



FAO, Ministry Collaborate on USD 499 000 Vegetable Production Project for Agricultural Sustainability

In a significant joint effort to boost vegetable production in Liberia, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Internal Affairs have embarked on a pioneering initiative. This endeavour entails the signing of a grant agreement totalling USD 499 000, representing a crucial advancement in supporting smallholder vegetable producers across five counties in Liberia.

Entitled “Strengthening Smallholders’ Capacity for Market-oriented Vegetable Production in Liberia,” this project falls under FAO’s Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) with the Liberian government and is set to span 24 months, from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025, the project aims to enhance production capabilities and assist smallholder producers in adopting sustainable vegetable production and post-harvest handling practices.

The signing ceremony, graced by FAO Representative Bintia Stephen Tchicya, witnessed the participation of J. Alexander Nutah from the Ministry of Agriculture and Francis Nyumalin from the Ministry of Internal Affairs signing on behalf of their respective institutions. During the event, Tchicaya underscored the project’s core objectives and its potential to instigate positive transformations within Liberia’s agricultural sphere.

The signed grant agreement signifies a crucial advancement in agricultural support mechanisms, particularly for small-scale farmers who form the backbone of Liberia’s agricultural sector.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **FAO, Ministry Collaborate on USD 499 000 Vegetable Production Project for Agricultural Sustainability**
- **FAO Participate in the Annual Nutrition Assessment Forum in Liberia**
- **Agriculture and Health Efforts Enhanced in Liberia, as FAO Wraps Joint Mission in Southeast**
- **FAO-ECTAD Boosts Animal Health Surveillance in Liberia, Procures 31 Motorcycles for CHAWs**
- **FAO Facilities Revolution: Smart Mobile Farm Units Empower Farmers in Liberia**
- **FAO Partners with the Government for Crucial Fisheries Survey in the Western Gulf of Guinea**
- **FAO Commends USAID’s Support in Advancing One Health Initiatives in Liberia**
- **FAO’s Joint Peace Dividends Program Prioritizes Gender Equity through VSLA Program in Liberia**
- **FAO-ECTAD Provides Vital Support 2024 Wildlife Day Celebration**

By providing targeted assistance and technical expertise, the FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture endeavor to empower local farmers, improve their access to resources, and strengthen value chains. The initiative’s scope encompasses various strategic interventions designed to address key challenges facing vegetable producers, including access to quality inputs, sustainable farming practices, and market linkages.

FAO Participate in the Annual Nutrition Assessment Forum in Liberia

Malnutrition, a pressing global concern affecting every nation, manifests in various forms including undernutrition (wasting, stunting, underweight), vitamin or mineral deficiencies, overweight, obesity, and diet-related noncommunicable diseases.

FAO has since spearheaded a large-scale campaign targeting malnutrition by launching the Smallholder Agricultural Development project. This initiative aims to bolster food and nutrition security while alleviating poverty among rural communities in six designated Liberian counties.

Central to the project is the enhancement of smallholder farmers' access to agricultural inputs essential for food production. Furthermore, the training of master trainers and lead farmers in priority value chains such as rice, cassava, and vegetables underscores FAO's commitment to sustainable agricultural practices.

On Tuesday, 13 February 2024, FAO joined forces with partners from the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement to amplify awareness and contribute to the SUN MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning system). The collaborative four-day forum convened stakeholders from UN institutions, donors, private sector entities, civil society, and the Government of Liberia. This gathering aimed at foregrounding nutrition discussions and formulating a national policy to address all facets of undernutrition while monitoring its implementation.

During the forum, FAO's Caroline Kou Nyaplue Daywhea, the One UN Nutrition Facilitator, underscored the significance of the event, aligning it with the ongoing project "Fostering One UN" through the UN Nutrition Country Support, financially backed by the Government of Ireland (Irish Aid). She attributed the success of the forum to the joint efforts and commitment of the Government of Liberia, led by the Ministry of Health, and augmented by relevant ministries including Agriculture, Education, Gender, and Social Protection, in collaboration with SUN secretariat, INGOs, and the United Nations Nutrition Secretariat.



Participants in a group photo during the SUN gathering in Monrovia

Agriculture, Health Efforts Enhanced in Liberia, as FAO Wraps Joint Mission in Southeast



Reps. from USAID, IRC & MoA poses for a photo with FAOR Bintia Tchicaya

A joint delegation led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Representative Bintia Stephen Tchicaya, in partnership with USAID, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and Break Through Action (BA), recently conducted a thorough assessment in the southeastern region of Liberia.

The mission, spanning nine days, aimed to evaluate progress and address critical challenges encountered by farmers and animal health workers in the area.

During the visit, various villages, towns, and crucial sites such as poultry farms and slaughter slabs were inspected, complemented by meetings with community health workers (CHAWs) across different locations. Noteworthy interactions took place at the agriculture college of William V.S. Tubman University in Harper, Maryland County, emphasising knowledge exchange and capacity-building.

The team, consisting of representatives like Delou Gonsan-Zeo, Hannax Barlue (IRC), Armando Cotrina (USAID), Sabenzia Wekesa (FAO/ECTAD), Patrick Sibney (Ministry of Agriculture), and Archie Sesay (BA), embarked on a comprehensive itinerary that included visits to various livestock facilities and educational institutions.

Key mission highlights included engagement with students at Gbeapo Multilateral High School in Rivergee County to raise awareness about diseases like rabies, as well as meetings with Community Health Teams (CHT) in Grand Kru County to promote health initiatives. The team's visit culminated in Werteken, Grand Kru County, marking the successful conclusion of their fact-finding mission.

Throughout their assessment, the delegation also delved into various facets of community life, ranging from agricultural practices to food security concerns and socio-economic factors.

FAO-ECTAD Boosts Animal Health Surveillance in Liberia, Procures 31 Motorcycles for CHAWs

In a significant stride towards enhancing animal health and zoonosis surveillance in Liberia, the Food and Agriculture Organization's Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (FAO-ECTAD) has embarked on a transformative endeavor. The recent procurement of 31 motorcycles for community health workers marks a pivotal moment in bolstering veterinary outreach efforts across the nation.

Liberia, like many developing countries, grapples with the dual challenge of maintaining animal health while safeguarding public health against zoonotic diseases. Recognizing the intricate link between animal and human health, FAO-ECTAD has tirelessly worked to fortify surveillance mechanisms and empower grassroots responders.

The acquisition of motorcycles stands as a testament to FAO-ECTAD's commitment to advancing its mission. These vehicles serve as invaluable assets, enabling community health workers to traverse vast distances swiftly and efficiently. Equipped with the means to reach remote regions, these dedicated individuals can now extend vital veterinary services to communities previously beyond their reach.

From administering vaccinations to conducting disease screenings, the impact of these motorcycles transcends mere transportation. They embody a lifeline for livestock-dependent communities, fostering resilience against disease outbreaks and safeguarding livelihoods. Moreover, by bolstering zoonosis surveillance, FAO-ECTAD contributes significantly to the overarching goal of preventing potential pandemics at their source.



Partial view of the procured motorcycles

The procurement of motorcycles is part of a broader strategy orchestrated by FAO-ECTAD to strengthen Liberia's capacity in animal health management and zoonosis surveillance.

Through collaborative efforts with local authorities and stakeholders, FAO-ECTAD aims to cultivate a network of empowered community responders equipped to safeguard both animal and human health. enhancing animal health and zoonosis surveillance serves as a beacon of hope.

FAO Facilities Revolution: Smart Mobile Farm Units Empower Farmers in Liberia



Partial view of one of the solar units being constructed

In a monumental stride towards agricultural advancement, FAO has played a pivotal role in the successful assembly of Smart Mobile Farm Units in Wlenla, Nimba, and Foya, Lofa counties in Liberia. These cutting-edge units herald a new era of productivity, promising to revolutionize farming practices and bolster local food production.

Each Smart Mobile Farm Unit represents a beacon of innovation, equipped with state-of-the-art technology to optimize agricultural output. With the capacity to irrigate approximately 2.5 hectares of farm plots, these units are powerful catalysts for growth, empowering farmers to maximize their yields and enhance food security within their communities.

Completing these units marks a significant milestone in FAO's ongoing commitment to supporting agricultural development in Liberia. Through strategic partnerships and concerted efforts, FAO has facilitated the implementation of sustainable solutions aimed at addressing the challenges faced by smallholder farmers.

The impact of these units extends far beyond mere irrigation. By providing farmers with access to cutting-edge technology, FAO not only enhances productivity but also fosters resilience against climate variability. The ability to efficiently irrigate farm plots mitigates the risk of crop failure during periods of drought, ensuring a stable food supply for communities reliant on agriculture.

Moreover, FAO's support transcends the mere provision of equipment; it encompasses capacity building and knowledge transfer, empowering farmers with the skills and expertise needed to harness the full potential of these innovative tools. Through training programs and technical assistance, FAO equips farmers with the resources they need to thrive in an increasingly dynamic agricultural landscape.

FAO Partners with Government for Crucial Fisheries Survey in Western Gulf of Guinea



FAO Representative Benita S. Tchicaya (right) and NaFAA Director General, Emma Glassco (left) sign the MOU Agreement

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the Government of Liberia have solidified their commitment to sustainable fisheries management with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This landmark agreement paves the way for the conduct of a Regional Demersal and Pelagic Resources Survey in the Western Gulf of Guinea, signaling a significant step towards informed decision-making in the fisheries sector.

Under the terms of the MOU, FAO will collaborate closely with Liberia's government agencies and stakeholders to conduct a comprehensive survey aimed at assessing the status of demersal and pelagic fish resources in the region. This survey holds immense importance as it will provide crucial data and insights essential for formulating evidence-based policies and management strategies to ensure the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources.

Bintia Stephen Tchicaya, the FAO Representative in Liberia, expressed her enthusiasm about the partnership, emphasizing FAO's commitment to supporting Liberia in its efforts to promote responsible fisheries management and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. She highlighted the survey's potential to enhance the understanding of marine ecosystems and contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources.

The Regional Demersal and Pelagic Resources Survey represents a collaborative effort among multiple stakeholders, including FAO, the Government of Liberia, regional fisheries organizations, research institutions, and other relevant partners. By fostering cooperation and knowledge exchange, this initiative aims to strengthen regional capacities in fisheries research and management, ultimately benefiting both present and future generations.

As Liberia strives to harness the full potential of its marine resources for sustainable development, FAO's partnership with the government underscores the organization's unwavering commitment to supporting countries in their pursuit of resilient and inclusive food systems.

FAO Commends USAID's Support in Advancing One Health Initiatives in Liberia

In a concerted effort to combat the transmission of zoonotic diseases between humans and animals, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations proudly acknowledges the pivotal partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Through the Global Health Strategies (GHS) program, USAID's unwavering support has propelled the advancement of One Health initiatives in Liberia, marking significant progress in safeguarding both human and animal health.

The GHS program, generously funded by USAID, stands as a beacon of hope in promoting holistic approaches to health management, emphasizing the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. Leveraging this support, FAO has embarked on a collaborative journey with USAID to bolster efforts aimed at breaking the transmission cycle of zoonotic diseases, a critical endeavor in Liberia's quest for public health resilience.

The strategic partnership between FAO and USAID underscores a shared commitment to fostering sustainable solutions to complex health challenges. Through joint efforts and coordinated action, both organizations strive to enhance capacity-building initiatives, strengthen surveillance systems, and promote cross-sectoral collaboration among stakeholders. Together, FAO and USAID are forging a path towards a future where the health and well-being of communities are safeguarded through comprehensive One Health approaches.



FAO Rep. Bintia Stephen Tchicaya (left) shakes hand with Armando Cotrina (right), USAID Global Health Security Advisor

As Liberia navigates the dynamic landscape of global health security, FAO remains steadfast in its dedication to supporting the nation's efforts to mitigate the risks posed by zoonotic diseases. With the invaluable support of USAID's GHS program, FAO is empowered to continue championing transformative initiatives that promote the harmonious coexistence of humans, animals, and the environment.

FAO's Joint Peace Dividends Program Prioritizes Gender Equity through VSLA



VSLA Assessment Meeting Held in Soul Clinic Community, Mont. Co.

Gender equity takes center stage in FAO's efforts as it spearheads the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) component of the joint Peace Dividends Program in Liberia. Targeting a total of 315 potential beneficiaries, with a remarkable emphasis on gender balance (303 women and 12 men), FAO is committed to promoting inclusivity and empowerment across communities in two counties.

The journey towards fostering gender equity and community empowerment commenced on January 16, 2024, as FAO's National Project Coordinator led a joint assessment mission alongside representatives from Liberia Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE). Starting from Central Monrovia and extending to Rural Montserrado, the assessment mission traversed rural landscapes to engage with local communities.

Throughout the assessment, conducted from January 16 to 18, 2024, FAO, supported by LIFE, facilitated discussions with community residents, district officials, and leaders of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in pre-selected communities. These engagements aimed to elucidate the purpose of the VSLA Model and gauge the level of peace and reconciliation activities, vulnerability, and socio-economic conditions within targeted communities.

Subsequently, the assessment continued on January 19, 2024, extending its reach to Rivercess County. Assessments were successfully conducted in 10 communities, evenly distributed between Montserrado and Rivercess counties. Following thorough evaluations, a total of 315 beneficiaries (comprising 303 females and 12 males) were identified and selected for participation in the VSLA Program.

By prioritising gender equity and community engagement, FAO's Joint Peace Dividends Program exemplifies its commitment to fostering sustainable development and resilience in Liberia. Through initiatives like VSLA training, FAO continues to empower individuals, particularly women, to build inclusive, prosperous, and peaceful communities nationwide.

FAO-ECTAD Provides Vital Support for 2024 World Wildlife Day Celebration in Liberia



Celebrants march through the streets to commemorate World Wildlife Day

World Wildlife Day, celebrated annually on March 3rd, serves as a global platform to raise awareness about the importance of wildlife and the urgent need for its conservation. This year, Liberia joins the international community in commemorating this auspicious occasion, thanks to the crucial backing provided by FAO-ECTAD.

With its unwavering dedication to promoting sustainable practices and safeguarding animal health, FAO-ECTAD's involvement in the World Wildlife Day celebration underscores the interconnectedness between animal welfare, human well-being, and environmental conservation.

In collaboration with local authorities, conservation organizations, and community stakeholders, FAO-ECTAD remains committed to promoting responsible stewardship of wildlife resources and fostering a future where biodiversity thrives, and ecosystems flourish.

Contact information:

FAO Representative in Liberia
Email: FAO-LR@fao.org
Website: <https://www.fao.org/liberia>
Twitter: @FAOLiberia
Facebook: FAO Liberia



Some rights reserved. This work is available under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO license

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Monrovia, Liberia