

# LIBERIA



PRS/LASIP Programme 1

## Land and Water Development

The Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Program (LASIP) identifies priority areas from which investment projects aligning national objectives and the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) are to be developed. These objectives are embodied in Liberia's national vision and goal for the agriculture sector as stated in the Lift Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), as well as the food and agriculture sector vision contained in the Food and Agriculture Policy and Strategy (FAPS).

### Visions and Goals

**National Vision (PRS):** Liberians want to build a new nation that is peaceful, secure and prosperous, with democratic and accountable governance based on the rule of law, and with abundant employment and other economic opportunities.

**PRS Goal for Sector:** To revitalize the food and agricultural sector to contribute to shared, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth and development, provide food security and nutrition, increase employment and income, and measurably reduce poverty.

**Food and Agriculture Sector Vision (FAPS):** A nation with food and nutritional adequacy and security enabling a nourished population, thus contributing to optimal health, education and training, economic growth and development, and improved and sustained quality of life of the people.

### LASIP: Agriculture Sector Investment Program

LASIP seeks to transform Liberian agriculture and in so doing maximize the sector's contributions to economic growth, employment and income generation, food and nutrition security, and poverty reduction. To overcome pervasive structural impediments and a poor policy environment that have undermined agricultural growth and development (i.e. low yields, depleted infrastructure, weak institutional capacity and poor market linkages), LASIP adopts a pro-poor approach to raising agricultural productivity, strengthening institutions, and making markets work for households and communities through commercialization and private sector initiatives such as out-grower schemes.

### Key Performance Indicator

Expansion of agricultural production by about 3.6 percent per annum through 2011 and 6 percent per annum by 2015 to sustain food and nutrition security, increase employment and income, and reduce poverty.

### Sub-Programmes

The LASIP/CAADP Agriculture Sector Investment and Development Program will have four major sub-programmes, namely:

#### 1. Land and Water Development

- Component 1: Land Policy Reform and Capacity Building
- Component 2: Enhanced Land Husbandry
- Component 3: Expansion of Irrigable Land
- Component 4: Improved Wet and Degraded Land Management

#### 2. Food and Nutrition Security

- Component 1: Food Crops Production and Productivity Enhancement
- Component 2: Improved Nutritional Status and Management of Food Emergencies
- Component 3: Smallholder Tree Crops and Agro-forestry Development
- Component 4: Sustainable Fisheries Subsector Development
- Component 5: Livestock Development and Promotion
- Component 6: Special women and youth initiative

### 3. Competitive Value Chains and Market Linkages

Component 1: Rehabilitation and Expansion of Rural Roads

Component 2: Rural Agricultural Infrastructure and Energy

Component 3: Rural Financial Services

Component 4: Labor-saving Intermediate Devices and Technologies

Component 5: Market and Enterprise Development

### 4. Institutional Development

Component 1: Rebuilding the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Parastatals

Component 2: Revitalizing Agricultural Research

Component 3: Technology Dissemination and Adoption

Component 4: Renewing Agricultural Education and Training

Component 5: Promoting and Strengthening Farm-based Organizations

Component 6: Improved Coordination and Management

#### Outcomes and Objectives

The objective of this component is to ensure that the country's endowment of land and water are used to accelerate food production and facilitate income generation through proper planning, development and management. To achieve this objective, focus will be placed on ensuring that farmers have access to land and secured tenure, and are able to utilize this resource in a sustainable way. Better land husbandry initiatives such as increased fertilizers use will be promoted to foster and sustain soil fertility, area under irrigation will be expanded particularly through on-farm and small-scale irrigation and drainage development schemes, wetlands management will be improved and degraded land will be rehabilitated and brought into productive use.

#### 1. LAND POLICY REFORM AND CAPACITY BUILDING

**Target:** Consistent with reforms emanating from deliberations of the Land Commission, ensure that statutes and policies regarding ownership as well as tenure of land are reviewed to facilitate the availability of land for sustainable crop area expansion and for investment in agriculture.

##### Activities:

- i. Revise and adopt laws regarding property rights including access to land, security of tenure and utilization of land.

- ii. Strengthen land administration to facilitate improved land management and to promote private sector involvement in agriculture.
- iii. Resolve pervasive land conflicts

### 2. ENHANCED LAND HUSBANDRY

**Target:** To improve and maintain soil fertility and promote complementary utilization of organic, mineral and physical components of soil management in support of agricultural intensification.

##### Activities:

- i. Conduct land evaluation and suitability assessments to determine the location- and farm-specificity of crops considering physiological requirements;
- ii. Establish a national agricultural land resource database to facilitate information exchange; and
- iii. Increase the total area protected against soil degradation through diverse schemes including agro-forestry

### 3. EXPANSION OF IRRIGABLE LAND

**Target:** To increase the share of arable land under irrigation from less than 0.2% to 5 percent.

##### Activities:

- i. Conduct a nationwide inventory of viable inland valley swamps;
- ii. Develop a strategic irrigation investment plan; and
- iii. Construct and promote diverse irrigation systems, including small-scale schemes utilizing water-collection techniques to support sustainable production;

### 4. IMPROVED WET AND DEGRADED LAND MANAGEMENT

**Target:** To develop and increase the total area of wet and degraded land for year-round utilization to produce food crops, particularly rice and vegetables.

##### Activities:

- i. Develop and implement guidelines, including mandatory environmental impact assessments, for the adoption of environmentally-friendly practices for wet land cultivation;
- ii. Increasingly promote community participation and encourage the private sector to invest in the development and management of wet and degradable lands; and
- iii. Increase public sector investment in wet and degraded land development.

## Cost

The estimated cost of this investment program is \$48m. The components and associated costs are shown in the table below:

LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT	\$MILLION
Land Policy Reform & Capacity Building	5.0
Enhanced Land Husbandry	8.0
Expansion of Irrigable Land	12.0
Improved Wet & Degraded Land Mgmt	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>35.0</b>

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PRS/LASIP Programme 2



## Food and Nutrition Security

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### Visions and Goals

*National Vision (PRS): Liberians want to build a new nation that is peaceful, secure and prosperous, with democratic and accountable governance based on the rule of law, and with abundant employment and other economic opportunities.*

*PRS Goal for Sector: To revitalize the food and agricultural sector to contribute to shared, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth and development, provide food security and nutrition, increase employment and income, and measurably reduce poverty.*

*Food and Agriculture Sector Vision (FAPS): A nation with food and nutritional adequacy and security enabling a nourished population, thus contributing to optimal health, education and training, economic growth and development, and improved and sustained quality of life of the people.*

### LASIP: Agriculture Sector Investment Program

LASIP seeks to transform Liberian agriculture and in so doing maximize the sector's contributions to economic growth, employment and income generation, food and nutrition security, and poverty reduction. To overcome pervasive structural impediments and a poor policy environment that have undermined agricultural growth and development (i.e. low yields, depleted infrastructure, weak institutional capacity and poor market linkages), LASIP adopts a pro-poor approach to raising agricultural productivity, strengthening institutions, and making markets work for households and communities through commercialization and private sector initiatives such as out-grower schemes.

### Key Performance Indicator

Increase in agricultural growth of 6 percent per annum by 2015 to sustain food and nutrition security, increase employment and income, and reduce poverty.

## Sub-Programmes

The LASIP/CAADP Agriculture Sector Investment and Development Program will have four major sub-programs, namely:

### 1. Land and Water Development

- Component 1: Land Policy Reform and Capacity Building
- Component 2: Enhanced Land Husbandry
- Component 3: Expansion of Irrigable Land
- Component 4: Improved Wet and Degraded Land Management

### 2. Food and Nutrition Security

- Component 1: Food Crops Production and Productivity Enhancement
- Component 2: Improved Nutritional Status and Management of Food Emergencies
- Component 3: Smallholder Tree Crops and Agro-forestry Development

Component 4: Sustainable Fisheries Subsector Development

Component 5: Livestock Development and Promotion  
Component 6: Special women and youth initiative

### 3. Competitive Value Chains and Market Linkages

- Component 1: Rehabilitation and Expansion of Rural Roads
- Component 2: Rural Agricultural Infrastructure and Energy
- Component 3: Rural Financial Services
- Component 4: Labor-saving Intermediate Devices and Technologies

Component 5: Market and Enterprise Development

#### 4. Institutional Development

Component 1: Rebuilding the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Parastatals

Component 2: Revitalizing Agricultural Research

Component 3: Technology Dissemination and Adoption

Component 4: Renewing Agricultural Education and Training

Component 5: Promoting and Strengthening Farm-based Organizations

Component 6: Improved Coordination and Management

### Outcomes and Objectives

This component aims to achieve the goal of the National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy (FSNS) which is to ensure that all Liberians have reliable access to the food they need and are able to utilize that food to live active and healthy lives. This will be accomplished by increasing food production, making it accessible to all including vulnerable segments of the population, and improving its utilization and systems for coordination and information management. It necessitates increasing crop yields, taking essential nutrition actions particularly on behalf of children under five and pregnant and lactating women, rehabilitating and expanding smallholder tree crops, building the capacity of artisanal fisher folks, restocking small ruminants, and involving women and youth along the crops, fisheries and livestock value chains.

#### Programme Components

The components under this broad investment program are as follows:

##### 1. Food Crops Production and Productivity Enhancement:

**Target:** making food available, accessible and moving towards achieving MDG 1.

##### Activities:

- (i) Encourage diversification in the production and consumption of crops other than rice and cassava;
- (ii) Improve production knowledge and skills, planting materials and other inputs and expand application of integrated plant nutrients and pest management methods;
- (iii) Develop and implement a special fertilizer distribution and utilization program;
- (iv) Improve pre- and post-harvest activities to minimize losses and increase yield; and
- (v) Promote value addition activities in the food crop sub sector.

##### 2. Improved Nutritional Status and Management of Food Emergencies:

**Target:** To enhance access to food and facilitate improved food utilization by 2015 particularly for

children under five and pregnant and lactating women.

- (i) Complete the development and begin the implementation of a multi-sector nutrition strategy and program to complement the pro-poor, agricultural transformation by directing direct nutrition-focused interventions;
- (ii) In collaboration with other stakeholders. Take steps to improve food utilization and nutritional status by promoting child growth, taking essential nutrition actions, saving acutely undernourished children, addressing the food and nutrition needs of those affected by HIV, and improving nutritional caring practices;
- (iii) In collaboration with other stakeholders, promote the local production and consumption of micronutrient-dense food crops (e.g. fruits and vegetables) and animal products, fortify food with micronutrients as appropriate, enforce food standards, diversify diets, and increase access to safe water, sanitation and proper housing.
- (iv) Improve emergency preparedness, response and contingency to ensure household food security during natural and man-made hazards by maintaining national grain reserves and appropriate humanitarian programmes, collecting food security information and conducting regular vulnerability analyses; and
- (v) Supporting the very poor with productive safety nets such as food-or cash for work, vouchers and school feeding.

##### 3. Small Tree Crops and Agro-forestry Development:

**Target:** Increase small holder participation in the tree crop and forestry sub sector by 50% between 2011 and 2015.

##### Activities:

- (i) Rehabilitation and replanting of existing smallholder farms;
- (ii) Revitalization and expansion of seed gardens to provide improved planting materials;

- (iii) Rehabilitation and expansion of appropriate post-harvest infrastructure;
- (iv) Development of out-grower (smallholder) tree crops programs in cooperation with agricultural concessions and other partners;
- (v) Promotion of agro-forestry; and
- (vi) Privatization of the marketing system for tree crop and agro-forestry products.

#### 4. Sustainable Fisheries Subsector Development:

**Target:** To increase fisheries contribution to food supply and Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

##### Activities:

- (i) Institute good governance and sustainable management of fisheries,
- (ii) Reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and
- (iii) Increase the contribution of fisheries to the economy.

#### 5. Livestock Development and Promotion:

**Target:** To expand domestic livestock production to satisfy 50% or more of domestic demand by 2015.

##### Activities:

- (i) Review and upgrade existing legislation and regulations pertaining to veterinary services and sanitation;
- (ii) Improve the institutional environment and infrastructure for livestock and strengthen zoo sanitary standards;
- (iii) Preserve, improve and exploit common pastoral property resources of the country;

- (iv) Expand existing programs to re-stock the national herd, with a focus on small ruminants;
- (v) Initiate micro-projects to pilot animal production centers in selected villages;
- (vi) Strengthen inter-ministerial coordination between MOA and other agencies such as MOHSW and MCI to better regulate and expand trade in livestock products.

#### 6. Special women and youth initiative:

**Target:** To empower women as agricultural producers and value chain producers and value chain creators and increase youth involvement in agricultural related activities by 50% by 2015.

##### Activities:

- (i) Support women's role as agricultural producers and participants in the creation of rural value chains;
- (ii) Promote women's participation in new economic areas;
- (iii) Strengthen the institutional framework to address gender issues in rural policies and programmes and remove social barriers that limit the contribution and participation of women.
- (iv) Develop and implement an integrated youth in agriculture program that includes sensitization about opportunities in the sector, provides skilled based training, and supports accessibility to input and output markets; and
- (v) Promote effective participation of youths, particularly graduates of programs such as Centre Songhai and Sinoe Tumutu Agricultural Training programs, in out-grower or smallholder schemes and similar undertakings.

#### Cost

The estimated cost of this investment program is \$95m. The components and associated costs are shown in the table below:

FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY	\$MILLION
Food Production and Productivity Enhancement	11.0
Improved Nutritional Status	5.0
Smallholder tree crops and agro-forestry	10.0
Sustainable fisheries subsector development	15.0
Livestock Development and Promotion	9.0
Special Women and Youth Initiatives	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>60.0</b>

# LIBERIA

PRS/LASIP Programme 3



## Competitive Value Chains and Market Linkages

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LASIP seeks to transform Liberian agriculture and in so doing maximize the sector's contributions to economic growth, employment and income generation, food and nutrition security, and poverty reduction. To overcome pervasive structural impediments and a poor policy environment that have undermined agricultural growth and development (i.e. low yields, depleted infrastructure, weak institutional capacity and poor market linkages), LASIP adopts a pro-poor approach to raising agricultural productivity, strengthening institutions, and making markets work for households and communities through commercialization and private sector initiatives such as out-grower schemes.

### Key Performance Indicator

Expansion in agricultural production by about 3.6 percent per annum through 2011 and 6 percent per annum by 2015 to sustain food and nutrition security, increase employment and income, and reduce poverty.

### Sub-Programmes

The LASIP/CAADP Agriculture Sector Investment and Development Program will have four major sub-programs, namely:

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Component 1: Rehabilitation and Expansion of Rural Roads  
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#### 4. Institutional Development

Component 1: Rebuilding the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Parastatals

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#### Outcomes and Objectives

Accessing and getting markets to work effectively is an important challenge for countries like Liberia that must transition from low-production subsistence farming to high-productivity commercial enterprises amid poor infrastructure and absence of an agribusiness culture. This component therefore seeks to improve market access through increased investment in rural roads, marketing infrastructure such as physical marketplaces, storage and processing facilities for crops, livestock and fisheries, and energy. Labor-saving transitional devices and technologies will be provided to increase productivity and reduce drudgery, financial services will be made available, accessible and affordable, and the skills and knowledge of producers and other rural dwellers will be improved in a bid to link them to domestic, regional and international markets.

##### 1. REHABILITATION AND EXPANSION OF RURAL ROADS

**Target:** To rehabilitate and upgrade the network of rural roads which are of major importance to agriculture. At least 250km in five years.

#### Activities:

- i. Assessment of strategic rural roads linking major production areas to markets;
- ii. Formulation of a policy on construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of rural roads;
- iii. Construction and rehabilitation of strategic rural roads into all-weather roads.

##### 2. RURAL AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY

**Target:** To improve market accessibility of agricultural products through the construction and operation of rural agricultural infrastructure such as modern marketplaces, storage and processing facilities and development of renewable energy resources.

#### Activities:

- i. Rehabilitate and construct a minimum of four permanent, modern market structures in each district;
- ii. Support the private sector in establishing a slaughterhouse and cold-chain facility in each county;
- iii. Facilitate the provision of storage and processing facilities for staples such as rice and cassava and tree crops including oil palm, cocoa and coffee in each district; and
- iv. Support the development and utilization of a renewable energy source in each county within five years.

#### 3. RURAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

**Target:** To increase the share of total commercial bank credit allocated to the agriculture sector from 5.0 percent to at least 15.0 percent, and expand the accessibility of farmers and farm-based organizations to formal rural financial services in 5 years.

#### Activities:

- i. Develop appropriate institutional arrangements to extend credit to the rural sector, particularly agriculture;
- ii. Create awareness among farmers and farming groups of rural financial schemes; and
- iii. Establish credit guarantee schemes for producers and farm-based organizations.

#### 4. LABOR-SAVING INTERMEDIATE DEVICES AND TECHNOLOGIES

**Target:** To enhance productivity and expand acreage through small-scale mechanization by formulating a targeted mechanization strategy that encourages and supports individual farmers, farm-based organizations and other private sector entities in the acquisition and utilization of transitional devices and technologies throughout the value chain.

#### Activities:

- i. Assess rural labor markets to determine challenges and opportunities for labor-saving intermediate technologies;
- ii. Formulate and implement an agricultural mechanization strategy;
- iii. Establish an Agricultural Engineering Unit (mechanical and civil) at MOA to support public-private partnerships in the provision of mechanization services;
- iv. Disseminate information on improved technologies to small farmers; and
- v. Make labor-saving intermediate technologies and devices available to eligible farmers and farm-based organizations.

## 5. MARKET AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

**Target:** To rebuild and commercialize value chains using various approaches including out-grower schemes that link commercial entities and smallholders in an effort to increase agricultural productivity and farmer income.

### Activities:

- i. Strengthen farm-based organizations to access services, credit, improved storage and processing facilities and markets;

### Cost

The estimated cost of this investment program is \$115m. The components and associated costs are shown in the table below:

COMPETITIVE VALUE CHAIN AND MARKET LINKAGES	\$MILLION
Rehabilitation and Expansion of rural roads	60.0
Rural Agricultural Infrastructure and Energy	27.0
Rural Financial Services	4.5
Labor-Saving Intermediate devices and Tech.	13.5
Market and Enterprise Development	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>115m</b>

- ii. Develop agribusinesses along commodity chains to facilitate value addition and link farmers to input and output markets;
- iii. Develop and improve knowledge of market information systems and quality control measures and standards; and
- iv. Develop, train and adopt productivity enhancement technologies including propagation and use of high quality seeds, seedlings and fingerlings.

# LIBERIA

## PRS/LASIP Programme 4



### Institutional Development

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#### 2. Food and Nutrition Security

- Component 1: Food Crops Production and Productivity Enhancement
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Component 6: Improved Coordination and Management

#### Outcomes and Objectives

Public support for the agriculture sector has long been recognized as ineffective and previous technical reviews have made recommendations to reform the Ministry of Agriculture and related agencies. Low institutional capacities have in turn made it difficult for these organizations to perform core responsibilities of policy development, regulation and the provision of essential services. This component will develop enduring capacities in the public sector for evidence-based policy formulation, planning, coordination and supervision, together with the implementation of programs and projects. Key services such as research and extension will be developed in a participatory manner and supplied on a demand-driven basis. Agricultural education and training will be emphasized and funded at all levels to ensure that skills and knowledge needed to sustain agricultural growth and development are available. Farm-based organizations will also be promoted and strengthened to facilitate the mobilization of resources needed by individual producers.

#### Programme Components

The components under this broad investment sub-program are as follows:

##### 1. Rebuilding the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Parastatals

**Target:** Rebuilding and decentralizing the ministry's activities to pre-war level in five years and restructuring agricultural parastatals to focus them on regulation and provision of essential services.

#### Activities:

- (i) Clarify roles, responsibilities and relationships of the Ministry of Agriculture and /with other key Ministries and agencies;
- (ii) Provide staff training in evidence-based policy development and analysis, monitoring and evaluation, information and statistical data collection and dissemination, agricultural risk and vulnerability

management, and program development and coordination;

- (iii) Assess and redefine the roles of agricultural parastatals and develop appropriate legislation and institutional arrangements; and
- (iv) Provide education and training in specialized fields of agriculture and rural development to staff of the ministry and parastatals

##### 2. Revitalizing Agricultural Research

**Target:** To rebuild the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) to its pre-war status and implement a participatory, demand-driven agricultural research paradigm.

#### Activities:

- (i) Arrive at a consensus on the strategic vision for a rebuilt agricultural research service;
- (ii) Establish appropriate legal and governance framework to provide efficiency and flexibility in managing human, physical and human resource and to ensure accountability to client, funders and other stakeholders;
- (iii) Develop linkages with other internal and external research providers, clients, technology transfer agencies and developmental organizations;
- (iv) Formulate a national agricultural research strategy to guide research activities including adaptive research; and
- (v) Implement phases I, II, and III of the CARI rehabilitation strategy.

##### 3. Technology Dissemination and Adoption

**Target:** to capacitate and transform the national extension service into a decentralized demand driven farm advisory system 3 years.

#### Activities:

- (i) Promulgate a technology dissemination policy in line with regional best practices;
- (ii) Rebuild and expand the capacity of the national extension service;
- (iii) Provide support for participatory and pluralistic extension approaches and gender mainstreaming; and
- (iv) Develop an enabling agricultural communication strategy and support the modernization of associated systems to increase the availability and accessibility of information and communications technologies in rural areas.

#### 4. Renewing Agricultural Education and Training

**Target:** To improve access and quality of agricultural education and training.

**Activities:**

- (i) Support to universities and colleges to initiate graduate training and broaden undergraduate education in agricultural disciplines such as fisheries, animal husbandry, postharvest technology, etc;
- (ii) Improvement of technical/vocational skills training and replication of special training programs;
- (iii) Promotion of business and career opportunities in agriculture through special awareness and continuous learning programs;
- (iv) Incorporation of agriculture in the curricula of postsecondary institutions; and
- (v) Provision of scholarships and other forms of assistance for agricultural students at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

#### 5. Promoting and Strengthening Farm-based Organizations

**Target:** To build the capacity of at least 10 farm-based organizations in each county and strengthen the Cooperative Development Agency.

#### Cost

The estimated cost of this investment program is US\$67.5 million. The components and associated costs are shown in the table below:

<b>INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Rebuilding the Ministry of Agriculture and parastatals	11.0
Revitalizing agricultural research	10.0
Enhancing technology dissemination and adoption	8.0
Renewing agricultural education and training	30.0
Coordination and Management	3.5
Farm-based Organizations	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>67.5</b>

**Activities:**

- (i) Undertake a comprehensive assessment of the performance of FBOs to date;
- (ii) Formulate appropriate strategies and institutional arrangements;
- (iii) Rebuild selected farm-based community organizations; and
- (v) Strengthen the Cooperative Development Agency and other apex organizations

#### 6. Improved Coordination and Management

**Target:** To enhance sector and inter-agency coordination and program management.

**Activities:**

- (iv) Establish and strengthen the Project Coordination Unit at the Ministry of Agriculture;
- (v) Establish appropriate monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems; and
- (vi) Develop policies and strategies to enable coordination of land and water development, food and nutrition security, competitive value chains and market linkages, and institutional development in the sector.