



**USAID** | **LIBERIA**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# FOOD AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (FED) PROGRAM FOR LIBERIA

**QUARTERLY REPORT: OCTOBER- DECEMBER 2014**



This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development USAID, and prepared by DAI.

**Contract Number:** 669-00-11-00047-00  
**Contractor:** DAI  
**Program Title:** Food and Enterprise Development Program for Liberia (FED)  
**Sponsoring USAID Office:** USAID/Liberia  
**Contractor:** DAI  
**Date of Publication:** January 15, 2015

**Photo Caption:** Watermelon fruit and plant at Booker Washington Institute (BWI) USAID FED supported Demonstration Farm. During the month of December, BWI harvested 1,390 lbs of watermelon and other crops.

## **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	Agency for Economic Development and Empowerment
APDRA	Association Pisciculture et Development Rural en Afrique
AVTP	Accelerated Vocational Training Program
AYP	Advancing Youth Project
BSTVSE	Bureau of Science, Technical, Vocational and Special Education
BWI	Booker Washington Institute
CARI	Center of Agriculture Research Institute
CAHW	Community Animal Health Worker
CBF	County Based Facilitator
CILSS	Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CoE	Center of Excellence
CYNP	Community Youth Network Program
DAI	Development Alternatives Inc.
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ECREP	Evangelical Children Rehabilitation Program
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
EO	Extension Officer
FtF	Feed the Future
FUN	Farmer Union Network
GBCC	Grand Bassa Community College
GCAP	Green Coast Agricultural Program
GPS	Global Positioning Systems
IBEX	Investing in Business Expansion Liberia
IFDC	International Fertilizer Developmental Center
IITA	International Institute for Tropical Agriculture
IP	Implementing Partner
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contract
KRTTI	Kakata Rural Teachers Training Institute
LABEE IPG	Liberia Agriculture Business Enabling Environment Inter-Agency Policy Group
LAUNCH	Liberia Agriculture, Upgrading Nutrition & Child Health
LCCC	Lofa County Community College

USAID Food and Enterprise Development Program for Liberia

Quarterly Report, Q1 FY 2015

LIFE	Livelihood Improvement for Farming Enterprises
LIPAS	Liberia Integrated Professional Agriculture Service
LMEP	Liberia Monitoring and Evaluation Program
LNGO	Local Non-Governmental Organization
MFI	Micro Finance Institution
MIS	Market Information Systems
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoP	Muriate of Potash
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
NDA	National Diploma in Agriculture
NCCC	Nimba County Community College
NIC	National Investment Commission
PERSUAP	Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan
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
TAMIS	Technical Administrative Management Information System
TSP	Triple Super-Phosphate
TVET	Technical, Vocational Education and Training
UDP	Urea Deep Placement
UL	University of Liberia
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
USADF	United States African Development Foundation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VET GOV	Veterinary Governance in Africa
WAAPP	West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program
WAFP	West Africa Fertilizer Project

USAID Food and Enterprise Development Program for Liberia

WASP      West Africa Seed Project  
WFP      World Food Program

## Contents

<b>Acronyms</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>List of Tables and Figures</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Background</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Component One: Increase Agricultural Productivity and Profitability</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Task 1A: Increased Production and Profitability of the Rice Value Chain</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Task 1B: Increased Production and Profitability of Cassava Value Chain</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Task 1D: Increased Production and Profitability of Goat Value Chain</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<i>FY14 Goat production sites - kidding rates</i> .....	<b>25</b>
<i>FY14 goat production sites - sales</i> .....	<b>25</b>
<i>FY14 goat shelter construction</i> .....	<b>26</b>
<i>FY14 goat production sites veterinary care</i> .....	<b>26</b>
<i>Activity 1.D.1 Promote Goat Shelters</i> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>Subtask 1.5: Improving Human Nutrition through Diet Diversity</b> .....	<b>40</b>
<b>Component Two: Stimulate Private Sector Growth and Investment</b> .....	<b>41</b>
<b>Task 2: Enabling Policy Environment for Private Sector Growth</b> .....	<b>41</b>
<b>Subtask 2.1: Access to Credit and Business Development Services</b> .....	<b>41</b>
<b>Subtask 2.3 Increase Women Participation in Agribusiness (Gender mainstreaming)</b> .....	<b>43</b>
<b>Component Three: Build Local Technical and Managerial Human Resource Capability</b> ....	<b>44</b>
<b>Task 3 Develop Existing Vocational Centers into Centers of Excellence in Vocational Agriculture Education (CoE)</b> .....	<b>44</b>
<b>Component Four: Cross-Cutting Tasks</b> .....	<b>53</b>
<i>Task 4.1: Communications/Knowledge Management</i> .....	<b>53</b>
<i>Task 4.2: Environmental Compliance</i> .....	<b>53</b>
<b>Component Five: Management &amp; Operations</b> .....	<b>53</b>
<b>Market Development Fund (MDF) FY15 Quarter 1</b> .....	<b>53</b>
<b>MDF Disbursements</b> .....	<b>53</b>
<b>MDF Commitments</b> .....	<b>53</b>

## List of Tables and Figures

### Tables

<b>Table 1: FY14 Rice crop sales.</b> .....	11
<b>Table 2: Upland commercial sites harvests</b> .....	11
<b>Table 3: Lowland commercial sites harvests.</b> .....	11
<b>Table 4: FY15 Upland rice farmer recruitment.</b> .....	12
<b>Table 5: FY15 Lowland rice farmer recruitment.</b> .....	12
<b>Table 6: Youth entrepreneurs as machine operators.</b> .....	13
<b>Table 7: FY14 rice harvest (T1 Sites) Urea Deep Placement.</b> .....	13
<b>Table 8: FY14 rice harvest (T2 sites) Urea Broadcast,</b> .....	14
<b>Table 9: FY14 rice harvest (T3 sites) zero fertilization.</b> .....	14
<b>Table 10: FY14 rice harvest (UDP only)</b> .....	14
<b>Table 11: FY15 Identified lowland swamps for spillways by county</b> .....	15
<b>Table 12: FY15 Rice Business Hubs identification.</b> .....	15
<b>Table 13: FY13 Cassava crop harvest- Demonstration sites</b> .....	16
<b>Table 14: Cassava crop harvest-farmer fields.</b> .....	16
<b>Table 15: FY13 Cassava crop sales.</b> .....	16
<b>Table 16: Cassava cuttings requirements by county.</b> .....	17
<b>Table 17: FY15 beneficiary recruitment</b> .....	18
<b>Table 18: Vegetable clusters harvest</b> .....	20
<b>Table 19: Sales from FY14 trader associations and FY13 VSLA groups</b> .....	21
<b>Table 20: Clusters recommendations for LEAD loans</b> .....	22
<b>Table 21: FY15 Cluster identification</b> .....	23
<b>Table 22: Horticulture beneficiary recruitment</b> .....	23
<b>Table 23: Hybrid seeds procured</b> .....	24
<b>Table 24: Herd statistics for FY14 sites</b> .....	25
<b>Table 25: Goat sales from FY14 production sites</b> .....	26
<b>Table 26: FY15 goat lead farmer recruitment</b> .....	26
<b>Table 27: FY15 goat farmer recruitment.</b> .....	26
<b>Table 28: Goat shelter material requirements to be provided by USAID FED by county</b> .....	27
<b>Table 29: Recruitment of CAHWS by county</b> .....	28
<b>Table 30: Recruitment of Agro-pharmacists by county</b> .....	28
<b>Table 31: Extension Assistants training participants</b> .....	29
<b>Table 32: Traders identified at county level</b> .....	30
<b>Table 33: BRAC supported goat farmers by county</b> .....	30
<b>Table 34: RSM sites harvest – upland sites</b> .....	33
<b>Table 35: RSM sites harvest- lowland sites.</b> .....	33
<b>Table 36: Identified FY15 upland RSM sites by county</b> .....	33
<b>Table 37: Identified FY15 lowland RSM sites by county</b> .....	33
<b>Table 38: Identification of youth clusters.</b> .....	37
<b>Table 39: Recruitment of youth farmers.</b> .....	37
<b>Table 40: Identification of youth entrepreneurs (Transport services).</b> .....	38
<b>Table 41: Identification of youth entrepreneurs (power tillers).</b> .....	38

<b>Table 42: Identification of trainee machine operators (cassava processing and rice mills.....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Table 43: VSLA activity data collection as of Q1 FY15.....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Table 44: VSLA sales report for Q1.....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Table 45: Farming group loans as per Q1 FY15.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Table 46: Enterprise established at NCCC.....</b>	<b>52</b>

Figures

<b>Figure 1: Cassava processor in Bong County showcasing USAID FED procured equipment ...</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>Figure 2: Processed cassava chips samples.....</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>Figure 3: RASA Liberia factory staff peeling cassava for cassava chips, Monterrado County.....</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>Figure 4: Completed rain shelters at Low Cost Village, Monterrado County.....</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>Figure 5: Salt lick fabrication training, Bong County.....</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>Figure 6: Official launch of Mayor Farmers Association rice harvest, Foya, Lofa County.....</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>Figure 7: Participants during VSLA Chairladies Nutrition Workshop, Lofa.....</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>Figure 8: Mary Mawolo presenting her speech at the Leadership and Business Incubation Workshop, Lofa County.....</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>Figure 9: Compost production in progress at BWI, Margibi County.....</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>Figure 10: LCCC Volunteer students participate in crop cutting exercise.....</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>Figure 11: Tool assortment received by LCCC, Voinjama, Lofa County.....</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>Figure 12: USAID Representative at NCCC Cassava Demo Site, Nimba County.....</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>Figure 13: NCCC Goat Shelter including general housing, maternity and quarantine centers, Nimba County.....</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>Figure 14: One of the classrooms in need of renovation at BWI, Margibi County.....</b>	Error! Bookmark not defined.

## Background

The USAID Food and Enterprise Development (FED) Program for Liberia is a USAID-funded development program that was launched in September 2011. USAID FED uses an all-inclusive strategy incorporating MSME farmers, processors, suppliers, women, and youth while partnering with the government of Liberia and local civil society to achieve food security.

The goal of USAID FED is to increase food availability, utilization, and accessibility by building an indigenous incentive structure that assists agricultural stakeholders in adopting 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
- Workforce development

USAID FED works with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), civil society and the private sector in providing communities access to agricultural inputs, extension services, nutrition messages, processing services, market information, transportation, credit, agro-business education, training, and business development services.

USAID FED's thrust to expand market linkages over the five year span of the project is expected to lead to substantial increases in income and job opportunities. USAID FED aims to significantly boost the production, processing, marketing and nutritional utilization of rice, cassava and vegetables, and to enhance the productivity of goat farming in the counties covered by the program.

These initiatives are being carried out in Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Montserrado, and Margibi counties. USAID FED focuses on these counties because they are situated along regional development corridors that are crucial in promoting intra and inter-county commerce. These growth corridors are expected to improve food availability and access for all Liberians.

USAID FED's methodology is market-led and value chain-driven; it is committed to developing indigenous capacity building, with a specific focus on Liberia's women and youth.

USAID FED is implemented by five partners: Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), Winrock International, International Fertilizer Developmental Center (IFDC), Louisiana State University (LSU), and The Cadmus Group.

## Executive Summary

FED is off to a good start in FY15, with several milestones achieved in the first quarter and several targets met or exceeded. By the end of Q1 FY15, USAID FED exceeded rice farmer recruitment target by 45%. A total of 12,113 (6,869 male, 5,244 female) lowland rice beneficiaries against a target of 7,175 have signed up for the program.

During the reporting period, USAID FED-supported rice processor, FABRAR Liberia, delivered 90 MT of milled rice to the World Food Program (WFP) valued at US\$63,000. WFP will distribute the rice to Ebola affected regions in Liberia as part of the organization's emergency response to the Ebola crisis. Farbar sourced the paddy rice for this delivery to WFP from USAID FED-supported farmers. In December, FABRAR procured an additional 150 MT of paddy rice valued at US\$55,500 from FED-supported farmers.

The preliminary results of the scaled up Urea Deep Placement (UDP) field trials in FY14 support the findings of the pilot UDP trials carried out in FY13, showing UDP technology as a superior technology as compared to a broadcast application of urea. Based on partial harvest results, UDP application produces an average yield of 5.36-5.44MT/ha, urea broadcast application yields 4.23MT/ha and zero fertilization results in 3.77MT/ha. This demonstrates that UDP application results in yields that are 26 to 28% higher than urea broadcast application, and 42 to 44% higher than zero fertilization. Meanwhile, urea broadcast application delivers only 12% higher yield in comparison to zero fertilization.

USAID FED-supported cassava processor, FALAMA, procured 52.5 MT of raw tuber from Bong and Montserrado counties. Of this total, 16.5 MT of raw tubers were sourced from USAID FED supported cassava farmers. FALAMA, in turn, produced 6.5 MT of gari, 1 MT of flour and 1.25 MT of cassava chips, which were sold for a total of US\$5,980. FALAMA sold 2 MT of gari to the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH), and 2 MT of gari to General Services Agency (GSA) for an Ebola holding center, 1 MT of cassava flour to Paynesville Bakery Association and 1.25 MT of cassava chips to 12 supermarkets.

USAID FED-supported farmers from 21 FY14 clusters reported the sale of 70.74 MT of vegetables worth US\$32,817. Additionally, the USAID FED-supported Monrovia Traders Association reported earnings of US\$14,732.83 during the quarter for the sale of 7.9 MT of vegetables.

USAID FED signed up 3,666 (2,163 male, 1,503 female) vegetable farmers, representing 97.76% of total target number of farmers to work with in FY15 under the horticulture value chain. Verification and identification of the remaining 84 farmers will take place in January 2015.

During the quarter, USAID FED-supported goat farmers sold 973 goats (688 bucks, 275 does and 10 kids) valued at US\$ 60,111 from the FY14 goat production sites.

USAID FED attained its target of identifying 154 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) in Nimba, Grand Bassa, Bong and Lofa counties. USAID FED will train the CAHWs on veterinary drugs handling, usage and treatment of animals to enhance access to animal health care in the 77 goat sites.

USAID FED reached its Q1 FY15 target identifying a total of 25 clusters and 500 youth (271 male, 229 female) between the ages of 18 to 35 years of age in Montserrado and Margibi counties. The youth are expected to cultivate a combination of high value and local vegetables. In FY15, USAID FED plans to

support youth farmers in establishing agribusiness pilots that will focus primarily on peri-urban and urban vegetable production, as well as ancillary support services such as aggregation and trading.

For the first time in Lofa's history, local farming organizations received Micro Finance Institution (MFI) loans totaling \$39,930 from the Liberian Entrepreneurial and Asset Development (LEAD) in collaboration with USAID FED. The USAID FED-supported local farming organizations are expected to invest the loans in agriculture related activities. LEAD is a beneficiary of the USADF \$ 237,000 grant.

In Q1 FY15, a total of 103 women entrepreneurs graduated from the USAID FED Leadership and Business Incubation for Women Entrepreneurs Training Program. These women were trained on leadership, effective communication, effective negotiation, public speaking, strategic planning, basic record keeping and basic business registration. The Leadership and Business Incubation program for Women Entrepreneurs aims to address two critical constraints facing women: lower human capital (leadership and business skills) and less access to networks and information.

During the month of December, USAID FED-supported Booker Washington Institute (BWI) harvested fresh okra (304 lbs), watermelon (1,390 lbs.) and cucumber (399 lbs.) from the institutions' USAID FED-supported vegetable farming enterprise.

USAID FED completed and officially turned over the goat shelter which comprises general housing, maternity and quarantine center to Nimba County Community College (NCCC). This goat shelter is part of USAID FED's farm development activity which supports NCCC's National Diploma in Agriculture (NDA) practical sessions, and aims at generating income for the NCCC Center of Excellence in Vocational Agricultural Education.

## Component One: Increase Agricultural Productivity and Profitability

### Task IA: Increased Production and Profitability of the Rice Value Chain

#### **FY14 Rice crop sales**

During Q1 of FY15, 236.09 MT of FY14 rice paddy crop was sold at a cumulative value of US\$94,042 (Table 1).

Table 1: FY14 Rice crop sales.

County	Sales Volume Oct (MT)	Sales Value Oct (US\$)	Sales Volume Nov (MT)	Sales Value Nov (US\$)	Sales Volume Dec (MT)	Sales Value Dec (US\$)	Sales Volume YTD (MT)	Sales Value YTD (US\$)
Lofa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	122.09	47,983.31	122.09	47,983.31
Nimba	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bong	2.40	1,129.40	5.25	2,390.00	88.65	35,460.00	96.30	38,979.40
Grand Bassa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.70	7,080.00	17.70	7,080.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>1,129.40</b>	<b>5.25</b>	<b>2,390.00</b>	<b>228.44</b>	<b>90,523.31</b>	<b>236.09</b>	<b>94,042.71</b>

#### **FY14 crop harvests**

A total of 2,235.82 ha of upland commercial sites were harvested during Q1 FY15. A total of 4,580.74 MT of rice was realized from these sites (Table 2).

Table 2: Upland commercial sites harvests

County	Ha Established in FY14	Ha Harvested in Oct	Vol Harvested in Oct	Ha Harvested in Nov	Vol Harvested in Nov	Ha Harvested in Dec	Vol Harvested in Dec	Hectare Harvested as of Q1	Volume Harvested as of Q1
Lofa	226.00	10.7	22	59.059	118.118	156.241	343.73	226	483.848
Nimba	95.32	0	0	61.2	171.36	34.12	95.536	95.32	266.896
Bong	1,653.50	0	0	400	800	1,250	2,500	1,650	3,300
Grand Bassa	490.00	0	0	175	351	89.5	179	264.5	530
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,464.82</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>695.259</b>	<b>1,440.478</b>	<b>1,529.861</b>	<b>3,118.266</b>	<b>2,235.82</b>	<b>4,580.744</b>

A total of 934.72 ha of lowland commercial sites were harvested during Q1 FY15. A total of 3,505.68 MT of rice was realized from these sites (Table 3).

Table 3: Lowland commercial sites harvests.

County	Ha Established in FY14	Ha Harvested in Oct	Vol (MT) Harvested in Oct	Ha Harvested in Nov	Vol (MT) Harvested in Nov	Ha Harvested in Dec	Vol (MT) Harvested in Dec	Hectare Harvested in Q1	Vol (MT) Harvested in Q1
Lofa	139	0	0	19.20	72.48	104.79	395.48	123.9966	467.95
Nimba	308.01	0	0	30.18	138.35	147.54	366.89	177.72	505.23
Bong	622.5	0	0	220.50	882.00	402.00	1,608.00	622.5	2,490.00
Grand Bassa	22	0	0	7.00	28.00	3.50	14.50	10.5	42.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1091.51</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>276.88</b>	<b>1,120.83</b>	<b>657.83</b>	<b>2,384.87</b>	<b>934.72</b>	<b>3,505.68</b>

### Activity 1.A.1 Improving productivity and profitability of upland rice

#### Task 1.A.1.1 Identify and recruit 11,025 new upland farmers to produce upland rice during FY15

During Q1 of FY15, USAID FED identified and recruited 11,296 upland rice farmers (6,787 male and 4,509 female) against the FY15 work plan target of 11,025 beneficiaries (Table 4).

Table 4: FY15 Upland rice farmer recruitment.

County	FY15 Upland Farmer Target	# of Farmers Identified Oct	# of Farmers Identified Nov	# of Farmers Identified Dec	# of Farmers Identified YTD	# of Farmer Verified and Recruited YTD	# of Male Farmers	# of Female Farmers
Lofa	1,750	2,729	0	0	2,729	1,912	934	978
Nimba	4,550	4,550	0	0	4,553	4,550	2,684	1,866
Bong	4,060	2,600	420	1044	4,064	4,064	2,599	1,465
Grand Bassa	665	700	70	0	770	770	570	200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,025</b>	<b>10,579</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>1044</b>	<b>12,179</b>	<b>11,296</b>	<b>6,787</b>	<b>4,509</b>

#### Task 1.A.1.2 Recruit Local NGOs to provide implementation support to upland rice farmers

USAID FED commenced the recruitment of LNGOs to support FY15 rice activities in the counties. A total of six Local NGOs (LNGOs) will be recruited to support upland rice activities in the four counties. It is anticipated that the recruitment of LNGOs will be completed by January 2015.

### Activity 1.A.2 Expanding lowland rice production

#### Task 1.A.2.1 Identify and recruit 7,175 new lowland farmers to produce lowland rice during FY15:

By the end of Q1, a total of 12,100 lowland beneficiaries had been identified as eligible for USAID FED support (Table 5). The Program aims to support 7,175 new lowland beneficiaries as per workplan for FY15. However, with the ground swell among farmers to work with FED, the project's management will review and potentially revise the target. Other beneficiaries that cannot be supported in FY15 will be supported in FY16.

Table 5: FY15 Lowland rice farmer recruitment.

County	FY15 Lowland Farmer Target	# of Farmers Identified Oct	# of Farmers Identified Nov	# of Farmers Identified Dec	# of Farmers Identified YTD	# of Farmer Groups Identified	# of Male Farmers	# of Female Farmers
Lofa	1,400	2,612	2,536	0	2,536	48	1,285	1,240
Nimba	4,060	4,324	1,472	0	5,796	116	3,359	2,437
Bong	1,400	3,216	63	0	3,279	78	1,826	1,477
Grand Bassa	315	415	74	0	489	27	399	90
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,175</b>	<b>10,567</b>	<b>4,145</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,100</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>6,869</b>	<b>5,244</b>

### Activity 1.A.3 Enhancing mechanization for lowland rice production

**Task 1.A.3.1 Identify 30 youth entrepreneurs to receive power tillers and be trained as power tiller operators**

During the reporting period, USAID FED identified a total of 100 youth across the 4 counties for potential recruitment as youth entrepreneurs. Of these, a total 30 youth were selected on the basis of their ability to cost share in establishing small enterprises that provide power tiller services to lowland farmers (Table 6). MoUs will be signed with the entrepreneurs in January 2015.

Table 6: Youth entrepreneurs as machine operators.

County	# of Youth Identified	# of Youth Selected
Bong	31	10
Lofa	31	9
Nimba	24	10
Grand Bassa	14	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>30</b>

**Activity 1.A.4 Promoting use of fertilizer in upland and lowland rice production**

**Task 1.A.4.1 Create awareness on benefits of fertilizer use via extension material and radio programs**

Throughout this reporting period, USAID FED has continued to broaden its outreach on the use of fertilizers through extension technicians and lead farmers, as well as extension materials printed in FY14. USAID FED technical team is currently working on upgrading extension materials and developing radio programs to reinforce and create more awareness on fertilizer use.

**Task 1.A.4.4 Monitor and document yield variance of 150 ha under T1, T2 and T3 UDP trial sites as well as 89 ha under UDP only established in FY14**

In FY14, USAID FED established 150 ha of trial sites where different technologies were applied to document yield variances. In addition, 89 ha were established to compare best practices. Under the 150 ha, 50 ha were established as T1 sites where Urea Deep Placement technology was applied, 50 ha as T2 where Urea Broadcast technology was applied and 50 ha as T3 sites where zero fertilization technology was applied. These comparative trials will demonstrate to farmers which technology provides higher yield and better profitability. During quarter one of FY15, harvesting commenced on some of these sites (Table 7, 8, and 9). It is anticipated harvesting will be completed in all sites by the end of January 2015.

The preliminary results support the finding of the pilot UDP trials showing UDP technology as a more superior technology compared to broadcast application of urea. Based on Tables 7-10, UDP application produces an average yield of 5.36-5.44MT/ha, urea broadcast application yields 4.23MT/ha and zero fertilization results in 3.77MT/ha. This shows that UDP application results in yields that are 26 to 28% higher than urea broadcast application, and 42 to 44% higher than zero fertilization. Meanwhile, urea broadcast application delivers only 12% higher yield in comparison to zero fertilization.

Table 7: FY14 rice harvest (T1 Sites) Urea Deep Placement.

County	No of Sites Established FY14	Ha Established in FY14	Ha Harvested in Oct	Vol Harvested Oct (MT)	Ha Harvested in Nov	Vol Harvested Nov (MT)	Ha Harvested in Dec	Vol Harvested Dec (MT)	Ha Harvested YTD	Vol Harvested YTD (MT)
Lofa	7	7	0	0	3	16	4	20.8	7	36.8
Nimba	27	27	0	0	11.5	62.79	15.5	84.63	27	147.42
Bong	12	12	0	0	7	37.45	4	21.52	11	58.97
Grand Bassa	4	4	0	0	1	4.5	1	4.4	2	8.9

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>120.74</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>131.35</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>252.09</b>
--------------	-----------	-----------	----------	----------	-------------	---------------	-------------	---------------	-----------	---------------

Table 8: FY14 rice harvest (T2 sites) Urea Broadcast,

County	No of Sites Established FY14	Ha Established in FY14	Ha Harvested in Oct	Vol Harvested Oct (MT)	Ha Harvested in Nov	Vol Harvested Nov (MT)	Ha Harvested in Dec	Vol Harvested Dec (MT)	Ha Harvested YTD	Vol Harvested YTD (MT)
Lofa	7	7	0	0	3	12.3	4	16.4	7	28.7
Nimba	27	27	0	0	7.5	32.4	19.5	84.28	27	116.68
Bong	12	12	0	0	7	30.45	4	17.12	11	47.57
Grand	4	4	0	0	1.5	4.1	0.5	2	2	6.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>79.25</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>119.8</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>199.05</b>

Table 9: FY14 rice harvest (T3 sites) zero fertilization.

County	No of Sites Established FY14	Ha Established in FY14	Ha Harvested in Oct	Vol Harvested Oct (MT)	Ha Harvested in Nov	Vol Harvested Nov (MT)	Ha Harvested in Dec	Vol Harvested Dec (MT)	Ha Harvested YTD	Vol Harvested YTD (MT)
Lofa	7	7	0	0	3	10.8	4	14.4	7	25.2
Nimba	27	27	0	0	11.18	43.15	15.82	61.03	27	104.18
Bong	12	12	0	0	7	25.9	4	15.2	11	41.1
Grand Bassa	4	4	0	0	1	3.7	1	3.65	2	7.35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22.18</b>	<b>83.55</b>	<b>24.82</b>	<b>94.28</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>177.83</b>

Table 10: FY14 rice harvest (UDP only)

County	No of Sites Established FY14	Ha Established in FY14	Ha Harvested in Oct	Vol Harvested Oct (MT)	Ha Harvested in Nov	Vol Harvested Nov (MT)	Ha Harvested in Dec	Vol Harvested Dec (MT)	Ha Harvested YTD	Vol Harvested YTD (MT)
Lofa	15	15	0	0	9	50.4	6	30	15	80.4
Nimba	27	27	0	0	11	59.4	9	48.6	20	108
Bong	37	37	0	0	11	60.94	20	114	31	174.94
Grand Bassa	10	10	0	0	7	34.3	3	15.75	10	50.05
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>205.4</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>208.35</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>413.39</b>

### Activity I.A.6 Promoting two rice crops per year

#### Task I.A.5.1 Identify new rice production sites with access to year round water supply

USAID Food and Enterprise Development Program for Liberia

Quarterly Report, Q1 FY 2015

During Q1 of FY15, USAID FED selected a total of 30 potential sites with all year round water supply for the construction of water management infrastructure in FY15 (Table 11). Installation of these spillways in the 30 sites will enable 160 hectares of farmlands to produce two crops of rice per annum.

Table 11: FY15 Identified lowland swamps for spillways by county

County	Target Sites FY15	Target Ha FY15	# of Sites Verified Oct	# of Ha Verified Oct	# of Sites Verified Nov	# of Ha Verified Nov	# of Sites Verified Dec	# of Ha Verified Dec	# of Sites Verified YTD	# of Ha Verified YTD
Bong	10	55	10	55	0	0	0	0	10	55
Nimba	6	35	6	35	0	0	0	0	6	35
Lofa	11	55.7	11	55.7	0	0	0	0	11	55.7
Grand Bassa	3	14.5	3	14.5	0	0	0	0	3	14.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>160.2</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>160.2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>160.2</b>

### Activity 1.A.7 Enhancing post-harvest management practices

#### Task 1.A.7.1 Identify 10 new community rice business hubs sites

During the reporting period, USAID FED identified 10 potential sites for establishment of new rice business hubs across the four counties (Table 12). In addition to 10 business hubs established in FY14, these hubs will provide mechanized services to rice farmers in the clusters and at the same times serve as aggregation centers for rice trading with large traders and industrial buyers.

Table 12: FY15 Rice Business Hubs identification.

County	FY 15 Target	# of Sites Identified in Oct	# of Sites Identified in Nov	# of Sites Identified in Dec	# of Sites Identified YTD	Location
Bong	3	3	0	0	3	Felela town, Gbenequilleh and Zowenta
Lofa	3	3	0	0	3	Kahenjala town, Buzagiza town and Kondu town
Nimba	3	3	0	0	3	Karnplay town, Gorkorpa and Zoe-luapa
Grand Bassa	1	0	1	0	1	Garkpee
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	

### Activity 1.A.8 Stimulating private sector investment in commercial rice production

#### Activity 1.A.1.8.1 Identify 2 large scale land owners to cultivate 200 ha lowland rice

In Q1, USAID FED engaged in initial discussions with four large-scale Liberian land owners based in Lofa, Bong and Margibi counties. It was agreed that USAID FED would conduct a field survey with assistance from the M&E Unit to ascertain the area of lowlands existing on these farms, in order to calculate what the capital investments costs to open these areas would be. These land owners have expressed willingness to invest through cost share arrangements, as well as signed contracts with FABRAR Liberia or other rice processors and traders as buyers.

### Activity 1.A.1.8.5 Facilitate linkages between FABRAR, Government agencies and institutional buyers

During the month of October 2014, FABRAR Liberia secured a contract to supply 90 MT of rice to the WFP. In November, FABRAR supplied WFP with 90.55MT of processed rice valued at US\$63,385. This rice stock was sourced from USAID FED rice farmers. In December, FABRAR procured an additional 150 MT of paddy rice valued at \$ 55,500 from FED-supported farmers.

## Task 1B: Increased Production and Profitability of Cassava Value Chain

### FY13 cassava crop harvests and sales

During Q1 of FY15, a total of 600.67 MT of FY13 cassava crop was harvested from 33.09 ha of USAID FED supported demonstration sites (Table 13).

Table 13: FY13 Cassava crop harvest- Demonstration sites

County	Area Harvested Oct (Ha)	Volume Harvested Oct (MT)	Area Harvested Nov (Ha)	Volume Harvested Nov (MT)	Area Harvested Dec (Ha)	Volume Harvested Dec (MT)	Total FY13 Area Harvested YTD (Ha)	Total FY13 Crop Harvested YTD (MT)
Bong	0.23	5.15	0.83	18.72	1.64	36.88	2.7	60.75
Nimba	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lofa	0.6	13.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	13.44
Grand Bassa	0.66	14.78	8.81	197.50	20.92	156.00	30.39	526.48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.49</b>	<b>33.37</b>	<b>9.28</b>	<b>216.22</b>	<b>22.56</b>	<b>351.08</b>	<b>33.09</b>	<b>600.67</b>

In addition, a total of 19.76 MT of FY13 cassava crop was recorded as harvested from a total of 106.70 ha of farmers own fields during the same reporting period (Table 14).

Table 14: Cassava crop harvest-farmer fields.

County	Area Harvested Oct (Ha)	Volume Harvested Oct (MT)	Area Harvested Nov (Ha)	Volume Harvested Nov (MT)	Area Harvested Dec (Ha)	Volume Harvest ed Dec (MT)	Total FY13 Area Harvested YTD (Ha)	Total FY13 crop Harvested YTD (MT)
Bong	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nimba	0.00	0.00	85.9	1,504.33	19.76	440.27	105.66	1,944.6
Lofa	0.00	0.00	1.04	23.37	0.00	0.00	1.04	23.37
Grand Bassa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>86.94</b>	<b>1,527.70</b>	<b>19.76</b>	<b>440.27</b>	<b>106.70</b>	<b>1967.97</b>

A total of 2,568.64 MT of FY13 cassava tubers were sold for US \$289,793.04 (Table 15). Of this total, 600.67 MT were from the demonstration sites and 1967.97 MT from individual farmer fields. During the months of October to December, cassava prices averaged \$127.50USD/MT.

Table 15: FY13 Cassava crop sales.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 12 bags of 85 Kg of cassava is equivalent to 1 MT.

County	Volume Sold Oct (MT)	Value of Sales Oct (US\$)	Volume Sold Nov (MT)	Value of Sales Nov (US\$)	Volume Sold Dec (MT)	Value of Sales Dec (US\$)	Volume Sold YTD (MT)	Value of sales YTD (US\$)
Bong	5.20	723.50	18.72	1274.80	36.88	2435.00	60.80	4,433.30
Nimba	21.60	2,969.00	1,504.33	189,512.30	401.47	55,171.97	1,927.40	247,653.27
Lofa	14.00	926.00	23.37	1576.47	0.00	0.00	37.37	2502.47
Grand Bassa	14.90	1,380.00	197.50	13,059.00	314.20	20765.00	526.60	35204.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55.70</b>	<b>5,998.50</b>	<b>1,743.92</b>	<b>205,422.57</b>	<b>752.55</b>	<b>78,371.97</b>	<b>2,552.17</b>	<b>289,793.04</b>

### Activity I.B.1 Facilitating access to high yielding cassava varieties

#### Task I.B.1.1 Screening of cassava cuttings on 2 sites in Lofa through collaboration with CARI

In FY14 USAID FED, in collaboration with the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) established two controlled sites in Lofa County to screen 11 improved varieties imported from IITA in Nigeria. CARI technicians conducted two inspection visits during the FY14 period. During Q1 of FY15, CARI technicians conducted a third inspection visit as per the screening protocols required. In general, the inspectors determined that the two screening sites were performing well. USAID FED continues to provide day to day management and maintenance support to these sites.

### Activity I.B.2 Enhancing availability of improved varieties for multiplication

#### Task I.B.2.1 Identification of cuttings requirements for 40 commercial nurseries

During quarter one of FY15, it was determined that 8,424 bundles of cassava cuttings were required for distribution to the 40 commercial nurseries and a procurement plan was developed (Table 16). These cuttings will be procured during quarter two of FY15. The varieties to be propagated are disease-resistant and can deliver acceptable yields, i.e., at least 18MT/ha even without fertilizer application.

Table 16: Cassava cuttings requirements by county.

County	# of Bundles Required	# of Bundles Carica 1	# of Bundle Carica 2	# of Bundles TMS Series	# of Commercial Nurseries	Qty of Bundles per Nursery
Bong	1,625	541	542	542	8	203
Lofa	975	325	325	325	4	244
Nimba	3,484	1,162	1,161	1,161	16	218
Grand Bassa	2,340	780	780	780	12	195
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,424</b>	<b>2,808</b>	<b>2,808</b>	<b>2,808</b>	<b>40</b>	

### Activity I.B.3 Enhancing knowledge on improved technologies and varieties

#### Task I.B.3.1 Develop extension material, radio programs on improved technologies and varieties

During the reporting period, USAID FED gathered data and prepared content on cassava production and processing for the "On the Farm" radio program regularly broadcasted by UNMIL Radio. Two cassava production groups in Bong County were visited and interviewed to provide content. Additional information is provided under the Task 1.3 section of this report.

#### Task I.B.3.2 Identify and recruit 12,960 new famers in 648 Kuus towards FY15 cassava production

By the end of Q1, USAID FED had identified a total 12,960 new beneficiaries in 648 *kuus* across the four counties (Table 17). The selection and verification of all target beneficiaries was completed during the same period. MOUs will be signed with the groups in January 2015.

Table 17: FY15 beneficiary recruitment

County	FY15 farmer targets	FY15 Kuu target	FY15 farmers identified by Oct	FY15 farmers identified by Nov	Fy15 farmers identified by Dec	Total FY15 farmers identified YTD	Male	Female	# of Kuus YTD
Bong	2,500	125	1,310	389	801	2500	1286	1214	125
Nimba	5,360	268	2,142	3,218	0	5360	2791	2569	268
Lofa	1,500	75	1,500	0		1500	900	600	75
Grand Bassa	3,600	180	2,258	1,342	0	3600	2356	1244	180
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,960</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>7,210</b>	<b>4949</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>12960</b>	<b>7333</b>	<b>5627</b>	<b>648</b>

### Task I.B.3.4 Recruitment of LNGOs

During first quarter of FY15, USAID FED commenced the recruitment process for LNGOs. Scopes of Work (SOW) were developed and Requests for Proposals (RFP) prepared and advertised. It is anticipated that LNGOs that will support cassava value chain activities will be selected and contracted in January 2015.

### Activity I.B.4 Improving access to market information and market



Figure 1: Cassava processor in Bong County showcasing USAID FED procured equipment.

#### Task I.B.4.1 Identify 33 micro and small cassava processors and their purchasing needs

During quarter one of FY15, a total of 17 cassava micro-processors signed MOUs with USAID FED towards FY15 partnerships. During the same period, 54 staff (43 women and 11 men) of 25 micro-processing enterprises received training on business development services in Gbarnga, Bong county and Kakata City Margibi county respectively (Figure 1). USAID FED provided each cassava processing enterprise with one patching pan, tub, tarpaulin, plastic drum, sifter, wheelbarrow, weighing scale and buckets. The program will continue to support these processors in order to improve their processing capacity and profitability to operate as businesses. In January 2015, baselines will be conducted for

four medium-sized processors to determine their ability to cost share in upgrading of their facilities. MOUs will be signed with processors who are interested in working with FED and have the capacity to share in the cost to upgrade their facility and increase their processing capacity.

#### Task I.B.4.2 Provide cassava clusters with market information on varieties required, volumes and prices



Figure 2: RASA Liberia factory staff peeling cassava, Montserrado County.

During the reporting period, an industrial cassava processor, RASA Liberia Inc., which was identified as a partner of USAID FED for FY15, conducted trial runs for cassava chips processing using samples received from USAID FED farmers in Grand Bassa. RASA Liberia has a current capacity to process 2 MT of cassava tubers per day and has agreed to source up to 60 MT per month from USAID FED-supported cassava farmers (Figures 2 and 3).

During the same reporting period, FALAMA, a small cassava processor based in Montserrado County, procured 52.5 MT of raw tuber from Bong and



Figure 3: Processed cassava chip samples.

Montserrado Counties. Of these, 16.5 MT were sourced from FED-supported cassava farmers. FALAMA in turn produced 6.5 MT of gari, 1 MT of flour and 1.25MT of cassava chips which were sold for a total of USD\$5,980. The sales included 2MT of gari to WISHH, 2MT of gari to the General Services Agency for Ebola holding center, 1MT of cassava flour to Paynesville bakery association and 1.25Mt of cassava chips to 12 supermarkets. FALAMA is one of the medium-sized processors identified by FED for support in FY15.

### **Activity 1.B.5 Facilitating access to financial services for processors**

#### **Task 1.B.5.1 Determine baselines, hardware and financial needs for 16 micro and small processors:**

During the FY14 implementation period, USAID FED conducted a baseline on 16 micro-processors towards establishing functional processing capacity within cassava producing clusters supported in the four counties. These entrepreneurs were selected based on their ability to cost share, coordinate linkage between production, processing and marketing, close proximity to the local or regional markets and within the cassava production clusters supported by USAID FED. In FY15 Q1, 13 more cassava processors in Bong and Nimba were assessed and evaluated, bringing the total of cassava processors to be assisted by FED in FY15 to 29.

#### **Task 1.B.5.2 Procure and distribute processing equipment for 22 micro/ small processors on costs share**

To date, USAID FED has selected two potential vendors for the procurement of upgraded processing equipment in support of 22 cassava processing enterprises. The other seven processing enterprises will be provided with technical and business advisory support to improve the profitability of their operations.

### **Activity 1.B.6 Reducing post-harvest losses in cassava value chain**

#### **Task 1.B.6.1 Enhance extension materials and develop radio programs on post-harvest management practices**

During the reporting period, the USAID FED Extension Unit gathered and put together content on cassava processing for the “On the Farm” radio program regularly broadcasted by UNMIL Radio. One

USAID Food and Enterprise Development Program for Liberia

small industrial processor based in Monrovia, RASA Liberia Inc., was visited and interviewed to provide content. Additional information is available in the Task 1.3 section of this report.

### Activity 1.B.7 Supporting aggregation and transportation capacities

#### Task 1.B.7.1 Identify and recruit 29 youth towards establishment of transport enterprises

In Q1 FY15, a request for Expressions of Interest (EoI) was advertised by USAID FED to identify youth who are interested in participating in the establishment of transport service enterprises that will support cassava micro-processors and farmers. A total of 18 youth were identified by the end of December as potential entrepreneurs based on their ability to cost share in the purchase of *tuk tuk* motorcycles and set up the businesses. It is anticipated that the remaining 11 youth will be identified in January 2015.

### Task 1.C: Improving Productivity and Profitability of the Horticulture Value Chain

#### Vegetable harvest and sales from FY14 clusters

During Q1 of FY15, a total of 70.74 MT of vegetables were sold for US\$32,817 from the 21 clusters supported in FY14 (Table 18). USAID FED will begin collecting sales data from 188 new clusters in 6 counties during Q2 FY15.

Table 18: Vegetable clusters harvest

County/ Cluster	Volume of Sales Oct (Kgs)	Value of Sales Oct (US\$)	Volume of Sales Nov ( Kgs)	Value of Sales Nov (US\$)	Volume of Sales in Dec (Kgs)	Value of Sales in Dec (US\$)	Total Sales Volume YTD (Kgs)	Total Sales Value YTD (US\$)
Montserratado								
Bokays Town	635.00	\$245.11	2587	\$950.00	877.00	\$729.64	4099.00	\$1,924.75
CGCWEP	881.60	\$264.11	666.7	\$317.88	1,889.00	\$912.29	3437.30	\$1,494.28
Central White Plane	1,239.00	\$468.23	425	\$174.58	213.00	\$131.76	1877.00	\$774.57
Low Cost Village	504.00	\$268.11	249	\$193.35	381.00	\$257.47	1134.00	\$718.93
Kollieman Town	213.00	\$120.00	375	\$178.82	281.00	\$236.47	869.00	\$535.29
Mawah Farmers	680.00	\$1,583.47	7,826.00	\$1,893.12	1,704.00	\$2,081.47	10,210.00	\$5,558.06
Mulleh Farm	0.00	\$0.00	1,430.00	\$485.88	665.00	\$236.47	2,095.00	\$722.35
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>4152.60</b>	<b>\$2,949.03</b>	<b>13,558.70</b>	<b>\$4,193.63</b>	<b>6,010.00</b>	<b>\$4,585.57</b>	<b>23,721.30</b>	<b>\$11,728.23</b>
<b>Nimba</b>								
Yekepa	0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00
Sanniqueleh	0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	2,700.00	\$2,094.20	2,700.00	\$2,094.20
Ganta	0.00	\$0.00	6,300.00	\$4,079.00	0.00	\$0.00	6,300.00	\$4,079.00
Gbedin	0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>6,300.00</b>	<b>\$4,079.00</b>	<b>2,700.00</b>	<b>\$2,094.20</b>	<b>9,000.00</b>	<b>\$6,173.20</b>
<b>Margibi</b>								
Kpoyea's Town	316.00	\$294.70	730	\$398.82	2,707.00	\$895.29	3,753.00	\$1,588.81
Joblow Town	214.00	\$218.82	866	\$254.70	1,275.00	\$802.94	2,355.00	\$1,276.46
KollieKan Ta	1,608.00	\$425.58	1,318.00	\$425.52	4,249.00	\$1,659.82	7,175.00	\$2,510.92
Francis Lewis	2,157.00	\$1,096.52	1,033.50	\$669.41	1,440.00	\$875.00	4,630.50	\$2,640.93

Weala	182.00	\$148.23	1,297.00	\$477.64	2,479.00	\$564.29	3,958.00	\$1,190.16
Nyanka Ta	410.00	\$337.64	1,685.00	\$544.47	3,690.00	\$1,312.52	5,785.00	\$2,194.63
Gbofellah	800.00	\$576.47	1,375.00	\$504.09	4,646.00	\$1,105.23	6,821.00	\$2,185.79
Horton Farm	245.00	\$123.23	754	\$168.23	2,545.00	\$1,036.64	3,544.00	\$1,328.10
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>5,932.00</b>	<b>\$3,221.19</b>	<b>9,058.50</b>	<b>\$3,442.88</b>	<b>23,031.00</b>	<b>\$8,251.73</b>	<b>38,021.50</b>	<b>\$14,915.80</b>
<b>Grand Bassa</b>								
Tubmanville	0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00
New Buchanan	0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00	0.00	\$0.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,084.60</b>	<b>\$6,170.22</b>	<b>28,917.20</b>	<b>\$11,715.51</b>	<b>31,741.00</b>	<b>\$14,931.50</b>	<b>70,742.80</b>	<b>\$32,817.23</b>

In addition, a total of 7.9 MT of vegetables were traded by the USAID FED-supported Monrovia Vegetable Traders Association with a value of US\$14,732.83 during Q1 of FY15 (Table 19). During Q2, sales information will be collected from 6 trader associations and 2 private sector companies that will be supported.

Table 19: Sales from FY14 trader associations and FY13 VSLA groups

Group	Volume of Sales Oct (Kgs)	Value of Sales Oct (\$USD)	Volume of Sales Nov (Kgs)	Value of Sales Nov (\$USD)	Volume of Sales Dec (Kgs)	Value of Sales Dec (\$USD)	Total Sales Volume YTD (Kgs)	Total Sales Value YTD (\$USD)
Monrovia Vegetable Marketing Association	3,150	\$5,765.83	2,104	\$3,887.60	2,690	\$5,079.40	7,944	\$14,732.83
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,150</b>	<b>\$5,765.83</b>	<b>2,104</b>	<b>\$3,887.60</b>	<b>2,690</b>	<b>\$5,079.40</b>	<b>7,944</b>	<b>\$14,732.83</b>

### **Establishment of rain shelters on 20 FY14 sites**

During Q1 of FY15, agro-input service provider Gro-green resumed installation of the rain shelters in Montserrado and Margibi counties (Figure 4). By the end of December, a total of 10 rain shelters had been installed in Mawah, Chosen General Church Women and Youth Empowerment Project (CGCWYEP), Mulleh, White Plane and Low Cost Village in Montserrado as well as Gbofella, Francis Lewis, Hortons Farm, Kolliekane and Kpoyea clusters in Margibi County. The farmers were also trained on rain shelter management and maintenance. It is anticipated that the installation of the remaining 10 rain shelters for FY14 clusters will be completed before the end of the second quarter. In FY14, installation of protected cultivation shelters was temporarily suspended due to the Ebola outbreak.



Figure 4: Completed rain shelters at Low Cost Village, Montserrado County.

### **Activity 1.C.1 Improving access to affordable seeds of improved vegetable varieties**

#### **Task 1.C.1.1 Identify 12 potential agro-dealers to invest in input supply and embedded services**

In FY15, the USAID FED Horticulture Value Chain and Input Supply teams will develop agro-dealer networks that can improve access to affordable seeds of improved varieties. A total of 12 agro-dealers across the six USAID FED counties were to be identified for this purpose. However, due to a delay in the re-deployment of the Input Supply Specialist, the agro-dealers will be now identified in January 2015 and trained under Task 1.C.1.2 (*Train 12 agro-dealers in collaboration with existing agro-input supplier companies*) in Q2 of FY15.

#### **Task 1.C.1.3 Identify financing needs of continuing and new farmers**

In the first quarter, USAID FED assessed a total of 20 vegetable clusters from FY14 to determine their loan requirements for FY15. Out of the 20 clusters, 14 clusters were selected as potential recipients of LEAD loans to support their vegetable production in FY15 (Table 20). These clusters were selected on the basis of their cohesion as groups, management capabilities, production capacities and the high potential of repaying loans. These 14 clusters will require at least US\$64,588 in loans in FY15. The results of the assessment were provided to Component 2 for onward submission to LEAD for further due diligence and to facilitate linkages to financial service providers (Task 1.C.1.4).

Table 20: Clusters recommendations for LEAD loans

County	# of Clusters	# of Farmers	Loans requirements (US\$)
Montserrado	6	134	27,794
Margibi	8	149	36,794
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>64,588</b>

### **Activity 1.C.2 Promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices**

#### **Task 1.C.2.1 Identify 3,750 farmers and establish 18 demonstration plots in 6 counties**

During the reporting period, USAID FED identified and verified a total of 3,666 new beneficiaries (2,163 male, 1,503 female) in 188 clusters across the six USAID FED counties (Table 21 and 22) for support in

FY15. The remaining 84 farmers will be identified and verified in January 2015 and MoUs will be signed with all the clusters. GPS mapping of the clusters will also take place in January and February 2015.

Table 21: FY15 Cluster identification

County	FY15 Target Clusters	# of Clusters Selected Oct	# of Clusters Selected Nov	# of Clusters Selected Dec	Total # of Clusters YTD
Montserrado	48	35	7	6	48
Margibi	41	29	6	5	40
Nimba	28	35	0	0	35
Lofa	25	25	0	0	25
Grand Bassa	19	21	0	0	21
Bong	27	21	0	0	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>190</b>

Table 22: Horticulture beneficiary recruitment

County	FY15 Farmer Targets	# of Farmers Identified Oct	# of Farmers Identified Nov	# of Farmers Identified Dec	Total # of Farmers YTD	# of Males No %	# of Female No %
Montserrado	967	720	140	100	960	575 (60%)	385 (40%)
Margibi	777	580	36	113	729	421 (58%)	308 (42%)
Nimba	569	686	0	0	686	432 (63%)	254 (37%)
Lofa	509	485	0	0	485	221 (46%)	264 (54%)
Grand Bassa	379	391	0	0	391	285 (73%)	106 (27%)
Bong	549	415	0	0	415	229 (55%)	186 (45%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,750</b>	<b>3,277</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>3,666</b>	<b>2,163 (59%)</b>	<b>1,503 (41%)</b>

### **Task 1.C.2.6 Recruitment of Horticulture Specialist (STTA)**

During the month of December, USAID FED was able to attain approval for the re-deployment of STTA Horticulture Specialist Emmanuel Owusu, to support technical horticulture activities. The Horticulture Specialist arrived in Liberia in January.

### **Activity 1.C.3 Reducing harvesting and post-harvest losses**

#### **Task 1.C.3.1 Train 188 lead farmers on production planning and appropriate harvesting of vegetables**

It is anticipated that following the signing of MoUs with FY15 clusters, training activities will commence in January. This will also apply to training of lead farmers and trader associations on packaging, storage and transportation methods under Task 1.C.3.3.

#### **Task 1.C.3.2 Identify five new trader associations in Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa and Margibi Counties for support in FY15**

During the reporting period, USAID FED identified five trader associations; Bong County Marketing Association Vegetable Sellers (Bong), Ganta Marketing Association Vegetables Sellers Unit (Nimba) Buchanan City Marketing Association Vegetables Sellers (Grand Bassa) and Kakata Marketing Association Vegetable Sellers (Margibi). Each of these trader associations has a membership of 30 to 45

traders. The verification exercise, selection and signing of MoUs will be conducted during the month of January. USAID FED will link the 188 production clusters to the identified associations and will continue to support the Monrovia Vegetable Traders Association in FY15. In Q2, USAID FED will identify trader associations in Lofa County.

***Task I.C.3.5 Provide Lead Farmers and traders with packing crates for transportation of vegetables through cost share***

While the identification, verification and selection of FY15 USAID FED beneficiaries was being conducted, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was advertised in the local newspapers in December for the procurement of packing crates. The procurement process will be completed in January 2015. The plastic crates will be provided to farming clusters and trader association as improved packaging to reduce post-harvest losses.

***Task I.C.3.6 Provide 6 trader associations with low cost charcoal cooler technologies on a cost share basis***

In December, USAID FED issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the establishment of low cost charcoal cooler technologies. It is anticipated that winning proposals will be selected in January, and that the cooling equipment will be provided to selected trader associations by the end of Q2. These charcoal coolers are low-tech, low cost mechanisms that have been proven in other countries to reduce post-harvest losses. They are being piloted in Liberia through USAID FED support.

***Task I.C.3.7 Provide two private sector firms with cold storage facilities on cost share***

During the month of December, USAID FED issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the establishment of refrigeration technologies to be provided to two private sector firms dealing in vegetable trading and supply to concessionaires. It is anticipated that successful proposals will be selected in January and cold storage facilities procured and installed in two private sector firms by the end of the second quarter.

***Activity I.C.4: Farmers produced vegetables for the markets during the wet and dry seasons***

***Task I.C.4.1 Procure, distribute and install 360 drip irrigation kits to high value vegetable producers***

In Q1 of FY15, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued and advertised to identify potential vendors who will supply and install high quality drip irrigation kits at the farms of 360 high value vegetable producers. The vendor selection process will be concluded in January, and procurement and installation will proceed following the completion of MoUs with the beneficiaries.

***Task I.C.4.2 Procure and distribute motorized pumps to 188 vegetable farming clusters***

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued and advertised in the month of December to identify potential vendors for the supply of high quality motorized pumps in 188 vegetable clusters. The vendor selection process will be concluded in January and procurement and installation will follow after the completion of MoUs with beneficiaries.

***Task I.C.4.3 Procure and distribute vegetable seeds, chemical and tools as startup kits to 360 farmers***

During the reporting period, USAID procured hybrid vegetable seeds for distribution to 360 high value vegetable producers (Table 23). The procurement of chemicals and tools to support these farmers will be completed in January.

*Table 23: Hybrid seeds procured*

USAID Food and Enterprise Development Program for Liberia

Quarterly Report, Q1 FY 2015

Hybrid Seeds	Quantity (Gms)
Water Melon (Charlseton)	20,000
Water Melon (Sugar babies)	20,000
Chilli (scotch bonnet Burkina yellow)	12,500
Chilli (scotch bonnet -Sunny)	12,500
Bitterball (African Eggplant)	12,500
Auberigines (Black Beauty)	12,500
Okra (Clemson)	12,000
Lettuce (Eden)	1,000
Lettuce (Mindelo)	1,000
Cucumber (poinsette)	1,000
Cabbage (Oxylus)	5,000
Cabbage	5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115,000</b>

#### **Task I.C.4.6 Enhancing linkages with local and high value vegetable markets**

In December, USAID FED signed a MoU with a Liberian-owned horticulture producer, Grain Coast Inc. (GCI). The objective of the MoU is to establish an out grower scheme that will produce okra and other high value vegetables for domestic and export markets. Under the agreement, GCI will set up an out grower scheme with 15 producers. USAID FED will also link 500 youth agribusiness pilots that will be established in FY15 in Montserrado and Margibi counties to GCI, in an effort to boost volume of high value vegetables for the niche markets. The out growers will be provided with training and inputs (seeds, fertilizer, chemicals and tools) as well as extension services by USAID FED and GCI personnel. GCI will also be supported to establish a pack house and refrigerated storage facilities to improve the post-harvest management of the produce. GCI is expected to start exporting by FY15 Q3.

#### **Task ID: Increased Production and Profitability of Goat Value Chain**

##### **FY14 Goat production sites - kidding rates**

During the first quarter of the fiscal year, a total of 1,361 kids (466 male, 895 female) were born to farmers at the FY14 goat production sites (Table 24). The total herd size from FY14 sites is now 6,238 animals (3,198 does, 682 bucks and 2,358 kids). In Q2, the herd size data will be adjusted based on mortality rates, kidding rates, kids that have graduated into adulthood and goats that have been sold.

Table 24: Herd statistics for FY14 sites

County	# of Farmers Supported in FY14	# of Male Farmers	# of Female Farmers	Total # of Goats in Herd	# of Does	# Bucks	# Kids by End of FY14	Kids born in Oct	Kids born in Nov	Kids born in Dec
Nimba	693	341	296	1,233	504	98	181	158	117	175
Grand Bassa	275	166	111	776	408	118	204	0	0	46
Bong	596	493	179	2,725	1,262	320	441	353	187	162
Lofa	496	260	214	1,504	1,024	146	171	0	0	163
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,060</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>6,238</b>	<b>3,198</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>546</b>

##### **FY14 goat production sites - sales**

During the reporting period, a total of 973 goats (688 bucks, 275 does and 10 kids) valued at about US\$60,111 were sold from the FY14 goat production sites (Table 25). The increased sales of goats in

November and December were attributed to the festivals during the period when goats are in high demand.

Table 25: Goat sales from FY14 production sites

County	FY15 Goat Sales Target	FY15 Goat Sales Target (US\$)	# of Goats Sold Oct	Value of Goats Sold Oct (US\$)	# of Goats Sold Nov	Value of Goats Sold Nov (US\$)	# of Goats Sold Dec	Value of Goats Sold Dec (US\$)	# of Goats Sold YTD	Value of Goats Sold YTD (US\$)
Nimba	932	\$65,280.00	35	\$955.00	42	\$2,105.00	65	\$3,335.78	142	\$6,395.78
Grand Bassa	330	\$23,040.00	7	\$535.00	16	\$1,720.00	110	\$6,220	133	\$8,475.00
Bong	795	\$55,680.00	142	\$11,740.00	143	\$11,980.00	103	\$8,350.00	388	\$32,070.00
Lofa	686	\$48,000.00	46	\$1,552.00	0	\$0.00	264	\$11,625	310	\$13,177.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,743</b>	<b>\$192,000.00</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>\$14,782.00</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>\$15,805.00</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>\$29,530.78</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>\$60,117.78</b>

#### **FY14 goat shelter construction**

During Q1 of the fiscal year, USAID FED constructed a total of 15 goat shelters in five FY14 goat production sites. This brings the total number of FY14 goat shelters established to 252 shelters in 84 sites (three per site). Each site has a regular holding pen, a maternity shelter and a quarantine shelter.

#### **FY14 goat production sites veterinary care**

During Q1 of FY15, a total of 206 USAID FED trained Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWS) who supported activities in FY14 remained active in the four counties. CAHWS treated a total of 1,850 animals between October and December.

### **Activity I.D.I Promote Goat Shelters**

#### **Task I.D.I.1 Identification and recruitment of Lead farmers**

During the reporting period, USAID FED identified and verified a total of 77 lead farmers (69 male, 8 female) in 77 clusters as targeted in the work plan in Bong, Nimba, Lofa and Grand Bassa counties (Table 26).

Table 26: FY15 goat lead farmer recruitment

County	FY15 Lead Farmer Targets	# of Lead Farmers Identified Oct	# of Lead Farmers Identified Nov	# of Lead Farmers Identified Dec	Total Lead Farmers Identified YTD	# of Male Lead Farmers No %	# of Female Lead Farmers No %
Bong	22	22	0	0	22	22 (100%)	0 (0%)
Nimba	26	26	0	0	26	23 (88%)	3 (12%)
Lofa	19	15	0	4	19	15 (79%)	4 (21%)
Grand Bassa	10	7	3	0	10	9 (90%)	1 (10%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>69 (90%)</b>	<b>8 (10%)</b>

Within the 77 identified new goat production clusters, a total of 1,545 beneficiaries (929 male, 616 female) were identified and verified during the same period (Table 27). MoUs will be signed with the new goat production intensification sites in January 2015.

Table 27: FY15 goat farmer recruitment.

County	FY 15 Farmer Target	# of Target Sites	Farmers Identified in Oct	Farmers Identified in Nov	Farmers Identified in Dec	Total # of Farmers Identified YTD	# of Male Farmers	# of Female Farmers
Nimba	522	26	522	0	0	522	370	152
Grand Bassa	201	10	140	61	0	201	101	100
Bong	441	22	441	0	0	441	202	239
Lofa	381	19	300	0	81	381	256	125
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>616</b>

#### **Task I.D.I.2 Contract and train eight sawyers to cut wood for shelter construction**

To ensure that wood of acceptable dimensions for construction of goat shelters is available, USAID FED planned to contract eight new sawyers to support the cutting of wood provided by the communities in the identified FY15 goat sites. These sawyers will be recruited and trained through the goat LNGOs that will be engaged by USAID FED in January 2015 to support goat activities in the counties. The 23 sawyers trained and contracted in FY14 could also potentially be recruited through the LNGOs to support goat shelter construction.

#### **Task I.D.I.3 Contract and train eight carpenters (two per county) on shelter construction**

To support the construction of 231 goat shelters in FY15 sites, USAID FED will contract eight new carpenters to supervise and lead the construction works. These carpenters will be recruited and trained through the USAID FED engaged LNGOs in January 2015 to support goat activities in the counties. It is anticipated that the 28 carpenters contracted by USAID FED in FY14 will also be recruited through the LNGOs to support goat shelter construction.

#### **Task I.D.I.4 Determine shelter material requirements for 77 shelters**

All the shelter material requirements for the 77 USAID FED-supported goat sites were documented and procurement plans developed (Table 28). It is anticipated that the selection of vendors will be completed in January. Further, the communities within the 77 sites will provide timber or logs that will be sawn for shelter construction as well as labor required on sites during the sawing and construction. The total beneficiary contribution per site is estimated at US\$2,065 or US\$159,005 in total for the 77 targeted sites.

Table 28: Goat shelter material requirements to be provided by USAID FED by county

County	# of sites	Galvanize Fence Wire	Drinkers	Hinges (pieces)	14 Gauge Zinc Bundle	2" Wire Nails cartons	3" Wire Nails cartons	4" Wire Nail cartons	5" Wire Nails cartons	Zinc Wire Nails Cartons
Lofa	19	266	57	190	114	38	38	38	38	38
Nimba	26	364	78	260	156	52	52	52	52	52
Bong	22	308	66	220	132	44	44	44	44	44
Grand Bassa	10	140	30	100	60	20	20	20	20	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>154</b>

#### **Task I.D.I.5 Design and construction of two wells in Grand Bassa County**

In FY14, the wells established in Neorpeh and Blaygbah sites were sunk but did not reach the water table. As a result, alternative sites had to be selected for new wells to be dug in these two affected goat

production sites. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for construction of the wells was issued in December and it is anticipated that a construction firm will be contracted in January.

### **Activity I.D.2 National PPR Campaign**

#### **Task I.D.2.1 Acquire MOA agreement to provide PPR vaccine and contract BRAC to implement PPR campaign**

In FY14 USAID FED, in collaboration with international development organization BRAC and MoA, planned to implement the national Peste des Petits (PPR) vaccination campaign. However, due to the outbreak of Ebola, implementation of the activity was deferred to FY15. During the first quarter, meetings were held with the BRAC Country Representative to plan a new implementation timeline. It was agreed that implementation could take place in March and April. In follow up meetings, MoA informed USAID FED that, due to budget constraints, MoA is unable to provide the required vaccines. However, MoA will assume responsibility for the import process if USAID FED can fund the purchase of the vaccines. For the entire campaign a total of 1,500 vials valued at US\$5,000 will be required to vaccinate approximately 150,000 animals country wide. USAID FED Management decided to fund the procurement of the vaccine at this time. The way forward for future vaccination campaigns will be discussed with the MoA.

### **Activity I.D.3 Access to veterinary treatment and drugs**

#### **Task I. D.3. 1 Identification of 154 CAHWs among new Lead Farmer Groups (2 persons per group)**

During the reporting period, USAID FED identified a total of 154 Community Animal Health Workers (all female) across the four counties (Table 29). Each goat site will have two CAHWs. The CAHWs will receive training on veterinary drugs handling, usage and treatment of animals to enhance access to animal health care in the 77 goat sites. In addition, these CAHWs will be provided with starter kits through the FY15 goat voucher program. In January 2015, a rapid assessment will be conducted to ascertain how effective the 206 CAHWs trained in FY14 were in providing veterinary services, and what needs to be done to enhance their performance to achieve optimal support to goat farmers.

Table 29: Recruitment of CAHWS by county

County	FY15 CAHWs Target	CAHWs Identified in Oct.	CAHWs Identified in Nov.	CAHWs Identified in Dec.	Total # of CAHWs Identified YTD	I # of Male CAHWs	# of Female CAHWs
Nimba	52	52	0	0	52	0	52
Grand Bassa	20	20	0	0	20	0	20
Bong	44	44	0	0	44	0	44
Lofa	38	30	0	8	38	0	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>154</b>

#### **Task I.D.3.3 Identify eight new agro-pharmacists and acquire MoA authorization for them to stock veterinary drugs**

During the reporting period, USAID FED identified eight agro-pharmacists (two per county) (Table 30). USAID FED has also scheduled a meeting with MoA in January 2015 to complete the authorization process for the agro-pharmacists to stock veterinary drugs.

Table 30: Recruitment of Agro-pharmacists by county

County	FY15 Agro Pharmacist Target	# of Agro Pharmacist Identified in Oct	# of Agro Pharmacist Identified in Nov	# of Agro Pharmacist Identified in Dec	Total # of Agro Pharmacist Identified YTD	Total # of Male Agro Pharmacist	Total # of Female Agro Pharmacist
Nimba	2	0	0	2	2	1	1
Grand Bassa	2	0	0	2	2	2	0
Bong	2	0	0	2	2	2	0
Lofa	2	0	0	2	2	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>

### **Task 1.D.3.7 Farmers trained on nutrition and good animal husbandry practices**

In October 2014, a total of 19 Goat Value Chain Extension Assistants (16 male, 3 female) participated in a two day training on goat herd production, ear tagging, mineral lick fabrication and record keeping in Bong County (Table 31). The training was conducted by USAID FED Goat Value Chain Officers (Figure 5). These Extension Assistants will support USAID FED's county-based goat extension staff in providing technical support and in collecting information on production, sales, natality, mortality, diseases as well as performance of CAHWs. The 19 Extension Assistants also received training on Ebola and nutrition messaging.

Table 31: Extension Assistants training participants

County	Male	Female	Total
Nimba	5	1	6
Bong	6	0	6
Lofa	3	1	4
Grand Bassa	2	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>



Figure 5: Salt lick fabrication training, Bong County.

### **Activity 1.D.5 Formalizing Livestock Marketing**

#### **Task 1.D.5.1 Develop database of traders willing to participate in market events with farmers**

During Q1 of FY15, USAID FED developed a database of goat traders. USAID FED identified a total of 71 live goat traders (38 male, 33 female) in Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Lofa and Montserrado counties (Table 32). USAID FED will work closely with these traders to ensure that they participate in county goat marketing events.

Table 32: Traders identified at county level

County	District	#of Traders	Male	Female
Bong	Jorquelleh	7	7	0
	Panta	4	2	2
	Suakoko	3	2	1
	Yellequelleh	4	2	2
Nimba	Sanniqueleh Mah	8	3	5
	Tappita	4	3	1
	Saclepea mah	4	2	2
	Zoe-Geh	4	3	1
Grand Bassa	#3	5	1	4
	#4	2	1	1
	#1	2	0	2
	#2	2	1	1
Lofa	Voinjama	5	1	4
	Kolahun	3	0	3
	Foya	4	2	2
	Zorzor	3	1	2
Montserrado	#11	2	2	0
	#6	5	5	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>71</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>33</b>

**Task I.D.5.2 Identify BRAC and Samaritan Purse goat farmers willing to participate in market events**

In order to ensure that goat farmers supported by other development partners also benefit from trader marketing events, USAID FED received a list of 81 goat farmers (19 male, 62 female) from BRAC (Table 33). A list of Samaritan Purse farmers is expected to be compiled in January. USAID FED will map the locations of these farmers and support their participation in marketing events.

Table 33: BRAC supported goat farmers by county

County	District	# of Goat Producers	Male	Female
Grand Bassa	#3	7	0	7
Bong	Jorquelleh	10	2	8
	Sanoyea	10	0	10
Nimba	Tappita	5	0	5
Lofa	Voinjama	12	9	3
	Foya	12	5	7
	Kohahun	25	3	22
<b>Total</b>		<b>81</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>62</b>

**Task I.D.5.3 Train goat farmers on selection of animals for sale and fattening techniques**

The training of farmers on animal selection and fattening will be conducted through the USAID FED contracted LNGOs who will be engaged in January 2015. It is expected that 161 lead farmers (84 lead farmers from FY14 and 77 new lead farmers selected in FY15) will benefit from this training during the second quarter.

**Task I.D.5.4 Identify locations for goat marketing events at county and cluster level**

During the reporting period, USAID FED selected four sites in Gbarnga (Bong), Ganta (Nimba), Voinjama (Lofa) and Buchanan (Grand Bassa) as potential sites for hosting goat trader events at the county level. Additional sites will be identified at the cluster level based on threshold numbers of available animals for sale. Trader marketing events are anticipated to commence in Q2 of FY15.

#### ***Activity 1.D.6 Improving nutrition for higher livestock value***

##### ***Task 1.D.6.1 Develop databases for forages most suitable for Liberia***

To support the development of a comprehensive database of forages and animal nutritional requirements that goat farmers can benefit from, USAID FED commenced the process of contracting a local STTA Goat Forage Production Expert to identify, test, select and recommend high yielding forages for cultivation at the FY14 and FY15 goat production intensification sites. The consultant is expected to commence the assignment in February.

### **Sub Task 1.1 Special Studies and MoA Data Collection System Development**

#### ***Deliverable 1.1.2 Program Indicators Surveys Conducted***

##### ***Activity: 1.1.2.4 Firms and CSOs engaged in agriculture operating more profitably***

During the reporting period, USAID FED initiated several activities to prepare a survey to gauge the profitability of firms and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) engaged in agriculture. The purpose of the survey is to determine whether firms and CSOs that received assistance from USAID FED since 2012 have increased the rate of return on their investment as a result of the USAID FED support. By the end of December, a final concept note for the study had been approved and a SoW developed for review. It is anticipated that the study will commence in February 2015.

##### ***Activity 1.1.2.5 Gross margin per unit of land or animal of selected product (baselines)***

In Q1 of FY15, USAID FED initiated several activities to conduct a survey of the gross margin per unit of land and animal for selected products. The purpose of the survey is to measure the net profit earned by USAID FED farmers after deducting recurring costs (such as wages and materials). The gross margin survey will provide USAID FED with evidence-based analysis of production efficiencies and determine break-even points after production and sales for rice, cassava, horticulture and goat value chains. This will enable USAID FED to evaluate the profitability of farmers in the value chains as a result of USAID FED interventions, as well as challenges farmers are facing in terms of pricing and losses incurred during sales. During the quarter, the recruitment for the Special Studies and Surveys Advisor commenced. Once this position is hired, they will take the lead in determining gross margins for the four value chains among FY12, FY13, FY14 and FY15 farmer beneficiaries as applicable. The Advisor is expected to be on board by February 2015.

#### ***Deliverable 1.1.3 Equipment available and delivered to MoA for effective monitoring***

##### ***Activity 1.1.3.1 Equipment and materials procured for the MoA Offices in Nimba, Lofa and Grand Bassa Counties***

At the close of FY14, USAID FED procured 1 motorbike, 4 laptops, 1 printer, 4 GPS devices, 4 Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) and 4 internet modems to help boost the capabilities and efficiency of MoA's monitoring and reporting in Bong County. This initiative was to be piloted in Bong County for a period of six months, and replicated in Lofa, Nimba and Grand Bassa counties afterwards based on lessons learned.

USAID FED also conducted a rapid assessment to ascertain the gaps and weaknesses in the monitoring and evaluation activities of MoA in Bong County. However, the pilot program was delayed at the request of MoA until January 2015, in response to national priority to address the outbreak of Ebola in Liberia.

#### ***Deliverable 1.1.4 FED online database available and operational***

##### ***Activity 1.1.4.1 Recruitment of data repository system consulting firm***

USAID FED re-advertised the Request for Proposal (RfP) in order to solicit applications from more competent firms or consultants who will be contracted to design the online database. A Data Management and Reporting Specialist (DMRS) was recruited during Q1 to serve as the USAID FED focal point to manage the USAID FED database.

#### ***Deliverable 1.1.6 Technical assistance provided to all components for special studies***

In December 2015, USAID FED organized a planning session with Component I Leads on individual value chain concept note development. It was agreed that concept notes must precede all proposed Value Chain requests for Special Studies, and that all concept notes be submitted to the M&E unit in January in order to ensure prioritization. The M&E team shared a standard format for concept notes.

In Q2, USAID FED will contract two Special Studies and Surveys Advisors to lead the planning and implementation of 12 surveys and studies.

#### ***Other M&E activities in support of Component I***

##### ***FY15 Beneficiary verification***

During Q1 of FY15, the USAID FED team commenced verification of the recruited FY15 beneficiaries for the value chains. 13 ICs were contracted within the counties to assist the County Office with data entry. This data entry exercise will be completed in January 2015.

##### ***FY14 Rice yield data collection***

During the reporting period, USAID FED started collecting rice samples to ascertain yields of the different technology sites established in FY14. The exercise is done in collaboration with the USAID FED Rice Value Chain and County Offices, and the sample collection was initiated in December. It is expected that the yield analysis will be completed by January.

##### ***Nutrition Messaging Survey***

During the reporting period, USAID FED conducted the Nutrition Messaging Survey in Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Bong, Lofa and Nimba counties. All survey information was collected by the end of December. It is expected that a final report of this survey will be submitted by February 2015.

## ***Sub Task 1.2 Input Supply***

### ***Activity 1.2.1.1 Support to establishment of commercial production and marketing of rice seeds***

#### ***Task 1.2.1.1.1 Technical Assistance (TA) and Business Development Support (BDS) to 22 Rice Seed Multiplication (RSM) site operators***

In Q1 of FY15, USAID FED conducted 3 inspections at the 22 FY14 rice seed multiplication sites by the 17 contracted rice seed inspectors. In total, the inspectors have conducted 66 inspections and submitted

their reports to USAID FED. According to these reports, thus far the protocols are being adhered to at all the sites. During the quarter, a total of 106 ha of upland sites and 31 ha of lowland sites were harvested (Table 34 and 35). However, inspections of the seed could not yet be undertaken as farmers had not completed harvesting and threshing. It is anticipated that final inspection results will be available by Q2 of FY15.

Table 34: RSM sites harvest – upland sites

County	Number Of Sites	Target Area (ha)	Harvested Area (Ha)	Pending Area to be harvested (Ha)	Volume Harvested (Mt)	Yields (MT/ha)
Grand Bassa	1	10.00	6.00	4.00	11.89	1.98
Bong	9	90.00	90.00	0.00	179.90	2.00
Nimba	1	10.00	0	10.00	0	0.00
Lofa	1	10.00	10.00	0.00	20.21	2.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>120.00</b>	<b>106.00</b>	<b>14.00</b>	<b>212.00</b>	<b>2</b>

Table 35: RSM sites harvest- lowland sites.

County	Number Of Sites	Target Area (ha)	Harvested Area (Ha)	Pending Area to be harvested (Ha)	Volume Harvested (Mt)	Yields (MT/ha)
Grand Bassa	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bong	5	20.00	20.00	0.00	109.20	5.46
Nimba	4	16.00	7	9.00	31.14	4.45
Lofa	1	4.00	4.00	0.00	16	4.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>40.00</b>	<b>31.00</b>	<b>9.00</b>	<b>156.34</b>	

#### **Task 1.2.1.1.2 Continuing support to 17 rice seed inspectors and training of additional inspectors**

The contracts of the 17 USAID FED recruited rice seed inspectors expired in December 2014. USAID FED will extend their contracts to ensure that the inspections cover the January harvest period. It is also anticipated that the inspectors will be retained to inspect the new rice seed multiplication sites that will be established in FY15. These seed inspectors are expected to eventually be hired by the legal body that will be mandated to certify seeds.

#### **Task 1.2.1.1.6 Identification and development of additional sites for rice seed production and training of new seed producers**

During the reporting period, USAID FED identified a total of 22 new rice seed multiplication sites, totaling 160 ha for support in FY15 (Table 36 and 37). The 22 additional sites will receive similar support to that provided to the FY14 sites. MoUs will be signed with the farmers during January 2015.

Table 36: Identified FY15 upland RSM sites by county

County	Number Of Sites	Ha per site	Target Area (ha)
Bassa	2	10	20
Bong	3	10	30
Nimba	3	10	30
Lofa	4	10	40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>120</b>

Table 37: Identified FY15 lowland RSM sites by county

County	Number Of Sites	Ha per site	Target Area (ha)
Bassa	2	4	8
Bong	3	4	12
Nimba	3	4	12
Lofa	2	4	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>40</b>

#### **Task 1.2.1.1.7 Collaboration with WAAP and WASP in developing the rice seed industry in Liberia**

Due to the Ebola outbreak in FY14, the WAAP and WASP focal points left Liberia and the discussions on possible partnerships between USAID FED and the 2 agencies could not be concluded. The focal point for the WAAP project returned to Liberia in December. During Q2 of FY15, USAID FED will pursue partnerships with WAAP and WASP to ensure that the rice seed multiplication sites are certified as compliant with rice seed multiplication protocols.

#### **Activity 1.2.1.2 Support to commercial production and marketing of cassava cuttings**

##### **Task 1.2.1.2.1 New improved varieties released by CARI distributed to and multiplied by 40 commercial nurseries**

CARI will complete the inspections of improved varieties under screening at the two screening sites in Lofa by March 2015. It is expected that the official release of suitable varieties will take place in May, after palatability tests are completed.

##### **Task 1.2.1.2.2 TA and BDS (advertising, business registration, record keeping, etc.) to 40 cassava nurseries**

The support for advertising and business registration for the 40 cassava commercial nurseries established in FY14 will be provided by the Business Development Support service providers that USAID FED will hire in FY15. Support will also be provided through the USAID FED Cassava Value Chain activities in the counties to ensure that the commercial nurseries keep proper business records of their transactions.

#### **Activity 1.2.1.3 Support to commercial production and marketing of vegetable (including legumes) seeds and seedlings**

##### **Task 1.2.1.3.2 Disease resistant varieties introduced and demonstrated**

In FY14, USAID FED received recommendations on disease resistant varieties of vegetable seed through assessments conducted by the USAID FED recruited Horticulture PUA Specialist, Emmanuel Owusu. In Q1 of FY15, the horticulture value chain procured hybrid vegetable seeds that will be distributed to 360 targeted high value vegetable farmers in six counties. These are listed under the Task I.C section of this report.

#### **Activity 1.2.3.4 UDP+SRI research**

##### **Task 1.2.3.4.1 Complete UDP+SRI research and carry out comparative analysis of cost and benefits vs. UDP only and SRI only**

In FY14, USAID FED identified four trial sites, totaling 2 ha, with year round water supply to implement UDP+SRI research activities with the aim of comparing yield results of UDP only application, SRI only application, and a combination of both methods. These sites are located in Gwenimah,

USAID Food and Enterprise Development Program for Liberia

Gbarngasiequelleh and Garmue 2 in Bong County and Taylay in Nimba County. During Q1 of FY15, the installation of water management infrastructure was completed in all sites except in Taylay.

Nurseries have been prepared but not seeded because the SRI technology requires seedlings to be transplanted at 10-12 days old, and UDP should then be applied 10 days after transplanting. There has been a delay because urea was unavailable in Liberia from October through December. USAID FED was informed by suppliers that they were not importing urea because they anticipate very minimal demand due to the Ebola outbreak. This situation has stalled the implementation of the UDP+SRI research activity.

## **Sub - Task 1.3 Extension Support**

### **Activity 1.3.1 Development of de-concentration and decentralization strategies with MOA**

#### **Task 1.3.1.1 Working group established in collaboration with MOA to evaluate existing strategies and to develop new strategies that address the need to de-concentrate and decentralize extension**

During the month of December 2014, USAID FED held two consultative meetings with MoA Deputy Minister Thomas Gbokie and his team to develop a common understanding of USAID FED's FY15 work plan, and to agree on a common approach to MoA's decentralization strategy. As a result of these meetings held on December 16 and 23, a Technical Working Group was established to review existing decentralization strategies contained in MoA's policy documents. The Technical Working Group will meet in January to officially agree on its mandate, as well as to develop a timeline on the implementation of the process. It was also agreed that value chain specific working groups may be established to focus on commodity specific issues. These working groups may also include the County Agriculture Development Coordination Committees (ADCCS).

### **Activity 1.3.3 Development of extension material and information access points**

#### **Task 1.3.3.1 Develop extension material and packages covering technical aspects of production techniques, production planning, integrated pest and disease management, variety selection and post-harvest handling developed for rice, cassava, goats and horticulture value chains**

##### **Support to Nutrition Activity 4.3.1 (Design nutrition printed materials for distribution)**

In October, USAID FED revised and repackaged the nutrition poster after feedback from the USAID Nutrition focal person and MoA. A total of 2,000 copies of these posters will be printed once the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) gives final approval for the developed poster. This activity is part of Nutrition activity 4.3.1.

The USAID FED Extension Unit completed the revision of the Lowland Rice Production Manual developed by STTA Rice Technical Specialist, Dr. Pandian Balamurugan. USAID FED edited and packaged the manual to conform to USAID branding regulations.

#### **Task 1.3.3.3 Demonstration sites for training and technology transfer established in collaboration with MoA and ADCCs in Bong, Nimba, Lofa and Grand Bassa counties (one in each county)**

To support the creation of demonstration sites for training and technology transfer, USAID FED identified 16 possible sites (4 per county) where these demonstration sites could be established to showcase the four USAID FED-supported value chains. GPS coordinates of the sites were also collected. The MoA County Agriculture Coordinators (CACs) and District Agriculture Officers (DAOs) will verify

USAID Food and Enterprise Development Program for Liberia

the sites in January. USAID FED proposed that, rather than establish brand new demonstration sites, existing USAID FED supported sites could be utilized for demonstrations and training.

**Task 1.3.3.5 Agricultural radio program content for monthly radio shows produced in collaboration with communications unit and five community radio stations**

In FY14, USAID FED and UNMIL Radio partnered in broadcasting an agriculture radio program “On the Farm” on UNMIL Radio. During quarter one of FY15, USAID FED collected content material towards development of 30 minute radio programs. This included content on cassava production and processing from Ballama Cassava Farming Group and Welekama Women’s Group in Bong, as well as industrial cassava processing and packaging by a medium-sized processor RASA Liberia Inc. in Montserrado County. However, the “On the Farm” program which was previously aired on UNMIL Radio, has been temporarily suspended pending conclusion of collaboration agreements with MoA. The new collaboration will allow for the airing of the program on the national station ELBC 99.9 FM, UNMIL Radio 91.5 FM and Truth Radio 96.1 FM.

USAID FED also visited several sites in Lofa County between November 10 and 15 to document (using video) harvests from fields where Urea Deep Placement (UDP) technologies were applied (Figure 6). Interviews were conducted with Kobake Farmer Association in Gwenimah, Agriculture Infrastructure Investment Corporation in Sarkonidu, as well as Rice and Food Crops Farmer Union, Mayor Farmer Association and Bayer Farmer Association in Foya. This video provides farmers experiences on the application of UDP on yield. The video will be ready for review during the month of January 2015.



Figure 6: Official launch of Mayor Farmers Association rice harvest, Foya, Lofa County.

## Sub Task 1.4 Youth in Agribusiness

### Activity 1.4.1 Establishment of agribusiness horticulture pilots

**Task 1.4.1.1 Identification of 500 youth in 25 clusters in 2 counties of Montserrado and Margibi:**

In FY15, USAID FED plans to support youth farmers to establish agribusiness pilots that will focus primarily on peri-urban and urban vegetable production, as well as ancillary support services such as aggregation and trading. Towards this, USAID FED will mobilize at least 500 youth farmers in 25 clusters towards establishment of these enterprises for production of high value vegetables for the expat market serviced by lead firms such as Grain Coast and ROSNA.

During Q1 of FY15, USAID FED identified a total 25 clusters, each with 20 youth in Montserrado and Margibi counties (Table 38). USAID FED identified a total of 500 youth (271 male, 229 female) between the ages of 18 to 35 years of age in the two counties as part of the recruitment process (Table 39). Each of the youth farmers are expected to cultivate a combination of high value and local vegetables on a minimum of 0.25 ha. The 25 agribusiness pilots would implement production on a total of 125 ha.

During January 2015, USAID FED will sign MoUs with these youth groups and map the clusters with assistance of the USAID FED GIS specialist.

Table 38: Identification of youth clusters.

County	FY 15 Cluster Targets	FY15 Youth Targets	# of Clusters Identified in Oct	# of Clusters Identified in Nov	# of Clusters Identified in Dec	# of Clusters Identified YTD
Montserrado	18	360	13	3	2	18
Margibi	7	140	6	0	1	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>25</b>

Table 39: Recruitment of youth farmers.

County	FY15 Youth Targets	# of Youth Identified in Oct	# of Youth Identified in Nov	# of Youth Identified in Dec	# of Youth Identified YTD	Male		Female		# of Ha
						No:	%	No:	%	
Montserrado	360	260	60	40	360	191	(53%)	169	(47%)	90
Margibi	140	120	0	20	140	80	(57%)	60	(43%)	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>(54%)</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>(46%)</b>	<b>125</b>

#### Activity 1.4.2 Supporting job creation through youth extension aides

##### **Task: 1.4.2.1 Identify and recruit 25 youth extension aides to support agribusiness pilots:**

Towards creating opportunities for job creation for the youth, USAID FED planned in FY15 to recruit and deploy 25 young graduates from universities and technical institutions with qualifications in general agriculture to support the 25 agribusiness pilots in Montserrado and Margibi as youth extension aides. In addition, a Local NGO (LNGO) would be contracted to provide technical assistance and oversight during implementation of these pilots.

During Q1 FY15, USAID FED developed Scopes of Work and the recruitment process for the LNGO commenced. The LNGO will be selected in January 2015 when all applications have been received and reviewed. The contracted LNGO will also be responsible for the recruitment and deployment of these 25 youth extension aides.

#### Activity 1.4.3 Supporting job creation through youth enterprises as transport service providers

##### **Task: 1.4.3.1 Identify and recruit 49 youth towards establishment of transport businesses:**

During FY14, USAID FED established 10 community rice business hubs to support aggregation, milling and marketing of paddy rice from production clusters in the four counties. USAID FED identified 29 cassava micro-processors to support aggregation and processing of the cassava tuber. These processing hubs will provide rice and cassava farmers with milling and processing services, as well as a readily accessible market for their raw produce. In FY15, FED will also establish 10 additional rice business hubs in tandem with its expansion of lowland rice production.

However, most of the individual farmers face high costs of transportation due to poor aggregation and limited number of transport service providers between the clusters and processors or markets. Towards addressing the above constraints, USAID FED in FY15 plans to support the establishment of

youth led transport enterprises around the 20 rice business hubs and 29 cassava micro-processors. This would not only reduce transport costs for farmers through better aggregation, but also create employment opportunities for the youth through the enterprises and facilitate delivery of raw materials to processors.

During Q1 FY15, a total of 48 youth have been identified as potential entrepreneurs for engagement. The identification process took longer than expected due to the stringent selection criteria that require the youth to be currently engaged in such enterprises, their ability to cost share in establishing these businesses and their proximity to the rice business hubs and cassava micro-processors (Table 40). The selection of the youth will be completed in January 2015 and baselines for these businesses established. USAID FED will provide each of the 49 transport enterprises with a three-wheel motorbike through cost share, as well as business management training.

Table 40: Identification of youth entrepreneurs (Transport services).

County	FY15 Youth Targets	# of Youth Identified in Oct	# of Youth Identified in Nov	# of Youth Identified in Dec	# of Youth Identified YTD	Male		Female	
						No	%	No	%
Bong	17	0	9	1	10	9	(90%)	1	(10%)
Lofa	13	0	10	0	10	8	(80%)	2	(20%)
Nimba	15	5	17	2	24	14	(58%)	10	(42%)
Grand Bassa	4	0	4	0	4	4	(100%)	0	(0%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>(73%)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>(27%)</b>

#### Activity 1.4.4 Supporting job creation through youth enterprises as power tiller service providers

##### Task: 1.4.4.1 Identify and recruit 20 youth towards establishment of power tiller businesses:

Since FY12, USAID FED has assisted 20,741 farmers in establishing 3,526 ha of lowland rice fields in the four core counties. Labor remains one of the high cost centers for farmers in the lowlands, as most farmers have no access to animal traction and limited access to mechanized services (power saws and power tillers). Most of the land preparation activities are conducted through manual labor. This in turn increases the overall cost of production to the farmer. It has also been established that the cost of land preparation with mechanization on lowlands is \$1,039 per ha, in comparison to \$1,493 per ha when manual labor is used.

In order to increase access to mechanized services for lowland rice clusters, in FY15 USAID FED plans to engage and support 20 youth entrepreneurs who can engage in the power tiller business. During quarter one of the reporting period, a total of 20 potential youth entrepreneurs were identified across the four counties (Table 41). During the month of January 2015, the baselines of these businesses in terms of profitability will be established, target for improving profitability will be set, and MoUs signed with the entrepreneurs.

Table 41: Identification of youth entrepreneurs (power tillers).

County	FY15 Youth Targets	# of Youth Identified in Oct	# of Youth Identified in Nov	# of Youth Identified in Dec	# of Youth Identified YTD	Male		Female	
						No	%	No	%
Bong	5	0	5	0	5	(100%)	0	(0%)	
Lofa	7	0	5	2	7	6	(86%)	1	(14%)
Nimba	5	0	5	0	5	5	(100%)	0	(0%)

USAID Food and Enterprise Development Program for Liberia

Quarterly Report, Q1 FY 2015

Grand Bassa	3	0	3	0	3	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19 (95%)</b>	<b>1 (5%)</b>

#### Activity 1.4.5 Supporting job creation through training youth as machine operators

##### **Task: 1.4.5.1 Identify and train 98 youth towards operation of cassava and rice processing equipment:**

In FY14, USAID FED conducted baseline assessments for the 29 identified cassava processors in the counties. During these assessments, it was evident that the rice business hubs and cassava micro-processors required staff with technical skills to help them operate the milling and processing equipment. Further, these milling and processing enterprises can provide potential job opportunities for unemployed youth within the counties.

In FY15, USAID FED plans to train at least two youth per rice business hub and cassava processing facility on the operations of cassava processing or rice milling equipment. In total, 98 youth are expected to be trained to include youth for the 10 additional rice business hubs to be established during the year. By the end of quarter one, USAID FED identified a total of 98 youth between the ages of 18 and 35 years to participate in this training (Table 42). Upon completion of the training, the youth will be recommended to the cassava processors and rice business hubs for potential employment as part time or full time staff.

Table 42: Identification of trainee machine operators (cassava processing and rice mills).

County	Fy15 Youth Targets	# of Youth Identified in Oct	# of Youth Identified in Nov	# of Youth Identified in Dec	# of Youth Identified YTD	Male No %	Female No %
Bong	33	0	18	15	33	23 (70%)	10 (30%)
Lofa	24	0	8	16	24	13 (54%)	11 (46%)
Nimba	25	0	10	15	25	15 (60%)	10 (40%)
Grand Bassa	10	0	6	4	10	7 (70%)	3 (30%)
Montserrado	6	0	3	3	6	6 (100%)	0 (0%)
<b>TOTALs</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>64 (65%)</b>	<b>34 (35%)</b>

#### Activity 1.4.6 Supporting job creation through blacksmiths and carpenter enterprises

##### **Task: 1.4.5.1 Procure and distribute start up kits equipment and distribute to 16 youth apprentices:**

In FY14, USAID FED identified eight youth (two per county) to train as carpenters under apprenticeship. As additional eight youth (two per county) were identified and selected for similar apprenticeship support during FY15. During quarter one of FY15, the 16 identified youth carpenters (all male) were trained in Bong, Nimba, Lofa and Grand Bassa counties. Subsequent to the training, USAID FED distributed start-up kits to the 16 carpentry apprentices, which included safety goggles, hammer, crosscut saw, clamps, wood chisels, nail puller, measure tape, utility knife, tool box, sliding T bevel, working gloves, putty knives and a tool bag valued at \$399 per apprentice. The youth carpenters will assist with the construction of FY15 goat production shelters in the counties. They will also receive training on managing small enterprises during quarter two of FY15.

##### **Task: 1.4.5.2 Conduct training for 8 master blacksmith and 16 youths as apprentice blacksmiths:**

In FY14, USAID FED identified eight youth (two per county) to train as blacksmiths under apprenticeship. An additional eight youth (two per county) were identified and selected for similar

apprenticeship support during FY15. During quarter one of FY15, the 16 youth blacksmiths (16 male, 0 female) started a three month apprenticeship program under eight selected master blacksmiths in Bong, Nimba, Lofa, and Grand Bassa counties (two master blacksmiths per county). The apprentices are being trained on how to fabricate local farming tools in order to create access to tools for rural farmers. The apprenticeship program is anticipated to end in February 2015. At the end of the training, each of the 16 apprentices will receive a set toolkit to enable them to establish blacksmith shops to provide affordable farming tools to local farmers in Bong, Lofa, Nimba and Grand Bassa counties.

## **Subtask 1.5: Improving Human Nutrition through Diet Diversity**

### **Activity 1.5.1 Development of Diet Behavior-Change Communications (DBCC) Strategy**

#### **Task 1.5.1.1 Hiring of Behavior Change Specialist:**

In FY15, USAID FED will be recruiting a Behavior Change Specialist (International STTA) who will spearhead and support development of a Diet Behavior Change Communications (DBCC) strategy for implementation. During quarter one of FY15, DAI HO advertised for the position and five CVs were shortlisted. Interviews for two potential candidates were conducted during the month of December. It is anticipated that a final candidate will be recruited by the end of January 2015.

### **Activity 1.5.2 DBCC Strategy implemented and monitored**

#### **Task 1.5.2.1 Community materials printed and multiplied for dissemination:**

The implementation of this activity is dependent on the successful development of the DBCC strategy by the Behavior Change Specialist, who is expected to be recruited by February 2015. This activity will be carried out during the period quarter two all through to quarter four of FY15.

### **Activity 1.5.3 Nutrition messaging outreach to more households**

#### **Task 1.5.3.1 Revise existing material, develop posters, flyers and radio messages conveying nutrition messaging with specific focus on behavior change targeting: diet diversification within HH I general and for pregnant women and children under two years:**

In Q1 FY15, USAID FED developed a nutrition poster in collaboration with the MoA which will be used in disseminating nutrition messages. The poster was tested during a one day Essential Nutrition Actions (ENA) Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop by VSLA chairladies and Community Field Officers (CFOs) in Lofa County during November (Figure 7). During the workshop 25 participants (2 male, 23 female) received direct nutritional messages and learnt about diet diversification and the importance of proper nutrition for pregnant women and children. The training also emphasized the need to disseminate accurate messages to members of their groups and respective communities.



Figure 7: Participants during VSLA Chairladies Nutrition Workshop, Lofa County.

## Component Two: Stimulate Private Sector Growth and Investment

### Task 2: Enabling Policy Environment for Private Sector Growth

#### Policy Reform Activities

Due to the Ebola crisis and the limited in-country availability of both USAID FED and partner staff, operations of the technical working groups have been suspended until further notice. This includes the Liberia Agriculture Business Enabling Environment Inter-agency Policy Group (LABEE IPG) and the technical working group. These groups will be reactivated in Q2 to push for the development and putting in place of implementing guidelines for the seed, fertilizer and pesticides regulations.

#### Subtask 2.1: Access to Credit and Business Development Services

Since Q4 of 2013, USAID FED has supported the creation of 123 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) for 3,400 farmers (mostly women). Through the month of October 2014, the VSLA groups have generated access to capital for investment in agricultural activities in the amount of US\$150,196.

VSLAs that have ‘graduated’ and shared out after the first cycle are eligible to apply for loans from the Central Bank’s Loan Extension and Availability Facility (LEAF). Twenty-six (26) of FED’s VSLAs are eligible for these loans. The loans, which are typically three years with quarterly payments at 3% annual interest rate, will be used by the VSLAs for on-lending to their members.

The Central Bank of Liberia facilitated the creation of The National Association of Village Savings and Loan Association (NAPEX) to streamline the application process. NAPEX has elected leadership structures from a base of existing VSLAs at the national, county and district levels throughout the 15 counties.

NAPEX is intended to enhance the delivery of information among member VSLAs in a coordinated fashion, provide the opportunity for feedback on the implementation of activities, and help the Central Bank improve risk management by assisting in loan origination due diligence and the repayment process. All VSLAs wishing to apply for loans through LEAD will be required to register with NAPEX. USAID FED aims to assist 50 of its VSLAs in registering with NAPEX.

As of Q1 FY15, a total of 3,190 women were active members of the 123 USAID FED-supported VSLA groups in the Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Nimba and Lofa counties. The total amount of shares purchased/loan pool by the 123 groups in the six counties was \$ 87,196. From the generated loan amount, \$107,967 was disbursed to 1,795 women as loan on 10% interest payable in three months.

Loan repayments were also made from the past loan put out totaling \$96,746. Sales made by VSLA groups for USAID FED Value Chains are as follows: rice \$17, 604, cassava \$14,670, vegetables \$27,534 and goats \$3,530. The overall sales are \$63,338. The number of persons hired for farming work is 2,818 and the number of days work is 2,385.

#### Activity 2.2.1 Village Savings and Loan Expansion

USAID FED will scale up the number of VSLAs with FY14 farming clusters to support additional liquidity of the farmers. The loans will be used for investment in farming businesses and for building skills and knowledge of saving and accessing credit. In FY15, USAID FED will outsource the training and management of the program to a LINGO business development service provider. USAID FED will partner with the United Nation Capital Development Fund's (UNCDF) Microlead to expand the VSLA methodology to reach more of USAID FED's farmers. USAID FED will link established and successful VSLAs with NAPEX in order to register and apply for additional funding from the Central Bank of Liberia. USAID FED will source VSLAs from the existing Year 3 pool of farming clusters that have not received VSLA training and mentorship in Year 3 (approximately 250 new groups).

### **Task 2.2.1.1 RFP for VSLA NGO**

#### **Issue a Request for Proposal to find a local NGO to implement VSLA expansion program.**

During the reporting period, USAID FED developed a Request for Proposals (RfP) to recruit a LINGO responsible for implementing the FY15 VSLA program. USAID FED selected two out of the four proposals and expects to select a LINGO by January 2015. The selected LINGO will provide technical support and will also be responsible for collecting data from the 123 VSLA groups and providing reports.

### **Task 2.2.1.9 Monitoring and reporting on ALL FED-sponsored VSLA Groups**

During the reporting period, 20 USAID FED recruited Community Finance Officers (CFO) and four Loan Extension Assistants (LEA) from the six counties collected data from the 123 existing VSLA groups (Table 43 and 44). Throughout the period, the USAID FED recruited LINGO will be responsible for collecting and reporting VSLA, sales, and job creation data from groups in the six counties.

Table 433: VSLA activity data collection as of Q1 FY15.

No	County	VSLA Active Members	# Persons Got VSLA loan	Total VSLA Loan Disbursed	Total VSLA Loan Repaid	# Persons Hired for Work	# Days Worked
1	Margibi	226	28	2,040.	3,150	23	19
2	Montserrado	220	20	1,459.	2,018.	20	21
3	Bassa	604	340	16,084	19,117.	290	410
4	Bong	655	106	3,829.	2,062.	400	29
5	Nimba	735	858	49,319.	41,908.	1275	1933
6	Lofa	750	443	35,236.	27,891	810	273
7	<b>Total</b>	<b>3190</b>	<b>1795</b>	<b>107,967.</b>	<b>96746.</b>	<b>2818</b>	<b>2385</b>

Table 44: VSLA sales report for Q1.

#	Value chains	Rice	Cassava	Vegetable	Goat	Total
1	Sales value	\$17,604	\$14,670	\$27,534	\$3,530	\$63,338.00

### **Activity 2.2.3: Extension of Micro Finance to Farmers and Entrepreneurs**

#### **Task 2.2.3.1 MoU and Order Equipment for LEAD**

In FY14, LEAD was given an additional grant of \$ 237,000 from USADF which will be made available in FY15 for USAID FED farmers and entrepreneurs in processing and trading.

During the reporting period, USAID FED developed a MoU with LEAD and United States Africa Development Fund (USADF). The MoU has been finalized and will be signed in January 2015.

#### **Task 2.2.3.3 Recruitment of Farming Groups / MSMEs for Loans**

USAID Food and Enterprise Development Program for Liberia

Quarterly Report, Q1 FY 2015

For the first time in Lofa’s history, local farming organizations received MFI loans totaling \$39,930 through micro-finance institution, LEAD (Table 45). LEAD is a beneficiary of the USADF \$237,000 grant which LEAD uses to provide loans to USAID FED farming organizations.

Table 45: Farming group loans as per Q1 FY15.

No	Group Name	Community	Value Chain	# Persons Got Loan	Loan disbursed	Duration	Loan Purpose
1	Rice and Food crops	Foya	Rice	75	\$5,000.	6 months	To buy paddy Rice
2	Mayor Farmer Association	Foya	Rice	100	\$6,000.	6 Months	To expand production
3	Zeelie Famers Association	Voinjama	Rice	41	\$10,000.	6 Months	To buy paddy Rice
4	AHC	Voinjama	Rice	1	\$6,000.	6 Months	To buy paddy Rice
5	Welekema	Sucrumu	Cassava	39	\$3,500	6 Months	Establish Cassava processing hub
6	Flomoku & Friends	Zorzor	Cassava	50	\$3,500.	6Months	Establish cassava processing hub
7	Voinjama Dist.Women Org for Peace	Voinjama	Vegetable	53	\$1,900.	6 Months	To expand production
8	RAP	Salayea	Vegetable	50	\$2,000.	6 Months	To expand production
9	Abacus Jallah	Kolahun	Rice	59	\$2,000.	6 Months	To buy paddy Rice
<b>10</b>				<b>459</b>	<b>\$39,900</b>		

## Subtask 2.2: Access to Business Development Support (BDS) Services and Enterprise Service Centers

### Activity 2.3.1 Develop Five Business Service Providers

#### Task 2.3.1.1 Train Business Service Providers

The selection and hiring process of a local Master Business Service Provider (MBSP) that is experienced in providing business management, planning and farming as a business training is nearing completion. The MBSP will train the Business Service Providers (BSPs) who will in turn train the farmers and other MSMEs in USAID FED’s value chains. The MBSP is expected to be hired in January.

#### Task 2.3.1.2 Hire Business Service Providers to deliver Business Development Services

During the month of November 2014, USAID FED issued a Request for Proposal (RfP) for the selection and hiring of five business service providers (BSPs) in Montserrado/Margibi, Bong, Lofa, Nimba and Grand Bassa. These BSPs will train farmer organizations and other MSMEs in FED’s four value chains in basic business principles and practices including farming as a business for farmers and business start-up for micro enterprises. They will also help to get at least 250 enterprises registered as formal businesses in FY15.

## Subtask 2.3 Increase Women Participation in Agribusiness

### Leadership and Business Incubation for Women Entrepreneurs

In Q1 FY15, a total of 103 women entrepreneurs graduated from the USAID FED Leadership and Business Incubation for Women Entrepreneurs Training Program. During the reporting period, USAID FED conducted training sessions on leadership, effective communication, effective negotiation, public speaking, strategic planning, basic record keeping and basic business registration (Figure 8).

USAID Food and Enterprise Development Program for Liberia

Quarterly Report, Q1 FY 2015

The Leadership and Business Incubation program for Women Entrepreneurs aims to address two critical constraints facing women: lower human capital (leadership and business skills) and less access to networks and information. The project uses a combined capacity development approach through basic leadership and business skills training followed by mentorship and a virtual business incubation.

In FY15, USAID FED will assist a total of 25 women entrepreneurs in implementing their business plans, accessing financing, identification of new markets/buyers and improving overall profitability of their businesses. The 25 women entrepreneurs will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Must have participated in at least 90% of the FY14 Women in Leadership training workshop carried out by FED.
- Must demonstrate significant knowledge of basic business practices (record keeping, understanding of profit and cost, etc.)
- Must have an existing business or has experience in business
- Must have a sound business proposal
- Must be able to share in the cost (cash or in kind) of the investment (start-up or expansion) needed by the business she proposes to pursue.



*Figure 8: Mary Mawolo presenting her speech at the Leadership and Business Incubation Workshop, Lofa County.*

USAID FED is hiring a Women-Owned Enterprise Development Specialist (WEDS), who will provide advisory and technical support to the 25 women. The WEDS is expected to be in Liberia by February 2015.

## **Managerial Human Resource Capability**

### **Task 3 Develop Existing Vocational Centers into Centers of Excellence in Vocational Agriculture Education (CoE)**

#### ***Activity 3.0.4 Establish demonstration farms on improved technology and production practices***

During the reporting period, BWI sowed watermelon, okra, cucumber seeds and applied compost on the institutions' vegetable production site. Vegetables were planted on the following land areas:

- Watermelon- 1000 meter sq. (20x50)
- Okra- 800 meter sq. (16x50)
- Cucumber - 400 meter sq. (16x25)

BWI continued the cultivation of an additional land space to accommodate hot pepper, sweet pepper, egg plants, bitter ball, sweet corn and cabbage crop.

During the reporting period, the BWI production unit conducted major crop maintenance activities and site expansion targeting a one-hectare plot for vegetable production required for this dry season. According to BWI Farm Manager, an additional 2 ha vegetable site will be cultivated in January 2015 to meet the markets' demands. A total of 3 ha production sites will be used for student research and demonstration sites to enhance production activities at BWI. Fencing of the demo farms to protect crops from animals and thieves is a major task, while pest control is ongoing.

To address the concern of irrigation systems during the dry season, USAID FED has begun the process of hiring a firm to construct wells and set up irrigation systems at both GBCC and BWI to support the vegetable crops during the dry season.

### **Vegetable Harvest at BWI**

During the month of December, BWI harvested fresh okra (304 lbs), watermelon (1,390 lbs.) and cucumber (399 lbs.) from the institutions' USAID FED supported vegetable site. BWI harvested a total of 1,566 lbs. worth of vegetables and realized LD\$39,150.00 (\$500) in income.

Out of the total weight realized as mentioned above, revenue generated from 527 lbs. of watermelons patronized by USAID FED Monrovia office was **\$13,175.00 LD** (\$ 164).

### **Commercial Compost Production at BWI**

In December, BWI produced three compost piles in anticipation of readiness in February. BWI commenced compost production in December in anticipation of the preparation of 400 bags for the operation. The compost is intended to enhance crop production within the communities and other agriculture sectors in the country (Figure 9).



*Figure 9: Compost production in progress at BWI, Margibi County.*

### **Lofa County Community College Farm Development Enterprises**



*Figure 10: LCCC Volunteer students participate in crop cutting exercise.*

In October, the Lofa County Community College (LCCC) harvested rice from its 2.4 ha farm (Figure 10). The yield, however, was low at 2.85MT from 2.4 ha. This activity did not receive assistance from FED due to the delay in the signing of the MoU between FED and the LCCC Administration resulting from prolonged negotiation on the terms of the MoU.

During the reporting period, LCCC threshed and bagged a total of 57 (50 kg) bags, or 2.85 MT of paddy rice (Nerica-L-19) from 3 ha. A total of 48 out of 60 plots were cultivated. USAID FED's support to the LCCC demo farm commenced in September after the rice had already

nd Enterprise Development Program for Liberia

been transplanted and was in its physiological stage. FED was unable to conduct the necessary technical site assessment prior to transplanting and establish corrective measures before transplanting.

USAID FED procured and delivered farming tools totaling US\$4,306 to LCCC. These tools and a shipment of five bags of USAID FED procured urea fertilizer were not yet utilized by the CoE during the 2014 farming season due to their late arrival. These inputs will be used during the 2015 farming season.

During the quarter, USAID FED put the following measures in place to achieve its targets:

- Work with USAID FED Water and Irrigation Management Specialist to conduct site assessments and provide technical advice for the next planting season.
- Time the various planting seasons and start early preparations/TAMIS approvals for the activities.
- Commence early procurement of farming inputs such as agro-chemicals to be dispatched to the field.

In December, USAID FED Irrigation Management Specialist assessed the LCCC lowland demonstration site and recommended technical solutions to address the low water supply at the lower end of the irrigation scheme problem. Recommendations included using a two cropping pattern to avoid planting crop from June to September 30, construct central drainage canal using six inch PVC pipes symmetrically from water retention head dike to the tail end of the scheme. The construction of the central drainage canal must be undertaken early January or February. The materials estimated for the second alternative is US\$713, while the cost estimate for the central drainage canal is US\$3,483 arriving at a total of US\$4,196.



Figure 11: Tool assortment received by LCCC, Lofa County.

### **LCCC Goat Shelter Construction**

During the reporting period, LCCC received 488 planks of wood and construction materials required for goat shelter construction. The wood was identified in Voinjama, Lofa County and was part of LCCC's contribution towards the construction of the goat shelter (Figure 11). In December, USAID FED recruited a lead carpenter to supervise the goat shelter construction. The goat shelter is constructed to support the development of the rice farming and goat rearing at LCCC.



Figure 12: USAID Representative at NCCC Cassava Demo Site, Nimba County.

### **Nimba County Community College Farm Development Enterprises**

In October, USAID Representative, Jackollie Mulbah, met USAID FED supported cassava, goat, rice farmers and volunteer students and support staff at Nimba County Community College (NCCC) cassava demonstration site to get an update of farming activities (Figure 12). NCCC students are conducting routine farm maintenance activities

on the cassava farms.

Over 1,000 mounds and ridges have been planted with cassava cuttings and out of the 5.2 ha provided by the CoE for enterprise development, 1.2 ha is already under cultivation. A total of 1.075ha has been planted with cassava using improved methods. Planting to complete the 1.2ha is ongoing.

The first and second weeding of the paddy field for the rice demo site has been completed and the application of fertilizer through top dressing has been completed by volunteer students.

### **NCCC Goat Shelters Construction**

USAID FED completed and officially turned over the goat shelter which comprises general housing, maternity and quarantine center to Nimba County Community College (NCCC) (Figure 13). The goat shelter is part of USAID FED's farm development activity which supports NCCC's National Diploma in Agriculture (NDA) practical sessions and also aims at generating income for the Center of Excellence.



*Figure 13: NCCC Goat shelter including general housing, maternity and quarantine centers, Nimba County.*

### **GRAND BASSA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

During the reporting period, USAID FED met the Grand Bassa County Community College (GBCC) Vegetable Enterprise Team to discuss progress of the operation. The clearing of the vegetable cultivation site is in progress and the 1 ha of land for cultivation is 85% complete. The chili pepper, bitter ball and eggplant crops are planted in nurseries.

USAID FED and GBCC also visited the vegetable enterprise site under cultivation at the Paynesberry Campus. During the visit USAID FED confirmed that GBCC received the USAID FED procured wood chipper. GBCC has hired five casual workers who are presently clearing the site. Transplanting seedlings will commence soon.

## **Deliverable 3.1 The National Diploma in Agriculture (NDA) Program Developed and Adopted**

### **Task 3.1.1.1 Organize Official launching of NDA to include stakeholders**

#### **Booker Washington Institute**

During Q1, USAID FED met with Booker Washington Institute (BWI) Principal Alexander Massey at the CoE to discuss the status of USAID FED supported farm development enterprises, library and roll out of the National Diploma in Agriculture (NDA) program. BWI Principal solicited USAID FED's support

to rehabilitate the four classroom structures set aside for the NDA program roll out (Figure 14). Major renovation includes:

- Window and chair reconditioning and painting
- Arm chair repair
- Renovation of four classrooms adjacent to the Agriculture Department to exclusively host NDA students
- Library renovation to improve ventilation, lighting system and the general outfitting

According to Massey, the NDA program will boost activities at BWI's Agriculture Department and could increase student enrollment.

During the reporting period, USAID FED approved approximately US\$14,000 towards the renovation of BWI's four classroom blocks based on an assessment and estimate review conducted by USAID FED Senior Engineer and BWI technical team.

USAID FED and BWI signed an MoU to renovate the four classrooms at the CoE. Under this agreement, BWI will provide the labor force to conduct the construction works, while USAID FED will provide the specified construction materials.



Figure 14: One of the classrooms in need of renovation at BWI, Margibi County.

USAID FED also visited the newly renovated students' assembly room and BWI library. The BWI library is in overall good condition, but work needs to be done to address some issues. According to BWI Head Librarian, Daisy Fahnbulleh, rain water damages books when water seeps into the library.

### ***Task 3.1.1.2 Distribute posters and flyers, host talk shows on radio and engage high level schools to kick start promotional campaign geared towards the enhancement of double enrollment in program during Academic Year 2014/2015***

USAID FED targeted the printing and distribution of the NDA poster and flyers for November and December 2014. The activity could not be carried out as a result of the closure of schools due to the Ebola outbreak. Printing of the materials has been put on hold until schools re-open.

### ***Activity 3.1.2 Practical exercises incorporated in the lesson plans***

#### ***Task 3.1.2.1 Technical staff to carry out reconnaissance of potential field/facility demo sites***

This activity intends to find agriculture and agribusiness facilities owned and operated by the private sector that can be used as demonstration sites for students enrolled in the NDA. This will be done in Q2 upon the return of USAID FED and CoE staff from a tour of vocational educational institutions in Ghana.

It is anticipated that after completion of the reconnaissance exercise, USAID FED and the CoEs will begin negotiations with these farm/ facility owners and finalize MoU's in order to establish partnerships with the institutions. The inclusion of farm/facility owners is intended to incorporate additional practical exercises into the NDA program lesson plans.

### **Activity 3.1.4 Development of internship programs with industry players and finalization of MoUs**

#### **Task 3.1.4.1 Hold consultative meetings with industrial players for possible recruitment of interns**

During Q1, USAID FED was expected to hold consultative meetings with industrial players for the possible recruitment of interns from the community colleges. The challenge faced during the period was that private sector stake holder representatives departed the country due to the Ebola outbreak, thus the activity was not carried out. USAID FED and the CoEs will engage these stakeholders in Q2.

### **Deliverable 3.2 Instructors Skill Development Program Established**

#### **Activity 3.2.3 Exposure visit to vocational education in ECOWAS region**

##### **Task 3.2.3.2 FED coordinates with CoEs for selection of representatives**

In July & August, USAID FED Vocational Education Specialist STTA, Patrick Ofori appraised Agriculture Vocational Training Institutes and Agricultural Colleges from different regions of Ghana. He has identified three institutions that would meet the objectives of the exposure trip for staff from the USAID FED-supported CoEs. The trip aims for administrators, instructors and business managers from USAID FED's CoEs to gain insights from how these more advanced vocational institutions deliver their vocational programs, generate revenues to sustain their operations, and ensure sustainable management of the institution, and assure employment for the graduates. The expectation is that when the participants come back, they will come up with a plan on how to improve management of the institutions, enhance delivery of the NDA and how to run their agricultural enterprises more profitably.

The vocational institutions that will be visited are as follows:

1. Animal Health and Production College (AHPC) in Pong-Tamale
2. Kwadaso Agric. College (KAC) in Kwadaso Kumasi
3. Adidome Farm Institute (AFI) in Adidome, Sogakupe

USAID FED supported CoEs commenced the selection process for representatives from the agriculture, business and administrative departments to participate in the exposure visit to the three selected vocational educational institutions in Ghana. The two-week exposure trip is anticipated to happen in February 2015.

### **Deliverable 3.3 Provision of Appropriate Equipment and Facilities**

#### **Task 3.3.1.1 Recruit and mobilize construction firms to complete renovation and installation of all equipment and laboratory facilities**

USAID Food and Enterprise Development Program for Liberia

Quarterly Report, Q1 FY 2015

During the reporting period, Architecture and Engineering firm, Global Construction and Mechanical Company (GCMC) completed assessments of the buildings that will house the science laboratories in each of the CoEs. Further, the Purchase Order for GCMC's services was modified to include provision of supervision services during the soils laboratory constructions works.

USAID FED Senior Engineer, Jlateh Pajibo who has full responsibility for providing oversight supervision of the construction of the soils laboratory travelled to Nimba County (in November 2014) to conduct an on-site compliance, design and estimates review of the technical draft reports submitted by the Architecture and Engineering firm, Global Construction and Mechanical Company (GCMC) for the four Centers of Excellence.

USAID FED issued Request for Proposals (RfP) for the construction of soils laboratories at the CoEs on December 15, 2014. A bidder's conference has been scheduled on January 7, 2015 ahead of receiving final submission/proposals.

#### **Soil testing kits officially received by BWI**

USAID FED handed over the Hach soil testing kit to BWI Principal, Mr. Alexander Massey. The soil testing kit will be used at the laboratory for demonstration and learning exercises. In FY 14, two BWI instructors participated in a week long soil testing training in June 2014 at CARI in Bong County where they learned soil testing analysis methods using the Hach soils testing kit.

#### ***Task 3.3.2.1 Procure approved listing of textbooks and reference materials***

During Q1, USAID FED procured textbooks and reference materials for the CoE libraries. The shipment of scholastic materials is expected to arrive in Liberia for distribution to the CoE libraries in Q2.

#### ***Task 3.3.2.2 Establishment of flash website resource in libraries for utilization by faculty and students to support the NDA***

USAID FED completed the SOW for the development of a Flash Website for the CoEs. USAID FED is seeking a qualified DAI Home Office staff to assist with the assignment. Negotiations are currently ongoing with a number of staff. The actual development of the website is anticipated to happen in Q3.

#### **Activity 3.3.2 Library facilities upgraded, outfitted and effectively maintained**

#### ***Task 3.3.2.3 Recruit an expert librarian facilitator and organize intensive training workshop to equip librarians from the CoEs to effectively operate and maintain the libraries***

In November, USAID FED contracted Specialist Librarian, Mr Forkpa Kemah trained local librarian and library staff from BWI, LCCC, NCCC and GBCCC on how to effectively manage the operation and efficiently maintain the learning resources housed in their libraries in order that these are optimally used by current and future students for many years to come. The training took place at Suakoko, Bong County. The four day intensive training and workshop is the first of two phases. The next phase is scheduled for March 2015.

USAID Food and Enterprise Development Program for Liberia

Quarterly Report, Q1 FY 2015

In March the Specialist Librarian will travel to each of the four CoEs to mentor the librarians and assess the operation and maintenance of the libraries. The librarians are expected to manage books and reference materials in hard and electronic copies that will support the roll-out of the National Diploma in Agriculture (NDA).

#### *Library at the Grand Bassa Community College*

During Q1, USAID FED observed that the GBCC library may not have the capacity to accommodate the additional agriculture textbooks that the project intends to supply in support of the NDA. GBCC library shelves were overloaded by the volume of books and boxes of books placed on the floor. The GBCC Head Librarian, Oretha Diggs, stressed the need for a photocopier/printer in the library and requested USAID FED to support the cataloguing/shelving for setting up the new campus library. USAID will be discussing will be coming up with a plan in Q2 to support the organization of the GBCC library.

GBCCC's relocation to the new Paynesbury campus is not yet determined as there is still on-going construction. Outstanding work includes: the installation of steel window bars and an adequate lighting system, reconditioning of the bridge leading to Campus and setting up shelves, desks, chairs in the library to adequately accommodate students.

### **Deliverable 3.4 Build Capacity of CoEs to generate income from different sources**

#### **Activity 3.4.1 Develop and Implement 3-year strategic plan including priority enterprises to be established at the CoEs**

##### ***Task 3.4.1.4 Support the establishment of two to three feasible enterprises with business and marketing plans***

#### ***Booker Washington Institute (BWI)***

In November, USAID FED met with BWI Principal, Alexander Massey and the entire BWI Vegetable Enterprise Team to discuss the way forward for the vegetable enterprise. The following is a summary of pertinent points discussed during the meeting:

1. The BWI Vegetable Enterprise Management Team will have to work together for the success of the enterprise. The Business Manager and Marketing Manager will have to get more involved in enterprise operations.
2. BWI must provide the pipes needed to supply water to the vegetable farm.
3. Selective harvesting must be done at regular intervals for the okra and cucumber crops to bear.
4. BWI Principal spelled out the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Business and Marketing Managers. USAID FED advised that BWI Principal gives each member of the Vegetable Enterprise a letter of appointment with their ToRs to enable them to better function.
5. It was agreed that the BWI Management will employ five persons to help produce compost. Compost making commenced on November 27, 2014.
6. BWI must finalize and send the financial policies and marketing plan to USAID FED.

The BWI Principal agreed to provide the pipes needed to supply water to the vegetable site while USAID FED constructs the well and irrigation system.

The marketing plan and production plan for the vegetable enterprise of BWI have been drafted. These are undergoing review and revisions based on feedback from USAID FED. At the initial stage, BWI will be selling their produce only to the local market. They aim to later sell to supermarkets in Monrovia.

BWI, with assistance from FED, is in the process of preparing their business and marketing plans for their composting enterprises. These plans are anticipated to be finalized in Q2.

**Grand Bassa Community College (GBCC)**

GBCC’s production plan for cassava was developed during the period, and they are writing their marketing plan.

**NIMBA County Community College (NCCC)**

During the Q1, two enterprises were established at NCCC, cassava and goat. A strategic committee was set up by the management to develop a business and marketing plans for the two enterprises. The business plan for the cassava enterprise has been developed and submitted to FED for review and finalization.

USAID FED and NCCC Marketing and NCCC Business Managers conducted a three day market survey of cassava products, covering 25 vendors in Voinjama, Lofa County, as part of the development of the CoE’s cassava enterprise plan (Table 46). The compiled field data has been submitted to the NCCC Marketing Manager for analysis and for the development of a marketing plan.

*Table 46: Enterprise established at NCCC.*

	<b>Product for market</b>	<b>Market</b>
<b>Cassava Enterprise</b>	Cassavas chips, cassava- bread, starch, fufu,	Internal and external, including: bordering communities in Guniee & Cote d’ivoire

**LOFA County Community College (LCCC)**

**Goat and Lowland Rice Enterprise Business Plans**

During the reporting period, USAID FED supported LCCC in completing the first draft of the CoE’s business plans for the goat and lowland rice enterprise. The draft has been submitted to USAID FED for review and feedback. The draft financial policy document of LCCC has also been submitted to USAID FED. Both documents have been reviewed by FED. Comments have been made and the documents were returned to LCCC for revisions.

**LCCC goat and lowland rice enterprise buyer survey** USAID FED and the LCCC Marketing Manager and Farm Manager conducted a one day marketing survey for seed rice and paddy rice sales and goat sales covering vendors in Kolahun, Foyah and Voinjama. The survey is intended to support the establishment of the goat and rice enterprises at LCCC.

Survey data has been compiled and submitted to the Marketing Manager for interpretation. The survey results will feed into the market analysis for the business plan development. During the exercise, the survey team visited the New Foya Market, several cooperatives in Foya, the Kolahum Brothers Cooperatives and Kolahum Central Market.

## Component Four: Cross-Cutting Tasks

### **Task 4.1: Communications/Knowledge Management** **USAID FED Media Stories**

USAID FED submitted 2 success stories for USAID approval. The stories are titled:

1. Higher Demand for Cassava Presents Farmers with Marketing Opportunity (Cassava, Nimba County)
2. Young Entrepreneur Dreams Big for Animal Farming (Goats, Lofa County)

### **Task 4.2: Environmental Compliance**

During the reporting period, USAID FED conducted site visits to (3) goat sites, (2) lowland rice sites, and (2) cassava sites in Grand Bassa County. The project remains resolved on the Reg. 216 requirement and will undertake to ensure that no un-degraded lowland or uplands landscape is introduced in the USAID FED project.

USAID FED also conducted site visits to seven (7) lowland sites, the cassava varietal screening sites, and two goat production intensification sites in Lofa County to assess their compliance to the Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (EMMP), and to update the projects' environmental files. Issues observed in the field are discussed with the County Manager and respective technical leads for onward action.

USAID FED also reviewed and accepted the Environmental Impact Assessment that was submitted to the EPA by Earth Environmental Consultancy on behalf of FABRAR. The permit from the EPA is expected to be issued to Fabrar for the biomass generator in Q2. USAID FED will then commence the procurement process for the biomass generator.

## Component Five: Management & Operations

### Market Development Fund (MDF) FY15 Quarter I

#### **MDF Disbursements**

During Q1 of 2015, the Market Development Fund (MDF) expended **\$1,217,077.33** on sixty-four activities across FED's three components.

#### **MDF Commitments**

During Quarter I, activity development under MDF/TAMIS ramped up for the 2015 agricultural season. The MDF technical committee reviewed and approved fifteen activities under CLIN01, three activities under CLIN02, and four activities under CLIN03, which total **\$5,495,553.91**.

## **Operations and IT**

During the period, USAID FED Operations accomplished the following:

- Delivered rice processing equipment and materials to beneficiaries in Lofa, Nimba, Bong and Grand Bassa counties.
- Finalized the disposition of two 15-17 KVA generators to USAID FED-supported cassava processors, Liberia Business Incubator and Falama.
- Recruited a Light Duty/Motorcycle Mechanic and Driver who has motorcycle trainer, vehicle and generator mechanic and motorcycle repairer expertise. It is anticipated that his recruitment will result in a reduction in vehicle maintenance costs.
- Delivered ten green-houses to beneficiaries in Margibi and Montserrado counties.
- Conducted maintenance on USAID FED systems in the Field and Monrovia Offices.

USAID FED issued an RfP to scout a new fiber optic link service provider to provide better internet services to the project. Internet service provider, Novafone, won the bid. In FY15, USAID FED field offices will move from V-Sat to fiber optic link.

## **Procurement**

During Q1 FY15, USAID FED received and coordinated all operations related requisitions and conducted market surveys to acquire best value for goods and services needed. USAID FED accomplished the following:

- Created and issued 58 Purchase Orders (PO) for project goods and service purchase.
- Issued 32 solicitations (RFPs/RFQs/EOIs) to local dailies for public advertisements.
- Issued 11 awards in form of service contract agreements and blanket purchase agreements to vendors for frequently used services/supplies.
- Completed and closed out a total of 40 purchase orders record tracker sessions in TAMIS,

## **Finance**

USAID FED organized a team building session for county teams to clarify and update staff on USAID FED financial policies and procedures.

As a result of the training, the management of advances improved from an outstanding \$ 210K in October to \$ 8K in December 2014. A pivot database was created to better manage this account.

Other notable changes attributed to the team building session include:

- Transaction packaging and turnaround submission to Monrovia Finance for processing has improved. Financial reports are now submitted weekly or whenever the transactions are complete and sent to Monrovia whenever a vehicle is available.
- Cash exposure on hand is minimized as a result of the application of the weekly request.
- County level project implementation cash advances are now deposited into local county banks instead of requiring county staff to travel to Monrovia to obtain advances.

- All staff travel claims are now processed through a modified expense report which is approved by the traveler's immediate supervisor. All travel related claims are paid online including those from the Field Staff. These transactions were removed from the Field responsibilities, thus reducing the cash flows in the Field.

## **HR**

During the reporting period, USAID FED facilitated a learning session on the Performance Management Plan for all staff and supervisors.