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FOOD AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR LIBERIA

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Photo Caption: **An intern receiving certificate from motivational speaker Mr. Daryl Ambrose Nmah, Director General of Liberia Broadcasting System, during the graduation ceremony of FED's second internship program.**

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

ACE	Africa Cost to Europe
AEDE	Agency for Economic Development and Empowerment
APDRA	Appaloosa Distance Ride Association
AWEP	African Women Entrepreneurship Program
BSTVSE	Bureau of Science, Technical, Vocational and Special Education
BWI	Booker Washington Institute
CARI	Center of Agriculture Research Institute
CVC	Cassava Value Chain
DAI	Development Alternatives, Inc.
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ED	Enterprise Development
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
EO	Extension Officer
FED	Food and Enterprise Development
FTF	Farmer to Farmer
FtF	Feed the Future
GBCC	Grand Bassa County Community College
GCAP	Green Coast Agricultural Program
GPS	Global Positioning Systems
IFDC	International Fertilizer Developmental Center
IP	Implementing Partner
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contract
LAUNCH	Liberia Agriculture, Upgrading Nutrition & Child Health
LCCC	Lofa County Community College
LIFE	Livelihood Improvement for Farming Enterprises
LMEP	Liberia Monitoring and Evaluation Program
LREC	Liberia Renaissance Education Complex
MDF	Market Development Fund
MIS	Market Information Systems
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding

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MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
NAD	National Diploma in Agriculture
NCCC	Nimba County Community College
NGW	New General Women
NV	National Volunteer
PIDS	Performance Indicator Database System
PMP	Performance Management Plan
PUA	Peri-Urban Agriculture
R&RF	Rights & Rice Foundation
RFTOP	Requests for task order proposals
RRA	Rapid Rural Appraisal
STTA	Short Term Technical Assistant
TAMIS	Technical Administrative Management Information System
TVET	Technical, Vocational Education and Training
UDP	Urea Deep Placement
UL	University of Liberia
UMU	United Methodist University

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GEOGRAPHIC REACH OF FED



BACKGROUND

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

This incentive structure is built upon:

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

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

Over the life of the five-year FED program, expanded market linkages will lead to substantial income and job growth along with major increases in the production, processing, marketing, and nutritional utilization of rice, cassava, vegetables, and goats in Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Montserrado, and Margibi counties. These counties are being targeted in the context of regional development corridors that foster intra- and inter-county commerce, simultaneously improving food availability and access for all Liberians.

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

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

SUMMARY – MAY 2013

During the month of May, FED commenced the roll out of training and demonstration farm establishments for rice and cassava across the six counties (Lofa, Nimba, Bong, Grand Bassa, Margibi and Montserrado). All Urea Deep Placement (UDP) field trial sites are now prepared and ready for demonstrations. Goat shelter construction continued this month and completion of all shelters is expected by the end of June. This month also saw the conclusion of the second phase of the FED internship program with 164 interns graduating from practical agri-business work experience with 47 organizations. Component Two completed a survey that would help quantify demand and understand quality and quantity standards of large buyers of vegetables and cassava products in Liberia.

Component One: Increasing Agriculture Productivity and Profitability

This month a second validation workshop was held, during which extension manuals were vetted by key stakeholders including Deputy Minister for Extension, Thomas Bhoki of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Input Supply System Interventions

- Agro-supply dealers in six counties are being interviewed and evaluated by FED community based facilitators in preparation for an upcoming workshop that provide business and marketing tools for an estimated 25 agro-dealers.
- Initial meetings have taken place among five farmer cooperatives with 850 members, and FED Enterprise Development staff to assess farmer agro-input preferences in the upcoming voucher program. FED is linking selected farmers with existing agro-input dealers supported by Wience Liberia.
- The Gro-Green agro-inputs supply company carried out their first demonstrations in Urea briquette manufacturing on May 24 and May 31 in Monrovia. Fed has purchased one metric ton of Urea briquettes in preparation for UDP demonstrations to take place among 20 demonstration plots located in Bong, Lofa, and Nimba counties.

Rice value chain:

- The NGO technicians supporting FED category B sites in six counties are providing on farm training to 5,185 farmers from 88 groups in the use of improved seeds, in-line planting, use of fertilizers, transplanting methods and water management..
- Seven power tillers purchased in April are now being used to demonstrate improved technology in Bong, Nimba and Lofa counties.

Cassava value chain:

- Essential tools for cultivation of x hectares of cassava were provided to 5,704 farmers across four counties (2,700 in Grand Bassa, 661 Bong, 1160 in Lofa, 1, 183 in Nimba)
- A total of 8,000 improved cuttings comprising 5 varieties of cassava now make up two propagation nurseries in Bong and Nimba,
- 65 participants among FED contracted NGO's, lead farmers and C.A.R.I staff were trained in cassava cultivation best practices in Nimba and Bong. Topics covered included: site identification and preparation, planting criteria and post-harvest storage methods all of which will include means for farmers to become more profitable and more productive.

Peri Urban Agriculture/Vegetables Value Chain:

- 509 farmers from Margibi and Montserrado were trained in how to safely utilize pesticides to control/manage infestation and diseases. Vegetable farming hand tools were distributed to 13 farmer groups in Bong and Grand Bassa. The kits include hoes, shovels rakes, cutlasses, watering buckets, and pesticide sprayer packs
- Solarization method for control of soil-borne diseases was introduced by FED PUA STTA with promising initial results, work is underway to plan how to document and encourage widespread replication.

Goat value chain:

- Six Community Goat Pass-on Scheme Programs have now completed their goat breeding herd production intensification sites improvements have included the building of shelters, wells and fencing.
- FED participated in the first meeting of the AU-IBAR VET-GOV ECOWAS Stakeholders Workshop and presented the strategy of the USAID Goat Value Chain Pass-on Strategy as well as the draft Livestock Policy document provided at the request of the MOA for the Workshop. The draft Policy document provides the first example of recommended policy actions specifically designed to facilitate private sector growth in the Livestock Sector for review by the newly established Liberia Policy HUB.

Component Two: Stimulate Private Enterprise

- FED, Building Markets', implementing USAID's Sustainable Markets project, and representatives of Acelor Mittal (AM) met during May to discuss opportunities for FED beneficiary-farmers to supply the concessioner with locally grown food products, including vegetables and rice. This month a survey to quantify demand and understand quality and quantity standards of large buyers of vegetables and cassava products was completed across all counties of FED operation.
- Marcia Odell, Gender specialist STTA delivered a training on the importance of gender-inclusive project design. On May 29 Marcia together with FED staff trained 25 women representing five FBOs in Bong County on leadership for women in FBOs. On May 31, the team provided training on development and delivery of gender sensitive training to 25 representatives from 10 FED service providers.

Component Three: Build Local Human Capacity

- 111 interns participated in a Capacity Building Workshop on Leadership, Career Readiness, Farming as a Business and Value Chains Awareness on 15- 17 of May in Monrovia .
- 164 interns graduated from the second phase of the internship program on May 26 after a three months of practical work experience with 47 organizations and companies.

COMPONENT ONE: INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

Task 1.1 Input Supply System Interventions

Activity 1.1.a: Smallholder Capacity Building

A total of 20 UDP demonstration sites in Bong, Lofa and Nimba counties were brushed and cleared and are now ready for planting.

Activity 1.1.b: Agro-Dealer Capacity Strengthening

Agro-dealers' capacity building is ongoing as FED community based facilitators identify agro-input suppliers in six counties and evaluate their needs for capacity building and business training. 25 small agro-input suppliers were selected to participate in a specialized FED workshop planned for June to strengthen business and marketing skills, and to help them expand their inputs supply businesses to meet farmer needs in rice and vegetable production.

A MOU between Wenco and FED has been drafted after a series of discussions in preparation for the upcoming voucher distribution activity for selected farmers in Nimba and Bong counties. Wenco will provide input supply training for small retail outlets, credit

financing for small retail outlets, and community level training for FED farmers. Wienco is presently supplying seven retail outlets in Nimba and Bong counties.

Activity I.I.c: Input Vouchers

FED's Enterprise Development Officer traveled to Nimba and Bong during the week of May 27 to meet with selected voucher program farmer association recipients, and to assess their capacity to cost share products such as fertilizer, seed and tools that are planned to be included in the voucher program. The pilot voucher program will be implemented in June, in Bong and Nimba Counties in time for the planting season and application of inputs. This activity encourages farmers to invest in input supply through absorption of some of the risks through a discounted price for agricultural inputs whilst promoting long term linkages between farmers and input supply dealers. The pilot activity will target 400 FED farmers organized in five associations: Doumpa, Payee and Menlekoyee in Nimba County, and Palala and Kokoya in Bong county. These farmers belong to FED's 129 rice groups and they participated in FY 2012 demonstrations and as a result already have a basic understanding of rice farming practices.



Activity I.I.d: Improved Appropriate Technologies

The UDP trials in 20 lowland rice sites aim to demonstrate a more cost-effective methodology of fertilizer application that leads to higher benefit-to-cost ratio. Actual UDP application will be done starting mid-June 2013 one week after the rice seedlings have been transplanted.

Urea briquettes production was demonstrated on May 25 and May 31 at Gro-Green retail agricultural supply store in Monrovia. Gro-Green, represented by Adham Zayour, is the sole manufacturer of Urea briquettes in Liberia and will be supplying the urea briquettes for use in the UDP field trials. Attending the demonstrations for FED was Gonyeyee Bartuah (Rice Value Chain Specialist), Boima Bafaie (DCOP Technical), Moses Brown (ED Team Radio Specialist), David Benafel (Component One Lead) and invited newspaper journalists. One metric ton of urea briquettes have been already been manufactured by Gro-Green. The urea fertilizer was supplied by Wienco Agro Inputs, a FED private sector partner.

Activity I.I.e: Agricultural Extension and Curriculum Development Support

Extension manuals and brochures were completed this month by Extension Manual Specialist Doe Adovor in collaboration with PUA specialist Dermot Cassidy and STTA Jim Correll. These were comprehensively reviewed during a validation workshop at which Thomas Bhoki Deputy Minister for Extension for the MoA was present. All these extension materials are subject to full field testing.

Peri-urban vegetable manuals completed: *Crop Calendars, Gantts for Collards, Land Preparation & Soil Management (A-Frame Contour, Bed Formation & Planting, Composting) Diseases, Mites & Nematodes, Insect Pests of Liberia and Seed Saving for Vegetable Cover Crops.*

Rice brochures completed include: *Insect Management, Rice Sheath Rot Disease Management, Rice Stem Disease Management, Seed Selection, Weed & Water Management,*

Rice manuals completed include: *Rice Neck Blast, Rice Harvesting & Processing*

Cassava: *An Illustrated Guide to Contouring, Planting and Harvesting.*

Task 1.2 Increased Productions and Profitability of Quality Rice

Activity 1.2.a. Varietal Testing and Increased Rice Seed Production

FED's Rice Officer met with Africa Rice Seed Specialist Dr. Ayoni Ogunbayo. At the meeting Dr.Ogunbayo was requested to conduct a six-day training for FED seed producers. The proposed training will impart recommended practices in rice seed production to 80 rice farmers from four counties. The farmers will learn the protocols for production of certified seeds and good seeds over a period of three weeks. The training is expected to establish seed production sites in 22 locations spread across FED's area of operation.

Activity 1.2.b. Infrastructure Improvement

FED Irrigation Specialist/Rice VC Manager provided advisory support to 2,031 FED beneficiary farmers in the proper layout and construction of 45 distribution and water management control structures, i.e., dykes, bunds and canals in Bong, Nimba and Lofa Countries. The beneficiaries are making significant progress in the rehabilitation of distribution & water management control structures.

Technicians, Lead Farmers and NGO representatives are utilizing knowledge gained during FED TOT training in rice production practices and water management.

Activity 1.2.c. Improved Production Practices and Technologies

The Rice team visited a sample of communities in Nimba, Lofa and Bong to assess progress in improved production practices and technology. Demonstration rice plots are being prepared for intensive management of the 20 sites that were selected for UDP trials in the communities visited. Eight nursery beds have been prepared and are ready to be sown with

improved rice variety (Nerica L-19) in Nimba, Lofa and Bong in anticipation of UDP demonstration. Seeds are being processed to be sown in nursery beds. Sowing is scheduled for June 3.

NGO technicians continued to monitor and provide technical assistance to FED category B sites throughout May for 5,185 farmer beneficiaries from 88 groups on 1469 hectares in six counties of FED intervention. The NGOs technicians include staff from; ODAFARA (Lofa), ASCO (Bong), SERE (Nimba), and WAI (Grand Bassa, Margibi & Montserrado). These NGOs are providing technical services to upland and lowland rice farmers in support of FED's activities with the farmers. The technicians participated in a ToT provided by FED last month.

Activity I.2.d. Mechanical Aids

The introduction of mechanical tillage has begun. UDP demonstration rice plots in three key sites in Nimba and Bong were tilled using a power tiller. A total of six sites have been tilled using power tillers in this reporting period. Approximately 1.2 hectares have now been plowed. Farmers are observing the process and power tiller operation training for selective farmers is planned for June.

Activity I.2.e. Post-Harvest and Marketing

Preparations are underway for the implementation of rice processing activities in selected sites. In collaboration with Component 2, potential rice processing groups have been assessed for management capacity in rice milling equipment operation, maintenance and financial management. Rice milling equipment will complement rice drying floor areas already established at eight farmer group sites.

Task 1.3 Increased Productions and Profitability of Quality Cassava

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

Input supply

All basic tools for FED cassava farmers were distributed to each county during May (excluding Margibi). The tools being distributed consisted of cutlasses, regular hoes, measuring tape, plastic rope/twine, watering cans, sharpening files, diggers, and rakes.

Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI)

The FED Component One and Component three teams met with CARI staff to discuss collaboration in improving CARI's capacity as an In-service training center and in improving seed certification program, especially for rice, and in the provision of disease resistant and disease free cassava planting materials. It was determined that FED could assist with the establishment of a functional soils lab and also a pathology lab. A suitable building was identified that could be used by

both FED and CARI. A separate agreement is being drawn up to build on this relationship and move forward whilst ensuring that a mechanism is in place to avoid overlapping and redundancy in investment of time and technical assistance.

A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CARI has been submitted to USAID for review and approval.

National Cassava Sector Coordination Committee (NCSCC)

FED participated in the Cassava Sector Coordination Committee Technical Working Group meeting at the MOA. During which it was agreed that FED's Cassava Value Chain Manager will give a presentation on the improved technologies and practices in cassava cultivation that FED is promoting.

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

During this reporting period, the demonstration on cassava mini-stem production led to the establishment of cassava plant propagation nurseries in Bong and Nimba. A total of 8,000 cuttings were planted comprising 5 high-yielding varieties of cassava. FED has commenced the multiplication of improved cassava cuttings at the FED office in Bong County with 6000 mini – stem cuttings and 2000 mini –stem cuttings at Tonglewin in Ganta Nimba County. Similar multiplication have to take place in the other major counties (Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa and Nimba).

Links have been established in May with contacts who are assisting in the acquisition of improved cassava cuttings from IITA in Nigeria to support FED's cutting dissemination mandate. New, improved cuttings are part of a larger strategy to improve productivity and reduce the risk of diseases such as the brown streak virus.

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

Activity 1.3.1b: Building the Linkages from Cutting Producers to Cassava Farmers

On-farm cassava demonstration training was carried out in Lofa for three FED staff and two AA NGO extension agents on May 29th. The subjects included the contouring of field ridges, and mounds intended for new cassava cuttings, and inter-planting strategies. This training that incorporated both theory and practice has now been rolled out to all FED extension staff involved in supporting cassava production.

Cassava Farmers' Organization

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

New Generation Women (NGW)

The New Generation Women Project jointly funded by Chevron Oil Company and FED received the second batch of cassava cuttings to complete their planting. Planting will be carried out throughout May and June.

Activity 1.3.1c: Training FED Partners Along the Cassava Value Chain

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

Topics covered include: site identification and preparation, planting criteria and post-harvest storage methods all of which will include means for farmers to become more profitable and more productive.

Activity 1.3.2: Processing Cassava Working with FED Partners (existing processors, associations) Component 2 Collaboration

During May, Component Two assisted in establishing links with cassava processors in Montserrado and Margibi Counties. Discussions were held with the Liberia Agro Resources Inc., SAMJAC Inc., YAEHD Agricultural Enterprise Inc., FED will be assisting them in processing improvements.

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

Activity 1.4.a Awareness Raising

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

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

Activity 1.4.b Capacity Building

A training on the safe usage of pesticides was conducted for 509 farmers in Montserrado and Margibi. The training took place from the 8th to the 22nd of May 2013.

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

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

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

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

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

Activity 1.4.c Commercial Linkage Development

Sackie Bomah's Farmers Association in Margibi harvested 75kgs of hot pepper from two plots with takings of \$8,000 Liberian dollars (**\$105.00 USD**) while Yarnquellah Farmers association also from Margibi harvested 115Kgs of chilli pepper from three plots which sold for \$10,000 LD (**\$132.45 USD**).



Harvesting and sales has begun at 23 of 51 PUA sites in the six counties. The main crops include chili pepper, bitterball, eggplant, okra, melon and collard greens.

Rural Agriculture Promoters in Salayea has accumulated the total sales of \$ 67,015 LD (**\$887.63 USD**) from January – May 2013. They are also brushing new sites for the rainy season production. Belape in Foya has also harvested and sold their produce, they have taken for their May harvest a total of \$ 4770.00 LD (**\$63.18 USD**).

Task 1.5 Improving the Quality and Quantity of Goats

Activity 1.5.1 National Livestock Vaccination Campaigns

FED is collaborating with MOA and BRAC to initiate plans to undertake the National 2014 PPR Vaccination Campaign which is scheduled to begin in December. Initial planning has included assessing the viability of current PPR vaccine held at the MOA. FED has put the MOA in contact with a regional facility established under the Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centers (PANVAC) program established under the African Union Intergovernmental Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) program capable of testing the viability of the PPR vaccine. FED is assisting MOA in sending the PPR vaccine samples currently at the MOA to the Institut Senegalais de Recherche, Laboratoire National d'Elevage et de Recherches Veterinaires (ISRA-LNERV), Dakar, Senegal for testing. Following the validation of the vaccines, FED will organize discussion between BRAC and the MOA on methodologies and timelines to implement the National 2014 PPR vaccination campaign.

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

Of the 22 Lead Farmer Goat Producer organizations signed onto the Community Goat Pass-on Scheme Programs to date with FED MOUs, six have completed their goat breeding herd production intensification sites including shelters, wells, fencing, etc. The remaining 16 groups have received the necessary materials to complete their shelters and are in the process of developing their sites. Goat Pass-on Scheme technologies demonstrated and extended from these Lead Farmer demonstration sites will include; shelters with slatted floors, de-worming, supply of clean water, feeding technologies, multivitamins, salt/mineral supplementation, maternity care, newborn care and breeding management.

In Nimba Goat shelter construction has been completed. FED has purchased 22 goats to be restocked at Zoelay Memorial Farm; one of the goat demonstration sites. The goats were transferred to their respective shelters on May 24. In Bong this month goat shelter constructions continued in addition to well digging (water provision).

During May FED selected two new goats' sites in Bong County for year two. They are; Karyata and Dafuwah –ta.



Activity 1.5.3 Veterinary Pharmaceutical Outlets in the Rural Areas

Discussions have begun with Land O'Lakes Goat Value chain partners and the MOA regarding the identification and envisioned locations for potential pharmaceutical outlets/sites in the rural areas. In addition, this month the new EU funded National Livestock Production/health program (being implemented by BRAC) has made initial contacts with FED regarding how best to address rural pharmaceutical availability issues.

Activity 1.5.4 Improve National Disease Surveillance/Diagnostic Capabilities.

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

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

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

veterinary pharmaceuticals to verify expiration dates of medicines and source of origin is also included in the draft document. The Liberian National Policy HUB is to be established over the next few months under the ECOWAS Regional Veterinary Governance (VET-GOV) Initiative being implemented through the EU funded African Union Intergovernmental Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR) program. The primary objective of the VET-GOV Initiative is to provide a national framework 'hub' for the review and validation of national policies in a particular sector to include input of all stakeholders of both the private and public sectors in each of the ECOWAS countries.

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

This month FED identified a reputable source of proven superior performance genetic stock of goat from the International Trypanotolerance Center (ITC) in the Gambia. Availability of improved stock for sale has been validated and contact information submitted to LOL for consideration. It is anticipated that the importation of these animals would enable the establishment of a nucleus breeding herd at CARL and they could be used to upgrade existing Liberian goat stock through introduction to local herds. This diversification will result in increased productivity leading to improved profitability for goat farmers in Liberia.

COMPONENT TWO: STIMULATE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

During May 2013, the Enterprise Development (ED) team accomplished the following activities:

Task 2.1 SME Development

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

The Cassava Value Chain Study RFP, in partnership with the European Union (EU) and Zuidoost-Azië (ZOA, "South East Asia" in Dutch) was released April 22. The objective of this RFP is to identify qualified individual consultants or consultancy firms to conduct a national and West Africa regional cassava market study. The study will include:

1. The types and sizes of domestic, regional (West Africa) and international markets for raw cassava and processed cassava (e.g. gari, flour, starch, etc.) as well as cassava by-products from cuttings and leaves.
2. Trends in consumer preferences for product type and quality for processed cassava (e.g. gari, flour, starch) and cassava by-products (leaves and cuttings);
3. Price, demand and sourcing trends as well as factors influencing these trends, e.g. location of suppliers and information about how the supply market is organized for all cassava products including the seasonal supply and demand and power dynamics within the chain;
4. Profitability analysis of selling raw cassava and processing the various cassava products, including average investment required;

5. Overview of the competitiveness of the domestic industry in relation to cassava producing and consuming regional neighbours, particularly Sierra Leone, Guinea and Ivory Coast as well as secondary data on how the cassava value chain is organized in Ghana and Nigeria
6. Location of consumers and consumer purchasing power for cassava products, consumer preferences, volume of consumption, any variation in consumption habits and local markets;
7. Location of current processors, aggregators and analysis of their capacity;
8. Major market outlets for cassava products;
9. Location of suppliers and information about how the supply market is organized for all cassava;
10. Current state of domestic industry, regional issues, bottlenecks, policy environment, infrastructure issues, human resource, logistic problems, technology transfer issues, trade support services etc.
11. Recommendations on best markets to target in the short, mid and long term and identify best market channels to use, opportunities for interventions re product form, packaging (if any), storage and enabling environment.

Bids were turned in May 10 and evaluated by a team composed of USAID's FED, ZOA, the EU, and the National Cassava Sector Coordinating Committee between the week of May 15 and May 30. The target date for the study to begin is mid-June.

Activity 2.1.A.a.ii Profile Commercial Buyers

Backward Mapping

In March, the marketing team created a survey that would help the team to quantify demand and understand quality and quantity standards of large buyers of vegetables and cassava products in Liberia. A list of potential interviewees was generated with the help of the Stakeholder Survey Project, Building Markets, and the National Investment Commission of Liberia and included large hotels such as The Royal Hotel and Kendeja R. L. J. Resort, large super markets such as Exclusive Superstore, ERA, and Stop and Shop, as well as restaurants, aggregators, and large concessioners. The ED team interviewed these businesses to determine which products have more potential for commercialization within the domestic market and organize producers and other value chain stakeholders around those opportunities. The most significant information was gathered from ROSNA, a local business that caters for several local concessioners through ERA Supermarket. ROSNA will participate in a linking event with FED, Arcelor Mittal, Building Markets, local producers and local aggregators from Nimba in June. A final report summarizing findings will be available in June.

Activity 2.1.A.b. Linking Value Chain Participants

Building Markets and Acelor Mittal Collaboration with FED

During May, FED staff met with Building Markets' Sustainable Markets project and representatives of Acelor Mittal (AM) to discuss opportunities for local farmers to supply the concessioner with locally grown produce and rice. The meeting was a direct result of the MoCI MSME 2013 Conference held in April where AM stated they are ready and committed to buying Liberian sourced goods where possible. The FED marketing team subsequently met with AM's catering company and related aggregators. A linking event will be held in June whereby small holder farmers located near AM's two canteens in Nimba and Grand Bassa will be invited to join aggregators, processors, and AM to discuss possible supply opportunities and procurement procedures.

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

Value Chain Training for FED Staff

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

Activity 2.1.c – Targeted Technical Support

Activity 2.2.g – Improve Borrower Readiness

Organization Strengthening and Financial Management Training:

The Enterprise Development (ED) team contracted with four IQC holders (Agency for Economic Development and Empowerment (AEDE), Pace Management Consultants, Educare and R&R) to conduct training in Financial Management and a second round of Organizational Strengthening training. Financial Management training teaches farming groups about cost management, basic record keeping, and formulizing budgets while Organizational Strengthening training works with farming organizations to improve organizational goal setting, membership participation, leadership effectiveness, and conflict management. Through April, four groups have been trained in Financial Management (135 participants, 56 females, 79 males) and six groups have been trained in the second round of Organizational Strengthening (165 participants, 119 females, 46 males). R&R completed two additional training sessions with 3 groups (73 participants, 41 females and 32 males) in Bong and Grand Bassa. R&R will conduct continue Organization Strengthening training for an additional group in Nimba (50 participants, 25 female, 25 male) during June.

New Generational Women

Several update meetings were held with New Generational Women (NGW), AEDE, and Chevron. This project supports 74 farmers (51 women, 23 men) in developing cassava and vegetable production and processing on 21 hectares in Upper Clay Ashland of Montserrado. During Q1 and Q2 the group was actively engaged in brushing, clearing, and felling of the 21 hectares they plan to cultivate. As of the end of May, the group has prepared all nurseries, and prepared and planted 2 hectares with cassava, groundnuts, and corn. The ED team, along with AEDE conducted a workshop in January to inform the group of options for registering as a legal entity (as cooperative or a corporation). NGW chose to register as a corporation. Representatives from NGW, AEDE and the FED ED team met with two different lawyers and the Business Registry in Monrovia to determine the best process for registering the group during March. By the end of April, the group had drafted their Articles of Incorporation, registration is still in progress. The ED team will hire business service providers under an IQC to perform Farming as a Business, Organizational Strengthening, Financial Management, Small Business Management, and Marketing training for the group members and leadership beginning in July.

Pilot Voucher Program

Component Two work was ongoing this month in collaboration with the component one lead and the agro-input lead working towards the pilot of an agro-input voucher program with five major farm-based organizations (FBOs) in Nimba and Bong counties. This activity will encourage farmers to adopt new technologies on their own fields through a demand-driven subsidy and build sustainable links between farmers and established input providers. Farmers will contribute 60% of the cost associated with the purchase of the inputs, while FED will contribute 40%. The voucher will cover small amounts of rice and vegetable seed, NPK fertilizer, and tools will be distributed to an estimated 400 farmers coming from five FBOs. The vouchers will be redeemed through existing agro-input outlets presently supplied by Wienco. As part of the planning process, the ED team developed business models for the voucher program and liaised with the M&E team to develop a baseline survey tool. In collaboration with the county managers and EDAs in the field, the ED team surveyed members of the five FBOs in Bong and Nimba counties from May 25 to 31 to determine their capacity to pay and their interest to participate. The voucher program will roll out by the end of June, at which time participating agro-input outlet owners will receive training in financial management, small business management, and marketing as part of the program.

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

Business Service Provider IQC RFP

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

Farming as a Business Curriculum Development and Training of Trainers

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

Activity 2.1.B.e – Radio Entrepreneurship Outreach

Interactive Radio Training and Radio Programming

In April, two FED Radio Specialists attended the FACET Radio training in Malawi that trained communication specialists on the use of interactive radio to improve agricultural extension services to enhance farming practices and support farmer livelihoods. The workshop built upon successful practices from the field, and provided practical skills for project staff. In May, the Radio Specialist designed a training and radio production roll out plan for the rest of the year. Training will begin in June for 10 days for 36 community radio journalists representing 18 community radio stations across FED's six counties of operations with at least 40% women journalists' participation. The training will be delivered by two Liberian media executives and assisted by FED's Radio Specialists. As part of the training, journalists will utilize a content generation template that will help them gather agriculture-related content. It is expected that the first ag-related radio programs will roll out by July 1, 2013 as a result of the training.

Task 2.2 Access to Finance

Activity 2.2.e – Village Savings and Loan

VSLA RFPs

Throughout February and March, the ED team, along with Mary Miller (STTA) held meetings with CARE, UN Women, the Central Bank, and LAUNCH to discuss VSLA program options for the FED project. In April and May, the ED team released two RFPs to find local service providers to provide VSLA training (one for FED staff and one for rural farmers). Bids for training FED staff were due at the end of May and bids for training rural farmers are due in June. It is expected that the VSLA training will begin roll-out in July after FED staff has been trained. Training for rural farmers will last for 12 months through the groups' first payout. FED will train approximately 74 groups with a maximum of 25 members each, involving primarily women, in village savings and loan methodology.

Task 2.4 Enabling the Policy Environment for Private Sector Growth

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

and AU-IBAR VET-GOV program staff. The draft National Livestock Policy written by Dr. Kwaku is scheduled to be the first policy document that will be reviewed by the newly established Liberian National Agricultural Policy Hub. Also see Component One 'Activity 1.5.5 Assist MOA with the Development of National Livestock Policy Guidelines' for more information.

TASK 4.3 GENDER RELATED PRIORITIES FOR YEAR 2

Activity 4.3.1. Ensuring Gender Sensitive and Socially Inclusive Training

Activity 4.3.2. Training for FBO leaders

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

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

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

Future Enterprise Development Activities:

- The selection process will be finalized to identify the best firm to conduct the Cassava Market Study the 1st week and second week of June.
- Business models for the rice and cassava processing, vegetable supply for Arcelor Mittal and hospitality sector will be finalized the 1st week and second week of June.
- Business service providers will be hired under an IQC the second week in June.
- A Farming as a Business Training of Trainers will be conducted by an outside consultant for FED business service providers from June 17 to 28 to in Bong and Nimba utilizing curriculum. USAID-FED ED staff, representatives from MOA and USAID's LAUNCH project will also be invited to attend this training. FaaB training for rural groups will begin in July.
- A match making event or buyer-supplier meeting will be organized (in collaboration with Building Markets in Nimba county with Acelor Mittal as the main buyer the 3rd week in June.

- FED staff will be trained in VSLA methodology and management during the month of June. VLSA training for rural farming groups will roll out in July and will last for 12 months until the groups' first payout.
- Interactive radio programming training will begin in June with initial radio programming to roll out in July.

HUMAN CAPACITY

Task 3.1 CREATING CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

Memorandums of Understandings with Nimba County Community College (NCCC) and Grand Bassa Community College (GBCC) have been drafted. These MoUs intend to build the capacity of the institutions. Once these MoUs are approved, work will begin on the installation of internet and computer services which will serve as an educational resource for both the college libraries and departments of agriculture.

Rice and Fish Farming activity was finalized. APDRA was awarded the contract to begin training and pond layout in June.

Activity 3.1.2 Improved Access and Use of Information

The second allotment of textbooks procured through Longman Publishers arrived on May 1. These 288 books will be distributed to the libraries at each of the Centers of Excellence. These books will enhance resources to pilot the new National Diploma in Agriculture, an ECOWAS-TVET post-secondary curriculum for Liberia Community Colleges. On 28 May, the final set of 18 books arrived. A total of 576 textbooks are now ready for distribution in early June.

Activity 3.1.3 Internship Program

Phase one of the 2013 internship program concluded on May 22.

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

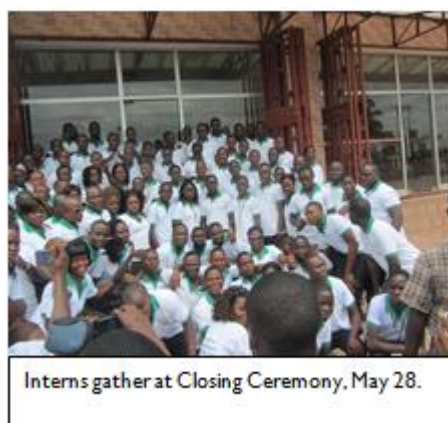
164 students out of the 225 applicants completed the program, the final number comprising 84 agriculture students and 80 business students undertook three months practical work

experience and gained skills, as well as an opportunity to work in a professional work space and network with other professional colleagues.

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

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

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



Activity 3.1.4 Practical Agriculture Experience

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

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



Above: FED shredder in use making mulch at BWI.

Activity 3.1.5 Student Leadership

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



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

Task 3.2 SHORT TERM TECHNICAL ADVISOR SUPPORT

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

Task 3.3 NON FORMAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Activity 3.3.2 Adult Literacy

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

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

COMPONENT FOUR: CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

Task 4.1 Knowledge Management

Extension materials for rice were completed and will be disseminated to county offices in June. The materials will be utilized by extension officers in the field to help farmers understand various aspects of cultivating and producing rice in Liberia. The manual on recommended practices and improved technologies in Goat production

has been printed and distributed and is currently in use by FED farmers in the field. Cassava and peri-urban vegetable graphic instruction manuals have both been completed this reporting period and have been sent for printing, distribution is scheduled for June.

The FED library has been set up for internal and external staff to utilize as needed. The library is to be used internally to build staff capacity. It is meant for external parties visiting the FED offices in Monrovia to learn more about FED's work. We currently have several agro-production books and FED produced materials (brochures, reports, etc). The ultimate goal is work with other agriculture bodies to obtain studies and important documentation regarding agriculture in Liberia.

Reports for DEC are being processed and are 50% complete for the month of May-June.

In relation to last month's discussion held at MOA, a meeting was set up to discuss the final stages of how to share information among various partners. It was concluded that the best way to disburse information among stake holders was through a round table discussion. The idea was shared at the Agriculture Coordination Committees and it was well received.

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

Surveys

The rice farmer survey was completed but not all the survey forms have been submitted, precluding completion of an analysis of the data. The survey teams were well monitored by County M&E Coordinators ensuring that there were minimal data entry errors and that problems encountered on the ground were quickly resolved. The hand-held PDA devices used by the survey teams worked well and proved an efficient way in which to collect and gather data back at the FED M&E office on a daily basis.

To facilitate future surveys, M&E and PUA staff has been contacting lead farmers to seek ways to better measure harvests given that farmers tend to harvest on an irregular basis. An effort is also being made to encourage a few farmers to maintain records of production activities on their own vegetable farms.

M&E worked with Component 2 in the development of the Agro Input Voucher Program Baseline Survey. This survey activity is just getting underway and will be completed in June.

Summary Table of Surveys

Ongoing Field Activities	Status
Year 2 rice farmer baseline survey and follow-up of Year 1 farmers activities	Analysis of data awaiting receipt of balance of survey forms.
Baseline surveys of the participating	Surveys have been completed

farmers in the Year 2 goat production and pass-on scheme	with date entry ongoing and analysis to begin in June
Vegetable harvest and production surveys of Year 1 and baseline for Year 2 farmer participants being set	Surveys are almost complete for Year 1 and 2 farmers with data entry and analysis to begin in June
Survey being prepared for baseline of Year 2 participants and harvest results of the Year 1 program;	Sample harvest sites are being prepared for the July harvest; a Task Order for a yield survey of Year 1 participants and baseline for Year 2 participants to start in June
The seedling production program has been surveyed and a report being prepared in anticipation of a possible follow-on activity	This survey report will be reviewed in June
Environmental compliance for Year 2 demonstration sites	This survey is ongoing and will be completed in early June
Measurements of the UDP and ISFM field sites	These GPS measurements are ongoing and will be completed in early June

Task 4.3 Monitoring Activities

Successes and Issues Encountered During the Month

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

M&E GIS staff has been working with field teams and has completed the measurements of the UDP and ISFM demonstration sites and the goat shelter program. The mapping exercise for the Year 2 demonstration group sites has also been completed. The pop-up information boxes for each site are being prepared and should be completed in the next reporting period.

FED GIS staff has been invited to participate in the Liberian government upcoming work shop on the use of PDA devices for census taking. FED GIS staff will have an opportunity to present their experiences in the use of PDA devices.

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

Field visits were made to COSEO Food Processing activity sites to bring closure to that activity. A report was prepared and submitted and in the process M&E will prepare to initiate a post-activity survey in a month or two to assess how the participating individuals and groups are doing in their own new food enterprises.

Indicators

PMP Indicator Target revisions were completed in final draft and based on a review with USAID, will be finalized and presented to USAID in the first week of June. An Indicator summary table for the month is attached. There was not much change in the indicators as the components were preparing staff and contracted NGOs for the trainings and extension that is now getting underway for the rice, cassava, vegetable, and goat activities. Training and field work should begin in earnest during the next month. (The summary table, not the Quarterly Indicator Progress Report, is attached).

The most prominent result for the month was the initial activities with 76 groups receiving USG assistance in the form of the distribution of tools, cassava cuttings and seeds to 2,705 farm households participating in the Year 2 rice, cassava and vegetable demonstration activities. In one county, 17 cassava farmers were observed applying some technologies on their own fields – ridges and mounds. This and future numbers related to farmers applying technologies will be snapshots for this Indicator as it will be collected on an annual basis based on a sample survey.

Capacity Building of M&E Staff

M&E staff participated in the Cassava Training of Trainers in preparation for the Year 2 demonstration with farmer groups and the mentoring of individual farmers during the cropping season. M&E explained the monitoring system, what might be expected of the trainers for collecting data, and collaborating in surveys and follow-up activities for M&E. The M&E ICT/GIS officer also participated and instructed the trainers in the use of the GPS devices for field measurements.

Five M&E staff participated in a day-long LMEP training workshop on Data Quality Analysis. Issues and actions discussed in the workshop will form an agenda item at the quarterly 5-county M&E workshop during the first week of June. This will form the basis for a renewed effort to ensure that all documentation is in place, both soft and hard copies, and that tracking data from the source to the files is ensured. This coincides with the ongoing updating of the filing system.

Activities Planned for Next Month

County M&E Coordinators are compiling a list of site locations with the travel distance and time for planning site monitoring visits, particularly in the rainy season. Travel times can double or more during this season, restricting monitoring efforts.

The M&E Quarterly Activity Planning Workshop will be held the first week in June to discuss success, issues and problems affecting monitoring activities, review the current status of surveys and field work, and plan for monitoring the implementation Year 2 activities that are getting underway.

A strategy for collecting the data and information for the third quarterly report will be prepared during the workshop.

The analysis of several surveys will be completed during the next month.

The stakeholder profile for all FED partners and participants will be activated during the next month providing access to multiple types of information related to project activities.

TASK 4.5 INTEGRATING YOUTH IN FED'S ACTIVITIES

Youth

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

FED has drafted a letter of agreement with UNICEF to leverage these 28 volunteers to reach specific agricultural youth groups in FED's four counties. FED hopes to have a partnership in place by the end of the 3rd quarter FY 2013. UNICEF will provide all of the funding for these volunteers while FED will provide training and stewardship to these Liberian volunteers. This activity will allow both UNICEF and FED to reach a larger population of young farmers.

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

Future Activity

- Provide placement/assignment for 28 National Volunteers (NVs) with FED's partners and other agricultural service providers;
- Conduct quarterly follow up TOTs with the 20 NVs on relevant agricultural techniques and agricultural business skills trainings.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT FUND

Market Development Fund (MDF) May 2013

MDF Disbursements

During May of fiscal year 2013, the Market Development Fund (MDF) expended **\$366,759.97** on thirty five (35) MDF activities across FED's four components. Please reference MDF Table #1 for a breakdown of these activities and disbursements by component.

MDF Commitments

During May 2013 MDF continued activity design for the 2013 rainy season in Liberia. The MDF technical committee reviewed and approved six (6) activities under CLIN01, one (1) activities under CLIN02, one (1) activity under CLIN03, and five (5) activities under CLIN04 (Cross-cutting) which total . Please reference MDF Table #2 for a list of future MDF activities that were reviewed and approved in May 2013.

MDF Table 1 - MDF Activity Disbursements May 2013			
CLIN	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	May 2013 Disbursement
CLIN 01	CLIN01-TRN-0004	Training Private sector on Soil Testing processes and procedures	
	CLIN01-MDF-0017	Nimba County Community Goat Pass-on Scheme.	
	CLIN01-MDF-0033	Peri Urban Agriculture - 2013 Dry Season	
	CLIN01-MDF-0047	Lofa County Community Goat Pass-on Scheme	
	CLIN01-MDF-0048	Bong County Community Goat Pass-on Scheme	
	CLIN01-TRN-0056	Cassava 2013 NGO Selection, TOT, and Extension Manual	
	CLIN01-MDF-0057	Community Outreach Interactive Forums	
	CLIN01-MDF-0059	Establishment of demonstration plots and intenified rice production in Nimba County	
	CLIN01-MDF-0060	Establishment of demonstration plots and intenified rice production in Grand Bassa County	
	CLIN01-MDF-0061	Establishment of demonstration plots and intenified rice production in Bong County	

	CLIN01-MDF-0062	Establishment of demonstration plots and intensified rice production in Lofa County	
	CLIN01-TRN-0064	Training of Trainers in Intensive Rice Production	
	CLIN01-MDF-0065	Rice Farmer Household Survey	
	CLIN01-MDF-0066	Post-harvest processing demonstration	
	CLIN01-MDF-0067	Grand Bassa County Community Goat Pass-On Scheme	
	CLIN01-MDF-0069	Establishment of demo sites and intensified cassava production in Lofa County	
	CLIN01-MDF-0070	Establishment of demo sites and intensified cassava production in Bong County	
	CLIN01-MDF-0071	Establishment of demo sites and intensified cassava production in Grand Bassa County	
	CLIN01-MDF-0072	Establishment of demo sites and intensified cassava production in Nimba County	
	CLIN01-MDF-0076	Pilot School Garden Program Competition - Grand Bassa	
	CLIN01-MDF-0077	Kakata-MOA Demonstration Site	
CLIN01-MDF Total			
CLIN	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	May 2013 Disbursement
CLIN 02	CLIN02-MDF-0009	New Generational Women/AEDE/Chevron	
	CLIN02-MDF-0020	MSME Conference 2013	
	CLIN02-TRN-0021	Second Organization Strengthening Training	
	CLIN02-MDF-0024	Value Chain Consultancy Training	
	CLIN02-MDF-0028	Cassava processors training visit to HANDS processing center in Zwedru	
	CLIN02-TRN-0029	One day seminar on marketing and use of micro-credit in agriculture to 60 women farmers in Bong County	
CLIN02-MDF Total			
CLIN	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	May 2013 Disbursement
CLIN 03	CLIN03-TRN-0001	Agro-Business Internship Program 2012	
	CLIN03-MDF-0005	Food Processing and Preservation Project (COSEO)	
	CLIN03-MDF-0007	Purchase of Resource Materials for Educational Institutions	

	CLIN03-MDF-0012	National Diploma Curriculum in Agriculture for Post Secondary Education in Liberia	
	CLIN03-TRN-0013	STTA activities at BWI and two community colleges	
	CLIN03-TRN-0014	Agri-business Internship 2013	
	CLIN03-TRN-0020	National Agriculture Diploma (ECOWAS-TVET) Curriculum Roll Out Part I	
CLIN03-MDF Total			
CLIN	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	May 2013 Disbursement
CLIN 04	CLIN04-TRN-0008	Proof of Concept: 3 Modules on Gender Sensitive Training	
CLIN04-MDF Total			
May 2013 MDF Disbursement TOTAL			

MDF Table #2 - MDF Activities Approved May 2013

CLIN #	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	MDF Proposed Activity Budget
CLIN01	CLIN01-MDF-0074	Training Manufacturers on Agro-Equipment	
	CLIN01-MDF-0068	Peri-urban agriculture 2013 Rainy Season	
	CLIN01-MDF-0077	Kakata - MOA demonstration site	
	CLIN01-MDF-0006	Training and Demonstrations on Integrated Soil Fertility Management/ISFM on FED cassava and upland rice sites	
	CLIN01-MDF-0010	Training and demonstration on UDP	
	CLIN01-TRN-0079	Training in the Rearing of goat kids to reduce mortality	
	CLIN 01 MDF Proposed Activity Budget Total		
CLIN #	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	MDF Proposed Activity Budget
CLIN 02	CLIN02-TRN-0030	Farming as a Business Training of Trainers	
	CLIN 02 MDF Proposed Activity Budget Total		
CLIN #	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	MDF Proposed Activity Budget
CLIN 03	CLIN03-TRN-0023	National Agriculture Diploma (ECOWAS-TVET) Curriculum Roll Out Part 2	
	CLIN 03 MDF Proposed Activity Budget Total		
CLIN #	MDF Activity Number	MDF Activity Title	MDF Proposed Activity Budget
CLIN 04	CLIN04-MDF-0005	Enhanced Agricultural Radio Program Development, Training and Management Course	
	CLIN04-MDF-0006	Cassava Farmers Household Survey	

	CLIN04-TRN-0007	PLAN International Work on FED Gender Curriculum and Training	
	CLIN04-TRN-0008	Proof of Concept: 3 Modules on Gender Sensitive Training	
	CLIN04-MDF-0009	Printing of Extension Training Materials for PUA, Rice and Cassava	
	CLIN 04 MDF Proposed Activity Budget Total		
MDF Activities Approved Proposed Budget TOTAL			

Indicator Performance Report Monthly Summary May 2013																						
Custom Indicator No.	Indicator No.	Indicators	Rice		Cassava		Vegetable		Goat		Component 2 (Enterprise Development)		Component 3 (Human Resource Capacity Dev.)		Input Supply		Cross-cutting		Montly Disaggregated Total		Monthly Total	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
1A	4.5.-4	Gross margin per unit of land, kilogram or animal of selected product																				
1E	4.5.2-13	Number of rural households benefiting directly from USG interventions		1977		446		219		63		0		0		0		0			2705	
1.1.1		Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance				7	10													7	10	17
1.1.2	4.5.2-2	Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance					0.6														0.6	
1.2.1	4.5.2-11	Number of private enterprises, producers organizations, women's groups, trade and business associations and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance		123		11		4		0		3		0		0		15			156	
1.2.2	4.5.2-28	Number of private enterprises, producer organizations, women's groups, trade and business associations and community-based-organizations (CBOs) that applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance										0									0	
1.3.3.		Number of individuals trained on nutrition messages with agricultural program																				
2A	4.5.2-23	Value of incremental sales (collected at farm level) attributed to FtF implementation																				
2B	4.5.2-38	Value of new private sector investment in the ag sector or food chain leveraged by FtF implementation																			0	
2C		Number of jobs attributed due to FtF implementation																			0	
2D	4.5.2-12	Number of public-private partnerships formed as a result of FTF assistance		2		0		0		0		0		0		0		0			2	
2.1.3		Number of Policy/Regulations/Administrative procedures in each of the following stages of development as a result of USG assistance in each case: Analyzed, Drafted																			0	
2.2.1	4.5.2-37	Number of MSME's, including farmers, receiving business development services from USG assisted sources		0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0			0	
3B		Number of students and faculty benefitting from improved academic facilities and programs																			0	
3.1.1.	4.5.2-7	Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training		0	0	11	3	0	0	0	0	32	41	0	0	0	0	18	46		151	
3.1.2		Number of individuals, organizations and institutions that have received training of a technical nature		0	0	11	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	6		28	
3.2.1		Number of individuals that have received training on management or leadership		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	41	0	0	0	0	10	40		123	

PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Staff Recruited, LTТА:

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

Short-Term ICA Contractors:

- J. William Toe: Cassava Value Chain Trainers of Trainers workshop held in Bong County April 29- May 17, 2013
- James K. Nyumah : 10 Meters Water way Bridge construction May 1- 31, 2013
- Bill Wowoah: Motobike training for field staff in 4 counties from May 1-18, 2013

Ongoing Recruitment:

- Communications Specialist
- Sr. Program Specialist
- Vocational Education Officers

Training:

- New staff orientation training
- Upcoming. training of staff on Performance Management Plan

Other ongoing HR activities:

- Relocation and change of Job title of Boone Harris: Community Officer to Cassava Officer. Monrovia to the Grand Bassa Office.
- Posting of RFQ, bid opening and selection of insurance service provider for local staff insurance.

FED STTAs May 2013

Name	Position	Partner	Dates	Summary
Technical STTA				
Dr. Robert Black	Crop Protection Legislation and Policy Review Specialist.	Winrock	April 24-May 4, 2013	Assist the Ministry of Agriculture with the development of appropriate policies/regulation to ensure a functioning Liberian agricultural system with particular regards to crop protection.
Duke Burruss	A/COP	DAI	May 12-May 28, 2013	Duke provided A/COP coverage while the COP was on AL. He also assisted with cassava value chain economic analysis.
Marcia Odell	Gender Specialist	PLAN International	May 14 - May 31, 2013	Conducting gender sensitivity training.
Kwaku Agyemang	Livestock Policy Expert	DAI	May 1-31, 2013	Assist the Ministry in participation in the upcoming VET-GOV deliberations and to provide strategic guidance in these developments in order to move the National Liberia Livestock Policy efforts forward.
Rachel Wade	Communications Specialist	DAI	February 15 through July 2013	Communications support to FED Comms team
Dennis McCarthy	Goat Value Chain Specialist	DAI	January 2013 – August 2013	Working with Component One to strengthen capacity within the Goat Value Chain