

Advancing Food Security and Livelihoods through Liberia's SADFONS Project: **A civil society-led review**

REVIEW SUMMARY REPORT

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Special gratitude goes to the World Bank for its coordination, which allowed for the review team to gain insights about project implementation from the Ministry of Agriculture and CARL. Finally, we wish to thank all the participants in the key informant interviews and focus group discussions, across the six counties, for graciously welcoming and generously sharing their experiences and stories with the review team.

Executive Summary

ActionAid Liberia, through the Civil Society Partnership for GAFSP, led a participatory review of the Smallholder Agriculture Development for Food and Nutrition Security (SADFONS) project in Liberia from 16 October to 23 November 2025, targeting six out of the eight project counties, including Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland, Grand Bassa, Montserrado and Bomi.

The review found that SADFONS has contributed to substantial improvements in agricultural productivity and farmer livelihoods, with many farmer groups reporting increased yields, expanded cultivated land, and improved incomes as a result of access to inputs, mechanisation and training. Support for value addition, particularly in cassava processing, has enabled farmers to diversify production and generate higher incomes through products, such as gari and fufu, while reducing labour burdens through mechanisation. The project has introduced elements of climate resilient, agroecological practices, including composting, crop diversification, and lowland farming, although these were often driven by farmers themselves. SADFONS has also contributed to women's economic empowerment, strengthening participation in producer groups and savings schemes, improving incomes, and supporting household nutrition, although women remain underrepresented in leadership and decision-making roles. Nutrition outcomes have improved, evidenced by farmers adoption of backyard gardening and consumption of more diverse diets.

Despite these gains, the project is constrained by weak market linkages and underdeveloped value chains, particularly for rice and seed systems, resulting in unsold produce, delayed sales and post-harvest losses. Implementation has been affected by delays in funding

and input delivery, as well as weak coordination among implementing partners, limiting the effectiveness of seed multiplication and market access. Challenges persist with project-supported infrastructure, including poorly located processing facilities, inadequate storage conditions, and incomplete or substandard irrigation systems. The review found that farmer organisations and civil society actors have had limited involvement in project planning, monitoring and accountability, reducing responsiveness to local needs and weakening oversight of project activities.

The review makes the following recommendations to build on the project successes and address persistent challenges:

- Strengthen coordination and oversight by improving accountability across implementing partners and delivering a joint, time-bound action plan.
- Improve market linkages and value chains by ensuring reliable access to buyers, including operationalising school feeding procurement and establishing effective seed distribution systems.
- Accelerate infrastructure development and input delivery by completing key facilities and providing quality inputs in line with agricultural seasons.
- Advance women's empowerment by expanding access to finance, skills development, and leadership opportunities for women farmers.
- Strengthen climate resilience by scaling up structured training in agroecological practices and ensuring reliable irrigation and infrastructure.
- Enhance participation and accountability by increasing the meaningful involvement of farmers and civil society organisations and strengthening feedback mechanisms.

The Project Context

Liberia is an agrarian state, with many of its rural communities' livelihoods relying heavily on agriculture, particularly subsistence farming. Yet, household average incomes remain very low in the face of myriad challenges in food production, rendering Liberia as one of the most food-insecure countries in Africa, despite its abundant water resources and lush lowland vegetation. Climate change further poses significant risks to the country's agricultural development. Implementing adaptation interventions has the potential to boost farm productivity and enhance climate resilience.

The current National Agriculture Development Plan (NADP), the successor to the Liberian Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (LASIP II) (2018-2023), runs until 2030, and aims to empower local farmers and increase productivity, support transition to large-scale, sustainable, mechanised practices, reduce rice imports, and enhance food security. The plan, which also embeds the national agroecology strategy, includes investments in agricultural infrastructure, technology and research.



Road in Grand Bassa county.
PHOTO: ACTIONAID LIBERIA

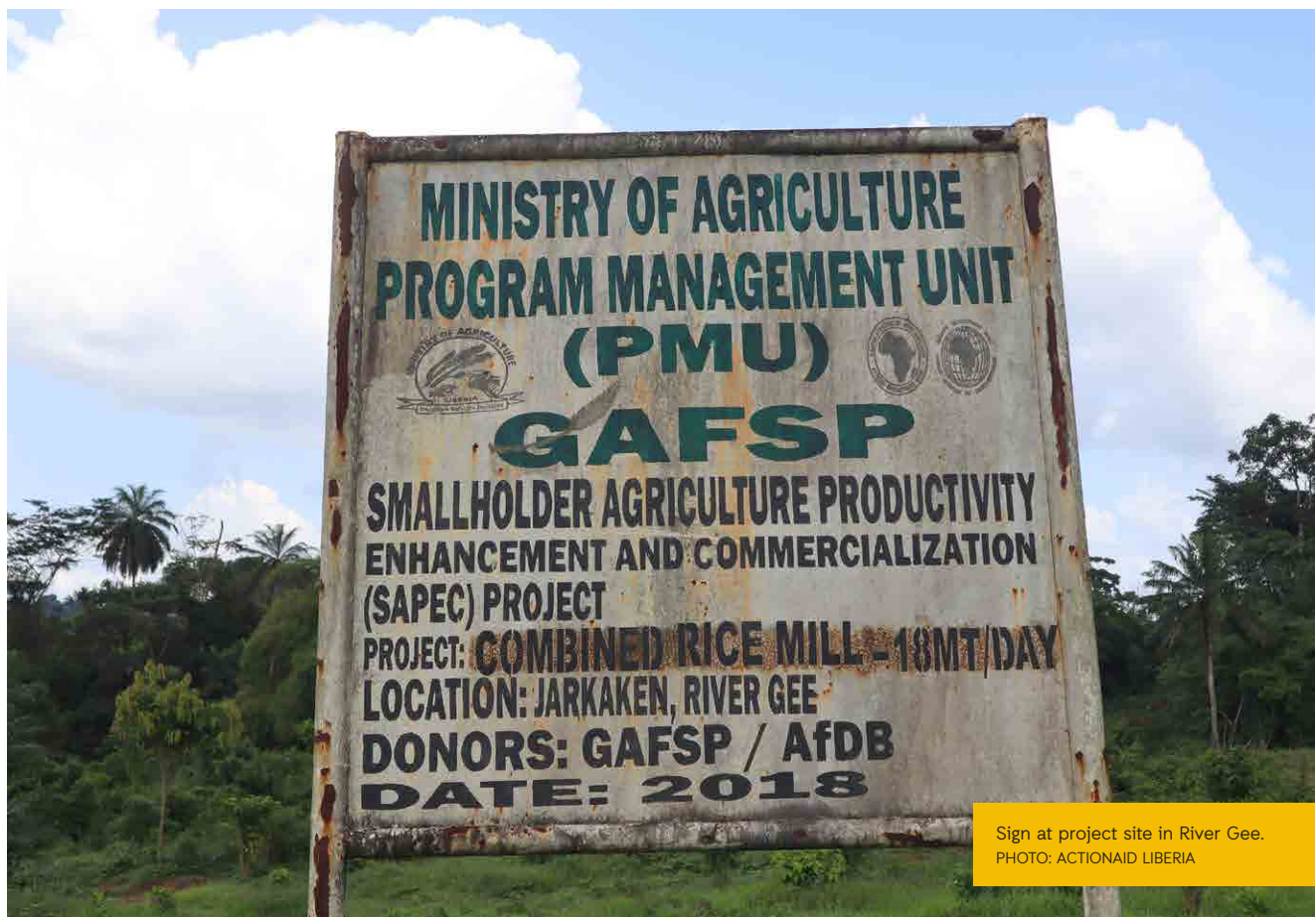
About the SADFONS Project

The Smallholder Agriculture Development for Food and Nutrition Security (SADFONS) project seeks to improve food and nutrition security and reduce poverty among targeted rural populations in Liberia through (i) increasing agricultural productivity and production of smallholder farmers, with a focus on food crops such as rice, cassava, and vegetables, (ii) improving smallholders' value addition, market access and income, and (iii) strengthening the capacity of the government institutions, farmers and producer organisations.

Initially, in June 2021, the project covered six counties (Montserrado, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland, Grand Bassa, Bomi) at an estimated total project cost of US\$9.08 million, of which the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) financed US\$8.2 million, African Development Fund UA300,000 (US\$429,027) and the Government of Liberia (GoL) US\$453,000. In 2025, two new counties (Bong and Margibi) were added, with additional

financing of US\$10 million. In total, the project covers eight counties, at the cost of US\$ 19.08 million cumulative project funding. The project is due to finish in June 2026.

Liberia's Ministry of Agriculture, through a National Coordinating Office composed of MOA staff, has overall responsibility for implementing the project, including supervising other technical partners. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) provides technical training on the farmers' field school. The Center for Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) produces foundation seeds, identifies and trains outgrowers to multiply seeds, connects them to markets, and raises awareness among smallholder farmers to purchase affordable seeds. Additionally, the World Food Program is tasked with identifying and entering into agreements with farmer-based organisations (FBOs) to buy produce from smallholders for school-feeding programs while also supporting schools through nutritional activities.



Sign at project site in River Gee.
PHOTO: ACTIONAID LIBERIA

The Project Review Methodology

ActionAid Liberia, through the Civil Society Partnership for GAFSP,¹ led a participatory review of the SADFONS project from 16 October to 23 November 2025, targeting six out of the eight project counties, including Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland, Grand Bassa, Montserrado and Bomi. The review consisted of 11 focus group discussions (FGDs) with 159 (66 male; 93 female) members of smallholder farmers' cooperatives, including CARI supported seed rice outgrower farmers. Ten key informant interviews (KIs) were conducted with the project coordinator, M&E staff, county agriculture coordinators, district agriculture officers, and the agronomist from CARI. Although requested, the review team was unable to secure interviews with representatives of WFP and FAO.

The review used a qualitative approach to collect in-depth, detailed insights into people's experiences, behaviours, and perspectives on the SADFONS project. Farmers from the six counties were selected for the review based on their participation in the project's three value chains (rice, cassava, and vegetables), participation in the project from the onset, and accessibility within counties.

The review used feminist and participatory methods, ensuring a people-centred evidence gathering process that encouraged women, young, and vulnerable people to critically unpack their lived experiences, while also reflecting on the nature of gender power relations and social realities within their communities and the project.

Civil Society Partnership for GAFSP

The Civil Society Partnership for GAFSP (the Partnership) is a consortium of civil society organisations that has been contracted by GAFSP to assess a selection of their grant-funded projects. The consortium is led by *ActionAid International*, together with the *Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF)*, *Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (AsiaDHRRRA)*, and *Coordination pour des Actions en Santé et en Développement d'Haïti (COSADH)*.

Project Impact

I. Farmers' Productivity and Livelihoods

The SADFONS project is benefitting smallholder farmers through helping them organise and work together in groups and cooperatives; increasing land size, increasing rice, vegetable and cassava production; as well as promoting diverse diets and the acceptance and consumption of biofortified rice.¹ The project has also empowered county-level government staff through capacity-building, including in the training of lead farmers. This has increased producers' incomes, boosted productivity, and added value to cassava by enabling them to process it into other locally marketable products, including gari, fufu and Ayekei.



The project availed cassava slicer and grinder for the AHWEHDE Farmer's Association in Grand Gedeh has enabled them to process more cassava than previously. PHOTO: ACTIONAID LIBERIA



Cassava processing machines are already helping farmers transition from traditional, labour-intensive techniques to more mechanised and productive systems in Grand Bassa County, says Joseph Greaves, County Agriculture Coordinator. [Read more in an article by the Local Daily Online.](#) PHOTO: ACTIONAID LIBERIA

Below are some examples:

In Montserrado:

- The 21st Rice and Vegetable Farmers' Association at 15 Gate community increased their rice productivity. Before SADFONS, they produced around 50 bags (50kg/bag). As a result of increased awareness and the supply of seed and farm implements by the project, production increased to 100 bags of rice, and vegetable production increased from 20 to 50 bags.
- The Sustainable Integrated Agriculture Cooperative at 15 Gate community was supported by SADFONS to brush, lay out and rehabilitate irrigation schemes. The Ministry of Agriculture, with support from the project, also provided them with new varieties of seed rice (Suakoko-8 and Narica L-19), allowing them to cultivate 6 hectares, resulting in a harvest of 28 bags (50 kg/ bag) of rice seeds.
- Before the project, the Jackson Farm Sustainable Agriculture Cooperative Society (JFSACS) at 15 Gate cultivated 2.5 hectares of lowland, which yielded approximately 4 metric tons of rice annually. The project supported the group with a power tiller,

1. The inclusion of biofortified crops is a strategy to increase micronutrient density in staple crops, thereby helping to combat deficiencies. Micronutrient-enriched varieties of common staples are bred to provide essential iron, zinc and vitamin A to rural households to improve nutritional status, health and livelihoods.

enabling them to cultivate 6.3 hectares of lowland. As a result, rice production increased to approximately 5.7 metric tons in 2023, rising further to 7.4 metric tons in 2024. In terms of vegetable production, before the SADFONS project, the group cultivated only 4.2 hectares of lowland and harvested an average of 60 bags of hot peppers. With support from the SADFONS project, the group increased its cultivation to 6.7 hectares, yielding an average of 3.2 metric tons of vegetables, particularly eggplants.

In Pleebo, Maryland:

- Before partnering with the SADFONS project, the Cassava and Vegetable Farmers' Cooperative (MACAVEFC), was only involved in the cassava value chain with low production. However, with SADFONS' support, the group cultivated 10 hectares of lowland, with an average yield of 48 bags of 50kg, including the cultivation of 5 hectares of vegetable production and corn. The group's average yield was 25 bags of 50 kg of corn.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, at the county level, is generating significant awareness across Pleebo and Harper, motivating young people to participate in farming activities. The Maryland Youth Association was formed and is involved in vegetable crop production and lowland farming. The association harvested up to 5 metric tons of paddy rice and were linked by the Harper County Agriculture Office to a market to sell their produce.

In Grand Bassa County, Wee District:

- The United Community Agriculture Cooperative Society (UCACS) project helped farmers increase productivity and access high-yielding cassava varieties. Farmers cultivated an average yield of more than 50 bags (25kg each) on their own before the SADFONS project. With project support, the group is now cultivating 3 hectares of land, achieving an average yield of over 300 bags.

In Bomi County:

- Prior to their involvement with SADFONS, the members of the Progressive Farmers Association struggled to expand their agricultural production, due to limited access to modern farming tools, insufficient seeds, the lack of expertise, and low scales. They have

now upgraded from cultivating vegetables from 1 lot to about 5 hectares of land, with an increased variety of vegetables crops, including cucumbers, okra pepper and cabbage.



"The cutlasses and seeds SADFONS gave us help to take us to where we are in our production, we are now growing more than before and we are also supporting our families through it,"
Lead farmer Henry Kollie of Progressive Farmers Association, Bomi.
[Read more in an article by News Public Trust.](#)
PHOTO: ACTIONAID LIBERIA



"Before SADFONS came, we were having low production, but since SADFONS came in...we have been able to cultivate 3 hectares of land processing 300 bags of cassava and we supply farmers with cuttings" Lead farmer, Victor Kpehdyu, United Community Agriculture Cooperative Society, Wee district.

Beyond supplying cuttings, UCACS in Grand Bassa county has grown into a major producer of gari and fufu, supplying customers from Monrovia, parts of Grand Bassa, Margibi and the surrounding towns and villages. **[Watch here.](#)**

Despite progress made in food production, farmers noted that broken market linkages, and poorly located and managed processing and storage facilities are hindering the project's deliverables and the achievement of its objectives.

Due to delayed disbursement of funds, CARL has not been able to fully support the production of foundation seeds, identify and train outgrowers for seed multiplication, establish market linkages, and use mass media to raise awareness among small-scale producers of the market availability of these certified seeds. Such information gaps have significantly affected small-scale producer groups' linkages to potential markets, and has ultimately discouraged the selected outgrowers from continuing seed multiplication.

For example, farmers reported that they are not aware of the referral pathway to obtain certified seeds. The initial plan was for CARL to avail the outgrower multiplied seeds through the market, but this did not materialise, instead MoA aggregated and distributed the seed to farmers, resulting in fewer farmers accessing the seed.

Farmers noted that processing hubs constructed by the project have not been centrally located in each county, requiring farmers to travel long distances to access them. Farmers have also raised concern about the poor conditions of government managed warehouses, which have contributed to post-harvest loss.

For example, the Toukpeh Cooperative in Harper, designed as a seed multiplication group under the SADFONS design, received technical support and training from CARL. But after storing their harvested rice inside a Ministry of Agriculture warehouse, in August 2024, they have been waiting more than 15 months (as of the November 2025 review) for project-facilitated buyers. Poor ventilation and lack of fumigation has led to pests, insects and rats having destroying large portions of their seed stock.

Farmers also raised concern that many of the farming implements, including seeds and tools, were not delivered according to the farming calendar. Additionally, farmers reported that many tools and machines, including processors, are substandard and insufficient to meet their needs.



"Since we harvested this rice and stored it, no one has come to link us to buyers. Meanwhile insects and rats are eating everything... We have worked hard without any benefits. Our cooperative has dropped from 46 members to just 15. Many women have left farming because there is no motivation."

Madam Mamalo Brisby, Toukpeh Cooperative, Harper. [Read more in an article by Liberian Investigator.](#) PHOTO: ACTIONAID LIBERIA

Key lessons

- Expanding access to inputs, mechanisation and training can rapidly increase production and incomes among smallholder farmers.
- Support for production gains without strong market linkages results in unsold surplus and reduced farmer incentives.
- Poor storage systems and post-harvest handling can significantly erode productivity gains through losses.
- Delays in funding and implementation can disrupt key activities and reduce overall project effectiveness.

II. Climate Resilience, Adaptation and Agroecology²

The project helps raise farmers' and their communities' awareness of the need to adapt to the effects of climate change. Farmers were encouraged to discontinue shifting cultivation and adopt lowland virgin cultivation to prevent deforestation.

With support from the project, farmers have been trained and are integrating some agroecological principles by developing organic amendments (compost, vermicompost, etc), implementing crop rotations and diversifying their crop portfolios. The farmers on all three value chains use organic fertilisers from residues, green grass, manure and other materials mixed to produce a natural amendment rather than synthetic fertilisers, which deplete the soil.

The project, through the Ministry of Agriculture, also supported farmers with new varieties of seed rice (Suakoko-8 and Narica L-19), together with high-yielding cassava cuttings and vegetable seeds, all which strengthened farmers' adaptation and climate resilience.

Overall, the SADFONS project applies some production-based principles of agroecology, albeit in less structured ways. Farmers attested that their use of agroecological practices were mostly due to their own self-initiative, with few groups reporting deliberate project support from MoA extension officers. Farmers practice recycling initiatives which include the use of grass, chicken and cow manure to improve soil fertility and making fertilisers from compost. In Maryland, farmers from the Toukpeh Cooperative Limited narrated how the project through CARL distributed synthetic fertiliser for seed rice production with no other activities to improve soil health using ecologically friendly practices.

The project, however, is promoting local innovations and farmers attest to food systems that align with the culture, identity and tradition of local communities to provide healthy, diversified, seasonally and culturally appropriate diets. In most instances, the selected groups were already involved in the rice, cassava and vegetable value chains and the project added onto existing and accepted food systems.

Rehabilitating irrigation schemes has contributed to a steady year-round water supply, enabling farmers to produce three times the yield of lowland rice. However, farmers in Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Maryland counties continue to face problems due to inadequate canal

repairs, resulting from poor quality work by a government contractor, which hinders water flow into the fields and degrades the soil.



Farmer groups worry about the fate of their rice farms due to poor irrigation system construction work. [Read more.](#)
PHOTO: ACTIONAID LIBERIA



Rehabilitation of the irrigation infrastructure, which includes the peripheral bunds and canal systems, remains incomplete...."
[Read more in an article by Africa Daily Newspaper.](#)
HOTO: ACTIONAID LIBERIA

Key lessons

- Farmers readily adopt agroecological practices when they align with existing knowledge and local farming systems; however, reliance on farmer initiative limits scale, highlighting the need for structured extension and technical support.
- Investments in irrigation can significantly boost resilience and enable multiple harvests; however, poor-quality infrastructure undermines climate adaptation gains and can negatively impact productivity.

2. The review defines agroecology in terms of the 13 principles developed by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security.

III. Gender Responsiveness and Women's Empowerment

The project strengthens women's unity through group work, thereby enhancing labour sharing and increasing production. Women are participating in backyard gardens and working through women's groups to grow more vegetables. They have also increased their incomes to support their children in school, manage household affairs and purchase clothing, contributing to family and community stability. Additionally, the project has strengthened women's knowledge of nutrition behaviours through awareness activities steered by project nutrition officers.

In addition to inputs, including seeds provided, women are now organised into self-initiated village savings and loans associations (VSLAs) to support one another through low-cost credit opportunities within the group. The project has empowered women to increase their income, thereby reducing families' economic burdens and supporting wellbeing; contributing to children's education through payment of school fees and the provision of food at the household and healthcare levels; and enhancing access to healthcare. Further integration of training and financial support for women's on- and off-farm income generating skills (such as tailoring, dye-dying, soap making, and baking bread), would also assist women's groups in diversifying their incomes.

The provision of processing machines for cassava has not only enhanced women's income opportunities through value-addition but offered time-savings gained through mechanisation, sparing women and children many hours of labour-intensive work. Gaps, however, remain. Women in Pleebo, Maryland county explained that they continue to work for hours in rice swamp without any protective gear.

While the project aimed to empower women through increased participation and taking up leadership roles, it faced challenges related to traditional and cultural gender norms. Most of the training participants have been men, and key leadership roles within groups continue to be held by men, particularly in counties where cultural and traditional practices predominate, particularly Bomi, Maryland, Grand Gedeh. Even when women hold positions within a group, these roles are often low-level and their influence at the decision-making level in development remains limited.



"A lot has changed for us," said Julie Jearue, a mother of six. She and other members of the AHWEHDE Farmer's Association in Grand Gedeh county used to grind cassava using their hands, prior to receiving a grinding machine from the project. "Sometimes when I come from my cassava farm and bring two to three bags of cassava; I just take it to the machine and in 5 to 10 minutes the machine is done grinding all, but in the past, I and my children would be grinding for about a whole day or sometimes two days." [Read more in an article by LAEJN.](#) PHOTO: ACTIONAID LIBERIA



"We work with our bare hands and bare feet as you are seeing us doing right now," explained Madam Marie Woart, leader of the Corporative Community Women Self-Empowerment and Advocacy group. Women in Pleebo, Maryland county are forced to work for hours in the swamp without safety gear. The project should look to address these needs." [Read more in an article by the Liberian Investigator.](#) PHOTO: ACTIONAID LIBERIA

Key lessons

- Supporting women's access to productive resources and group-based activities improves household income and wellbeing.
- Labour-saving technologies have a transformative impact on women's time use and productivity.
- Persistent gender norms continue to limit women's participation in leadership and decision-making roles.
- Women's empowerment requires targeted interventions addressing work safety, access to resources, and structural inequalities.

IV. Nutrition

Awareness raising efforts driven by the Nutritional Officer, a member of the national coordinating office based in Monrovia, during town hall meetings and in public schools, has encouraged farmers, particularly women, to set up backyard gardens and led to women's groups growing more vegetables. It has also improved their knowledge of nutrition through awareness raising activities. Farmers are now eating the vegetables they produce and selling them in the market. Communities are benefitting from the increased availability of local produce on the market, sold by farmers supported by the project. This has improved community members' access to and consumption of more varied and nutritious foods.

"Health wise, almost 90% of the membership now have backyard gardens. In the past, they would wait until they go to their farms, which are often several minutes or hours away from their town, so they could not have access to fresh and rich harvested vegetables. Before SADFONS started working with them, they did not know the importance of having a backyard garden".
Habakkuk Quoie, Julie Jearue and Angie L. Routy (members of Ahwehde Farmers Group, Grand Gedeh County.

The WFP, under the SADFONS project, aimed to contract farmers' organisations to buy produce from smallholders and supply schools through nutrition-focused activities. While this had potential to make a far-reaching impact on nutrition, unfortunately, these activities have not yet been implemented.³

Key lessons

- Linking production to nutrition education (e.g. backyard gardening) can improve dietary diversity and consumption both for individual households and the wider community.
- Nutrition gains are constrained when planned institutional linkages (e.g. school feeding programmes) are not implemented.

IV. Community Participation & Cohesion

Small-scale producers reported that they have not been involved in the planning and monitoring of the project. The national coordinating office planned and made decisions regarding farmers' needs. The participation of civil society organisations (CSOs) was limited to project inception meetings and the launch.

The project has, however, improved coordination between district agriculture officers (DAOs) and farmers in field-related activities across the six counties. Most DAOs report enhanced skills that will support sustainability upon project completion. The County Office conducts regular field

activities to understand challenges and gather feedback from the farmers. It also provides regular technical backstopping and coaching and ensures follow-up with small-scale producers.

Some review participants indicated, however, that where they have raised concerns, for example with the supply of sub-standard machinery, they have not received feedback from the project staff. They suggested that if farmers and CSOs had been more involved in monitoring the project implementation they could have played a more active accountability role, potentially raising the alarm regarding the supply of substandard materials and poor workmanship of contractors.

3. The review was unable to secure an interview with a WFP representative to confirm the reasons for the delay.

The project has contributed to community cohesion by forming local level Grievance Redress Committees (GRCs), composed of a chair, co-chair, secretary, treasurer and chaplain. Established by the SADFONS project in each county, the GRCs handle internal disputes and cases, helping group members to enjoy peaceful co-existence while engaging in food production.

Key lessons

- Farmer organisation into groups strengthens knowledge sharing and collective production, and local grievance structures enhance community cohesion and conflict resolution.
- Limited farmer and CSO involvement in planning reduces accountability and responsiveness to local needs, while inclusive participation in monitoring can help identify and address implementation challenges early.



Members of the AHWEHDE Farmers Association who have established backyard gardens raise their hands during a focus group discussion. PHOTO: ACTIONAID LIBERIA

Conclusions and Recommendations

The SADFONS project has significantly improved the Ministry of Agriculture's collaboration with small-scale food producers, through establishing a national coordinating office that encourages communication between the county offices and the farmers. The vegetable and cassava value chains are on track with farmers enjoying benefits of increased production, diversified diets and increased incomes. The rice value chain has faced hurdles, mainly due to a failure to facilitate farmers' access to seed on the commercial market; although communities now enjoy increased rice production from the investment in lowland rehabilitation – an option that helped farmers to desist from shifting cultivation, allowing them to harvest up to three times a year. Farmers' incomes and general well-being have increased as a result of project support, allowing farmers to use their production proceeds to support their housing, health and children's education expenses.

Despite this significant progress in improving production and productivity among smallholder farmers, project implementation challenges, including inconsistent support, fragmented project management, and long gaps between intervention phases, have hindered the achievement of the project's objectives. Review participants noted bottlenecks between multiple implementing partners, sub-contracted by MoA, that have resulted in delays in the delivery of seeds, substandard or inappropriate tools and machinery, poor workmanship of contractors, and delays in activities, particularly those affecting market linkages.

To further build on the project successes and address the challenges noted, the review makes the following recommendations:

- The AfDB should support the National Coordinating Office to strengthen its institutional oversight and ensure all implementing entities, including the MoA, FAO and WFP, carry out their planned activities, in accordance with their workplan and budget.
- The National Coordinating Office, through the MoA, should build the capacity of its county-level officials, including the County Agriculture Coordinators and District Agriculture Officers, to lead on the implementation and supervision of the pending project activities.
- The AfDB should lead a joint monitoring visit, together with the National Coordinating Office and key project stakeholders (including FAO, WFP and farmers' organisations) in all field locations based on findings from this and previous reviews. This should result in a detailed, actionable implementation plan for remaining project activities.
- The SADFONS project should integrate training and financial support for women's on- and off-farm income generating skills (such as tailoring, tie-dyeing, soap making, and baking bread). The GAFSP should consider expanding such support to women and youth groups.
- The GAFSP should support the SADFONS project to establish affordable credit facilities, in the form of VSLAs, in all counties, including the provision of grants to enable women farmers to pay for variable costs such as labour, which will help them increase the size of cultivated land, and increase production.
- The National Coordinating Office should fulfil their commitment to provide women and youth farmers with tools, seeds, and equipment to support their backyard gardens, as per the SADFONS workplan. This will improve access to nutritious diets, vegetable food production, incomes, as well as support project sustainability.
- The National Coordination Office should honour project commitments to construct mechanisation facilities, storage centres, and hubs for processing rice and cassava; ensure the satisfactory rehabilitation of irrigation schemes; and link farmers to markets and credit facilities.
- To further encourage women's empowerment and participation in leadership and decision-making roles, the SADFONS project should be adjusted to include further training for women on women's rights, empowerment and livelihoods support to ensure women are able to better support their households as well as take on leadership positions within their organisations.
- The project should implement planned activities as well as expand its support for market linkages. In particular, the WFP should buy vegetables from farmers for provision to local schools, as planned. In addition, however, the project should also motivate farmers in rice and cassava production by providing market support in these value chains. This would also reduce post-harvest loss.

With support from



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COVER PHOTO: Members of the AHWEHDE Farmers' Association pose for group photo after meeting with review team.
(ActionAid Liberia)

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For more information, contact CSOs4GAFSP@actionaid.org