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USAID'S FOOD AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR LIBERIA (FED)

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COVER PHOTO: Farmer harvesting at Johnsonville/Bardnersville Peri Urban Vegetable Site.

DISCLAIMER

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ACRONYM

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

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

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Geographic Reach of USAID's Food and Enterprise Development Program for Liberia



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 a range of agricultural stakeholders to adopt commercial approaches.

This incentive structure is 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 works with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the private sector to link communities to agricultural inputs (including improved seeds), extension services, nutritious food products, processing services, market information, transportation, credit, as well as appropriate education, training, and enterprise services.

Over the life of the five-year FED program, expanded market linkages will lead to substantial income and job growth along with major increases 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 and access 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 increased incomes for rural households, new employment opportunities for Liberians, expanded access to food and improved household dietary diversity scores for food-insecure Liberians, in addition to the adoption of improved inputs, farming practices, and technologies which boost agricultural productivity.

FED is implemented by five partners including: Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), Winrock International, International Fertilizer Developmental Center (IFDC), Louisiana State University and CADMUS.

Executive Summary

Between April-June activity across FED's four value chains: rice, cassava, peri-urban vegetables, and goats ramped up throughout the six counties of operation; Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Margibi and Montserrado.

This quarter FED continued to work closely with 117 rice farmer groups representing 8,278 farmers on 2,328 ha of demonstration areas. Eighty lead farmers participated in a rice seed production workshop to learn methods and best practices for new rice seed production on 20 acres. Improved mechanization is in place at a number of these rice sites with seven power tillers having been distributed to increase productivity. Eighty one beneficiaries were trained in key post-harvest techniques such as: rat guards, drying floors, parboiling tanks, training was provided in fabrication and installation.

In the cassava value chain, significant improvements have been made in the identification and training of 121 cassava groups representing 5,976 farmers working on a total land demonstration area of 511 hectares. A total of 1,611 bundles of disease free cassava cuttings were procured and distributed during this period.

This quarter more than 50% of the lead goat farmers fully completed their sites with shelters, water supplies, fencing, and were trained in post-partum care methods. The remaining 50% will be completed by the end of Q4.

Market linkage events were held in June (in Nimba and Grand Bassa) where 150 farmers, aggregators, transporters and caterers participated in the event and were informed about the ArcelorMittal market opportunity. FED in collaboration with Building Markets, organized the event aimed at enabling producers and aggregators to supply locally produced agricultural products for the steel mining company's catering services throughout Liberia.

Component Three saw the graduation of 164 interns from eight different educational institutions from the agri-business internships after they gained life changing work experience with 46 different public and private sector organizations.

ACHIEVEMENTS

April – June 2013

- 164 business and agriculture interns graduated having life-changing work experience with 33 organizations.
- 150 lead farmers gain access to the larger market at the first agribusiness matchmaking events ever to take place in Liberia.
- 2000 young people are benefitting from the 'Back to the School Garden' pilot competition. Getting young people engaged in agricultural best practices.
- 164 women trained on food processing and preservation skills, these women are now starting their own businesses and will continue to be given FED advice and support.
- 576 hundred textbooks were distributed to four educational institutions
- 20 UDP demonstration sites completed.
- 20 extension manuals and brochures were prepared and produced by FED; and are now being used as guide in training farmers.

Five hundred and seventy six textbooks have now been distributed to community colleges throughout FED's counties of operation. These textbooks will greatly enhance students and academic instructors access to agricultural and business academic resources.

COMPONENT ONE: INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

Task 1.1 Input Supply System Interventions

Activity 1.1b: Agro-Dealer Capacity Strengthening

FED community based facilitators conducted evaluation of capacity development needs of 12 agro-input suppliers in two counties, Nimba and Bong. These 12 small agro-input suppliers will participate in a specialized FED workshop planned for August to strengthen business and marketing skills, and to help them expand their inputs supply businesses to meet farmer needs in rice and vegetable production.

A MOU between Wienco and FED has been finalized in support of strengthening linkages between farmer producers and agro-inputs dealers. FED and Wienco intend to focus joint activities for expansion of the Wienco Liberia Ltd network of local/rural area based agro-input dealers based in FED's core counties from six to at least 15 who are actively involved in selling agro-inputs to farmers, with the objective of increasing rice, cassava, and vegetables productivity. Joint activities will include selection, training, support in establishing agro-inputs sales points in rural areas of FED Counties. FED will provide a "smart subsidy" to encourage farmers to use agro-inputs through a voucher program, and also carry out training and capacity building support to agro-dealers. Wienco will support agro-dealers with startup capital as credit and inventory on consignment. Both parties will provide extension support to agro-dealers and farmers for the proper handling, use, storage, and disposal of authorized agro-inputs.

Activity 1.1c: Input Vouchers

FED's Enterprise Development Officer traveled to Nimba and Bong on May 27 to meet with selected voucher program farmer association recipients, and to assess their capacity to cost share products such as fertilizer, seed, and tools that are planned to be included in the voucher program. The pilot voucher program is planned to be implemented in August 2013 in Bong and Nimba Counties for the vegetable planting season.

This activity encourages farmers to invest in input supply through absorption of some of the risks through a discounted price for agricultural inputs while promoting long term linkages between farmers and input supply dealers.

The pilot activity will target up to 1,000 FED farmers organized in six associations: Doumpa, Payee and Menlekoyee in Nimba County, and Palala and Kokoya and Dokodan in Bong county. These farmers belong to FED's 128 rice groups and have a basic understanding of rice farming practices.

Mr. Larry Tweed, IFDC STTA supporting input supply activities, arrived in Liberia on June 12 for a two month assignment. He met with prospective farmer groups, agro-dealers and FED field agents in Nimba and Bong on June 18-21st. The main takeaways from this visit are: 1) Farmers are already buying tools and seeds at cost. 2) Most farmers are aware of fertilizers benefits and would be willing to pay for NPK fertilizer but desire training on application and urea use. 3) Groups often hire private pesticide sprayer service providers. 4) Nearly all farmers have voter registration ID cards. 5) Less than 50% of farmers have cell phones.

Activity 1.1d: Improved Appropriate Technologies

UDP and ISFM

Soil samples were collected from 20 sites selected for UDP demonstration in Bong, Nimba, and Lofa, and eight ISFM demonstration sites in Bong. The soil analysis was carried out using the La Motte Soils Test Kit provided by FED to Boima Engineering. The soil analysis results on N-P-K and PH were sent to FED in April 2013. All of the samples were taken from lowland areas, which were planned for rice production. The pH levels were between 5 and 5.5; 11 samples demonstrated low readings for Nitrogen, Phosphorous, and Potassium elements. Dr. Anwer, a USAID consultant, provided specific recommendations on fertilizer application based on the results of the analysis. Samples collected showed clayey soils, suitable for UDP applications.

UDP Briquette Demonstrations

Urea briquettes production was demonstrated on May 25 and May 31 at Gro-Green retail agricultural supply store in Monrovia. Gro-Green, represented by Adham Zayour, is the sole manufacturer of Urea briquettes in Liberia and will be supplying the urea briquettes for use in the UDP field trials. Gro-green invested more than \$9,000 in private sector funds for the purchase and operation of the briquette manufacturing machine.

Attending the demonstrations for FED was Gonyeyee Bartuah (Rice Value Chain Specialist), Boima Bafaie (DCOP Technical), Moses Brown (ED Team Radio Specialist), David Benafel (Component One Lead). Journalists from several newspapers were also present. One metric ton of urea briquettes have been already been manufactured by Gro-Green. The urea fertilizer was supplied by Wienco Agro Inputs, a FED private sector partner.

Fig. 1



UDP Fertilizer Field Application Demonstrations

Cost-effective methodology of fertilizer application that leads to higher benefit-to-cost ratio will be demonstrated starting on July 3rd at the Kobakeh United Farmers and the Kahenjalah

Farmers Association rice production sites in Lofa County. In preparation for the UDP demonstrations on 20 sites located in Lofa, Nimba, and Bong counties, farmer groups have constructed or repaired 450 meters of head dikes, 1,800 meters of peripheral bunds and main drains, and 2,400 meters of bund walls. A total of 14 sites completed transplanting during the period.

The table below shows the status of implementation of this innovative capacity building activities among Category A rice lowland sites.

Fig.2



Table 1

Bong Sites	Community/Location	Transplanting date	Status of transplanting	UDP Application date
Willing Women	Totota	6/28/2013	Completed	7/12/2013
Welekemah	Doetin-Ta	6/14/2013	Completed	7/5/2013
Kwepegei Development Association	Garmu	7/1/2013	Completed	7/15/2013
Kukatono	Gbarngasiaquleh	6/28/2013	Completed	7/12/2013
Palala Self Help Project	Palala	6/14/2013	Completed	7/5/2013
Kwepegei	Gwenimah	6/21/2013	Completed	7/5/2013
Kokoyah Rural Women	Bellemu	6/28/2013	Completed	7/12/2013
Palala Rural Women	Palala	6/21/2013	Completed	7/5/2013
Kponmah #2	Jorwuah	7/1/2013	Ongoing	7/15/2013
Yala Kponmah	Garmu	7/15/2013	Ongoing	7/22/2013
Fuamah District Multiple Purpose Cooperative	Bong Mine	7/15/2013	Ongoing	7/22/2013
Lofa Sites				
Kobakeh United Farmers	Kugbemai	6/10/2013	Completed	7/3/2013
Bayer Farmers Association	Sardu Parsia	7/3/2013	Ongoing	7/14/2013
Menleyan Farmers Association	Sakonedu	6/27/2013	Completed	7/8/2013
Kahenjalah Farmers Association	Kolahun	6/12/2013	Completed	7/3/2013
Nimba Sites				
Taykwadoe	Tayee	7/2/2013	Ongoing	7/12/2013
Payee Kolakeh	Payee	6/26/2013	Completed	7/10/2013
Nimba County Community College	Sanniquellie	6/13/2013	Completed	7/8/2013
From God to Man	Doumpa	6/26/2013	Completed	7/10/2013
Dokodan Farmers Cooperative	Gbeindin Camp 3	6/13/2013	Completed	7/8/2013

Activity 1.1e Agricultural Extension and Curriculum Development Support

Extension manuals and brochures were completed by Extension Manual Specialist, Doe Adovor. in collaboration with PUA Specialist, Dermot Cassidy, and STTA Jim Correll. Validation workshop was held at which, Dr. Sizi Subah, Deputy Minister for Technical Services and Thomas Bhoki, Deputy Minister for Extension for the MoA, participated. One hundred copies of each of the following manuals were printed and will be used for field testing.

- **Peri-urban vegetable manuals completed:** *Crop Calendars, Gantts for Collards, Land Preparation & Soil Management (A-Frame Contour, Bed Formation & Planting, Composting) Diseases, Mites & Nematodes, Insect Pests of Liberia and Seed Saving for Vegetable Cover Crops.*
- **Rice brochures completed include:** *Insect Management, Rice Sheath Rot Disease Management, Rice Stem Disease Management, Seed Selection, Weed & Water Management,*
- **Rice manuals completed include:** *Rice Neck Blast, Rice Harvesting & Processing*
- **Cassava:** *An Illustrated Guide to Contouring, Planting and Harvesting.*

Task 1.2 Increased Production and Profitability of Quality Rice

This reporting period coincides with the onset of regular rainfall periods in Liberia and the beginning of the rice agricultural season both for upland and lowland rice farmers. FED has been working directly with 117 rice farmer groups representing 8,278 farmers on 2,328 ha of demonstration areas. There are 88 groups working on 767 ha in lowland and 29 groups working on 1,566 ha in upland rice growing areas.

These groups are organized in three classifications: A category covering 20 groups on 361 lowland ha; B category covering 54 groups on 256 lowland ha and 24 groups on 1,143 upland ha, and; C category covering 14 groups on 149 ha of lowland ha and 5 groups on 423 ha of upland areas.

The type of technical support provided to each of these categories is influenced by factors such as potential rice productivity on land areas, farmer group experience in rice production, distance from production clusters, and cooperative organization. The A groups represent a priority for FED since all of these groups occupy lowland rice production areas which offer greater potential productivity and environmental sustainability compared to upland areas. FED is providing direct extension support to these sites by providing two full time staff based in each of the four main counties in addition to demonstrations in UDP fertilizer briquettes application, mechanized field preparation, and the provision of tools, fertilizer, and pesticides for a portion of the total demonstration land area. The B and C sites are presently supervised directly by four contracted NGO's who provide technical, on- site training for upland and lowland sites in all six counties. These trainings include practical skills in rice nursery design, options for improved seed, in-line planting, weeding schedules, application of fertilizers, crop rotation, soil protection measures, and the use of leguminous cover crops. Training in lowland areas includes field layout and the construction of dikes, canals, drains and bunds to control water flow and maximize crop potential. These sites also receive agricultural inputs similar to category A sites. Category C sites are organized to include lead farmers who participate in collective training events with FED, and pass on their knowledge to community group members.

Bong is currently leading the six counties in lowland and upland areas rice production.

Table 2

County	Lowland (ha)	Upland (ha)	Total (ha)	%
Bong	421	1,431	1,852	79
Lofa	158	80	238	10
Nimba	165	50	215	9
Bassa	15	0	15	1
Montserrado	5	0	5	0.2

Margibi	3	0	3	0.1
Total	767	1,561	2,328	100

Activity 1.2.a: Varietal Testing and Certified Rice Seed Production

Increased Rice Seed Production

On April 24, 2013, FED's rice team visited Arjay Farms to follow-up with their rice seed out growers. Arjay Farm Manager, David Nallon, and one of the Extension Staff, visited one farmer in Sonkay town and four farmers in Morsee Town in Todee District Montserrado County.

In June, FED organized a six-day training from June 16-22 (three days in Gbarnga and Three days in Ganta) for 83 farmers from 22 farming groups of Bong, Lofa and Nimba Counties (see Table 1 for detail) in collaboration with Africa Rice. The training focused on protocols for production of certified seeds and good seeds, pre- & post- harvest operations, seed quality and characteristics, seed testing, and the process of seed certification. In Bong, farmers were taken to CARI to see the different steps of producing different classes of seeds and the process of seed certification. They learned the process of straining different varieties against iron toxicity and the effect of iron toxicity on the rice plant during the growth period. The farmers visited CARI's seed laboratory where they were exposed to all the seed processing equipment that is used for seed quality maintenance and control. As a result of this training, FED anticipates the establishment of seed production sites in 22 locations spread across FED's area of operation.

On June 27 FED COP, Agnes Luz, met with Ministry of Agriculture Deputy Minister for Technical Services, Dr. Sizi Subah, to finalize the MoU with the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) which includes collaboration activities on rice seed production and certification. Dr. Subah leads the rice seed task force and is supportive of strengthening the capacity of CARI to produce foundation rice seed at their center in Bong while supporting a team of state managed, certified rice inspectors. Mr. Aaron Marshall, CARI Director, was also present at the meeting. A formal MOU document between FED and CARI has been approved for signature that is planned for July.

Activity 1.2b Infrastructure Improvement

FED Irrigation Specialist/Rice VC Manager, provided advisory support to 2,031 FED beneficiary farmers in the proper layout and construction of 45 distribution and water management control structures (dykes, bunds and canals in Bong, Nimba and Lofa Counties.)

Activity 1.2c Improved Production Practices and Technologies

Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop in rice production best practices and water management

A training of trainers (TOT) on agronomic, post-harvest, and water management was conducted by FED's Rice Officer & Rice Value Chain Manager on April 15-20, 2013. Technicians from four NGOs comprised of eight participants from ODARAFA (Lofa County), seven from ASCO (Bong County), six from SERE (Nimba County), and four from WAI (Grand Bassa County) participated in the TOT. These NGO technicians will provide on-farm training/ learning to FED farmers across four counties.

Rice Production on Category B and C Sites

NGO technicians provided technical assistance to FED category B and C sites throughout May for 5,727 farmer beneficiaries from 97 groups on 1971 hectares in six counties of FED.

Lofa

Organization for the Development of Agriculture & Farmers Related Association Inc. (ODAFARA) worked with 32 farming groups comprising of 10 upland and 22 lowland groups at 32 sites.

Of the 10 upland farming groups, three groups have completed planting on 7 ha of land with Nerica 2, and Nerica 14, while seven groups has completed 2.078 ha and planting is continuing. The 21 lowland farming groups have started transplanting. Massive land preparation is ongoing. Major activities undertaken by the 21 farming groups include: Brushing of sites, 16 sites brushed, de-stumped, bunds and canals constructed, plowed and puddled (35 % tilled with power tiller, and 41 % hand tilled), and nursery beds were established.

During the period under review, ODAFARA trained 1,342 farming beneficiaries (590 males and 752 females) in six districts of Lofa (Voinjama, Quandi Gbondi, Kolahun, Foya, Zorzor and Salayea), through practical demonstration on swamp layout, main drain and peripheral canals construction, bunds construction and maintenance, seed preparation for nursery, transplanting of seedlings and proper water management.

Lowland Swamp rehabilitation

- 7.5 ha surveyed
- 10 head dykes rehabilitated with combined length of 275.8 meters
- 7 tail dykes rehabilitated with combined length of 200 meters
- 12 main drains/floodways rehabilitated with combined length of 1,174 meters
- 12 peripheral canals rehabilitated with combined length of 1,602 meters
- 24 main drains/floodway bunds rehabilitated with combined length of 2,348 meters
- 24 peripheral bunds rehabilitated with combined length of 3,204 meters
- Total length of 1,205 polder/plot bunds were rehabilitated
- 19 nursery beds established and sowed with Nerica L-17 & FRK-19
- 1,342 farmers trained out of 1,971 project beneficiaries
- 31 farming groups from 32 original groups are being engaged.

Newly Opened Abandoned Swamps

- 3.1 ha de-stumped and cleared
- 38.97 ha developed during the period under review.
- 741 meters of main drain canals constructed
- 313 meters of peripheral canals constructed
- 105 of head dykes constructed
- 150 farmers trained out of 680 project beneficiaries

Upland

- Total of 11 ha planted with Nerica 2 and Nerica 14 (seven farming groups)
- 4 upland sites completely planted with Nerica 2 & 14 totaling 7ha
- 5 demonstration plots established (20m X 20m) drilled with Nerica 2
- 5 demonstration plots established (20m X 20m) dibbled with Nerica 14

Nimba

The NGO Special Emergency Relief for the Elderly (SERE) was contracted by FED in May to provide technical support and training for 1,525 group beneficiaries on a total of 24 rice production sites. A summary follows of the achievements for the four upland sites.

150 farmers were trained (male-78, female-72) out of a total 525 group member beneficiaries on upland production areas. In each of these four upland sites two plots each are laid out with a dimension of 30m x 30m² for demonstration purpose. Out of the four upland sites three have covered 4.2 hectares with the traditional planting method, while the remaining site was fenced to prevent animal pest damage to plants.

SERE has categorized the 20 lowland sites into developed (10) and undeveloped (10) field areas. They have rehabilitated a total of 5,485.8m of canals and bunds while the undeveloped, a total of 2,453.4m of canal/ bunds have been constructed and 4.2 ha have been de-stumped.

For both ecologies, SERE has trained a total number of 786 (male-444, female-342) farmers.

Developed Swamps

- 8 ha rehabilitated within this reporting period.
- 10 head dykes rehabilitated with the total length of 208m.
- Total length of 1003.5 meter of canals has been rehabilitated.
- Total length of 1027 meters of bunds has been rehabilitated
- 312 farmers trained out of 500 project beneficiaries.
- 10 project groups from the six original (core) districts of Nimba County participated in the above mentioned project activities.

Newly Opened Abandoned Swamps

- 56.4 ha developed with this reporting period.
- 462m of bunds constructed
- 441m of canals constructed
- 237m of head dykes constructed
- 95 farmers trained out of 500 project beneficiaries
- 10 communities with four core districts.

Upland

- Total of 7 ha farm sites planted
- 12.7 ha prepared for planting
- 4 demonstration site (30x30m²)
- 185 farmers trained out of 600 project beneficiaries anticipated for upland

Bong

The Association for Safer Community Organization (ASCO), with offices based in Bong County since 2008, was contracted in May to provide technical support and field training to 31 farmer groups engaged in lowland (16 groups) and upland rice producers (15 groups) in Bong County. During the period ASCO carried out awareness and orientation meetings to explain the nature of the rice production activity and to organize specific work schedules for all participating groups.

Field preparation training took place at all group sites including brushing, clearing, plowing, construction of water control structures, and the development of nurseries in upland and lowland

fields. The provision of farming tools, seeds and food rations by FED encouraged farmers to work hard in their groups farms.

Lowland rice production

Fifteen farming groups representing 14 communities are engaged in lowland rice production. Most of their farm sites were previously developed either by agricultural NGOs and other organizations before the civil war in Liberia. Following the closure of those projects, more sites were abandoned and are now being rehabilitated by FED. These sites are located within proximity of each respective community for easy access, visibility by group members, technicians, and guests.

Table 3 Lowland Rice – BONG

No	Name of Group	Gender			Hectare Brushed/Cleared	Targeted Hectare
		Male	Female	Total		
1	Kwepagei Development Association	52	73	125	15.5	23
2	Kponmah #2	24	6	30	8.5	12
3	Palala Rural Women	22	61	83	7.5	10
4	Bong Multipurpose	11	15	26	3.8	5
5	Zeanzue Farmers Association	8	17	25	3.5	5
6	Donfah Rural women	10	22	32	4.5	6
7	Kponmah # 1	23	7	30	7.6	10
8	Gbarsue Development Association	39	29	68	11.5	14.2
9	Mystery Partners Group Inc.	48	26	74	7.3	10
10	Kwapan Farmers Association	16	14	30	4.9	6
11	Kwagai	14	6	20	2.8	3.6
12	War affected women	5	13	18	3.5	5
13	Wuzubu	11	12	23	1.6	1
14	Yeapukiamah	9	8	17	4.7	6
15	Baila Rural women	8	31	39	4.7	6
16	Welekerma Rural Women	17	62	79	4	10.2
17	Kokoyah Multipurpose	230	203	433	15	55
18	Kpaingba-ta Industrial Agriculture Project	23	13	36	3.5	5
19	Yalakponmah	45	103	148	10.5	23
20	Palala Self Help Project	35	20	55	5.7	50
21	Kukatonon	34	37	71	9.5	12
22	Welekermah	25	21	46	6	9.5
23	kwapagai	20	22	42	9.5	15
24	Willing women initiative	5	20	25	3.8	5
25	Kokoyah Rural Women	34	20	54	6	10

26	Fuamah district Multipurpose cooperative	296	223	519	45	105
Total		1064	1084	2148	205.4	422.5

Upland Rice Production

Sixteen farming groups/sites were initially targeted to be engaged in upland rice production, but this has now been reduced to 15. One group opted to grow cassava. Currently, much attention is being given to upland since the late rains began in June signaled the start of the growing season for upland rice. The late rainfall schedule does not only affect the project groups, but also impacts individual families as several households are observed to have started upland rice farming late this year.

To catch up on lost time, the farming groups are now working two days in a week instead of the original plan to just work one day every week in the demonstration farm and their group farms.

Each burned and cleared upland rice field is being demarcated into three parts to demonstrate two planting methods (improved vs local/traditional broad casting). In each field, the improved method will be done in two plots each of 400m² (dibbling, drilling) with a 1 meter walk way separation while the rest of the field will be planted in the traditional/local broad casting method. These practices will provide options for farmers at the end of the farming season and will demonstrate the difference between improved practices and traditional practices, which is hoped to convince the farmers to apply these improved production practices in their own individual plots in the coming cropping seasons. A summary of upland accomplishments during the period are listed below.

Table 4. – Upland Rice (BONG)

No	Name of Group	Male	Female	Total	Group farm (ha) Brushed/Cleared	Demonstration site(ha)	Total area target for group farm (ha)
1	Sayapolu	15	7	22	75	3	120
2	Kwepagei Development Association	52	72	124	50	3	100
3	Kukatonon	34	37	71	60.2	3	115
4	Kakponkuah	14	10	24	51.5	3	80
5	Dafuwah -ta Development Project	31	0	31	54.5	3	80
6	Tonkpan	10	10	20	45.5	3	60
7	Kordia Multi-Purpose Cooperative	54	88	142	55.5	3	80
8	Yeapukiamah	9	8	17	60	3	80
9	Baila Rural women	17	3	20	47.7	3	60
10	Voloblai	21	14	35	65.9	3	80
11	Kwakpan Farmers	18	12	30	62.5	3	80

	Association						
12	Tolomai	24	8	32	75	3	100
13	Kerjutonon	27	3	30	76	3	86
14	Kwagai	23	2	25	85.5	3	100
15	Kelekerju	24	8	32	90.5	3	110
16	Kukatonon	8	17	25	82.5	3	100
		381	299	680	1037.8	48	1431

Grand Bassa/Margibi/Montserrado

The NGO, West Africa Initiative of Liberia (WAIOL), has over five years of experience in lowland rice production and food security initiatives in Liberia, and was contracted by FED in May to provide technical assistance and training services to 550 (330 men, 220 women) rice farmers among a total of eleven category B lowland farming groups. WAIOL extension agents provided on-site field assistance for nine low land rice farming groups in Grand Bassa County, one lowland rice farming group in Margibi County and one low land rice farming group in Montserrado County. The total land surface area projected for these demonstration sites is 14 hectares. The main training activities have been clearing and land preparation, nursery establishment, transplanting, and the construction of water control systems to include main and periphery canals, bunds, drains and dikes.

WAIOL uses a Farmer Field School Strategy (FFS) which is 90% practical and 10% theory. Under the FFS training module all training activities are conducted at the project demonstration site. At the demonstration site, trainees used the tools and improved planting materials provided by FED, to demonstrate improved practices. Improved farming methods from the FFS demonstration site are applied in the adoption plots and on the trainees' respective farm. The training officer assigned to the group does a follow-up to the trainees' farms to guide the adoption process. Most of the groups are progressing with their training and production activities. However, other group members are not fully participating in the training or the production activities. A special training on group formation, mobilization, and group leadership is deemed necessary and will be carried out in the coming months. A summary of lowland rice accomplishments is provided below.

Lowland Rice Activities

- 14.7 hectares of land brushed, burned and cleared
- 432 meters constructed of peripheral canals
- 1,874 meters of bunds constructed
- 216 meters of drains constructed
- 162 meters of head dikes constructed

Activity 1.2d Mechanical Aids

The introduction of mechanical tillage has begun. UDP demonstration rice plots in Lofa, Nimba and Bong were tilled using a power tiller. A total of 16 out of 20 UDP sites have been tilled using power tillers in this reporting period. These include five sites in Nimba, two sites in Lofa, and nine sites in Bong. Selected farmers received hands on training in field plowing and machine operation and maintenance during the demonstration activities.

Activity 1.2e Post-Harvest Processing and Marketing

Preparations are underway for the implementation of mechanized rice processing at selected sites. In collaboration with Component 2, potential rice processing groups were assessed for management capacity in rice milling equipment operation, maintenance and financial management. Motorized threshing of rice will be demonstrated. Rice milling and de-stoning equipment will complement rice drying floor areas already established at eight farmer group sites.

Training of community groups in rat guard installation

Eight groups representing 64 women in Lofa, Bong, Nimba and Grand Bassa counties were trained in the installation of sheet metal rat guards on poles structures supporting outdoor kitchen area storage areas (March 18-April 23)

Training of metal sheet workers in fabrication of parboiling drum & tank

Eight workers were trained in the fabrication of parboiling drums and tanks by post-harvest STTA Dr. Vallenki(April 15-16).

Masons training

Twenty five masons (three from Lofa, two from Bong and 20 from Grand Bassa) were trained in the construction of drying floor by post-harvest STTA Dr. Vallenki (April 22-23).

Parboiling demonstration & construction of drying floors

The parboiling demonstrations were conducted in Blay-Gbahn and Kuotarr Towns in Grand Bassa County from April 17-20. Construction of eight drying floors (30' x 60') started on April 17 with two floors being constructed in each county. Eight drying floors completed. See photos below.

Fig. 3.



Parboiling tank under construction during training

Fig. 4



Drying floor under construction in Kuotarr Town

Planned Activities for Q4 Task 1.2

All rice production groups on upland and lowland areas will continue transplanting, weeding, and fertilization with application of approved pesticides if necessary. Mechanized power tillers will be made available to select lowland sites still under preparation. As plants mature farmers will provide additional presence in field areas to protect plants against bird flocks and rodent populations. FED will be assisting farmers to measure yields, and to monitor additional land areas adopted by farmers in their individual farm areas located outside of the demonstration zones. Activities are underway to provide selected rice production cluster zones with rice threshing, de-stoning and one pass milling machines to assist farmers in adding value and marketing surplus rice quantities. Warehouse structures will accompany these clusters to complement the processing centers, and to provide rice farmers with additional options in improved storage and marketing of rice products. Additional field research will be carried out in rice plant pathology and rice entomology.

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

There has been significant performance in the quarter in the identification and training of 121 cassava groups representing 5,976 farmers working on a total land demonstration area of 511 hectares. These groups are located in the six FED counties of Lofa, Nimba, Bong, Grand Bassa, Margibi, and Montserrado. There are 33 category A groups who receive direct training by FED extension agents and Community Based Facilitators with supervision from the FED management team including the County Manager, and the Cassava Value Chain Manager. The “A” sites are to display FED’s full technology package that promotes the construction of mounds, ridges, flat methods of planting, intercropping with peanuts and cowpeas, and cassava nursery training demonstrations.

Four NGO’s were hired in May by FED to provide seasonal support to 88 category B and C groups in cassava production. The NGO’s are: Rural Agriculture Alternatives, Inc (RAA) in Lofa; Evangelical Children Rehabilitation Program (ECREP) in Nimba; Organization for the Development of Agriculture and Farmer Related Associations (ODAFARA) in Bong; and West African Initiative of Liberia (WAI) in Grand Bassa.

The main work activities among all groups focused on field identification and layout, land clearing, and the manual construction of mounds and ridges in preparation for the planting of new cuttings. A total of 1,611 bundles of disease free cassava cuttings were planted on 36 hectares during the period. FED also provided essential hand tools (hoes, cutlasses, axes, wheelbarrows).

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

The demonstration on cassava mini-stem production led to the establishment of cassava plant propagation nurseries in Bong and Nimba. A total of 8,000 cuttings were planted comprising 5 high-yielding varieties of cassava. FED commenced the multiplication of improved cassava cuttings at the FED office in Bong County with 6000 mini – stem cuttings and 2000 mini –stem cuttings at Tonglewin in Ganta Nimba County. Similar multiplications are taking place in Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa and Nimba Counties.

Links were established with IITA in May, enhancing the acquisition of improved cassava cuttings from IITA in Nigeria to support FED’s initiative to make disease resistant and high-yielding varieties of cassava planting materials accessible to farmers. New, improved cuttings are part of a larger strategy to improve productivity and reduce the risk of diseases such as mosaic and brown streak virus.

Four producers of disease-free planting materials of the cassava variety that is resistant to mosaic virus were identified in Bong and Lofa Counties. These cassava plant materials are growing on a land area of six hectares and with a capacity of providing cuttings for a field area of 36 hectares.

Activity 1.3.1b: Building the linkages from cutting producers to cassava farmers

The following table illustrates the progress in the preparation of cassava production areas among 121 total production groups in six counties selected in FY13. Field preparation for cassava demonstration areas dominated activities during the reporting period.

Table 5.

County	# of Groups	Target for cultivation (Ha)	Demonstration site (ha)	Area brushed and cleared (ha)
Grand Bassa	54	162	54	46.5
Lofa	22	110	22	7.3
Margibi	2	3.5	1	0.5 ha
Montserrado	1	24	20	3 ha
Nimba	25	125	25	25ha
Bong	121	509.5	139	85.9ha

Status of Cassava Production in Lofa County

The Rural Agricultural Alternatives (RAA), operating in Lofa county since 2007, was contracted by the Food Enterprise Development (FED) to provide training and technical support to the its cassava production improvement project in six districts (Salayea, Zorzor, Voinjama, Quandu Bondi, Kolahun and Foya) in Lofa County. The project is designed to assist 1,015 local farmers divided into 19 farming groups. FED provided essential tools, improved planting materials, food during intensive work, and training on improved production practices to the farmers.. Farmers trained by RAA are expected to adopt new improved agricultural technologies and best practices that will enable them to realize high yields. Furthermore, farmers were divided into three categories (A, B and C). The farmers in category A are directly supervised by FED Technicians, while B and C are supervised by RAA.

There is presently a growing demand for cassava in Lofa County as an alternative to the staple food (rice). FED operations in Lofa County have given prominence to the cassava crop in this county. Since cassava is cheaper than rice to produce, many farmers are taking interest in cassava production. Cassava's nutritional value is almost equivalent to rice.

The field technicians of RAA have focused on the FED identified farmers, farm sites and training needs. Farmers were trained during the Farmer Field School to do practical demonstration on their

own to enable them to appreciate the Farmer Field School (FFS) methods and the appropriate farming practices.

- **Farm Tools:** Tools have been distributed to all of the farming groups for land preparation for the planting of cassava cuttings. The tools were distributed by FED Field Staff.
- **Field Layout:** The laying out of the production sites (B&C) has started in some areas and farmers are only awaiting cassava cuttings for planting.
- **Field Trips:** A schedule field trip was made by both FED Technician and RAA Technicians in Zorzor and Salayea Districts.

Achievements

Salayea & Zorzor

- **Brushing:** In Salayea and Zorzor Districts, 50% of the production sites (B&C) have been brushed, burnt, de-stumped and cleared. 10% of these farms are now ready to be laid out and planted.

Voinjama District

- Re-brushing, de-stumping of farm sites and area measured at Yorkollie-ta (Voinjama District) is completed. In Zenalormai Town, 75% of farming land is now brushed, cleared, de-stumped and field measurement done. In Selega Town, the Selega United Farmers have completed re-brushing, clearing and de-stumping. In addition, PDOV has done about 85% of brushing, clearing and de-stumping. This site is also visited twice a week.

Quardu Gbondi District

- Cassava farmers are located in three towns (Womanor, Jarmulor and Marvinkonnedu). In Womanor, the Cassava Farmers Association is doing re-brushing, burning, clearing and de-stumping, 50% of their farm have been completed.
- In Marvinkonnedu, they have totally completed re-brushing, burning, clearing and de-stumping. They have also done survey which shows that the land area is 1.3 Ha. Ridges are 20 meters long .
- Jarmulor was turned over to RAA re-brushing, burning, clearing and land preparation is going on.

Status of Cassava Production in Nimba County

The Evangelical Children's Rehabilitation Program (CREP) has over five years of experience working with cassava producers in Liberia, and was contracted by FED in May to provide technical assistance and training to category B and C cassava production sites in Nimba County. The ECREP supervised activity is divided into three clusters with a total of 21 sites. These Clusters include 12 sites in the Ganta cluster, five sites in the Saclepea cluster, and four sites in the Tappita clusters. A total of 1,000 local farmers have been recruited by FED as direct beneficiaries and placed into groups of 50 farmers according to their community. ECREP conducted periodic visits to all of the sites, and trained farmers in improved methods for sustainable cassava production with emphasis on production constraints, strategies to overcome constraints, land preparation and planting methodology. Farmers have completed brushing, burning, clearing, while de-stumping, preparation and mound/ridges and planting of cassava cuttings are ongoing simultaneously in all sites.

The Ganta Cluster

The Ganta Cluster is the biggest of the three clusters; it has 12 farming groups each cultivating five hectares of cassava. Of the five hectares, training and demonstration is done in one hectare and replicated by the group in the other four hectares. A total of 600 farmers (50 per farming group) cover this cluster.

Of the 12 farming groups, five represent “B” sites which include: Ma-pea Mah Rural Women, Bain Garr Women group, Ganta United Methodist Cassava Project, Deemie Farm and United Sister Cassava Project; while seven represent “C” sites which also include: Yekepa Community Cassava Project, Fofor villages cassava project, Hope for the nation cassava project, Concern Women group, Ma Gorpu Agriculture project, Zao Kolakeh and Agape Farming group.

Brushing, clearing de-stumping, land preparation (mound/ridges construction) and planting of cassava cuttings are ongoing simultaneously at all sites except for Deemie and Agape farms due to other project undertaken by the group.

Saclepea Cluster

Saclepea cluster comprises five farming groups with three (Zoedor Farmer Association, Lapea Partner farmers Organization and Bahn Youth United for Development) representing “B” sites and Two (Koteamon Farmers Association and Wahmenperyea Farmer Association) “C” sites. These farms have completed brushing, burning, clearing of site and carrying out land preparation (de-stumping and mounds/ridges construction).

Tappita Cluster

The Tappita Cluster has a total of four sites of which two (Unification Farmers and Diah Kardor working group) are “B” sites and two (Kwaaergoe and Kordoeayakeh) are “C” sites. These sites have completed brushing, burning, and clearing. Presently, Land Preparation and planting of cassava cuttings are ongoing.

Training

ECREP conducted on-site training at 19 of the 21 sites. Training was focused on the general topic: “Improve method for sustainable cassava production”. At the end of the training farmers became exposed to production constraints and remedies to overcome these constraints of various types of diseases of the leaves, stems, and tubers. They learned to understand mounds and ridges construction, various cassava cuttings varieties, spacing of cuttings during cultivation and time and process of weeding including the duration of maturity of each cassava cutting variety before harvest.

Overall, in the period under review, of the 21 farming groups selected for cassava production in Nimba County, 19 have completed brushing, burning, clearing and land preparation. Two of the groups – United Methodist cassava group and United Sisters have completed 75% and 90% respectively planting while the remaining 17 are between 45 – 50% of planting.

Status of Cassava Production in Bong County

The Organization for the Development of Agriculture and Farmer Related Associations (ODAFARA) has over seven years of experience in rural agriculture training with specific skills in cassava production. They were contracted last May for the cassava production program in Bong for FED/DAI USAID. Twelve (12) farming groups selected in Bong County by FED are receiving training

and technical support from ODAFARA for the duration of the production season. All of the farming groups have been visited by three field technicians/cassava trainers who have been assigned in Bong County. By the end of May 2013, 90% of the demonstration sites have been identified following the sensitization/awareness that ODAFARA has conducted within the communities, and a total of 306 farmers (184 men and 122 women) have received on-site training in brush clearing, field layout, construction of mounds and ridges, intercropping, cuttings selection, plant spacing, and planting depth.

The 12 farming groups are organized into three clusters: The Jorquellah cluster with eight groups; the Panta cluster with five groups, and the Zota cluster with four groups.

Jorquellah Cluster

This cluster is supervised by one ODAFARA extension agent and includes eight groups from communities based in Kpormah, Welekerma, Menbaca, Torwelee, Kukiteh, Voloblai, Kukatane and Tohlo. The work activities are organized according to planned daily schedules with each group working for one day per week from 8am to 4pm. Training activities took place for 203 (75 men, 128 women) participants from all groups. During the reporting period the group accomplished the brushing, clearing, felling of trees, and leveling on a surface area of 2.32 ha.

Panta Cluster

This cluster is supervised by one ODAFARA extension agent and includes five groups from communities in Wortu, Kerkieh, Gbarnsue, Salala and Balatuah. During the reporting period the group accomplished 0.056 ha of brush clearing and field leveling, mainly in Balatuah and Wortu, in preparation for the planting of improved cassava cuttings. A total of 28 (10 men, 18 women) members participated in training activities during the period.

Zota Cluster

The Zota cluster includes four groups in the communities of Kpaili, Whyee, Naii, and Nufakalo. During the period ODAFARA provided training activities among 75 members (30 men, 45 women). A total of 1.2 ha was cleared and leveled in preparation for new cassava cuttings.

Status of Cassava Production in Grand Bassa

The West Africa Initiative of Liberia has been working in rural agriculture communities since 2007 in Liberia with specialized experience in rice and cassava production. FED contracted the services of WAIOL in May to provide training services to cassava farmers in Grand Bassa County. A total of 31 cassava farming groups, with a total membership of 1600 cassava producers were trained, in districts 1,2 and 3, Grand Bassa County, within 60 days.

WAIOL trained farmers through field schools organized in project communities. Under the FFS training module 1, all training activities are conducted at the project demonstration site. At the demonstration site, trainees used simple tools and improve planting materials provided by FED, to practically demonstrate training activities. Improved farming methods adopted from the FFS demonstration site are applied in the adaptation plots and on the trainee's respective farm. The training officer assigned to the group does a follow-up to the trainees' farms to guide the process of adaptation. Some of the groups are progressing with their training and production activities, while in other communities the group members are not fully participating in either the training or production activities. Some of the group members have fully accepted the concept of working together as a group for the common interest. Therefore, there is a need for special training on group formation, mobilization and group leadership dynamics.

For the past three months, the FFS training activities has been focused on:

- Clearing and Land preparation
- Demonstration plots establishment

- Weeding

WAIOL provided three extension agents who carried out cassava field preparation and planting with participating groups who work in the demonstration fields one day per week. In all 31 demonstration sites there was a total of 52.75 hectares brushed and cleared. No new cuttings were planted on the demonstration sites during the period, but 19 hectares of traditional cuttings were planted on individual lands. Due to a general lack of clean cuttings in the Grand Bassa County, new cuttings have been identified in Bong, and will be sent to Grand Bassa sites as field areas become ready for planting.

All basic tools for FED cassava farmers were distributed to each county during the period. The tools included cutlasses, regular hoes, measuring tape, plastic rope/twine, watering cans, sharpening files, diggers, and rakes.

Activity 1.3.1c Training FED Partners along the cassava value chain

The Training of Trainers for the cassava value chain ran April 29 – May 10. Two sessions were held in Bong and Nimba. The 65 participants were trained in cassava cultivation best practices. Those who participated included all contracted NGOs, Lead Farmers from ‘C’ sites across the various counties, Nimba County Community College (NCCC) representatives and the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) root/tuber section staff. Topics covered include: site identification and preparation, planting criteria and post-harvest storage methods.

Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI)

The FED Component One and Component Three teams met with CARI staff to discuss collaboration in improving CARI’s capacity as an In-service training center and in improving seed certification program, especially for rice, and in the provision of disease resistant and disease free cassava planting materials. It was agreed that FED could assist with the establishment of a functional soils lab and also a pathology lab. A suitable building was identified that could be used by both FED and CARI. A separate agreement is being drawn up to build on this relationship and to ensure successful implementation of activities

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CARI has been approved and will be signed in July 2013.

National Cassava Sector Coordination Committee (NCSCC)

FED participated in the Cassava Sector Coordination Committee Technical Working Group meeting at the MOA in the months of May and June. During the June 28 meeting the FED Cassava Value Chain Manager made a presentation on the improved technologies and practices in cassava cultivation that FED is promoting.

Cassava Farmers' Organization

During May, Cassava Growers Associations were established in Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa and Nimba Counties. Lead farmers decided to set up an interim association whilst formal structure and legalization is being put in place in the cassava sector.

New Generational Women (NGW)

The New Generational Women Project jointly funded by Chevron Oil Company and FED received the second batch of cassava cuttings to complete their planting. Planting started May and June. (Fig. 5 shows cassava and peanut intercropping at the site in June.)

Fig 5



Inter-cropping at NGW Site

Activity 1.3.2 Processing Cassava Working with FED Partners (existing processors, associations)

Component Two assisted in establishing links with cassava processors (see Fig.6) in Montserrado and Margibi Counties. Discussions were held with the Liberia Agro Resources Inc., SAMJAC Inc., and YAEHD Agricultural Enterprise Inc. FED will be providing assistance in the coming months to improve the capacity of these processors to grow their businesses.

Planned activities for Q4 Activity 1.3

Priority efforts will be taken to maximize the preparation of cassava production areas not presently planted with improved, clean cuttings. Disease free and disease resistant cassava cuttings will be delivered to group demonstration sites up to the end of September. FED will finalize a MOU with CARI and draft plan to support CARI in expanding its cassava nurseries in FED's counties of operation. Additional private nurseries will also be part of the plan as quantities of clean cuttings may provide new employment for private nurseries to supply future farmer demand for healthier, and better performing plant stock. A cassava marketing study will be carried out by FED to determine potential business opportunities along the value chain.

Fig 6.



Lucy, FED Beneficiary with Cassava Processing Machine

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

51 Peri-Urban vegetable groups demonstrated active participation in the preparation of field areas, production and marketing of vegetable products in the period. Two new NGO's TECURE, and VOSIEDA, were contracted to provide increased field extension support to all participating groups in the six FED counties of intervention. Special contributions in vegetable plant pathology, vegetable insect pests, and pesticide policy guidelines were produced by FED short-term consultants during the period.

Activity I.4a Awareness Raising

Fig. 7



A site assessment and meeting with the leadership of the Deaf Agricultural and Development Project in Virginia were made on April 11, 2013. This group is cultivating eight acres of land with cassava, vegetables, and poultry. 50 members suffer from impaired hearing. FED will work with these farmers by providing technical assistance to support the cultivation of 6 hectares for vegetables and cassava. Charles Saypahn (pictured left in Fig.7) is 50 years old and profoundly deaf, he is one of the farmers on the project.

In April Jim Correll (see Fig. 8), STTA Plant Pathologist from the University of Arkansas, conducted an assessment of vegetable diseases and identified 30 diseases of PUA crops in Liberia. This finding will feed into the development of a compendium of diseases that will be published to provide information on the signs, symptoms, causal organism characterization, and control/management of the diseases. An assessment of the availability and access to chemicals for control, as well as the farmers' control practices was also conducted. Follow-up actions are already underway including developing a set of fact sheets, looking at additions to the PERSUAP, capacity to continue this work. The first iterations are now developed and will be refined as new information is gathered, particularly for the pests and diseases recorded on the PUA crops. The manual on diseases was completely overhauled as a consequence of Jim Correll's inputs, and the section on pests increased substantially due to a large number of newly recorded pests, since most have never been formally recorded before in Liberia.

Fig. 8



Extension Specialist STTA, Doe Adovor, completed the production of five PUA materials on the following topics:

- Land Preparation and soil management for vegetables
- Seed Saving for vegetables
- Pest, diseases and nematodes for vegetables
- Crop Production calendar for PUA production
- Insects and Pests of Liberia that affect vegetables in Liberia

These are the first editions of the manuals, and the FED team plans to refine them as new information is gathered, particularly for the pests and diseases recorded on PUA crops. The section on diseases was completely overhauled as a consequence of Jim Correll's inputs, and the section on pests increased substantially due to a large number of newly identified pests, many of which were never formally recorded before in Liberia.

Activity 1.4b Capacity Building

On April 15, 2013 training of three Extension Officers and one Environmental Officer was facilitated by Dermot Cassidy and Noorie Dudley on pesticide use and guidelines for the effective application of pesticides as per USAID regulations. Meanwhile from April 16th to the 30th, Training was carried out at New Generation Women on the use of vetiver as a contour soil stabilization measure. Progress on contour ridging was also reviewed.

Solarization method for control of soil-borne diseases was introduced by FED PUA STTA with promising initial results, work is underway to plan how to document and encourage widespread replication.

Trials are ongoing at Kpormah #2 site in Crozierville, Montserrado County were mustard seeds and solarization of the soil is being demonstrated for the control of nematodes and other soil borne diseases that are affecting the growth and development of okra in the field.

Five hundred and nine (509) farmers from Margibi and Montserrado were trained on how to safely utilize pesticides to control/manage infestation and diseases. The training took place from the 8th to the 22nd of May 2013.

The PUA and Communication teams worked together to show a video documenting recent PUA activities with Sackie Bomah farmers Association and Yarnguelleh Agricultural project.

Land preparation for vegetables production commenced at the MOA site in Kakata on May 27 where FED/PUA intervention with the MOA is being showcased. The PUA team is carrying out site restoration at MOA Kakata through the cultivation of improved vegetables for seeds multiplication and demonstrating the effect of crop rotation, contouring, raised beds, irrigation, adequate spacing, timely weeding and harvesting. This site will serve as a resource center and retention of knowledge on improved practices by MOA during and after the FED Project.

Lay-out and planting took place at two PUA sites in Margibi County. Two plots of hot pepper and 3 plots of watermelons were planted. Land clearing, de-stumping and field lay-out are underway at 14 sites in Margibi and six sites in Montserrado Counties.

Land preparation for the production and transplanting of rainy season vegetables is underway at five sites in Lofa County and seven sites in Grand Bassa.

In Grand Bassa County seven groups were provided with demonstration tools: Cutlasses, shovels, local hoes, Sharpening files, diggers, watering cans, wheelbarrows, Twine rolls, Garden tools, knap sacks, sprayers, harvesting buckets, hanging scales, harvesting knife, Axes, NPK fertilizer, rakes and measuring tapes.

Six farmer groups received assorted demonstration tools for PUA in Bong County similar to those listed above.

Two Local NGOs (VOSIEDA and TECURE) were selected to carry out PUA trainings in the six counties. These experienced NGO's were selected through a competitive bid process and evaluated based on submitted budgets and activity proposals. The NGO's will provide field agents, and administrative oversight to strengthen FED capacity to plan, implement and monitor PUA activities in all six counties.

From June 1-15, two successful PUA Training of Trainer (ToT) sessions were conducted in Bong and Grand Bassa Counties. Farmers, FED Extension officers, NGO Stakeholders and representatives from the MOA were present at the training sessions. In Bong, the ToT was conducted from June 5-7 with 15 participants. In Grand Bassa. The ToT took place on June 11-13 with 19 participants.

The PUA manual was distributed to the participants for use as guide to synchronize extension messages among trainers and technicians.

On June 6 & 13 the Environmental Compliance Team was part of training of trainers program with the PUA team and briefed participants on the importance of environmental awareness.

From the 16-30 of June, high value legume seeds were distributed to 51 PUA groups in 6 counties for PUA rainy season production. Specification of legume seeds and quantity distributed are as follows (see Table 6)



Fig.9 : Planting vetiver at New Generational Women

Table.6.

No	Legumes	Quantity
1	Corn	774 Kgs
2	Peanut	387 Kgs
3	Pigeon Peas	180 Kgs
4	Cow peas	180 Kgs

Activity 1.4c Commercial Linkage Development Peri-Urban Vegetables

Rainy season harvest and marketing activities continue at 51 demonstration sites. FED farmer producers are making new local and marketing links in all six targeted counties. Table 7 (below) shows the quantity of harvested vegetables, the harvest varieties, and the income generated from the demonstration plots in Montserrado and Margibi counties during the reporting period of April, May and June.

Table 7

Name of Group	Month of Sales	Vegetable Type Harvested	Quantity Harvested (In KG)	Sales LD
Nyankata	April	Okra	13	1,050.00
Nyankata	April	Watermelon	89 pcs	1,750.00
MOWEDE	April	Watermelon	58 Fruits	2,280.00
MOWEDE	April	White Onions	24	650.00
Kpormai # 2	April	Okra	1.5	70.00
Kakata Demonstration Site	April	Bitterball	65	600.00
Gwegwmue	April	Watermelon		120.00
Welekerma Farm	May	Hot Pepper	75	1,100.00
United Farmers Association	May	Watermelon	37 Fruits	680.00
MOWEDE	May	Okra	4.5	375.00
MOWEDE	May	Egg Plant	10	560.00
MOWEDE	May	Hot Pepper	6.2	210.00
MOWEDE	May	Watermelon	37 Fruits	680.00
MOWEDE	May	Egg Plant	10	560.00
MOWEDE	May	Hot Pepper	6.2	210.00
Kuwaki Vegetable Farmers	May	Bitterball	45	800.00
Kuwaki Vegetable Farmers	May	Okra	1.36	100.00
Kuwaki Vegetable Farmers	May	Okra	5	925.00
Kuwaki Vegetable Farmers	May	Bitterball	22	630.00
Kuwaki Vegetable Farmers	May	Hot Pepper	5	225.00
Kuwaki Vegetable Farmers	May	Bitterball	27	650.00

Kuwaki Vegetable Farmers	May	Pepper	4	125.00
Kuwaki Vegetable Farmers	May	Okra	2	75.00
Kpormai # 2	May	Collard Greens	2	160.00
Kpormai # 2	May	Collard Greens	16.9	620.00
Kpormai # 2	May	Collard Greens	16.9	350.00
Yarnwuellie Agriculture Project	June	Pepper	120	1,800.00
United Farmers Association	June	Cucumber	250	15,360.00
Kuwaki Vegetable Farmers	June	Bitterball	6	150.00
Kuwaki Vegetable Farmers	June	Pepper	11	400.00
Kuwaki Vegetable Farmers	June	Corn	14	180.00
Kukaitone	June	Bitterball	332	2,700.00
Kukaitone	June	Pepper	70	2,150.00
Total				31,775.00

Activity 1.4d Higher Level

STTA, Rob Black, commenced his review of agrochemical and plant health policy and legislation in Liberia on April 25th. The exercise addressed all value chains, and components within FED, with the exception of goats. The exercise is being led by PUA because of the wide range of pests and diseases that are present on horticultural crops and the wide availability of inappropriate crop protection chemicals in Liberia.

Planned Activities for Q4 Activity 1.4

Vegetable groups now engaged in rainy season traditional crops will continue harvesting and marketing with NGO extension agents recording sales accomplishments in all counties. Preparations will be underway in planning for the dry season vegetable production season and introducing treadle pumps in selected group locations as a labor technology for plant irrigation. FED will be identifying potential new

Fig 10.



vegetable production groups in cluster locations, and linking producers with buyers in collaboration with partner Building Markets. FED will also explore collaboration with commercial level farmers who demonstrate strong production potential in response to market demand, and who may participate in farmer exchange visits and trials of exotic crops such as lettuce and tomatoes.

Task 1.5 Improving the Quality and Quantity of Goats

FED continues to closely coordinate its interventions in support of the goat subsector with the main donor partners; USDA Program implemented by Land O'Lakes Inc, and the European Union Program implemented by the NGO-BRAC, ACIDI/VOCA Farmer to Farmer Program, together with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) Bureau for Livestock. Implementation this quarter focused on preparations for the impending National PPR Vaccination Campaign with the MOA in December, completion of Goat Lead Farmer production intensification sites with associated training in partnership with ACIDI/VOCA Farmer to Farmer Program, National Livestock Policy drafting and reviews, and coordination with LOL in acquisition of genetically proven superior goat lines.

Environmental Compliance Monitoring completed at 22 goat sites in Bong, Nimba and Grand Bassa from May 14-22. Following these visits a number of water points will be relocated to prevent water contamination that has the potential to be harmful to both livestock and humans.

Activity 1.5.1 National Livestock Vaccination Campaigns

FED is collaborating with MOA and BRAC to initiate plans to undertake the National 2014 PPR Vaccination Campaign which is scheduled to begin in December 2013 rather than September in order to avoid the effects of the rainy season on campaign execution,. Initial planning has included assessing the viability of current PPR vaccine held at the MOA. FED has put the MOA in contact with a regional facility established under the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centers (PANVAC) program established under the African Union Intergovernmental Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) program capable of testing the viability of the PPR vaccine. FED is assisting MOA in sending the PPR vaccine samples currently at the MOA to the Institut Senegalais de Recherche, Laboratoire National d'Elevage et de Recherches Veterinaires (ISRA-LNERV), Dakar, Senegal for testing. Following the validation of the vaccines, FED will organize discussion between BRAC and the MOA on methodologies and timelines to implement the National 2014 PPR vaccination campaign. It has also been confirmed by agreement that BRAC will provide assistance in execution/training of MOA staff while executing 2013 National PPR vaccination campaign in December 2013.

Activity 1.5.2 Community Goat Pass-on Schemes through Lead Farmers or CBO's.

- Of the 20 Lead Farmer Goat Producer organizations signed onto the Community Goat Pass-on Scheme Programs, to date with FED MOUs, ten have completed their goat breeding herd production intensification sites including shelters, wells, and fencing. The remaining 10 groups have received the necessary materials to complete their shelters and are in the process of developing their sites. Goat Pass-on Scheme technologies demonstrated and extended from these Lead Farmer demonstration sites will include; shelters with slatted floors, de-worming, supply of clean water, feeding technologies, multivitamins, salt/mineral supplementation, maternity care, newborn care and breeding management.
- In Nimba, six Goat production intensification sites were completed in May. FED has purchased 22 goats to be restocked at Zoelay Memorial Farm; one of the goat demonstration sites. The goats were transferred to their respective shelters on May 24. In Bong this month goat shelter constructions continued in addition to well digging (water provision).
- During May, FED selected two new goat sites in Bong County for year two. They are; Karyata and Dafuwah-ta.

Fig. 11



Table 8

Status of Goat Shelters among 20 Stations in Lofa, Nimba, Bong and Grand Bassa Counties

N0	Community	County	District	# of goats	Type of shelter/s and status
1	Betijama	Lofa	Voinjama	76	General - completed Maternity- completed
2	Nawenzu	Lofa	Voinjama	23	General- completed Maternity- completed
3	Sandia	Lofa	Foya	17	General – ongoing Maternity - ongoing
4	Kpandu	Lofa	Foya	53	General – ongoing Maternity- ongoing
5	Kpassay	Lofa	Foya	32	General – ongoing Maternity- ongoing
6	Zoelay Memorial Farm	Nimba	Bain Garr	19	General- completed Maternity - completed
7	Wuo Yeanue farm	Nimba	Bain Garr	19	General- completed Maternity- completed
8	Bayleglay	Nimba	Zoe-Geh	40	General-completed Maternity-completed
9	Bayleglay	Nimba	Zoe-Geh	50	General-completed Maternity-completed
10	Kpaytuo	Nimba	Saclepea Mah	48	General-completed Maternity – started
11	Bayleglay	Nimba	Zoe-Geh	50	General-completed Maternity-completed
12	Serengetti	Bong	Suakoko	20	General –completed Maternity - completed
13	Darfuwah	Bong	Yelequelleh	19	General –completed Maternity- completed
14	Judges Village	Grand Bassa	#4	21	General –ongoing Maternity- ongoing
15	Gorgban Town	Grand Bassa	#4	21	General – ongoing Maternity - ongoing
16	Blaygban Town	Grand Bassa	#3	30	General – ongoing Maternity - ongoing
17	Dewor Town	Grand Bassa	#4	51	General – ongoing Maternity - ongoing
18	Neopeh Town	Grand Bassa	#3	50	General – ongoing Maternity - ongoing
19	Duwein	Grand Bassa	#3	25	General – ongoing Maternity - ongoing
20	Goinjay	Grand Bassa	#3	25	General – ongoing Maternity - ongoing

- Construction materials for 7 production intensification sites in Grand Bassa County were procured & delivered to Lead Farmer sites in the month of June.
- Two Lead Farmer production intensification sites were completed in Lofa County in the month of June.

- 150 Farmers trained in utilization production site intensification infrastructure to reduce maternal/kid mortality together with hands-on salt/mineral supplementation block fabrication & herd record keeping strategies. This training was facilitated by a Farmer to Farmer Volunteer provided to the FED program through an MOU with ACDI/VOCA.
- A contract for the fabrication of 40 improved/site tested forage feeders (2/ Lead Farmer group) was finalized in June and the first 12 feeders were constructed and are ready for shipment to sites in Nimba.
- Ingredients (salt, oyster shell, cement) for the fabrication of salt/mineral supplementation blocks were procured & delivered to Nimba, Lofa, and Bong Counties in the month of June.

Activity 1.5.3 Veterinary Pharmaceutical Outlets in the Rural Areas

Discussions have begun with Land O'Lakes Goat Value chain partners and the MOA regarding the identification and envisioned locations for potential pharmaceutical outlets/ sites in the rural areas. In May, the new EU funded National Livestock Production/health program (being implemented by BRAC has made initial contacts with FED regarding how best to address rural pharmaceutical availability issues. A meeting was held with BRAC on April 11 at the Corina Hotel to discuss strategies for potential collaboration with FED representatives.

Discussions with the BRAC affirmed their county livestock promoters, who are currently assisting BRAC livestock programs, willingness to provide CAHW services to FED Lead Farmer sites in two counties.

Activity 1.5.4 Improve National Disease Surveillance/Diagnostic Capabilities.

Initial contact has been made with the Cornell University Diagnostic Laboratory in the US regarding strategic timing and a Scope of Work for the initial assessment of the Liberian laboratory needs both in equipment and training. Veterinary laboratory epidemiologists at the Cornell University facility have completed similar assessments in other West African countries and have confirmed their interest in assisting with the National Laboratory of Liberia. The assessment will begin in the next few months.

Activity 1.5.5 Assist MOA with the Development of National Livestock Policy Guidelines.

At the request of the MOA, FED has produced the first draft National Livestock Policy document and was submitted to the MOA in early June for review. This draft National Livestock Policy is scheduled to be the first Policy document reviewed by the newly established Liberian National Agricultural Policy HUB. Policy issues such as the regulation of quantities of animals imported from neighboring countries and potential effects on local markets as well as the functioning of border quarantine facilities to avoid introduction of trans-boundary diseases are addressed in the draft policy document.

Import regulations on veterinary pharmaceuticals to verify expiration dates of medicines and source of origin is also included in the draft document. The Liberian National Policy HUB is to be

established over the next few months under the ECOWAS Regional Veterinary Governance (VET-GOV) Initiative being implemented through the EU funded African Union Intergovernmental Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR) program. The primary objective of the VET-GOV Initiative is to provide a national framework 'hub' for the review and validation of national policies in a particular sector to include input of all stakeholders of both the private and public sectors in each of the ECOWAS countries.

Activity 1.5.6 Assist LOL to Import Improved Bloodlines of West African Dwarf Goats.

FED has identified a reputable source of proven superior performance genetic stock of goats from the International Trypanotolerance Center (ITC) in the Gambia. Availability of improved stock for sale has been validated and contact information submitted to LOL for consideration. It is anticipated that the importation of these animals would enable the establishment of a nucleus breeding herd at CARI and they could be used to upgrade existing Liberian goat stock through introduction to local herds. This diversification will result in increased productivity leading to improved profitability for goat farmers in Liberia. FED Goat Value Chain team visited the identified quarantine site at CARI Research Station, Bong County, proposed for receipt of goat shipments to be implemented by LOL. FED Team assessed initial feasibility/capacity of the site related to reconstruction needs and rehabilitation, and to upgrade the site for animal receipt.

FED, USAID, USDA, and LOL, met to review feasibility of proposed plans of LOLs for goat procurement & importation of an initial 2,000 animals. Through FED's strong recommendation, it was agreed that an initial procurement/importation shipment of not more than 500 goats would be implemented by LOL as a test case in lieu of the previous LOL plans for initial shipment of 2,000 animals from Senegal to Liberia CARI site. FED has committed to assist in the construction/rehabilitation of a quarantine facility at CARI to accommodate 500 animals.

FED, LOL, and MOA will be finalizing in July the agreement on specific roles and responsibilities of each of the parties (CARI, LOL, FED) in assisting with the effort.

Progress this quarter in internal management of the FED Goat Value Chain program on the ground includes;

- The last FED Goat Extension Officer for Grand Bassa County has been hired and he is on the project's site. This completes the FED Goat Value chain staffing for the four priority counties; Nimba, Bong, Lofa, and Grand Bassa, with one Goat Value Chain Extension Officer per county.
- A Goat Value Chain Specialist, to cover FED Monrovia value chain backstopping functions, and a professional technical/extension specialist, to backstop and provide training to all county extension officers and Goat Lead Farmer partners on a continual basis has been hired.

Overall, progress is on track in preparation for major planned actions in the upcoming fourth quarter including; implementation of the National PPR Vaccination Campaign (estimated 122,000 goats will be vaccinated in focus counties), completion of Lead Farmer goat production intensifications sites (20 in all), coordination with EU-BRAC Program improving access to veterinary drugs & services in rural areas, and finalizing a National Livestock Policy. In addition, FED will prepare the CARI quarantine facility for receipt of some 500 genetically improved goats to be imported through the USDA-LOL Program.

COMPONENT TWO: STIMULATE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Task 2.1 SME Development

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

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

1. Profitability of cassava production, processing and marketing of products such as gari, deepa, cassava chips, cassava animal feed and starch, in Liberia;
2. Comprehensive domestic market overview showing the market size, trends, preferences and structure;
3. Business models for profitable production and processing of cassava products in Liberia to enhance productivity and competitiveness;
4. Investment cost for implementing recommended business models;
5. Baseline information in the 9 counties specified above.

Bids were turned in May 10 and evaluated by a team composed of FED, ZOA, the EU, and the National Cassava Sector Coordinating Committee between the week of May 15 and May 30. Given the budget constraint FED and ZOA agreed to limit the number of counties to the nine areas of intervention (six counties for FED plus the three additional counties for ZOA-ADRA (Bomi, Cape Mount and Gbarpolu) and focus the study on the domestic market. The scope of work was subsequently reviewed and sent to the applicant who got the highest score for technical proposal. Negotiations are still ongoing. The final feedback from the consultancy firm will determine whether the study will be conducted or if FED and ZOA-ADRA will have to find other ways to get the necessary information with the limited resources.

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

Stakeholder Survey Project

The Stakeholder Profile survey was finalized by Subah Belleh and Associates (SBA). The total number of interviews conducted exceeded 500. A presentation of the outcome of the survey will be presented to USAID-Technical team in July. The data collected includes baseline information on business practices, business acumen, organization structure and type, and location of key producers, agro-input dealers, processors, transport companies, and large buyers. The draft report has so far guided the ED team in locating and facilitating linkages among the different actors along the value chain.

Backward Mapping

In order to have a better understanding of the market demand, the ED team conducted a backward mapping exercise between March-May to find out the needs, quality standards and procurement procedures of large buyers such as the hotels, supermarkets, restaurants, and mining companies in order to facilitate linkages between the farmers and those buyers. The list of potential interviewees was generated with the help of the Stakeholder Survey Project, Building Markets, and the National Investment Commission of Liberia. The outcome of the mapping helped the ED team and

Component I team to develop business models to facilitate the linkages between the value chain actors in order to create a more robust agricultural supply chain that can cater to the needs of large buyers.

Rapid Market Assessments

As part of the pilot project to demonstrate 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, the ED marketing team worked with the county offices in the field to select potential FBOs that have the capacity to function as viable businesses, utilizing new technology and mechanization for commercialization and income generating activities. From March to June, the ED team created a rapid market assessment (RMA) tool which was used to identify the seven groups and determine the feasibility of the venture identified in Bong, Nimba, and Lofa.

Activity 2.1.A.b. Linking Value Chain Participants

HANDS Processing Center Site Visit

During Q2 HANDS and FED collaborated and began to mobilize and build capacity of farmers and processors to work together to provide 15 metric tons of gari every month for HANDS' feeding program in Grand Gedeh and River Gee. It was highlighted during Q2 that there was a 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 organized a site visit to the HANDS processing facility in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh for cassava processors based in Montserrado, Bong and Nimba from April 18 to 19 (15 groups representing cassava processors and equipment manufacturers (15 participants, 7 females, 8 males, and 5 FED staff). An instructional video utilizing the video technology taught by USAID's FACET was developed out of the visit by FED communication staff. The ED team will use the video as a working tool to support processors.

After the training visit, FED linked three of the youth entrepreneurs who took part in FED youth business plan writing competition to farming groups and processors to submit a proposal to USADF grant program to get initial capital to upgrade or set up new processing plants. Other processors were also encouraged to submit proposals to USADF and banks. One of the entrepreneurs was able to get a personal loan from one of the local banks in order to start the construction of his processing plant in Bong. During Q3 the ED team also identified one strategic processor or entrepreneur in every county of FED operation, each of these individuals are located in a cassava producing area, this will support the establishment of a profitable multipurpose cassava processing plant.

FED Collaboration with Building Markets and Arcelor Mittal

During the month of May, FED signed an MOU with Building Markets to strengthen business linkages between value chain actors particularly farmers and aggregators (or wholesalers) in order to supply large buyers such as the mining companies, major hotels, supermarkets and caterers. Both institutions decided to organize agriculture business networking events in in Nimba and

Fig 12.



Grand Bassa to inform farmers about the market opportunities being offered by ArcelorMittal (AM), one of the largest mining companies in Liberia who have expressed a willingness to buy Liberian sourced goods to supply their canteens: namely Yekepa in Nimba and Buchanan in Grand Bassa, this is a significant commitment as it involves feeding 800 staff three times a day, every day. The first meeting in Ganta (**See Fig. 12**) was attended by 50 participants (30 males and 20 females) and the second one on Buchanan was attended by 100 participants (70 males and 30 females) all representing farmers, aggregators, caterers, wholesalers, transporters and other international organizations such as WFP, EU, OXFAM, Land O' Lakes and IBEX.

The events resulted in exchanges of contacts and market information which will have a significant impact in enabling farmers and aggregators to build a lasting business partnership. Prior to the event, as part of the backward mapping, the ED team gathered information from ROSNA, the local catering company which is currently supplying AM as well as other several concessioners and supermarkets, to have an idea on needs and quality standards. Farmers who attended the events were identified based on their capacity to supply ROSNA through the aggregators. The event was featured in 5 national newspapers including, Front Page Africa, The New Dawn, The Analyst and the daily observer. It was also published digitally on a number of online Liberian news outlets. In July, the ED team will provide technical assistance and (when necessary) cost sharing to some key aggregators to upgrade their businesses and facilitate an effective linkage with farmers supported by FED to meet the market demand. FED and Building Markets will work with AcelorMittal on another major networking event where it will provide in-depth information on its procurement procedures. FED will also lobby with the concessioners on supporting the development of the agriculture in the country by taking special measures such as pricing.

Mark Gbadyu, farmer, head of the Good Gardiner Self-help farming group in Grand Bassa, a FED beneficiary was selected to take part in a live one hour radio talk show to publicize the event, he served as a spokesperson for the farmers, " The farmers are so grateful for this opportunity because we have been advocating for buyers. The event was very important and interesting because now we have the opportunity to link ourselves to buyers and that will encourage many farmers to grow more. Usually when we plant, we harvest a lot and most of our produce get spoilt because there are no buyers. Through this event, we have been able to link up with aggregators who can buy our produce and the benefit is that we can sell our produce and get more income".

Olivia K. Nelson, owner of Olivia Business One Enterprise commented after the event: " We, the aggregators, did not really know that there were farmers here in Liberia who are producing the kind stuff we need. Likewise the farmers are also unaware that there are aggregators who need these produce to sell to large buyers. We usually go all the way to Mali, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea just to buy stuff which our own farmers are producing right here in our country. I am so glad that now through these kind of programs, I can connect with the local farmers and buy from them. I am proud to buy from our own local farmers because it will help build our economy and promote our own agriculture." Olivia is a wholesaler of seeds in the Red Light market. She sells to retailers and farmers and currently imports the majority of her product from abroad.

Investment Promotion Activities

In May and June, Component Two worked with UNDP, NIC, IFC/World Bank and EU in the planning of the Investment Facilitation Platform to accelerate and foster private sector involvement and investment in the undertaking of projects to support the Liberia National Agricultural Investment Plan (LASIP). It also aims at creating a platform to collectively advocate for the Liberian government to redouble its effort and commitment to hit and surpass the CAADP 10% and 6% targets as well as identify the types of "foreign" investment that will be most desirable to buttress the domestic efforts that will be launched. FED was tasked with the responsibility of identifying Liberian entrepreneurs who need financial and technical support from large investors to upgrade their agribusinesses. Meetings were held with selected entrepreneurs to assist them with the development of their business plans. FED also provided the group with the list of investors who could be invited to the event, which was initially scheduled to take place end of June but has been postponed to the first week of September.

Component Two also took part in the private sector development donor working group initiated by World Bank to help coordinate activities aimed at strengthening private sector investment in Liberia. FED will be contributing to the Private Sector Development Strategy (PSD) drafted by World Bank to create a comprehensive framework for private sector development; stimulate growth of micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs); diversify the bifurcated economy; and provide a roadmap to grow private enterprise and employment. The World Bank has harmonized their strategy with that of the National Investment Commission (NIC) to focus on three core sectors: Transportation, Fruits and Vegetables, and Fisheries. A final draft of the PSD will be ready by December 2013.

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

Value Chain Training for FED Staff

A five-day value chain training and consultancy for FED staff was held from April 29 to May 4 in Monrovia. The objective of the training and consultancy was to build the capacity of FED team in best practices in utilizing the Value Chain Approach in Development and selecting and utilizing successful business models that work with small holder farmers. The training was facilitated by Agri-Impact Consult, a Ghanaian based consultancy firm selected through a bidding processing. Agri-Impact has over 20 years of experience working in agriculture value chains in 26 African countries. FED staff learned how to determine competitiveness, construct value chain maps, evaluate constraints, and build intervention strategies using various business models. The training utilized case studies from other West African countries as examples and all group work utilized current FED activities.

Activity 2.2.g – Improve Borrower Readiness

Organization Strengthening and Financial Management Training

In order to build the capacity of farming group to access loans to expand their farming businesses, four groups (135 participants, 56 females, 79 males) were trained in Financial Management (cost management, basic record keeping, and formulizing budgets) and ten groups (288 participants, 199 females, 89 males) were trained in the second round of Organizational Strengthening (improve organizational goal setting, membership participation, leadership effectiveness, and conflict management) by IQC holders (Agency for Economic Development and Empowerment (AEDE), Pace Management Consultants, Educare and Rights and Rice between April and June. So far, out of the 21 groups trained, 6 groups updated or created new by-laws and constitutions; 5 groups elected new leadership; 2 groups have opened new bank accounts; 8 groups have improved record keeping or have started record keeping for the first time; 3 groups noted higher attendance at meetings and work days; 3 groups are in the process of formally registering; 3 groups recorded new sales as a result of FED intervention. Results from the training and subsequent coaching will be ongoing.

New Generational Women

During Q3, Component I One and Two continued to provide technical assistance to New Generational Women, a group of 74 farmers (51 women, 23 men) involved in developing cassava and vegetable production and processing in Upper Clay Ashland of Montserrado (See Fig. 13). With FED and Chevron support, the group has been able to brush and clear 21 hectares they plan to cultivate. As of the end of June, the group set up nurseries, prepared 4.5 hectares and planted 3 hectares with cassava, groundnuts, and corn. With the technical assistance being provided by the ED team and AEDE, the group has drafted its Articles of Incorporation and has decided on share values. It is expected to finalize its registration process in July. To further build their capacity to develop this venture as a profitable business, the ED team will hire business service providers under an IQC to perform Farming as a Business, Organizational Strengthening, Financial Management, Small Business Management, and Marketing training for the group members and leadership in August.

Capacity building of women group in entrepreneurship

Beverly Ott, Consultant, Co-founder ECHOPPE and Consultant, US Department of State, African Regional Services conducted a one-day seminar on April 22- 23 in Bong County with 66 members from Palala Rural Women (6 males and 30 females) and War Affected Women (6 males and 24 females). Beverly utilized dramas and participatory methods to deliver training in leadership, commitment, and management. Beverly also participated as a panel speaker at the MoCI Conference on April 25, *Developing Local Suppliers/ Distributors – Opportunities & Challenges*.



Fig 13.

Pilot Voucher Program

Component Two worked with Component One to put in place the voucher program. As part of the planning process, the ED team developed business models for the voucher program and liaised with the M&E team to develop a baseline survey tool. In collaboration with the county managers and EDAs in the field, the ED team surveyed members of the five FBOs in Bong and Nimba counties from May 25 to 31 to determine their capacity to pay and their interest to participate in the Program. The voucher program will roll out in July, at which time participating agro-input outlet owners will receive training in financial management, small business management, and marketing as part of the program. The voucher Program aim is to encourage farmers to adopt new technologies on their own fields through a demand-driven subsidy and build sustainable links between farmers and established input providers. Farmers will contribute 50% of the cost associated with the purchase of the inputs, while FED will contribute 50%. The voucher will cover small amounts of rice and vegetable seed, NPK fertilizer, and tools will be distributed to an estimated 800 farmers coming from five FBOs. The vouchers will be redeemed through existing agro-input outlets presently supplied by Wienco.

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

Business Service Provider IQC RFP

Bids were received on May 3 from 27 companies located throughout FED's six counties following the release of an IQC RFP for Business Skills Training Services. In June, suitable service providers were selected to provide training services for rural groups, micro-enterprises, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The training will cover businesses on rice, cassava, vegetable and goats value chains. A 'localized' training service is intrinsic to this activity as service providers selected will be based throughout the six counties. Service providers will also be asked to contribute to curriculum development and implement Training of Trainer (ToT) activities. Training will begin in August.

Development of "Farming as a Business" Curriculum and Training of Trainers

The ED team has been working closely with the LAUNCH team to adapt and expand Farming as a Business (FaaB) curriculum for the FED value chains and for an illiterate audience. The curriculum was adapted from USAID's PL 480 Grants Program for Uganda, USAID's Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement (ADVANCE) Program for Ghana, and USAID's Livelihood Improvement for Farming Enterprises (LIFE) Program for Liberia. It was expanded to include emphasis on planning, understanding the market, developing marketing strategies, and utilizing savings as investment for agriculture expansion. The training program is broken down into a basic program, which can be delivered in six, three-hour sessions and a more advanced program, which can be delivered in nine, three-hour sessions. The LAUNCH project conducted two Training of Trainers (TOT) sessions utilizing the new FaaB curriculum between May 13 and 24. All of the FED ED Assistants participated in this training. A FED sponsored TOT is planned for newly identified business service providers in mid-July. It is anticipated that the FaaB training programs will begin to roll out in the beginning of August.

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

MoCI MSME 2013 Conference

From April 24 to 26, the ED team supported 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 brought together approximately **680** participants representing MSMEs, banks, MFIs, and civil society for three days, including concurrently a two day conference and a three day trade fair for 50 local MSMEs. The conference was 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 was 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 40 USAID-FED supported lead farmer groups and agri-businesses from across USAID-FED’s six counties of operation attended the conference (43 participants, 27 males, 16 females). In addition, seven USAID-FED supported businesses participated in the trade fair. Other major donors included IFC, Building Markets, The Marketplace, and SPARK/BSC Monrovia, mostly in the form of in-kind goods and services. On the second day of the conference, USAID-FED organized a two-hour break-out session entitled, *Enabling Policies to Stimulate Growth in Agriculture*. The break-out session consisted of a panel of experts from the private and public sector guided by a moderator from the USAID-FED project. The session was 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 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 identified by the USAID-FED team who participated in the conference are Beverly Ott, Co-founder ECHOPPE and Consultant, US Department of State and Fabio Lavelanet, CEO and a founding member of FABRAR Liberia Incorporated.

The conference provided a platform for the Government of Liberia to deliver key messages to private sector micro/small and medium enterprises in Liberia intended to facilitate their growth. The key announcements made by MoCI were the following:

1. The launch of the Liberian Innovation Fund for Entrepreneurs (LIFE), an initiative that will be managed by the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI), which is *intended to stimulate the growth of small businesses with demonstrated capacity for improvement in the sixteen (16) sectors designated by the investment code for Liberian businesses*. The government of Liberia pledged US\$500,000 which is being equally matched with US\$500,000 from the Liberia Bank for Development and Investment (LBDI) to be given as loans for longer terms (up to five years) and at lower interest rates.
2. A one-time waiver of the tax clearance required by the government to contract with local businesses to supply the government with goods and services.
3. The compilation of a MSME Directory in which all relevant data (name, contact number, type of businesses, etc) regarding qualified MSMEs are compiled for onward transmission to those cabinet members with core directives to ensure adherence to the Government’s commitment to procure the earmarked 25% of goods and/or services from Liberian-owned businesses.

In addition, during the conference MoCI conducted a feedback session with MSMEs. MSMEs requested the following from the government:

- Government should empower MSMEs through the provision of long term financing and support to acquire capital equipment to match those in the sub-region;
 - That this conference is done in the four regions so as to have more rural participation in the next conference (2014);
 - Establish a national inter-sectorial business coordinating and monitoring unit that follows up on policies impacts on MSMEs in Liberia and is charged with tracking financing corruption at the commercial banks in terms of granting loans to small businesses;
 - Government should put in place a 'seed' policy to empower farmers entrepreneurs to acquire seeds easily and also put in place a mechanism to consider procuring locally produced farming products which will empower local producers.
 - Set up a MSME database with relevant information for easy access by interested individuals, groups and organizations as well as fast tracking of MSMEs payments by government institutions;
 - Conduct enterprise awareness, start-up, and business planning training for MSMEs;
 - Establish business incubator facilities and mentoring programs;
 - Encourage more franchising
 - That the Government fast tracks the transportation and electricity issues for the operation of businesses which is a source of the high cost of doing business.
-
- At the same time, USAID FED farmers noted in their immediate feedback from the conference that they learned the following: the importance of formalizing their organization and record keeping;
 - Have a better understanding of government policies;
 - Understand the steps to get access to finance and the importance of cash flows;
 - To take responsibility for their own businesses and not counting on organizations;
 - (The importance of conducting) a market survey before planting/ know the market before planting, know what is in demand on the market before you plant;
 - How to organize and become a corporation (business);
 - Ways to produce safe seeds, learn to use safe seeds;
 - How to use chemicals on plants;
 - How to store your seeds to produce good seeds;
 - Using your house as collateral (did not know that before);
 - Learned that farming is a business;
 - Recommend that the government should develop a policy on certified seeds in Liberia;
 - Learned that CARI should be an autonomous body;
 - Need to organize and get involve in VSLA rather than getting loan from the banks as a farmer; and
 - Work on yourself in order to be on the same level as others so we can get access to bigger markets.

Fuamah Multipurpose Cooperative was established in February 2002 with the help of the Cooperative Development Agency, but has never been functioning as an efficient profit generating

Fabio Lavelanet, CEO of Fabrar Rice Inc., Kakata, Margibi County noted “Today I am very impressed with the conference. It is a brilliant initiative by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and its partners, and I hope this can happen every year. We need such a gathering of potentials customers and renowned business people to showcase our produce especially, those that are home-made. The conference created opportunities for networking and introduced us to potential investors. I have an ambitious plan of placing my products on every supermarket shelf in Liberia. With the many contacts I have made as the result of this conference, I believe I can achieve this dream. Fabio further noted the road network is a big obstacle for his business and he is therefore calling on the national government to connect every major road in the country to give easy access from the farms to the market. In addition, He said FED’s interventions have been enormous noting technical assistances he received recently from Dr. Valenki, FED’s post-harvest rice consultant. He lauded FED for providing more support to farmers, especially bringing farmers to attend such a forum. Fabrar Rice produces and packages locally sourced country rice for sale in local supermarkets. The company was recently awarded an equity loan from the West Africa Capital Venture fund to expand and improve their production facility. He will begin production in his new facility this November.”

Zulu Zaza, Acting Chairman for Fuamah Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Bong Mines, Fuamah District, Bong County noted “For the past five years I have been with the Cooperative, I have never attended such an important Conference. The Conference was very good. It encouraged us to be strong in the agriculture sector. I got to know that people really need what we are producing. I interacted with so many people from different companies, and institutions who expressed interest in what we are producing. We (the Cooperative members) have started the process of identifying buyers for what we are producing. Like before, Goba-chop women used to come and buy our produce at the price they set. They bought our produce with any price, but this time we are making contact in Monrovia for buyers. We have been suffering from lack of business idea. Since the conference and FED’s constant interaction with our group, we now have some ideas on agriculture business. FED’s support to our Cooperative has got us very much united. The whole Cooperative was divided before FED could come in. But with FED’s support and exposure, we are now working together. I never knew anything about tax clearance, but got to know from the conference. The two years grace period on tax clearance was a good news. We never knew that there is no seed policy in Liberia; we got to know it from the conference. We have started the process of opening our bank account.”

entity for the benefit of its members. The cooperative has 526 members (296 female, 230 male) and farms on 300 acres of lowland rice rotating with vegetables in the off-season. Both Component 1 and 2 are engaged with this group to improve production and business skills.

Activity 2.2.A.c – Targeted Technical Support

In May, the ED team conducted a consultation From God to Man in Doumpa, Nimba County. The group had requested assistance from FED with deciding how to invest the \$3,000 they currently have in the bank as a result of the first year’s sales. The group had also sent a letter of request for a loan for \$100,000 to buy a bulldozer in order to build roads in their community to link the farmers. The ED collected production cost and sales information from the group from their previous year’s crops and discussed more reasonable options for investment (e.g. mechanized production and post-harvest production.) From God to Man has been selected to participate in the Pilot Rice Business Cluster and Voucher programs to launch in July.

At the end of June, the ED team began planning the Pilot Rice Business Cluster project with seven farming groups and four entrepreneurs (still to be selected.) The FED project will expand the post-harvest demonstration supported by Dr. Vallenki by developing participating farming groups and select entrepreneurs as group enterprises used as a platform to provide mechanized services and inputs to members and surrounding communities in rural areas. Initial technology transferred will include: Manual threshers, simple one-pass rice mills and paddy rice de-stoners, the construction of community warehouse to house the rice mill, store surplus rice, and store/sell inputs such as fertilizer, pesticides and tools (where needed).

During the months of May and June, technical discussions and meetings were held with potential cassava processors to develop a profitable business model for cassava processing. The production and ED team conducted field visit to the potential entrepreneurs' sites in Montserrado (Liberia Agro Resources Incorporated) and Nimba (Old Timer Women Group) to assess their capacity, locations and existing assets. Meetings were also held with other development partners such as UNIDO, ADB, IFAD and WISHH/HANDS to discuss possible collaboration for technical assistance particularly in food safety and quality standards. The business model will be finalized at the end of the month of June for the roll out in July.

On June 26, the ED team conducted a consultation with Palala Rural Women in Bong County. This is a registered group of over 400 women who produce rice and vegetables in Palala district. The group is part of the Year 2 Component one UDP site demonstration plots and is currently cultivating 18 plots of lowland rice as a group. They have also been operating as a World Food Program partner for three years. Ida, the Chairlady, participated in the Building Markets Matchmaking event in Ganta, Nimba county on June 15th and requested help from the FED ED team in engaging in post-harvest processing for fruits and vegetables and the possibility of obtaining access credit to expand their lowland rice and vegetable production. The ED Assistant will return to the group in July to gather more detailed information to help the group decide between a bank loan or borrowing from one or all of their nine village savings and loan groups.

During June, the ED team met with Arise and Shine owner, Harriette Laway, and Arjay Farms owner, Josephine Francis to gather cost of production and pricing information from their outgrower businesses. The information will be used to inform the ED team of a reasonable pricing scheme for the production of foundation seed, certified seed, and good seed to be made available at affordable prices for small holder farmers. Arise and Shine works with 90 outgrowers, while Arjay Farms works with over 400. Arise and Shine has been selected to participate in the Pilot Voucher program, which will launch in July and Arjay Farms is partners with FED to pilot mechanized certified rice seed production.

Activity 2.1.B.e – Radio Entrepreneurship Outreach

FACET Interactive Radio Training, Malawi

From April 15-20, two FED Radio Specialists attended the FACET Radio training in Malawi that trained communication specialists on the use of interactive radio to improve agricultural extension services to enhance farming practices and support farmer livelihoods. The workshop built upon successful practices from the field, and provided practical skills for project staff. Lessons learnt from the training was shared with the technical staff and an action plan was developed to support FED Program with the interactive radio Programs.

Interactive Radio Training for Liberian Journalists

On June 24, FED Radio Specialists began a 10-day training and mentorship program for 28 Liberian radio journalists representing 18 radio stations from FED's six counties. The program introduced and informed the journalists of FED's objectives and activities and about the state of the agriculture sector in general. In addition, journalists learnt how to conduct effective interviews and implement radio programming appropriate for the agriculture sector. Day one of the program began with a panel discussion, "Rising Food Prices and Local Production: Challenges and Opportunities" attended by FED's Enterprise Development Specialist, Building Markets's Communication Specialist G. Ahasuerus Anderson, and Minister of Commerce and Industry, Hon. Axel Addy. In his presentation, Minister Addy stated, "The media is a very powerful instrument to changing behavior and educating people, especially farmers." The program will end with the selection of the best radio programs produced by the journalist, which will be aired on local radio stations in July. The FED Radio Specialists will then continue to mentor and monitor the development of future radio programs in the counties. Journalists developed action plans on how they will strengthen agriculture Programs in their radio Programs.

Task 2.2 Access to Finance

Activity 2.2.e – Village Savings and Loan

Village Savings and Loan Training and Mentoring

VSLA activity continued this Quarter based on the discussions held during Q2 between the ED team, Mary Miller (STTA) CARE, UN Women, the Central Bank, and LAUNCH to assess VSLA program options for the FED project. In April and May, the ED team released two RFPs to find local service providers to provide VSLA training (one for FED staff and one for rural farmers). Bids for training FED staff were due at the end of May and bids for training rural farmers were received in June. VSLA training will begin roll-out in July following training of FED staff. Training for rural farmers will last for 12 months through the groups' first payout. FED will train 25 groups with a maximum of 25 members each, involving primarily women, in village savings and loan methodology.

Five FED partners were linked with USADF grant Program for investment in cassava processing. By the end of the month of June, the partners were assessed by USADF and they are awaiting feedback.

One of the entrepreneurs after the training visit in Grand Gedeh was able to get a loan to start the construction of his processing plant in Bong.

Task 2.4 Enabling the Policy Environment for Private Sector Growth

Activity 2.4.3: Improving the Policies around Seed and Crop Protection Chemicals

Activity 2.4.4: Rice Policy

Dr. Eric Wailes, Rice Policy Expert (STTA) was in country April 1-17 to work on updates to rice policy issues and data analysis concerning upland vs. lowland rice commercialization feasibility. Dr. Wailes visited with key officials at MoCI, MoA, LISGIS, and USAID's LTPC project to gather information. He also visited Arjay Farms and rice farmers of the Fuamah Rice Cooperative in Bong Mines to gather field data. A final presentation took place April 16 at the FED office.

Rob Black, Crop Protection Chemical expert (STTA) was in-country April 25-May 5. He participated as a speaker in the agriculture break-out session at the MoCI conference on April 25. Rob's statement of work includes facilitating the adoption of a higher level policy/regulatory framework for crop protection (plant health) chemicals and pesticides.

In May, Dr. Kwaku Agyemang, Livestock Policy STTA, undertook the writing of Liberia's first Livestock Policy Document, which was presented to MOA on May 10. In addition, from May 6 to May 10 Dr. Kwaku and Dennis McCarthy, FED Goat Value Chain Specialist, participated in the first National Consultative Multidisciplinary Stakeholder's Workshop, the focus of which was to establish a Liberian National Policy Hub for agriculture. The Hub is to be established over the next few months under the ECOWAS Regional Veterinary Governance (VET-GOV) Initiative implemented through the European Union-funded African Union Intergovernmental Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR) program. The primary objective of the VET-GOV Initiative is to provide a national framework 'hub' for the review and validation of national policies in a particular sector to include input of all stakeholders of both the private and public sectors in each of the ECOWAS countries. The workshop was attended by 42 stakeholders representing government, civil society organizations, community based organizations, private sector organizations, academia, the National Livestock Focal Point, and AU-IBAR VET-GOV program staff. The draft National Livestock Policy written by Dr. Kwaku is scheduled to be the first policy document that will be reviewed by the newly established Liberian National Agricultural Policy Hub. Also see Component One 'Activity 1.5.5 Assist MOA with the Development of National Livestock Policy Guidelines' for more information.

TASK 4.3 GENDER RELATED PRIORITIES FOR YEAR 2

Activity 4.3.1. Ensuring Gender Sensitive and Socially Inclusive Training

Activity 4.3.2. Training for FBO leaders

On May 13, Marcia Odell, Gender Specialist, arrived from PLAN International USA to work with FED staff on gender-related curriculum and mainstreaming gender in FED's projects. As part of her consultancy, Marcia worked with staff to adapt three curriculum modules to the Liberian context:

1. Gender-inclusive project design
2. Leadership for women in FBOs
3. Development and delivery of gender sensitive training for business service providers

On May 24, Marcia, with the help of the ED Women in Business Officer delivered training to FED staff in Monrovia (including the County Managers) on gender-inclusive project design. The purpose of this training was to help FED Staff understand the rationale behind taking gender-sensitive approaches to program design and implementation. On May 29 the team delivered a pilot training on leadership for women in FBOs for 25 women representing five FBOs in Bong County. The purpose of this training was to increase the capacity and confidence of women to assume leadership roles in FBOs. Finally, on May 31, the team delivered a pilot training on development and delivery of gender sensitive training for 25 participants representing a selection of 10 FED service providers. The purpose of this training was to ensure that FED partners understand the importance of gender mainstreaming and learn how to mainstream gender in their activities for FED.

COMPONENT THREE: BUILDING HUMAN CAPACITY

Task 3.1 CREATING CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

MOUs with Nimba County Community College (NCCC) and Grand Bassa Community College (GBCC) have been drafted. These MoUs with Vocational Education Institutions (VEIs) intend to build the capacity of the institutions and are progressing towards completion. Once completed the VEIs will then be in a position to receive assistance from FED in the form of Information and Computer Technology (ICT). The MoU for NCCC was signed on 24 May. The two remaining MoUs for VEI will take place in July 2013 as well as the CARI-FED MOU.

To date the number of Students and Instructors that have received benefit from FED Center of Excellence Assistance is as follows:

BWI: General student enrollment = 1,795
Agriculture Students enrollment = 425
Agriculture Instructional staff = 7
GBCC: General student enrollment = 804
Agriculture students enrollment = 42
Agriculture instructional staff = 3
LCCC: General Student Enrollment: 650
Agriculture Students enrollment = 220
Agriculture Instructional Staff = 3
NCCC: General student enrollment= 1,038
Agriculture student enrollment = 120
Agriculture instructional staff = 2

Rice and Fish Farming activity was finalized; APDRA was awarded the contract and began training and pond layouts in June 2013.

Ministry of Education (MoE), Bureau of Science, Technical, Vocational and Special Education (BSTVES) Services

Dr. Bradley Leger professor emeritus of Louisiana State University convened a workshop to introduce methods of teaching the new curriculum. He also provided guidance and curriculum direction for the National Diploma in Agriculture (NAD) Leadership course. This took place April 15 – 19, 2013. The other courses will need to locate National STTA to help complete the curriculum. Ms. Sarah Eaton will complete the STTA support on the NAD by creating and introducing the practical mathematics and statistics courses in the NAD in July. Dr. J. C. Bunch will finalize the NAD curriculum introduction by holding a roll out workshop for all agriculture and business education instructors in the FED community colleges at a workshop in July.

Activity 3.1.2 Improved Access and Use of Information

The second allotment of textbooks procured through Longman Publishers arrived on May 1. These 288 books will be distributed to the libraries at each of the Centers of Excellence. These books will enhance resources to pilot the new National Diploma in Agriculture, an ECOWAS-TVET post-secondary curriculum for Liberian Community Colleges. On 28 May, the final set of 18 books arrived. A total of 576 textbooks have now been received by FED in Liberia and full distribution took place this quarter.

- On June 4, 87 agriculture and business textbooks were given to BWI for use by the Institution's instructors. These books will serve as resources to enhance instruction in piloting the new National Diploma in Agriculture, an ECOWAS-TVET post-secondary curriculum for Liberian Community Colleges
- On June 6 FED staff presented 87 textbooks to the President of the Lofa County Community College to be used by teachers and students of the Agriculture Department.
- On June 13, Nimba County Manager and Component Three lead presented 87 textbooks to Nimba County Community College.
- June 20, Grand Bassa Community College were delivered 86 textbooks and to discuss the next phase of the FED Internship Program.

Activity 3.1.3 Internship Program

On April 15 - 19, the FED internship team with support from other staff members organized and conducted a successful four day capacity building training for 56 interns based at the County level, namely from Lofa, Nimba, and Bong. The training was held in Bong County at the Bong Women's Center.

This capacity building training complemented what interns were learning at their various job sites and strengthened their capacity through the provision of knowledge and skills which they can make use of beyond the internship period. This type of preparation places interns in a more competitive position on the job market once their internships have ended.

The capacity building workshop was conducted in two sessions. The first session of the workshop was conducted on April 16-17 for 27 interns and the second session on April 18 -19 for 27 students.

The theme of the training was centered on leadership and promoted the concept of agriculture as a business. Other topics covered were: "what is food value chain?" Community mobilization, Agri-business Management, Interview Skills, Preparing CVs and Cover letters, etc.

At the end of the training, post evaluation showed that the interns found the training very useful to their professional development especially in the areas of how to conduct themselves during interviews, developing their CV, writing application letters and also an indebt understanding of the food value chain and agribusiness concept.

The internship program concluded on May 22.

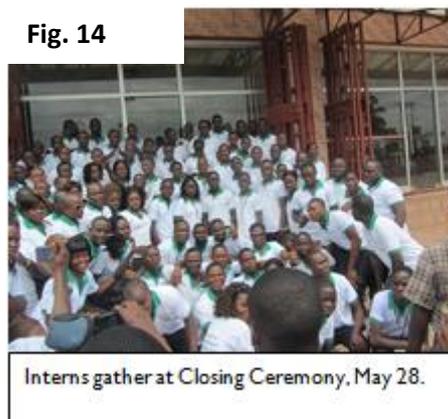
One hundred sixty-four graduating seniors and recent graduates from eight institutions namely: Booker Washington Institute (BWI), Nimba County Community College (NCCC), Grand Bassa County Community College (GBCCC) Cuttington University, Cuttington Junior College, University of Liberia, United Methodist University and Stella Maris Polytechnic were certificated recently at the closing program on May 28.

One hundred sixty four students out of the 225 applicants completed the program, the final number comprising 84 agriculture students and 80 business students undertook three months practical work experience and gained skills, as well as an opportunity to work in a professional work space and network with other professional colleagues.

Interns were placed with partners and host organizations during the three months period. All mentorship and guidance was provided by the placement organizations which comprised nine farming enterprises, five banking institutions, ten private companies, 11 INGOs, six government institutions and five other academic institutions.

Out of the 164 successful applicants 123 males were awarded internships (73%) however there was a much lower application rate amongst female agronomists and the 41 females who submitted successful applications constituted 25% of the overall number. Plans are underway to increase gender inclusiveness and encourage a greater number of female applicants in the third phase of the program.

Fig. 14



On May 28, the internship program awarded certificates to all interns from the eight institutions of higher learning. The program featured a motivational speaker Mr. Darryl Ambrose Nmah, Director General of Liberia Broadcasting System. The speaker conveyed a motivational message around 'The Power of Your Dreams'. Mr. Duke Burruss, Acting COP, gave closing remarks.

Way Forward – Internship Program

Following the completion and graduation of the last group of interns, FED will now focus on developing Career and Entrepreneurship Centers in Vocational Educational Institutions, BWI, GBCC, LCCC and NCCC. This will include job readiness in the form of internship, leadership, and entrepreneurship programming.

Due to the partnership of FED with the Excellence in Higher Education for Liberian Development (EHELD) Project, Cuttington University will continue to receive opportunities for internship as it relates to FED and building local human technical and managerial capability

On 18 June FED discussed with BWI a way forward with supporting their internship program; challenges discussed included funding requests from partners who were hosting interns. Discussions are ongoing to assess how to make this partnership sustainable and to review BWI's policies.

With the final draft of the Ministry of Education's Bureau of Science, Technical, Vocational and Special Education (BSTVSE) National Diploma in Agriculture curriculum, textbooks continued to be distributed to the Centers of Excellence, LCCC, NCCC and GBCC. Piloting of this new curriculum will begin in September 2013. The curriculum will be presented to the Minister of Education early in July 2013 for approval.

Activity 3.1.4 Practical Agriculture Experience

The Booker Washington Institute (BWI) has a sustainable agriculture demonstration site where vegetables and drip irrigation are being demonstrated.

FED is continuing to provide technology to showcase best practices in small farm sustainable vegetable production at BWI. Upon clearing the field for production the slashed herbaceous material was dried and then shredded for application of a mulch layer over the bare soil. All 110 students from the agriculture department rotate in groups of 10 and 15 gaining experience in these best practices activities.

Fig. 15 & 16



Above: FED shredder in use making mulch at BWI.

Booker Washington Institute

Booker Washington Institute hosted the first phase of the NAD curriculum roll out. This took place from April 15 to 19, 2013. In attendance were two officials of the Ministry of Education, Bureau of Science, Technical, Vocational and Special Education. There were also agriculture instructors from Lofa County Community College (1), Nimba County Community College (2), Grand Bassa Community College (3) and BWI (2) to learn how to use the TVET draft agriculture curriculum. Three FED interns also attended the workshop.

Interns continue to work on the Drip Irrigation Sustainable Vegetable Production site. Soil sampling and testing took place with Wooiklee Paye leading the group and monitoring of the growing site is ongoing. BWI head of department, Jacob Swee has five FED sponsored Interns. He had them working on practical activities with students. One Intern, a senior student at Stella Maris Polytechnic School, is conducting a demonstration on best practices in peanut production. He also takes other interns for teaching agricultural classes.

Nimba County Community College

Between April 22- April 24 Component Three representatives traveled to Sanniquellie, Nimba County to follow-up the TOT agriculture curriculum development training with the teachers that attended the workshop at BWI. Dr. Leger and the VES attended the classes to observe their teaching. Leadership meeting sessions were also held with 21 students of the interim leadership of the agriculture student.

The NAD curriculum is nearing full completion. This Economic Community of West African States Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ECOWAS-TVET) Post-Secondary Diploma (two year) course is the first of many TVET diploma curricula to follow.

Fig 17.



FED Soils Technician, Wooiklee Paye, Demonstrates How to Collect Soil Sample at BWI

Activity 3.1.5 Student Leadership

Fig. 18

A Capacity Building Workshop was conducted from 15- 17 of May in Monrovia. There were 111 interns present and topics included Leadership, Career Readiness, Farming as a Business and Value Chains Awareness. FED Training Specialist Catherine Karmo addressed the interns saying, “You should view your role as one that is developing Liberia, consider entering the Agribusiness arena and think about how you can be a component in developing the private agricultural sector of Liberia.”



FED Training Specialist Catherine Karmo Addressing Interns at the Capacity Building Workshop, May 15.

Task 3.2 SHORT TERM TECHNICAL ADVISOR SUPPORT

During the month of May activity plans were finalized for two Short Term Technical Advisors (STTA) vocational trainers. These STTAs will participate in the roll out of the National Diploma in Agriculture curriculum in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Dr. James C. Bunch assistant professor at Louisiana State University will address vocational education instruction and assessment. Ms. Sarah L. Eaton, Head of Mathematics, Fall Mountain Regional High School, will complete the course on Practical Agricultural Mathematics and introduce education technology.

Task 3.3 NON FORMAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Activity 3.3.1 Community Based Projects

164 women rural farmers were awarded certificates on June 7 and 14 marking their completion of a training on food processing and preservation skills; the training was funded by FED and provided by local NGO, COSEO. The graduation ceremonies took place in Bong, Nimba and Montserrado. During the graduation ceremony in Montserrado, CoP Agnes Luz handed over processing and packaging equipment from FED to six women co-operatives.

Activity 3.3.2 Adult Literacy

Initial contact has been made and MOUs are being drafted with USAID’s Advancing Youth Program for Liberia to tackle specific adult literacy need amongst farmers aged between 13-35.

Activity 3.3.3 Video Technical Training Materials The communications team has commenced work to create instructional videos based on the manuals that were created by extension STTA Doe Adovor. During this reporting period a video on cassava processing in collaboration with USAID’s HANDS project was completed. Once Centers of Excellence have been fully established, dissemination of all technical training videos will be rolled out and a full dissemination strategy is being developed.

Cross Cutting Initiatives

Youth

3.3.4 Agricultural Awareness prior to college: Back to School Garden Competition

The Back-to-school Garden Competition project aims at re-awaken agriculture activities in schools and also provide agro- entrepreneurship skills to young people which will help them become sustainable, while in school, and after graduation.

This activity was brought to FED's attention through the local Liberian youth NGO - Community Youth Network Program (CYNP) Inc. FED joined five other stakeholders in this pilot school garden program in Grand Bassa. The five other stakeholders include: CYNP (head organizing NGO), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Youth and Sport, Farmers' Union Network (FUN), and USAID's Advancing Youth Program and it will run for 9 months.

The project has mobilized 20 schools and recruited over 2,000 young people from three districts in Grand Bassa County namely: Compound 1, Compound 3, and Buchanan communities to participate in the Back to School Garden Competition 2013 which is running from April 2013 to December 2013 and it was officially launched on April 22, 2013.

FED sponsored a five days TOT workshop on the best methods and practices of Vegetables and Cassava Farming for 56 grade school students from 20 selected schools and distributed tools and seeds to the participating schools as part of its commitment to the partnership.

Over 90% of the selected schools have completed clearing the land and the construction of nurseries are nearing completion. During the follow up visits to participating schools, CYNP was able to establish one youth club in each of the 20 schools.

During this quarter, FED entered talks with UNICEF in regards to their National Youth Service Program which supports recent college graduates, offering them the possibility to volunteer their time and work in 4 sectors of the Liberian economy. The agricultural sector has been the one sector UNICEF has been struggling to establish. UNICEF would fund 28 national volunteers (NVs) over the course of a year while FED would provide the technical agricultural experience desired by these volunteers. It is part of UNICEF's mandate that they reach over 500 youths through these agricultural volunteers.

FED has drafted a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with UNICEF to leverage these 28 volunteers to reach specific agricultural youth groups in FED's four counties. The partnership is in place and it is expected to end by the 4th quarter FY 2014. UNICEF would provide all of the funding for these volunteers while FED would provide technical training in agriculture best practices and stewardship to these Liberian volunteers. This activity would allow both UNICEF and FED to reach a larger population of young farmers.

This partnership is expected to start by August 2013 once the agreement is signed by both parties. When agreed, FED will also conduct a two week technical agriculture Training of Trainer (TOT) workshop for 28 volunteers in August 2013 as scheduled. During the eleven month period, FED will

also provide a quarterly follow up TOTs trainings during the period of the partnership. The first technical training is intended to train the NVs in FED's four value chains and leadership.

FED has also entered talks with USAID's Advancing Youth Program (AYP) in regards to encouraging youth involvement in agriculture and providing agriculture technical training support to Advancing Youth club gardens within FED counties of operations. A MoU has been drafted with AYP to increase the opportunity to reach specific youth group involve in agriculture in FED's five counties of operations.

As a result of the FED and AYP partnership, AYP will absorb the 28 NVs as agriculture facilitators into its program. These NVs will facilitate classroom teaching and delivery of practical learning through school gardens in selected sites in Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Nimba, and Montserrado counties. Moreover, the NVs will provide extension and technical support to AYP's Youth clubs engaged in agriculture projects across the five counties- Montserrado, Nimba, Bong, Lofa, and Grand Bassa.

Nutrition

Nutrition Assessment

The Nutrition Assessment and Gap Analysis report was finalized and submitted in May 2013.

Enhancing Child Feeding, Household Dietary Diversity and Hygiene

Dietary diversity and nutrition-hygiene messages added to agriculture settings

Extension manuals for cassava and PUA crops have been completed. Nutrition messages are included in the manuals.

Dietary diversity and nutrition-hygiene campaign

Plans are in the pipeline to utilize radio programs to communicate messages promoting dietary diversity and informing rural communities of the importance of nutrition and hygiene.

Qualitative Research on Perceptions of Nutritional Status and Healthy Diversified Diets

This activity will be moved to the next fiscal year.

Processed Complementary Food Products for Children under 6-23 months

This activity is under review.

Storage and processing to reduce post-harvest losses

- Eight persons were trained in the fabrication of parboiling drums and tank by post-harvest STTA (April 15-16, 2013).
- Parboiling demonstration was conducted in Blay-Gbahn and Kuotarr Towns in Grand Bassa County (April 17-20, 2013)
- Dr. Vellanki also carried out demonstration and training on rat guard fabrication and installation in eight communities among four counties with an estimated 48 persons taking part in the demonstrations.

Investigation of Cassava Fortification to enhance nutritional value

This will be considered as we assist entrepreneurs engaged in cassava processing. FED, in collaboration with the EU and ZOA, will be conducting a cassava market study in the coming months. Fortification of processed cassava products will be considered as feasibility analysis is done.

Research on orange-fleshed sweet potatoes and other micro-nutrient rich crops

FED's market-led approach prioritizes commodities that have an existing market in Liberia. Based on FED's market review, orange-fleshed sweet potato is not currently in Liberia's vegetable market. There are several vegetables that are grown and sold in the local markets with high nutrient content, one of which is Moringa. Moringa seed distribution to PUA beneficiaries will be taking place shortly.

FED hired a local Nutrition Specialist, who started on May 1, 2013. Jonathan Brown will focus on ensuring nutrition is mainstreamed in FED's programming and activities.

Collaboration with other USG and donor projects

I. Advancing Youth Project (AYP)

During this quarter, FED entered into talks with USAID's Advancing Youth Program (AYP) in May 2013 to encourage and increase youth involvement in agriculture and provide agriculture technical training support to Advancing Youth club gardens within FED counties of operations. The participation of youths in the agriculture sector is something that needs more attention. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with AYP will increase the opportunities to reach out to youth groups to get involve in agriculture not only in FED's five counties of operations but AYP's as well.

The collaboration will focus on the broad areas of promoting effective livelihoods interventions, including training for youths, drawing upon lessons learned and a common understanding of best practices. This will include but not be limited to:

- Encouraging youth involvement in agriculture by demonstrating the benefits of agricultural engagement in the form of improved access to food and additional incomes for the households.
- Providing technical agriculture and livelihoods support for selected clusters, as currently carried out by the USAID Advancing Youth.
- Investigating methods to promote synergy and leverage of technical resources to support livelihood interventions for youth.
- Providing agriculture technical and training support to Advancing Youth club gardens within FED counties of operations.

This collaboration will also strengthen the impact of the initiatives presently being delivered by both parties; encourage and facilitate systematic and cooperative action between EDC and DAI, as USAID implementing partners in achieving a common vision and objectives, outlined elsewhere in this document. And build on the recognized comparative advantages and capacities of each organization and to establish operational modalities to maximize the synergies and impact of collaboration, while being cognizant of the role of each organization including separate obligations to USAID.

As a result of this collaboration, AYP will absorb the 28 National Volunteers (NVs) as agriculture facilitators into its program to work with 28 of the 38 clusters of AYP. These NVs will facilitate classroom teaching and delivery of practical learning through school gardens in selected sites in Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Nimba, and Montserrado counties. FED will provide technical support and coaching to 14 youth clubs with agriculture tools and a ten day training of trainers' workshop on agricultural best practices for clubs leaders and their members.

Future Activities

- Conduct a 14 day TOT on technical agriculture best practices and skills for 28 NVs.
- Placement of 28 NVs with AYP.
- Conduct a quarterly follow-up TOT for NVs.

2. Sustainable Marketplace Initiative – Liberia

In May, FED and USAID’s Sustainable Marketplace Initiative (SMI) signed a MOU for collaboration in order to increase business linkages between agricultural providers and concessionaires working in Liberia. SMI is an innovative approach that champions local entrepreneurs and connects them to new business opportunities in Liberia by offering the following products and services: a supplier directory, tender distribution, business matchmaking, training, market research, and communications and advocacy. To that end, FED and SMI collaborated on two ‘matchmaking’ events in June and July in Ganta, Nimba County and Buchannan, Grand Bassa County respectively. The purpose of the matchmaking events were to inform farmers about the market opportunities being offered by ArcelorMittal (AM), one of the largest mining companies in Liberia who have expressed a willingness to buy Liberian sourced goods to supply their canteens: namely Yekepa in Nimba and Buchanan in Grand Bassa. This is a significant commitment as it involves feeding 800 staff three times a day, every day. The events also served to link farmers with major aggregators who are currently supplying large buyers such as the mining companies, major hotels, supermarkets and caterers. In July, SMI and FED will conduct introductory meetings with UNMIL caterers and Mary’s Meals, and Arcelor Mittal. These entities are interested in working with FED to source rice and vegetables from local suppliers.

3. People, Rules and Organizations Supporting the Protection of Ecosystem Resources(PROSPER)

Both FED and PROSPER have shared their project communities in Nimba and Grand Bassa counties. FED hopes to extend some of its activities in FY 2014 to the Tappeta District with the view of helping to mitigate the pressure on the Gio Forest from shifting cultivation. PROSPER on the other hand plans to develop some specific information and capacity building activities on sustainable natural resources management that could be integrated into FED extension work. To translate the proposed collaboration into concrete measures, FED team in Nimba and Grand Bassa counties are visiting PROSPER assisted communities for potential intervention in FY 2014.

4. ACDI/VOCA-USAID’s Liberia Agriculture Upgrading, Nutrition and Child Health (LAUNCH)

FED and LAUNCH signed an MOU for collaboration on creating Farming as a Business (FaaB) curriculum and a facilitator’s guide in October of 2012. The USAID-funded programs overlap in Bong and Nimba counties with similar objectives of improving production and nutrition of rural households through farming. Previous manuals from ACDI/VOCA Uganda PL 480 Grants Program, the Feed the Future Initiative’s Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement (ADVANCE) Program in Ghana, and the Livelihood Improvement for Farming Enterprises (LIFE) program for Liberia were adapted to a more illiterate audience and to the partners’ values chains (rice, cassava, vegetable, poultry and goats) The curriculum uses interactive activities and storytelling and includes new topics on planning, understanding the market, marketing, value addition, and using savings and credit, which were lacking in other versions. In May, the partners finalized the curriculum and the LAUNCH project conducted two weeks of training of trainers (TOT), which included FED

Enterprise Development field staff. In July, the FED project will conduct an additional TOT for FED-hired business service providers who will begin delivering the training to approximately 74 FED category A farming groups (1,850 participants) in August. The program is designed with six modules of two to three hours sessions to be given on-site in the field at times that are convenient for farmers. The training will give farmers a much-needed background on farming as a business, record keeping, planning and budgeting, and marketing that will facilitate further coaching and mentoring by FED staff in the field.

5. USAID's Health, Agriculture, Nutrition, Development, and Sustainability (HANDS)

In May, FED and the HANDS project signed an MOU for collaboration in upgrading the cassava processing value chain. The HANDS project (a sister project to LAUNCH) provides feeding to lactating mothers and to schools in the form of Super Gari, a combination of soy flour, gari, and added nutrients. HANDS currently operates two factories in Grand Gedeh and River Gee in order to produce gari locally, however, they are unable to supply the 15 metric tons that are needed to fulfill the demands of the feeding program. Therefore, FED and HANDS have worked together in order to locate producers and processors capable of delivering quality gari and to assist cassava value chain stakeholders to organize a consistent and reliable supply mechanism. In February and March, FED and HANDS organized two buyer/supplier meetings in Nimb and Bong counties, respectively. From April 18 to 19, 15 processors, prospective processors, and equipment manufacturers (7 females, 8 males) visited the HANDS processing facility in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh to gain a more hands-on experience in the proper manufacture of gari. In August, some of these processors and equipment manufacturers will participate in an upcoming cost-sharing initiative with FED to support the upgrade of their facilities.

6. Excellence in Higher Education for Liberian Development (EHELD)

A meeting was requested by the FED Chief of Party to discuss whether a soils laboratory improvement should be assisted at the University of Liberia (UL) by FED. Also, there was discussion about the status of EHELD's assistance to build a soils laboratory at Cuttington University (CU).

In May 2013, EHELD was contacted as to their ability to monitor a request of the UL to assist in making their soils laboratory functional as a training and service center for soil testing analysis. FED investigated this request and, through the assistance of a Soil Scientist STTA, Matthew Curtis, a MoU was developed with a cost sharing agreement. This MoU was submitted to UL in October 2012. It remains unsigned by both UL and FED. In order to proceed, the FED Chief of Party (CoP) contacted EHELD who already has a presence at UL Fendall campus.

After an explanation of the work that EHELD has been doing at UL, it was agreed that assisting with the soils laboratory was not in keeping with the mandate of FED. However, EHELD CoP did announce that it was working with CU to have a soils analytical laboratory developed.

This brought to closure the issue of FED's role in working with UL. It also brought to light an opportunity to cooperate with EHELD in promoting the soils laboratory development at Cuttington University which is situated in Bong County, a mandate of FED for agricultural assistance. Further discussions are in order and a MoU will be prepared between FED and EHELD in this regard. A meeting with the University of Liberia will follow in July to explain the situation of the FED contract deliverables and mandate to work with Vocational Educational Institutions only.

7. USDA Food for Progress – Land O’Lakes, and European Union – BRAC, Liberia.

Currently in Liberia there are two restocking procedures underway; USDA Food for Progress funded program implemented by Land O’Lakes Inc (USDA/LOL), and the European Union funded, Increasing Food Security in Poor Rural Areas in Liberia through Livestock Production Processing and Marketing (IFSPRA) Project, implemented by BRAC Liberia (EU/BRAC). These programs are focusing on the restocking of goats, cattle, pigs, and poultry, acquired from outside the country, to farmers who lost their animals in the war. The Lead Farmer production intensification sites established under the FED Goat Value Chain Program will constitute “Demonstration Farms” introducing strategic production intensification technologies to improve both the productivity of the Lead Farmer Group herds themselves as well as new goat herds being created through the USDA/LOL and EU/BRAC restocking efforts.

In addition, FED intends to use the structure/strategy, provided under the EU/BRAC Program, for the provision of animal health services and products to the goat subsector as well. A FED/MDF Activity providing additional resource needs and Task Order together with MOU between FED and BRAC is being developed to implement the plan. The strategic use of a voucher program may also be used to get the program started. Acquisition of improved, genetically proven, goats for cross-breeding and establishment of a nucleus breeding herd will be a major activity in coordination with the MOA and USDA Land O’Lakes (LOL) program. FED is supporting the effort through a tripartite MOU between by rehabilitating an animal quarantine facility at the Center for Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) for receipt and quarantine prior to distribution to farmers under a tripartite MOU between FED-LOL-CARI.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Task 4.1 Knowledge Management

The last three months has involved engaging partners and beneficiaries in obtaining information to help FED better understand the impact of their work and how implementation of activities could be improved. In addition, disseminating information to county staff that might assist in their collaboration with other implementers has increased.

FED planned to carry out an Agriculture Lecture Series in Year 2. This plan was shared with the Agriculture Coordination Committee (ACC), chaired by the MOA and attended by NGOs and other donors engaged in the development of Liberia’s Agriculture. The ACC participants welcomed the idea, but after several follow up meetings with MOA, the response has been unfavorable. Thus, the lecture series has been rebranded for a new audience. KM will be collaborating with Component Three to pilot this lecture series at FED supported community colleges. In collaborating with the community colleges, the focus will be on building students capacity to organize, research, and successfully conduct a similar ongoing series of lectures at their local colleges.

Extension materials for Component I were completed and will be disseminated before the end of July to various stakeholders. The materials will be utilized by extension officers in the field to build

beneficiaries capacity. These materials will increase their knowledge in various aspects of cultivating and producing rice, vegetables, cassava, and goats in Liberia.

The FED library was set up for internal and external use. The library is to be used internally to build staff capacity and externally for partners visiting the FED offices in Monrovia. We currently have several agro-production books and FED produced materials (brochures, reports, etc.). The ultimate goal is to work with other agriculture entities to obtain studies, and important documentation regarding agriculture in Liberia.

Reports for USAID/DEC are being processed and are 20% complete as of the end of the 3rd Quarter.

KM visited Nimba and Lofa county offices to conduct follow-ups on closed out activities and present the KM philosophy to FED staff. Both activities were completed successfully and a trip report has been created in TAMIS with the findings. Highlights of the report include two success stories focusing on a vegetable and a goat farmer who utilized the resources, trainings and technologies provided through FED.

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

The M&E staff has been laying the ground work to capture the results of the major Year 2 field activities that have been initiated in the past quarter. Significant results are expected during the final quarter of Year 2, with the exception of the rice crop harvest which will be captured in the first and second quarters of Year 3. Several baseline surveys were conducted for rice, vegetables and goats. Cassava farmers will be surveyed in July. Mid-season surveys will be conducted to determine farmer activities on demonstration fields and on their own lands.

Increased use of Personal Digital Assistant devices (PDA's) have been used in surveys and will be employed in more surveys as appropriate. Contracted NGOs are being trained in the use of these devices in anticipation of their collaboration with M&E in data and information collection.

Mapping is being used for decisions on proposed road construction activity, survey sampling decisions, and developing information pop-ups on maps for briefings and planning.

A very cursory survey was initiated to determine the extent of assistance that FED might provide in developing M&E capacity for the County MoA offices. This survey and a report will be completed in the 4th quarter.

4.2a. Improving Data Collection Systems

Indicator reviews: M&E conducted a workshop for FED staff to review the PMP Indicators, Indicator definitions, and the M&E system for collecting and reporting data and information. From this discussion, FED Activity Managers have refined targets and broadened the scope of field data reporting. Indicator definition questions have largely been resolved through discussions with USAID. The M&E office had two telephone conversations with USAID contractors who are developing Indicator Guides (Tango International and FANTA). The outcome of their efforts should provide further guidance for interpreting Indicator definitions.

Feeder road survey: The M&E ICT/GIS Officer worked with a team of Engineers and Economists from USAID Washington and Monrovia to assess FED priority roads in Bong and Lofa counties. The team did a traffic count along the priority roads, conducted market surveys and transportation costs

of goods from farm to market, calculated distances of priority roads and surface elevation above sea level, road tracking and marking of way-points along the road.

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

M&E quarterly staff meeting: This quarterly event was held in Gbanga to review M&E systems' effectiveness, review progress being made towards program indicators and to make plans for the upcoming and final quarter of Year 2.

M&E PDA outreach: The FED GIS staff person has been invited to participate in the Liberian governments' statistical office's upcoming work shop on the use of PDA devices for census taking. He will have an opportunity to present insights and experiences in the use of PDA devices.

M&E working with contracted NGOs: FED M&E met with several contracted NGOs who are providing extension services in rice, cassava and vegetable demonstration activities to review FED M&E responsibilities and provide them with the information and tools necessary to assist in the collection of data and information on meeting targets for these activities.

4.2b. Baseline Surveys, Impact Surveys and Special Studies

Rice farmer survey: The primary activity during the quarter was the contracting, preparing, and implementing the rice farmer survey activity. A local NGO surveyed a sample of 288 rice farmers to prepare a baseline from which the Year 2 activities can be measured. A 3-day orientation and training was held in Nimba County. The survey and analysis of the findings should be completed by the end of the next month. This survey incorporated the use of Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) for the collection and entering of data. A review of the data and an initial analysis was completed, but not all the survey forms have been entered into the data spreadsheet, precluding completion of a final analysis and report. The hand-held PDA devices used by the survey teams worked well and proved an efficient way in which to collect and gather data back at the FED M&E office on a daily basis.

Additional surveys: To establish baselines for the Value Chains and to initiate the data collection for the Year 2 Work Plan activities, several surveys were undertaken. These included the goat pass-on scheme, the vegetable demonstration and production program, and the vegetable seedling program. The survey for the cassava program will be initiated in July.

Group membership: Demonstration groups for the four Value Chains were visited and the data compiled on the stakeholder membership of each group. This data is critical to forming the base of the stakeholder profiles in the TAMIS data system for FED.

Environmental compliance: M&E worked with the FED Environmental Officer to initiate the required Environmental Compliance questionnaire that is required for all the FED sites in Year 2. M&E staff is monitoring this activity in the field.

Agro-dealers and voucher program: In conjunction with the Input Supply activity, a survey of agro-dealers and farmers has been initiated in the counties in collaboration with the Enterprise Development Program. This includes a survey of the market areas to locate these type of businesses and then to interview them in connection with the planned farmer voucher program.

Summary Table of Surveys

Table 9

Field Survey Activities	Status
Year 2 rice farmer baseline survey and follow-up of Year 1 farmers activities	Analysis of data awaiting receipt of balance of survey forms with report to be completed in July
Baseline survey of the participating goat farmers in the Year 2 production and pass-on scheme	Surveys have been completed with data entry and analysis ongoing and a report to be completed in July
Vegetable harvest and production surveys of Year 1 and baseline for Year 2 farmer participants being set	Surveys are complete for Year 1 and 2 farmers with data entry and analysis to be completed in July
Cassava farmer survey for baseline of Year 2 participants and harvest results of the Year 1 program	Sample harvest sites are being prepared for the July harvest; a Task Order for a yield survey of Year 1 participants and baseline for Year 2 participants to start in July
Seedling production program survey and an evaluation report anticipation of a follow-on activity	This survey report will be reviewed in July
Environmental compliance for Year 2 demonstration sites	This survey is ongoing and will be completed in early July
Measurements of the rice demonstration field sites, including UDP, ISFM, seed production locations	These GPS measurements are ongoing and will be completed in early July

Additional surveys: To support and enhance the data and information obtained from the foregoing surveys, additional surveys will be initiated during the 4th Quarter. These are listed below and include gathering additional supporting analytical information from Value Chain participants and producers in the Year 2 activities.

Task 4.2c. Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation

Site measurement: The M&E ICT/GIS officer provided oversight to measure all the demonstration fields for Year 2, with the priority being the Category A and B sites. This exercise will be completed in July. The pop-up information boxes for each site are being prepared and should be completed in the next reporting period.

Record keeping: To facilitate future vegetable surveys, M&E and PUA staff has been contacting lead farmers to seek ways to better measure harvests given that farmers tend to harvest on an irregular

basis. An effort to encourage a few farmers to maintain records of production activities on their own vegetable farms is underway.

Gender: M&E staff discussed gender monitoring activities with the FED STTA consultant on this subject. The consultant’s report recommendations outline these follow-up actions field.

Activity close-out: Field visits were made to completed activities to finalize the close-out process. Reports have been prepared and submitted to MDF. M&E will initiate post-activity surveys to assess how the participating individuals and groups are doing with the knowledge learned in these activities.

Monitoring plans: M&E staff initiated the preparation of monitoring plans with NGOs who have been contracted by FED to support the implementation of its component one agriculture activities. These NGOs will be encouraged to assist the M&E effort in collecting data and information at the multiple sites for which they are responsible. Monitoring Plans have also been initiated with Activity Managers for activities to clarify the M&E process for each activity.

Rice farmer survey: The NGO team hired to conduct the rice farmer survey completed a 3-day orientation and training prior to conducting the survey, which was completed in June. The team used FED supplied hand-held PDA devices enabling them to report back to M&E on a daily basis.

Extension TOTs: M&E staff participated in the rice, cassava and vegetable Value Chain Training of Trainers workshops for contracted NGOs in preparation for the Year 2 technology demonstration programs with farmer groups. M&E explained the monitoring system, what might be expected of the trainers for collecting some data, and collaborating in surveys and follow-up activities for M&E. The M&E ICT/GIS officer also participated and conducted basic training to participants in the use of the GPS devices for field measurements.

Data Quality Analysis training: Five Monrovia-based M&E staff participated in a day-long LMEP training workshop on Data Quality Analysis. Issues and actions discussed in the workshop were passed on to the county M&E staff at the quarterly county M&E workshop during the first week of June. The information absorbed at the workshop will form the basis for a renewed effort to ensure that all M&E documentation is in place, both soft and hard copies, and that tracking data from the source to the files is ensured. This coincides with the ongoing updating of the filing system.

Site monitoring visits to various ongoing activities during the quarter included:

Table 10.

1.	Organizational Strengthening, Business Skills, and Financial Management Training Services
2.	Distribution of inputs (seeds, tools, construction materials, production inputs) for rice, cassava, vegetable and goat farmer groups
3.	Agro-Video Dissimination training
4.	Introduction to Agriculture for farmers in a Back to School Garden TOT
5.	Fish in Rice Paddy Training at NCCC in Nimba
6.	Rice Production Best Practices and Water Management Training in preparation for the

	Year 2 rice season
7.	Rice Household Survey data collection training
8.	The Post-Harvest activity demonstrating parboiling tank construction and use and crop drying slab-floor construction
9.	Rice, cassava, and vegetable TOT trainings for the contracted NGOs that will provide extension services
10.	All groups demonstration sites for each Value Chain for member demographic inventory, site measurements, and environmental compliance

Indicators

FTFMS Indicator Review: PMP Indicator Target revisions were completed based on a review with FED Component Team Leaders and Activity Managers. The window for changes and revisions opened by USAID provided an opportunity to review the annual and LOP targets based on experiences from implementation during Year 1 and the first half of Year 2. These revisions were finalized in the FTFMS data format provided by USAID and submitted in June.

Revisions: Revisions were made in all of the 12 FTF Indicators and 5 of the 8 Project and Custom Indicators. With surveys underway and planned for the balance of Year 2 and in the first quarter of Year 3, there will probably be additional changes to the targets set for Years 3-5 and the overall LOP targets. The changes will be made in keeping with the targets set forth in the Contract Section C Project Description and the Year 3 Work Plan.

Significant changes were made in the following Indicators:

- The Gross Margin calculation was clarified by USAID, changing the calculation to include data-point estimates for each Value Chain, but not the final Gross Margin calculation, which will be done by the USAID FTFMS office. The measurement was also changed from a unit measurement to a total population measurement (the definition continues to call for a unit measurement, so this needs to be clarified).
- The hectares under improved technologies were also clarified and now include the hectares in the demonstration program sites. This also applies to farmer participants applying improved technologies, to account for the application of the improved technologies on the demonstration and adoptive common lands adjacent to the demonstration sites.

Measuring results: Several surveys are either completed, underway or planned to measure the application and results from the improved technologies, which will serve as guides for understanding the sustainability of the technologies being demonstrated to participating farmers (see list of Field Survey Activities above). Results on participating farmers own lands will be measured and tracked to distinguish results between the demonstration and adoptive/common lands and develop a picture of sustainability. These surveys will provide data on sales, input use, and harvest results for the Gross Margin calculations.

Year 2 – 3rd Quarter Results: Indicator results for the quarter were significant and include progress on several Indicators (see M&E Attachment 1: Indicator Progress Report and M&E Attachment 2: Indicator Results by County and Component). These increases were made even as the components were preparing staff and contracted NGOs for the trainings and extension work that were getting underway for the rice, cassava, vegetable, and goat Value Chains. M&E worked with the extension staff and contracted NGOs to clarify monitoring activities and responsibilities and enlist their support in data collection. Increases in results were made in rural households, as the group members began work on the demonstration sites; application of technologies as farmers were trained and initiated activities on the demonstration sites; the number of hectares under improved technologies is low as the groups are still in the process of clearing and preparing land; private sector investments were realized in the vegetable program, the work at the Arjay farm and at the New Generation cassava activity; the formalization of PPPs are still in process and this number will increase in the next quarter; the numbers for students and academic facilities benefiting from FED activities included the installation and use of the VSAT system and the distribution of textbooks to BWI; and the number of trainings reflects the number of beneficiaries who have received training at least once (this number does not reflect those beneficiaries who have received multiple trainings).

Activities Planned for Next Quarter

1. Surveys: The analysis and reports are being prepared for several surveys that have either been completed or are underway. These surveys involved farmers who are participating in the FED programs for rice, goats, vegetables, and cassava.
2. PMP: The PMP narrative will be revised to reflect revised Indicator targets and take account of the Year 3 Work Plan that will be prepared.
3. Follow up surveys: The Organizational Development, Business Skills, Financial Management, and other trainings that were completed will be visited and surveyed to determine the success of the trainings and lesson learned.
4. Cassava farmer survey: A local NGO is being contracted to conduct a cassava farmer household sample survey. This survey is intended to follow up on adoption practices with farmers who participated in Y1 of FED's cassava demonstration activity and to set baseline data for farmers who will participate in Y 2 of FED's cassava program.
5. Seedling producer survey: Initiate a baseline survey for PUA vegetable seedling producers to understand their investments, level of production, sales, etc.
6. Managing for Results training: Three M&E staff will participate in the L-MEP Managing for Results training workshop.
7. Time and distance to sites: County M&E Coordinators are compiling a list of site locations with the travel distance and time for planning site monitoring visits, particularly in the rainy season. Travel times can double or more during this season, restricting monitoring efforts.
8. Stakeholder profile: All FED partners, Value Chain groups, and participants will be entered into the TAMIS system during the next month, providing access to multiple types of information related to project activities.
9. Mapping: Finalize the mapping of all Value Chain demonstration sites and prepare pop-up information and data boxes for briefing and management purposes at the county and district level.

10. Use of PDA devices: Train a pool of enumerators and FED field staff on the use of PDAs for data collection, storing and transferring data from the PDAs to the FED Mobile Data Collection Platform (Form Hub).
11. Potential assistance to MoA M&E: In a effort to determine how FED might assist the MoA in developing an initial capacity for M&E at the county level to eventually feed information back to the Ministry, a survey of MoA county level capacity has been initiated and will be completed with a draft plan of action for FED to consider in addressing MoA county-level M&E issues and concerns.
12. Hunger surveys: Baseline surveys will be initiated to assess the issues of hunger in the project areas of concern and to assist management in determining what activities can be promoted to address any hunger issues that may be prevalent.

Market Development Fund (MDF) Fiscal Year 2013 Quarter 3

MDF Disbursements

During Quarter 3 of fiscal year 2013, the Market Development Fund (MDF) expended **\$1,335,536.31** on fifty-six MDF activities across FED's four components. Please reference MDF Table #1 for a breakdown of these activities and disbursements by component.

MDF Commitments

During Quarter 3 2013 MDF continued activity design for the 2013 rainy season in Liberia. The MDF technical committee reviewed and approved eight activities under CLIN01, five activities under CLIN02, seven activities under CLIN03, and six activities for cross-cutting areas which total **\$940,844.78**. Please reference MDF Table #2 for a list of on-going MDF activities that were reviewed and approved in FY 2013 Q3.

Table 11.

MDF Table 1 - MDF Activity Disbursements FY 2013 Q3			
CLIN	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	FY 2013 Q3 Disbursement
CLIN 01	CLIN01-TRN-0004	Training Private sector on Soil Testing processes and procedures	\$ 2,700.00
	CLIN01-MDF-0006	Training and Demonstrations on Integrated Soil Fertility Management/ISFM on FED cassava and upland rice sites	\$ 7,095.50
	CLIN01-MDF-0010	Training and Demonstration on ISFM and UDP	\$ 4,007.12
	CLIN01-MDF-0011	Arjay Farms Outgrower Expansion	\$ 26,650.00
	CLIN01-MDF-0017	Nimba County Community Goat Pass-on Scheme.	\$ 51,035.00
	CLIN01-MDF-0018	Completion of National Peste des Petits Ruminant (PPR) Vaccination Campaign	\$ 9,298.00
	CLIN01-MDF-0033	Peri Urban Agriculture - 2013 Dry	\$ 72,299.22

	Season	
CLIN01-MDF-0041	I.Establishment of demonstration plots and intensified rice production in Montserrado County	\$ 2,376.85
CLIN01-MDF-0047	Lofa County Community Goat Pass-on Scheme	\$ 28,787.00
CLIN01-MDF-0048	Bong County Community Goat Pass-on Scheme	\$ 18,148.99
CLIN01-TRN-0056	Cassava 2013 NGO Selection, TOT, and Extension Manual	\$ 69,399.85
CLIN01-MDF-0057	Community Outreach Interactive Forums	\$ 23,569.38
CLIN01-MDF-0059	Establishment of demonstration plots and intenfied rice production in Nimba County	\$ 54,389.90
CLIN01-MDF-0060	Establishment of demonstration plots and intenfied rice production in Grand Bassa County	\$ 20,887.35
CLIN01-MDF-0061	Establishment of demonstration plots and intenfied rice production in Bong County	\$ 95,401.10
CLIN01-MDF-0062	Establishment of demonstration plots and intenfied rice production in Lofa County	\$ 61,689.77
CLIN01-TRN-0064	Training of Trainers in Intensive Rice Production	\$ 72,860.52
CLIN01-MDF-0065	Rice Farmer Household Survey	\$ 47,241.16
CLIN01-MDF-0066	Post-harvest processing demonstration	\$ 13,691.81
CLIN01-MDF-0067	Grand Bassa County Community Goat Pass-On Scheme	\$ 18,867.00
CLIN01-MDF-0068	Increased Agricultural Productivity PUA Rainy Season	\$ 32,779.75
CLIN01-MDF-0069	Establishment of demo sites and intensified cassava production in Lofa County	\$ 17,053.25
CLIN01-MDF-0070	Establishment of demo sites and intensified cassava production in Bong County	\$ 10,814.75
CLIN01-MDF-0071	Establishment of demo sites and intensified cassava production in Grand Bassa County	\$ 33,062.50
CLIN01-MDF-0072	Establishment of demo sites and intensified cassava production in Nimba County	\$ 23,902.50
CLIN01-MDF-0073	Establishment of demo sites and intensified cassava production in Margibi County	\$ 629.35
CLIN01-MDF-0074	Training Manufacturers on Agro-Equipment	\$ 2,079.00

	CLIN01-MDF-0075	Information Technology Assistance to Agriculture Coordinating Committee Meeting of the Ministry of Agriculture	\$ 825.00
	CLIN01-MDF-0076	Pilot School Garden Program Competition - Grand Bassa	\$ 11,985.00
	CLIN01-MDF-0077	Kakata-MOA Demonstration Site	\$ 1,070.00
	CLIN01-TRN-0082	The Production of Quality Rice Seed in Bong, Lofa and Nimba Counties	\$ 22,327.00
CLIN01-MDF Total			\$ 856,923.62
CLIN	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	FY 2013 Q3 Disbursement
CLIN 02	CLIN02-MDF-0009	New Generational Women/AEDE/Chevron	\$ 4,732.20
	CLIN02-TRN-0015	Pilot Youth Business Plan Competition for Institutions	\$ 100.00
	CLIN02-MDF-0020	MSME Conference 2013	\$ 33,717.00
	CLIN02-TRN-0021	Second Organization Strengthening Training	\$ 105,290.29
	CLIN02-TRN-0023	Financial Management Training	\$ 46,545.29
	CLIN02-MDF-0024	Value Chain Consultancy Training	\$ 30,300.00
	CLIN02-TRN-0027	Low-cost video for agriculture: Dissemination Workshop and Practice	\$ 822.00
	CLIN02-MDF-0028	Cassava processors training visit to HANDS processing center in Zwedru	\$ 2,910.00
	CLIN02-TRN-0029	One day seminar on marketing and use of micro-credit in agriculture to 60 women farmers in Bong County	\$ 715.00
CLIN02-MDF Total			\$ 225,131.78
CLIN	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	FY 2013 Q3 Disbursement
CLIN 03	CLIN03-TRN-0001	Agro-Business Internship Program 2012	\$ 840.00
	CLIN03-MDF-0004	Booker T. Washington Institute (BWI): Building a Center of Excellence	\$ 7,463.25
	CLIN03-MDF-0005	Food Processing and Preservation Project (COSEO)	\$ 19,104.18
	CLIN03-MDF-0007	Purchase of Resource Materials for Educational Institutions	\$ 64,409.76
	CLIN03-MDF-0012	National Diploma Curriculum in Agriculture for Post Secondary Education in Liberia	\$ 3,497.50
	CLIN03-TRN-0013	STTA activities at BWI and two community colleges	\$ 90.00
	CLIN03-TRN-0014	Agri-business Internship 2013	\$ 128,358.00
	CLIN03-TRN-0016	Soil Testing Kit Training	\$ 630.00

	CLIN03-MDF-0019	The Establishment of Rice and Fish Farming Program at the Nimba County Community College	\$ 4,698.85
	CLIN03-TRN-0020	National Agriculture Diploma (ECOWAS-TVET) Curriculum Roll Out Part I	\$ 5,020.09
	CLIN03-TRN-0021	Post Harvest Rice Technical Training	\$ 4,018.00
CLIN03-MDF Total			\$ 238,129.63
CLIN	MDF Number	Activity	FY 2013 Q3 Disbursement
CLIN 04	CLIN04-MDF-0001	Environmental Compliance Training	\$ 1,414.28
	CLIN04-TRN-0005	Enhanced Agricultural Radio Program Development, Training and Management Course	\$ 1,857.00
	CLIN04-TRN-0008	Proof of Concept: 3 Modules on Gender Sensitive Training	\$ 1,885.00
	CLIN04-MDF-0009	Printing of Extension Training Materials for PUA, Rice, and Cassava	\$ 10,140.00
	CLIN04-MDF-0011	Managing for Results Training	\$ 55.00
CLIN04-MDF Total			\$ 15,351.28
FY 2013 Q3 MDF Disbursement TOTAL			\$ 1,335,536.31

Table 12.

MDF Table #2 - MDF Activities Approved FY 2013 Q3				
CLIN #	MDF Number	Activity	MDF Activity Title	MDF Proposed Activity Budget
CLIN01	CLIN01-MDF-0074		Training Manufacturers on Agro-Equipment	\$ 17,729.80
	CLIN01-MDF-0068		Peri-urban agriculture 2013 Rainy Season	\$ 172,069.53
	CLIN01-MDF-0076		Pilot School Garden Program Competition (20 schools) - Grand Bassa	\$ 18,470.55
	CLIN01-MDF-0077		Kakata - MOA demonstration site	\$ 18,603.90
	CLIN01-MDF-0006		Training and Demonstrations on Integrated Soil Fertility Management/ISFM on FED cassava and upland rice sites	\$ 22,760.90
	CLIN01-MDF-0010		Training and demonstration on UDP	\$ 21,888.00
	CLIN01-TRN-0079		Training in the Rearing of goat kids to reduce mortality	\$ 4,534.50
	CLIN01-TRN-0082		The Production of Quality Rice Seed in Bong, Lofa and Nimba Counties	\$ 34,874.00
	CLIN 01 MDF Proposed Activity Budget Total			
CLIN #	MDF Number	Activity	MDF Activity Title	MDF Proposed Activity Budget
CLIN	CLIN02-TRN-0030		Farming as a Business Training of Trainers	\$ 30,555.00

02	CLIN02-MDF-0009	New Generational Women/AEDE/Chevron (Budget Realignment)	\$ 38,719.00	
	CLIN02-TRN-0024	Value Chain Consultancy	\$ 30,174.00	
	CLIN02-MDF-0034	Aggregator/Farmer Event with Building Markets - Nimba	\$ 1,640.00	
	CLIN02-MDF-0037	Aggregator/Farmer Event with Building Markets - Grand Bassa	\$ 1,792.50	
	CLIN 02 MDF Proposed Activity Budget Total			\$ 102,880.50
CLIN #	MDF Number	Activity	MDF Activity Title	MDF Proposed Activity Budget
CLIN 03	CLIN03-TRN-0023		National Agriculture Diploma (ECOWAS-TVET) Curriculum Roll Out Part 2	\$38,715.00
	CLIN03-TRN-0019		The establishment of a rice and fish farming program at the Nimba County Community College	\$ 24,062.00
	CLIN03-TRN-0020		National Agriculture Diploma (ECOWAS-TVET) Curriculum Roll Out Part I	\$ 4,705.00
	CLIN03-TRN-0021		Post Harvest Rice Technical Training	\$ 8,275.00
	CLIN01-MDF-0009		Nimba County Community College - Building a Center of Excellence	\$ 245,497.00
	CLIN01-MDF-0022		Supply of ICT Equipment to MoE's Bureau of Science, Vocational and Special Education	\$ 5,160.00
	CLIN013-TRN-0023		National Agriculture Diploma (ECOWAS-TVET) Curriculum Roll Out Part 2	\$ 35,214.00
	CLIN 03 MDF Proposed Activity Budget Total			\$361,628.00
CLIN #	MDF Number	Activity	MDF Activity Title	MDF Proposed Activity Budget
CLIN 04	CLIN04-MDF-0005		Enhanced Agricultural Radio Program Development, Training and Management Course	\$ 47,192.00
	CLIN04-MDF-0006		Cassava Farmers Household Survey	\$ 55,329.00
	CLIN04-TRN-0007		PLAN International Work on FED Gender Curriculum and Training	\$45,247.00
	CLIN04-TRN-0008		Proof of Concept: 3 Modules on Gender Sensitive Training	\$ 2,723.00
	CLIN04-MDF-0009		Printing of Extension Training Materials for PUA, Rice and Cassava	\$ 14,000.00
	CLIN04-MDF-0011		Managing for Results Training	\$ 914.10
	CLIN 04 MDF Proposed Activity Budget Total			\$ 165,405.10
MDF Activities Approved Proposed Budget TOTAL				\$ 940,844.78

PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

April

Staff Recruited, LTTA:

During the period under review the below listed persons were recruited to occupy vacant positions:

- Dave G. Yekeh: Goat Officer, Grand Bassa County
- Membah B. Duo: Goat Specialist, Montserrado County
- Lincoln S. Flomo: Enterprise Development Assistant, G. Bassa County
- Onike Willor: Receptionist, Montserrado

Short-Term ICA Contractors:

- J. William Toe, Cassava Rapid Multiplication Trainer

Training:

Two staff from the Communications Department, Moses Browne and Cedrick Kpadeh attended a five-day training in Malawi on Agriculture Radio Production. (April 15-19, 2013). This training was organized by a USAID Project called FACET.

May

Staff Recruited, LTTA:

- John M. Momoh: Program Training Assistant
- Doebazee K. Zaza: M&E Coordinator/Lofa
- Kou Wonokay: M&E Assistant/Lofa
- Memba Duo: Goat Value Chain Specialist
- Nelson Kartee: Former intern with Enterprise Development Team, now Jr. Enterprise Development Assistant.
- Jonathan Brown Jr.: Nutritionist, Montserrado

Short-Term ICA Contractors:

- J. William Toe: Cassava Value Chain Trainers of Trainers workshop held in Bong County April 29- May 17, 2013
- James K. Nyumah : 10 Meters Water way Bridge construction May 1- 31, 2013
- Bill Wowoah: Motorbike training for field staffs in 4 counties from May 1-18, 2013
- Ten (10) Data Entry Clerks: Entering of information pertaining to the goat vaccination survey that was conducted.
- Dorothy Samuel: Demo Site Contractor, Margibi County
- Cyrus Cooper: Demo Site Security, Margibi County
- Marie Z. Johnson : Demo Site Contractor, Margibi County
- Samuel H. Zarme: Demo Site Supervisor, Margibi County
- Modesco Y. Gbanawon: Jr. Agro-Equipment Technician-Bong County

Training:

- New staff orientation training

June

Staff Recruited, LTTA:

- Morris D. Karnuah: Goat Value Chain/Production Backstop Specialist

Short-Term ICA Contractors:

- Bill Wowoah: Motorbike training for field staff in G. Bassa from June 24-27, 2013
- Jacob Tomie: Power Tiller Contractor- Lofa County
- Lawrence Ballah: Power Tiller Contractor- Lofa County
- Sam Kabbah: Power Tiller Contractor- Lofa County

- T. Lawrence Randall: Independent Media Consultant-June 24-July 8, 2013
- Weade Kobbah-Wureh: Independent Media Consultant- June 24-July 8, 2013

Training:

- New staff orientation training

FED STTA Tracking Table April-June 2013

Table 13

Name	Position	Partner	Dates	Summary
Technical STTA				
Bradley Ledger	Vocational Agriculture Education Specialist	LSU	April 3-24, 2013	Develop the National Agricultural Diploma Course on leadership in the newly adopted ECOWAS-TVET program and confer with student leaders and faculty at the individual institutions with regard to formation of agricultural leadership organizations
Christin Hutchinson	Program Officer	Winrock	April 6-21, 2013	Support and training for FED's new Component One lead
Jacki Carlsen	ICT Advisor	DAI	February 23 - April 13, 2013	ICT support to FED
Dr. Robert Black	Crop Protection Legislation and Policy Review Specialist.	Winrock	April 24-May 4, 2013	Assist the Ministry of Agriculture with the development of appropriate policies/regulation to ensure a functioning Liberian agricultural system with particular regards to crop protection.
Duke Burruss	A/COP	DAI	May 12-May 28, 2013	Duke provided A/COP coverage while the COP was on AL. He also assisted with cassava value chain economic analysis.
Marcia Odell	Gender Specialist	PLAN International	May 14 - May 31, 2013	Conducting gender sensitivity training.
Kwaku Agyemang	Livestock Policy Expert	DAI	May 1-31, 2013	Assist the Ministry in participation in the upcoming VET-GOV deliberations and to provide strategic guidance in these developments in order to move the National Liberia Livestock Policy efforts forward.
Rachel Wade	Communications Specialist	DAI	February 15-October 2013	Communications support to FED Comms team

Dennis Mccarthy	Goat Value Chain Specialist	DAI	January 2013 – August 2013	Working with Component One to strengthen capacity within the Goat Value Chain
Larry Tweed	Input Supply Specialist	IFDC	June-August 2013	Support for pilot voucher program and UDP program.