



# Ministry of Agriculture

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## Country Response to LASIP II External Review

The Country appreciates the observations of the external review team (AU NEPAD Agency). The following submission is hereby made in response to the review but with emphasis on the main findings:

### **Component 1: Food and Nutrition Security**

The reviewers suggested the *“need to include a strategy for improving access to energy, linking with the energy sector.”* We are pleased to note that as part of its development agenda, the Government of Liberia is collaborating with ECOWAS through the West African Power Pool Project that is now powering up rural communities from the Cote d’Ivoire through Liberia to Sierra Leone. This will enable the private sector contribute to the agriculture sector as the country moves gradually from subsistence to mechanization and industrialization, highlighted in Component II of the LASIP. Currently, projects under LASIP II [i.e. Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAR – P) and Tree Crops Extension Project (TCEP)] have been formulated to add value to agricultural products. These will require reliable and sustainable energy provision. Thus, the Government of Liberia is implementing activities that address value addition to leverage on interventions within other sectors (i.e. energy and infrastructure).

The reviewers advocated that *“LASIP II includes a strategy on scaling up home-grown school feeding programme.”* The Government current school feeding program under the Zero Hunger Strategy provides the basis for home-grown food and have been working in collaboration with partners (i.e. FAO and WFP).

### **Component 2: Competitive Value Chain Development and Market Linkages**

It has been proposed by the reviewers that *“an activity for identifying priority commodities with value chain development”* be added. The CAADP guidelines suggest 5 priority crops by member states. The LASIP II through stakeholders’ consultation identified 7 priority crops (rice, cassava, horticulture/vegetables, fish, cocoa, oil palm and rubber) which will be developed during the lifespan of LASIP II.

Improvements have been made in the LASIP II since it was technically validated such as the executive summary, updated results framework and budget. The latest version is attached to the GAFSP proposal.