my high hope that the WAAPP scheme will yield the desired outcome and that our effort at achieving self-sufficiency in what we eat will be greatly helped. Indeed we are very optimistic.*

*Our optimism for the success of this Project is rightly placed because an identical scheme—WAAPP 1A—focusing Ghana, Mali and Senegal, is already nearing conclusion and thus serves as a handy experience from which we can draw lessons.*

*And so today, armed with such optimism and reinforced by my own deep trust in the resolve of our farmers, I proudly declare the “West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP 1C) officially launched this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year of our Lord, 2012.*

*God Bless you all.*

*God Bless Liberia*

What the WAAPP Project hopes to achieve in Liberia is similar to that of the other participating countries. Promoting the increased production of stable food, adding value to other crops that are grown, creating, adapting and disseminating new technologies and improving regional collaboration.

#### **Project Rationale, Goal and Objective**

The goal of WAAPP 1C is to achieve self-sufficiency and export capacity for rice production whilst improving productivity in rice and cassava along their respective value chains. The development objective

of WAAPP IC Liberia is to improve the productivity of rice and cassava along their respective value chains in order to enhance Liberia's food self-sufficiency and regional competitiveness. Moreover, WAAPP IC will contribute to rice and cassava productivity increment in the Mano River Union (MRU) countries, also through the value chain development approach.

Despite the country's natural endowment, approximately half of the population is either food insecure or highly vulnerable to food shortages owing in part to low agricultural productivity, resulting from structural impediments, inadequate policies, and prolonged conflicts that displaced farming communities, degraded transport and processing infrastructures, and diminished productive capacities such as assets and skilled personnel. Specific constraints include weak land management and water control systems, limited production intensification and crop diversification, restricted market access due to poor food value chains (i.e., storage, processing, marketing channels, and credit), and low institutional capacity. These constraints have served as disincentives for producing marketable surpluses, contributing to food insecurity and increased poverty.

**THE WORLD BANK SUPPORT MISSION TO WAAPP LIBERIA, MAY 2012**

*Staff Writer*

The first World Bank support mission visit to the Liberia Project was in March 2013. During which time a delegation from the World Bank and WAAPP's Regional overseeing body, CORAF/WECARD visited Liberia and assessed the project, and identified areas that needed interventions.

K. Osman Gyasi, Co Task Team Leader for Liberia led the Delegation, while Dr. Ousmane Ndoeye represented CORAF



**DR. FLORENCE A. CHENOWETH, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE IN A TET-A-TET WITH WORLD BANK TASK TEAM LEADER DR. K. OUSMAN GYASI**

The delegation's activities began with a visit to the office of the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Florence A. Chenoweth, who briefed the Delegation

on the collaboration that has so far been achieved between the Ministry and the WAAPP Liberia team. The seasoned Liberian Agro Scientist pointed out that the coordination was on a slow pace and that she believed that it was because the team was still settling in and getting adjusted to the activities. She, however, pointed out the prospects that the team had a lot of potential and she looked forward to the times she would enjoy a better coordination for the WAAPP Project.

After the courtesy call on the Minister of Agriculture, the visiting delegation held a meeting with the Deputy Minister for Technical Services Dr. Sisi Subah and the Interim Team Leader of the Central

Agricultural Research Institute, CARI Aaron G. Marshall. CARI being the research institute that will lead the research activities of the project, the meeting was to access the capacity of the institute and identify areas that needed building. Dr. Subah highlighted human resource capacity building as paramount to the activities of CARI. The meeting also saw a review of the proposed training budget of CARI and other costs attached to inviting experienced scientists that will help mentor and nurture young scientists in the field.

The World Bank delegation also met with the Department of Extension, the arm responsible to coordinate the implementation of the project in the various counties, and the representatives of the two organizations that have been brought on to steer the affairs of increasing rice and cassava production, Africa Rice Center (Africa Rice) and the International Institute for Tropical Agricultural (IITA) respectively. Africa Rice head of rice sector development Dr. Inoussa Akintayo spoke of his organization's desire to see the agreement with WAAPP reach its implementation stage. In a separate meeting on the same day



**DR. K. OUSMAN GYASI SHAKES HANDS WITH IITA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL KENTON DISHIELL**

at the Monrovia Office of IITA, Dr. Amare Tegbaru, who represented his organization, introduced Kenton Dashiell as IITA's new Deputy Director General for Partnership and Capacity

Development.

Mr. Dashiell pointed out that from several meetings that were held with the Minister and Deputy Minister of Agriculture, it was easy to draw a conclusion that the main reason for involving his organization in the process was to build the capacity of the research institute. Referring to CARI as a baby, Dr. Dashiell said it was a great opportunity to lead the process of helping the institute grow and produce very valuable research for the people of Liberia. After reviewing the draft agreement and agreeing to some adjustments, the visiting delegation instructed the parties to proceed with the submission of the contracts for the Bank's review.

The visiting delegation and the WAAPP Liberia team held a meeting with the Rice Sector Working Group at the Samuel K. Doe Sports Complex, where the group was already holding a working session. The Catholic Relief Services (CRS) County Representative Kamel Bhattacharyya, who is also head of the Rice Sector Group, introduced his team members present and also outlined the challenges the sector was faced with. He named Policy levels in rules and regulation, price irregularities and the high importation of rice as some of the issues affecting the Rice Sector in Liberia. The CRS boss disclosed that reports have shown that over 200 million U.S. Dollars is spent on the importation of rice, while the indigenous production is 15 percent costlier than the imported rice. Reducing production cost, he said, will remedy this problem, and that the money provided for rice subsidy should be channeled through support for rice growing farmers rather

than spent to import rice. Mr. Bhattacharyya said the mandate of WAAPP to increase the productivity of rice is good, but sustaining the production of rice must be prioritized. He then recommended the strengthening of the capacity of the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) and the agriculture colleges in the various universities.

Responding to the points raised, the Task Team Leader Osman Gyasi said he believed in the WAAPP team on ground to put into place plans that will include all the genuine concerns of the various stakeholders of the WAAPP project.

The next day was characterized by traveling and field visits that took the team to central Liberia, visiting the facilities of the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) in Suakoko, Bong County. The facility is also the home of the Chinese-Liberian Tech Agriculture Center.



**GROUP PICTURE AFTER THE MEETING WITH THE CHINESE-LIBERIAN TECH AGRICULTURE CENTER**

After being treated to the hostility of a Chinese tradition to serve fruits, the Liaison of the center made a presentation on the operations of his team in Liberia, showcasing its success stories. He

named capacity building for farmers and CARI staff, testing varieties

and carrying out other trials as part of the work they are involved with. For his organization, K. Osman Gyasi said because of the positive endeavors the Chinese



**THE HEAD OF THE CHINESE-LIBERIAN TECHNOLOGY AGRICULTURE CENTER EXPLAINS THE RICE BREEDING PROCESS**

were engaged in, the World Bank was greatly interested in collaborating with them for the projects in Liberia. Touring the facilities and farms of the Chinese project, the World Bank's representative disclosed his impression of the level of work being carried out by the Asian giant in the agro sector. The team also toured the CARI rice and cassava fields, as well as the Nursery centers of the Research Institute.



**JICA HEAD OF LIBERIAN OFFICE MAKI OKUSO LISTENS TO DR. K. OUSMAN GYASI**

The March 14 field visit also took the visiting delegation and the WAAPP team to SamJack, a local Non-governmental Organization

(NGO) into farming and processing. At the processing center, women were seen making cassava into flour and gari, as well as other finished products. The Cassava from the farms are brought into the processing center and processed. The finished products are then bagged in trademark zip locks and sold on the local market. Processors shared their experience and ambitions with the team.

Madam Maki Okusa, Head of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) played host to the mission's final visit at her Mamba Point office near Monrovia. After welcoming the visitors, the JICA Head of office in brief remarks spoke of her government's delight to be collaborating with the World Bank in helping to bring back lost hope to the people of Liberia. Madam Okusa said the Agro sector in Liberia needs a lot of improvement, and the Government and people of Japan were committed to the task of helping in this direction. Commenting on the WAAPP activities, she noted that though the person in charge of the agriculture unit at JICA was based in Accra Ghana, there were plans to either move him to Liberia or send someone else to monitor and liaise with the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Japan Government is one of the funders of the WAAPP Liberia project, with a contribution of 54.9% of the funding provided for the first phase of the project.

**Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Africa Rice Center (Africa Rice) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) signed Letters of Agreement for the implementation of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP).**

*Staff Writer*

Agreements valued at over 2.2 Million U.S. Dollars were signed on July 12, 2013 between the Ministry of Agriculture and Africa Rice Center (Africa Rice) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). Africa Rice will receive USD 1,540,112.00 to steer the rice aspect of the WAAPP Project, while IITA will get USD 751,133.13 for the Cassava breeding component. The funds are being drawn from the 14 million dollars provided by the World Bank and the Government of Japan for the implementation of the West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program (WAAPP) in Liberia. Both Africa Rice and IITA have been Implementing Partners of the Ministry of Agriculture for several years, and have demonstrated due diligence with several projects already being implemented.



**IITA COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE DR. AMARE TEGBARU SHAKES HANDS WITH AGRICULTURE MINISTER DR. FLORENCE A. CHENOWETH AT THE SIGNING OF THE LOA**

In the agreement, Africa Rice role is to support activities that lead to the intensification and



commercialization of locally grown rice, mostly through participatory methods and processes and in inclusive partnership and network to guide project implementation, monitoring and impact assessment. The process also includes the improvement of rice research, training and information dissemination, with respect to rice-based production systems and value chain development in Liberia, by enhancing research and disseminating appropriate technologies. The passing on of skills and discipline to young scientists and trainees and the provision of technical expertise by experienced foreign scientists to the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) are all part of Africa Rice's scope of assignment.

On the other hand, IITA is responsible for the research planning and designing of the cassava strategy and work plan for CARI, the release of varietal and technology releases and transfers of cassava products consistent with international standards, the building of teams that will conduct research using appropriate methods, as well as passing on skills and discipline to young scientists in the area of cassava breeding.

At the signing ceremony that took place at the Ministry of Agriculture main office on Somalia Drive on Friday, July 12, 2012, Dr. Inoussa Akintayo, the head of Rice Development Program for Africa Rice Center expressed relief that a date to put pen to paper had finally come. He pointed out that it had taken so long and precious time was passing by while the agreement lingered in the bureaucratic corners of the funders. The Africa Rice representative assured the Ministry of his organization's commitment to the development of rice in Liberia, as demonstrated by the other agriculture projects being implemented by Africa Rice in the country. He, however, called on the Ministry to be committed in their support to the activities being carried out at the country's only Agriculture Research Institute in Bong County.



**IITA COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE DR. AMARE TEGBARU SHAKES HANDS WITH AGRICULTURE MINISTER DR. FLORENCE A. CHENOWETH AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY**

Speaking on behalf of his organization, IITA's Country Representative Dr. Amare Tegbaru, who labeled the occasion as historic, reassured the Ministry of IITA's willingness to

move forward in performing its duties and responsibilities, despite all the outstanding issues that delayed the signing of the agreement, which have now been resolved. According to Dr. Tegbaru, Cassava being a stable food in Liberia, his organization was committed to providing all the technical and other forms of support spelled out in the agreement to assist the country increase cassava production, which will eventually ensure food security.

Dr. Florence A. Chenoweth, Minister of Agriculture, who signed on behalf of the ministry, noted that the two partners were no strangers to

the MOA, and there should be no reason to question their potential and capacity to deliver. The seasoned Agriculture scientist flanked by her deputies for Administration, Planning and Technical Services pointed out that more was required from the partners since a lot more is expected from the ministry as tangible deliverables of the government in the area of Agriculture. Minister Chenoweth said the issue of poverty reduction in Liberia heavily depended on the deliverables of agreements of this kind.

### **37 LIBERIANS LEAVE FOR MASTER AND DOCTORATE STUDIES.**

*- WAAPP Liberia Capacity Building Program Delivering on Promises*

*Staff Writer*

One reason why the Liberia project of the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP) was put into place was to help build the capacity of agriculture personnel and institutions. The WAAPP Liberia Former Task Team Leader Dr. K. Osuman Gyasi has always emphasized that the prerequisite for getting phase two of the project approved is depended on how much is achieved under this component. Delivering on this, 37 Liberians have been admitted into various universities in East and West Africa for Master and Ph. D studies. Seven students are studying at the University of Cape Coast, and one student have been placed at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), while another student is currently studying at the University of Naroni in the Kenyan Capital, Nairobi. The Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda has admitted 23 of the students, while five students are attending the Sokonje University in Tanzania. The 37 students, five of which are perusing their doctorate studies, are studying Food Security and Nutrition, Gender and Development, Biotechnology, Agriculture Economic, Entomology, Agriculture Statistics, Agronomy, Soil And Water Management, Agriculture Extension, Plant Breeding, Animal Science, Veterinary Science, Plant pathology, Agric. Meteorology, Agri. Marketing, Nematology, Irrigation Engineering, etc. some at master level and others will be doing their PhD studies.

At a well-attended send-off ceremony at the Samuel K. Doe Sports Complex in Paynesville, senior government officials of the ministries of Education & Agriculture, the Civil Service Agency (CSA) as well as family members and well-wishers of the scholarship beneficiaries



**WAAPP LIBERIA NATIONAL PROJECT COORDINATOR J. CYRUS SAYGBE SR. GUIDES THE SCHOLARSHIP BENEFICIARIES IN FILLING OUT THEIR ADMISSION DOCUMENTS**

gathered to bid the Liberian scholars farewell.

The Deputy Director General of the Civil Service Agency called on the beneficiaries to utilize the opportunity that has been given them and make the country [Liberia] proud. Speaking from personal experience, The CSA deputy boss said his capacity was built with similar programs that afforded him the chance to study away on scholarship and coming back home to contribute to the rebuilding process of the country. He reminded the beneficiaries that a lot will be expected from them, since a lot is being put into their education through programs of such.

Mr. James Dolo, who spoke on behalf of the students, thanked the funders of the WAAPP program, the Ministry of Agriculture, and all those who helped in making the process a reality. He, on behalf of his fellow beneficiaries, promised to return home after studies and help the process of making Liberia food secure.

The students will study for a period of two years for those doing their master studies, and three years for the doctorate students. Five of the 37 students are pursuing their doctorate degrees.

**WAAPP TEAM VISITS THE CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CARI) ON A SUPPORT MISSION TO ASCERTAIN THE PROGRESS OF WORK, AND CHALLENGES FACED AT THE CASSAVA CUTTINGS AND RICE SEED MULTIPLICATION PROJECTS.**

**Staff Writer**

The Central Agricultural Research Institute, CARI is where the WAAPP rice seed and cassava cuttings multiplication sites are located. The facility advantageously located in central Liberia, making it easy to distribute multiplied seeds and cuttings to other project counties. Several visits to the multiplication sites have been met with significant productivity being carried out.

The first WAAPP Liberia support mission was in mid-September, to assess the level of work at the cassava cuttings and rice seed multiplication centers in Suakoko, at the demonstration plots of the Research Institute and at the Kpatawee Waterfall, approximately 23 Kilometers away from CARI's main compound.

CARI received support from the WAAPP Liberia Project to carry out the multiplication of cassava cuttings and rice seeds that will be distributed to the various project counties for demonstration sites. The cuttings and seeds tested at these sites will later be given to farmers as support to their effort to grow more food.



**CARI TEAM LEADER AARON MARSHALL EXPLAINS THE CASSAVA BREEDING PROCESS TO WAAPP COORDINATOR**

According to the Interim Team Leader of CARI, Aaron Marshall, who led the WAAPP delegation on a tour of the project sites, the cassava cutting project currently has over

22 Hectares of 46 improved cassava varieties that are capable of having up to 10 times more yields than the traditional cassava planted by Liberian farmers. Mr. Marshall, however, noted that 10 of the 46 improved varieties are well up coming and are the most promising, even though the rest are also doing very well. The remaining varieties are still being observed.

The CARI boss also said the over 100 laborers in the field included 75 percent females, and that they were committed and working daily to meet up with the deadlines for delivery. According to the Interim Team Leader, CARI will deliver the total amount of rice seeds and cassava cuttings requested by the WAAPP Project long before the deadline. The improved varieties he said were supplied by IITA, Nigeria. He noted that there is additional 2 hectares of traditional cassava that are ready to be crossed with the new and improved ones for more mixed varieties, this he said will be another form of testing, that will yield additional varieties.



**A HAPPY FEMALE FARMER**

The visit also took the team to the two separate sites for the rice seed multiplication at CARI main campus and Kpatawee Waterfall. The sites, totaling about 58 hectares and still increasing, have the following varieties of up and low land rice; the Nerica 14, Nerica L-19, LAC 23 Red and ROK 5. These are varieties that are ready for harvest after two months of planting. The Institute has bagged over four metric tons of improved rice seed that are ready for distribution.

WAAPP National Project Coordinator J. Cyrus Saygbe, Sr. who spoke after the tour, praised Mr. Marshall and his team for the level of work being done by CARI and the partners who have engaged in what he called great endeavors that will promote Liberia among other WAAPP countries during the next annual Wrap up Meeting expected to be held in Burkina Faso, November this year.



**FEMALE TRACTOR OPERATOR MAMIE BINDA PREPARING THE RICE FIELD**

Mr. Saygbe also lauded the inclusion of more females on the project, way above the 40 percent female inclusion requirement. The project's national boss reassured the CARI team of WAAPP Liberia fullest commitment and support to see their work progress.

Referring to CARI as the engine that is expected to drive the project, since other counties will depend on the institute for cuttings and seeds, he pointed out that capacity building is paramount under the WAAPP – CARI agreement.

During a separate visit in October that included the out-going and incoming Task Team Leaders; Dr. K. Osuman Gyasi and DR. Abimbola A. Adubi respectively, the rice and cassava that are Liberia's staples were doing exceptionally well. Expressing their delights, both Team Leaders commended the CARI and WAAPP teams, and urged them to do more to meet up with and exceed the expectations of the Regional governing body [CORAF] and the donors, an action they said will make Liberia gain additional funding and support.

## NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY VALIDATED

*By: Lewis Kono*



**PARTICIPANTS AT THE WORKING SESSION OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNICATION STRATEGY VALIDATION WORKSHOP IN KAKATA, MARGIBI COUNTY**

More than 35 rural and urban journalists and media specialists in mid-August completed the task of validating the communications strategy of the West Africa Agricultural productivity Program, WAAPP Liberia. The document was validated in Kakata city, Margibi County at a two day intensive working session.

Making special remarks at the official opening ceremony of validation workshop, Presidential Spokesman Jeolinmek Matthew Piah pointed out that food security is paramount to the maintenance of peace and security in Liberia, and should be given a key priority by those in the helm of the governance of the state.



**PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY  
JEOLINMEK MATTHEW PIAH**

Mr. Piah noted that if government prioritizes agriculture in Liberia farmers and the country can overcome challenges of food security and at the same time adapt to new technologies. He said the need to prioritize agriculture should not be taken lightly by government and international partners.

Mr. Piah commended the crafters of the WAAPP communications strategy but however noted that what

matters most is the level of commitment and financial support given for the implementation of what he referred to as an excellent document.

According to the spokesperson of the Liberian President, what is needed most following the validation exercise of the WAAPP strategy

is financial and logistical support to enhance the full implementation of the document for the success of the entire project.

Also addressing the participants was the National Project Coordinator of WAAPP Liberia J. Cyrus Saygbe, who disclosed that the project is being implemented in 8 of the 15 counties including Bomi, Bong, Gbapolu, Grand Gedeh, Margibi, Maryland, River-Gee, and Sinoe counties, and the project was running on US\$14.6 million budget for the first phase.

Mr. Saygbe pledged that following the validation, his will ensure that the WAAPP Liberia communication strategy positively impacts the direct beneficiaries such as the farmers.

At the same time, the WAAPP Boss disclosed that so much agricultural activities are taking place throughout Liberia but not much is being heard by the general populace. Something the WAAPP strategy hopes to change in its quest to deliver.

Mr. Saygbe challenged Liberian Journalists to specialize in reporting on the agricultural sector to keep the public informed about what is taking place in the sector. He promised that WAAPP Liberia is prepared to build the capacity of Liberian Journalists wanting to report on the agricultural sector.

The objectives of the strategy are to improve the visibility of WAAPP, strengthen the capacities of coordination and contribute to improve regional coordination. Additionally, the strategy has some specific goals including keeping the people informed on the project status across all organizations and stakeholders groups, develop increasing commitment of the project at all organizations by answering question such as "what does this project mean to me?" for all audiences, focus on communication to effectively prepare organizations for their rollout, focus on communication to build support for project, and monitor effectiveness of communication. The document also adopted a lot from the Regional Communication Strategy, which seeks to support the accelerated adoption of agricultural technologies in the region.

The **WAAPP Liberia** communications strategy also focuses on social media approach, which plays an important part in building-up a reputation. Social media engines are the most powerful media for relationship building.

The WAAPP Communications Specialist; Elvis H. Sirleaf, M&E Officer Edward P. Borloh and Director of Communication at the Ministry of Agriculture who are all crafters and editors of the document made presentations on the various parts of the communication strategy.

## **M&E WORKSHOP HOSTED BY WAAPP LIBERIA ENDS WITH COMMITMENT FROM PARTICIPANTS TO PLAY THEIR VARIOUS ROLES IN EFFECTIVELY MONITORING THE WAAPP PROJECT.**

*Victor Seah*

Over 50 participants including M&E officers, journalists, employees of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), the West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program (WAAPP) Liberia and other Agro Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in mid-September, completed a three-day workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation. The event was held at the County office of the Ministry of Agriculture in Kakata, Margibi County.



**PARTICIPANTS AT THE M&E WORKSHOP IN KAKATA MARGIBI COUNTY**

At the opening session of the workshop, WAAPP National Project Coordinator; J. Cyrus Saygbe, Sr. told the

gathering that it was important to monitor the activities of the project as they are being carried out, something he referred to as the duty of every stakeholder including the participants of the workshop. Mr. Saygbe also noted that the essence of monitoring is not just about reporting wrong doings, but to guide the steps being taken, and make proper corrections along the way for the general good of the project.

The facilitators of the workshop urged participants to take advantage of the training to understand the concept of monitoring and evaluation as a subject, and the WAAPP project in particular, something that will aid the process of reporting on the project's activities.

The Project Coordinator of the Agricultural Sector Rehabilitation Project (ASRP) Teakon Williams, Director of M&E at the Ministry of Agriculture Harry Woyeneh, and WAAPP M&E officer Edward Borloh were all facilitators at the workshop.

The training on M&E is believed to have broaden the knowledge of those who are tasked with the responsibility of reporting on the project.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Support for the WAAPP Project is to ensure that there is regular and timely feedback to the project management and other stakeholders on the quality and pace of project implementation, assess outcomes and impact of the project vis-à-vis the objectives; facilitate inter-sectorial coordination and mainstreaming of knowledge management; provide effective use of learning forums at various levels to review project performance; and facilitate appropriate and timely actions, by the organization. The system shall have to take the following steps while forming the M&E system:

- Baseline data to describe the problem or situation before intervention;
- Indicators for outcomes;
- Data collection on outputs and how and whether they contribute towards achievement of Outcomes;
- Timelines expressed such as at mid-term and end-term;
- More focused on perceptions of change among stakeholders;
- Systematic reporting with more qualitative and quantitative information on the progress towards outcomes;
- Done in conjunction with strategic Partners: and Capture information on success or failure.

### **WAAPP LIBERIA SUPPORT TO THE CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OVER THE 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR**

*Staff Writer*

Outlining the numerous supports that the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP) Liberia has given to the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), will range from small to large scale capacity building. Presently, there are \_\_\_ staff of CARI placed within various universities in East and West Africa doing their master and doctorate studies on the WAAPP sponsored scholarship. Those students are expected to return home after studies and contribute and improve research activities at the institute and the Ministry of Agriculture.



**FROM OLD TO NEW, THE NEWLY INSTALLED VSAT (R) AT CARI**

A new VSAT was installed at the Central Agriculture Research Institute CARI, Suakoko Bong County as part of the Capacity building process of the country's only

Agriculture research institute. The equipment valued at over US. \$55,000 (fifty five thousand United States dollars) has added a significant boost to the Information and Communication Technology arm of the institute, an area CARI has suffered serious setback since the civil conflict that ended over a decade ago. VSAT is the short form for Very Small Aperture Terminal, an earthbound station used in satellite communications of data, voice and video signals. WAAPP Liberia National Project Coordinator, J. Cyrus Saygbe, Sr. inspecting the equipment said it is the desire of WAAPP to see people have the right equipment they need to carry out their function. He expressed his desire to see CARI utilize the equipment for the purpose for which it has been installed, and looks forward to a more cordial relationship with CARI, since both institutions have a long way to go in working to make Liberia food secure.

VSAT can be used for one-way and/or interactive communications via satellite, value-added satellite-based services capable of supporting the Internet, data, video, LAN, voice/fax communications, and can provide powerful, dependable private and public network communications solutions. The benefits of VSAT technology are being realized in many sectors, both private and public, from banks to administrations, schools, hospitals, and rural telecommunications. With the installation of this equipment, CARI is expected to benefit from high speed internet access, including data, video, fax, etc.

In addition to improving visibility of CARI, a portal was developed within the New MOA website that has been developed with funding from the WAAPP Project. The portal; [www.cariliberia.org](http://www.cariliberia.org) will highlight reach activities of the institute, including success stories and other activities.

By the final quarter of 2013, WAAPP had presented two vehicles to the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), with additional 2 to be purchased before the end of 2013. The vehicles are being used by the resident scientists of Africa Rice Center (Africa Rice) and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the organizations steering the process of increasing rice and cassava respectively, through research activities.

In July of 2013, WAAPP turned over three brand new Honda motorbikes valued at over \$10,000.00 to the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) as part of support to the cassava cuttings and rice seed multiplication programs of institute. Making remarks at the brief ceremony at the Ministry of Agriculture central office in Gardnersville, outside Monrovia, the project Liberia National Project Coordinator J. Cyrus Saygbe said this was in an effort to make good the promises made to support CARI's capacity, and make the country's only agriculture research institute a viable one. He noted that taking CARI back to its prewar status, where it gave support to meaningful research work and supported farmers in several ways was a commitment of the West African Agriculture Productivity Program. This, he said cannot be overemphasized.



**THREE BRAND NEW MOTORBIKES DONATED TO CARI BY WAAPP LIBERIA**

The Director of the Program Management Unit, the body that coordinates all projects at the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Moses Zinnah, who first received the keys to the bikes before turning them over to the CARI leadership, said the initiative was laudable, and asked the recipient to make good the wonderful gestures that come in these forms as support to CARI. Receiving the keys, the CARI Team Leader Aaron Marshall promised that the bikes and all other materials given will be used for the purpose for which they have been given. Looking back on the many supports in several forms that the WAAPP project has provided CARI, and the plans to do more, Mr. Marshall said initiatives of this kind is what the institute needs to rebuild, especially that a lot is required of the Research Institute to deliver. In an effort to

multiply new and improved rice seeds and cassava cuttings, the project has provided to date, more than US \$500,000.00 with more yet to be disbursed to the research institute. CARI presently hosts the Rice and Cassava multiplication sites of the WAAPP program

CARI is the only Government-owned and operated research entity on agricultural matters. It is located in central Liberia some 120 miles northeast of Monrovia, the national capital. The institute serves as a practical learning facility for agriculture students and stakeholders from all around the country. The research institute is ideally situated within



**IMPROVED RICE BEING MULTIPLIED AT THE WAAPP / CARI MULTIPLICATION SITE**

3km of two communities namely, Suakoko and Sergeant Kollie Town (SKT).

**World Bank Delegation completes 2013 Support Mission Visit to the Liberia Project of the West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program (WAAPP).**



**L-R: AGRICULTURE MINISTER DR. FLORENCE A. CHENOWETH, TASK TEAM LEADERS K. OSMAN GYASI & DR. ABIMBOLA A. ADUBI**

The World Bank 2013 Support Mission to Liberia began Monday October 7, with a courtesy call to the office

of the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Florence A. Chenoweth on Somalia Drive outside the country's capital. The Minister welcomed the visiting team and spoke of the cordiality the ministry has so far enjoyed from the WAAPP Liberia Project. She said unlike the first few months when the WAAPP team members were still getting their feet into the ground, things have significantly improved, something she will proudly highlight in her annual report. She named the capacity building of the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), the scholarship scheme that has placed the first batch of 37 students for Masters and PhD studies at various universities in East and West Africa, the synergy that has been built among the various projects and the Ministry, among other things as part of the successes that she holds in high esteem.

The incoming Task Team Leader (TTL) of the World Bank Liberia Office Dr. Abimbola A. Adubi who spoke first for the visiting delegation said the visit was also a hand over ceremony, as he was now taking over from the outgoing Task Team Leader (TTL) Dr. K. Osuma Gyasi. Dr. Adubi however noted that Dr. Gyasi will still play a role in

running the Liberia project, but now at the regional level. Out-going TTL Gyasi noted that the approval of the second phase of the project is heavily depended on how much can be achieved in building the capacity of CARI, and the amount of technologies that can be generated and made available to farmers and other countries over the first phase. This he said is the true meaning of regional integration that is required of the all WAAPP projects.

The dual stressed regional visibility as a key component that the World Bank is pushing. Since the WAAPP is a regional project, technologies and others that are generated in other West African countries should be given a lot of publicity because those technologies will be integrated into Liberia to benefit the local farmers. And that the other countries will do same with technologies generated here in Liberia.

Exercising her authority as the captain of the Liberia food security flight, Minister Chenoweth appointed a committee to draw up a framework for developing a master plan for the total revamping of CARI, something the World Bank is willing to support. The Director of the Program Management Unit Dr. Moses Zinnah, Deputy Minister for Technical Services Dr. Sizi Subah and the CARI Interim Team Leader Mr. Aaron Marshall are all members of the committee.

Minister Chenoweth also called on the WAAPP Liberia project, as well as the other projects at the Program Management Unit to consider absorbing the students that were away studying and are now returning to the country to contribute to the sector. The Agriculture boss said the current civil service plan does not provide for their inclusion. She said seventeen of these students have already returned to the ministry and will need to be placed in areas where they can function. There are also several students who are expected home soon.

Representing the World Bank Country Manager, the delegation attended the official launch of the new Ministry of Agriculture website, where Dr. Adubi, in remarks, called on the ministry to ensure that the website is active and undated very regularly. He lauded the WAAPP team for creating the new website for the ministry, and called on all others to make visibility a priority as this is one way the story of all the wonderful things that are happening at the ministry can be told.



**DR. K. OUSMAN GYASI & DR. ABIMBOLA ADUBI  
INSPECT THE RICE FIELD. OCT, 2013**

The visit of the delegation also held several meetings, and paid a visit to the rice seeds and cassava cuttings multiplication sites at the Central Agricultural

Research Institute (CARI), located in Bong county, central Liberia. The Task Team Leaders expressed their satisfaction for the level of work that had so far been achieved by the WAAPP Liberia and CARI teams in multiplying cassava cuttings and rice seeds. The World Bank's representatives assured the research institute of the project's fullest

support to in achieving the goal of improving the livelihood of the people of Liberia through farming and the production of food.

## **MEET THE WAAPP TEAM**



**J. Cyrus Saygbe, Sr.**  
National Project Coordinator  
+231 880 828775  
jcsaygbe@yahoo.com



**Edward P. Borloh**  
M&E Officer  
+231 886 524003  
azariah\_eduardo@yahoo.co



**Elvis H. Sirleaf**  
Communications Officer  
+231 886 529390  
elsirleaf@hotmail.com



**Edwin R. Tucker**  
Procurement Officer  
+231886 516732  
edwintucker62@yahoo.com



**Henry H. Sele**  
Project Accountant  
+231886 401506  
henta1863@yahoo.com



**Ora M. Barclay**  
Administrative Assistant  
+231886 594082  
oranic4me@yahoo.com

**West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program WAAPP Liberia**  
Program Management Unit Complex  
Ministry of Agriculture Annex  
Fendell, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia  
[www.waappliberia.org](http://www.waappliberia.org)

Email: [info@waappliberia.org](mailto:info@waappliberia.org) Tel: +231 888096999

Produced and printed by WAAPP Liberia Communications