

**Lutheran World Relief/Lutheran World Federation
Liberia Integrated Agriculture Development Project
(669-CA-00-99-00303)**

**Quarterly Report
(April 1– June 30, 2000)**

1.0 GENERAL OVERVIEW OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The following is a summary of the activities undertaken this quarter.

- Recruitment of an expatriate management/training advisor
- Negotiation and signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Concerned Christian Community (CCC) for the period May – October 31, 2000
- Visit of a USAID Consultancy team of 4 members to project site
- Procurement of one (1) 15 KVA generator and one (1) air conditioner for project headquarters
- Procurement and distribution of farm inputs to CBOs and farmers groups
- Training of CBO members and farmer groups in both cash and food crop production
- Maintenance of tree crop/plantain nurseries
- Recruitment of tree crop farmers for planting
- Rehabilitation and planting of LWF/WS seed/plant multiplication site
- Completion of Livestock paddock and poultry brooding house
- Completion of rehabilitation and dedication of Klay Market
- Procurement of materials for three (3) bridges and six (6) blacksmith workshops
- Procurement of one(1) cassava processing unit

2.0 PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT BY OBJECTIVE

The following details the achievements made under each of the four (4) project objectives, namely:

1. Improvement of seeds/planting materials multiplication and food processing,
2. Livestock multiplication,
3. Tree crop plantation rehabilitation and nursery establishment, and
4. Micro Community Development Projects

2.1 Improved seeds/planting materials multiplication and food processing

Thirty-nine (39) CBOs (21 in Bomi and 18 in Nimba) registered for seeds/cutting multiplication projects benefited from training and participated in land preparation as well as planting of food crops (legumes, root/tubers and rice). A total of 168 hectares were cleared out of which 136.4 hectares have been planted in food crops. The 136.4

hectares planted surpasses the project target of 92 hectares for crop year 1999/2000. (see Table 3.1). The additional 44.4-hectares planted is a direct result of successful mobilization of the community residents. This created greater demand from farmers for planting materials. In Bomi County, a total of 67.4 hectares were planted in food crops while in Tappita District, Nimba County, 69 hectares were planted. In all, 4.8 metric tons of assorted seeds were distributed to CBOs/farmers groups.

Thirty-nine CBOs with a total membership of 1,365 were engaged in seed/planting materials multiplication in both Bomi and Nimba regions. Their activities are expected to benefit some 8,190 farm-families.

Food Processing

An order was placed with Lusu Resources Corporation for two rice mills, for which we are awaiting delivery. Lusu Resources Corporation will provide installation and training services. One (1) cassava grinder was procured from Monrovia Pump Agency in early June for use by the Trust-in-God Women's Cassava Project, a local community-based organization in Tubmanburg, Bomi County.

LWF/WS Tubmanburg Seed/Planting materials multiplication site

The four hectares seed multiplication site previously developed under the USAID/OFDA project was redesigned during the quarter into thirty-five standard plots (20m x 20m). These plots have been planted with improved seeds and the fringes of the swamp are being prepared for planting of improved cultivars of cassava, yams, eddoes and cowpeas. These are intended for future distribution to CBOs/farmers groups.

2.2 Livestock Multiplication

The construction of one livestock paddock (transit site) in Gbojay, and one poultry brooding house in Tubmanburg, Bomi County have been completed. The brooding house is currently being fenced for better security. Procurement of small ruminants (goats and sheep) and chickens will be undertaken once funding is in place. As noted in the cover letter, the project fully expended in May the FY1999 funds obligated to it by USAID.

Two veterinary consultants were recruited locally in early April to conduct a baseline study on the livestock situation in project area. A report detailing appropriate implementation strategies and a training package for extension staff and farmers are being prepared. The final report is expected in July 2000.

2.3 Tree crop plantation rehabilitation and nursery establishment

The following activities were carried out under the tree crop development:

Tree crop plantation Rehabilitation

Seventeen (17) farmers have been registered to carry out replanting of their old cocoa and coffee farms. Fifteen (15) of these farmers are in Tappita District, Nimba County while the other two (2) are in Bomi County. Each farmer will be provided with tools and technical supervision to replant 0.5 hectare of their farms. A target of 8.5 hectares is expected to be rehabilitated. One hundred and ten (110) pieces of assorted tools consisting of pingalins, axes and pruning saws have been distributed to five (5) communities. The tools are kept by LWF agricultural extensionists in the community for proper coordination. They will be later loaned out to farmers ready to replant their farms.

Cocoa and coffee seedlings

At present, 132,350 cocoa and coffee seedlings out of 195,150 assorted seedlings in ten (10) nurseries in Bomi and Tappita are ready for field planting. These include 88,100 cocoa and 10,350 coffee seedlings in seven (7) nurseries in Bomi and 33,250 cocoa and 650 coffee seedlings in three (3) nurseries in Tappita District.

Collective efforts to sell the seedlings on nurseries have begun with a series of sensitization meetings and farm demonstrations with CBOs, farmer groups and individuals. The efforts have yielded fruitful results with 140 farmers (67 in Bomi and 73 in Nimba) registered to plant either cocoa or coffee. Soil suitability test and land preparation has already begun in project area. Members of CBOs engaged in seedlings production have decided to plant at least half a hectare (500 seedlings) each to ensure that their communities have tree crop farms.

Plantain Nurseries

Two plantain nurseries with 3,072 suckers were established at Tulemu and Zelekai, respectively. There are also arrangements for delivery of additional plantain corms to produce more minisetts for sucker growing. 8,400 suckers are expected to be nursed at the two nursery sites.

2.4 Micro Community Development Projects

This component of the Project is designed to support 35 community-initiated projects to bolster food security. Major activities include rehabilitation of market buildings and farm to market roads (including bridges and culverts), and provision of facilities for local farming tools production.

The following were achieved:

- Completion of Klay community market in Klay Town, Bomi County. Estimated beneficiaries of not less than 4,000 farm families in six (6)-surrounding communities are expected to make use of the facility. The hand-over ceremony was held on May 26 and was attended by senior officials from the Liberian Marketing Association (LMA), Monrovia.

- Work on three (3) rail bridges on Gohnzipo road has begun. The abutments for the first bridge are nearing completion. The Gohnzipo community contributed the I-beams for the bridge construction.
- Materials for the construction of six blacksmith workshops in Dewoin, Suehn/Mecca and Klay Districts, Bomi County were procured and delivered to our regional warehouse. For each blacksmith workshop, the community was requested to mold 800 sun-dried bricks. To date, Bowen town in Dewoin District has produced 500 bricks and Sasstown in Klay District, 200.
- In Tappita, Nimba County, sun-dried bricks are being molded for the construction of six blacksmith workshops and one (1) market building.

3.0 STATISTICAL ACHIEVEMENT BY OBJECTIVE

The following tables summarize the achievements of the project during this quarter.

3.1 Summary achievement – seed/planting materials multiplication

Crops	Hectares targeted (1999/2000)	Hectares planted (as of June 30)	Remarks
Upland crops (Legumes, Cassava & rice)	77	122	63 ha in Bomi and 59 in Nimba
Lowland rice	15	14.4	ha in Bomi and 10 in Nimba
Total food crops	92	136.4	

3.2 Detail of CBOs engaged in Improved seed/planting multiplication

Regions	Indicators	Reported previous quarters	Increase this quarter	Total to date
Bomi	CBOs	19	3	21
	CBO participants	630	105	735
	farm families	3,780	630	4,410
Tappita/ Nimba	CBOs	15	3	18
	CBO participants	525	105	630
	farm families	3,150	630	3,780
All Regions	CBOs	33	6	39
	CBO participants	1155	210	1365
	farm families	6,930	1,260	8,190

3.3 Quantity of seeds/planting materials distributed to CBOs as at 30 June 2000.

Region	Peanuts (kg)	Cowpeas (kg)	Mungbeans (kg)	Lowland rice (kg)	Upland rice (kg)	Cassava cuttings (bundles)	Plantain corms (pcs)
Bomi	1,018	854	20	1,214	882	618	1,400
Tappita/Nimba	500	240	25	256	440	765	-
Total	1,518	1,094	45	1,470	1,322	1,383	1,400

Total assorted seeds: 4,831 kg or 4.831 mt.

3.4 Number of cocoa and coffee seedlings counted in Project nurseries

Region	Cocoa Seedlings	Coffee Seedlings	Total
Bomi	88,100	69,500	157,600
Nimba	33,250	4,300	37,555
Total	121,350	73,300	195,150
Total ready for planting in 2000	121,350	11,000*	132,350

*15% of coffee seedlings

3.5 Training workshops this quarter

Region	Training Activities	Training site	No. of Attendees		
			Male	Female	Total
Bomi					
	Food & cash crop production	Gbojay	41	10	51
	Swamp rice cultivation	Bowein,	51	15	66
	Food & cash crop production	Sasstown	50	10	60
	How to prepare plantain mini-sets	Tulemu	12	3	15
	Re-orientation workshop for project staff	Tubmanburg	46	4	50
	Plantain nursery management	Zelekai	20	-	20
	Soil selection for cocoa and coffee	Gbojay	5	-	5
	Sub-total			225	42
Tappita/Nimba	Awareness workshop	Sarlay	50	15	65
	Re-orientation workshop for project staff	Tappita	14	1	15

	Swamp layout, development and nursery preparation	Lorplay, Beatuo & Tappita	37	14	51
	Roots & tuber cultivation practices	Tennibah	12	11	23
	Tree crop production practices	Zeonghen, Sarlay & Yourpea	23	17	40
	Postharvest technology legumes	Tappita	18	21	39
	Sub-Total		154	79	233
	Total		379	121	500

3.6 Summary of Training Workshops Held

County	Previous Quarters			This Quarter			Cumulative		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
BOMI	481	118	599	225	42	267	706	160	866
NIMBA	457	110	567	154	79	233	611	189	800
TOTAL	938	228	1166	379	121	500	1317	349	1666

4.0 ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Revised decision on implementing partners (IPs)

As it was not likely that the project would be extended into Lower Lofa in the near future, the Project reduced the number of implementing partners in Bomi from two to one, as originally planned. The Concerned Christian Community (CCC) was chosen to carry out activities in all three districts (Klay, Suehn/Mecca and Dewoin) of Bomi County. The services of the Community and Human Development Agency (COHDA), previously serving with CCC in Bomi County, were discontinued.

The Project also decided to identify a local implementing partner based in Tappita District, Nimba County. LWF/WS presently works with no local partner in Tappita. Three local organizations in Nimba were screened and the Community Union for Sustainable Development (CUSD), was chosen. An MOU will be signed once funding is secured.

A suitable candidate was identified and appointed to the position of Management/Training Advisor to be stationed at the Project headquarters in Tubmanburg, Bomi County.

4.2 Training Workshop

Five hundred (500) participants, including community residents and project staff, benefited from thirteen (13)-training workshops (7 in Bomi and 6 in Nimba) during the quarter. The training covered community sensitization, food and cash crops, swamp rice cultivation and post harvest practices of leguminous crops.

Staff of both LWF/WS and implementing partners were re-orientated on project goal and objectives with the aim of acquainting them with progress and constraints of the project, and changes, which may affect project implementation.

4.3 Logistics

The logistics section continued to provide back-up support to project activities by arranging inputs for fieldwork and ensuring that materials were procured on time.

Two (2) motorbikes and six (6) bicycles were retrieved from the field following the discontinuation of the Memorandum of Understanding with COHDA in early April 2000. These motorbikes and bicycles were re-assigned to field staff recruited by CCC whose services were retained to serve as implementing partners for LWF/WS.

One (1) cassava grinder was procured and is soon to be turned over to the Trust-in-God Women Cassava Project in Tubmanburg, Bomi County. A building is being arranged for the installation of the cassava grinder.

4.4 Visit

A 4-person USAID consultant team visited Liberia between May 8 and 26, 2000 to assist USAID funded projects in developing monitoring and evaluation plans for the projects. Team members included Drs. Charles Whyte, Emmanuel Acquah, Rebecca Niac and Curtis Nissely. The team also assisted in the preparation of a new work plan as well as the re-writing of the initial Environmental Evaluation (IEE) to reflect the reality of lowland development in project area. The team observed that the current activities aimed at improving water management practices in the lowland poses no significant threat to the environment.