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FOOD AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR LIBERIA (FED)

MONTHLY REPORT: AUGUST 2012



AUGUST 2012

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FOOD AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (FED) PROGRAM FOR LIBERIA

MONTHLY REPORT: AUGUST 1 – 13, 2012

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COVER PHOTO: Cabbage ball at Doumpa Community Agriculture Project

DISCLAIMER

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

ACRONYMS

| | |
|--------|--|
| AEDE | Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics |
| AU | African Union |
| AY | Advancing Youth |
| BRAC | Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee |
| BWI | Booker T. Washington Institute |
| DAI | Development Alternatives, Inc. |
| DCOP | Deputy Chief of Party |
| DQA | Data Quality Assessment |
| ECOWAS | Economic Community of West African States |
| ED | Enterprise Development |
| EDP | Enterprise Development Plan |
| EU | European Union |
| FACET | Fostering Agriculture Competitiveness Employing Information Communication Technologies |
| FED | Food and Enterprise Development |
| GBCC | Grand Bassa Community College |
| GEMS | Government and Economic Management Support |
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| ICT | Information and Communication Technology |
| IFC | International Finance Cooperation |
| IFDC | International, International Fertilizer Developmental Center |
| INGOs | International Non-Government Organizations |
| IQC | Indefinite Quantity Contract |
| IRP | International Resource Person |
| ISFM | Integrated Soil Fertility Management |
| IT | Internet Technology |
| L-MEP | Liberia Monitoring and Evaluation Program |
| LTTAs | Long Term Technical Assistants |
| MDF | Market Development Fund |
| MOA | Ministry of Agriculture |
| MoCI | Ministry of Commerce and Industry |
| MSME | Medium, Small Medium Enterprise |
| NCCC | Nimba County Community College |
| NGOs | Non-Government Organizations |
| PIDS | Performance Indicator Data System |
| PPR | Peste Des Petits Ruminants |
| RFP | Request for Proposal |
| SME | Small Medium Enterprise |
| STTA | Short Term Technical Assistant |
| TAMIS | Technical and Administrative Management Information System |
| TVET | Technical Education and Vocational Training |
| UDP | Urea Deep Placement |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| VES | Vocational Education Specialist |
| VTNFES | Vocational Technical Non Formal Education Specialist |

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Geographic Reach of FED



Background

The Food and Enterprise Development (FED) Program for Liberia is a USAID-funded initiative that began in September 2011. Through implementing a Liberian strategy which incorporates women and youth, FED will help 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 will be built upon:

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

FED's activities will work 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, and 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 and 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 increases in incomes for rural households, new employment opportunities for Liberians, increased access to food and improved household dietary diversity scores for food-insecure Liberians, and the adoption of improved inputs, farming practices, and technologies which boost agricultural productivity.

FED is implemented by seven partners including: Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), Winrock International, International Fertilizer Developmental Center (IFDC), Samaritan's Purse, Louisiana University, The Cadmus Group, and the Center for Development and Population Activities.

Monthly Summary

Activities are underway in Bong, Nimba, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Montserrado and Lofa counties. Activities in the counties mentioned above for this month began with the completion of planned activities for UDP, ISFM and voucher programs took place with input supply chain actors in Monrovia, Lofa, Bong, and Nimba Counties with 4 IFDC STTAs. Additionally, weekly vegetable demonstration training continues for the 1 site in Montserrado County. GPS training was also conducted by the GPS unit for the extension agents to enable them to accurately measure plot sizes and way points.

In Nimba County, 175 farmers at seven demonstration sites, 25 each, with 0.6 hectare of land each, have completed transplanting lowland rice. Monitoring and weeding of grass continues at each of the demonstration site.

In Lofa County, 50 farmers, 25 each at a demonstration site with 1.2 hectares of land have completed transplanting upland rice and 150 farmers, 25 each at a site with 0.6 hectare of land have completed the planting of lowland rice. Kuluka was dropped due to the challenging water control situation and was replaced by the Kormai women's group.

In Grand Bassa County, 25 farmers with 0.6 hectare of land have started transplanting lowland rice. Gardou Town with 25 farmers has just started clearing while the other three sites with 75 farmers; 25 each have sown seeds on the nursery. By the first week in September 2012 and all remaining four sites will resume transplanting and they are expected to complete this stage by September 20, 2012.

In Bong County, one of the five sites had started transplanting of lowland rice with 25 farmers working 0.6 hectare of land while the other four sites with 75 farmers; 25 each have sown seeds on the nursery. At the end of August, all of the sites will resume transplanting and are expected to be completed by the first week in September 2012.

Twenty-two lead cassava farmers participated in two-day compost training at Sangay Farm in Gbarnga, Bong County. The purpose of the training was to enhance the soil amendment and management capacity of cassava farmers. The training involved locally identifying ingredients for the compost, basics of windrow building, monitoring composting processes, and strategies for marketing and selling compost.

The harvest season for vegetables harvest for this project has started since 20th of August 2012 and for the month of August a total of L\$8,715.00 was realized from the sale of vegetables and is expected to last for the four months. All crops were bought on the farm by customers that came from Sacleapea, Nimba County and Monrovia.

The Official Launching/Planning Meeting for the PPR Vaccination Campaign took place on Wednesday August 22nd. The Launching was presided over by the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), National Coordinator for Trans-boundary Disease. The NGO BRAC staff, (who are executing the campaign for the MOA and funded by USAID/FED), were present as well as Samaritan's Purse, and USDA Land O'Lakes Project personnel. The National Plan produced in the Launching/Planning Meeting will now be vetted at the county levels with each of the County Agricultural Coordinators and County Livestock Officers for comment.

During the month of August 2012, the following trainings were conducted by all three components of the project:

- Demonstration on Safe Use of Inputs, Fertilizers and Chemicals training was conducted on August 2, 2012 in Gbarnga, Bong County with a total of 150 farmers participating.
- Cassava Production Training was held in Bong County from August 6-10, 2012 with a total 25 farmers from one group participating.
- Training on Rice Production was held in Monrovia for 17 farmers from August 1 – 18, 2012.
- Vegetable Production Training was also held in Monrovia for 3 farmers from August 6 – 7, 2012.
- August 2 – 3, 2012, SME Mentorship Program training was conducted in Bong County for 17 farmers from eight groups.
- Enterprise Development Plan, Promoting Gender Sensitive training was held in Grand Bassa County for 30 farmers from 14 groups.
- A four day Technical Computer Training was held for 10 farmers at Doumpa in Nimba County from August 3 – 4, 10 – 11, 2012.

FED launched a pilot phase of its internship program on July 31, 2012 at the UL Auditorium. To date, 60 interns have signed contracts with FED and have been placed around the country with public institutions, INGOS, and farm enterprises. Eighty five percent of the interns have already begun work at 17 institutions, including FED. The 60 interns were recruited and two drop and the remaining 58 interns have been placed.

Three county offices; Nimb, Lofa and Grand Bassa will be fully equip with internet service. STTAs Ces Hipos, Sr. IT/Networking Specialist and Ana-Maria Ungureanu, IT Networking Specialist arrived on the 12th of August to set up VSet at each of the county offices for better internet connectivity with Monrovia office and STTAs completed their task on August 27, 2012. The team also set up the BWI computer lab with an internet server for the agriculture students and administration as part of FED's contractual obligations.

COMPONENT ONE: INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

Project Planning

An increase in agriculture productivity chart for Year One was developed during the reporting period. The increase in the agriculture productivity chart outlines all activities that will be undertaken to contribute to the Year One annual work plan.

Task 1.3 Input Supply System Interventions

During the month of August 2012, planning activities for UDP, ISFM and voucher programs took place with input supply chain actors in Monrovia, Lofa, Bong and Nimba Counties with 4 IFDC STTAs.

Activity 1.3a: Improving Access to quality agro-inputs

The International Fertilizer Development Center was subcontracted to provide technical support for the implementation Task1.3: “**Input supply system interventions**” under the USAID-FED project. The specific tasks to be accomplished are:

- Improving access to quality inputs;
- Testing and introduction of new technologies through an improved extension training system in the target areas.

In order to achieve the above tasks, a consultant was engaged by the project to assist in the process of developing the agro-input dealer sector. The aim was to identify areas of capacity building for effective grassroots involvement in the input supply system, which will form the basis for the voucher/smart subsidy program. In order to understand the background context of input supply system in Liberia, the consultant conducted a rapid assessment of agro-input supply together with IFDC’s focal person in Liberia. The field visits and discussions with the different input supply actors provided information for planning concrete activities until September 2012. This report covers the initial 12-day consultancy approved by the project. The consultant had discussions with officials at the Ministry of Agriculture at the County level, importers/suppliers of agro-inputs, and retailers of agro-inputs at the village level, farmer-based cooperatives, and staff of the USAID-FED project.

Agro input dealers were identified in Bong, and an assessment of input supply systems was carried out in Lofa and Nimba by the Agro-input dealer STTA from IFDC and a rapid assessment of the sites for UDP and ISFM demonstrations was carried out and involved: plots cultivated by the farmers themselves, FED rice demonstration sites and FED cassava demonstration sites in Bong, Nimba and Lofa by the IFDC NRM STTA

A rapid assessment of the private sector involvement in extension activities for creating awareness and promoting access and use of agro inputs was carried out in Monrovia, Bong, Nimba and Lofa by the IFDC extension STTA.

Action plans are being developed for the implementation of capacity building activities and demonstrations on farmers fields with respect to UDP and ISFM activities, the voucher program and strengthening private sector capacity for extension.

Two demonstrations were organized with input suppliers and input dealers in Foyah and Kokayah to create awareness and interest in the use of agricultural inputs. Attendance rates were 150 participants in each location. Wienco, and the County Agricultural Officers attended the demonstrations. The activity was supported by the FED County Offices in both Bong and Lofa.

Task 1.5 Increased Productions and Profitability of Quality Rice

During month of August 2012, the FED rice officer monitored activities in Grand Bassa, Bong, Nimba and Lofa counties and these are progress.

In Nimba County, 175 famers at seven demonstration sites, 25 each, with 0.6 hectare of land each, have completed transplanting lowland rice. Monitoring and weeding of grass continues at each of the demonstration site.

In Lofa County, 50 farmers, 25 each at a demonstration site with 1.2 hectares of land have completed transplanting upland rice and 150 farmers, 25 each at a site with 0.6 hectare of land have completed the planting of lowland rice. Kuluka was dropped due to the challenging water control situation and was replaced by the Kormai women's group.

In Grand Bassa County, 25 farmers with 0.6 hectare of land have started transplanting lowland rice. Gardou Town with 25 farmers has just started clearing while the other three sites with 75 farmers; 25 each have sown seeds on the nursery. By the first week in September 2012 and all remaining four sites will resume transplanting and they are expected to complete this stage by September 20, 2012.

In Bong County, one of the five sites had started transplanting of lowland rice with 25 famers working 0.6 hectare of land while the other four sites with 75 farmers; 25 each have sown seeds on the nursery. At the end of August, all of the sites will resume transplanting and are expected to be completed by the first week in September 2012.

Planned Rice Activities for September 2012

- Work planning for the expansion of rice program activities in FY 2013
- Continuing support to rice producer trainees, including transplanting, weeding, and water control
- Preliminary preparations for the 2013 rice season
- Preparation for the training of local metal workers in the fabrication of impact rice dehullers
- Begin process for procuring IRRI hydro-tillers
- Procurement of three 10 Kw steam engines for the processing of rice, cassava, and vegetables

Task 1.6 Increased Productions and Profitability of Quality Cassava

Twenty-two lead cassava farmers participated in two-day compost training at Sangay Farm in Gbarnga, Bong County. The purpose of the training was to enhance the soil amendment and management capacity of cassava farmers. The training involved locally identifying ingredients for the compost, basics of windrow building, monitoring composting processes, and strategies for marketing and selling compost.

Planned Cassava Activities for September 2012

- Work planning for the expansion of cassava program activities in FY 2013

- Continuing support to cassava producer trainees
- Training of local metal workers in the fabrication of cassava fiber discharge mills
- Start process for procuring portable IITA cassava graters

Task 1.7 Peri-urban Vegetable Production

1.7a Awareness raising

Preliminary planning was started for a mass media campaign (television and radio) to publicize irrigation and other new technologies, with FED to cover the production and broadcast costs associated with the television ads, and the manufacturers the costs of the radio ads.

Capacity Building

1.7b Capacity building of farmers and equipment and input suppliers

Field maintenance is ongoing at the thirteen vegetable production training sites in Montserrado and Margibi counties. In Mount Barclay, the trainees replaced seedlings damaged by heavy rains - 9 eggplant seedlings, 144 hot pepper seedlings, 42 collard seedlings, and 42 mustard seedlings. Compost production was also begun in Mount Barclay.

In Yarnquelleh, bitterball seedlings were also replaced and the construction of a compost heap begun.

During this period, there was also late transplanting of seedlings at the Kpor demonstration site, where 27 beds (1m by 10 m) were constructed and 92 seedlings of collards, 230 seedlings of cabbage, and 128 seedlings of pepper transplanted.

In addition to field maintenance and the preparation of one compost heap at the Kakata demonstration plot, 230 local seedlings of peppers were transplanted and 115 eggplant seedlings replaced.

The first harvest of vegetables, specifically for collards was conducted in Yarquelleh and Air Time communities.

Soil samples were collected from all 13 vegetable sites for analysis at Boimah Engineering firm to determine the available nutrients in the soils.

At the beginning of the vegetable season, a total of 15 hectares of land was prepared for vegetable production. However, only about 60% of the total land prepared is currently under production due to the late planting and heavy rains that destroyed and washed away seedlings on the fields, despite the seedling replacement activity that was carried out by farmers more than twice in the fields.

In addition to the continuing support to the thirteen groups of vegetable growers, eighteen individual farmers were selected for training in the production of vegetable seedlings. Training of the three trainers and the first vegetable seedling producer trainee, Peter Kamara, started on August 20 in Massmoore Community on the outskirts of Kakata. By the end of August, a total of nine seedling producers will be trained in four counties. It is anticipated that between 350 and 700 farmers will benefit from the seedlings, which will be sold by the eighteen nursery operators who will be trained.

Preparation is underway for the training of three treadle pump manufacturers, one in Kakata and two others in other project locations yet to be determined. The first training is scheduled to start on September 3, ending approximately four weeks later following the construction of five pumps and instruction in pump installation, use, maintenance, and troubleshooting. Training in performing demonstrations will also be conducted during this timeframe, with ten demonstrations to be conducted by the metal workshop in collaboration with FED.

Preparations are also being made to train at least two Monrovia-based metal workshops in the construction and marketing of gas-fired forced-air dryers for the drying of vegetables and fruits. This training will be conducted by FED Consultant Eric Nzokou and FED Manufacturer Trainer, Lamine Quoizenah, beginning the week of September 3.

1.7c Commercial links

Preparations were begun to develop commercial linkages between the new seedling producers and potential buyers. This began with the selection of nurseries located in highly visible locations and included recommendations to seedling producer trainees that they take full advantage of these locations and contact as many as one hundred farmers per nursery to sell other inputs that FED will train them to produce. The other inputs include bio-insect repellent, compost, seed, and possibly irrigation equipment manufactured by other project beneficiaries. Other recommendations for the development of commercial linkages included installing one or more signboards visible to passersby to attract them to the location of the nursery and broadcasting local radio messages to inform potentially interested farmers in the vicinity of the existence of a new nursery.

Planned Peri-Urban Agriculture Activities for September 2012

- Work planning for the expansion of vegetable production in the six counties
- Procurement of inputs and training of FED, MOA, and local NGO extension staff for expanded training of farmers in improved vegetable production practices
- Start-up of the training of farmers in improved dry season vegetable production practices
- Vegetable seedling sales will begin
- Training of treadle pump and gas-fired dryer manufacturers
- Marketing of treadle pumps and dryers

Doumpa Community Agriculture Project

During the August, Doumpa Community Agriculture which is special project under FED initiative has for the past seven months been involve in intensive agriculture productive and profitability in Doumpa Town, Wee Clan, Wee-Gbehayi-Mahn District, Nimba County, Liberia.

The harvest season for vegetables harvest for this project has started since 20th of August 2012 and for the month of August a total of L\$8,715.00 was realized from the sale of vegetables and is expected to last for the four months. All crops were bought on the farm by customers that came from Sacleapea, Nimba County and Monrovia.

Part I

A. Vegetable Production

- i. Harvest of (22) twenty two bags of assorted vegetables from August 20 & 27, 2012:

| N0. | Type of vegetable | Quantity harvested | Unit of measure |
|-----|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Bitter balls | 5 | 60kg bags |
| 2. | Egg plant | 4 | 60kg bags |
| 3. | Cabbage | 2 | 48kg bags |
| 4. | Micro carbon | 1 | 60kg bags |
| 5. | August 27, 2012 harvest; Bitter balls | 4 | 60kg bags |
| | Egg plants | 5 | 60kg bags |
| | Micro carbon | 1 | 60kg bags |
| | Total | 22 | Bbags |

ii. Harvesting of cabbage:

| N0. | Date of harvest | Number of bulbs harvested |
|-----|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | August 24, 2012 | 11 |
| 2. | August 25, 2012 | 16 |
| 3. | August 26, 2012 | 15 |
| | TOTAL | 42 |

B. Sales of vegetables:

A total of L\$8,715.00 was realized from the sale of vegetables. All crops were bought on the farm by customers that came from Sacleapea, Nimba County and Monrovia. According to our market survey, a 60kg bag of bitter balls is sold for L\$600.00 – 700.00 in Sacleapea, Nimba County but was sold for L\$400.00 in Doumpa. The cabbage was sold around L\$25 – 40 per bulb.

Part II

Lowland Rice

All the 56 plots are under intensive maintenance. Weeding of rice and brushing of bunds are the major work that is ongoing. The 14 earlier plots are close to booting stage.

Emerging Impact

- The bridge to the town is now fixed (we believe that the presence of FED /Liberia contributed meaningfully to the construction of the bridge).
- A pharmacy is now in the town. (This facility was not available for the past 20 years).
- Young people are now having hope in Agriculture especially as they see the sales from their vegetables and the growth of the rice in the field.



Harvested Cabbage and Egg plant for sale at Doumpa

Task: 1.8 Goat Interventions

During the month of August, the following activities were carried out:

The Official Launching/Planning Meeting for the PPR Vaccination Campaign took place on Wednesday August 22nd. The Launching was presided over by the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), National Coordinator for Trans-boundary Disease. The NGO BRAC staff, (who are executing the campaign for the MOA and funded by USAID/FED), were present as well as Samaritan's Purse, and USDA Land O'Lakes Project personnel. The National Plan produced in the Launching/Planning Meeting will now be vetted at the county levels with each of the County Agricultural Coordinators and County Livestock Officers for comment.

Responses to solicitations for Lead Farmers (Goat Producers) for the Goat Pass-on Schemes at the county levels will be evaluated and selections made in early September following the deadline for receipt, end of August. Each solicitation will be evaluated according to a standard scoring procedure for all applicants.

The Regional Livestock Consultative Meeting being organized for the Ministry of Agriculture will take place on Sept 6th. Purpose of the meeting is to compile all livestock related interventions current and planned for the sector.

COMPONENT TWO: STIMULATE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

During the Month of August, the Enterprise Development Team accomplished the following activities:

Activity 2.3.A.ii.e – Targeted Technical Support

The ED team has now conducted the full 6 week follow up and mentorship plan with participants from two previous Business Plan workshops. By September 7, 2012, the participants will have completed business plans for presentation to FED. This training was attended by 30 participants, 27 males and 3 females, representing 16 small and medium enterprises. Successful business plans will be eligible to apply for assistance from FED utilizing the MDF.

The ED and MDF team met with AEDE and Chevron concerning a women's group called New Generational Women located in Cooper's Town, Upper Clay Ash-land, Montserrado County. These women are engaged in pepper and cassava farming. FED will be working with both Chevron and AEDE to provide technical and business training over a one year process. The MDF is expected to be finalized by September 7.

An IQC RFP was released to find local service providers for various training modules required by FED: *Basic Agri-Business Skills Training for Rural Groups*, *Basic Agri - Business Skills Training for Rural Groups*, *Village Savings and Loan Trainings*, and *Basic Literacy Training*. A bidder's conference was held on July 19 and the bidding was closed on July 25. Qualifying bidders were asked to make small presentations and answer final questions August 13 – 17, 2012. Final IQC contracts will be signed the week of September 3. Once IQC holders are finalized, FED will then be in a position to hire IQC holders for specific training sessions needed for FED beneficiaries through a task order fixed price purchase order on an as needed basis.

The Enterprise Development Specialist met with Advancing Youth/USAID in July and again in August to discuss how AY literacy curriculum and training structure could be utilized for FED's beneficiaries. AY conducted recruitment for the 2012/2013 term during the last two weeks in August, identifying 24 FED farmer groups that overlap with AY communities who were invited to participate in pretesting for AY literacy classes. AY classes will start for the 2012/2013 term in September.

From July 30 to August 3, the Enterprise Development team traveled to Bong, Nimba, Lofa, and Grand Bassa counties to interview candidates for the county-based Enterprise Development Assistant position. Four candidates were identified and hired. ED Assistants will help coordinate and implement all targeted technical support for FED beneficiaries in the counties. A short list of candidates was created and offers will be made. ED Assistants will start September 10, 2012.

From August 22 – 31, the ED team traveled to Bong and Lofa to conduct intervention assessments with current FED farmer groups and small and medium enterprises. These assessments will be used to design intervention plans (training, cost-sharing, and expert assistance utilizing MDF funds) for FED's beneficiaries. Grand Bassa and Nimba counties will be covered the week of September 3.

An Enterprise Development Expression of Interest was released on August 22. The purpose of the EOI is to accept applications from reputable agri-business enterprises involved at any stage FED's four agriculture value chains that have the capacity and interest to work with FED guidance to start a new business or expand an existing business. FED encourages new business ideas that would improve linkages between producers, agro-input suppliers, commercial buyers, and logistics/transport companies, provide stakeholders improved access to

goods and services, improve quality of goods and services, and / or utilize innovative technologies in the agriculture sector. The deadline for submission is September 14.

Activity 2.3.A.i Profile Commercial Buyers and Activity, 2.3.A.ii.a – Profile and Select Lead Producers, FBOs, and Enterprises

A Tamis module for the Stakeholder Profile database was created by STTA Sudarshini and tested by the Enterprise Development team in July. An RFP to gather the remaining profiles from approximately 900 – 1,000 stakeholders across the country was released on August 7 and bids were accepted on August 27. A local service provider will be contracted the week of September 3.

Activity 2.3.B.ii – Adapt and Pilot Enterprise Development Curricula

The Enterprise Development Plan (EDP) was designed by Sue Savage earlier in the year. The EDP is not a Business Plan but rather a tool to guide a thought process that will prepare producer groups to qualify them as a registered business entity, begin planning as a business to meet goals, and to eventually meet minimum standards for accessing finance. The Enterprise team designed a pilot training program in July that was conducted in Ganta, Nimba with associations who had previously received business management training from FED in April. The EDP pilot program continued with another group of associations in Grand Bassa from August 4-7. This pilot training also included a pilot gender inclusiveness and leadership training. This training was attended by 30 participants, 20 males and 10 females, representing 14 farming groups.

Activity 2.2.b – Survey for Loan Products and Financial Service Partners

The Enterprise Development team met again with the new USAID Project, IBEX run by IESC on August 13: Watchen Bruce, Chief of Party, August Flomo, DCOP, Eric Hage, Moses, and Enterprise Development Specialist. The teams shared their selection criteria and intervention strategies in order to better collaborate on project objectives and better serve their beneficiaries. IBEX will be holding a future roundtable discussion concerning the creation of permanent business service centers in Liberia in which FED will participate.

The Enterprise Development Specialist met via skype with Root Capital again on August 7. Root Capital is a nonprofit social investment fund that grows rural prosperity in poor, environmentally vulnerable places in Africa and Latin America by lending capital, delivering financial training, and strengthening market connections for small and growing agricultural businesses. Root Capital is interested in expanding their reach into Liberia and has recently started a loan program to work with local supply chains for domestic consumption of staple food products. The EDS put Root Capital in contact with IBEX since they are interested in lending utilizing the Development Credit Authority.

Activity 2.3.B.vi – Increase Enterprise Registration and Local Government Engagement

During the implementation of the EDP pilot training sessions, FED participants shared their perceptions of the business and association registration process, which indicated there is a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding about the process and costs for registering. Therefore, FED is partnering with the Micro/Small and Medium Enterprise Division (MSME) of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) on a 90 day radio

and mobile outreach program in order to disseminate information in the four counties. The proposed project will include radio jingles in 6 local vernaculars and English, flyers, sign boards for MoCI satellite and Monrovia registration offices, and town hall meetings. A meeting was held on August 28 to finalize the strategy and budget.

Future Activities for September

- Begin Stakeholder Profiling project
- Training and deployment of ED Assistants to the counties
- Design and roll-out of Youth Business Plan Competition
- Business plan mentorship plan for additional SMEs
- Evaluation of business plans and applications in response to ED Expression of Interest
- Finalize parameters for an in depth Cassava Sector Study
- FED Year 2 Work Plan

Task 2.4 Use of ICTs in Stimulating Liberian Agri-Business

Component One: Increased Agricultural Productivity

Task 1.2 Data Collection, Baseline Studies, Impact Surveys, M&E

- Designed the plot measurement process for FED demonstration sites. Moving forward, the process will be overseen by the M&E \ GIS Officer with input from the ICT Specialist.
- Completed GPS and plot measurement training for FED agriculture extension officers and M&E staff. The M&E \ GIS Officer performed follow up training at one county office.
- Launched demonstration site plot measurements and data gathering. This included the measurement of individual rice, cassava, and vegetable plots and overall prepared land at the FED demonstration sites. FED county M&E Coordinators will also be tracking community group contact information. This information will help us track the progress of demonstration sites, build our spatial database, and report Indicators 1.1.2, 1B.

Component Two: Enterprise Development

Task 2.4 Use of ICTs in Stimulating Liberian Agri-Business

Work planning activities included the following meetings:

- Lonestar on mobile money
- Judith E. Payne, E3/E&I/ICT e-Business Advisor and AFR/SD/EGEA ICT Advisor on market information systems and agriculture value added services
- USAID FACET on potential low-cost video workshops
- CARE Liberia on market information systems and SMS experience
- USAID GEMS on data collection activities with Ministry of Health and proposed Ministry of Agriculture IT activities
- DAI Headquarters on Farmer Connect platform

COMPONENT THREE: BUILD LOCAL HUMAN CAPACITY

Task 3.1 Creating Centers of Excellence

Key Achievements:

Booker Washington Institute

On Wednesday, August 1, 2012, the Vocational Education Specialist (VES) and the Vocational Training and Non-formal Education Specialist (VTNFES) went to the Booker T. Washington Institute (BWI) to follow up the just ended ECOWAS Curriculum Development Workshop. The meeting was held on the BWI campus for TVET teachers and curriculum developers in Liberia, and served as a platform to plan the BWI stakeholders' meeting with their authorities.

The VES and VTNFES met Mulbah Jackollie, the principal of BWI, and discussed the following regarding the stakeholders' meeting:

1. BWI should write the list of the stakeholders to be invited to the stakeholders' meeting.
2. The stakeholders' meeting should be held on Wednesday, August 22, 2012, on the BWI campus from 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.
3. FED should be asked to provide a snack for a coffee break and lunch for the meeting.
4. The letter inviting the stakeholders should be sent to them no later than a week before August 22, 2012.

Upon conclusion of the discussion on the stakeholders' meeting, the principal, VES, and VTNFES visited the building where the two rooms to be used as FED's offices are located. After inspecting the rooms, the VES asked the principal when the iron door will be put in place. The principal said that the offices will be ready by or before August 15, 2012. After the VES described the demolishing of the Ministry of Agriculture buildings currently in use as FED offices, Jackollie offered the remaining two rooms of the apartment to FED. This means that the iron door could be placed on the entrance door of the apartment instead of being installed on the office door. The VES and VTNFES expressed to Jackollie that FED would highly appreciate the ability to use the additional two rooms as offices.

On Thursday, August 2, 2012, the VES, VTNFES, and Flomo Pewu visited a FED demonstration site. Pewu and the VES explained the history of the demonstration site to the VTNFES. After touring the site, the VES and VTNFES traveled to BWI and visited Jacob Swee at his office. The group discussed the way forward for the agriculture department and thereafter went to the compost house where they met the workers turning the two day old compost. Swee explained that because of the excess water in the compost, it was necessary to turn it within two days instead of waiting for 12 to 14 days as required.

TTNFES, VES, and Swee visited the principal's office after leaving the compost house to follow up the progress made with the letters to the stakeholders. Jackollie was composing the letters upon the arrival of FED. The VES, VTNFES, and Jackollie agreed that FED should help distribute the letters to stakeholders in Monrovia while BWI will distribute the letters to stakeholders in Margibi.

On Friday, August 3, 2012, the VES and VTNFES continued their work plan and the draft agriculture curricula for BWI at the FED sub-office at the Ministry of Agriculture Margibi compound.

On Saturday, August 4, 2012, the VES and VTNFES went to the office of the BWI principle, in order to take responsibility of the stakeholders' letters to be distributed in Monrovia.

The Need for a Vocational Teacher Training Specialist: Interview with James Cooper

The FED Capacity Development Advisor, Mahawa Wheeler, introduced James Cooper to the VTNFES. Cooper is an accomplished vocational electrical educator and has been involved in training of the vocational trainers throughout Liberia. The purpose of this meeting is to determine his availability and suitability to provide vocational training for the FED project. He provided background on his ability to provide vocational teacher training and curricula and materials development for the new ECOWAS. We ended our discussion with a request for his CV and some curricula examples.

Articulating the Community College Curriculum with the Bachelor Degree Offering Institutes: EHELD COP Meeting

The EHELD project, which is being implemented by RTI is located on Payne between streets 11 and 12 in Sinkor, Monrovia. David Hall is the chief of party for the project, however, FED met with the Deputy Chief of Party, Yarkpazuo Kolva, during a visit to the office. EHELD is involved in curriculum development for the University of Liberia, the College of Engineering in Monrovia, and the Cuttington University, College of Agriculture in Gbanga, Bong County. During our meeting, Hall shared the proposed curricula for Cuttington University, which included three tracks of Bachelor of Science including Agriculture. Each track could choose one of seven minors, including agricultural mechanics, agribusiness, agricultural and extension education, animal science and health, natural resources management, gender, culture and agriculture, and plant and soil science. The new curriculum will be implemented in September 2012. Dean of Agriculture, Charles Mulbah, is the contact person for the agricultural programs at Cuttington University.

Grand Bassa County Community College

Request Meeting of the Vice Chancellor of Grand Bassa Community College (GBCC) upon leaving the Sparks Hotel, the VTNFES and the Education Officer (EO) attended a FED-entrepreneurship workshop at a different USAID project site in Buchanan. At the site, FED met the Grand Bassa FED Extension Officer, Marvin Neeple, who accompanied us to Grand Bassa Community College (GBCC).

Grand Bassa FED Office in Buchanan:

During the VTNFES and EO's visit to the FED Buchanan office, they noted the county manager and caretaker were absent, only the guards were present. The office itself had only three fans, four plastic chairs and one desk, and the Internet was not available, nor was there a printer or stationary.

The Dean of Academic Affairs, Morris B. Zugar produced their proposed curriculum for the upcoming academic year commencing in September 2012. The VTNFES then provided copies of the ECOWAS National Agriculture Diploma proposed curriculum for the BWI. The three administrators were very keen to review it, and requested to attend the stakeholder meeting at BWI on August 22. Further, they requested to attend the stakeholder meeting at BWI on August 22.

Nimba County Community College and Doumpa Community Project

On Tuesday, August 14, 2012, the VES, VTNFES, and the FED Nimba County Manager, Horace V. Yansine, attended an organizational session with the administration officials of the Nimba County Community College (NCCC) to plan a stakeholder's meeting and facilitate the NCCC instructors in filling in the Instructor Questionnaire.

FED's Dennis Eaton gave a brief presentation on FED's work with BWI and the community colleges in Grand Bassa, Bong, Lofa, and Nimba, with the following goals:

1. Develop potential youth development programs for future farmers and agri-businesses
2. Conduct workshops related to instructional development and delivery
3. Contribute to the assessment and upgrading of curricula at BWI and the four other vocational training centers, with specific attention to women
4. Develop recruitment information materials which encourage students (especially women) to consider a career in agricultural production and thus enroll in one of the Vocational Centers of Excellence; and
5. Explore the formation of an agricultural youth leadership organization for students studying agriculture in the Centers of Excellence.
6. *BWI Stakeholders Meeting*

The VTNFES and the VES travelled together to Kakata for the stakeholder meeting.

Participants Included:

- Five BWI agriculture instructors
- BWI Head of Department, Morris Zorbah
- Two Grand Bassa Community College administrators
- Emmanuel Tokpah, from Buchanan
- Firestone Private Firm Manager, Carlos Smith
- Country Agriculture Director, William Cooper
- Assistant Minister of Agriculture, Paul Jallah
- Director for the Minister of Youth and Sport, Boye Robertson
- BWI Agriculture Head of Department, Jacob Swee (presided the meeting)

The curriculum of the meeting included:

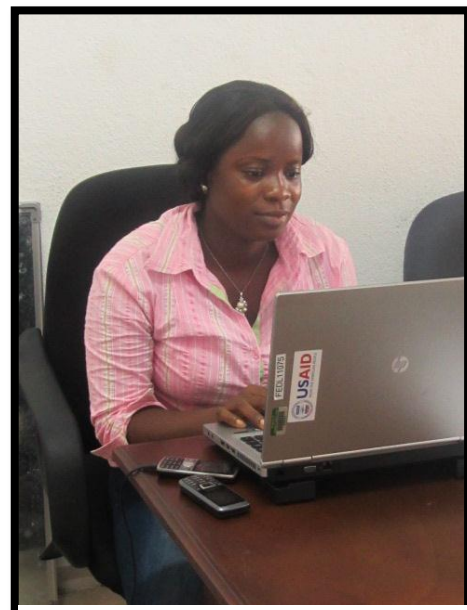
- Project Management;
- Statistics with Data Collection, Analysis, and Reporting;
- Emphasis of Quality Control, with regard to industrial crops and practices;
- Leadership with emphasis on personal integrity;
- Optional/Alternative Specialty Streams for specific Liberian job market needs;
- Grand Bassa prefers offering a three-year associate degree course, not a post-secondary vocational diploma program;
- Firestone prefers a workforce readiness program similar to ECOWAS TVET;
- The Assistant Minister for Agriculture requested: improving and empowering teacher capacity, and improving the learning environment;
- Updating the teaching materials and laboratory tools, equipment, and facilities.

Outstanding activities:

- Coordinate the meeting with the Assistant Minister for Vocational and Technical Education.
- Begin training in curriculum development from the ECOWAS TVET curriculum.
- Visit Lofa County Community College.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

FED launched a pilot phase of its internship program on July 31, 2012 at the UL Auditorium. To date, 60 interns have signed contracts with FED and have been placed around the country with public institutions, NGOs, INGOs, and farm enterprises. Eighty five percent of the interns have already begun work at 17 institutions, including FED. The 60 interns were recruited and two drop and the remaining 58 interns have been placed. *Please see appendix:*



*Intern Saybah M. K. Kaine assigned at
FED Monrovia Office*

TRAINING CONDUCTED

During the month of August 2012, the following training were conducted by all three components of the project:

- Demonstration on Safe Use of Inputs, Fertilizers and Chemicals training was conducted on August 2, 2012 in Gbarnga, Bong County with a total of 150 farmers participating.
- Cassava Production Training was held in Bong County from August 6-10, 2012 with a total 25 famers from one group participating.
- A training on Rice Production was in held Monrovia for 17 farmers from August 1 – 18, 2012.
- Vegetable Production Training was also held in Monrovia for 3 farmers from August 6 – 7, 2012.
- August 2 – 3, 2012, SME Mentorship Program training was conducted in Bong County for 17 farmers from eight groups.
- Enterprise Development Plan, Promoting Gender Sensitive training was held in Grand Bassa County for 30 farmers from 14 groups.
- A four day Technical Computer Training was held for 10 farmers at Doumpa in Nimba County from August 3 – 4, 10 – 11, 2012.

Environmental Compliance Monitoring and Reporting

Training and Capacity Building

With the approval of the PERSUAP, training of extension workers has become necessary. To ensure that best management practices been presented by FED are already localized, a one to one field discussion has been ongoing to enable all extension workers share experiences at the upcoming workshop. Preparing these extension workers for a general workshop and knowledge sharing activity is slated for mid -September 2012.

Training in cassava demonstration attended in Compound 2 Cassava, Bassa County. There is the commitment of FED that the demonstration of enhanced cassava cultivation techniques will integrate best management practices. Farmers expressed satisfaction for introduction to new skills. Most notable is the reduction need for fertilizers use. It is expected that we compare yield in this scenario especially in the wake of the decrease in use of fertilizers.

At a visit at the University of Liberia's Fendall Campus, the national veterinary laboratory was been assessed for a possibility that Food and Enterprise Development (FED) could intervene in providing additional laboratory materials. The visit was necessitated by a request for laboratory supplies from FED by the Ministry of Agriculture. Intervention in this regard is still under review from FED

Compliance Monitoring

For compliance monitoring, a 3 day workshop hosted by the Enterprise Development Component for Farmers was carried out. It has become evident that Environmental issues as they unfold will have to be constantly addressed as comments at these workshops while also serving as a reminder to staff about FEDS commitment to best Practices.

Other Activities

Attended the formal launching of the PPR national vaccine at BRAC with a called for a proper handling, storage and disposal of medical waste in line with available best practice provided by FED.

Planned Activities:

- Workshop date for Extension Officer submitted for review
- Workshop for training of SMEs in the agricultural sector proposed through the Enterprise Development

Monitoring and Evaluation

During the month of August, An Agricultural Economist Ray Greer arrived on August 5th to develop a crop-monitoring strategy for the four value chains. He presented his monitoring plan to USAID and FED staff on Tuesday, August 28th. The first phase of the L-MEP DQA process was conducted at the Monrovia Office on Monday, August 20th, which included a review on the current status of performance indicators. The DQA process continued with field visitations to Nimba and Bong County during the week of August 27th.

FED data for quarter two and three were entered into L-MEP's PIDS database on Tuesday, August 28th. In addition, market price data was collected in Montserrado, Bong, Nimba, Lofa and Grand Bassa counties during the first week in August. Vegetable production, cassava and rice production training continued during this month. Table below illustrates activities captured by each component area. In addition, a performance indicator table for July, which illustrates the progress of FED activity by each indicator, is included in this report. *See appendix for performance indicator table.*

Table 1: FED Training Activities for August 2012

| Activities for Component One: Agricultural Productivity | | | | |
|---|--|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Date | Activity | County | # of farmers trained | # of groups |
| Agri-Input Training | | | | |
| August 2 | Demonstration on Safe Use of Inputs, Fertilizers and Chemicals | Bong | 150 | 1 |
| Cassava Production Training | | | | |
| August 6-10 | Cassava Production Training | Bong | 25 | 1 |
| Rice Production Training | | | | |
| August 1-4, 6-11, 13-18 | Rice Production Training | Montserrado | 17 | 1 |
| Vegetable Production Training | | | | |
| August 6-7 | Vegetable Production Training | Montserrado | 3 | 1 |
| Activities for Component Two: Enterprise Development | | | | |
| Date | Activity | County | # of entrepreneurs trained | # of groups |
| August 2-3 | SME Mentorship Program | Bong | 17 | 8 |
| August 8-10 | Enterprise Development Plan, Promoting Gender Sensitive | Grand Bassa | 30 | 14 |
| Activities for Component Three: Capacity Building | | | | |
| Date | Activity | County | # of participants trained | # of groups |

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------|----|---|
| August 3-4, 10-11 | Computer Training | Nimba | 10 | 1 |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------|----|---|

Market Development Fund

FED Activity Table – APPROVED and LIVE ACTIVITIES

| Activity Name | Numb | Description | Start Date | End Date | Approx. Value (USD) | Location (county, district) |
|--|-----------|---|------------|----------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| COMPONENT 1 | | | | | | |
| Rice Production and Processing Demonstration | C1-MDF-01 | 26 sites/partnerships with farmer associations in training by module (site selection, rice variety selection, land preparation, fertilizer application, seedling production, transplanting, irrigation, weeding, harvesting, and post-harvest). In addition, labor-saving production technologies (rotary weeders, power tillers) will be demonstrated. | 5/21/12 | 10/31/12 | | Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Bong |
| Arjay Farms Outgrower Expansion | C1-MDF-11 | Work with Arjay Farms in expanding and training additional outgrower staff. In addition, provide Arjay with the necessary tools and training in order to process the significant increase in rice seed. Up to date, the MDF team has embarked in acquiring and providing 10 power tillers, 10 rice threshers and 3 motorcycles. USAID approval for title transfer has been requested and, when obtained, purchase order will be issued to vendors identified. | 6/18/12 | 9/30/13 | | Montserrado |
| Cassava Demo Site Training and Cultivation | C1-MDF-21 | 22 sites/partnerships with farmer associations to increase farmers capacity to increase the production of cassava, expand network of out grower farmers in cassava, and build sustainable and profitable cassava farming operations for cassava farmers in the target counties. | 6/18/12 | 10/31/12 | | Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Bong |
| Vetiver Expansion Program | C1-MDF-20 | Develop plant materials that are effective at stopping soil erosion. Establish small nurseries of Vetiver to | 6/29/12 | 10/31/12 | | Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, |

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|--|---------|----------|--|--|
| | | then be planted out at demo sites. | | | | Bong |
| Phase I, Youth Nutrition Program | C1-MDF-22 | Build Demonstration site to build and increase overall nutrition at orphanage. Train Orphanage leaders and kids in vegetable farming and input supplies and provide technical assistance on goat health. | 6/29/12 | 12/31/12 | | Montserrado |
| Capacity building for the safe use of authorized agro-chemicals in Bong and Lofa | C1-MDF-08 | Collaborate with input dealers in organizing sensitization, awareness creation and demonstrations for the safe use of authorized agro-chemical and equipment. Conduct two demonstrations of innovative tools, inputs (fertilizer, chemicals, etc.) in Lofa and Bong. | 7/24/12 | 8/15/12 | | Lofa, Bong |
| Soy Flour Compost Distribution and Soil Enhancement | C1-MDF-15 | Collaborate with OICI on the transfer of 485 MT of spoiled soy flour that was imported by OICI but is unfit for neither human nor animal consumption. FED will work with local partners on using the soy flour for compost on FED and partner sites. | 7/9/12 | 9/30/12 | | Bong, Nimba, Margibi |
| Completion of National Peste des Petits Ruminant (PPR) Vaccination Campaign | C1-MDF-18 | <p>PPR vaccine has the ability to prevent infection, the disease and further shedding and it confers life-long immunity.</p> <p>The European Union (EU), through the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR), has funded a National trans-boundary animal disease control vaccination campaign to address Peste des Petits ruminants (PPR) disease control in sheep/goats in Liberia and the region for the past three years. The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) has been responsible for implementing the national PPR vaccination campaign. The EU/AU/IBAR Program came to a close in December 2011 and possibility of a follow-on program is unclear. The MOA has not been able to fully execute the PPR vaccination campaign at the planned levels to date and now, with the close of the</p> | 7/02/12 | 10/15/12 | | Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, Nimba |

| | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|---------|----------|--|--|
| | | initial program funding, is unable to complete the campaign on schedule. Approx. 52,000 vials of PPR vaccine remains to be utilized by end September 2012. | | | | |
| Vegetable seedling production and sales | C1-MDF-0024 | Poor quality vegetable seed increases the cost of production, reduces yields, and makes farmers reticent to invest in vegetable production. High quality vegetable seedlings will reduce these risks and motivate farmers to invest in vegetable production. | 8/15/12 | 10/01/12 | | Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, Nimba |
| Johnsonville Women Agriculture Project | C1-MDF-0025 | Flooding in the field has made it impossible for field planting or land development. The situation is mostly prevalent during the rainy season. Ironically there is a reported shortage of water during the dry season. During this time farmers lose time to irrigate the field. The farm needs proper water management structure to improve agriculture productivity. | 7/23/12 | 10/22/12 | | Montserrado |
| Soy Flour Compost Production Training | C1-TRN-0030 | 40 tons of soy flour is stored at Sangay Farm in Gbarnga, Bong County to be used as compost in soil amendment. Sangay farm has already begun producing compost from soy flour to improve soil fertility. FED is collaborating with Sangay farm based on their knowledge and experience in compost production to train lead cassava farmers from Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa and Lofa counties | 8/16/12 | 8/18/12 | | Bong |

| | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|---|---------|----------|--|--|
| Training in treadle pump manufacturing and tube well installation | C1-TRN-0032 | Irrigation equipment found in Liberia is expensive to own and operate. Traditional methods have limited productivity, limiting irrigated surface areas. Treadle irrigation pumps and hand-augured tube wells are relatively low-cost and highly productive. | 8/16/12 | 02/28/13 | | Lofa, Margibi, Nimba |
| COMPONENT 2 | | | | | | |
| Formation of National Cassava Sector Coordinating Committee | C2-MDF-02 | To facilitate the establishment of a sustainable system for coordination, advocacy and information dissemination within the Cassava sector as agreed in the National Cassava Sector Strategy document. | 6/1/12 | 9/30/12 | | Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Bong |
| Computer literacy training for From God to Man Farmers Association | C2-TRN-04 | Provide basic computer training to ten community members in the village of Doumpa. The computer training will enhance the capacity of the farmers association to efficiently manage the association. This is now ongoing and it is expected to complete as scheduled. | 7/12/12 | 9/12/12 | | Nimba |
| Stakeholders Profile | C2-MDF-0005 | FED's approach to enterprise development is to close the gap between buyers and sellers along the four value chains: rice, cassava, vegetables, and goats. To that end FED will start by identifying and cataloguing commercial buyers of products and services in target value chains that are not currently purchasing domestically or that could increase purchases if the supply were available domestically. FED will then identify lead producers – including strong farm based organizations and associations – that could potentially meet buyers' demand if specific constraints were removed. | 8/06/12 | 9/30/12 | | Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, Nimba |
| Business Skills Training in Bong | C2-TRN-06 | To stimulate the Agriculture sector FED will work with approximately 25 participants representing 12 SMEs on | 7/18/12 | 9/7/12 | | Bong |

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|---------|----------|--|--------------------|
| | | the following: key considerations when writing a business plan; applying a simple process to write a business plan effectively; coordination of various company departments and resources in the process of writing the business plan; and drafting of business plan document. | | | | |
| Mentorship program for Business Plan Development for SMEs | CLIN02-TRN-0007 | Market Research training, Telephone follow ups with various group, Market Analysis & Development of Marketing Plan training, Development of Production/Operational Plan training, Development of Financial Plan training, Finalize each partner's business plan | 7/25/12 | 10/31/12 | | Bong, Montserrado |
| Welekamah Farmer Based Organization | | The Welekamah Farmer Based Organization has been involved mainly in vegetables production and now cassava production is focusing on the objective of improving the livelihoods of vegetables through building partnerships with key private enterprises engaged in the business, market, and the processing and technical service linkages in the vegetables and cassava value chain. | | | | |
| COMPONENT 3 | | | | | | |
| University Internship Program – Phase 1 | CLIN03-MDF-0001 | The internship program was launched on the 31 st of July, 2012. To-date 58 interns have been placed primarily with agro-dealers, farm enterprises and ag projects. FED has absorbed 5 of these interns at the head and field offices in Bong, Nimba and Bassa. Follow-up monitoring of interns at their various placement sites is in process. | 6/1/12 | 11/30/12 | | Montserrado, Nimba |
| Booker T. Washington Institute (BWI): Building a Center of Excellence | CLIN03-MDF-0004 | BWI lacks the resources and training's to be a Center of Excellence for Liberia. Curriculum has not been reviewed nor improved for several decades, staff need to be re-trained, and infrastructure for the Library and Department of Agriculture is poor, with inadequate | 6/15/12 | 9/30/12 | | Margibi |

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | <p>facilities and equipment for teachers and students. FED will work with BWI on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Upgrade BWI to become a Center of Excellence 2) Upgrade curricula and equipment for BWI's agriculture department. 3) Create an environment conducive to learning and to the pursuit of excellence in agriculture. <p>With the exception of the power tiller, livestock scale, and the soil test kit (which is expected in soon), the rest of the items listed for FED in the signed MOU have been delivered, with the IT System currently at the point of completion.</p> | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Project Management and Administration

Administration and Logistics

Achievements

During the month of August, FED continued to provide effective administration and logistical support to program and administrative staff, while assuring contract compliance. Highlight of this month, from August 1- 31, 2012 includes hiring of nine drivers.

Staff Recruitment, LTTA:

- Quoizenah Lamine..... Manufacture Trainer
- Allen Paulono Enterprise Development Assistant (Lofa County)
- Watson Yeanue Enterprise Development Assistant (Nimba County)
- Abednego Mehn Enterprise Development Assistant (Bong County)
- Jonathan Jones.....Enterprise Development Assistant (Grand Bassa County)

The administration of FED took in five interns to work on the FED project and they are assigned with all three components.

- Boakai K. SandoFED - Bong County Office
- Jerry S. M. DoloFED - Grand Bassa Office
- Nathaline B. WeahFED – Monrovia Office
- Saybah M. K. KaineFED – Monrovia Office
- Patrick S. BeikorFED – Nimba Office

Three county offices; Nimb, Lofa and Grand Bassa will be fully equip with internet service. STTAs Ces Hipos, Sr. IT/Networking Specialist and Ana-Maria Ungureanu, IT Networking Specialist arrived on the 12th of August to set up VSet at each of the county offices for better internet connectivity with Monrovia office and STTAs completed their task on August 27, 2012. The team also set up the BWI computer lab with an internet server for the agriculture students and administration as part of FED's contractual obligations.

FED STTA/LTTA July 2012

The below Short Term Technical Assistants (STTA) that completed their assignment and are still contributing to the accomplishments activities for the month of August:

| Name | Position | Partner | Dates | Summary |
|----------------------------|---|---------|-----------------------------|---|
| Matt Curtis (STTA) | Soil Fertility STTA | DAI | August 20-September 5, 2012 | Soil testing training |
| Dennis Eaton (LTTA) | Vocational Training and Non-Formal Education Specialist | LSU | July 1, 2012 | Oversee all C3 activities and management of the C3 team |
| Name | Position | Partner | Dates | Summary |
| Agatha Johnson (STTA) | SME Training Specialist | DAI | May-December 2012 | Implement a series of business services trainings for the small business association participants working in all of the FED value chains. |
| Fofana Bidjokazo (STTA) | ISFM and UDP Specialist | IFDC | May – September 2012 | Provide technical support for the implementation of ISFM and UDP best practices. |
| Constant Dangbegnon (STTA) | NRM Extension Advisor STTA | IFDC | May-September 2012 | Work on integrating extension training activities into all of FED's input supply system improvement interventions. |
| Issac Asare (STTA) | Capacity Building Specialist | IFDC | May- | Provide capacity building for |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | | | September 2012 | agro-inputs dealers. |
| Jacelyn Carleson (MTTA) | ICT Specialist | DAI | June 11- November 30, 2012 | Develop and support FED's ICT initiatives. |
| Name | Position | Partner | Dates | Summary |
| Jessica Benton-Cooley (MTTA) | Communications Specialist | DAI | August 18- Deceber 18, 2012 | Strategic communications and training support. |
| Ces Hipos (STTA) | Sr. IT/Networking Specialist | DAI | August 12- 27, 2012 | Provide county office, MoA and BWI networking support |
| Ana-Maria Ungureanu (STTA) | IT Networking Specialist | DAI | August 12- 21, 2012 | Provide IT networking and installation support to BWI (MDF activity) |

SITE VISIT

U.S. State Department Delegation Team Visits FED Activities

A delegation team from the U.S. State Department, including **XXX**, led by staff from the USAID Food and Enterprise Development (FED) Program, visited several FED project sites in Montserrado and Margibi counties on Wednesday, August 22, 2012. The overall purpose of the visit was to support FED's goal to build human resource capacity through creating centers of excellence.



Visiting team tours newly agriculture science lab.

The group first went to the Booker Washington Institute (BWI), which is located in Kakata. Since 1927, the institute has been contributing technical human resources to Liberia's reconstruction and development. BWI is largely funded by the government of Liberia through subsidies, and has two parallel training programs, including one that caters to youth across the nation; a regular secondary vocational/technical program, and an accelerated vocational training program for high school graduates.

As part of its Component Three initiative, FED is assisting BWI to facilitate a series of stakeholder conferences intended to review the future role of BWI given advancing technology and the changing socio-economic environment. FED is also taking an active role in strengthening and expanding its internship program, with the goal of integrating feedback from interns and employers into existing syllabi and improving the relevance of BWI technical curriculum and the technical competence of graduates. Additionally, FED is supporting BWI's compost program for local farmers, through the provision of equipment and materials, while ensuring all programs incorporate an ECOWAS compliant curriculum in agriculture.

The group met with members of the administration and visited the newly equipped computer and science labs for agriculture students, as well as the general and American libraries. The team expressed how impressed they were with the level of progress at BWI, and the FED-led initiative toward making the institute a Center of Excellence.

The team also visited the "Women of Destiny" farming group in Mountbarclay, Montserrado County, who is currently involved in cassava production and processing. During the meeting with the delegation, Comfort Jallah, head of the women's group, and member of the FED-supported, Technical Working Group, of the National Cassava Sector Coordinating Committee, explained how they are currently farming on 11 acres of land in Bensonville, Montserrado County, and have 150 more



Jallah explains her group activities to the visiting team

acres in Bong County planted with cassava.

Jallah was a FED participant in the Business Skills Training for small and medium enterprises in the Cassava Value Chain from April 4 to 5, 2012. Since then, she has been part of the FED business planning and mentorship program. On May 24 to 25, Jallah also participated in the long-term FED training program, which the International Finance Cooperation (IFC) designed, entitled “Developing a Business Plan for a New Venture.” Her approach to production and processing of cassava have changed due to these trainings, and she is now actively exploring opportunities for expansion and engaging in a local marketing survey for her products.

“The equipment given to the group from the African Development Fund facilitated the operation of the Bensonville processing center, which enabled the processing of cassava into gari, fufu, starch, and deepa,” Jallah said. “We are also working with other female farmer groups to share knowledge gained from training in improved method and skills in cassava production and processing. Currently, our group is mainly producing fufu for sale at the local markets, due to a lack of economic drying facilities for gari, particularly in the wet season.”

After the visit, the delegation leader expressed gratitude for the progress being made by the female farmers with whom they interacted and for FED’s support for their efforts.

APPENDIX

List of interns and organizations they are placed

| | University | Last Name | First Name | M/F | School | Placed Org. |
|----|------------|-----------|--------------|--------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | BWI | Cooper | Konah T. | Female | Agriculture | Bong Mines - Pardy Rice Project |
| 2 | BWI | Cooper | Annie B. | Female | Business | Boyemah - Margibi |
| 3 | BWI | Flomo | Denia N. | Female | Agriculture | Boyemah - Margibi |
| 4 | BWI | Gaye | Serina L. | Female | Agriculture | Boyemah - Margibi |
| 5 | BWI | Gbatoe | Matthew | Male | Agriculture | Bong Mines - Pardy Rice Project |
| 6 | BWI | Jorkeah | D. Hezekiah | Male | Agriculture | Jackville - Margibi |
| 7 | BWI | Karvah | Yekeson A. | Male | Agriculture | Bong Mines - Pardy Rice Project |
| 8 | BWI | Martin | Quikser D. | Male | Agriculture | Konola - Margibi |
| 9 | BWI | Mulbah | J. Emmanuel | Male | Agriculture | Jackville - Margibi |
| 10 | BWI | Teeman | Willemina N. | Female | Agriculture | Bong Mines - Pardy Rice Project |
| 11 | BWI | Williams | Jeremiah D. | Male | Agriculture | Konola - Margibi |
| 12 | BWI | Zayzay | Dorborson | Male | Agriculture | Boyemah - Margibi |
| 13 | NCCC | Beikor | Patrick S. | Male | Agriculture | FED-Nimba |
| 14 | NCCC | Bonkar | Mark M. | Male | Agriculture | ARS - Nimba |
| 15 | NCCC | Konah | Adolphus P. | Male | Agriculture | Ganta Methodist |
| 16 | NCCC | Kotee | Grace S. D. | Female | Agriculture | Ganta Methodist |
| 17 | NCCC | Kruah | Johnson M. | Male | Agriculture | ARS - Nimba |
| 18 | NCCC | Quanue | Eric N. | Male | Agriculture | Ganta Methodist |
| 19 | NCCC | Teakpah | Agnes T. | Female | Agriculture | Ganta Methodist |
| 20 | NCCC | Toby | Elvis | Male | Agriculture | Ganta Methodist |
| 21 | NCCC | Yarkpah | Michael P. | Male | Agriculture | ARS - Nimba |
| 22 | NCCC | Zangbay | Emmanuel N. | Male | Agriculture | Ganta Methodist |
| 23 | UMU | Bah | Sulaiman | Male | Public Administration | Captan Trucking |
| 24 | UMU | Duawo | Anita D. | Female | Accounting | Winrocks |
| 25 | UMU | Gaye | Aaronlyn D. | Female | Management | CARE-LIBERIA |
| 26 | UMU | Gpoldore | Gbolu P. | Female | Accounting | Samaritan Purse |
| 27 | UMU | Kaine | Saybah M. K. | Female | Public Administration | FED - Monrovia |
| 28 | UMU | Moore | Tenese K. | Male | Public Administration | The Market Place |
| 29 | UMU | Vawah | J. Michael | Male | Public Administration | CARE-LIBERIA |

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| 30 | UMU | Zoduwah | Miatta | Female | Public Administration | Samaritan Purse |
| 31 | University of Liberia | Al-Sherif | Malek V. | Male | Management | Market Place |
| 32 | University of Liberia | Baryogar | Siemon K. | Male | Agriculture | AJAY FARMS |
| 33 | University of Liberia | Binda | Syvester K. | Male | Agriculture | AJAY FARMS |
| 34 | University of Liberia | Bladee | Otis | Male | Public Administration | The Market Place |
| 35 | University of Liberia | Bono | Emmanuel N. | Male | Accounting | Devin Cooperation |
| 36 | University of Liberia | Bundor | Benjamin | Male | Forestry | PNO |
| 37 | University of Liberia | Charpeh-Jaleiba | Elizabeth B. | Female | Forestry | FAO |
| 38 | University of Liberia | Dolo | Jerry S. M. | Male | Forestry | FED - Grand Bassa |
| 39 | University of Liberia | Dunnah | Frank | Male | Agriculture | Gro Green |
| 40 | University of Liberia | Dweh | Mochline B. | Female | Management | Samaritan Purse |
| 41 | University of Liberia | Fayiah | Jackson T. | Male | Forestry | Green Field |
| 42 | University of Liberia | Foefoe | Noah | Male | Agriculture | PNO |
| 43 | University of Liberia | Freman | Beneticus | Male | Forestry | Winrock |
| 44 | University of Liberia | Harris | Boone K. | Male | Agriculture | AJAY FARMS |
| 45 | University of Liberia | Johnson | Siafa A. | Male | Agriculture | ACDI/VOCA |
| 46 | University of Liberia | Kambo | Thomas N. | Male | Economics | The Market Place |
| 47 | University of Liberia | Mends-Cole | Morleeta | Female | Agriculture | ACDI/VOCA |
| 48 | University of Liberia | Moore | Mardoe | Female | Management | CARE-LIBERIA |
| 49 | University of Liberia | Paye | Wooiklee S. | Male | Agriculture | ACDI/VOCA |
| 50 | University of Liberia | Penick | John Shelun | Male | Forestry | PNO |
| 51 | University of Liberia | Quaye | Urias | Male | Forestry | LCC |
| 52 | University of Liberia | Samuels | Sandra G. | Female | Forestry | BRAC |
| 53 | University of Liberia | Sando | Boakai K. | Male | Economics | FED - Bong County |

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|----|-----------------------|------------|---------------|--------|------------|----------------|
| 54 | University of Liberia | Smith | James Adam | Male | Economics | CARE-LIBERIA |
| 55 | University of Liberia | Togba | Princess L. | Female | Accounting | CARE-LIBERIA |
| 56 | University of Liberia | Vesseellee | Garmai | Female | Forestry | CARE-LIBERIA |
| 57 | University of Liberia | Weah | Nathaline B. | Female | Accounting | FED - Monrovia |
| 58 | University of Liberia | woi | S. Molubah L. | Male | Forestry | PNO |