



FOOD AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (FED) PROGRAM FOR LIBERIA

MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2013



JULY 2013

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Monthly Report July

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COVER PHOTO: Women carrying out weeding at UDP site in Gwenimah, Bong County.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACRONYMS

AEDE	Agency for Economic Development and Empowerment
APDRA	Appaloosa Distance Ride Association
AM	ArcelorMittal
ASRP	Agricultural Sector Recovery Program
AYP	Advance Youth Program
BSTVSE	Bureau of Science, Technology, Vocational and Special Education
BWI	Booker Washington Institute
CAAPD	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CAC	County Agriculture Coordinator
CARI	Center for Agriculture Research Institute
CBO	Community Base Organization
COR	Contracting Officer Representative
COSEO	Community Sustainable and Educational/Empowerment Organization
COTR	Contracting Office Technical Representative
CRS	Catholic Relief Service
DAI	Development Alternatives, Inc.
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
ECHOPPE	Echange pour l'Organisation et la Promotion des Petits Entrepreneurs
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ED	Enterprise Development
EHELD	Excellence in Higher Education for Liberian Development
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FBO	Farm Based Organization
FED	Food and Enterprise Development
FTF	Feed the Future
FY	First Year
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GBCCC	Grand Bassa County Community College
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GPS	Global Positioning Systems
IBEX	Investing for Business Expansion
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IFDC	International Fertilizer Developmental Center
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contract
ISFM	Integrated Soil Fertility Management
IT	Information Technology
LASIP	Liberia National Agricultural Investment Plan
LAUNCH	Liberia Agriculture, Upgrading Nutrition & Child Health
LBBF	Liberian Better Business Forum
LCCC	Lofa County Community College

L-MEP	Liberia Monitoring and Evaluation Program
LoL	Land O'Lakes
LREC	Liberia Renaissance Education Complex
LSU	Louisiana State University
LTTA	Long Term Technical Assistant
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDF	Market Development Fund
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME	Micros/Small and Medium Enterprise
MTTA	Medium Term Technical Assistant
NAD	National Agriculture Diploma
NCCC	Nimba County Community College
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NGW	New Generational Women
NIC	National Investment Commission
PERSUAP	Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan
PIDS	Performance Indicator Database System
PSD	Private Sector Development Strategy
PROSPER	People, Rules and Organizations Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources
PUA	Peri Urban Agriculture
R&R	Rights & Rice Foundation
RFQ	Request for Quotation
RFTOP	Requests for Task Order Proposal
SBA	Subah Belleh Associates
SEAS	Strengthening Agricultural and Advisory Services
SME	Small Medium Enterprise
SMS	Subject Matter Specialists
STTAs	Short Term Technical Assistants
ToT	Training of Trainers
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
UDP	Urea Deep Placement
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department for Agriculture
VES	Vocational Education Specialist
VMHS	Voinjama Multilateral High School
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
VTNFES	Vocational Training and Non-Formal Education Specialist
VTTS	Vocational Teacher Training specialist
WAD	West African Dwarf
WHL	Welt Hunger Life
WOFPD	Women Organization for Peace and Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This month FED continued to provide support to beneficiaries across Liberia in its six counties of operation; Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Margibi, Montserrado and Grand Bassa. Progress was made by NGOs who are carrying out extensive work in the rice, vegetable and cassava value chains and 13 of the goat breeding stations have now been completed and training is on-going along with the distribution of mineral supplements that will support goat farmers.

Five agro-dealers participated in a training workshop from July 30-31, they were eight store managers, and four lead farmers and represented 300 farmers. Agro-supplier Wienco provided training in product knowledge, raising awareness of key issues and promoting the use of inputs.

In Bong, progress has been made at 15 sites with extensive work being carried out to construct water control structures such as canals, dykes and bunds. Nursery construction, plowing and transplanting was undertaken by 222 farmers in Bong alone. In Lofa 272 farmers were trained in upland farming best practices in site clearing, anti-erosion measures, seed selection and field layout.

All 121 cassava production groups are active in land preparation, field transplanting of cuttings, and plant maintenance. Efforts have been focused on increasing disease free cutting supplies to Grand Bassa, the largest FED cassava production area, with 54 groups. Training activities on cassava production demonstration sites continues for all cassava groups located in Lofa, Nimba, Bong, Grand Bassa, Margibi and Montserrado counties.

On July 4, FED Radio Specialists completed a 10-day training program for 28 Liberian radio journalists representing 14 radio stations from FED's six counties and by the 18th of July 8 of the 14 radio stations who participated had already started to broadcast agricultural content.

During July, component 1 and 2 continued to provide technical assistance to New Generational Women, a group of 74 farmers (51 women, 23 men) involved in developing cassava and vegetable production and processing in Upper Clay Ashland of Montserrado. With FED and Chevron support, the group has been able to brush and clear 21 hectares they plan to cultivate. As of the end of July, the group set up nurseries, prepared and planted 5 hectares with cassava, groundnuts, and corn.

Positive steps were taken to really ramp up activity to start changing the mindset of farmers to help them view farming as a business opportunity. The Farming as a Business (FaaB) Training of the Trainers (ToT) took place in two consecutive locations from 15 to 29 July. In total 50 trainers received ToT in FaaB representing ten organizations in all six counties where FED has activities. These trained participants are now taking the training to the counties and will be providing six weeks of relevant and practical business training to farmers involved in the four value chain activities, starting with the most receptive A-site farming groups.

COMPONENT ONE: INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

Task 1.1 Input Supply System Interventions

Notable accomplishments in this reporting period include visible progress on the UDP demonstration sites, agro-dealer capacity building, and the contract approval for Allan Mansfield, IFDC Team Leader for input supply activities.

Activity 1.1.a: Smallholder Capacity Building

A total of 19 out of 20 UDP demonstration sites in Bong, Lofa and Nimba counties have been transplanted with rice seedlings and have received urea fertilizer applications, including the deep placement of urea briquettes. One site at Bong Mines has prepared rice nursery beds and will begin seedling transplantation during the month of August.

Activity 1.1.b: Agro-Dealer Capacity Strengthening

Five agro-dealers represented by eight store managers, and four lead farmers representing 300 farmers participated in a training workshop on July 30-31 in Gbargna, Bong county. Agro-supplier Wienco provided training in Product Knowledge, and the Khana group provided training in Business Skills (recordkeeping).

Activity 1.1.c: Input Vouchers

A draft voucher design has been drawn up that will accommodate different voucher products and monetary values. The pilot voucher program, to be implemented for dry season vegetable production, will cater to farmers' preference for smaller quantities of inorganic fertilizers.

Activity 1.1.d: Improved Appropriate Technologies

Use of UDP briquette applicators has been demonstrated in 19 demonstration sites in Lofa, Nimba, and Bong counties. The pump type applicators were imported from the RFL Export Company based in Middle Badda, Dhaka, Bangladesh. These labor saving devices provide lowland rice farmers with an alternative option in fertilizer application while directing more fertilizer amounts to plant areas compared to traditional broadcast methods.

Upcoming Activities

- Agro-dealer training in Nimba County, August 1-2.
- Arrival of Allan Mansfield, Input Supply Team Leader, August 3
- UDP Evaluation Visit August 17-21 in collaboration with USAID and the World Bank



Fig.1 UDP Applicator

Task 1.2 Increased Productions and Profitability of Quality Rice

The main activities carried out in rice production include training by four NGO's among 71 farmer groups on lowland rice production areas, and 31 groups on upland rice production. Major accomplishments have been measured in the preparation of land areas, establishment of nurseries, and planting at field sites.

Activity 1.2.a. Varietal Testing and Increased Rice Seed Production

A formal MOU was signed between FED and CARI which provides for collaboration in the areas of adaptive research, seed certification, livestock quarantine, training of extension workers and farmers and to develop and disseminate new and improved farming technologies.

Activity 1.2.b. Infrastructure Improvement

FED farmer beneficiaries are making significant progress in the rehabilitation of distribution & water management control structures on 767 targeted hectares of lowland demonstration sites among 71 groups in Lofa, Nimba, Bong, Grand Bassa, Margibi, and Montserrado counties.

Lofa

1,013 farmers attended the rice production training sessions in the lowland areas. This represents an increment of 71 additional farmers or an increase of 7.53% over the first progress report. The females outnumber the males participant/trainees in nearly all of the districts. Of the total trainees of 1013, 50.34% are females. The results coming out of the field training being done by FED trainers indicate that more farmers will continue to attend the field rice training sessions.

Among 22 lowland rice production groups in six districts in Lofa there has been significant field preparation work during the month of June. The NGO ODAFARA has reported the following accomplishments for the period.

- 10.4 hectares brushed, cleared and laid out
- 4.62 hectares plowed with power tiller and leveled
- 5, 527 meters of main drain, bunds, head dikes and canals constructed
- 91 nursery beds constructed (each 1mx10m)
- 1.38 hectares planted

Nimba

Supervised by the NGO, SERE-Liberia, lowland rice farmers at 20 sites in Nimba have been occupied primarily with field layout, plowing and nursery preparation. Below is a summary of accomplishments during the month of July.

- 18.2 hectares laid out
- 1.6 hectares plowed by power tiller

- 1 hectares plowed manually
- 4 hectares prepared for transplanting
- 14 hectares transplanted
- 80 nursery beds prepared (each 1m x 10m)
- 2,529 canals constructed
- 3,896 bunds constructed
- 587 dikes constructed

Bong

This reporting period has seen significant progress among 15 lowland rice sites in the preparation of water control structures (canals, dykes, bunds) as well as nursery construction, plowing and initiation of transplanting. These developments, supervised by NGO ASCO, will continue throughout August as more and more surface area is being prepared for planting. 222 farmers comprising 120 male and 102 female were trained in sites layout, bund, canals and dykes construction, nurseries preparation, plowing and transplanting.

64 seed bed nurseries with dimensions of 1 x 10 meters have been built and planted with improved rice seeds (NERICA, FKR varieties).

14.56 hectares have been cleared / rehabilitated.

497.2 meter long head dykes have been constructed

1,955 meter long main drains built

2,302.5 meter long peripheral bunds built

All of these processes have begun to ensure the irrigation of plots, 8.8 hectares plowed out of which a demonstration site of 2 hectares have been planted using improved planting method (rice planted in rows and lines).

Grand Bassa

Grand Bassa has 14 total lowland rice sites are currently undergoing rehabilitation in three districts; Districts 1, 2. & 3. Activities achieved during the month of July are mentioned below.

In District # 1

0.52 hectares cleared, brushed

4.12 hectares planted

260 meters of canals constructed

1,040 meters of bunds constructed

District #2

0.9 hectares land cleared, brushed

4 hectares planted

450 meters of canals constructed

1,800 meters of bunds constructed

District #3

2.02 hectares of land cleared, brushed
10.72 hectares planted
1,010 meters of canals constructed
4,040 meters of bunds constructed

The construction of post-harvest drying floor in two project communities had been completed Koutarr and Blaygbahn Towns.

Activity 1.2.c. Improved Production Practices and Technologies

Dr. James Correl, Plant Pathologist, arrived in Monrovia on July 23 to carry out site visits to 20 UDP demonstration sites in Lofa, Nimba and Bong counties, to assess rice plant health, and to recommend appropriate remedies. Dr. Correl has provided training in identified rice plant diseases to 5 group lead farmers, MOA agents, and FED extension agents during his initial visits in Nimba county. The goal is to refine any existing field guides or information developed at FED aimed at extension workers and farmers and to develop a chapter on plant pathology for inclusion into the Crop Protection Manual.

The NGO technicians providing field training for upland rice cultivation among 29 farmer groups on 1,566 hectares include staff from; ODAFARA (Lofa), ASCO (Bong), SERE (Nimba), and WAI (Grand Bassa, Margibi & Montserrado). The following is a summary of upland rice production accomplishments for the month of July.

Lofa

ODAFARA is working with 10 rice upland farmer groups in Lofa county comprising a total of 640 group members. During the period there were 272 farmers (102 men, 165 women) trained in upland farming best practices in site clearing, anti-erosion measures, seed selection and field layout. The following is a summary of accomplishments during the reporting period.

- 1.2 hectares plowed with power tiller
- 0.43 hectares leveled
- 4.2 hectares planted
- 3.5 hectares weeded

Nimba

The NGO Sere is supervising four upland rice sites in Nimba county in the communities of Kweindin, Gbarplay, Zoe-Ganaglay, and Siaplay. During the month of July all sites have been planted, each with 1.8 ha in land area to total 7.2 hectares using the drilling method of seed

implantation as opposed to broadcast seeding. In addition, a total of 13.7 hectares has been planted at the four sites using the traditional method of broadcast seeding.

Bong

Most upland rice farmers including beneficiaries of the FED supported project and individual household farmers in the communities endeavored to complete planting their upland rice fields in July as showers and heavy rainfall occurred in different locations. In 12 of the 15 upland rice sites, the groups comprising 377 farmers adopted three planting methods (improved vs local/traditional broadcast seeding). The improved methods are in two forms (dibbling, drilling) with each method occupying a surface of 400m² and demarcated by 1 meter walk way. The process of planting was combined with practical training in contour farming as well as erosion control method.

The other 3 sites (Garmue, Galai and Voloblah respectively in Panta, Kpaai and Yelequellah districts) will plant their entire fields in the traditional/local planting method since they are indeed late and as such, one of the improved planting methods (dibbling) requires a lot of time and energy. Of these 3 communities mentioned, Garmue in Panta district seem to be less cooperative as it relates to the project. Major accomplishments are summarized below.

- 309 farmers comprising 162 males and 147 females received hands on training in field layout and planting of rice in improved methods (dibbling, drilling).
- 13.31 hectares brushed, cleared and layout.
- 8.31 hectares planted
- Of the 8.31 hectares planted, 7.55 hectares is planted in local/traditional broadcasting method and 0.76 hectare is planted in the improved (drilling, dibbling) method.

Activity 1.2.d. Mechanical Aids

The demonstration of power tilling technology continues on lowland demonstration areas in Lofa, Nimba, Bong and Grand Bassa counties. There are presently three FED power tillers in Lofa, two in Nimba, four in Bong, and one in Grand Bassa.

Task 1.3 Increased Production and Profitability of Quality Cassava

All 121 cassava production groups are active in land preparation, field transplanting of cuttings, and plant maintenance. Efforts have been focused on increasing disease free cutting supplies to Grand Bassa, the largest FED cassava production area, with 54 groups.

Activity 1.3.1: Increasing and Improving Cassava Production, Processing, Marketing

A marketing event for vegetables and cassava was held on July 13 at the UNICEF cafeteria in Monrovia, bringing together; fifteen aggregators, suppliers and farm managers for the purpose of supplying food products to the UN affiliated restaurants in Monrovia. The main buyer present at the event was Mr Elias Warrak representing the SARAH Group, Inc, and is responsible for purchasing fresh products for all UN cafeterias. After presentations by all food suppliers, Mr Warrak thanked all participants, including FED and Building Markets representatives stating that he would follow up with selected suppliers for future orders.

Activity 1.3.1a: Development of a local, private sector, elite cutting supply system

Franklin Henries, FED Value Chain Manager, met with the president of Nimba Community College to discuss the inclusion of the NCCC into FED cassava program. This meeting was jointly held with Component 3 at FED's office in Monrovia. Dr. Gono welcomes the inclusion and agreed to work along to make it all happen. The technology package would include the setting up of cassava multiplication, geared toward training of at least 1 instructional staff and 6 students (3 female and 3 male).

Activity 1.3.1c: Training FED Partners Along the Cassava Value Chain

Training activities on cassava production demonstration sites continues for all 121 cassava groups located in Lofa, Nimba, Bong, Grand Bassa, Margibi and Montserrado counties. Below is a summary of activities during the reporting period.

Lofa

The NGO RAA has been active in training 19 cassava groups in Lofa county. Of the total groups 13 were active on a land area of 10.7 hectares, having constructed 15,853 mounds, and 1,132 ridges. The total surface area planted was 3.39 hectares. Although the cassava production is competing with rice production among the same group members, the cassava groups are motivated by FED tools and technical support. RAA recommends that the 2014 season begin field preparation in January and that the participating NGO be included in the site selection process due to their knowledge of the area. It is also recommended that cassava producers be linked to markets for the sale of surplus production, and that the most productive farmers have access to loans to cassava processing equipment.

The FED Value Chain Manager traveled to Lofa County to inspect and supervise on-going cassava activities and follow up on the field planting of demo sites. This visit enabled the correction of mistakes in the field, ranging from sourcing and planting of cassava cuttings from unauthorized source and errors made at the demo sites. During the course of the Lofa visit, contacts were made with two potential commercial cuttings producers in Kolahun and Voinjama Districts.

Follow-up visits to concretize cuttings production plans will follow shortly. The Womanor site was transformed a cuttings production site due to the very steep slopes that characterize the nature of the land. The Selega site lags behind, though work on the site is satisfactory.

Nimba

During the period under review the NGO ECREP provided field training for 21 sites in three clusters: Ganta with 10 sites cultivated 11.55 hectares, Saclepea with 7 sites cultivated 6.9 hectares, and Tippita with 4 sites cultivated 6.44 hectares for a total of 24.8 hectares planted and under cultivation. The project is sailing well, as FED continues to provide assorted cassava cuttings, which is serving as a motivating factor for the smooth implementation of activities.

ECREP technicians continue to provide on-site training to the farming groups. The training sessions this period reviewed the past lessons taught, visited the sites and technically advised the farmers on errors observed and how to rectify problems. During these sessions, farmers were able to understand clearly the importance of each new method of cassava cultivation taught them. They were able to go back and address those areas that were not properly constructed. The second aspect focused on the following topics: planting the crop, the time of planting, cutting used as cane, condition of seed canes, cutting the seed canes, dropping and covering the seed canes. They also were able to understand the proper length of cutting and how to avoid breaking of the sprouts. At the end of this session, farmers were able to adequately demonstrate on their own those skills they acquired during the training.

Bong

All 17 cassava groups in Bong received 35 bundles each of clean cassava cuttings during the reporting period to cover an average 35 hectares of field area. The FED M+E team traveled to 11 sites and reported that all of the 11 sites are actively being either cleared and brushed, or planted with the new cuttings. A total of 6.7 hectares has been planted in the period among the 11 sites evaluated.

Grand Bassa

Under the supervision of NGO WAIL, 45] farmer groups completed demo sites demarcation and are carrying out mounds, ridges and nursery construction in Districts # 1, 2, 3, &4. In these communities, ridges were constructed with an average dimension of 1mx10 meters, with other treatment of land preparation completed. In Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4, 33 farmer groups had completed their demo sites awaiting cuttings.

Cassava planted during year one is now ready for harvest. The groups are now in the process of negotiating with local buyers to sell their produce.

The FED Cassava Value Chain manager traveled to Grand Bassa County to follow-up and supervise cassava activities in the county. On July 30 FED visited two communities in compound 3, Big Joe Town and Christ Village along with the WAIOL Officer. Both sites were still under construction and awaiting cuttings. On the 31st July, 4 additional sites were visited in Compound 2 area: Queepue, Senyah, Mensah Town and Aquoi Village cassava sites were inspected. All of

these sites were still undergoing site preparation. On average not more than 25% of the work at any of these sites have been completed. Farmers were asked to speed up so as to meet the planting deadline stipulated in the cropping calendar. At Mensah Town, the demo site layout incurred some error and was therefore changed to a “B” site, because it would be impossible to reverse the mistakes made.

Activities Planned

- Particular focus on Grand Bassa cassava production groups to expedite the purchase, transportation and planting of disease free cuttings.
- Follow up with CARI to plan on present and future strategies for the procurement and distribution of cassava cuttings to targeted beneficiaries in FED zones.
- Attend the Cassava Working Group meeting at the MOA.
- Work with Country Managers and FED staff on FY 14 Cassava Value Chain Work Plan

Task 1.4 Improving the Quality and Quantity of Peri-Urban Vegetables

Vegetable production groups have begun a new production season and preparing land and seedlings for rainy season crops in maize, and leguminous beans and groundnuts.

Activity 1.4.b Capacity Building

Montserrado

During the month of July Six PUA sites in Montserrado were laid out and planted 0.05 hectares of peanuts and 0.02 plots of cowpeas. 0.5 hectares of land was laid out and planted with corn and legumes (peanuts and cowpeas) at the Kakata Demonstration site.

Margibi

14 sites in Margibi including Kuwaki, Gbolokai- Ta and Compound #2 have laid out and planted 2.6 hectares of land with corn and Legumes (Peanuts and Beans) for the rainy season production. Sylvester Kpenneh and Sumo Binda from Yarnquellah Agricultural Project in Margibi County have started practicing improved vegetables technologies on their own field of 1 hectare and 0.5 hectare of land respectively. The specific technologies these farmers are practicing are: Field layouts and adequate spacing.

Lofa

The NGO VOSIEDA is supervising 8 vegetable group sites in Lofa. During the period all eight groups were active in land preparation, layout, brushing, and clearing on a total of 5.6 hectares. A total of 0.98 hectares was planted in chili peppers on two sites.

On July 4 and 5 the following legume and vegetable seeds were distributed to 9 PUA groups in Lofa County to serve as cover crop for the raining season production:

Table I.

NO	Seeds	Kilogram
1	Corn	135
2	Peanut	67.5
3	Cowpeas	31.5
4	Pigeon peas	31.5

Nimba

At the eight vegetable demonstration sites in Nimba, land clearing, de-stumping and 3mX10m beds construction are ongoing. Plot measurement has been completed at 4 out of 8 vegetable fields, which account for 1.7 hectares. Seeds have been distributed to vegetable groups for this planting season. Members of vegetable demonstration groups are requesting rain boots for the rainy season.

Gbudamon Vegetables Association in Bain Garr, Nimba County laid out 0.2 hectares of land for legume production.

Bong

Site evaluations were carried out on the six PUA groups located in Bong County during the week of July 15 by the PUA Specialist, in collaboration with NGO contractor VOSIEDA. All groups have completed previous vegetable season harvests and have begun to prepare new land areas for the production of rainy season crops to include beans, groundnuts and maize. Three out of six groups laid out their sites for raining season production and their achievements thus far are as follows:

Iyallakemana, Sugar Hill, Gbarnga, Joquelleh District planted 0.3 hectare of land in Cowpeas, Welekamana Vegetable groups have lay out and develop 10 plots (10m² X10m²) on 0.82 hectare of land for planting legumes and Melekee Vegetable farmers lay out and developed 9 plots on 0.4 hectare of land had laid out plot areas, while the remaining four sites were still working in land brushing and clearing.

Grand Bassa

Eight PUA farmer groups had begun clearing and de-stumping their land for planting in peanuts, cowpeas, maize and pigeon peas. Land layout for direct seeding had completed in four of the project communities including Gonnigar, Pipeline, Own Your Own (Yeah-bee), and No Food for Lazy Man at the Korean Farm Community. Land clearing had been completed and seeds distribution to the eight PUA beneficiaries is also completed.

Activity I.4.c Commercial Linkage Development

In Bong 10 Kgs of chilli pepper was harvested on July 16, 2013 at Iyallakemana vegetable site while 3 kgs of bitter ball, 6 kgs of pepper and 15kgs of corn was harvested at Kapakarlowe site in Margibi County that generated a total sales of 1700 Liberia dollars for the group. Additionally in Margibi Green Field vegetable site harvested 28kgs of chilli pepper and sold for 1750 Liberian Dollars.

In Grand Bassa harvesting of vegetables was done at the Yeah-bee vegetable in Own Your Own Community in District # 3.

Table 2.

Vegetable harvested	Area harvested	Quantity harvested	Amount cash received
Egg plant	10x10 plot	80kg	\$1,875.00
Bitter ball	10x10 plot	30kg	1,750.00
Peanut	2 plots (10x10)	40kg	2,700.00
Okra	10x10	5kg	250.00
Total:		120 kg	6,575.00 LD

Planned Activities

- Ongoing field training in vegetable production best practices among 52 groups in six FED counties.

Task I.5 Improving the Quality and Quantity of Goats

The main activities during the period were goat breeding station construction, training and distribution of mineral lick blocks, and de-worming activities among 13 completed breeding stations in four counties.

Activity I.5.2 Community Goat Pass-on Schemes through Lead Farmers or CBO's.

There were three goat breeding shelters completed during the period in Grand Bassa. To date there have been a total of 13 breeding shelters completed in Lofa, Nimba, Bong, and Grand Bassa. Of the seven remaining stations there are three located in Bong, and four in Grand Bassa. Other activities performed in the period include mineral lick blocks training and distribution at seven breeding sites, and goat de-worming at ten goat stations for 36 males and 147 females.

Lofa

1. Completed the construction of goat shelter in Kpandu
2. Completed the fencing of the goat shelter at the Betijama goat site
3. Completed the construction of the goat shelter in Kpassay
4. Treated (7) goats with skin disease problem in Naweinzu village
5. Distributed (10) goat feeders in the five locations

Nimba

De-worming activities were carried out at the Bayeleglay breeding site for eight males and 89 females on July 31. At the same site there was fencing constructed around the maternity shelters, six mineral blocks prepared, and six goat feeders roofed with zinc material.

Bong

Darfuwah-Ta Development Project (DTDP), Yellequelleh District

For the month of July 2013, ten goat producers including a lead farmer were trained on how to produce mineral lick. The ten participants (2 females and 8 males) after being taught, produced three mineral lick blocks for their goats.

Forty-nine meter square (49mS) galvanized wire fence was constructed around the goat shelter. Thirty-two males were involved in this exercise.

Herd population:

Total number of goat: 37 (26 nanny goat, 2 Billy goat, 9 kids (8 males, 1 female)).

Serengeti Goat Farm (SGF), Karyata, Suakoko District

Two goat managers along with five other farm workers (5 males and 3 females) were trained to prepare mineral lick for the goat.

Herd population

Total number of goat: 22 [(11 nanny goats and 3 Billy goats, 8 kids (3 females and 5 males)]

New Goat farmers Identification:

Kpon-a-Kpor Yah Goat Farm (KGF), Monlegai, Suakoko District (Proposed Site)

This Group has filled in the Application form. The group has set up their own production site with local fencing, and is regularly providing feed and water for their goats. The group, Kpon-a-Kpor Yah has twenty-eight (28) breeding goats at its production site; thirty (30) acres of land for goat production has been provided by the lead farmer, and shelter from locally produced materials constructed.

Grand Bassa

Site measurements for the seven goat project communities in Bassa have been completed. The sites measurement took place in Blaygbahn, Neorpeh, Duwein, Dewor, Goinjay, Gorgbahn, and Saturday Judges Town. Salt/mineral blocks have also been distributed to five of the seven sites. Two of the seven breeding stations have been completed during the period.

A total of 180 goats were de-wormed and given multi-vitamins in six of the FED goat project communities. These communities are as follows:

Table 3

No.	Community	District	Bally	Nanny	Total
1	Blaygbahn	#3	6	20	26
2	Neorpeh	#3	30	27	57
3	Dewor	#4	6	27	33
4	Gorgbahn	#4	7	9	16
5	Judges Town	#4	1	16	17
6	Goinjay Town	# 3	27	4	31
	Total		77	103	180

Planned Activities

- Follow up with Land O'Lakes for their participation in Community Health Worker training
- Second phase de-worming activities in Lofa County
- Finalize contract with building engineer for CARI quarantine center
- Continue construction on unfinished breeding stations in Lofa and Grand Bassa

COMPONENT TWO: STIMULATE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Task 2.1 SME Development

Activity 2.1.A.a.i – Value Chain and Sector Studies

The Cassava Value Chain Study RFP, in partnership with the European Union (EU) and Zuidoost-Azië (ZOA, “South East Asia” in Dutch) was released April 22. This RFP was designed to identify qualified individual consultants or consultancy firms to conduct a cassava market study in nine primary counties where partners are working in cassava production (Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Bong, Nimba, Lofa, Cape Mount, Bomi and Gbarpolu.) The study will include:

- Profitability of cassava production, processing and marketing of products such as gari, deepa, cassava chips, cassava animal feed and starch, in Liberia;
- Comprehensive domestic market overview showing the market size, trends, preferences and structure;
- Business models for profitable production and processing of cassava products in Liberia to enhance productivity and competitiveness;
- Investment cost for implementing recommended business models;

Baseline information in the 9 counties specified above.

Bids were turned in May 10 and evaluated by a team composed of FED, ZOA, the EU, and the National Cassava Sector Coordinating Committee between the week of May 15 and May 30. Given the budget constraint FED and ZOA agreed to limit the number of counties to the nine areas of intervention (six counties for FED plus the three additional counties for ZOA (Bomi, Cape Mount and Gbarpolu) and focus the study on the domestic market. On July 25, Agri-Impact Consult was selected as the service provider to conduct the study. Work will begin on or about August 15. A final report will be due by the end of October.

Market Data for the Vegetable Value Chain

During Q3, the ED team conducted a backward mapping exercise to find out the needs, quality standards and procurement procedures of large buyers such as the hotels, supermarkets, restaurants, and mining companies in order to facilitate linkages between the farmers and buyers. Also in Q3, the ED team conducted two linking events with USAID’s Sustainable Market Initiative (SMI) that brought together producers, caterers, aggregators, and traders in Buchanan and Ganta. In July, the ED team gathered additional data about the vegetable market and value chain through informal interviews and focus groups specifically with the traders from the Monrovia Vegetable Traders Association and aggregators (Mrs. Anna Blackett of ROSNA, caterer to Arcelor Mittal). The key constraint consistently mentioned was the lack of adequate storage and lack of a cold chain for vegetables. Many traders and aggregators experience losses

when they are unable to sell large quantities of vegetables bought from farmers. Mrs. Anna Blackett believes she can offer lower prices to her buyers if she is able to reduce these losses and store vegetables for a longer period of time.

From July 17 to 20, the ED team conducted a rapid market assessment in the Monrovia area of the cold storage facilities available. All of the cold stores available in the major market areas (i.e. Duala, Red Light) are set up for frozen meat and some smaller cold stores are for packaged water. The only vegetable cold stores found were at major grocery stores, which are not available for use by the traders and aggregators.

In addition, traders and aggregators consistently mention that the largest new opportunity for local suppliers is for tomatoes. Tomatoes are now in huge demand, year round in Monrovia. All or most of the tomatoes traded come from the Ivory Coast and due to the long distance and the lack of storage, traders report very low profit margins.

Finally, there is no efficient system for organizing supply by the farmers to the market or purchasing of supply by aggregators and traders. Farmers are communicating with Go Buy Chop women on an ad-hoc basis for sales and traders do not have direct access to farmers and are penalized by Go Buy Chop women if they venture to conduct business directly. Farmers are also producing according to traditional seasons, which causes a surplus of supply on the market.

Therefore, in August and September, the ED team will conduct additional focus groups and interviews with the Monrovia Vegetable Seller's Association, the Go Buy Chop Association, and members of the transportation sector. The ED team, in conjunction with Component I will also be investigating the feasibility of sustainable tomato production in Liberia. Finally, developing a low tech, low cost cold chain and organizing farmer production and linkages will be a major focus for the FY2014 activity work plan.

Activity 2.1.A.b. Linking Value Chain Participants

On July 10, FED partnered with USAID's Liberia Energy Sector Support Project (LESSP) to conduct a biomass energy workshop with 21 entrepreneurs (18 males and 3 females) representing the agri-business sector. The purpose of the workshop was to demonstrate a new technology that uses biomass (wood chips, coconut shells, and palm kernels) as a low cost alternative to diesel/gas to generate energy through generators. As a follow up to the workshop, LESSP is providing the participants more information regarding capital costs, fuel consumption, and maintenance requirements.

FED Collaboration with USAID's SMI

On July 13, the ED vegetable team, in collaboration with USAID's SMI, met with SARAH Group, the caterer for UNMIL. The caterer was interested in meeting with FED to find out how they can source more of their produce locally. The ED vegetable team will work with selected vegetable growers, Grain Coast, Inc., the United Farmer's Association, and The Monrovia Vegetable Sellers Association, in the next months to help organize production.

Arcelor Mittal – A Follow Up

During the month of May, FED signed an MOU with USAID's SMI to strengthen business linkages between value chain actors particularly farmers and aggregators (or wholesalers) in order to supply large buyers such as the mining companies, major hotels, supermarkets and caterers. Both institutions decided to organize agriculture business networking events in Nimba and Grand Bassa to inform farmers about the market opportunities being offered by ArcelorMittal (AM). AM is one of the largest mining companies in Liberia and has expressed a willingness to buy Liberian-sourced goods to supply their canteens: namely Yekepa in Nimba and Buchanan in Grand Bassa. This is a significant commitment as it involves feeding 800 staff three times a day, every day. The first meeting in Ganta was attended by 50 participants (30 males and 20 females) and the second one on Buchanan was attended by 100 participants (70 males and 30 females), all representing farmers, aggregators, caterers, wholesalers, transporters and other international organizations such as WFP, EU, OXFAM, and Land O' Lakes.

In July the ED team followed up with some of the producers who participated to see if the event enabled them to sell their produce. Some farmers have not harvested their produce yet and stated that they will contact the buyers directly to arrange sales. One such farmer, Andrew Zuobiah of Mengbehn, Ganta produces cabbage and will harvest about 100 bags of cabbage to sell in September. Another farmer Anthony Krukke of Waintias Town has already harvested his cabbage, along with other members of this group. They have a total of 300 bags of cabbage to sell and complained that the buyers they met at the meeting have not returned their calls. As a result, the ED team put Anthony in touch directly with Sumo Mulbah, a large trader who supplies major hotels and supermarkets in Monrovia. Sumo is currently working with other traders to see if they can jointly purchase the large amount of cabbage from the farmers. Issues such as this are evidence that there are opportunities to improve coordination of production and coordination / communication between farmers, aggregators and traders.

It was intended that the ED team would conduct a meeting directly with the Director of Procurement of Arcelor Mittal (AM) in July. However, due to issues AM has recently had with the Government of Liberia, the meeting has been postponed. In the meantime, the ED team met with AM's caterer, ROSNA to discuss her plans to install a much needed cold storage unit for her vegetables in Yekepah, Nimba.

Investment Promotion Activities

In May and June, Component 2 worked with UNDP, NIC, IFC/World Bank and EU in the planning of the Investment Facilitation Platform to accelerate and foster private sector involvement and investment in the undertaking of projects to support the Liberia National Agricultural Investment Plan (LASIP). It also aims at creating a platform to collectively advocate for the Liberian government to redouble its effort and commitment to hit and surpass the CAADP 10% and 6% targets as well as identify the types of “foreign” investment that will be most desirable to buttress the domestic efforts that will be launched. FED was tasked with the responsibility of identifying Liberian entrepreneurs who need financial and technical support from large investors to upgrade their agribusinesses. In July, the ED team continued to support entrepreneurs in the development of their business ideas and plans to be presented at the event, which has been postponed to September 2013. A final planning meeting with the entrepreneurs is scheduled for mid-August. Lobbying meetings towards the investors to support the Liberian entrepreneurs in agribusiness will also be conducted with UNDP and other actors prior to the main event.

Pilot Voucher Program – Business Training for Agro-Input Dealers

In July, the Bong ED Assistant, along with Mr. Larry Tweed, STTA for Input supply, and Mr. Franklin Henries conducted an assessment of input dealers in Gbarnga. Four input dealers were identified in Gbarnga to participate in the voucher program and initial training. In addition to this exercise, a series of consultations have been held with the two pilot groups (Palala Rural Women and Kokoyah Multi-purpose Cooperative) for the voucher program. Questionnaires have been administered to the two groups and follow-up discussions have been held. A similar exercise was conducted with the ED Assistant in Nimba where 5 agro-input dealers were identified. Comprehensive findings will be given by Mr. Larry Tweed.

In addition, the Khana Group, an IQC businesses service provider, was hired to conduct basic business training in record keeping for the agro-input dealers selected. Training was held in Gbarnga, Bong County from July 30-31 (19 participants, 8 females, 9 males). The training for the Ganta agro-input dealers will be held August 1-2.

Activity 2.1.B.b – Develop Cadre of Business Development Service Providers and Curriculum

Business Service Providers Trained in Farming as a Business

In conjunction with Component Three, nine business service providers were selected and hired under an Indefinite Quantity Contract to provide business training to farming groups and agribusiness entrepreneurs on an ongoing basis. On July 13, Robert Alea, a Farming as a Business trainer and consultant, arrived in country to conduct a training of trainers (TOT) for the business service providers, which began July 15 and ended July 30 (a total of 50 participants 17 female, 33 males.) The Bong training session included five ACDI/VOCA LAUNCH employees who were unable to attend the May LAUNCH TOT. The ED team worked closely with the LAUNCH team to adapt and expand Farming as a Business (FaaB) curriculum for the FED value

chains and for an illiterate audience. The curriculum was adapted from USAID's PL 480 Grants Program for Uganda, USAID's Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement (ADVANCE) Program for Ghana, and USAID's Livelihood Improvement for Farming Enterprises (LIFE) Program for Liberia. It was expanded to include emphasis on planning, understanding the market, developing marketing strategies, and utilizing savings as investment for agriculture expansion. The training program is broken down into a basic program, which can be delivered in six, three-hour sessions and a more advanced program, which can be delivered in nine, three-hour sessions. In August, a pilot Farming as a Business program will be launched in the counties

Activity 2.1.B.d – Increase Enterprise Registration and Local Government Engagement

During the linking meeting with SARAH Group, the caterer for UNMIL, it was evident that the traders in the Monrovia Vegetable Trader's Association were not registered as individual businesses. The Association does not operate as a for-profit entity and serves as more of a communication facilitator. It was recommended that the traders register as businesses, however it is evident that there is still some confusion about the process and the benefits for registering. Therefore, the ED team will look into a more detailed workshop for the traders to educate them on the benefits and importance of registering.

The Innovative Nimba Women is a group of 18 women in Nimba County who received training in Q2 and Q3 in vegetable, fruit, and peanut preservation techniques from COSEO. During the month of July, and with the help of the ED Assistant, the group opened a bank account and officially registered under their current name.

Activity 2.2.A.c – Targeted Technical Support

In May, the ED team conducted a consultation From God to Man (FGM) in Doumpa, Nimba County. The group had requested assistance from FED with deciding how to invest the \$3,000 they currently have in the bank as a result of the first year's sales. The group had also sent a letter of request for a loan for \$100,000 to buy a bulldozer in order to build roads in their community to link the farmers. The ED collected production cost and sales information from the group from their previous year's crops and discussed more reasonable options for investment (e.g. mechanized production and post-harvest production.) In July, the group decided to use \$2,500 to purchase rice from Monrovia to sell in their community during the next two months, which they consider the hunger season. The ED Assistant assisted them with a cost and profit analysis to show them that buying the rice in Saclapea, a much closer market, would be more profitable. FGM will be harvesting their rice and vegetables in the next two months and the ED Assistant will continue to consult them on marketing and selling of their produce this season and with plans for the next season. The group has been selected to participate in the Pilot Rice Business Cluster and Voucher programs launched in July.

On July 24 and 25, the Bong ED Assistant conducted an assessment of rice mill owners in three towns (Garmue, Gbansue and Gbarngasiaquelleh) in Panta District. The aim of the exercise was to evaluate agro processors in the rice value chain for possible cost-effective intervention. The three towns mentioned are FED's project communities (there is one category B lowland sited in Gbansue, while there are three category A lowland sites and one upland site in Garmue and Gbarngasiaquelleh). In addition to FED's project sites, the population in the three communities is heavily involved in rice production. In total, discussions were held with nine rice mill owners: one in Gbansue, six in Garmue and two in Gbarngasiaquelleh. From the discussion, it was established that none of the mill owners were keeping financial records of their operations. Mr. Kpakala who started operation in 2011 said he has been able to purchase another rice mill from the income of the first mill operations. What remains a major challenge for all of the agro processors was producing clean rice without sand and stones. None of the millers use de-stoners. The mill owners therefore requested help from FED in the form of record keeping, business management, and business plan writing. There is also an opportunity to introduce them to using de-stoners that FED will be utilizing in the Rice Business Cluster project.

During July, the Bong ED Assistant conducted coaching and mentoring for two groups, Melekie Vegetable Farmers Association and Welekerma in Gbarnga on one production group, Gbansue Development Association, in Gbansue. Topics covered included record keeping, identifying buyers and understanding the market before committing to production. In addition, Welekerma was interested in investing in gari production but asked for additional assistance from the ED Assistant in determining the profitability of the endeavor in contrast to selling raw cassava on the market. The Cassava Enterprise Development Officer will follow up information in August.

During July the Lofa ED Assistant held consultations with Kolliemai Farming Group and Kanjallh Farming Association. Topics covered included coaching in record keeping and development of by-laws and constitutions. Kolliemai Farming Group has since adopted their by-laws and constitution and it is expected that Kanjallh will adopt theirs in August. In the meantime, the ED Assistant developed a simple cash flow record sheets for all of year one and year two farming groups to help them plan their farming business activities.

During July, the Nimba ED Assistant held consultations with Venn Town Cassava Group and the Menlehkoyee Vegetable Farmers Association to assess their progress in record keeping, opening a bank account, and creating by-laws and constitutions. Both groups are now keeping some level of records that include sales and weekly membership attendance and dues paid. Both groups now have functioning by-laws and constitutions and one group has opened a bank account. The ED Assistant also identified and profiled a cassava and rice processor, David N. Feahn Enterprise that could potentially partner with FED to expand his processing and possibly equipment rental services.

The ED Assistant in Grand Bassa distributed a basic template of Articles of Incorporation and By-laws to 26 farming groups in order to help them formalize and organize their groups in anticipation of formally registering. In August, he will work with them on improving these documents and opening bank accounts. In addition, he identified two farming groups engaged in

cassava production and gari processing, Den Say Na Farmer's Group and Dekontee Farmers Group. These are potential groups for the Cassava Cluster Project that will launch in August.

New Generational Women

During July, component 1 and 2 continued to provide technical assistance to New Generational Women, a group of 74 farmers (51 women, 23 men) involved in developing cassava and vegetable production and processing in Upper Clay Ashland of Montserrado. With FED and Chevron support, the group has been able to brush and clear 21 hectares they plan to cultivate. As of the end of July, the group set up nurseries, prepared and planted 5 hectares with cassava, groundnuts, and corn. With the technical assistance being provided by the ED team and AEDE, the group has drafted its Articles of Incorporation and has decided on share values. With the help of a local lawyer, the group was registered as a corporation with share values in June. To further build their capacity to develop this venture as a profitable business, the ED team will hire business service providers under an IQC to perform Farming as a Business, Organizational Strengthening, Financial Management, Small Business Management, and Marketing training for the group members and leadership in August. Construction of the cassava processing center, funded by the Chevron grant, will also commence in August.

Rice Business Cluster Update

At the end of June, the ED team began planning the Pilot Rice Business Cluster project with seven farming groups and four entrepreneurs (still to be selected.) The FED project will expand the post-harvest demonstration supported by Dr. Vallenki by developing participating farming groups and select entrepreneurs as group enterprises used as a platform to provide mechanized services and inputs to members and surrounding communities in rural areas. Initial technology transferred will include: Manual threshers, simple one-pass rice mills and paddy rice de-stoners, the construction of community warehouse to house the rice mill, store surplus rice, and store/sell inputs such as fertilizer, pesticides and tools (where needed). In July, the ED team discussed roles and responsibilities via MOUs with the eight targeted farming groups. In addition, an expression of interest was developed and circulated to locate four additional participating entrepreneurs in the counties and a scope of work for a civil engineer to carry out the design and supervision of the construction of the community storing and processing center was announced. The deadline for the submission of these applications will be August 2.

With the help of the Cooperative Development Agency (CDA), a membership re-activation and leadership election workshop will be held with the Fuamah Multipurpose Cooperative during August. The Fuamah Multipurpose Cooperative, located in Bong Mines of Bong County, is a cooperative of 526 members (296 female, 230 male) active in lowland rice production on 300 acres. The cooperative has been mostly inactive since inception in 2002. The re-activation event will include a component on the importance of gender mainstreaming both in the membership of the cooperative and in its leadership.

Cassava Processing Update

During the months of May and June, technical discussions were held with potential cassava processors to develop a profitable business model for cassava processing. The production and ED team conducted field visits to the potential entrepreneurs' sites in Montserrado (Liberia Agro Resources Incorporated) and Nimba (Old Timer Women Group) to assess their capacity, locations and existing assets. In July, the ED team finalized the concept note to pilot an integrated or multipurpose cassava processing plant with selected entrepreneurs. The activity aims at assisting existing cassava processors or entrepreneurs establish multipurpose/integrated cassava processing centers at a commercial scale. The processing plants will focus on the production of gari, fufu, deepa, starch and animal feed which are often required on the domestic market. These processing plants will be located in areas where there are a substantial number cassava farmers to ensure the constant supply of raw materials. This will encourage farmers to cultivate more since they will have ready-made market for their crops. The establishment of the multi-purpose/integrated cassava processing centers will involve a cost sharing mechanism between FED and the entrepreneurs for the procurement and installation of processing machines, building shelters/storage and testing of equipment for commercial take-off. Improvement of cassava processing and utilization techniques would greatly increase labor efficiency and incomes. Social and economic benefits derived from the activity, among others will be a reduction of post-harvest losses, enhanced shelf life of products, increased marketing opportunities, improved human and livestock nutrition, employment generation, poverty alleviation, improved rural income, food for the masses, diversification of the economic base and optimal utilization of resources. To ensure ownership and sustainability of the processing plants, several meetings were held with equipment manufacturers, processors to agree on the key machinery required, profitability of the venture, contribution of the processors. FED support will include coaching and mentoring processors on quality production, food safety standards, marketing strategies, financial management, and extension service provision to farmers. FED will also assist the farmers in the surrounding areas to organize cluster production for a sustainable supply of raw materials to feed the processing plant. They will also be taught good agricultural practices to increase their yields. The activity will help FED have a better understanding of how to strengthen linkages between the different value chain actors to ensure the ownership and sustainability of the activity. There will be one cassava processing business supported in each of the FED counties. The project is expected to be completed by the end of September.

Activity 2.1.B.e – Radio Entrepreneurship Outreach

Interactive Radio Training for Liberian Journalists

From June 24 to July 4, FED Radio Specialists began a 10-day training and mentorship program for 28 Liberian radio journalists representing 14 radio stations from FED's six counties. The program introduced and informed the journalists of FED's objectives and activities and about the state of the agriculture sector in general. In addition, journalists learnt how to conduct effective interviews and implement radio programming appropriate for the agriculture sector.

As part of the training, journalists were divided into groups of five and asked to produce radio programs on agriculture topics based on what they had learned. The winning group produced a 30 minute program about fish and rice farming that was then broadcast July 15th in all of the counties.

On July 15, eight of the fourteen community radio stations signed MOUs with FED and began producing and broadcasting farm radio programs on their various radio stations. These radio stations included:

1. Radiolife, Zorzor, Lofa County;
2. Radio Tamba Taikor, Foya, Lofa County;
3. Radio Kintoma, Voinjama, Lofa County;
4. Radio Harleygne, Kolahun, Lofa County;
5. Radio Atlantic, Kakata, Margibi County;
6. SAWU FM, Weala, Margibi County;
7. LACSA Radio, Compound 3, Grand Bassa County; and
8. Radio Saclepea, Nimba County.

In addition, the FED Radio Specialists continued to mentor and monitor the development of future radio programs in the counties. Some issues concerning use of Adobe 1.5 and 2.0 for production have arisen among the radio stations. Therefore, in August and September the radio specialists will travel to Nimba and Lofa counties to conduct a follow-up workshop that will address technical issues as well as give guidance on future programming topics.

Task 2.2 Access to Finance

Activity 2.2.e – Village Savings and Loan

Village Savings and Loan Training and Mentoring

On July 25, two business service providers. Liberia Initiative for Development Services (LIDS) and Educare, were notified they would be awarded contracts to roll out VSLA training to 26 farming groups in FED's six counties. Training for rural farmers will last for 12 months through the groups' first payout. The program will include training and mentorship over a 12 month period through the groups' first payout and will include the election of savings club leadership, the importance of saving and investing, and record keeping. A maximum of 25 members per group, involving primarily women, will be trained and mentored in village savings and loan methodology. The ED team estimates that the 26 groups will generate at total of \$185K in ag-related loans for the farmers at a 15.65% annual return for the savings group over a three year period (estimate for year one is \$26K).

In June, the Access to Finance Officer met with the management of LEAD, a local micro-finance organization that has successfully conducted a pilot program lending to groups of farmers in Bong and Nimba. The organization would like to expand their lending program in agriculture, but lack funds to increase the loan pool. LEAD received a grant from United States African

Development Foundation (USADF) and a loan from the Central Bank for their non-agriculture lending programs. On July 3, the Access to Finance Officer met with USADF to discuss the possibility of extending their grant for additional needed funding. USADF is willing to consider issuing another grant for the agriculture program, but needs to close the first grant and evaluate their performance before doing so (expected July-September). In the meantime, LEAD as approximately \$2,000 of funding they can extend to additional farming groups and is will to conduct a pilot with FED farmers. The Access to Finance Officer will be working with the Bong ED Assistant in August to evaluate and locate farming groups for the pilot.

The Access to Finance officer along with the Bong ED Assistant held a consultation with the leadership of Kokoya Multipurpose Cooperative to give advice on their business plan from July 11-12. The Kokoyah Multipurpose Cooperative was established in 2004 with the help of the World Food Program to process rice for their feeding program. The group has a current membership of 286 and is located in Botota, Kokoyah Statutory District, Bong County. Aside from rice production and processing, the cooperative is also engaged in other types of farming with their members, such as pig production. The leadership participated in the six-week business plan mentorship held in Q1 and had developed a business plan in which they requested over \$200K for cash needed to purchase paddy rice from their membership. As a result of the consultation, the ED team has recommended that they only need \$18-\$20K and that their record keeping system needs to be improved before they are eligible to apply for a loan from a bank.

COMPONENT THREE: BUILDING LOCAL HUMAN TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL CAPABILITY.

From 15 to 20 July two workshops were conducted in Gbarnga, Bong County. Twenty two lead instructors from six vocational institutions came together for a unique training in vocational teacher education while focusing on building up relevant mathematical skills related to agriculture.

During the same period, 15 to 19 July, 25 seasoned trainers from Bong, Nimba, and Lofa counties gathered in Gbarnga for a Training of Trainers for the Farming as a Business (FaaB) curriculum roll out. Immediately following this training, 25 more trainers from Grand Bassa, Margibi and Montserrado received the same FaaB training by STTA Robert Alela of Kenya.

The signing of comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) took place this reporting period. One MOU was signed between Central Agriculture Research Institute and FED on July 25th and the other MoU is between Lofa County Community College (LCCC) and FED and was signed on Monday, July 29th.

Task 3.1 CREATING CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

Activity 3.1.1 Vocational Instructor Capacity Development



Fig. 2 FED Chief of Party, Agnes Luz with LCCC President Dr. James Kollie, at the MoU signing on 29 July.

A curriculum workshop for FED Component Three Centers of Excellence Instructors was held at the FED-Bong County Complex from July 15th to the 20th. It was a second and final workshop where the Ministry of Education's Bureau of Science, Technical, Vocational and Special Education (MoE's BSTVSE) rolls out the new ECOWAS-TVET curriculum in Agriculture and Business. This concluding workshop is the pilot launch of the National Diploma in Agriculture for Post-secondary Vocational Schools.

All twenty two participants received five and a half days of vocational training in best practices of Vocational Education for beginning the National Diploma in Agriculture curriculum. The MoE's BSTVSE will launch the pilot program in FED's four cooperative colleges/school in accordance with the MoU signed with each institution. In this workshop graphing calculators and an appropriate practical mathematics for agriculture textbook was provided and used.

Agriculture, business education and mathematics instructors from six different vocational institutions worked side-by-side learning very applicable mathematics related to the FED goals and objectives of farming as a business and calculations related to the four value chains, cassava, goat, rice, and vegetable. New to many instructors were topics such as fertilizer calculations based on soil test results, feed ration calculations using imported and domestically available raw materials feed as well as business topics such as cost, expenses and profit calculations, and loan interest rates. At the end of the workshops instructors raved about the relevance of the information and spoke of the need to come together quarterly for updates and follow up workshops in vocational education and relevant topics leading to successful agribusiness graduates.

In order to ensure the calculators and textbooks got in the proper hands and used, they were handed to the instructors at the end of the workshop, on July 20th. However, a Memorandum

of Understanding (MoU) was prepared and each institution signed to ensure that the math textbooks and the TI84+ calculators remain the property of the Colleges. The MoU stipulated that if the instructor leaves the educational institution, the technology tool and textbook must be returned to the respective vocational education institution's department.

Activity 3.1.2 Improved Access and Use of Information

Following the signing of the remaining Memoranda of Understanding at GBCC and LCCC, action has been taken to acquire suitable internet providers and computers for the CoE's administration and library needs. These installations will take place before the next academic year in September 2013. Ongoing search is continuing to find suitable eReaders which will make good use of the internet service and available free textbooks such as those available through eAfrica Syllabus among others.

Activity 3.1.3 Internship Program

The FED internship program has taken a turn towards establishing career centers at the specific vocational education institutions where FED has a mandate to create Centers of Excellence. This shift replaces the earlier program where FED itself finds internship partners, recruits senior or recently graduated students in agriculture and business and send them out for a three month period of job readiness and practical experiences related to their focus of studies.

The Institutional Support Officer, Mardoe Moore, travelled to Buchanan to conduct interviews to supply 10 GBCC agriculture student interns for the Advancing Youth Program (AYP) activities in that county. Fourteen interns were tested and interviewed and names submitted to AYP. This activity took place on Wednesday, 10 July 2013. She also met with previous Interns to discuss and encourage the establishment of an Internship club.

The first pilot of this nature began at Grand Bassa Community College where an Advancing Youth Program (AYP) partnered with FED and UNICEF to train ten GBCC senior and recent graduates in FED's four value chains and leadership.

In support of this partnership, USAID's FED acts as stewards to the National Volunteers (NVs) in the Agricultural sector, providing technical and in-service TOT trainings, and placement with in this sector. During the six months period, FED will provide two weeks technical TOT training in July 2013 and a quarterly follow up TOT trainings during the period of the partnership.

The first technical training to train the NVs in FED's four value chains and leadership took place in the last two weeks of July. After the two weeks of technical TOT training, USAID's FED will place the NVs with other USAID's projects and partners in the agriculture sector.

3.1.4 Practical Agriculture Experience

Two Independent Contracts (IC) were signed for practical activities at Booker Washington Institute and Nimba County Community College. Amel Eastman was a Cuttington Junior College, Kakata intern at BWI. He has been awarded a contract to continue the drip irrigation and soils fertility management demonstration site and will train a BWI agricultural technician to take over in six months time. In addition he will provide much needed assistance with the transition of the BWI agriculture department to its new site adjacent to the rubber tree forest. This IC will also take an active participation in the BWI one-hectare year-round rice growing site where Urea briquettes will be demonstrated and compared to the conventional rice growing techniques.

The second IC is Bill Nuah, a former intern from the University of Liberia who hales from Nimba county. He is currently setting up the drip irrigation and soil fertility demonstration site at NCCC in Sanniquellie. Further, he is overseeing the FED-assisted VC activities at the college site. These activities include a Rice and Fish farming pilot project, a one-hectare Urea Deep-placed (UDP) trial and demonstration site, and a new varieties cassava trial site.

Activity 3.1.6 Stake Holder Involvement

Vocational Education Specialist, Albert Bass, and Soils Technician, Wooiklee Paye, made an official call to the Principal of Booker Washington Institute (BWI) on 3 July 2013. The purpose of this visit was to establish a relationship with the acting Principal, Alexander Massey, to discuss the following:

Soils Laboratory establishment. In this regard it was agreed with the head of department, Jacob Swee, and the Acting BWI Principal, Alexander Massey, to take a classroom from the agriculture block and retrofit it for an agricultural laboratory. FED will assist to outfit it for soils analysis training and service to the farming community.

Enterprise Service Centers

Discussions focused on assisting BWI for an organizational Development and Strategic Action Plan. The BWI Principal welcomed the offer of assistance and has already entered discussions internally to that extent. This discussion was timely.

The Vocational Training and Non-Formal Education Specialist, Dr. Dennis Eaton, and Institutional Support Officer, Tenesee Moore, along with the Grand Bassa County Manager, Philip Yasine, made an official call on the President of Grand Bassa County College (GBCC), Dr. Levi Zangai, to present and sign the Comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between GBCC and FED. This took place on Friday, July 5, 2013. Activities under this MoU are already underway, with first action to take, to provide the college with comprehensive internet service.

The VES departed for Nimba County Community College (NCCC) in Sanniquellie on 10 July 2013. His purpose was three-fold. First, he needed to jump start the activities of transforming a classroom area into an office for the agriculture department and career and entrepreneurship service center. Second, to interview candidates for a FED Vocational Agribusiness Education Officer (VAEO) to be stationed at the career and enterprise service center office.

Fig.3 Farming as a Business Training of Trainers Graduates in Gbarnga



Task 3.2 Short term technical advisor support

STTA, Dr. James Bunch, provided advisory service in animal production courses (Animal Husbandry, Beef and Dairy Production, Goat, Sheep and Swine production and Poultry Production) as mandated for the new National Diploma in Agriculture. STTA Curriculum Development – Mathematics Specialist, Ms Sarah Eaton, was commissioned to create a Practical Agricultural Mathematics course for the ECOWAS-TVET curriculum. After completing these tasks (July 8 – 13), the two STTAs then co-presented a workshop where specific agricultural and agribusiness mathematics curriculum challenges would be encountered (Ms Eaton) and how to teach the curriculum in a vocationally relevant manner (Dr. J.C. Bunch).

TASK 3.3 NON FORMAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Activity 3.3.1 Community Based Projects

Farming as a Business (FaaB) Training of the Trainers (ToT) took place in two consecutive locations from 15 to 29 July. In total 50 trainers received ToT in FaaB representing ten organizations in all six counties where FED has activities. These trained participants will then take the training to the counties and provide six weeks of relevant and practical business training to farmers involved in the four value chain activities, starting with the most receptive “A-site” farming groups. This will be piloted to determine best responses and way-forward action plan for FY14.

Activity 3.3.4 Agricultural Awareness Prior to College

The BWI-FED office assists ongoing activities of the Booker Washington Institute as well as other FED activities. In keeping with the mandate to promote agricultural awareness prior to choosing a career, informal trainings and consultations take place in the FED office of BWI. One such National NGO is the Green Coast Agricultural Program (GCAP). The founder and director, Aloysius Tamba, has been very cooperative in promoting agriculture in the Kakata schools through the efforts of BWI graduate volunteers. A formal MoU needs to be established with GCAP in order to grow and expand their positive influence in the county.

Upcoming Activities

The following activities are planned for the first half the month:

- Drip Irrigation demonstration sites for Nimba County Community College
- Low-land Rice production with Deep-placed urea demonstration at Booker Washington Institute
- Farming as a Business roll-out planning for value-chain farmers
- Hiring of Vocational Agribusiness Education Officer, William Todd, for Activities at Booker Washington Institute.
- Commencement of the Soils Laboratory renovations at BWI
- Creating a MoU with Green Coast Agricultural Program (GCAP), a National NonGovernmental Volunteer Organization, focusing on School Gardening Program and Youth Leadership Development.

Farming as a Business Training of the Trainer Statistics

Training A: July 15-19, in Gbarnga Bong County

Table 4.

Male	Female	Total
15	10	25
Training B: July 22-29, 2013, in Monrovia, Montserrado County		

male	Females	Total
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18	7	25
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COMPONENT FOUR: CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

Youth

During July 2013; 10 incoming junior students from Grand Bassa County Community College successfully completed three days Technical Agriculture training as interns on knowledge and skills to successfully plant cassava and vegetables. The training included leadership skill building and gender awareness into the agriculture sector. These interns will work with 20 chosen schools participating in the Back-to-School Garden Competition Pilot Program in Grand Bassa beginning August 2013.

FED has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with UNICEF. This collaboration involves UNICEF's National Youth Service Program and will allow 30 recent college graduates in their 20s the opportunity to volunteer in the agriculture sector in Liberia. Technical Agriculture trainings will be provided and these National Volunteers (NVs) will oversee Youth Club activities for planting, sustaining and harvesting gardens; for 11 months beginning in August 2013.

FED is finalizing a memorandum of understanding with Advancing Youth Project (AYP) to absorb the 30 NVs as agricultural facilitators into the AYP Program. These NVs will facilitate classroom teaching and delivery of practical learning through school gardens in selected sites in Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Nimba, and Montserrado counties. Moreover, the NVs will provide extension and technical support to AYP's Youth clubs engaged in agriculture projects across the five counties- Montserrado, Nimba, Bong, Lofa, and Grand Bassa.

Future Activity

- Conduct a 14 day TOT on technical agriculture best practices and skills for 30 NVs in August of 2013.
- Arrange and approve the placement of 30 NVs in collaboration with AYP.
- Conduct a two day follow-up training on business skill development for the school garden competition participants.

Integrating Nutrition into FED Activities

During the month of July 2013, the key focus of nutrition activities has been collaboration and networking with the MoH, FED partners and other stakeholders at the national level. This key focus is to ensure that FED's activities are coordinated with the other programs in underway in FED's areas of operation. This cooperation will also support the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare's vision of and future plans for nutrition education and outreach in Liberia.

FED is concluding an arrangement with LAUNCH in collaboration with MoHSW to train program staff of the FED Agriculture Officers and as well as the MOA Agriculture Extension

Officers in Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA) which is the approach used by MoH to alleviate and address nutrition issues in Liberia.

The FED Nutrition Officer participated in Essential Nutrition Actions TOT organized for LAUNCH, other NGOs and government staff that included the following:

The FED Nutrition Officer participated in the National Nutrition Program Annual Review Meeting held in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County. The meeting provided a forum for nutrition stakeholders to discuss and review the implementation and achievements of the program at the county level, and its added value in responding to the nutrition problem in the country.

Planned Activities:

- Conduct Essential Nutrition Actions TOT for FED staff and a team of MOA Extension officers.
- Train FBOs, vegetables farmers and VSLA members in nutrition and hygiene best practices.

Production of IEC materials (brochures, pamphlets, posters, stickers etc.) for community outreach activities, and BCC messages around diet diversification, micronutrients intake, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF). This material is in collaboration with MOH/Health Promotion Division and the BCC working group for airing via mass media.

TASK 4.1 KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

The month commenced with collaboration between USAID funded Liberia Monitoring and Evaluation Program (LMEP) and FED. A two days training on Managing for results for FED and USAID staff was carried out. The purpose of the training was to introduce FED's staff to new methodologies they can utilize in the field to acquire, analyze, and store information. Several, topics were discussed in depth including data collection steps and techniques, gender mainstreaming in M&E , data quality assessment, etc. 14 FED staff and 2 LUACNH staff participated. At the end of the training the participants conveyed the training was beneficial, and they gain new data collecting techniques that would be applicable to their field activities.

PUA manuals were distributed to five external organizations for feedback. Feedback was received from all five entities, and the suggestion made will be used to finalize the PUA manuals for field distribution next month.

After intense research and interaction with partners on what happens to farmers during hunger season in Liberia, we concluded not much has been done to analyze the hunger situation in Liberia. Thus, the lack of information pertaining to topic led FED to reach out to various partners in the food security sector. During the process, we realized there is a need to consolidate, and understand what various food security institutions plan is for Liberia. Which lead to a "Food Security Consultation", a collaboration between World Food Program and FED. The purpose of the consultation is to share information on where each project is working (town and county), who are the beneficiaries (group names) and what kind of intervention/assistance is provided. Through this forum, FED hopes to be able to complement

instead of compete, and build synergy rather than duplicate assistance. The will be held on August 15, 2013.

An internal information sharing session on EMP compliance was organized with the Environmental Officer. Due to limited attention given to the EMP procedures in the field, the presentation educated staff on various regulations and procedures they need to follow before, and after they carry out field activities. 11 staff participated.

KM ended the month in Bayleglay, Nimba to commence a case study on three women groups. All three groups are working with the goat value chain, and have benefited immensely from several new technologies and trainings FED has introduced to the group. The intent of the trip was to commence tracking the progression of the three groups, and understand how FED’s intervention has impacted the lives of the women economically. The leaders of the 3 groups, and 16 members were interviewed. The total membership of the three groups is 106, and total numbers of goats own by the three groups is 91. They projected to start gaining economically from the goat rearing in the next 2- 3 years. This will be a great study to analyze the impact FED is having on beneficiaries’ lives.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Task 4.2 Special Studies, Baseline Studies, Impact Surveys, and M&E

4.2a. Improving Data Collection Systems

M&E Monrovia staffs made several field trips to follow-up on various surveys, collect and refine various data and information, prepare for the cassava farmer survey, and finalize results for the quarterly report Indicator Progress Report.

Meetings were held with two MoA County Agriculture Coordinators to discuss their monitoring and reporting activities for input to preparing a plan for the possible assistance to the county MoA M&E efforts.

4.2b. Baseline Surveys, Impact Surveys and Special Studies

Summary Table of Surveys (Table 5)

Ongoing Field Activities	Status
Year 2 rice farmer baseline survey	Analysis of data continuing
Baseline surveys of the participating farmers in the Year 2 goat production and pass-on scheme	Analysis of data ongoing
Vegetable harvest and production surveys	Surveys are ongoing with farmers in the field

Cassava survey initiated during the month using PDA devices. Harvest yields from Year 1 crop being sampled in the field.	Survey to be completed by mid-month; harvest sampling to be completed by end of month
Environmental compliance for Year 2 demonstration sites	This survey is about 90% complete
Measurements of the UDP and ISFM field sites	These GPS measurements are about 90% complete
Follow-up on completed activities to determine impacts and ongoing needs	These surveys have been initiated and will continue through the end of Year 2

Task 4.2c. Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring activities continued though the month. The major activity was the training and orientation for the NGO conduction the cassava farmer survey. Instruction and field trial of the PDA devices was provided to the survey team.

M&E staff from the counties and Monrovia visited the survey teams in the field to ensure they were working with the PDAs and the survey forms without problems. The surveys are being transmitted to the Monrovia office and then being redirected to the counties so the M&E staff can review the completed forms for errors and missing data.

M&E initiated a new Activity Monitoring Plan process for newly approved activities to ensure that all possible Indicators are being addressed and that there is a clear tracking plan to gather all necessary data from each activity.

Record keeping forms have been given to the county extension staff and the contracted NGO extension staff to work with lead farmers and individual farmers to keep input and output records for vegetable and cassava activities. These staff have also been instructed in the use of the training attendance forms and maintaining an updated list of individual group members.

Over 100 site monitoring visits were made by M&E staff to various ongoing activities during the month included:

Table 6.

1.	Follow-up on competed activities impact and ongoing issues and needs
2.	Observing and assisting in the distribution of inputs (seeds, tools, construction materials, production inputs) for rice, cassava, vegetable and goat farmer groups
3.	Cassava Farmer Survey orientation and training
4.	Site visits continue for each Value Chain to complete and update member demographic inventory, site measurements, and environmental compliance

5.	Following-up with extension field staff for the completion of training forms and mentoring for lead farmer and individual farmer record keeping
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Indicators

Changes in Indicators for this month mostly reflect the preparations and planting in the final group demonstration fields, the training and application of the radio messaging activity for agriculture info-programs, and the training and manufacture of agriculture machinery. The Indicator Progress Report by Value Chain and County for July 2013 is attached (there are two sheets for this table – one for the Value Chains and the other sheet for the County).

The number of Indicator have been reduced by eliminating the following Custom Indicator: 1.3.2: Number of households using improved food processing technologies; 1.3.3: Number of individuals trained in nutrition messages with agriculture programs; and 3.1.2: Number of individuals, organizations and institutions that have received training of a technical nature. The Indicators for food processing and nutrition may be redefined based on the programs currently being developed within FED. The training of a technical is captured under the FTF Indicator 3.1.1. The Indicator for training on management or leadership is being retained to focus on the Enterprise Development activities in FED.

Capacity Building of M&E Staff

Three M&E field staff participated in an LMEP training workshop on Managing for Results.

Activities Planned for Next Month

- M&E staff will continue to follow-up with the cassava survey teams in the field to ensure a reliable data-set from this survey.
- The cassava harvest will continue to be measured and reported by M&E and county staff.
- Further meetings will be held with MoA staff to gather information for drafting a plan of action on how best to assist the MoA M&E office and reporting functions in the counties.
- The Monrovia based Data-entry staff person will be visiting the counties as part of an internal Data Quality Analysis assessment of data entry, filing, documentation maintenance, updates on various spread sheets for data entry, and to better understand any problems and issues that may exist at the county-level.
- M&E will participate in a Webinar with USAID to discuss recent findings from an ongoing study of Indicators and possible changes in scope and definitions.
- M&E will participate in an evaluation of the ongoing UDP activity with visitors from USAID.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT FUND (MDF) JULY 2013

MDF DISBURSEMENTS

During July 2013 of fiscal year 2013, the Market Development Fund (MDF) expended **\$246,870.49** on thirty four MDF activities across FED's four components. Please reference MDF Table #1 for a breakdown of these activities and disbursements by component.

MDF COMMITMENTS

During July 2013 MDF continued activity design for the 2013 rainy season in Liberia it has also begun to focus activities on Liberia's dry season. The MDF technical committee reviewed and approved five activities under CLIN01 and four activities under CLIN02, which total Please reference MDF Table #2 for a list of on-going MDF activities that were reviewed and approved in July 2013.

Table 7.

MDF Table 1 - MDF Activity Disbursements July 2013			
CLIN	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	July 2013 Disbursement
CLIN 01	CLIN01-TRN-0004	Training Private sector on Soil Testing processes and procedures	
	CLIN01-MDF-0017	Nimba County Community Goat Pass-on Scheme.	
	CLIN01-MDF-0033	Peri Urban Agriculture - 2013 Dry Season	
	CLIN01-MDF-0047	Lofa County Community Goat Pass-on Scheme	
	CLIN01-MDF-0048	Bong County Community Goat Pass-on Scheme	
	CLIN01-TRN-0056	Cassava 2013 NGO Selection, TOT, and Extension Manual	
	CLIN01-MDF-0059	Establishment of demonstration plots and intensified rice production in Nimba County	
	CLIN01-MDF-0060	Establishment of demonstration plots and intensified rice production in Grand Bassa County	
	CLIN01-MDF-0061	Establishment of demonstration plots and intensified rice production in Bong County	
	CLIN01-MDF-0062	Establishment of demonstration plots and intensified rice production in Lofa County	
	CLIN01-MDF-0066	Post-harvest processing demonstration	

	CLIN01-MDF-0067	Grand Bassa County Community Goat Pass-On Scheme	
	CLIN01-MDF-0069	Establishment of demo sites and intensified cassava production in Lofa County	
	CLIN01-MDF-0070	Establishment of demo sites and intensified cassava production in Bong County	
	CLIN01-MDF-0071	Establishment of demo sites and intensified cassava production in Grand Bassa County	
	CLIN01-MDF-0072	Establishment of demo sites and intensified cassava production in Nimba County	
	CLIN01-MDF-0074	Training Manufacturers on Agro-Equipment	
	CLIN01-MDF-0076	Pilot School Garden Program Competition - Grand Bassa	
	CLIN01-MDF-0077	Kakata-MOA Demonstration Site	
	CLIN01-MDF-0079	Training in the Rearing of Goat Kids to Reduce Mortality	
	CLIN01-MDF-0087	Rice Plant Pathology and Entomology	
CLIN01-MDF Total			
CLIN	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	July 2013 Disbursement
CLIN 02	CLIN02-MDF-0009	New Generational Women/AEDE/Chevron	
	CLIN02-TRN-0015	Pilot Youth Business Plan Competition for Institutions	
	CLIN02-MDF-0030	Farming as a Business Training of Trainers	
	CLIN02-TRN-0034	Aggregator/Farmer Event with Building Markets - Nimba	
	CLIN02-TRN-0037	Aggregator/Farmers Event with Building Markets in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County	
	CLIN02-MDF-0039	LESSP Alternative Energy Source (Biomass) for Entrepreneur	
CLIN02-MDF Total			
CLIN	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	July 2013 Disbursement
	CLIN03-MDF-0005	Food Processing and Preservation Project (COSEO)	
	CLIN03-MDF-0009	Nimba County Community College - Building a Center of Excellence	
	CLIN03-TRN-0010	Instructor Survey and Vocational Education Instruction	
	CLIN03-TRN-0023	National Agriculture Diploma (ECOWAS-TVET) Curriculum Roll Out Part 2	
CLIN03-MDF Total			
CLIN	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	July 2013 Disbursement
	CLIN04-TRN-0005	Enhanced Agricultural Radio Program Development, Training and Management Course	
	CLIN04-MDF-0006	Cassava Farmers Household Survey	

CLIN04-MDF-0011	Managing for Results Training	
CLIN04-MDF Total		
July 2013 MDF Disbursement TOTAL		

Table 8.

MDF Table #2 - MDF Activities Approved July 2013			
CLIN #	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	MDF Proposed Activity Budget
CLIN01	CLIN01-MDF-0036	Agro-dealers capacity building	
	CLIN01-TRN-0078	Vegetable seedling production and sales -2013	
	CLIN01-TRN-0086	Building the Capacity of UNICEF National Agricultural Volunteers and USAID's AYP Agricultural Youth Clubs	
	CLIN01-TRN-0087	Rice Plant Pathology and Entomology	
	CLIN01-TRN-0089	Rehabilitation of CARI Livestock Quarantine facility	
	CLIN 01 MDF Proposed Activity Budget Total		
CLIN #	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	MDF Proposed Activity Budget
CLIN 02	CLIN02-TRN-0031	Village Savings And Loans Association Training for rural farmers of FED	
	CLIN02-MDF-0035	Pilot Rice Business Cluster	
	CLIN02-TRN-0038	Reactivation training for Fuamah Multipurpose Cooperative	
	CLIN02-TRN-0039	LESSP Alternative Energy Source (Biomass) for Entrepreneur	
	CLIN 02 MDF Proposed Activity Budget Total		
MDF Activities Approved Proposed Budget TOTAL			

PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

July

Staff Recruited, LTTA:

- Bernard A. Waritay: Communications Specialist
- Linda H. McGovern: Sr. Program Specialist(ICA)

Short-Term ICA Contractor:

- Peter A. Samba: Graphic Designer

Ongoing Recruitment:

- Vocational Education Officer-Nimba County
- M&E Coordinator - Lofa County

Training:

- New staff orientation training
- Upcoming training of staff on Performance Management Plan

Other ongoing HR activities:

- Performance Management Plan

STTA TRACKING TABLE

Table 9

Name	Position	Partner	Dates	Summary
Technical STTA				
Dennis McCarthy	Goat Value Chain Specialist	DAI	January-September 30, 2013	Oversight and implementation of all goat-related value chain activities.
Rachel Wade	Communications Specialist	DAI	February 15 through July October 2013	Communications support to FED Comms team
Larry Tweed	Input Supply Specialist	IFDC	June through August 2013	Support for pilot voucher program and UDP program.
JC Bunch	Vocational Training Education Specialist	LSU	July 7-21, 2013	Support to Component Three, vocation training
Sally Eaton	Curriculum Development Specialist, Mathematics	DAI	July 7-21, 2013	Support to Component Three, developing math curriculum
Linda McGovern	Sr. Program Specialist	DAI	July through September 2013	Oversight and management support to FED's crosscutting components.
Robert Alela	Farming as a Business Trainer	DAI	June 18-July 5, 2013	Farming as a Business Training to FED stakeholders
James Correll	Rice Plant Pathologist	DAI	July 21-August 5, 2013	Carry out field investigation in the development of a crop protection manual for rice in Liberia