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Smallholder Agriculture Development for Food and Nutrition Security

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Abbreviations/Acronyms

ACC	Agricultural Coordination Committee
ADWG	Agriculture Donor Working Group
AEAS	Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services
AfDB	African Development Bank
ASRP	Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project
AU	African Union
BNF	Bureau of National Fisheries
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program
CAC	County Agricultural Coordinators
CARI	Central Agricultural Research Institute
CBL	Central Bank of Liberia
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDA	Cooperative Development Agency
CPIA	Country Policy and Intuitional Assessment
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FAO	United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization
FAPS	Food and Agriculture Policy and Strategy
FBOs	Famer Based Organizations
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)
FNSIEWS	Food and Nutrition Security Information and Early Warning System
GOL	Government of Liberia
GDP	Gross Domestic Production
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LASIP	Liberia Agricultural Sector Investment Plan
LISGIS	Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MACs	Ministries, Agencies, and Commissions
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals

MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
MFDP	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
MOH	Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
NAFNSIP	National Agricultural Food and Nutrition Security Investment Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Program for Action
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPAEAS	National Policy for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services
NSA	Non-State Actors
PMU	Project Management Unit
SAPEC	Smallholder Agriculture Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Program

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Part 1: Summary of Overall Agriculture and Food Security Strategy and Associated Investment Plan

1.1 Overall sector strategy and investment plan, and past performance

Liberia's fragility context

Liberia is a post conflict state with a rapidly growing population, abundant natural resources, and substantial arable land, but its 14 years of civil war left it with low levels of human capital, degraded infrastructure and weak institutions. According to the World Bank 2018 Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA), Liberia's CPIA score of 2.9 is below the sub-Saharan Africa average of 3.1 and the 3.2 threshold score for non-fragile states. While CPIA scores for policies on social inclusion/equity have improved from 2010, scores on public sector management and institutions have since declined. After a steady Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita growth during the period from 2003 to 2013, Liberia's economy contracted again at an average rate of 0.8 percent per year between 2014 and 2016 because of the twin shocks of the Ebola crisis and the sharp drop in global commodity prices.

The impact of the twin shocks eroded the important gains Liberia had made over the preceding post-conflict decade in reducing poverty and vulnerability. Diminished economic activity across all sectors led to reduced employment; slow economic growth, the lingering impact of the Ebola crisis and the secondary effects of rising cost of food imports. The poverty rate rose from 54.1 percent in the first half of 2014 to an estimated 61.2 percent in the first half of 2016. Poverty rates were already highest in rural areas, and the incidence of rural poverty rose from 70 percent in 2014 to 82.4 percent in 2016, widening the rural urban economic divide. According to the 2017 United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Index report, the country ranked 181 of 188 countries in achievements in key dimensions of human development.

The prolong period of conflict compounded by the effects of the Ebola crisis resulted in chronic food insecurity and severe nutritional deficits. Many Liberians continue to suffer from food insecurity and inadequate nutrition, especially in rural areas. 49 percent of the Liberian population are considered food insecure and malnutrition of children persist, with 35 percent of children under 5 years of age stunt and 15 percent of them underweight¹. Food insecurity is more prevailing in rural areas, and agricultural production remains the most important livelihood for the average Liberian, involving 67 percent of the population². Liberia heavily depends on food imports, and rice, the staple grain for most of the population, is imported on a large scale. 81 percent of food for a household is sourced from markets and food related expenditures for an average household constitute 60 percent of household budget. Liberia's dependence on food imports intensifies its vulnerability to external price shocks. The impacts of climate change is expected to aggravate the food insecurity situation and increase the risk for low income population to fall deeper into poverty.

Overall agriculture and food security strategy

Agriculture is a major sector of the country economy accounting for 36 percent of GDP, it employs more than 70 percent of the population and provides a valuable export for one of the world's least developed countries. The country has a climate favorable to farming, vast forests, and an abundance of water resources. However, with low farm yields and poor agricultural practices, over half of national food requirement are imported with rice constituting about 80 percent of food imports. Export crops, namely rubber, oil palm and cocoa, are a significant source of export earnings averaging USD 195 million per year from 2011-2016.³ This has not reduced however the

¹ USAID 2016: Food security desk review for Liberia

² WFP 2013

³ FAO Stat

country's exposure to fluctuations of imported food crops commodity market that affect the more vulnerable part of population dependent on US dollar denominated imported food crops.

The Government unveiled a new development strategy in 2018, the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD)⁴ which has been elaborated in the second the second generation of the Liberian Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (LASIP II)⁵ and the 2015 National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy (FSNS)⁶.

The PAPD strongly emphasizes the role of a diversified and competitive agricultural sector for the economy and for reducing food insecurity. Its stated main goals are for Liberia to achieve “a more competitive and diversified agricultural sector that promotes value chains for food self-sufficiency, increased exports, job creation, and livelihood opportunities” by 2023. The PAPD emphasizes the importance of the successful implementation of LASIP II⁷ and prioritizes the strengthening of production and processing of locally consumed food products (rice, cassava, vegetables) as well of main export agricultural products (oil palm, cocoa, rubber).

The PAPD, LASIP II and the FSNS each respond to Liberia's fragility

The PAPD⁸ responds to Liberia's wide ranging sources of societal, economic and environmental fragility in various ways. By increasing production and processing of rice, cassava and vegetables, food security and nutrition are strengthened and the high incidence of undernourishment and stunting among children decreased. Moreover, the high import bill of rice (218 Million USD in 2017⁹) would be reduced, decreasing fiscal deficits. As a major factor for integrating value chains, the GOL is committed to improving the road and electricity network, giving priority to road corridors for transporting agricultural produce. Upscaling production and processing would increase economic growth and strengthen the private sector. Further actions of addressing economic fragility are the re-activation of the Agriculture and Cooperative Development Bank to improve access to agricultural finance, and the implementation of the Land Rights Act to strengthen land rights in the agriculture sector. By emphasizing the importance of implementing LASIP II the GOL equally commits to strengthening the capacity of public administration and policy framework. Environmental and climate fragility are addressed by the adoption of climate resilient agriculture.

The success of the PAPD for the agricultural sector heavily depends on the implementation of LASIP II¹⁰. Liberia's NAIP, LASIP II was developed on the basis of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and Malabo declaration of 2014. Recently, Liberia completed its 2019 Biennial Review for ECOWAS, monitoring and evaluating indicators based on CAADP. As LASIP II is the basis of the agriculture plan of the PAPD, the PAPD is indirectly built on CAADP.

The PAPD is closely linked with the SDG's, especially SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere) and 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture). Poverty and hunger could be significantly reduced in Liberia through a competitive and diversified agricultural sector that promotes value chains for food self-sufficiency, increased exports, job creation, and livelihood opportunities as defined by the PAPD's outcome for agriculture.

LASIP II's formulation is clearly based on the two mentioned SDG's, as outlined in the next section. The FSNS version of 2008 was closely linked to the Millennium Development Goal 1 (eradicating extreme poverty and

⁴ GOL (2018a) Pro-poor Agenda for Transparency and Development (PAPD). Republic of Liberia. November 20, 2018.

⁵ MOA (2018) Liberian Agriculture Sector Investment Plan 2018 – 2022.

⁶ MOA (2015) National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy. A Multi-sectoral Strategy for the Government of Liberia. Updated and Revised. June 2015

⁷ MOA (2018) Liberian Agriculture Sector Investment Plan 2018 – 2022.

⁸ GOL (2018a) Pro-poor Agenda for Transparency and Development (PAPD). Republic of Liberia. November 20, 2018.

⁹ Data from Ministry of Commerce Industry (MOCI) (auto reports from the four major rice importers)

¹⁰ See footnote 2

hunger) and its revised version of 2015 equally focuses on the now separated goals of SDG1 and SDG 2. Through increasing food security and nutrition, the FSNS aims at decreasing hunger. Reducing poverty is key to reliable access to food.

Liberia's current National Agriculture Investment Plan, LASIP II

The development of Liberia's NAIP, LASIP II¹¹ was based on the lessons learnt of LASIP I (2010 – 2015), which are further discussed in this section. LASIP II was developed through an inclusive and consultative process in 2017 – 2018 (see 1.4 for further detail) and technically validated in June 2018. The political validation by the cabinet is still outstanding but the MOA received the necessary external review from the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). Nevertheless, LASIP II has been used to guide any new investment since June 2018, ranging from key donor interventions (e.g. STAR-P from the World Bank) to private sector investments. Importantly, LASIP II has been used as the main reference for strengthening the agricultural sector as well as food security by the PAPD, which shows the GOL's support to its implementation.

LASIP II¹² has the vision “to promote an inclusive and sustainable agricultural transformation through catalytic investment in agricultural value chains and industrialization and resilience to ensure food and nutrition security, environmental health, job and wealth creation and inclusive growth for Liberians” and is by construction closely linked to SDG 1 and 2. The plan has five main strategic objectives which are (1) to sustainably and reliably access adequate, nutritious, and needed food for utilization for healthy live; (2) to develop and support competitive value chains and market linkages; (3) to strengthen agricultural extension, research and development for enhancing sustained productivity growth; (4) to adopt agricultural practices that maintain the ecological and biological integrity of natural resources and (5) to improve governance and institutional capacity to implement programs and projects. Aligned with the strategic objectives are the plans five components:

- ❖ Component 1: Food and Nutrition Security
- ❖ Component 2: Competitive Value Chain Development and Market Linkages
- ❖ Component 3: Agricultural Extension, Research and Development
- ❖ Component 4: Sustainable Production and Natural Resource Management
- ❖ Component 5: Governance and Institutional Strengthening

Gender and youth aspects are mainstreamed throughout the plan. Each component addresses the various aspects on fragility in Liberia that cut across social, economic and environmental issues. A twin-track approach is adopted to ensure that investment interventions do not discriminate against the specific needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including women, youth and the disabled. These strategic actions among others will involve the provision of social safety nets through School Feeding Program in deprived and vulnerable communities. The strategic actions also include the provision of agriculture inputs to poor and vulnerable farmers, especially women- headed households as well as the provision of cash and non-cash transfers.

Please refer to Appendix 3 for details on alignment of LASIP II with CAADP, other regional and national strategies.

LASIP II's Monitoring and Evaluation framework

A comprehensive M&E framework known as the Liberia Agriculture Monitoring and Information System (LAGMIS) has been developed under the M&E Directorate of the MOA, will be used for ensuring consistent LASIP II¹³ projects monitoring and evaluation, data analysis, and dissemination of progress reports. The performance tracking of the LASIP II implementation is based on a comprehensive set of 24 indicators. They include poverty

¹¹ MOA (2018) Liberian Agriculture Sector Investment Plan 2018 – 2022.

¹² *ibid*

¹³ MOA (2018) Liberian Agriculture Sector Investment Plan 2018 – 2022.

levels, GDP per capita, household consumption and employment indicators as well as the HDI and Gini coefficient, government agriculture expenditure and investments. Specific indicators will be used to monitor the implementation of each of the five LASIP II components, including improvements in food and nutrition security, agricultural production index and the production levels of the major food and cash crops as well as livestock, and the level of development and adoption of harmonized national agricultural policies.

LASIP II financing, performance and implementation to date

The estimated budget for LASIP II implementation is USD 1.75 billion¹⁴, with about 73 percent of the total amount allocated for the implementation of activities under Component 1 on Food and Nutrition Security; 15 percent – for Component 2 on Competitive value chains and market linkages; and about 10 percent – for Component 4 on Sustainable production and natural resources management. Since LASIP II's development in 2017 and its technical validation in June 2018, a range of projects have been aligned with LASIP II. It is estimated that USD 343.5 million have been mobilized to date and the funding mobilization efforts for LASIP II implementation are ongoing. The first assessment of LASIP II implementation is expected in 2020.

LASIP I performance and achievements

An assessment of the first generation NAIP, LASIP I (2010 – 2015)¹⁵, was conducted in 2017 to outline implementation achievements and challenges. The assessment found that, while food crop production and productivity enhancement did not reach its target, several projects were successful in increasing crop productivity (i.e. yield increases from 1.5 MT/ha to 3.5 MT/ha for 1,629 lowland farmers who were provided with improved rice varieties (NL-19, WITTA-4, etc.) in the Southeast under the ASRP/AfDB Project¹⁶). Fisheries development, smallholder tree crops and agro-forestry development and special women and youth programs had also partially succeeded.¹⁷ Rural agriculture infrastructure investments under Component 2 of LASIP I resulted in rehabilitation of 1,196.2km of rural road and fully met the target of 1,200 km. Achievements in rural agriculture infrastructure, technology development and market and enterprise development were more modest as well as results in developing basic market and storage infrastructure, and in improving rural financial services.¹⁸

Improvements in coordination and capacity development of the administration were successful, and parastatals such as CARI and CDA were supported and revamped.¹⁹ Substantial policy environment strengthening results have been achieved through promoting the Government's approval of the Land Rights Act (came in force in 2018). This Act provides the necessary legal conditions for securing land rights and ownership, and therefore encouraging long-term investments in soil fertility (through the use of agro-chemicals and fertilizers), improved seeds and soil management, integrated pest management, and other types of good agricultural practices and innovations. A number of projects implemented under LASIP I invested in lowland development, including irrigation.²⁰ The review also found that while a LASIP I implementation coordination mechanism was clearly spelled out, the effectiveness of the actual implementation was often hampered by the limited implementation capacity of the government, inefficient leadership and resource constraints.

LASIP I²¹ funding requirements were estimated at USD 947.7 million, of which 43.18 percent (USD 409.26 million) have been mobilized mainly through the donor funding. The inability to meet the funding gap of USD 538.44 million could be attributed to the possible over-estimation of the actual costs of LASIP I investment projects,

¹⁴ *ibid*

¹⁵ Kanneh, Amara N.M. (2017) Final Review Report. Liberia Agricultural Sector Investment Program (2010 – 2015)

¹⁶ *Ibid*, page xi

¹⁷ *ibid*

¹⁸ *ibid*

¹⁹ Kanneh, Amara N.M. (2017) Final Review Report. Liberia Agricultural Sector Investment Program (2010 – 2015)

²⁰ *ibid*

²¹ *ibid*

insufficient prioritization of investment needs, and to the difficulty in mobilizing adequate funds by both the GoL and the donor community. Main projects implemented under LASIP I in the period of 2010-2015 using the mobilized funding are listed in Appendix 1. Given the high proportion of recurrent cost and fiscal limitations on part of the government budget, it is expected that the majority of funding for LASIP II will be again provided by development partners.

1.2 Key elements of the policy environment

Current policies enhancing and constraining LASIP II

LASIP II is embedded in Liberia's policy environment, with a range of approved and pending policies and strategies. According to the recent FAO policy diagnostics²², the existing policies adequately address food security issues and the following acts, policies and strategies provide a solid basis for the LASIP's II implementation:

1. **Land Rights Act (2018)**²³: Passed in 2018, the Act classifies land in private, customary, public and government land and regulates lease and purchase of land and represents an important legislation to support the LASIP II implementation.
2. **National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change (2018)**²⁴: It is aligned with LASIP II supports the implementation of the National Adaptation Program for Action (NAPA), promotes climate smart agricultural production techniques and supports the conservation of forest areas.
3. **National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy (2015)**²⁵: Originally developed in 2008 and updated and validated in 2015. The strategy focuses on increasing availability, access and utilization of food and strengthening the institutional system to achieve these objectives.
4. **The National Nutrition Policy (2019)**²⁶: It aligns and supports the LASIP II regarding its objective to mainstream nutrition considerations in agriculture and development programmes. Nutrition is increasingly becoming a major focus of the government development agenda.

There are also five major Acts and policies that have been prepared but are awaiting legislative ratification:

1. Liberia Seed Development and Certification Agency Act²⁷
2. Liberia Fertilizer Regulatory Division Act²⁸
3. Liberia Plant Pesticide Regulatory Services Act
4. National Food and Feed Quality and Safety Act
5. The National Policy for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (NPAEAS)²⁹

Once ratified, regulatory bodies will be established to support the Acts implementation, and to monitor, regulate, coordinate and administer activities in the fertilizer, seed and pesticide subsector respectively. Improving seed quality would increase Liberia's competitiveness and commercially oriented agricultural sector by increasing access to improved varieties and crop yields³⁰. Strict regulation of fertilizer use might be difficult to achieve in the short

²² GOL, FAO and EU (2019) Policy effectiveness analysis to improve resource allocation, investment and development decisions in support of FNS&SA. Draft. April 2019

²³ GOL (2018b) An Act To Establish The Land Rights Law Of 2018. Republic of Liberia. July 11, 2018.

²⁴ EPA (2018) National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change. Republic of Liberia. August 2018

²⁵ MOA (2015) National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy. A Multi-sectoral Strategy for the Government of Liberia. Updated and Revised. June 2015

²⁶ MOH (2008) National Nutrition Policy. Republic of Liberia. October 2008

²⁷ MOA (2016) Liberia Seed Development and Certification Agency Act. Draft Act. Government of Liberia

²⁸ MOA (2016) Liberia Fertilizer Regulatory Division Act Draft Act. Government of Liberia

²⁹ MOA (2012) National Policy for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services. Republic of Liberia. July 2012

³⁰ World Bank (2017) Enabling the Business of Agriculture 2017. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/the World Bank

run. However improving the efficiency of fertilizer registration and streamlining of import permits approval will significantly improve access to fertilizer inputs and increase agricultural productivity.³¹

The National Gender Policy (NGP)³² is updated by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP) in 2017 and acknowledges the important role of women in the agriculture sector. It argues for improved female access to land, as well as for enhanced access to inputs and extension services, including trainings for female farmers. It is aligned with LASIP II's priority area of mainstreaming nutrition into agricultural programs with strong gender sensitivity under Component one.

Aligned with LASIP II, the second generation of the National Rice Development Strategy, NRDS II (2020 – 2030) is in the final draft stage, formulated by the MOA. Its vision is to increase rice production by five-fold by 2030. The first draft of NRDS II will be sent to the Coalition of Africa Rice Development in September 2019.

The main constraining factor in successful implementation of LASIP II relates the country's limited organizational and technical capacity. As referenced in Section 1.1, the Liberia's CPIA, which indicates the country's human and institutional capacity and policy framework to effectively leverage development assistance to support sustainable growth and poverty reduction, is very low.

1.3 Government commitment to agriculture and food and nutrition security

The Liberia's Government commitment to the agriculture and food security agenda is reflected in the significant efforts undertaken to date by the new administration, which came into power in January 2018. This includes, as discussed in the sections above, the development agenda of enhancing the performance and economic and poverty reduction impacts of the agriculture sector through the improved policy environment and implementation of sound sector investments. However, at present, the implementation of this Government agenda is facing significant financial constraints.

During the Africa Food Security Leadership Dialogue held in Rwanda on August 05, 2019, the leaders agreed and called for action to strengthen the coordination for development partners and regional efforts to support countries to accelerate progress towards their collective food and nutrition security goals as envisioned in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program. The Government of Liberia is committed to elaborating a plan of action accordingly.

A vast majority of projects implemented in Liberia are donor funded. Table 1.2 presents the total GOL budget, the planned and actual expenditure of the MOA and the calculated share of the budget allocation to agriculture for the fiscal years 2014/2015 to 2018/2019.

Table 1.2: GOL and MOA Budget, share of MOA over total GOL budget, USD million

Budget year	GOL Budget	Planned MOA Expenditure	Actual MOA Expenditure	MOA share of total budget (%)
2014/2015	635.2	4.7	4.5	0.74
2015/2016	604.0	4.6	3.8	0.77
2016/2017	516.7	8.3	2.8	1.61
2017/2018	571.1	2.9	2.3	0.52
2018/2019	570.1	2.6	2.4	0.47

Source: MOA Budget Division

³¹ idem

³² Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (2017) *Revised National Gender Policy (2018-2022)*. Republic of Liberia

As presented in Table 1.2 above, the share of the GOL budget allocated to the MOA and hence to the agriculture sector has been below 1% except for the year 2016/2017 when it reached 1.6 percent. Around 80 percent of the budget allocated to a MOA are recurrent cost, of which the majority contains salaries. Consequently, only a small share of the budget is allocated to projects and programs. Actual sums available for annual investment in inputs amounted to just under 1.2 million USD for the past five years. An upsurge in the MOA share of the total budget of 2016/2017 was due to the increased donor funding during the Ebola crisis.

Government operations continue being constrained due to limited fiscal space. In recent years, both total revenues including grants have averaged around 30 percent of GDP while expenditures have averaged around 35 percent of GDP. It is expected that total revenues and grants will increase to 32.8 percent and 30.4.6 percent of GDP in FY2019 and FY2020, respectively on account of enhanced domestic revenue mobilization measures and also increased economic activities. Expenditure decreased from 36 percent of GDP in FY2016 to 33.3 percent in FY 2018, and is projected to further decline to 32.3 percent in FY2020. High share of recurrent expenditures in the government budget (about 87 percent of which wage bill is 62 percent) significantly constrains Government development expenditures and influences the low levels of Government expenditure on Agriculture.³³

1.4 Process by which the LASIP II was developed

The development and formulation of LASIP II went through several stages of stakeholder engagement to ensure full participation in the formulation process. The stages through which the investment plan design process went through are highlighted below³⁴:

Request for technical support

Recognizing the need for a well-developed LASIP as the second generation of National Agricultural Food and Nutrition Security Investment Plan (NAFNSIP), the MOA requested technical support for the review of LASIP I implementation and in the formulation of LASIP II. As a technical partner to the Ministry of Agriculture, the FAO in Liberia supported a review of the outcome of the implementation of LASIP I. FAO and the ECOWAS also supported the process of developing and formulating LASIP II, the second generation of investment plans for the agricultural sector in Africa Union (AU) Member States.

Initial thematic areas/components for LASIP II

With LASIP I components serving as the reference point, initial discussions were held within the MOA, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), development partners including FAO, WFP, UNDP, AfDB, USAID, EU, and other stakeholders, to identify the main thematic areas that will drive LASIP II agenda. Through these stakeholder engagements, the MOA initially approved five (5) broad thematic areas/components for LASIP II. These components were: 1) Food and Nutrition Security; 2) Competitive Value Chain Development and Market Linkages; 3) Agricultural Research and Development; 4) Sustainable Natural Resource Management; and 5) Institutional Strengthening. Stakeholders were identified for each component for further discussions.

Stakeholder consultations

The LASIP II formulation process had started with the identification of relevant stakeholders to contribute to the investment plan formulation. Stakeholder consultations were conducted for each of the five components with the purpose to inform the stakeholders on the CAADP agenda and processes; comprehensively discuss the findings of the LASIP I review; introduce the proposed LASIP II components and sub-components to stakeholders for their review and inputs; and for stakeholders to suggest areas to additionally incorporate into LASIP II.

³³ AfDB (forthcoming). Country Strategy Paper for Liberia.

³⁴ MOA (2018) Liberian Agriculture Sector Investment Plan 2018 – 2022.

In addition to the internal consultations held, major stakeholder consultations were held along thematic areas (Table 1.3). The Non-State Actors were a major strategic stakeholder group in this policy formulation process, working closely with the government and donor partners.

Table 1.3. LASIP II Consultative Stakeholder Meetings, 2017-2018

No.	Date	Stakeholder group	Venue
1	22nd June 2017	Food and Nutrition Security Technical Committee	FAO
2	26th June 2017	Consultative Meeting with members of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)	MOA
3	27th June 2017	Research and Development	MOA
4	28th June 2017	Competitive Value Chain Development and Market Linkages	MOA
5	29th June 2017	Sustainable Natural Resource Management	FAO
6	5th July 2017	Non-State Actors (NSA's)	Sharks Hotel
7	6-7th July 2017	Stakeholder Workshop	The Cape Hotel
8	11th July 2017	Donor Roundtable Discussions	Boulevard Palace Hotel
9	28-31 st August 2017	Review of LASIP II draft document	Farmers Paradise Resort (Wulki Farms)
10	11 th -15 th December 2017	Technical Working group meeting	Development Education Network Liberia (DEN-L)
11	12 th -13 th June 2018	Technical Validation	Corina Hotel

Source: MOA (2018) Liberian Agriculture Sector Investment Plan 2018 – 2022

During the technical validation workshop in June 2018 with support of the International Food Research and Policy Institute (IFRPI), the stakeholders (development partners, NGOs, private sector, CSO's, FBO's and other public institutions) reviewed the LASIP II, its M&E indicators and targets as well as budget. In group works, the participants worked on the narrative and their comments were later included into the document by MOA staff. The costing was reviewed and finalized for another three consecutive days between the MOA, MFDP and FAO. Throughout the whole LASIP II formulation process, smallholder farmer based organizations (e.g. Farmer Union Network of Liberia), the civil society and private sector were actively engaged.

1.5 Implementation arrangements and capacity to implement LASIP II

The implementation of LASIP II will require a concerted effort of various organizations from the government, civil society, private sector, and development partners. The Inter-ministerial Food Security and Nutrition Steering Committee (FSNSC) oversees the implementation of LASIP II. Members on this Committee include Ministry for Finance and Development Planning, the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI), Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Public Works, MOH, Environmental Protection Agency, Liberian Business Association, Liberian Bankers Association, Liberia Federation of Cooperative Societies, Liberia National Farmers Union Network and representatives of private sector actors including the civil society.

The LASIP II Secretariat will be the main body responsible for LASIP II coordination and implementation. With support of ECOWAS, the LASIP II Secretariat was formally established in March 2019.³⁵ The Secretariat is responsible for implementation and monitoring and evaluation the investment programs of LASIP II per component. Overall, the LASIP II implementation will be done through the existing Government structure responsible for implementation of agricultural investments. Recognizing the complexity of the LASIP II implementation, technical assistance and capacity building will be provided to MOA, its project management unit (PMU), and other involved agencies in investment planning, implementation, and monitoring.

³⁵ ibid

1.6 Performance of past GAFSP grant allocation

Since 2012, MOA has been implementing the Smallholder Agriculture Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization (SAPEC) Project. Its total cost is USD54.4 million, of which the GAFSP contribution is USD 46.5 million (85%), AfDB-ADF contribution is USD 6.4 (12%) and the Government of Liberia contribution is USD 1.5 million (3%).

The goal of the proposed SAPEC project is to reduce rural poverty and household food insecurity. Its objective is to increase, on a sustainable basis, the income of smallholder farmers and rural entrepreneurs, particularly women, youths and the physically-challenged. The project consists of four components, namely: (i) Sustainable Crop Production Intensification; (ii) Value Addition and Marketing; (iii) Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening; and (iv) Project Management.

The SAPEC project has achieved substantial results in improving food security and increasing farmer household incomes. Impact Evaluation of the project conducted by Development Impact Evaluation (DIME) from World Bank in 2019 established that decreases in severe food insecurity were more than 8% faster in the communities receiving inputs from SAPEC and the household annual income grew by \$91 (USD) more than in non-input distribution communities did. Available data from the monitoring reports of the project have indicated some significant increases in the average yields of some crops, for example, average yield per unit area recorded for target crops witnessed for upland rice (2.48 Mt/Ha, against target of 2.0 Mt/Ha). Lowland rice (3.56 Mt/ha against target of 3.5 Mt/Ha).

The project supported smallholders and communities by investing in land development, water control and market infrastructure, and feeder roads. It also provided a significant support to smallholders with input distribution to enhance crop productivity and production. During the 2016/2017 cropping season, the program provided fertilizer, rice seeds (for both upland and lowland ecologies) and cassava sticks to 43,046 farmers across the entire country via the e-wallet system. To enhance the efficiency of the input distribution, SAPEC supported a national e-registration platform for farmers, agro-input dealers and financial institutions. The platform has registered about 321,766 farmers across the 15 counties of Liberia in the country's first farmer e-database. The E-platform is incorporated in a mobile wallet program that allow farmers to access subsidized fertilizer and other inputs, and facilitated the delivery of agro-inputs to farmers via the stocking of agro-inputs by suppliers. The project also supported the Government of Liberia in establishing 5 rice and 6 cassava processing centers. The processing centers are expected to provide market for the produce from smallholder farmers around the processing hubs. The achievements of the SAPEC implementation are summarized in Appendix 6.

In the past years its implementation faced some challenges that had affected the overall completion schedule of the project. The key challenges related to delays in the project implementation caused by the Ebola outbreak; difficulty in accessing project areas to deliver project products and services due to poor roads and heavy amount of rainfall; weak monitoring and evaluation systems in the Ministry of Agriculture.

The project implementation is currently back on track. The last supervision mission of the project in February 2019 rated the project performance *as satisfactory*. The SAPEC implementation has been extended (time extension) to June 30 2020 and full funds disbursement is expected by that date.

Part 2. Specific proposal for GAFSP financing

2.1 Project objectives, expected results, and target project participants

The project objectives

The project development objective is to improve food and nutrition security and reduce poverty of targeted rural population in Liberia. This will be achieved through (i) increased agricultural productivity and production of smallholder farmers (with a focus on food crops such as rice, cassava, and vegetables), (ii) improved smallholders' value addition, market access and income, and (iii) strengthening the capacity of the government institutions, farmers and producer organizations. The project objectives are fully aligned with and support the LASIP II development priorities (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1. Alignment of project objectives and LASIP II priorities

Specific Project Objectives	Expected Results	LASIP II Components / Priorities
Strengthening of sustainable crop production and intensification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 238 ha of land area developed for irrigated agriculture • Two sets of farming machinery available • Four mechanization centers supported • 10,000 smallholder receiving productivity enhancement (m/f) • >20% yield increase for cassava and rice (t/ha) 	Component 1: Food and Nutrition Security Component 2: Competitive Value Chain Development and Market Linkages Component 4: Sustainable Production and Natural Resource Management
Increase incomes of farmer households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >10% increase in farmer household incomes (\$/household) 	Component 2: Competitive Value Chain Development and Market Linkages
Improve value addition and market linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70 km of rehabilitated roads • Market Information System installed and operational with training • Eight units of post-harvest facilities, storage centers and market places constructed • 20 percent reduction in pre-, post-harvest losses. 	Component 2: Competitive Value Chain Development and Market Linkages Component 3: Agricultural Extension, Research and Development Component 4: Sustainable Production and Natural Resource Management
Strengthen participatory farmer advisory services for improving productivity and nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15,000 of people trained in nutrition enhancing activities • 2000 farmers to benefit from participatory advisory services 	Component 3: Agricultural Extension, Research and Development Component 4: Sustainable Production and Natural Resource Management
Build capacity of government institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIS system in MoA • MOA capacity enhanced • Food safety lab refurbished • Capacity of CARI enhanced 	Component 5: Governance and Institutional Strengthening Component 3: Agricultural Extension, Research and Development

Target areas and beneficiaries

The proposed project will be implemented in 11 counties; Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, River Gee, Maryland, Bomi, Bong, Montserrado, Sinoe, Grand Bassa, River Cess and Grand Cape Mount (Table 2.2). The selection criteria for the project counties was based on the high incidences of poverty and malnutrition rates but also where the GAFSP-funded processing facilities has been built and that require sustained and increased supply of raw material production (rice and cassava). The value chains prioritized under the project are rice, cassava and vegetables that have a particular importance for food and nutrition security in the country. The selection of the counties for support to vegetables production is also based on proximity to the market. These eleven counties were identified and selected to be project locations following extensive consultations with the Government and stakeholders.

Table 2.2. Project targeted counties

County	Absolute poverty rate* (%)	Stunting prevalence** (%)	Crop of high production potential		
			Rice	Cassava	Vegetables
Bomi	64.3	>30		X	
Bong	71.3	>30	X		
Grand Gedeh	63.7	>30	X		X
Grand Kru	74.4	>30	X		
Grand Bassa	61.8	>30		X	
Grand Cape Mount	53.7	no data			X
Maryland	84	>30	X		
Montserrado	20.3	no data		X	X
River Cess	66.4	>30		X	
River Gee	81.9	>40	X		
Sinoe	46.3	>30		X	

*World Bank Systematic Diagnostic for Liberia: 2018; **Liberia: Nutrition profile. USAID:2018

Targeted assistance will be provided to farmer communities in the lowland areas of the South East (Maryland, Grand Kru, River Gee, Sinoe, Grand Gedeh and River Cess counties), the poorest and marginalized region. Considerable agriculture potential exists in this region but it remains underutilized due to the lack of the necessary infrastructure, poor access to markets and agricultural inputs, and insufficient agricultural advisory services.

The target project participants are smallholder farmers (with the plot size in the range of 0.8- 2 ha). The project is expected to reach about 10000 direct beneficiaries, out of which 40 percent are expected to be women and 20 percent to be youth. Infrastructure development, extensive facilitation, training, and technical assistance will be provided to the smallholders to ensure that they benefit from the project interventions. Improved access of smallholder farmers to markets and value chains will expand the sector's capacity to generate more jobs for the local youths. A wider group of rural and urban poor would benefit from increased availability and better quality of agricultural food products on local markets and decreased food prices.

The project criteria for selection of its participants are self-targeting, based on the specified plot size and productive assets. Community level consultations will be used to ensure a transparent beneficiary selection and the project beneficiary lists will be made publicly available. To enhance the efficiency of the input distribution, the proposed project will build upon the results achieved under the SAPEC project in using the e-wallet system in which 321,766 farmers were registered across the country (details in Section 1.6).

2.2 Justification for the overall approach

Food security is a critical factor in preserving peace and stability in Liberia, and can be achieved through inclusive agricultural development that accelerates productivity and income growth among smallholders, and improves agriculture livelihoods. The proposed project will contribute to the implementation of the government's vision to improve food security by investing in solutions that directly benefit smallholder farmers who are held back by of quality inputs, inadequate credit, machinery and infrastructure for irrigation, storage, processing and marketing. Rehabilitating and expanding roads and other forms of transportation infrastructure would help link isolated producers to national and regional markets, expand access to improved inputs, promote technology transfer, and facilitate the provision of research and farmer advisory services.

The proposed project responds to addressing the issues of food security and persistent poverty outlined in the government's PAPD National Development Plan 2018-2023. The Plan prioritizes agriculture as central to economic transformation, with a particular support to developing priority value chains, including rice, cassava and horticulture, with specific focus on women and youth. This agenda is further elaborated in LASIP II 2018-22 that identifies food and nutrition security; development of competitive value chains and market linkages; agricultural

extension and research; sustainable production and natural resource management; and governance and institutional strengthening as main areas for priority investments in the country (see details in Section 1.1).

The Theory of Change

Food security is an important factor that directly influences the state of fragility in Liberia. Growing demand for staple food remains unmatched by domestic supply, as growth in agricultural productivity remains below its potential, while a high reliance on imported staples leaves the country structurally vulnerable to exogenous price shocks along with a high import bill. Conversely, the level of investment in domestic food crops maintains a sector with high production costs, low adoption of technologies and poor integration with commercial markets, while high youth unemployment continues and women remain marginalized in decision-making processes and income generating activities.

Against this backdrop and to secure the ultimate result of improving food and nutrition security, reducing rural poverty and improving livelihoods, the project addresses three core themes: (i) higher agricultural productivity and sustainable agricultural production; (ii) strengthened agriculture institutions and improved capacity of smallholder farmers to adopt good agricultural practices and technologies, and (iii) improved market linkages and supply of nutritious foods.

To achieve the transformative changes in sustainable agricultural productivity and production, the development of high potential irrigable lowlands and the intensification of farming practices are both important milestones. The proposed investments (in e.g. planting material, advisory services, access to credit, irrigation, roads) are necessary for farmers to realize their farming potential that will in turn provide the incentives for farmers to further invest in their lands, to continue the cycle of production and growth.

To achieve higher productivity and increased consumption and sales of quality products by smallholder farmers, the project will implement activities that lead to the adoption of improved agriculture technologies by farmers, improved capacity of FBOs and government institutions to offer better services and value to the farming community (including women and youth), and ensure an enabling policy environment. Better access to inputs, know-how, further processing, micro-credit and finance, lab testing and also better logistics will help establish productive partnerships between the government, membership-driven organizations, local service providers and farmers. Food safety interventions and nutrition awareness will contribute to increased demand for a wider variety of nutritious foods.

The project design is also based on the assumption that a reliable, nutritious food supply chain is attainable by improving market linkages of smallholder farmers to local and domestic markets. The project will work to ensure margins are maximized through value addition activities and retained as best possible by the smallholder, while linking them with buyers and agro-processors, to reach the ultimate goal of a sustainable, resilient food chain within the realm of improved food security and reduced rural poverty.

Women in Liberia's agriculture constitute the majority of smallholder producers and it is estimated that they produce about 60% of agricultural products, carry out about 80% of trading activities in the rural areas, in addition to carrying out daily household responsibilities. Therefore the project will aim at delivery of improved extension to women farmers, focusing on dissemination of gender-appropriate and nutrition-enhancing technologies and access to inputs to improve women's agricultural productivity and enhance household nutrition. Targeted interventions will be developed under the project to ensure that women and youth are among the key beneficiaries of its activities.

A diagram illustrating the Theory of Change is attached in Appendix 2.

Complementarity and linkages to SAPEC and other projects

The proposed project will build upon approach, lessons and target groups of the SAPEC project (see Section 1.6), and aiming at consolidating and sustaining the results achieved under the SAPEC project (Appendix 6). The consolidation is especially required in lowland development sites where irrigation and roads development interventions will be coming into implementation towards the end of the SAPEC project. Also, the additional market infrastructure will be necessary to improve market access for farmers in the areas where investments in roads and irrigation have been already completed. Importantly, the sustainability of the results achieved under the SAPEC project will depend very much on the ability of farmers to adopt better agricultural practices and technologies in order to utilize the productivity and production potential created by the project, improve incomes and contribute to operation and maintenance of the collectively owned and managed infrastructure. It is therefore imperative to strengthen research and farmer advisory services, and to accelerate the uptake by farmers of good agricultural practices.

This project will also seek close collaboration with the ongoing World Bank-funded STAR-P project and IFAD Tree Crop Extension Projects I and II that also focuses on food security, nutrition and income generation in several counties of Liberia. The potential linkages with / areas of collaboration have been discussed with WFP Liberia, specifically, with regard to the implementation of the Home-Grown School Feeding Program (HGSFP) in the areas where the proposed project will provide the basis for increased smallholder agricultural production, and where the increased food supply could be met by the demand from the HGSF program. A close collaboration is also foreseen with the ongoing UN Women projects in the target counties to ensure that women farmers receive the necessary support to effectively benefit from the proposed investments.

2.3 Activities to be financed

The proposed project will consist of three components:

1. Support to enhancing smallholder agricultural productivity and market access
2. Institutional Strengthening and Capacity building
3. Project management and coordination

Component 1: Support to enhancing smallholder agricultural productivity and market access

Rice and cassava are Liberia's most important food crops. However, the local production of rice accounts for only half of annual domestic demand, rendering the country a net importer of its main staple. In the case of cassava, current supply satisfies domestic demand but significant external market opportunities remain unexploited. The yield levels for rice and cassava remain far below their potential. Smallholder farmers and producers lack modern marketing skills, market information, and requisite organizational capacity to increase their market share and profitability. High pre-harvest and post-harvest losses, lack of industrial processing, and inadequate feeder roads and marketplaces further restrict the marketing system.

To address these constraints, the objectives of Component 1 will include the following activities:

Sub-component 1.1. - Strengthening of sustainable crop production and intensification

The project activities will be implemented in both upland and lowland areas. Increasing the productivity of uplands areas will be dedicated to cassava and rice production. The project will support land development and land preparation for rice cultivation in lowland areas of about 240 ha. This will include the rehabilitation of community-owned land and improve water availability for cropping in the rice producing counties of lowland areas. The developed lowland areas will be suitable for both rainfed and irrigated cropping systems with two harvests of rice per year. Parts of the developed lowland also have the utilization potential for vegetable production. The engineering and infrastructure works will include earth and layout works water control and small irrigation

structures. This is expected to increase rice production by additional 996 MT of locally produced rice. The engineering designs and feasibility studies for the lowlands development have already been completed under GAFSP and AfDB funded SAPEC project. The project will provide incentives to crowd in private investments in project area to harness the business opportunities enabled through the public investments in the area. Under SAPEC, the government has installed 5 rice milling plants each with a capacity of 18 MT per day. The support of this project to increase rice production will provide incentive for private investors to take up the management of the rice mills.

This infrastructure works will be complemented by additional support for the provision of mechanization equipment as well as the establishment of mechanization support services. The objective of this activity is to improve availability and timely access to affordable agricultural machinery/equipment and mechanized services for agricultural operations through establishment of at least one (1) public -private run Agriculture Mechanization Service Centre (AMSEC) in each project county. The mechanization programme will put mechanized services at the door step of resource constrained farming households who cannot afford their own machinery/equipment. Households who crop less than 2 hectares of land will have the opportunity to increase their average land holding from less than 2 hectares to about 5 hectares. This will gradually allow poor farming households to increase their returns on investment thereby transitioning out from poverty.

Sub-component 1.2 - Value Addition and Market Linkages

The project will support interventions for the development and strengthening of smallholder market access and value chain linkages.

Promoting access of smallholder cooperatives and farmer groups to microcredit. This sub-component will seek to enhance smallholder farmer's access to agriculture finance through the establishment of a ring-fenced facility dedicated to financing of agricultural inputs and trade facilitation. The project will set up a credit guarantee scheme with financial resources to enable participating farmers and market women who have little access to micro credit overcome this constraint. This will address one of the major constraints to increased agricultural productivity. This project will finance the "seed money" in a financial institution to be selected with guidance from the Central Bank of Liberia using a competitive process. To reach the project beneficiaries mainly in the South-eastern Liberia, the financial institution to be selected will have branches and networks throughout the country. The participating financial institution is expected lend from its balance sheet guaranteed by the seed money from the project. Women and youth farmers will specifically be targeted to receive support in the form of inputs finance. The idea is to reduce the associated perceived risk in agricultural finance limiting access to credit in agriculture sector. Following-up on the SAPEC project, a total of about 1000 farmers will be assisted in each of the counties where the processing centres are located.

To better link smallholder farmers to markets, the project will develop the national Market Information System, building on the support of USAID to the development of Market Information System for many value chains in Liberia. The project will leverage on the assistance provided so far with the system development and develop further this market information platform. Other interventions will promote access to markets for smallholder farmers. One of the key constraints in accessing markets for farmers in the southeastern Liberia is poor road network. The project is expected to rehabilitate 70 Km of feeder roads to connect farmers to marketing centers. Due to poor road infrastructure, most farming communities are cut off from marketing centers. Under this project, all weather feeder roads that are resistant to impacts of excessive rainfall will be rehabilitated. The southeast records the highest amount of rainfall in Liberia. Therefore, feeder roads that are constructed to resist adverse impact road wash will help reduce the risks of farmers having access to markets.

The project will also provide support with the development of micro-hubs for primary processing of cassava (washing, peeling, slicing, etc.). SAPEC project has identified two micro-hubs around each of the processing centers that needs to be developed. The fully developed capacities of these micro-hubs would allow for better linking of smallholder farmers to the processing centers, and to other stages of the value chain.

Component 2: Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

This component will support institutional strengthening at the level of government institutions as well as strengthening the capacity of FBOs. This component will also address the strengthening of the enabling environment, policy, regulations, and administrative procedures for selected government ministries, departments and agencies. Specifically, this component will include the following interventions:

Sub- Component 2.1 – Strengthening participatory farmer advisory services for improving productivity and nutrition

The government extension system in Liberia has limited capacity and linkages with related institutions and with different categories of farmers, farmers' organizations and various value chain actors are weak. This results in poor adoption and dissemination of good agricultural practices, innovation and research results to enhance farmers' capacity to increase agricultural productivity and improve livelihoods.

To overcome this constraint, it is proposed that the project will support the implementation of an extension model based on the participatory, farmer-centered knowledge transfer approach. This approach will utilize the experience of the farmer field schools extensively tested in the last 30 years around the world and, specifically, in many African countries. Farmer Field schools (FFS) are a participatory method of knowledge dissemination and technology transfer, based on adult learning principles and experimental learning. The sustainability of the participatory farmer advisory services will be ensured by ownership of the process by FBOs and supported by MOA, who will continue engaging the trained lead farmers as change agents for knowledge sharing. ICT-based options will be also explored for delivery of vital weather and market information directly to smallholder farmers enables them to make informed on-farm decisions by linking scientific and extension expert knowledge to rural farmers.

The proposed assistance will build upon the results of the SAPEC project in recruiting and training 76 agricultural extension workers located in the project districts. The proposed approach will complement services provided by the extension workers. The extension personnel will identify or form farmer groups based on identified knowledge gaps and particular training topics. They will also train lead farmers and serve as FFS facilitators. The aim is to build farmers' capacity to independently identify problems in their production systems, test possible solutions, and learn and adopt appropriate practices and climate-resilient technologies, such as fertility soil management, utilization of improved seeds, agroforestry, compost making, integrated pest management (IPM). About 2000 farmers are expected to benefit from the participatory farmer advisory system.

LASIP II has a strong emphasis on nutrition. The evaluation of One UN Nutrition Project conducted in 2016 revealed the important role that nutrition education and awareness play in improving household nutrition. The evaluation also concluded that home / kitchen gardens are a practical way to improve the consumption of nutrition rich vegetables for many rural families. Results of the One UN nutrition project also demonstrated that introduction of small livestock to smallholder farming increased the consumption of protein and also may increase household incomes.

To promote nutrition in the project areas, the project will introduce specific educational and demonstration interventions. The participatory farmer training approach will be used to train about 1000 project participants in developing and maintaining kitchen / backyard gardens, and raising nutrition awareness. Start-up packages of vegetable seeds will be provided to the participating households. Also, support will be provided with access to chickens, piggeries and goats, and with basic veterinary training. Cooking courses on nutritious and balanced meals using the garden produce and small livestock meat will be organized for local communities. Trainings and demonstration plots will be organized to illustrate the potential of integrated farming, where crop production is combined with small ruminants / poultry to increase the farming productivity and farmer incomes. This assistance would build on experiences with piloting integrated farming approaches in Liberia and across Africa, and on the results achieved under the SAPEC project in selected counties and communities.

Sub-component 2.2 – Support to national food safety

Food security and food safety are major challenges for consumers and producers in Liberia as productivity continues to fall below regional levels and food handling and safety measures are not in place. Improving food safety in the country is necessary to ensure quality of the imported and domestically produced food. In addition, it is necessary to foster an enabling environment for domestic food processors and entrepreneurs to meet international food quality standards to become competitive in regional markets.

The project will support LACRA under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in reviewing and amendment of the national policy framework governing food safety and protection in the country. Assistance will be also provided in establishing a national inter-ministerial committee to oversee food safety policies development and their implementation. A specific assistance will be provided to developing quality control measures and standards for processed commodities; and improve marketing of processed commodities such as High Quality Cassava starch and milled rice, as well support to developing a policy framework for High Quality Cassava flour and products.

Quality monitoring for food safety requires the creation/establishment of food quality laboratory. To this end, the project will support the strengthening of technical capacity of the National Standard Laboratory in Liberia be supported in terms of laboratory machines and equipment for food quality assessment and confirmation to international standards.

Improved food safety is characterized by prevention, being both a public and a private responsibility, along all stages of value chains. The project will therefore provide training to producers, haulers, aggregators and marketers in sanitary and phytosanitary issues relating to rice, cassava and vegetables production in the project areas.

Sub-component 2.3 – Strengthening the capacity of MOA in investment planning and implementation

The MOA is mandated to serve the important role of a catalyst, coordinator and steward of the entire development process of the agricultural sector in the country. It is responsible for setting priorities for the sector development and elaboration of the sector strategies and action plans for different geographic regions and value chains, determining the feasibility and relative economic and financial attractiveness of development options.

The project will provide support to strengthening the capacity of MOA in planning of sustainable agricultural investments, including trainings on the concepts of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and sustainable National Resource Management, and economic and financial analysis of agricultural investments. The SAPEC experience has demonstrated deficiencies in the existing M&E system of MOA. To address this issue, support will be provided to the functioning of LAGMIS (the comprehensive M&E system) to track the implementation of investment and technical assistance projects in the sector. A special assistance will be also provided to the Crop Protection Unit on Pest and Disease Surveillance and Control of the Ministry, given its importance for the sustainable intensification of crop production agenda in the country.

Sub-Component 2.4. – Capacity development of agricultural research institutions

The project will support the production of high quality of seeds in the country, including research necessary for highly productive, fortified, and disease resilient seeds be carried out by the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI). Sound agricultural research and associated policies ensure the availability of demand-driven technologies such as, viable seeds, good quality planting materials and animal breeds that are essential to agricultural production and productivity. The central role of agriculture research in transforming and modernizing agriculture in Liberia cannot therefore be overemphasized.

It is therefore envisaged that the project will provide support to the capacity building of CARI to enable it to provide leadership in research and development (R&D) of the commodity value chains of rice, cassava and vegetables, especially making locally adaptable high-yielding planting materials and seeds, and breeds of livestock/poultry available for multiplication and distribution to project beneficiaries. The project will train at least 2 research scientists at the Ph.D. level to carry out research activities along the strategic agricultural value chains. Support will be also provide to restoring soil testing and advisory services of CARI, including equipping the soil laboratory and delivery of soil advisory services to beneficiary farmers in the target counties for the duration of the project. It is expected that CARI will start providing fee-based services to the private sector and FBOs, gradually moving towards cost-recovery of its operations.

Component 3: Project management and coordination

The component will focus on the effective coordination and management of the project. Activities will include procurement of services for the design, supervision and construction of civil works, and purchasing of goods and services including agro-processing and office equipment, training for multiple clients, and feeder roads maintenance, following procurement guidelines of the African Development Bank as a Supervising Entity for this project. Key project cycle management tasks to ensure efficiency and effectiveness will include recruitment of project staff, provision of office space in all project centers, and preparation of operational manuals, annual work plans and budgets, quarterly progress reports, procurement plans and audit reports. Others include on-the-job training, adoption of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system established under the SAPEC, provision of communication infrastructure, organization of stakeholders workshops, and coordination of baseline and impact assessment studies.

Expected outputs and outcomes

The achievement of PDO will be measured through a combination of indicators, such as reduction in Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) at local level, Food Consumption Score (FCS) and the Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women, Infants and Children (MDD-W/C). The project intends to make efforts to record this information at the project level since such information is not available at the national/regional level.

Expected outcomes will be measured by such indicators as increased incomes for targeted participants, increased yields for rice and cassava value chains; and the number of direct project participants expected to benefit from (soft and hard) inputs of the project. The project is set to achieve a number of key output milestones, be measured through developed lowland areas; improved farmer access to advisory services; number of organized machinery centers that pool resources for access by smallholder farmers; construction of feeder roads for easier access to markets. The project is also expected to reduce pre- and post-harvest losses; improved storage, processing, value addition and market access of farmer produce; and higher food safety practices and standards. Details of the expected project outcomes and are provided in the project logframe in Appendix 4.

2.4 Implementation arrangements

The implementation arrangements for the project will follow the implementation model for the on-going AfDB, IFAD, and World Bank projects in the agriculture sector. The MOA-PMU has been established as a cost-effective way to implement all investment projects in the sector and it gained a considerable experience in investment project implementation over the years of its functioning. The project will further strengthen the capacity of the PMU through the competitive recruitment, adoption of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system, provision of communication infrastructure, audit and strengthening the financial management and accounting systems.

The national staff will receive in-service training including skills transfer from international experts. Furthermore, and in keeping with standard procedures, the PMU will ensure the active participation of the appropriate national

and field staff of the Ministry of Public Works in the execution of civil works. The inter-ministerial Steering Committee that is currently utilized by the SAPEC project will oversee the project implementation.

2.5 Amount of financing requested and time frame for implementation

Financing requested from GAFSP

The requested financial support from GAFSP for project implementation is *USD 10.534 million*. The total project cost is estimated at *USD 18.061 million* of which the African Development Bank will contribute *USD 7 million* and GoL - *USD 0.527 million*. The project implementation period will be five years. Details of the required financing and project costs are summarised in the tables below.

The project cost estimates are based on a detailed cost estimates for foreseen activities to be implemented and represent an optimal package of infrastructure development and capacity and institutional building interventions. The minimum GAFSP financing requirement is estimated at *USD 8.21 million* and would require a scaling down of capacity building activities for MOA, the introduction of ICT-based advisory services for farmers and of nutrition promoting activities.

Table 2.2. Project financing

	Cost (USD million)	Share (%)
Project implementation		
GAFSP	10.534	58%
Government	0.527	3%
African Development Bank	7.000	39%
Project Implementation Total	18.061	100%
GAFSP funding request Total	10.534	

Table 2.3. Project cost (USD million)

Component	GAFSP	AfDB	GoL	Total cost	Priority
Component 1: Support to enhancing smallholder agricultural productivity and market access				11.363	
1.1 - Strengthening of sustainable crop production and intensification	3.332	1.200		5.032	High
1.2 - Value Addition and Market Linkages	0.831	5.500		6.331	High
Component 2. Institutional strengthening and capacity building				4.933	
2.1 – Strengthening participatory farmer advisory services	2.067	0.015		2.082	High
2.2 – Support to national food safety and security	0.890			0.890	Medium
2.3 – Strengthening the capacity of MOA in investment planning and implementation	0.890			0.890	Medium
2.4 – Capacity development of agricultural research institutions	0.786	0.285		1.071	High
Component 3. Project Management	1.238		0.527	1.765	High
TOTAL	10.534	7.0	0.527	18.061	

Other donor funded agriculture and food security projects

Table 2.4. Donor-funded projects and their performance

Project Name	Implementing Partner	Project costs (US\$ million)	Last implementation status (date)
Smallholder agriculture transformation and agribusiness revitalization project (STAR-P)	World Bank IFAD co-financing	25 23	May 2019: satisfactory Expected
Land Administration project	World Bank	7	June 2019; moderately unsatisfactory
Social safety nets	World Bank	10	April 2019: moderately unsatisfactory
Tree crops extension project	IFAD	36.67	N/A
Tree crops extension project II	IFAD	47.6	N/A
Rural Community Finance project	IFAD	10.86	N/A
Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation project	IFAD	26.86	Closed December 2017. moderately satisfactory
Smallholder Tree Crop Revitalization Support Project	IFAD World Bank	24.9 15	Closed June 2017. moderately satisfactory Closed November 2018 Moderately satisfactory
Smallholder agricultural productivity enhancement and commercialization project (SAPEC)	AfDB / GAFSP	54.4	February 2019, Satisfactory
Agriculture sector rehabilitation project	AfDB	21.9	Closed February 2017, moderately satisfactory

Preferred Supervising Entities

African Development Bank (AfDB) will be the supervising entity for investments and technical assistance. AfDB is currently the supervising entity for the SAPEC project co-financed by GAFSP and is one of the lead international donors supporting the agriculture sector in Liberia.

FAO has been selected by GOL as an additional supervising entity for technical assistance. FAO will be involved in technical areas such as support to strengthening of farmer advisory services; transfer of knowledge and good agricultural practices; promotion of nutrition awareness; capacity building of the government, including institutional strengthening of MOA, NSL and agricultural research institutions (CARI); and developing of policy frameworks for national food safety. The share of the proposed project cost will be finalized during the project preparation stage.

Supervising Entities for Investments and Technical Assistance

- ☒ African Development Bank
- ☐ Asian Development Bank
- ☐ International Fund for Agricultural Development
- ☐ Inter-American Development Bank
- ☐ World Bank

Supervising Entities for Technical Assistance only

- ☒ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- ☐ World Food Programme (WFP)

2.6 Post project sustainability and exit strategies

The proposed project focuses on consolidating and sustaining the results achieved under the SAPEC project funded with the GAFSP support, with a substantial value added in capacity building of smallholder farmers, advisory

services and government institutions, in addition to further infrastructure development and linking farmers to markets. The strengthened capacities of farmers, farmer organizations and producer cooperatives will enable them to take over functions and responsibilities previously provided by the government, presenting a realistic exit strategy for the central government and external partners.

With regard to operation and maintenance of assets financed by the project, the farmers will be organized into water users associations to manage the developed water / irrigation infrastructure in the lowlands under cultivation. The developed cassava processing facilities will be managed by women groups who are already using traditional methods of processing. Under the established mechanization center, a PPP arrangement will be designed for the management of the facility. The ability of farmers to sustain project activities will be enhanced by their increased incomes. Smallholder incomes are expected to rise through adoption of good agricultural practices and technologies, multiple cropping, better water resource utilization, value addition, and postharvest loss reduction. It is expected that service providers will charge farmers affordable fees sufficient to cover the operational cost and margins. Maintenance of roads constructed under the project is expected to be the responsibility of the government.

2.7 Risks and risk management

Building on the experiences and lessons learned from the implementation of the SAPEC project and other projects in the sector, specific risks and relevant mitigation measures are identified and summarized in the table 2.4 below:

Table 2.4. Risks and mitigation measures

Identified Risks	Response and counter / mitigation measures (avoid, reduce, fall back, transfer, accept, share)	Probability
Local capacities: limited financial, social and technical capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued mobilization and capacity building support through micro-credit schemes and training - Promote female participation in decision-making bodies and organizational structures - Improved access to micro credit 	High
Transport: access to project area limited during rainy season	-Ensure local service providers are contracted with easier access to target area	Medium
Political: project benefits captured by local elites due to weak participation / political influence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hold community meetings to explain objectives of the project. - Publish and publicize selection criteria for transparent beneficiary selection - Publish beneficiary lists in public places and online 	Low
Post-harvest handling and infrastructure: maintenance of machinery and irrigation systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ownership of machinery will remain with FBOs with sufficient time for oversight of operations by project team -WUAs will formed to take responsibilities for irrigation infrastructure 	Medium
Technical capacity: implementing agencies limited by technical and operational capacities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train project staff on project objectives, activities and implementation arrangements among development partners - Contract service providers / implementing partners with sufficient capacity to implement technical aspects of project where needed 	Medium
Adoption rates: farmers discontinue using inputs after initial farming cycle	- Strengthened participatory knowledge intensive extension approaches: demonstration activities and peer-to-peer learning structures to remain in place to help farmers better utilize inputs at early stages and thereafter set in motion a momentum to continue the farming cycle	Low
Nutrition behavior change	- Heightened awareness of the importance of nutrition; Provide gender sensitive training to avoid resistance to diet changes; kitchen garden promotion	High

Fiduciary: failure to maintain financial and procurement management according to procedures	- Train project and government staff on fiduciary responsibility to meet guidelines, procedures and regulations at all levels of management and staff	Low
Environmental: possible negative environmental impacts of road rehabilitation and lowland development; climate change impacts	- Environmental management plan will be developed to address the possible (modest) environmental and social impacts. There is no anticipated resettlement and deforestation - Training of farmers in CSA practices; accounting for climate change in infrastructure design	Medium
Sectoral policy: support measures not in place to protect local producers	-Continue to work with government offices to institute a policy framework in support of a sustainable food value chain that works to support food security; public-private platform to facilitate policy dialogue	Medium
Land consolidation / reparcelling: social risk	- Disputes over land consolidation will be avoided due to small scale of irrigation envisaged	Low

2.8 Consultation with local stakeholders and development partners

A strong country's ownership of the proposal was ensured through a wide stakeholder consultation process established in the course of the proposal preparation. Consultation meetings were held at different levels, including farmer organizations, members of the Agriculture Sector Working Group, government agencies and line ministries, and NGOs.

Inter-ministerial consultations: A working group for the preparation of the GASFP proposal was established at MOA to coordinate the proposal preparation and technically contribute to its design and contents (a list of the Working Group members is attached in Appendix 7). Several departments under the Ministry of Agriculture have been consulted in the course of designing the proposal scope and contents, including the Department of Regional Development, Research and Extension and the Department of Development and Planning including the central project management unit (PMU) responsible for implementation of all agricultural investment projects in the country. Meetings were also held with the autonomous Central Agriculture research Institute (CARI). The objectives and contents of the proposal were also discussed with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, and LACRA. The ministries and government agencies expressed their support to the proposal and their advice was reflected in the proposal design.

Bilateral consultations: Bilateral meetings and detailed discussions were held with the main development partners active in the sector, to ensure the linkages and complementarity of the proposal with priorities and interventions of the ongoing investment and assistance projects. This included meetings with several UN agencies (WFP, UN Women), World Bank; USAID, EU representation in Liberia, Swedish Embassy, USAID, and JICA. A consultation meeting was also held with the Farmer Union, a farmer cooperative umbrella organization in Liberia.

Proposal validation stakeholder workshop. A national stakeholder workshop was organized on August 6 2019 in Monrovia to present the draft proposal contents and receive a feedback and inputs in order to strengthen its contents and ensure that the proposal reflects the agreed priorities and objectives. About 60 participants took part in the workshop discussions, including farmer representatives from the project target areas, local administration officials, district level organizations, civil society and NGOs, central government officials, and development partners. The workshop endorsed the proposal and underlined that the proposed investment target vulnerable in terms of food security and poverty geographical areas, and implementation of such project would be very beneficial for smallholder farmers and for improving the food security situation and poverty reduction in those counties. A list of the workshop participants is attached in Appendix 5.

2.9 Detailed plan for project preparation

The preparation of a detailed project document will involve a team of dedicated experts from Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Public Works and Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The composition of the project

preparation team will consider professionalism and experience in project design. The team of at least 7 experts led by a focal person from the Ministry of Agriculture will team up with the proposed supervisory entities to prepare and finalize the detailed project document (Table 2.5). The preparation will include conducting a feasibility study where baseline data for the project and environmental impact assessment will be established. In order to accomplish the task in time, the Government is requesting a preparation grant available within the GAFSP funding. The request is submitted along with the project proposal document. The tables below indicates the list of Government officials who will be fully be engaged in the exercise and an action plan for the eleven month assignment of project design.

Table 2.5. Team of Government Officers for detailed project preparations

No.	Name	Organization	Current Title	Role
1	Mr. J. Dennis Wiagbe, Jr.	Ministry of Agriculture	M&E Director	Planning (M&E)
2	Mr. Alaric Mienwipia	Ministry of Agriculture	Assistant Director for Extension	Agronomist
3	Mr. Randolph Kolleh	Ministry of Agriculture	Senior Economist	Economist
4	Dr. Cheryl Williams	Ministry of Agriculture	Gender Specialist	Gender officer
5	Dr. Kolleh Bangura	Environmental Protection Agency	Chief Technical Advisor to EPA	Environmentalism
6	Mr. Roosevelt Reeves	Ministry of Agriculture	Agriculture Machinery Engineer	Civil Engineer
7	Ms. Helena Jolfe	Ministry of Agriculture	Agribusiness Specialist	Agro-business Specialist

Timeline for the project preparation:

Decision by the GAFSP Steering Committee on funds allocation – December 2019

Mobilization – January 2020

Feasibility study and detailed designs: February – April 2020

Project appraisal – May 2020

Review of the project appraisal document – June 2020

Project clearance and submission to GAFSP – July 2020

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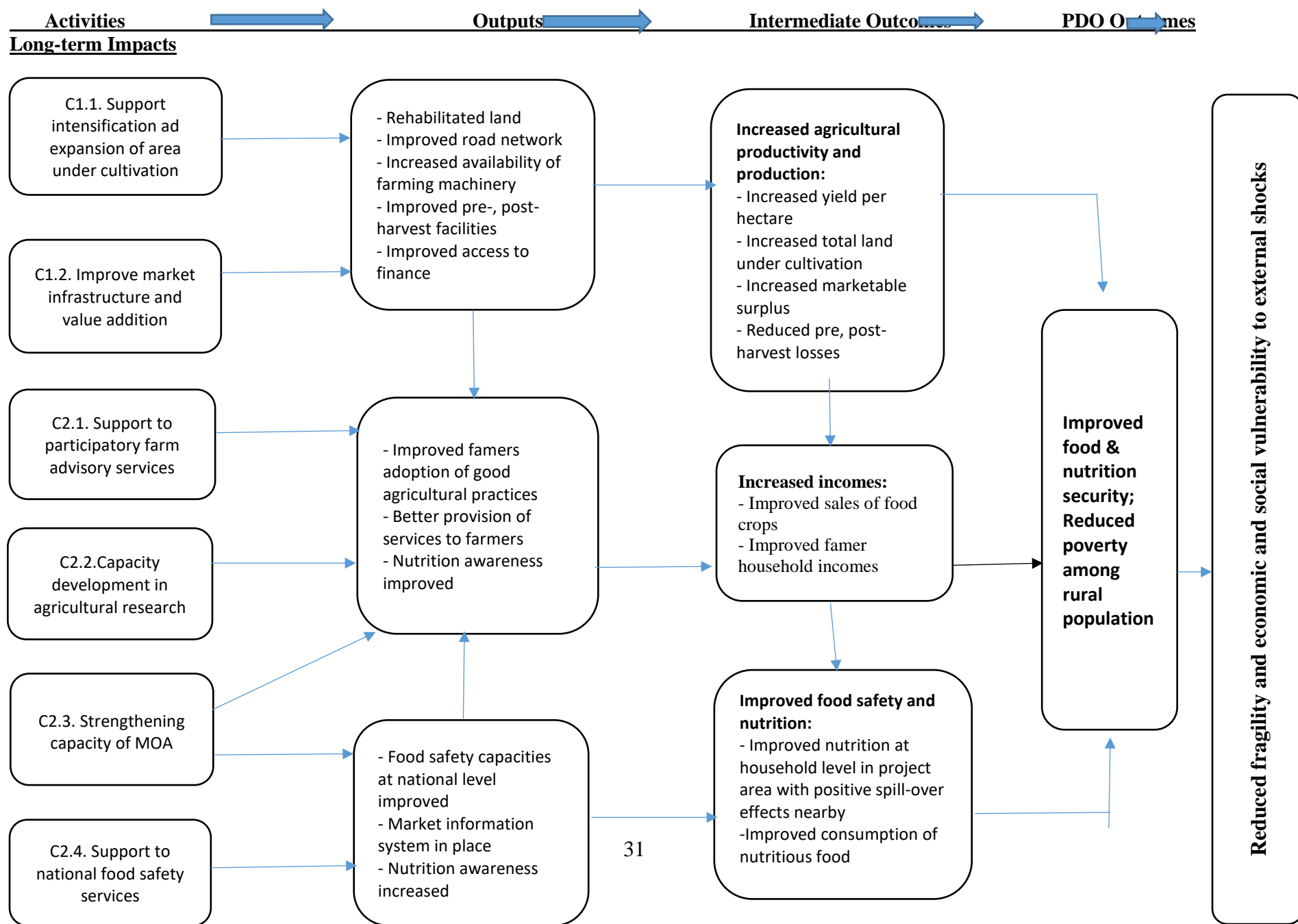
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Part 3: Supporting Documentation and Appendices

Appendix 1. Projects implemented under LASIP I (2010-2015)

No	Name of project	Acronym	Budget USD mln	Donor
1	Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation project	ASRP	18.3	AfDB, GOL
2	Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation project	ASRP	5	IFAD, GOL
3	Smallholder Tree Crop Revitalization Support Project	STCRSP	23.1	World Bank/GOL
4	Smallholder Tree Crop Revitalization Support Project	STCRSP	24.9	IFAD/GOL
5	West African Agricultural Productivity Project	WAAPP	14	World Bank, JICA, GOL
6	Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization Project	SAPEC	54.4	AfDB, GOL
7	West Africa Regional Fisheries Project	WARFP	1	World Bank, GEF & ACGF
8	Food and Enterprise Development Project	FED	7	USAID
9	Liberia Agriculture Upgrading Nutrition and Child Health	LAUNCH	4	USAID
10	Health, Agriculture, Nutrition Development for Sustainability	HANDS	35	USAID
11	Smallholder Oil Palm Support Project	SHOPS I	3.7	USAID
12	Smallholder Oil Palm Support Project	SHOPS II	3.	USAID
13	People, Rules and Organizations Support for Protection of Eco-System Resources	PROSPER	2	USAID
14	Excellence in Higher Education for Liberian Development	E-HELD	7.4	USAID
15	Promoting food security in Southeast Liberia	SEL	1.9	EU
16	Agriculture and Infrastructure Development Project	AIDP	8	World Bank
17	Livelihood Asset Rehabilitation Program	LAR	4.3	WFP
18	Rural Infrastructure in Support of Enterprise Project	RISE	35	USAID
19	Integrated Agriculture for Women's Empowerment	IAWP	1.3	USAID
20	EU-Bong	EU-Bong	1.1	EU
21	EU-Lofa	EU-Lofa	2.6	EU
22	Food Security through Commercialization of Agriculture	FSCA	2.2	FAO
23	Improved Food Security & Nutrition through Economic Empowerment of Women	IFSNEEW	1.5	FAO
24	Enhancing Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture in Liberia	EUPUAL		EU
25	Development of Sustainable Inland Fish Farming to Achieve Food Security in Rural Liberia	DSFF	1.5	EU
26	Purchase for Progress	P4P	6	WFP
27	Climate Change Adaptation Agriculture Project	CCAAP	2.5	UNDP
	Total Amount		409.26	

Appendix 2. Theory of Change Diagram



Appendix 3: Alignment of LASIP II with CAADP, other regional and national strategies

Components	Outcome	Key Activities	Alignment (CAADP)	Other Regional Strategies	Cross Cutting policies and investment plans
Food and Nutrition Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reliable and functioning food and nutrition security information and monitoring system is in place; • Effective chronic and acute food insecurity and malnutrition prevention and management system is in place and functional; • Productive capacity and incomes of poor and vulnerable farmers are increased • Nutrition and food access are improved 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote and support the conduct of national comprehensive food security and nutrition survey 2. Establish food and nutrition security information and monitoring system. 3. Improve emergency preparedness, response and contingency. 4. Promote and support social protection for vulnerable people. 5. Facilitate access to farmland for the poor and vulnerable. 6. Promote access to appropriate productive resources and inputs for the poor and vulnerable. 7. Mainstream nutrition into agricultural programs with strong gender sensitivity. 8. Promote and support food diversification. 9. Promote and support local production and consumption of micro nutrients. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing Food Supply and Reducing Hunger. (Pillar 3) • To support to productivity-increasing activity among small farmers in the context of food security programmes (Chapter 4). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Community of West African States Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) • Regional Agricultural Investment Program (RAIP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Food and Nutrition Security Investment Plan (NAFNSIP). • Food Security and Nutrition Strategy (FSNS) – 2008. • Food Security and Nutrition Strategy (FSNS) (Revised) - 2015 • Food and Agriculture Policy and Strategy (FAPS) – 2008. • National Nutrition Policy (NNP, 2009). • Nutrition Country Paper-Liberia – 2011.
Competitive Value Chain Development and Market Linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducive business environment improved • Agro-industry development promoted • Agriculture infrastructure developed • Competitive value chains and market linkages developed • Inclusive and innovative agro-financing promoted 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harmonize national agricultural instruments with regional and international policies, strategies and regulations. 2. Facilitate the creation of an enabling environment for public and private institutions for increased investments in agriculture 3. Promote and support the operationalization of potential agro-poles. 4. Promote and support the engagement of actors in the agriculture value chains. 5. Support the promotion of incubators for women and youth. 6. Rehabilitate/ construct farm-to-market roads to link major production areas to markets. 7. Rehabilitate/construct processing and storage facilities at strategic locations. 	Improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for improved market access (Pillar b - Chapter 3)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda for Transformation (AfT) (2012-2017). • Liberia Agriculture Transformation Agenda (LATA) – 2016.

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Promote and develop farm mechanization 9. Develop and improve knowledge of market information systems and quality control measures and standards 10. Develop and strengthen agribusinesses along commodity chains to facilitate linkages to input and output markets. 11. Facilitate access to credit for actors along the agricultural value chain 12. Promote adapted community level credit schemes for actors along the agricultural value chain. 			
Agricultural Extension, Research and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural research strengthened; • Extension and technical services delivery system strengthened • Science, technology and innovations applied to the agricultural sector • Funding for agricultural research increased 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote and support public-private sectors partnership in relevant and adoptable research activities across the country. 2. Support capacity development of agricultural research institutions. 3. Support the legislation and implementation of the National Policy for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (NPAEAS). 4. Promote and support the development of Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS) system. 5. Strengthen public-private partnership and farmers capacity for technology adoption and upscale. 6. Promote research, knowledge and skills transfer. 7. Develop plans to raise/mobilise funds (internal and external sources) for agriculture research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Research, Technology Dissemination and Adoption (Pillar 4 – Chapter 5) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Assessment of the Agriculture Sector in Liberia (CAAS-Lib) – 2007. • Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (LASIP I)(2010-2015). • National Policy for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (NPAEAS)
Sustainable Production and Natural Resource Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Resource Institutions strengthened and adopt agricultural practices • Production and productivity of priority value chains increased 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harmonise natural resource sector policies. 2. Strengthen natural resource institutions capacity. 3. Promote mechanization and irrigation. 4. Promote mechanization and irrigation. 5. Strengthen and promote fisheries and aquaculture development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending the Area under Sustainable Land Management and Reliable Water Control Systems (Chapter 2 – Pillar a) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Strategy, Bureau of National Fisheries – 2014.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate smart agricultural production techniques enhanced • Use of gender and environment sensitive technologies and practices enhanced • Sustainable use and management of natural resources improved 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Enhance crops production and productivity especially in the lowland. 7. Collaborate with the Land Authority in ensuring the availability and sustainable utilization of arable land. 8. Support the mainstreaming of climate smart agriculture into programs. 9. Promote and support the implementation of climate smart agricultural production techniques. 10. Promote appropriate labour saving devices. 11. Promote and support the conservation of forest areas and sustainable environmentally friendly farming practices. 12. Promote and support sustainable and gender sensitive use of natural resources. 			
Governance and Institutional Strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination mechanism for mutual accountability strengthened • Capacity of institutions strengthened 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operationalize central M&E system at the MOA. 2. Strengthen and support multi-stakeholder platforms for policy dialogue and sector coordination. 3. Support technical and human capacities of institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross Cutting in the CAADP 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement of Policy Intent for Agriculture – 2006. • Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender Issues in Agricultural Programs and Projects – 2010. •

Appendix 4: Project Logframe/Results Framework at proposal stage

Results Hierarchy	Indicators	Means of Verification
Overall Development Goal: Improved food security and reduce poverty of rural communities		
Project Development Objective (PDO): Improved food and nutrition security, increase yields and income and reduce poverty of rural households in Liberia		
PDO-Indicator: Increased food and nutrition security	GAFSP Tier 1 Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) at project level Food consumption score (FCS) Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women, Infants and Children (MDD-W/C) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project baseline/endline and household surveys
Core Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10,000 total number of direct and 50,000 indirect beneficiaries reached & share of women (>40%) of total beneficiaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project MIS system
Outcome 1: Increased agricultural production and productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >20% yield increase for cassava and rice (t/ha) 	Project MIS system
Outcome 2: Higher incomes of farmer households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> >10% increase in farmer household incomes (\$/household) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project MIS system Records of PBO
Component 1: Support to enhancing smallholder agricultural productivity and market access		
Output 1: Increased productivity and access to value addition assets by smallholder farmers		
(i) C1.1: Strengthening of sustainable crop production and intensification	GAFSP Tier 2 Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 238 ha of land area developed for irrigated agriculture Two sets of farming machinery available Four mechanization centres supported 10,000 smallholders receiving productivity enhancement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project MIS system
(ii) C1.2: Value Addition and Market Linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70km of rehabilitated roads One Market Information System installed and operational with training At least two MFIs / Credit Associations supported # of MFIs/ACC supporting project participants Volume of agricultural loans that are issued/outstanding/repaid with project funds Eight constructed / rehabilitated post-harvest facilities, storage centres and market access related installations (market places) Volume of agricultural production processed by post-harvest facilities established with project support (tons, by food group) 20 percent reduction in pre-, post-harvest losses. # of persons receiving capacity development through project support (m/f, type of org.) 500 VC actors trained in food safety and business skills Three agreements by FBO signed with VC actors Direct employment added by the project (m/f, F/T, P/T) # of FBO members trained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project MIS system

Component 2: Institutional strengthening and capacity building		
Output 2: Improved technical know-how by smallholder farmers and value chain actors		
(i) C2.1: Strengthening participatory farmer advisory services for improving productivity and nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least three FFS supported • Five ToT trained • # of people completed FFS (m/f, age) • At least 20 producer-based organizations supported by project • 10 social behaviour change communication (BCC) campaigns successfully completed • 15,000 of people trained in nutrition enhancing activities • 1,500 people receiving improved nutrition services and products (m/f, age) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project MIS system
(ii) C2.2: Support to national food safety and security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One NSL lab refurbished • # of lab tests conducted, articles published by NSL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project MIS system
(iii) C2.3: Strengthening the capacity of MOA in investment planning and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully functioning MIS system in place in MOA • # of advisory services staff trained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project MIS system
(iv) C2.4. Capacity development of agricultural research institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of new strains and technologies adapted and released for commercial use • # of lab tests conducted, articles published by CARI, diseases detected and countered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project MIS system
Component 3: Project Management		
Output 3: Improved project delivery on a timely basis		
(i) Operationalize full project management team and ensure good overall project management of finances, human resources, planning and budgeting, operations, monitoring and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual work, staff and budget planning on time • Publications agreements, financial and technical support, and operational status are fully functional and documented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project MIS system • Reports • Implementation support mission reports
(ii) Management Information system in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolling implementation review process and reporting on a timely basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project MIS system
(iii) Environmental and social safeguards are respected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grievance mechanism in place and functioning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grievance registry • Reports and implementation support missions.
(iv) Knowledge management is well documented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons learned and case studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project management team

Appendix 5: List of stakeholders engaged in consultation process during proposal preparation

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE GARSP DEBRIEFING MEETING					
Attendance Sheet Venue: Conference Room of the DMPD Date: August 8, 2019					
NO.	NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTION	CELL# (s)	E-MAIL ADDRESS
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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
CAFSP DELEGATION – MEETING WITH FAO
Attendance Sheet Venue: Conference Room of the DMPD Date: June 19, 2019

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Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



CAFSF
Crop Protection & Food Security Program

GLOBAL AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM

Date: August 6, 2019

Venue: CORINA HOTEL, Sinkor, Monrovia - Liberia

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Appendix 6. Performance of past GAFSP grant allocation: SAPEC project achievements

Planned Activities	Achievements
Agricultural Lowlands rehabilitation and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Feasibility study conducted and technical designs for 1000 ha of lowland completed. ➤ Contracts awarded for the development of 310 ha of lowland.
Dissemination of improved technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ MoUs signed with Africa Rice and IITA to provide advisory and implementation services. ➤ Out of a target of 25,000 farming households, the project has reached 22,685 farming households with advisory services. The balance of 2,315 households will be reached during the 2018/2019 farming season. ➤ Seeds of 14 improved and climate change resilient rice varieties (NERICA 4, ARICA 5, NERICA 8 NERICA 14, NERICA 12, NERICA18, ARICA 4 for the upland ecology, and ARICA 2, NERICA L-19, NERICAL-20, Orylux 6, WITA 9, IR841 for lowland ecology) have been introduced to project farmers by Africa Rice. ➤ 119,250 pieces of assorted hand tools, 415 kilograms of mixed vegetable seeds, 102.4 metric tons of seed rice, 556 bags of sweet potato vine, 1,250 bags of poultry manure, and other agro-chemicals and IPM material were distributed to farming households. 8 power tillers including accessories were also delivered to farming groups. ➤ Planting material (22,265 bundles) of 13 varieties of high yielding (25-40 tons/ha) and disease tolerant cassava were multiplied in 8 counties and distributed to 1,938 farming households, local NGOs and FBOs. ➤ Africa Rice and IITA have developed draft Business Plans for the rice and cassava processing hubs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Both organizations have registered farmers in communities closed to the hubs for the establishment of out-grower schemes to feed the hubs.
Development of an E-Platform for Agro-Inputs Distribution in Liberia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A Consulting Firm, Cellulant Nigeria Limited, established an E-Platform for effective agro-input distribution in Liberia. A supply chain and agro dealer network (comprising 4 suppliers and an Association of Agro-Dealers), and an innovative agriculture financing mechanism (also initially comprising CBL and LBDI) were also established. ➤ A total of 321,766 farmers were registered across the 15 counties of Liberia (thus surpassing the initial target of 300,000) in the country's first farmer e-database complete with telephone numbers, photo ID and unique ID number. ➤ The website http://41.206.23.39/LATA/dash.php allows relevant stakeholders monitor the progress of the program. ➤ Opened an Escrow Account at the Central Bank of Liberia with an amount of US\$7.5 million to provide funding for the E-Platform. ➤ During the 2015/2016 cropping season, a pilot phase of the program was implemented, and 2,688 farmers from 3 Counties (Bomi, Montserrado, Nimba and Grand Bassa) redeemed a total of 201.6 metric tons of fertilizer (NPK – 134.4 Mts. and Urea – 67.2 Mts.) and 26.88 metric tons of seed rice for the lowland ecology. Each beneficiary received a package of agro-inputs comprising 10 kg of lowland seed rice, 50 kg NPK Fertilizer, and 25 kg Urea Fertilizer. A total of 2,173.4 metric tons of Fertilizer; 560.03 metric tons of seed rice, and 2,605 bundles of cassava sticks. ➤ During the 2016/2017 cropping season, the program provided fertilizer, rice seeds (for both upland and lowland ecologies) and cassava sticks to 40,358 farmers across the entire country via the e-wallet system. ➤ Each farmer received a full package of agro inputs comprising: (i) 10 kg seed rice, 50 kg NPK Fertilizer, and 25 kg Urea Fertilizer for lowland rice farmers (ii) 25 kg seed rice for upland rice farmers (iii) 5 bundles of cassava sticks (50 sticks per bundle).
Rehabilitation of Rural Feeder Roads with proper drainage system and crossing points (culverts/bridges)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Feasibility study conducted and technical designs completed for the construction and rehabilitation of 270km of rural feeder road in six southeastern counties. 193km targeted for rehabilitation. ➤ Contracts awarded for the rehabilitation of 193km of feeder roads in 6 Counties (Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, River Gee, Sinoe, Maryland and Rivercess).
Construction of Agribusiness centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 4 combined rice mills (with capacity of 18 tons per day) procured and 3 installed and tested in Grand Gedeh, River Gee, and Maryland Counties. ➤ 6 Cassava processing hubs constructed and equipped in 5 Counties (Bomi, Montserrado, Grand Bassa, Sinoe, and Bong). ➤ Operators of the cassava processing equipment at processing hubs were trained on the operation, maintenance, troubleshooting and safety procedures.
Training of Local Artisans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 26 local artisans, selected from the 12 project counties, were trained by Africa Rice on fabrication of modern ASI Rice Thresher and rice mills.
Fabrication of small-scale rice processing equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 8 rice mills, 12 graders, and 21 parboilers have been delivered to farming groups in 8 Counties (Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Grand Capemount, River Gee, Maryland, Margibi, Bomi, and Grand Bassa).
Rehabilitation/construction of market centers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Feasibility study conducted and technical designs for 12 market centers completed. 6 markets targeted for rehabilitation/construction in Maryland, Margibi, River Gee, Grand Bassa, Grand Kru and Grand Capemount Counties. Procurement process for contractors is being finalized.
Rehabilitation/construction of MoA Technology Transfer Centers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Feasibility study conducted and technical designs for 3 technology transfer centers in River Gee, Maryland and Grand Bassa completed. Procurement process for contractors is being finalized.

Training on value addition to cassava products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In order to actualize the policy of 10% Cassava flour inclusion in Bread as proposed by the Government of Liberia, the project trained 1,200 Cassava Processors in 10 Counties on the Production of High Quality Cassava Flour (HQCF), Cassava Starch, and Odourless powdered Fufu. ➤ Conducted training for 199 Master Bakers and 326 Pastry Makers in 8 Counties on inclusion of HQCF in wheat flour for bread and pastry making. 6 spiral dough mixers were procured and distributed to bakers and pastry makers in 4 counties.
Support to Degree Level and Certificate Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supported 19 graduate students in 7 universities in 4 Countries (Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya). They have all graduated with Master's Degrees in various agricultural disciplines. ➤ 37 undergraduate students are supported in CAF/UL (33) and CU (4). A total of 30 students have graduated with Bachelor Degrees in General Agriculture and Agronomy (26 from CAF/UL and 4 from CU). ➤ 12 Project Focal Persons and 40 extension technicians recruited and assigned to project counties. ➤ Contracts signed with 6 vocational institutions to train 360 technicians.
Support to Research and Education Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CAF/UL lab rehabilitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Laboratory 100% refurbished ▪ Laboratory equipment, furniture and chemicals/reagents procured and delivered. ▪ Work on lab extension is ongoing...about 90% complete. ➤ CAFS/WVSTU lab construction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Construction work completed ▪ Equipment and furniture procured and delivered. ▪ Procurement of chemicals ongoing. ➤ CARI lab rehabilitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contract awarded and works ongoing.
Staff Development Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 9 instructors supported at CAF/UL for 1 year.
Support to the on-going capacity building exercises at the Cooperative Development Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Office rent and internet subscription paid. ➤ Office equipment, 1 pickup (4x4), 1 generator (5KVA) and 4 motorbikes (AG100 Yamaha) procured.
Support to the County Agricultural Offices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Laptop and desktop computers with accessories, printers, office furniture, generators, internet facilities, digital cameras, and assorted office supplies provided to each of the 12 project counties. ➤ 12 pickups (4x4) procured and assigned to each project county to facilitate project deliverables. ➤ 40 motorbikes were also procured for use by the Extension Workers.

Appendix 7. MOA Working Group on 2019 GAFSP Proposal Preparation

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