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FOOD AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR LIBERIA (FED)

FY2013 SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT: JANUARY - MARCH 2013



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COVER PHOTO:

Peri Urban Vegetable Technical Team visit FED's New Generational Women Site to prepare and plant vetiver to stabilize the land condition.

DISCLAIMER

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

ACRONYM

AEDE	Agency for Economic Development and Empowerment
APDRA	Appaloosa Distance Ride Association
ASRP	Agricultural Sector Recovery Program
AYP	Advance Youth Program
BSTVSE	Bureau of Science, Technology, Vocational and Special Education
BWI	Booker Washington Institute
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
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
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
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
PERSUAP	Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan
PIDS	Performance Indicator Database System
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 PlacementUN 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

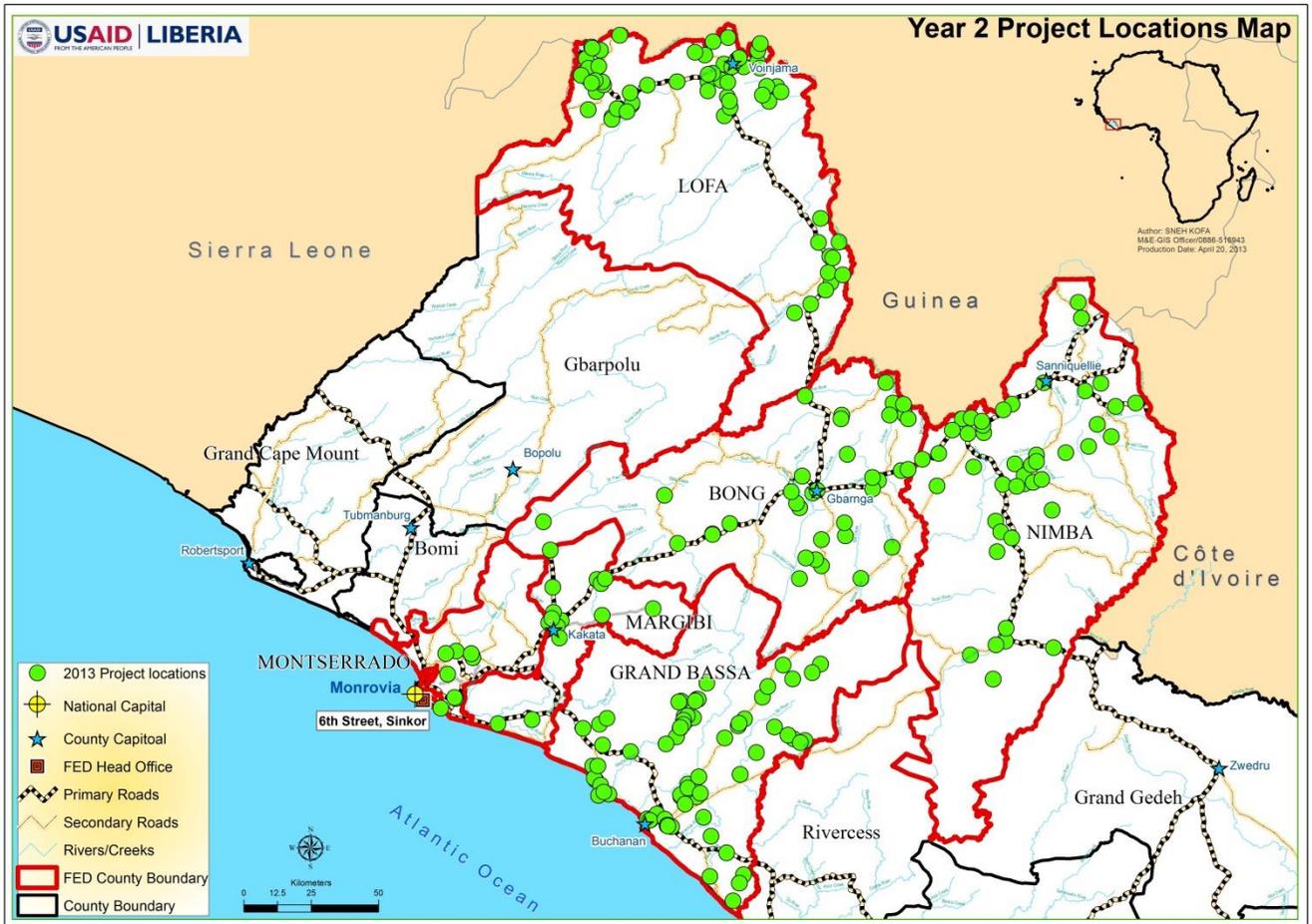
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Geographic Reach of FED



Background

The Food and Enterprise Development (FED) Program for Liberia is a USAID-funded initiative that began in September 2011. Through implementing a Liberian strategy which incorporates women and youth, FED is helping the government of Liberia and the country achieve food security — in terms of food availability, utilization, and accessibility — by building an indigenous incentive structure that assists agricultural stakeholders to adopt commercial approaches.

This incentive structure is being built upon:

- Improved technology for productivity and profitability;
- Expanded and modernized input supply and extension systems;
- Commercial production, marketing, and processing;
- Enterprise Services; and
- Workforce Development.

FED's activities are all undertaken in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the private sector to link communities to agricultural inputs (seed improvement, input supply support), extension services, nutritional input, processing services, market information, access to finance, transportation, credit, and appropriate education, training, and enterprise support services. All components and value chain activity are inclusive of women and youth in order to drive equality and sustainability.

The program is working to expand market linkages which should lead to substantial income increase and an improvement in job opportunities together with major growth in the production, processing, marketing, and nutritional utilization of rice, cassava, vegetables and goats in Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Montserrado, and Margibi counties. These counties are being targeted in the context of regional development corridors that foster intra- and inter-county commerce, simultaneously improving food availability for all Liberians.

FED's methodology is market-led, value chain-driven, continuously dedicated to indigenous capacity building, and specifically focused on benefiting Liberia's women and youth. FED's approach aims to be collaborative, catalytic, and driven by the goals and objectives of our partner clients. It will lead to increases in incomes for rural households, new employment opportunities for Liberians, increased access to food and improved household dietary diversity scores for food-insecure Liberians, and the adoption of improved inputs, farming practices, and technologies which boost agricultural productivity.

FED is implemented by a group of implementing partners; The Cadmus Group, Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), Louisiana State University (LSU), and Winrock Intl.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Increased Agriculture Productivity

During this quarter, activities in Bong, Nimba, Margibi, Montserrado, Grand Bassa, and Lofa counties incorporated a range of activities from ambassadorial visits to trainings and seed planting ahead of the impending rainy season.

Component One activity really ramped-up this quarter; MOUs were signed with 15 lead farmers for the goat pass-on project, this enabled the rollout of the construction of shelters. These shelters will drastically improve animal husbandry methods, especially for pregnant goats and newborn kids by enabling postpartum care and better monitoring.

During Jan-March, identification of 129 rice sites were finalized and land preparation techniques were implemented; brushing and de-stumping, was carried out. Construction of post-harvest facility and equipment took place in March including drying floors and parboiling tanks.

Peri-Urban Vegetable Value Chain focused largely on building capacity with farmers with 1,612 farmers trained in improved practices of vegetables production at 51 sites across the six counties of operation.

Land preparation also took place at 119 cassava sites. Brochures for trainers and extension workers on recommended practices in cassava production were developed. Simple guide on recommended production practices for farmers was also completed.

For Component Two in the February Financial Management and Organizational Strengthening Trainings commenced in Lofa, Nimba, Bong and Grand Bassa Counties. Subah Belleh Associates (SBA) completed the Stakeholder Profile surveys in the six counties, with more than 500 respondents. SBA has submitted the final draft report on March 29, 2013.

The Rights & Rice Foundation (R&R) carried out Organization Strengthening training for nine groups (258 participants) in Bong, Lofa, Nimba, and Grand Bassa counties.

Under the Input supply component, agro-input dealers' assessment was started in March 2013, in Bong and Nimba. Collection and analysis of soil samples from UDP sites And a

ACHIEVEMENTS

January – March 2013

- 166 business and agriculture interns given life-changing placements with 33 organizations.
- The construction of goat shelters that will benefit 300 farmers and their communities
- 17 nursery owners were trained on running nurseries as a business.
- Internet connectivity was provided by USAID's FED to Booker T. Washington Institute, benefiting 1,920 students and 88 faculty members, enabling improved research and online tutorials.
- The development and launch of the TVET ECOWAS curriculum.
- MOUs signed with 15 lead goat farmers who represent 242 producers.
- Roll out of rice value chain activities in 129 sites
- A successful pilot business plan competition for young entrepreneurs.

rapid assessment of the markets in preparation for the voucher program were carried out.

The internship program launched on February 18th is paving the way for 166 interns to gain practical experience with a range of public and private sector organizations. These interns are comprised of students and recent graduates in business and agriculture programs. This is the second phase of the internship program, and it has three times the number of interns than the first phase. During the Jan-March period, the Community Mobilization Officer launched an activity in collaboration with the communication's team to roll out interactive forums across all six counties of operation. The Community Mobilization Officer also worked closely with county managers and staff to promote the importance of women and youth inclusion across all activities.

The United States Ambassador, Ms. Deborah Malac, visited FED partner farmer Bill Tolbert and one of our selected cassava and Peri Urban Agriculture (PUA) groups, the Welekamah Women at Sangai Farm on Decoration Day in March 2013. Ms. Malac also visited BWI, where she toured the various facilities and equipment put in place by the FED project. The Ambassador engaged with project staff and beneficiaries alike.

COMPONENT ONE: INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

Task I.1: Input Supply Interventions

During the quarter, the input supply team mainly focused on rapid assessments of the dynamics of input supply, lowland rice, upland rice, and cassava productions in the four main Counties of the FED Program... The team interviewed agro-dealers and farmers groups to determine demand size and timing, for inputs in rice, cassava and vegetables, and analyze the input supply system. Agro-dealers and seed suppliers were also identified, meetings and training sessions were conducted to address the safe use, handling and storage of agro-chemicals, with Wienco for rice seed outgrowers. Rapid assessment of upland rice farms for ISFM demonstrations was also conducted. Three IFDC Short Term Technical Assistants (STTAs) visited Liberia between March 13-28, 2013 with the following objectives (i) evaluate the production potential of the pilot-sites, (ii) identify the constraints to Urea Deep Placement (UDP) and Integrated Soil Testing Management (ISFM) deployment, and (iii) gauge the progress made so far in forest clearing/brushing and land preparation. Six (6) sites were visited in total including 4 UDP (Palala, Garmue I, Gbeneguelleh, Duita) and 1 ISFM sites (Tolomai) in Bong County, and 1 UDP and ISFM site (Sanniquellie Community College) in Nimba County.

The main accomplishments of input supply interventions for this quarter covered the following areas of practice: Agro-dealers' identification and profiling for capacity building; rapid assessment of the sites selected for UDP and ISFM demonstrations and; rapid assessment of farmers' capacity building needs to access inputs; and rapid assessment of input demand for use on their own farms based on the knowledge gained from the demonstration sites in 2012.

Agro-dealers capacity building

During March 2013, FED assessed both FED and non-FED farmers' demand and access to high quality agro inputs (seeds, fertilizers, spp's, among others) in two counties' (Bong and Nimba) rural markets in order to refine the voucher program plan.

The team interviewed more than 20 farmers and 7 agro input dealers in several towns. At the end of the assessment, three determining factors affecting Liberian farmers' demand for purchasing agro inputs in these two counties were observed: i) farmers ability to use agro inputs to increase harvest; ii) farmers' access to market for Return On Investments (ROI), for vegetable producers and rice seed outgrowers, market opportunities are readily available and investment in the use of inputs is justified, and iii) farmers' ability to afford available agro inputs locally.

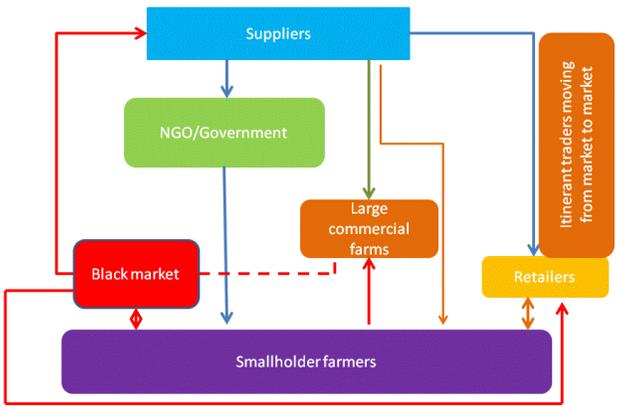
Agro dealers explained that their sales are seasonal from October to May because) farmers need cash from rainy season harvests to procure inputs (whereas at the end of the dry season they are spending their cash on food); 2) primary purchasers of seeds and fertilizers are vegetable growers (majority of sales in the dry season); 3) transport of inputs during the rainy season is challenging.



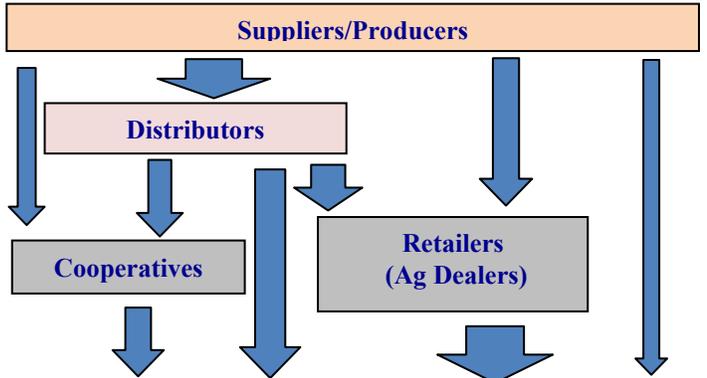
Left: Vegetable farmers in southern Nimba County, March 2013.



Right: Agro input dealer in Ganta, Nimba County, March 2013.



Liberia's Current Agro Input Sector



A Mature Agro Input Sector

During the rapid assessment, it was observed that fertilizers were sold in much smaller packages size than the traditional 50kg bags; ranging from half a pound to several pounds pending on the available bags. Most farmers purchase the smaller packages because they do not have enough cash to purchase a 50 kg bag of NPK 15-15-15. Moreover, smaller packaging is easier for farmers to transport back to their farm.



Left: NPK fertilizer shipped from Monrovia.

Right: Agro Dealer packaging fertilizer to be sold in Bong Mines.



The following points in relation to supply-demand paradigm of Liberia's agro input sector were observed:

Demand

- Limited knowledge on agro inputs;
- Limited Return on Investment (e.g. low prices for products);
- Lack of common extension message;
- Lack of uniform, affordable fertilizers in rural markets; and
- Lack of fertilizer brand recognition.

UDP and ISFM demonstrations

Liberia's main staple foods are rice and cassava and are predominantly grown in upland environments. The low input use in the upland farming systems keeps the yields persistently low, reduces soil fertility, and worsens environmental degradation. This prompts a need to rehabilitate the swamps and restore soil fertility in the upland and lowland ecologies where rice cultivation could be expanded.

The main objective of the IFDC STTA was to elaborate a conceptual framework that will guide the deployment of UDP and ISFM within USAID's FED project in Liberia. The activities conducted are twofold and include (i) the evaluation of FED-selected UDP and ISFM demonstration sites, and (ii) elaboration of appropriate ISFM and UDP technological options for testing in upland and lowland ecologies, respectively.

ISFM is a set of soil fertility management practices that necessarily include the use of fertilizers, organic and mineral amendments, combined with soil, water and nutrient conservation measures. The deployment of ISFM is expected to mitigate soil erosion, and prevent rapid soil fertility depletion taking place in the upland ecosystems. The major components of ISFM that was recommended based on the assessment of soils in the areas visited include:

- The replenishment of soil fertility using soil mineral (Rock Phosphate - RP) and organic amendments (cover cropping: *Mucuna*, *Crotalaria* or *Pueraria* etc..) as an improved fallow system for accelerating the soil fertility replenishment process;
- The combined use of improved fallow system with mineral fertilization and preventive slope-specific soil, water, and nutrient conservation measures using mulching, minimum tillage, contour lining and ridging for rice and cassava cropping in the steep slopes of the upland farming systems.

Major observations

- Fertilizers are mainly applied to vegetables followed by lowland/swamp rice;
- There is lack of knowledge in the proper fertilizer use and application by farmers and community-based facilitators;
- Rice yield performance is very low in the upland (300 to 700 kg ha⁻¹) and lowland (1000 to 1500 kg/ha) farming systems - with limited fertilizer use;
- Farmers have no access to quality fertilizers and seeds as a result of low functioning fertilizer distribution network dominated by the black market and informal cross-border transactions.

Crop rotation pattern

- In Year 1: cover cropping (mucuna or crotalaria + rock phosphate) will be used as improved fallow system for accelerating soil fertility replenishment.
- In Year 2: cassava will be cultivated in the steep slopes using residual cover crop biomass for mulching and minimum tillage. In the gentle slopes - where the soil erosion is less- the cover crop biomass will be incorporated in the ridges laid out against the slope to plant cassava. Ridging is expected to reduce soil and water erosion occurring during the rainy seasons.
- In Year 3: upland rice will be cultivated after mucuna followed by cassava. Contour lining established in Year 1 will protect the rice fields against soil, water and nutrient erosion.
- Cassava ridging (in the gentle slope) and upland rice will be grown in association with cowpea and/or groundnut, depending on the farmers' preference.

Mineral Fertilization

- Cassava: Application of NPK at 300 kg ha⁻¹ rate. 150 kg ha⁻¹ will be given as a basal dressing placed near the planting stake 40 days after planting; and a top dressing using 150 kg ha⁻¹ will be applied three to four months after planting, depending on the duration cycle of the selected variety. Note that a local cassava varieties like local sweet cassava (Bassa Girl or Butter Cassava) will not respond so well to fertilizers than the improved varieties including bitter cassava (CARICA Series);
- Upland Rice: NPK applied at 200 kg ha⁻¹ followed by urea split applied at 100 kg ha⁻¹. The basal dressing of NPK is best applied during the land preparation by broadcasting and incorporating. The first split application of urea at 50 kg ha⁻¹ rate should be 2-3 weeks after emergence to coincide with the active tillering stage, and the second (50 kg ha⁻¹) at 4-6 weeks after emergence during the panicle initiation; and this is immediately after the rice plant has stopped tillering (see details in Annex 2).

Lowland Ecology: UDP

Most rice growers in Liberia apply urea by broadcasting it in flooded swamps. Concern from both an economic and environmental perspective is the inefficient use of broadcast applied urea fertilizer along with its balanced application. The rice crop in the swamps often absorbs less than 30 percent of the nitrogen fertilizer applied by the farmer, leaving the remaining 70 percent as a pollutant in waterways and the atmosphere, contributing to health issues and climate change. Reducing these losses will lead to greater rice production and the higher incomes that are much needed in rice-dependent Liberia. The field trials in 20 demo sites in Bong, Nimba and Lofa will showcase the comparison between three approaches, i) UDP, ii) broadcasting of urea and iii) zero urea application. The details of demos and related layouts are in Annex. This is a priority activity for the next quarter.

USAID's FED farmers will be linked to output markets while learning best practices from their participation on group field demonstrations. Currently most farmers who use agro inputs are vegetable, rubber and/or cocoa plantation farmers as they have a ready market to purchase their harvests.

Typically, farmers are able to purchase agro inputs from agro dealers from the end of the rainy season to the beginning of the next season. Nonetheless, many farmers will wait on NGOs, donors, and the government in hope of receiving free agro inputs—even if it delays farmers from following their best practices (e.g. establishing fields and planting at a specific time). There are intervention opportunities for FED to improve both the demand and supply of agro inputs inland for Liberian farmers indicated below:

Demand

- Increase knowledge on agro inputs;
- Increase Return on Investment (e.g. output markets);
- Facilitate common extension message;
- Facilitate uniform, affordable fertilizer packages in rural markets.

Supply

- Facilitate supply channel stakeholders' development;
- Reduce donor and government distortion (vouchers);
- Facilitate brand recognition;
- Improve agro dealers' access to credit.

Improving both the demand and supply of agro inputs will require FED to continue working with farmers, agro dealers, and suppliers of agro inputs holistically. It is important to structure the FED program in a way that does not create an artificial relationship between Liberia's agricultural stakeholders. One method to do this is to strengthen the supply channel from suppliers in Monrovia, via rural agro dealers, down to targeted farmers in program communities. This can be achieved by utilizing a voucher to minimize the risk of suppliers' investment into new markets while also encouraging farmers to purchase products via the market, but at a discount. This can be achieved by facilitating a pilot-scale voucher program at the beginning of the 2013 Dry Season to targeted FED farmers.

Distribution of Metallic Stamp and Demonstration of Treadle Pump

During February, the Manufacturer Trainer was able to distribute five sets of metallic stamp to five different manufacturers in Monrovia and in Lofa to Voinjama and Foya County. The manufacturers that received the stamps were:

- UNITY METAL CONSTRUCTION & SERVICES Inc.; Doe Community, Somalia Drive;
- OLD FOLKS METAL WORKSHOP, Plank Field , Red Light, Paynesville;
- UNITED BROTHERS METAL WORKSHOP, Duport Road, Paynesville;
- SESAY METAL WORK SHOP, Voinjama, Lofa County;
- NDMA GARAGE, Foya, Lofa County.

Successful Treadle pump demonstrations were carried out in Foquelleh Town, Galai Town, Palala Town, Zoweinta, and Zebay Twon, Bong County. The purpose of these demonstrations was to introduce the farmers to the technology and to show them firsthand how the treadle pumps can facilitate better irrigation of crops.. The farmers were pleased to receive the technology, as it helps to solve their water delivery problems. Many of the farmers expressed frustrations over the level of problems that they faced while trying to transport water long distances during the dry season. The Treadle pump is sold for (USD \$ 150 which includes accessories and has a six- month warranty.

Task 1.2 Increased Productions and Profitability of Quality Rice

During January 2013, selection of farmer groups was completed with a total of 128 farming groups and 2 seed producers selected. Initially, 29 groups were selected in 9 districts of Nimba, 42 groups selected in 10 districts of Bong, 36 groups selected in 6 districts of Lofa, and 19 groups in 3 districts of Grand Bassa with 2 groups selected in 2 districts of Montserrado County.

During the month of February, follow-up visits were made to Lofa and Grand Bassa Counties to verify the farming groups preselected. During the trip, 10 farming groups in 5 districts of Lofa County and 2 farming groups in 2 districts of Grand Bassa County were verified.

During March, the county managers along with the technical team in Monrovia, planned activities for the rice value chain. Activities were completed and submitted to FED management for approval. Rice production activities kicked-off in March 2013 starting with a Training of Trainers. The results of planned rice activities are presented tables below.

Table 1: Rice Value Chain Activities

County	Community	Farmer Group	# of District	# of hectares	# of beneficiaries
Bong	42	42	11	2621	1749
Lofa	36	36	6	2296	248
Nimba	29	29	9	2485	225
Grand Bassa	19	19	3	945	20
Montserrado	2	2	2	85	8
Total	128	128	34	2,250	8,432

Table 2: Rice Value Chain per category

County	Category A	Category B	Category C	Total
Bong	11	20	11	42
Lofa	4	32	0	36
Nimba	5	15	9	29
Grand Bassa	0	19	0	19
Montserrado	0	2	0	2
Total	20	88	20	128

Category A groups will receive training in recommended practices, essential tools and inputs, food during intensive work in demonstration sites, mechanized technology demonstrations, UDP field trials, and intensive business coaching and advisory support directly from FED Extension Officers and Enterprise Development Assistants. Category B groups will receive production training, essential tools and inputs, food during intensive work in demonstration sites, training in farming as a business and advisory support from NGO technicians. Category C groups will receive training from their Lead Farmers, essential tools and inputs, food during intensive work and Farming as a Business training. During the month of March 2013, the rice value team conducted the Training of Trainer's (ToT) workshop in best practices in rice production & water management and carried out preparations for post-harvest processing demonstration. Brochure on recommended practices in rice farming for lowland and upland is also being prepared.

I.2.2. Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop

The ToT was conducted by two FED staff (Rice Officer & Rice Value Chain Manager) along with a consultant (Hydraulic Engineer) from Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) who presented on water management. FED's Rice Value Chain team presentations were on agronomic and post-harvest management.

The training was divided into two sections for two weeks; during the first week (March 18-22, 2013), 40 participants comprising of Lead farmers, Nimba, Lofa, Bong and Grand Bassa counties Community College and BWI Teachers & Technicians and MOA Extension Officers from Bong were trained. FED Extension Officers, Community Based Facilitator, and MOA Extension Officers from Grand Bassa were trained during the second week (March 25- 29, 2013).

It is anticipated that the trainees (Lead Farmers, technicians & teachers) who benefited from FED ToT in best practices in rice production and water management techniques will provide farm based/on farm training or learning by doing training to 8,355 farmers across the six counties of FED intervention.

Another training of trainers (TOT) will be conducted for technicians of NGOs who will be contracted to support the roll out of the rice activities. This training is slated to be conducted from April 15-19, 2013.



Participants and trainers during the TOT in CARI, Bong County

County Interventions

Grand Bassa County:

During the quarter, rice was harvested and threshed from the old site of the Kuotarr Town Swamp Development Association yielding 20 bags (1,000kg), and from Kpelleh Town yielding 6 bags (300kgs).

Also in Bassa, out of 19 lowland rice groups, 15 groups had cleared their sites.

Lofa County:

**Drying floor (top) and parboiling tank (bottom)
under construction in Kubemai Village, Lofa County,
March 29th**



During the period under review the following activities were undertaken:

- Soil samples were collected from all 36 rice sites
- GPS coordinates mapping completed in all the rice project communities
- Signing of Land authorization was completed with all the rice farming groups
- Fabrication of two parboiling drums & two parboiling tanks for two farming groups have been completed

- The construction of two drying floors have been completed for the two farming groups
- Parboiling training conducted for two farming groups where drying floors were constructed
- 15 farming groups have completed brushing, while brushing is on-going in 21 communities
- Cross cutting and removal of stumps & debris from the field is on-going in some of the new sites.

Bong County:

- Soil samples were collected from all UDP sites (11) and collection of sample from 31 sites is ongoing
- GPS coordinates mapping completed in all 42 rice project sites
- Signing of Land authorization with all the rice farming groups was completed
- Fabrication of two parboiling drums & two parboiling tanks for two farming groups was completed
- Parboiling training conducted for two farming groups where drying floors were constructed
- The construction of two drying floors for the two farming groups is ongoing

Workshop and meetings

The Rice Value Chain Manager also participated in the FAO National Workshop on rice and aquaculture held at the SKD Complex from March 11-15, 2013. FED Rice Value Chain Manager chaired the group on irrigation for increase rice production.

The Rice Value Chain Manager participated in the Rice Sector Group monthly meeting held on March 26, 2013 at CRS Office in Sinkor. At the meeting, FED presented summary report of its 2012 activities in the sector and projections for 2013.

Task 1.3 Increased Productions and Profitability of Quality Cassava

The FED team commenced initial discussions on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Center for Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) and FED, the New Generation Women (NGW) project was launched, the cassava value chain budgets were finalized, and LREC school project received an intern to assist with their workload.

1.3.2 Projects

The New Generation Women's Project (NGW): The New Generation Women project is moving forward and making use of the available manpower to meet the deadlines of the planting calendar. Site preparation was in full swing during the reporting period, accompanied by site layout, contouring and erosion control in preparation for timely planting of cassava at the onset of the rainy season. Since the site has steep slopes and undulating landscapes as well as inadequate labor, it was jointly agreed that the pace and quantity of land to be cultivated could be done in phases thereby giving time to complete the entire 24 hectares of land (60 acres) from now until September 2013. In a joint meeting with the AEDE, Chevron and the FED held at FED's office on March 20, 2013 all parties consented to work the entire 60 acres allotted to cassava over a couple of year period and will have a phased approach. FED let the farmers (NGW members) determine what they could comfortably do at each stage of the work. FED agreed to provide cassava cuttings, technical support, and feeding for activities that are outside of the

regular traditional practices, as an impetus to adopt of recommended technology and practices. Preparation for the procurement of improved cassava planting materials is underway.



Left Construction and training in use of "A" frame to mark contours; Right, Marking contours

The Liberian Renaissance Education Complex (LREC): - The Liberia Renaissance Education Complex during this period received one intern to assist the school in coping with the School and Community Farming Project, and to provide assistance to the agricultural instructor in supervising field work whilst classes go on simultaneously without interruption. The LREC has completed land preparation for approximately 0.5 hectare of land to be cultivated with technical assistance from the FED into cassava and vegetables to assist with local school feeding and enhance curricular training of youths in agricultural science.

Institutional linkages:

During the reporting period, a draft MOU was discussed with authorities of CARI on collaboration between FED and CARI. A team composed of the PUA STTA and the Cassava Value Chain Manager, met with the Director General of Research and programs staff of CARI on Tuesday March 19, 2013 to commence initial discussions on a MOU between CARI and FED. During this meeting draft copies of the MOU were circulated; CARI Officials will review and provide further inputs. This instrument of collaboration is essential as it paves the way to exchange of technological packages, capacity building, and access to improved high yielding planting materials. An outcome of the meeting was the immediate agreement to collaborate on cassava work and the establishment of a sub-station for multiplication and dissemination of improved high yielding planting materials. To this end, the PUA team is already ahead by establishing demo site in Kakata at the MOA sub-office.

1.3.3 Cassava activities: A series of meetings were held to streamline work activities and budget preparations to accommodate target deliverables for the upcoming planting season.

To date a total of 5,417 farmers have been identified for assistance from FED this cropping year cultivating a total of 493 hectares, composed of 398 hectares in new communities and 95 hectares from old communities (2012 cropping year).

Field establishment activities are expected to kick-off within the first week of April (the onset of the rainy season). Table I below shows field distribution.

Table 3: Cassava Value Chain Activities

County	Community	Farmer Group	# Farmers	No. of Sites		Ha recruited		Total ha Old + New
				Old	New	Old	New	
Bong	17	17	425	5	12	25	60	85
Grand Bassa	54	54	2,700	5	54	15	147	162
Lofa	22	22	1,100	5	17	25	85	110
Margibi	2	2	18	-	2	-	1	1
Montserrado	1	1	74	-	1	-	20	20
Nimba	23	23	1,100	6	17	30	85	115
Total	119	119	5,417	21	103	95	398	493

A ToT workshop will precede field planting activities, to ensure Extension Officers, County Managers, Community Based Facilitators, Lead Farmers, and NGOs are delivering the same message, and speaking the same language in order to minimize confusion in extension deliveries.



Construction of ridges against slopes to facilitate timely planting of cassava, in full swing

Task I.4 Peri-urban Vegetable Production

Fifty one vegetable producing groups have been identified for assistance in FY2013 in Bong, Nimba, Lofa, Bassa, Margibi and Montserrado. Sites were cleared, field lay-out completed and improved vegetable seeds (chili pepper, bitter ball, okra, collards, watermelon and cabbages) were provided to all 51 groups.

Seed for pepper, bitter ball, cabbages and collards were sown in seed nurseries and later transplanted in the field. Meanwhile, watermelons and okra were directly planted into the fields.

Weekly trainings through practical demonstrations were carried out in the 51 demonstration sites covering topics such as field maintenance and pest management practices. A total of 1,556 participants, (643 males and 914 females) participated in these trainings. They cultivated a total of 49.6 hectares of land.

Sweet potatoes were also harvested from FED's model site in Kakata, Margibi County. The sweet potatoes harvested were donated to My Brother's Keeper and Ethel's Orphanage home in Caresbury, Montserrado County.

On the 21st of February Sackie Bomah Farmers Association (one of the 51 PUA groups) harvested 215 watermelon fruits from their first harvest for this

Mrs. Esther Peters and her son carry out weeding in their vegetable garden

cropping. These fruits were sold at the market and the group earned 10, 000 LD. Additionally, a vegetable site of 0.5 hectare at MOA office in Kakata was established with the help of FED to showcase recommended practices including: where assorted vegetables, roots and tubers should be cultivated, carrying out soil amendment practices using legumes, and marking contour to stabilize the soil. FED is working closely with the MOA which is in line with our workplan, to build local human capacity and empower the MOA

100 kgs of cassava was harvested from Kakata demonstration site and donated by the project to My Brother's Keeper orphanage in Montserrado. This enabled nutritional supplementation (along with the cassava leaves) for the children who live at the orphanage.

Through FED interventions at demonstration sites, farmers from the Peri- Urban vegetables groups are now recognizing the benefits of their improved practices. Madam Esther Peters, the Chair-lady of one of the vegetable groups, 'Self-help Empowerment Project' in Gunniegar Town, said that she has been involved in vegetable production for the last 20 years.

With FED's assistance, Esther has been able to increase her family's annual income. Previously she has only been able to raise enough funds to pay for her children to attend the local high school, but after the last year's successful harvest (as a result of FED's technical support and interventions) she has been able to earn enough from her sales to send her son to University.





FED Business development officer Morleeta Mendes-Cole with one of the New Generation Women members at the contoured field ready for cassava planting

Thirteen intensive PUA sites were selected from the overall 51 sites in the six counties for the intensification of activities and the initiation of assessment for business development and Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) trainings to facilitate effective market linkages and income generating strategies for farmers' groups.

During the reporting period, peri-urban technical specialist, Dermot Cassidy, together with Mr. Franklin Henries, the Cassava Technical Specialist, assisted the New Generation Woman Project with technical advice and training on land preparation such as contour marking and use of felled logs to prevent soil erosion. The land is steeply sloping and y prone to erosion so contouring will be standard approach for the entire 38 acre site. The initial land marking using an 'A' Frame was featured in both the USAID-Liberia Facebook page and the USAID Feed the Future Facebook page.

February 14 and 15, 2013 – FED participated in the Urban and Peri – Urban Agriculture Conference hosted by Welt Hunger Life (WHL) in collaboration with the MOA of which FED was a major stakeholder and formed part of the organizing committee. A presentation on "Urban Value Chain Development, the FED Approach" was given by Noorie Dudley, FED PUA Specialist. The objective of the conference was to enable stakeholders within Urban and Peri – Urban communities to share experiences on their achievements in the sector, current activities, lessons learned, discuss challenges faced and recommend possible actions in resolving these challenges to improve the sector.

On March 28, 2013- PUA Specialist represented FED at a Multi-stakeholder forum held at the Monrovia City Hall, by- pass, Monrovia. The purpose of the forum was to gather stakeholders in the UPA cluster to develop a joint city strategic agenda on UPA as part of the city resilience that reflects the need of farmers particularly access to land issues in urban and peri – Urban communities

Dermot Cassidy, Peri-Urban Technical Specialist, attended the Ministry of Agriculture Climate Change Management Capacity Development Plan Validation Workshop on March 28th. It was agreed that FED would ensure that climate smart agricultural practices are explicitly emphasized in training and extension

materials at the farmer field school and community college programs and that materials and methods to implement these would be made available to project beneficiaries.

Task 1.5 Goat Interventions

FED partnered with USAID's Farmer to Farmer Program in training twelve goat producer groups in Nimba, Lofa, and Bong Counties. One hundred seventy five goat producers with breeding herd sizes ranging from 18-50 goats were represented. The training focused on improved herd management practices, routine health, shelter, feeding, etc., and was applied to over 350 indigenous goats destined for Community Goat Pass-on Schemes. Thirteen MOUs were signed with these trained groups to intensify herd production and engage in passing on goats to farmers in surrounding communities who lost animals in the war. Utilizing concepts of improved production management such as deworming and multivitamin treatments of their breeding herds as part of practical (hands-on) teaching exercises, Lead Farmer groups are now beginning construction of intensification production sites for their herds including goat shelters, maternity pens, fencing, etc.

Mr. Wou (shown in photo) applied the skills learned from the training as part of the Farmer to Farmer program. He confined this mother goat in the photo in an old pig shelter (FED is in the process of building a comprehensive elevated goat shelter) and was present for the birth to offer assistance if needed, the skills learned in these workshops will mean healthier goats with much better survival rates.



Mr. Wou Yeanue with his breeding herd and healthy new set of twins

FED's Nimba County Goat Production Officer, FED Goat Value Chain Specialist, in conjunction with MOA Nimba County Livestock Officer, treated partner farmers' breeding goat herds for both internal/external parasites and provided basic multivitamin injections. In Kpaytuo, Saclepea-Mah District breeding herd of 17, in Bayleglay, Zoe-GEH District breeding herd of 11, in Dingamon District breeding herd of 19, and in Nengbain, Bain-Garr District breeding herd of 17, were all treated for internal/external parasites and given multivitamins.

Additionally, 13 Goat Farmer Producer Groups were trained in basic herd management as described above.

Dr. Eran Raizman, Veterinarian, completed an assignment in on-farm training of FED selected Lead Farmer/Goat Producer groups in Shelter/Fencing and herd management in Nimba, Lofa, and Bong Counties. Twelve goat producer groups in each county, representing 175 goat producers with herd sizes ranging from 15 to 50 animals participated in the training. The training involved goat shelter construction, fencing management, and basic herd health practices. These improved herd management techniques will be

applied to 350 indigenous Liberian goats that are currently under traditional village production/management practices.

The FtF Volunteer was provided under a MOU signed between the USAID-FED Project and ACIDI/VOCA Farmer to Farmer Program last October 2012. Under the agreement, ACIDI/VOCA provided a volunteer requested by the FED Project to address critical needs.

Task 1.6 Integrating Nutrition into FED Activities

During the reporting period, DAI's Sr. Nutrition Advisor, Dr. Kathleen Kurz and Nutrition Specialist, Alison Gardner, traveled to Monrovia and the counties to conduct a Nutrition Assessment Gap Analysis (NAGA). The purpose of this assessment was to obtain updated information that will inform FED's nutrition interventions. As part of the NAGA data collection process, the team completed the following tasks:

- Design the nutrition activities in collaboration with USAID programs, MYAPs, MoHSW-Nutrition Division, MoA-Food Security and Nutrition Program, WFP, UNICEF, and others.
- A two person team was fielded to Monrovia for a 3 week STTA.
- Meeting with all key partners (both in Monrovia and the counties) took place.
- A draft report was shared and USAID was briefed on initial findings. A final report will be submitted in the next quarter.

In the next quarter, FED will work to adjust activities as needed, based on the Nutrition Assessment findings and recommendations

COMPONENT TWO: STIMULATE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

During the second quarter of 2013, the Enterprise Development (ED) team accomplished the following activities:

Task 2.1 SME Development

Marketing and Market Linkages Officers

In January and February, two new Enterprise Development (ED) Officers were hired to support the ED team with market linkages and marketing for USAID FED's beneficiaries. These officers will specialize in market analysis, linking activities (such as value chain workshops and trade fairs) and developing competitive and marketing strategies in FED's four value chains.

Activity 2.1.A.a.ii Profile Commercial Buyers

Activity, 2.1.A.a.iii – Profile and Select Lead Producers, FBOs, and Enterprise

Stakeholder Survey Project

Subah Belleh Associates (SBA) completed the Stake Holder Profile surveys in the six counties. The total number of interviews conducted exceeded 500. SBA has submitted the third and final draft report of their findings from the survey on March 29, 2013.

Backward Mapping

In March, the marketing team created a survey that will help the team to quantify demand and understand quality and quantity standards of large buyers of vegetables and cassava products in Liberia. A list of potential interviewees was generated with the help of the Stakeholder Survey Project, Building Markets, and National Investment Commission of Liberia, and include hotels, restaurants, super markets, institutional buyers, and large concessioners. The ED team will use the information to determine which products have more potential for commercialization within the domestic market, and organize producers and other value chain stakeholders around those opportunities. The surveys begun at the end of March and will continue through end of May.

Rapid Market Assessments

The ED team in collaboration with component one rice team and Dr. Vellenki (Rice Post Harvest Specialist) will pilot rice business incubation projects with farm -based organizations (FBOs) in the four major counties. The pilot project includes demonstrating post-harvest technology to farming groups as a means of helping them to reduce post-harvest losses and improve the quality of locally-milled rice. As part of effort to do so, the ED marketing team is liaising with the county managers and EDAs in the field to select potential FBOs that have high potential to function as viable businesses, utilizing new technology and mechanization for commercialization and income generating activities for their members and surrounding farmers. The ED team created and tested a rapid market assessment (RMA) tool to determine feasibility of the venture for four identified groups in Bong and Nimba from March 25 to 29. RMAs will be conducted in Lofa (April 8 to 11) and Grand Bassa (April 22 to 23).

Activity 2.1.A.b. Linking Value Chain Participants

HANDS Buyer/Supplier Meetings

On January 15, the ED team organized a buyer /supplier meeting in Ganta, Nimba (65 participants, 31 female, 34 males) to link farmers and processors to the HANDS project, a large buyer of gari. Another buyer /supplier meeting was held on March 12 in Bong county (50 participants, 26 males and 24 females). Farmers, processors, input suppliers, equipment manufacturers, SMEs, youth entrepreneurs, local authorities from MoA, the USAID FED Monrovia and county teams and a representative from HANDS all participated in the events. The objectives of those meetings were to inform cassava value chain stakeholders about the opportunity to sell up to 15 metric tons of gari per month to the HANDS project that is producing fortified gari for their feeding program. One of the major findings of the meeting was the need to strengthen the knowledge of processors and input suppliers on how to meet HANDS quality requirements and to assist cassava value chain stakeholders to organize a consistent and reliable supply mechanism. To facilitate this process, FED will organize a site visit to the HANDS processing facility in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh for cassava processors.

Activity 2.1.A.b.i – Value Chain Workshops

Value Chain Training for USAID FED Staff

An RFP for Value Chain training and consultancy for USAID FED staff was released January 24 and bids were due February 8. The objective of the project is to build the capacity of USAID FED team in best practices in utilizing the Value Chain Approach in Development and defining successful business models for Liberia. The consultants will also assist the USAID FED team in the design and creation of a basic model for value chain workshops including working with stakeholders to develop competitiveness strategies. Agri-Impact was selected to perform the training and consultancy. The training will be conducted on April 29 to May 7.

Activity 2.1.c – Targeted Technical Support

Activity 2.2.g – Improve Borrower Readiness

Organization Strengthening and Financial Management Training:

In January, Rights & Rice Foundation (R&R) completed the first round of Organization Strengthening training for nine groups (258 participants, 120 females & 138 males) in Bong, Lofa, Nimba and Grand Bassa counties. As part of the training, the nine groups created action plans based on their short-term and long-term goals. The Enterprise Development Assistants (EDAs) are currently working with 4 of the groups to create constitutions and by-laws (five of the nine groups already have these instruments in place.)

The Enterprise Development (ED) team contracted Agency for Economic Development and Empowerment (AEDE), Pace Management Consultants, Educare and R&R to conduct training in Financial Management and a second round of Organizational Strengthening training for sixteen groups (447 participants) in Bong, Nimba, Lofa and Grand Bassa Counties. AEDE and Pace Management have completed Financial Management training for 3 groups (70 participants, 39 males and 40 females), while Educare has completed Org. Strengthening training for 4 groups (112 participants, 81 females, 31 males).

Financial Management training will continue in April for 2 groups and Org. Strengthening will continue in April, May and June for 6 groups.

New Generational Women

Several meetings were held with New Generational Women (NGW), AEDE, and Chevron. This project supports 74 farmers (51 women, 23 men) in developing cassava and vegetable production and processing on 24 hectares in Upper Clay Ashland of Montserrado. The ED team, along with AEDE conducted a workshop in January to inform the group of options for registering as a legal entity (as cooperative or a corporation). NGW chose to register as a corporation. Representatives from NGW, AEDE and the ED team met with two different lawyers and the Business Registry in Monrovia to determine the best process for registering the group during March. The group will register as a corporation with 100 shares of stock for group participants during the week of April 22.

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

Business Service Provider IQC RFP

On March 19, the ED team released an IQC RFP for Business Skills Training Services to identify qualified service providers to provide training services for rural groups, microenterprises and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the selected value chains (rice, cassava, vegetable and goats) in FED's six counties (Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Grand Bassa, Nimba and Lofa). Qualified service providers may also be asked to contribute to the development of curriculum and to implement Training of Trainers (TOT) activities. This IQC will replace the first business service provider IQC, which was only in place for 6 months. The new IQC was designed to find service providers (both individuals and companies) located in the counties in order to provide more 'localized' service. Bidder's conferences were successfully held in Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa and Montserrado (Monrovia) counties from March 26 to March 29. The essence of the bidder's conference was to provide organizations/institutions as well as individuals the equal opportunity to understand the IQC RFP process and seek clarity before responding to the RFP that was advertised in the newspapers and on local radio stations. On April 9, a final bidder's conference will be held in Lofa county.

Farming as a Business Curriculum Development

Throughout Q2, the ED team worked closely with the LAUNCH team to adapt and expand Farming as a Business (FaaB) curriculum for the USAID FED value chains to cater to less literate 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. The manual will be presented to MoA in April for feedback and will be piloted with the New Generational Women in May. A Training of Trainers is planned for newly identified business service providers in late June, early July. It is anticipated that the FaaB training programs will begin to roll out in July.

Activity 2.1.B.c – Business Plan Competition

Youth Business Plan Competition

The Pilot Youth Business Plan Competition was completed with six groups presenting their business plan and ideas to a panel of judges from CHF, LEDFC, MoCI and USAID's FED on February 26. The Business Plan Competition, which was a pilot program, was intended to encourage college students to develop new business ideas that would improve linkages between producers, agro-input suppliers, commercial buyers, and logistic/transport companies; provide stakeholders improved access to goods and services, improve quality of goods and services; and/or utilize innovative technologies in the agriculture sector among others. Mr. Samuel Jacobs, representative of the Micro/Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Division of MoCI announced the top three winners, Liberia Multi-Agriculture Venture (LIMAVE), Suakoko Cassava and Processors Organization (SCAPO), and the Liberia Food Enterprise (LIFE), all cassava production and processing ideas. The final awards ceremony was held on March 28. All six groups received certificates and small contributions towards their school fees, while the top three winners will receive mentoring from the ED team to improve and promote their business plan ideas. This project was facilitated by Ms. Agatha Johnson, Training Specialist (STTA).

Activity 2.1.A.b.ii – Trade Fairs

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

MoCI MSME 2013 Conference Preparation

During Q2, the ED team was heavily engaged in preparation for the first annual MoCI MSME 2103 Conference and Trade Fair: "From Vision to Implementation - Buying Liberian Building Liberia". The Government of Liberia, with the support of IFC, LBBF, USAID-FED, Building Markets amongst other partners and stakeholders will bring together approximately 300 MSMEs, banks, MFIs, and civil society for three days, including concurrently a two day conference and a three day trade fair for approximately 40 MSMEs. The conference will be based on the four pillars of the MSME Division: Legal and Regulatory Reforms; Access to Markets; Access to Finance; and Building Skills and Knowledge. The intention of this event is to allow the government to take stock of the MSME sector in Liberia, deliver key training workshops to assist MSMEs in all stages of development, and examine practical steps that other key players including banks, micro finance institutions, and concessionaires can take to promote sustainable growth leading to employment creation and jobs.

Representatives from 44 USAID-FED supported lead farmer groups and agri-businesses from across USAID-FED's six counties of operation will be attending the conference (57 participants, 30 males, 27 females). USAID-FED will provide \$15,000 as contribution to defray conference expenses (11% of total cost) plus \$25,000 to support the transport and lodging of rural farming groups and agri-businesses. Other major donors include IFC, Building Markets, The Marketplace, and SPARK/BSC Monrovia. On the second day of the conference, FED is organizing a two-hour break-out session entitled, *Enabling Policies to Stimulate Growth in Agriculture*.

The break-out session will consist of a panel of experts from the private and public sector guided by a moderator from the FED project. The session is intended to provide conference participants the opportunity to discuss the latest findings and current policy reforms around topics such as seed certification, crop protection chemicals, and livestock policy. Panel of experts confirmed for the break-out session are Hon. Dr. Sizi Subah, Deputy Minister for Technical Services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Joe Hirsch, Director Economic Growth for USAID, Dr. Robert Black, Consultant in Biosecurity Law, Regulation and Risk Assessment, and Harriette Laway, owner of Arise and Shine, a rice seed producer.

Other speakers who will be participating in the conference are Beverly Ott, Co-founder ECHOPPE and Consultant, US Department of State, and Fabio Lavelanet, CEO and founding member of FABRAR Liberia Incorporated. The conference will take place from April 24 to 26 at the Executive Pavillion in Monrovia.

Activity 2.1.B.e – Radio Entrepreneurship Outreach

Radio Assessment

On March 26 and 28, the ED Radio Specialist conducted a needs and skills assessment of 34 c (17 females, 17 males) county radio journalists representing 16 radio stations utilizing focus groups research methodology. The information will be used to inform the design of radio program training for the radio stations to prepare for future radio programming activities for USAID FED.

Task 2.2 Access to Finance

Access to Finance Officer

On March 3, an Access to Finance Officer was hired to support the ED team in facilitating access to credit for USAID FED's beneficiaries. This Officer will concentrate on development of the Village Savings and Loan (VLSA) training program, advising entrepreneurs on their business plans, monitoring developments in policy related to access to finance, and liaising with local banks and micro-finance institutions to provide them with needed information and connecting them to borrowers.

Activity 2.2.a – Financial Service Policy Review

Activity 2.2.b – Monitor Gaps in Access to Finance

Activity 2.2.c.iv – Expand Micro Credit to Underserved Markets

Activity 2.2.g – Improve Borrower Readiness

Linking Entrepreneurs to Banks

In November of 2012, the Central Bank announced a \$7.5 M Agriculture Loan Facility to stimulate low cost borrowing in the agriculture sector (interest rates are capped at 8%). The facility was given to Afriland Bank to be portioned out between the sectors of rubber, cocoa and palm oil and 'other' (USAID FED value chains). At the same time and as a result of the ED teams' business plan mentorship training in Q1 and the HANDS buyer/supplier meetings in Q2 (see below), some businesses were identified that have business plans and may be eligible for loans to begin medium-scale cassava processing facilities. The ED team advised and assisted one such entrepreneur, Tarlo Mixed Farms, to improve his business plan in order to apply for a \$30K loan from Afriland Bank.

Financial Services Consultant

From March 13 to 29, consultant Mary Miller was in country to continue assessment of the Access to Finance environment and USAID FED plan as well as to mentor the ED team in ongoing and future activities. Along with the Access to Finance Officer, Mary met with the Central Bank, Afriland First Bank, United Bank of Africa, IBEX, SHOPS, IFC, LCUNA, UN Women and the Feed the Future Advisor, Timothy Ntanda. She ultimately recommended that USAID FED focus their efforts on the VLSA program and work with banks such as Afriland First Bank and United Bank of Africa who have prior experience and interest in agriculture lending. Neither of these banks have the DCA guarantee. Mary will continue to

assist the project with further analysis of the DCA bank admission process and analysis of supporting LEAD, a local MFI engaged in agro lending. She also recommended sharing of technical information relating to FED's value chains to these banks so they gain familiarity and will hopefully be encouraged to pilot financing products for these value chains.

Activity 2.2.e – Village Savings and Loan

VSLA RFPs

Throughout February and March, the ED team, along with Mary Miller held meetings with CARE, UN Women, the Central Bank, and LAUNCH to discuss VSLA program options for the USAID FED project. In March, the ED team decided on a final design for the program and will release an RFP to find business service providers to conduct training for ED staff and beneficiaries. It is expected that the VSLA training will begin roll-out in July and will last for 12 months through the groups' first payout.

Task 2.3 Use of ICTs in Stimulating Liberian Agri-business

Radio Specialists

In January, two Radio Specialists were hired to support the Communications, Component 1 and Component 2 teams with all activities concerning the use of radio. The specialists will concentrate on producing scripts, programs and other outputs to share agriculture best practices, promote agribusiness and enterprise development, and increase the visibility of USAID FED's activities and accomplishments in Liberia through radio and other media. Programs will target farmers, agri-businesses, and other stakeholders within the USAID FED value chains and six counties.

Activity 2.3.c. Knowledge Generation and Support on Market Information Systems

Judy Payne and Jill Shemin (USAID ICT Specialists) were in Liberia from March 4 to March 15 to work with Jaclyn Carlsen (ICT Specialist) on an assessment of the viability of the effective use of Market Information System models in Liberia. During their trip, Jill and Judy traveled to Grand Bassa to visit markets and with farmers. They gave a final presentation of their findings on March 13. Based on their recommendations we are looking to move FED's ICT activities to those that can directly improve production and address enterprise needs.

Activity 2.3.j. Low-cost Video Workshop

From March 25 - April 3, Josh Woodard (USAID FACET) worked with USAID FED to build staff skills in using video in community training sessions and USAID FED activities. Josh previously (December 2012) conducted a workshop in low-cost video production among FED staff and partners to improve agricultural outcomes. USAID FACET has covered Josh's LOE, transportation and lodging. Josh has been paired with FED staff Boone Harris (video dissemination), Anthony Sayeh (video production), and Victor Davis (video production) to build local staff capacity. Jaclyn Carlsen (ICT Specialist) was responsible for ensuring that STTA activities meet FED's objectives and for developing strategy for FED's use of video with partners after Josh's departure. Josh's primary activities with FED: 1) skill building of Communications team in story creation and video production; 2) reconnaissance and fact-finding at BWI for creation of video and visual media strategy; 3) training of Component 3 team member in video dissemination and facilitation strategies; and 4) workshop with USAID FED Grand Bassa community office on video dissemination and facilitation strategies

Task 2.4 Enabling the Policy Environment for Private Sector Growth

Activity 2.4.1: Promoting women's access to land and secure land tenure rights

Activity 2.4.2: Local tenure arrangements and community organizations

From February 25 to March 15, Dr. Stephen Lawry, DAI manager for land tenure and property rights programs conducted an assessment of land tenure and smallholder agriculture in Monrovia and its peri-urban areas. The purpose of the assessment was to understand how tenure arrangements affect access to land for intensive agriculture in the Monrovia peri-urban region, to examine land access and tenure security in areas of private deeded land and areas under customary tenure, to pay particular attention to how questions of land access and tenure security affect women farmers and to make recommendations to USAID FED and to GoL for promoting greater tenure security. Dr. Lawry held discussions with USAID FED and NGO staff familiar with land tenure, agriculture and urban change in the Monrovia peri-urban area, reviewed selected studies on agriculture in Monrovia's peri-urban areas, and gathered data through interviews with farmers and farm owners at three study sites in Montserrado and Margibi counties. Detailed finding and recommendations can be found in Dr. Lawry's final presentation. However, it was determined that while land tenure remains a major issue for all farmers (not just women), USAID FED beneficiaries are able to find short-term solutions that grant them access to land for agriculture use. As these farmers realize increased gains from USAID FED interventions, farmers will be in a better position to negotiate and obtain increased access to land.

Future Enterprise Development Activities:

- Financial Management training conducted by AEDE will continue in April for two additional groups;
- A final bidder's conference will held in Lofa on April 9. Bids are due May 3.
- Rapid Market Assessments will be conducted April 8 – 11 and April 22-23 in Lofa and Grand Bassa. Ultimately ten groups will be identified.
- ED Assistants in the counties will continue to work with 4 groups in Bong, Nimba and Lofa that were part of the first Organizational Strengthening training to develop constitutions and by-laws.
- Eric Wailes, Rice Policy Expert (STTA) will be in country April 1 to 17 to work on updates to rice policy issues and data analysis concerning upland vs. lowland rice commercialization feasibility. A final presentation will take place April 16 at the USAID FED office.
- From April 15-12, USAID FED Radio Specialist will attend the FACET Radio training in Malawi that will train communication specialists on the use of interactive radio to improve agricultural extension services to enhance farming practices and support farmer livelihoods. The workshop will build upon successful practices from the field, and provide practical skills for project staff.
- Pace Management will meet with ED staff to present their experience and final report for Financial Management training conducted in Nimba and Lofa on April 22.
- An in-house Business Plan overview training will be provided to USAID FED interns by ED staff on April 16th and 17th in Bong.
- The draft FaaB curriculum developed by USAID FED and the LAUNCH project will be presented to MoA at the FED office in Monrovia on April 15 with the anticipation of a more in depth validation exercise to take place at a later date; pilot testing of curriculum will take place in late May to early June; a TOT for FED staff will take place in late May and for selected BSPs in late June.
- The Village Savings and Loan Association TOT and Training RFPs will be released week of April 22.

- The Cassava Value Chain Study RFP, in partnership with the EU and ZOA will be released by April 22; the target date for study to begin is beginning of June.
- Beverly Ott, Consultant, Co-founder ECHOPPE and Consultant, US Department of State, African Regional Services will be conducting a one-day seminar on April 22- 23 in Bong County with 60 women from Palala Rural Women and War Affected Women. Beverly will also participate as a panel speaker at the MoCI Conference on April 25.
- The MoCI MSME Conference will take place in Monrovia from April 24 to 26. FED has invited 44 farming organizations and SMEs to participate. A special break-out session concerning agricultural policies will be held at the conference on April 25, from 2:30- 5pm.
- A site visit to the HANDS processing facility in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh will be held on April 19 with five USAID FED staff and 19 cassava processors from Bong and Nimba counties.
- Agri-Impact (PO) will arrive in country April 27. The two consultants will be conducting Value Chain Training and competitiveness consultancy for FED staff between April 29 and May 7.
- Rob Black, Crop Protection Chemical expert (STTA) arrives April 25 and leaves May 5. He will be participating as a speaker in the agriculture break-out session at the MoCI conference on April 25.
- A backward mapping exercise with large buyers will be performed by the ED marketing team from April 22 through May 30 to help quantify demand and quality standards of large commercial buyers and concessioners in Liberia for vegetables and cassava products.
- Organizational Strengthening training will continue with Rights & Rice in Bong, Nimba and Grand Bassa for six farming groups (160 persons, 70 male, 90 female) from April 27 through June 25.
- Marcia Odell, Gender Advisor from PLAN (PO) will be in Liberia May 13 through May 31 to develop gender sensitive curriculum and consult with USAID FED staff on gender mainstreaming.

COMPONENT THREE: BUILD LOCAL HUMAN CAPACITY

Booker Washington Institution (BWI)

Booker Washington Institution (BWI) is one of the nation's higher vocational institutes that have been providing capacity building for the past 30 past years and it is situated in Kakata, Margibi County, Liberia.

During this quarter, USAID's FED provided VSAT internet connection and computers to enhance the ability of the Department of Agriculture and the BWI Administration Operations. BWI has had two major setbacks this quarter which led to damage to the Satellite dish by vandals and the main electrical source generator failed for more than five weeks. These conditions have put BWI at a disadvantage to make full use of FED's provision of internet. Currently BWI is taking steps to provide measures to secure the equipment.

Nimba County Community College (NCCC)

Based on the project commitment to Nimba County Community College, USAID's FED has entered into a MoU to provide information resources to enhance the learning and operation activities at the institution. This MoU is expected to be finalized during the next quarter. As a result of this, USAID's FED will provide computers and internet connection to enhance the institution's operations.

The institution and FED have embarked on the establishment of rice farming demonstration site to use fish as a fertilizer and insect population deterrent. A request for proposals (RFP) has gone out and a second MoU has been drafted and when finalized the activity will begin.

Grand Bassa Community College (GBCC)

The department of agriculture at the Grand Bassa Community College (GBCC) has been very involved with USAID's FED and the Ministry of Education's Bureau of Science, Technical, Vocational and Special Education (BSTVSE) introduction of a National Diploma in Agriculture. Currently GBCC is building a new campus and this new campus will receive the same assistance as BWI and NCCC when it is nearing completion. The institution anticipates the occupation and startup of classes at the new site hopefully in September 2013.



Insect and Shade Protection at BWI Drip Irrigation Demonstration Site

Lofa County Community College (LCCC)

Lofa County Community College (LCCC) is in Voinjama and it started classes this academic year. The creation of Center of Excellence by USAID's FED will begin when negotiations in Year Three are finalized. Presently, agriculture instructors at the institution do attend all relevant USAID's FED trainings.

Internship Program

On the 8th February 2013, the second phase of the internship program was launched at the University of Liberia Library with 170 students in attendance. Senior staffs and Deans of participating Universities and Technical vocational institutions graced the program and admonished students to make use of the internship opportunity they have been afforded. Participating institutions include: Grand Bassa Community College, Nimba County Community College, Booker Washington Institute, Cuttington Junior College, Cuttington University, University of Liberia, Stella Maris Polytechnic, and United Methodist University.

Interns recruited under the program were mainly business and agriculture students who were either senior students or recent graduates. Out of the 170 students recruited for the internship, 166 has been placed with 33 institutions in nine counties, six of them are USAID's FED target counties (Bong, Bassa, Lofa, Nimba, Margibi and Monsterrado). External counties include Gbarpolu, Cape Mount and Bomi. The interns are primarily placed with farm enterprises, business oriented agriculture projects, donor institutions, agro-dealers and banking institutions.

As the internship program is in its second month, preliminary monitoring has been conducted to ensure interns are well settled in and have been provided with the requisite logistics, support and SOWs. Mid-term evaluation forms have also been distributed to interns' supervisors in order to get feedback on their progress.



Drip Irrigation Demonstration at Booker Washington Institute

Integration with Other Components

Peri-urban Agriculture (PUA) – The demonstration sites for drip irrigation are finally been completed at USAID's FED Bong county office, CARI and Booker Washington Institute. These sites are 10 meters by 10 meters (100 square meters) and have various vegetables growing on them to demonstrate the technology. These sites are managed by interns hired by the project.

Green Coast Agriculture Program (GCAP) – GCAP is a school gardens program for elementary schools and the Kakata Rural Teacher Training Institute (KRTTI) adjacent to BWI campus. USAID's FED is providing a non- formal technical agriculture trainings and advisory services to the organization through its human resources capacity building interventions.

Dr. Howard Williams of DAI arrived on January 21st to conduct in-depth interviews at BWI and Lofa County Community College business and agriculture department instructor needs. His strategy involved interviewing the Principal, the institution administrator; the head of departments, instructors, student leaders, recently graduated students, the BWI Alumni association, and the Higher Education and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) offices of the Ministry of Education.

He wanted to find out what these various players in the educational system have to say about the perceived and real job readiness needs in Liberia. An overwhelming common theme emerged where

Liberians are left behind neighboring countries due to the 14 year war, the practical application of the various subjects is not happening, and technology to teach is still like it was thirty years ago. Stress was placed on the responsibility of stakeholders, BWI Alumni included, to be actively involved in providing the means for BWI to move forward.

Following a completed report the STTA, Dr. Williams will recommend places and make contacts in the West Africa region which will be able to provide practical training for key instructors focusing on the four value chains, rice, cassava, goats and vegetables. Dr. Williams recommend that instructors will be sent out for a period of up to eight weeks, will then return to practice what they learned, train others to do likewise, and then return the following year for further training in theoretical learning.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Performance Management Plan

During this reporting period, the Performance Management Plan (PMP) for Year 2 was completed and submitted to USAID. Corrections and revisions were made and the final version was resubmitted to management and USAID. The PIRS sheets were also updated, with revised targets included in the Performance Indicator Values tables.

Challenges with Indicator definitions

There were several meetings held with USAID's FTF staff since last quarter to clarify Indicator definitions and ensure that all USAID's FED activities are adequately accounted for in the Indicator Progress Reports. As a result of these discussions, several changes to values associated with various Indicators were made in the associated targets and results. One of the main changes was to no longer include farm households as private enterprises in the Indicator describing receiving assistance from USG sources. This change affected large number of goat households that had taken part in the Year 1 vaccination program. This change and others have been reflected in the Indicator Progress Report and PMP PIRS tables.

M&E Operations and Procedures Manual

The M&E team completed its Operations and Procedures Manual during the quarter. This is currently being used by the County M&E and other staff for guidance. The manual contains steps in the monitoring and data entry, survey forms, and general information on the Monitoring & Evaluation process.

Year 2 New Site Mapping

During this quarter of Year 2, we continued to work with our GIS officer to create maps for the new group sites within the Year 2 Value Chains activities. The process is ongoing and nearing completion. These maps have now been plotted on county and district levels. Site designations on the maps will be associated with activity data and information at those locations.

Surveys

a. Value Chain Surveys

The M&E team has initiated surveys of farmers/participants in Year 2 of USAID's FED program and farmers continuing from the Year 1 program. These surveys are intended to collect group and member information to initiate tracking activities as they are implemented. Similar member surveys are also underway for the other Value Chain activities – vegetables, goats and cassava. To date, we have completed 173 group membership information.

b. Production Surveys

In order to determine the inputs and outputs as part of the participant's farm household enterprises and other training provided by the Project to date, M&E team has initiated a series of surveys covering a sample of the participants for each Value Chain, which will continue during the course of the cropping seasons.

There will be an initial 'baseline' survey of the new farmers participating in the program, a survey in mid-season to capture inputs being used on their own household farm lands, and then an end of season harvest survey. These surveys will be based on a sample of participating farmers in each Value Chain, with the size of the sample based on the number of participants. For rice, the sample size will be about 2% (about 190 USAID's FED farmers) of the total participants (8427 farmers) in the groups. At the end of the rice season, a larger sample will be used for collecting harvest data from farmers participating in the demonstrations and on their own household farm lands. For goats, the sample percentage will increase due to the small total participating population. All of these surveys will include a control group of non-USAID's FED participants from the same villages in which the program is being implemented.

c. Follow-up Impact Surveys

During the quarter, the M&E team has initiated activity follow-up surveys to determine the learning and utilization curves for training and demonstration activities introduced by USAID's FED under various components. The enterprise development component has completed the implementation of several training, demonstration and workshop activities, such as Organizational Development, Financial Management, Food Processing and Ministry of Commerce registration procedures for businesses and community organizations. A follow-up survey was conducted to determine what the participants have done with the information learned in these activities.

- i. Results from the survey show that the Organizational Development Training which aimed at consolidating the organization and strengthening the leadership and governance structures of the Moncray Town Farmer Group (Grand Bassa County) was successful. Members from the group had fresh memories of the training and showed indications of progress in the action points the group had outlined after the training. Also, as a result of the training, the total group membership has increased, from 25 to 50, with female representation at 85%. Annie Gongar, the Chairlady of this Group, is quoted as saying *"our group getting bigger and stronger; see how the last time we sat down right here and drafted our own bylaws that the members will live by to pay their due and what time for us to meet."*
- ii. During another monitoring visit after the Financial Management Training was held for farmers of the Kpelleh Town Farmer Group (Grand Bassa County). Henry Charlie, a member of that group said, *"knowledge gained from training enable them choose a team is that responsible for handling their financial matters, opening an account and others so we coming start keeping our money. By this same time next year we will be able to buy one small truck to carry our rice to sell it in Buchanan City."*

d. Other Surveys

During this reporting period, the vegetable seedling production activity and the follow-on sales to vegetable producers are in process of being surveyed to better understand the cost and benefits of this

initiative. This program included 17 seedling producers in the first phase and 12 in the second phase. The surveys expected to be completed during the next quarter.

Outstanding surveys for the next quarter include: the post-harvest demonstrations for the drying and parboiling of rice to reduce losses, and the input voucher program that is being established to encourage farmers to purchase and use more inputs on their own household farm lands.

In conjunction with the Environmental compliance team, it is recommended that all regular site visit monitoring forms be completed along with the EMMP Environment check list.

Mobile data phones

The usage of mobile devices continues to be integrated into the M&E system, building on previous surveys that were conducted using the devices. In Q2 2013, the GIS officer traveled to county offices to provide more intensive training for county M&E staff on the usage of the devices and how to enter and send data. At present, there are two mobile devices in each county for the M&E staff to use for data collection.

TAMIS and survey forms

The Indicator monitoring survey forms were updated and revised. They are in the process of being reentered into the TAMIS system. Once all the parts to the system are in place, data entry and retrieval will be greatly facilitated. Links between the field monitoring survey forms, the disaggregation tables, the Indicator Progress Report and the PMP PIRS tables will be established in TAMIS.

Indicator Progress Report

- a. The Indicator Progress Report Y2 Q2 final (Attachment 1: Quarterly Indicator Progress Report) reflects data results against targets by quarter for the first 2 quarters of the FED Year 2 Work Plan. Eight out of 20 Indicators have produced data results in this quarter, reflecting the late completion of the Work Plan and the subsequent late implementation of activities. The results data are broken down by County and Value Chain/Component (Attachment 2: Indicator Progress Report by VC/Component and County) and by gender (Attachment 3: Indicator Totals by VC/Component for Male, Female - Yr 2 Q 2) in the attached tables. The most significant activities reflected in the results are the numbers associated with trainings. Training is an early initial Work Plan activity which is then followed by implementation and application among the participants. Those application numbers will begin to appear in the next Indicator Progress Report Indicator results calculations

Two calculations based on the rice harvest survey and another survey of farmers who participated in the demonstration groups provided results for the Gross Margin calculation in Indicator 1A and the Value of Sales at the farm gate in Indicator 2A. The Gross Margin was calculated at US\$922.00 per household, based on a sample of 26 farmers participating in the USAID's FED Year 1 program. However, these farmers had not yet incorporated many of the project's new technologies introduced into their rice production. Data for Year 2 will reflect better on the incorporation of these technologies in farmer's fields.

The Value of Sales calculation was based on information received from 71 farmers that participated in the Year 1 demonstrations. Based on an average estimate of selling 15% of the production, the average value of sales is estimated at US\$128.00 per farm household. This figure could be on the high

side due to some of the earlier mentioned issues with the overall rice survey and the possibility that the estimates of sales volume could be high as well. Year 2 data will better reflect the reality on farm household activities as the monitoring system is better positioned to capture on-farm data.

b. Rice demonstration results

The report on the rice harvest from the Year 1 demonstration sites was completed during the quarter. The yield results from the sampled demonstration fields indicated a yield per hectare of 2.6 mt. The survey encountered some sampling issues which make this number somewhat suspect, on the high side. Ongoing surveys scheduled for Year 2 will correct these sampling issues.

M&E Staffing

The decision was taken to increase the number of staff at the county level after reviewing the Indicator data requirements, the increased number of Value Chain sites (64 in Year 1 to 355 in Year 2), the number of surveys to be undertaken, and indications of special studies that may be required to better measure the impact of USAIDs' FED activities. This resulted in hiring 2 additional staff for each County – one additional M&E Coordinator (the field position) and one M&E Assistant for Data Entry. In addition, one M&E Assistant for Data Entry was hired for the Monrovia office. These additional staff will allow M&E to conduct most Value Chain surveys in-house and engage in additional special surveys and studies mentioned above.

Activities for next Quarter

The M&E team will work to build on the momentum of the system that is being put in place to direct the activities for monitoring the progress of project activities.

The mapping of activity locations and inserting pop-ups to display information of individual activities will be completed.

M&E will also work with the Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders to improve the joint monitoring of activities and to build the capacity of local Ministry Staff in monitoring and evaluation.

Market Development Fund (MDF) January 1, 2013 – March 31, 2013

MDF Disbursements

During quarter 2 of fiscal year 2013, the Market Development Fund (MDF) expended _____ on twenty four MDF activities across FED's three components. Please reference MDF Table #1 for a breakdown of these activities and disbursements and MDF Graph #1 has the expenses broken down by FY 2013 Q2 monthly expenditures in MDF.

MDF Commitments

During Quarter 2 MDF activity planning ramped up in preparation for the 2013 rainy season in Liberia. The MDF technical committee reviewed and approved nineteen (19) activities under CLIN01, ten (10) activities under CLIN02, four (4) activities under CLIN03, and one (1) under CLIN04 (Cross-cutting activities), which total _____. Please reference MDF Table #2 for a list of on-going and future MDF activities that were reviewed and approved in FY2013 Q2. The procurements for the activities listed in Table #2 are currently on-going or will take place during Q3 of FY 2013 into Q4 2013.

MDF Table I - MDF Activity Disbursements Q2 FY 2013			
CLIN	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	FY 2013 Q2 Disbursement
CLIN 01	CLIN01-MDF-0001	Rice Production and Processing Demonstration	
	CLIN01-MDF-0011	Arjay Farms Outgrower Expansion	
	CLIN01-MDF-0015	Soy Flour Compost Distribution	
	CLIN01-MDF-0017	Nimba County Community Goat Pass-on Scheme.	
	CLIN01-MDF-0024	Vegetable seedling production and sales	
	CLIN01-MDF-0032	Training in treadle pump manufacturing and tube well installation	
	CLIN01-MDF-0033	Peri Urban Agriculture 2013 Dry Season	
	CLIN01-MDF-0034	Vegetable and Cassava Processing	
	CLIN01-MDF-0051	Goat Herd Management, Shelter and Fencing Training	
	CLIN01-MDF-0055	Support to the National Conference "Enhancing Urban and Peri Urban Agriculture for Sustainable Livelihoods in Liberia"	
CLIN01-TRN-0064	Training Of Trainers in Intensive Rice Production		
CLIN01-MDF Total			
CLIN	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	FY 2013 Q2 Disbursement
CLIN 02	CLIN02-MDF-0009	New Generational Women/AEDE/Chevron	
	CLIN02-TRN-0015	Pilot Youth Business Plan Competition for Institutions	
	CLIN02-TRN-0018	Organization Strengthening	
	CLIN02-TRN-0021	Second Organization Strengthening Training	
	CLIN02-TRN-0023	Financial Management Training	
	CLIN02-MDF-0025	HANDS Supplier/Buyer Meeting	
	CLIN02-MDF-0026	Needs and Skills Assessment for Community Radio Journalists	
CLIN02-MDF Total			
CLIN	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	FY 2013 Q2 Disbursement
CLIN 03	CLIN03-MDF-0001	Agro-Business Internship Program 2012	
	CLIN03-MDF-0004	Booker T. Washington Institute (BWI): Building a Center of Excellence	
	CLIN03-MDF-0005	Food Processing and Preservation Project (COSEO)	
	CLIN03-MDF-0012	National Diploma Curriculum in Agriculture for Post-Secondary Education in Liberia	
	CLIN03-TRN-0013	STTA , Dr. activities at BWI and two community colleges	
	CLIN03-MDF-0014	Agri-business Internship 2013	
CLIN03-MDF Total			
FY 2013 Q2 Disbursement TOTAL			

MDF Table #2 - MDF Activities Approved/On-going FY 2013 Q2

CLIN #	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	MDF Proposed Activity Budget
CLIN 01	CLIN01-MDF-0017	Nimba County Community Goat Pass-on Scheme.	
	CLIN01-MDF-0041	Establishment of demonstration plots and intensified rice production in Montserrado County	
	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-0057	Community Outreach Interactive Forums in 6 Counties	
	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-TRN-0064	NGO Selection and Training Of Trainers for 2013 Intensive Rice Production	
	CLIN01-MDF-0065	Rice Farmer Household Survey	
	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-0073	Establishment of demo sites and intensified cassava production in Margibi County	

	CLIN01-MDF-0075	Information Technology Assistance to Agriculture Coordinating Committee Meeting of the Ministry of Agriculture	
CLIN 01 MDF Proposed Activity Budget Total			
CLIN #	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	MDF Proposed Activity Budget
CLIN 02	CLIN02-MDF-0009	New Generational Women/AEDE/Chevron	
	CLIN02-MDF-0016	Cassava Market Study	
	CLIN02-MDF-0020	MSME Conference 2013	
	CLIN02-TRN-0021	Second Organization Strengthening Training	
	CLIN02-TRN-0023	Financial Management Training	
	CLIN02-MDF-0024	Value Chain Consultancy	
	CLIN02-MDF-0025	HANDS Supplier/Buyer Meeting	
	CLIN02-MDF-0026	Needs and Skills Assessment for Community Radio Journalists	
	CLIN02-TRN-0027	Low-cost video for agriculture: Dissemination Workshop and Practice	
	CLIN02-MDF-0028	Cassava processors training visit to HANDS processing center in Zwedru	
CLIN 02 MDF Proposed Activity Budget Total			
CLIN #	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	MDF Proposed Activity Budget
CLIN 03	CLIN03-MDF-0012	National Diploma Curriculum in Agriculture for Post Secondary Education in Liberia	
	CLIN03-TRN-0013	STTA, Dr Motsenbocker, activities at BWI and two community colleges	
	CLIN03-MDF-0014	Agri-business Internship 2013	
	CLIN03-TRN-0016	Soil Testing Kit Training	
CLIN 03 MDF Proposed Activity Budget Total			
CLIN #	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	MDF Proposed Activity Budget
CLIN 04	CLIN04-MDF-0001	Environmental Compliance Training	
CLIN 02 MDF Proposed Activity Budget Total			
MDF Activities Approved/On-going Proposed Budget TOTAL			

FED STTA/LTTA January – March 2013

Name	Position	Partner	Dates	Summary
Technical STTA				
Agatha Johnson	SME Training Specialist	DAI	November-January 2013	SME training to C2 identified firms and oversight of the youth business plan competition
Dr. Howard Williams	Workforce Development Advisor	DAI	January 19-February 1, 2013	Support to C3 to assess teacher training needs and identify potential regional training courses to bolster their skills
Alia Afshar-Gandhi	Program Manager	DAI	January 19-February 1, 2013	Management visit. Support to MDF and all program component teams to ensure smooth program implementation.
Tony Babb	Sr. Rice Value Chain Advisor	DAI	January 17 through March 2013	Support to the rice value chain, with a specific focus on rice cooperative development.
Patrick Hall	Environmental Compliance Advisor	Cadmus	January 13-January 27, 2013	Oversight and support to Environmental Compliance Officer
Carl Motsenbocker	LSU Program Manager	LSU	January 27 through February 8, 2013	Support to C3 team and also the PUA program
Alison Gardner	Nutrition Specialist	DAI	February 14 through March 16, 2013	Conduct FED's NAGA and debrief FED team and USAID Mission
Kathleen Kurz	Sr. Nutrition Specialist	DAI	February 6 through March 3, 2013	Conduct FED's NAGA and debrief FED team and USAID Mission
Jacki Carlsen	ICT Advisor	DAI	February 23 through April 13, 2013	ICT support to FED
Rachel Wade	Communications Specialist	DAI	February 15 through July 2013	Communications support to FED Comms team
Margaret Orwig	Knowledge Management/Radio Outreach Advisor	DAI	February 15, 2013 through March 15, 2013	Branding/marketing, report writing, Knowledge management, and radio programming support to Comms team
Steven Lawry	Land Tenure Advisor	DAI	February 25 through March 16, 2013	Land tenure study on women's role in land tenure
Agatha Johnson	SME Training Specialist	DAI	November-March 2013	SME training to C2 identified firms and oversight of the youth business plan competition

Alison Gardner	Nutrition Specialist	DAI	February 14 through March 16, 2013	Conduct FED's NAGA and debrief FED team and USAID Mission
Kathleen Kurz	Sr. Nutrition Specialist	DAI	February 6 through March 3, 2013	Conduct FED's NAGA and debrief FED team and USAID Mission
Jacki Carlsen	ICT Advisor	DAI	February 23 through April 13, 2013	ICT support to FED
Rachel Wade	Communications Specialist	DAI	February 15 through July 2013	Communications support to FED Comms team
Margaret Orwig	Knowledge Management/Radio Outreach Advisor	DAI	February 15, 2013 through March 15, 2013	Branding/marketing, report writing, Knowledge management, and radio programming support to Comms team
Steven Lawry	Land Tenure Advisor	DAI	February 25 through March 19, 2013	Land tenure study on women's role in land tenure
Agatha Johnson	SME Training Specialist	DAI	November-March 2013	SME training to C2 identified firms and oversight of the youth business plan competition
Carl Motsenbocker	LSU Program Manager	LSU	January 27 through February 8, 2013	Support to C3 team and also the PUA program
Charles Weschler	Operations Specialist	DAI	March 3 - March 26	Oversee finance and operations of FED while DCOP is on leave
Dermot Cassidy	Peri-Urban Agriculture Specialist	DAI		To support the development and commercialization of high value vegetable crops produced primarily by smallholder farmers in the hinterland of Monrovia and certain secondary towns in the FED target area in Liberia.
Brian Kiger	Voucher Specialist	IFDC	March 13-29	Improving Access to Quality Inputs; and Testing and Introduction of New Technologies through an improved extension training system in the target areas.
Bidjokazo Fofana	ISFM and UDP Specialist	IFDC	March 18-30, 2013	Provide technical support for the implementation of ISFM and UDP best practices.
Constant Dangbegnon	NRM Extension Advisor STTA	IFDC	January-September 2013	Improving Access to Quality Inputs; Testing and Introduction of New Technologies through an improved extension training system in the target areas.

Dr. Eric Wailes	Rice Policy Advisor	DAI	March 31 to June 6, 2013	Aim to follow up on the Liberia rice sector gap analysis to identify policy challenges and means of overcoming those challenges.
Doe Adovor	Extension Materails and Training Specalist	DAI	March 18 to April 8, 2013	Finalize extension materials.
Dr. James Correll	Peri-urban Vegetables Plant Pathologist	LSU	March 30- April 17, 2013	Work with Dermot Cassidy, the Peri-Urban Agriculture (PUA) Specialist, in development of a crop protection manual for peri-urban agriculture in Liberia.
Dr. Edward Rhodes	Soil Fertility Specialist	LSU	March 15 – April 17	work with the Vocational Training and Non-Formal Education Specialist to contribute to the development of a soil and soil management curriculum for the Ministry of Education’s Bureau of Science, Technical Vocational and Special Education’s TVET initiative (National Diploma in Agriculture), for adoption and use in the vocational agriculture colleges and BWI. He will also work with Boima Engineering Laboratories to train community college instructors in soil testing kit analyses, and County Coordinators and their extension staff to best understand and apply soil test kits analyses and with the FED team on soil fertility management.
Patrick Hall	Environmental Compliance Specialist	DAI	March 18-25	support FED Environmental Compliance and Environmental Training and Capacity Building activities
Dr. Rama Rao Vellanki	Postharvest Specialist for Rice	DAI	March- April 28, 2013	Work with the FED team and the Ministry of Agriculture toward the goals of minimizing postharvest losses and of providing high quality clean rice to the market
Mary Miller	Finance Specialist	DAI	March 14-29, 2013	Work diectly with enterprise development to strengthen staff capacity in mediatign how farers can have access to finance at all levels.

Project Management and Administration

Administration and Logistics

During the quarter, we continued to provide effective administration and logistical support to both the program and staff, while assuring contract compliance. Highlights of the quarter include:

Staff Recruitment, LTTA:

- Agnes Luz started in January as the Deputy Chief of Party, Technical
- **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)** – Four M&E Officers were recruited for Montserrado, Bong, Nimba, and Grand Bassa counties and two M&E Coordinators were also recruited for Grand Bassa and Nimba counties;
- **Component One** – One Soil Technician for Monrovia office, one Agriculture Technician Officer, and six Community Based Input Supply Officers for Bong, Lofa, Nimba, and Grand Bassa counties were recruited. Also, two Community Program Officers for Monrovia were hired;
- **Component Two** – One Access to Finance Officer, Marketing Officer, and Market Linkage Officer was hired for the Monrovia office;
- **Component Three** – Two Internship Institutional Outreach Officers were recruited;
- **Administrative Support** – A caretaker/Officer Assistant and an IT Assistant were recruited for the Monrovia office.

Short Term Contractors:

- Amel D. Eastman- Intern/Drip Irrigation
- Kolobalee Juku- Garden Maintenance
- Randolph P. Kolleh- Intern/Drip Irrigation
- Anthony Sayeh- Communication Assistant
- Victor Z. Davis - Communication Assistant

Ongoing Recruitment:

- Recruitment is currently ongoing for the following positions
 - i) Goat Value Chain
 - ii) Vocational Agriculture Educational Officers
 - iii) Program Training Assistant
 - iv) Nutritionist

Other activities:

- Ethics Training
- Performance Management Plan
- Recruitment Plan