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PAYNESSVILLE CITY, MONTSERRADO COUNTY

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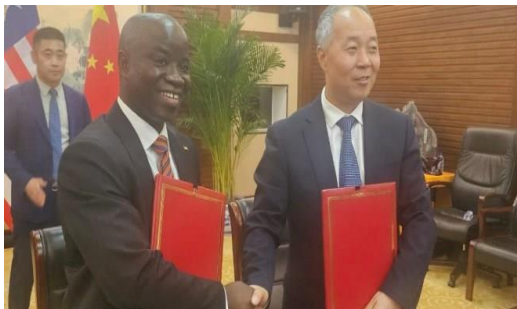
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Liberia and China Sign Agriculture Cooperation Agreement

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Liberia and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen bilateral cooperation in agriculture.

The MOU, formulated on June 18, 2024, is a major boost towards enhancing technical cooperation and capacity building in the various fields of agriculture. With its far-reaching benefits, this milestone agreement aims to drive agricultural development and ensure food security in both countries. It is valid for five years with an automatic extension for succeeding five-year periods.



Under the terms of the MOU, both ministries have committed to fostering collaboration across various aspects of agriculture. This includes sharing specific technical expertise such as advanced irrigation techniques and best practices like integrated pest management to improve agricultural productivity. [Click on the link to read more on this story](#)

African Development Fund Approves 10 Million Agriculture Project for Liberia

The Board of Directors of the African Development Fund has approved an additional \$10 million from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) to implement activities and scale up the impact of the Smallholder Agriculture Development for Food and Nutrition Security project in Liberia.

The project aims to improve food and nutrition security and reduce poverty of targeted rural populations in Liberia by increasing agricultural production and productivity of smallholder farmers (with a focus on food crops such as rice, cassava, and vegetables),

improving smallholders' value addition, market access, and income and strengthen the capacity of government institutions, farmers, and producer organizations. The first financing for the project was approved in June 2021. The original project outcomes are to increase the



productivity of rice and cassava to 3.5 Mt/ha and 25Mt/ha respectively. The additional funding will target around 18,260 households and the existing 11,740 households and 15,000 students for the home-grown school feeding activities program. [Click here to read the full story](#)

MOA Launches Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Project 4 Cities

The Ministry of Agriculture in Liberia has officially launched an ambitious Peri-Urban Farm Project aimed at enhancing food security, improving urban nutrition, and providing employment opportunities in four major cities: Monrovia, Gbarnga, Kakata, and Ganta. The initiative, funded by a combination of government resources and international development aid, seeks to address the growing food demands in urban and peri-urban areas while also tackling issues of poverty and unemployment.

The rapid urbanization in Liberia with approximately 52% of the population now residing



in urban areas has led to increased pressure on food supply chains and a growing need for innovative solutions to ensure food security. Under-utilized urban land represents a significant resource that, if effectively harnessed, can

contribute to local food production, reduce reliance on imported foods, and create employment opportunities. [Read More on this story](#)

China Trains 20 Young Liberian Agriculture Extension Workers

As part of bold steps towards enhancing Liberia's agriculture sector development, 20 young Liberian agricultural extension officers have left the country to undergo a transformative training course at the Agricultural Technology and Management Seminar on Liberia in Beijing, China. The three-week training, to begin on June 20, 2024, further demonstrates the stronger collaboration between the Liberian government and its Chinese counterparts, and it holds the promise of significantly boosting agricultural productivity and fostering sustainable development in Liberia.



The training program, a result of negotiations by the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah, in February of this year, is a pioneering initiative that has the potential to reshape Liberia's agricultural landscape. This program, which will take the participants, seven of whom are females, to several renowned research facilities in China, is a unique opportunity to equip them with specialized knowledge and skills in cutting-edge agricultural technologies, advanced farming practices, and effective management strategies. [Follow the details of this story here](#)

Liberia Hosts Regional Fisheries Taskforce Strategic Meeting

The Sixteen Regional Meeting of the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), West Africa Task Force (WATF) has ended in Liberia with the Director General of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority reaffirming Liberia's commitment to the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

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Madam Emma Metieh Glassco disclosed during the meeting that Liberia through the Fisheries Authority has made tremendous efforts in the fight against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the West Central Gulf of Guinea.



Madam Glassco mentioned the development of a National Action Plan (NPA) to combat IUU fishing the development of a Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) Manual, and also the training of several MCS staff as efforts the Fisheries Authority has made to mitigate illegal fishing. [Read more on this story by clicking the link.](#)

FAO handover Fish Processing Facility and Equipment to Grand Bassa County

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on Monday, June 10, 2024, handed over a state-of-the-art fish processing facility and equipment in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County to be used by fish mongers and processors in the county.

The handover of the facility is part of the completion of the Livelihood Empowerment of Women in Small-Scale Fisheries project funded by the Government of Japan. The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) jointly implemented the project.

The project contributes to income diversification, food and nutrition security, resilience building, and sustainable livelihoods for 1,000 fishmongers and their surrounding communities.



The handover ceremony was attended by top government officials such as the Pro-Tempore of the Liberian Senate Madam Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrance, Gender, Children and Social Protection Minister Gbeme Horace-Kollie, a Deputy Agriculture Minister, Grand Bassa Superintendent Julia Bono, Buchanan City Mayor George Gaybueh and other local authorities. [Read more on this story](#)

Young Female Farmer Advocates for Improved Market Access

In recent years, the agricultural sector has seen a rising trend of young female farmers stepping into the industry, bringing with them a fresh perspective and innovative ideas. These women are now calling for better market access and more opportunities for value addition to ensure their businesses thrive and contribute effectively to the economy.

Young women in agriculture are becoming increasingly visible, challenging traditional gender roles and proving their capabilities in a field historically dominated by men. With a strong commitment to sustainable practices and community development, these young farmers are not only producing food but are also actively engaged in transforming the agricultural landscape.



Despite their potential, young female farmers face significant challenges in accessing markets. Limited access to information about market prices, lack of infrastructure, and difficulty in reaching buyers are some of the hurdles that need to be addressed. Many of these farmers operate in rural areas where connectivity and transportation can be major obstacles.

[Following this link to read more on this story](#)

A Pig Farmer Appeals for Feed and Medication

A pig farmer residing in Gbarnga, Bong County David Paye is urgently seeking assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture to sustain his farm amid escalating costs of feed and medication. Paye, who has dedicated over 3 years to pig farming, is now grappling with severe financial difficulties that threaten the survival of his livestock and livelihood.

According to Mr. Paye, the cost of pig feed has increased by over 25% most recently, driven by disruptions in the supply chain and higher prices for agricultural inputs. Additionally, the cost of essential medications,



including vaccines and antibiotics, has surged, exacerbating the financial strain on Paye's farm. These challenges have made it increasingly difficult for him to provide adequate nutrition and healthcare for his pigs.

[Read more on this story](#)

Stakeholders Review National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policies

A Five-day National workshop on the review of National Fisheries and Aquaculture policies for alignment with the policy framework and reform strategy for fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa has commenced in Liberia with the Deputy Director General for Administration at the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority, NaFAA disclosing the Fisheries Authority's willingness to Align its National Fisheries Policy with the PFRS to ensure that practices and policies are in harmony with continental strategies.



The overall objective is to improve food security, livelihoods, and wealth creation in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, aligned with AU Agenda 2063. Fisheries and aquaculture policies in Africa are coherent with the Policy Framework Reform Strategy (PFRS) and coordinated at continental, regional, and national levels to maintain healthy, productive, and resilient marine, coastal, and freshwater ecosystems in the context of climate change. [Read more on this story](#)

Purukpeh Agriculture Founder Participates Agro Business Study Tour in Ghana



The founder of Purukpeh Agriculture, a local food processing venture, Madam Estelle Liberty-Kemoh has been selected among a pool of Liberian small and medium-scale agro and agri industries, in June participated in a weeklong study tour in Accra, Ghana that ran from June 11th – 16th, 2024.

The training program, sponsored by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), is being held under the Ghana International Cluster Conference III study tour of Ghana, with a focus on promoting MSME development and employment opportunities in Liberia through a market system and cluster development approach in Agro-industry value chains- Grow 2 initiative. The program focuses on three value chains, support to enhancing the cassava and horticulture value chains to enhance food security and increase income of, in particular, rural farmers (men, women, and youth).

Participating in the conference included Zogbo Luther, Assistant Minister for Technical Services Ministry of Africa, Christopher D. Sankolo, Director General, Liberia Agricultural Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA), Edwina J. Boima, Deputy Registrar General Cooperative Development Agency (CDA). [Read More on this story.](#)

Liberia Signs MOU with South Korea for Agriculture and Food Production

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr.'s visit to the Republic of Korea has led to a significant milestone as the National Investment Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Agriculture have signed seven Memoranda of Understanding with Korean multinational companies.



These agreements are poised to bring about substantial improvements and developments in key sectors. [Click this link](#)

EU celebrates World Oceans Day with fishing communities

World Oceans Day — a moment to reflect and highlight the importance of the ocean in the lives of us all — is celebrated globally every year on June 8. As the European Union (EU) stands on the sandy beach of Marshall in Liberia with fishermen and women the day before World Oceans Day, a big celebration to recognize and appreciate the value of the ocean is held at the same time in New York under the theme “Awaken New Depths”



For the European Union, respecting the environment and ensuring that future generations will benefit from the riches of nature are the core pillars of sustainable development. And Liberia, with the abundant natural resources of its waters, is no exception. Indeed, more than half of the Liberian population lives in coastal areas, and fish, which provides 80% of protein consumption in the diets of Liberians, is essential for nutrition and health. [Read more](#)

Carbonibus and Firestone Liberia Provide Clean Cookstoves to 1,300 Household

Firestone Liberia, in collaboration with Carbonibus, an international carbon offset program developer focused on high-impact projects in sub-Saharan Africa, has introduced a transformative initiative aimed at enhancing access to clean cooking solutions for Liberian families.

This partnership seeks to address the challenges faced by households that rely on traditional cooking methods, which often involve the use of inefficient cook pots that contribute to environmental degradation and health hazards.



This initiative is just the beginning of the company’s ongoing efforts to expand access to clean cooking solutions and contribute towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set forth by the United Nations. [Click the link to read more on this](#)

SDI Intensifies Awareness for the National Oil Palm Strategy and Action Plan in South East Liberia

The Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) through its Community Rights and Corporate Governance Program (CRCGP) is in Sinoe County creating awareness of the National Oil Palm Strategy and Action Plan of Liberia (



NOPSAP) NOPSAP is a five-year strategic plan developed by the government of Liberia through the Ministry of Agriculture in partnership with the private sector (oil Palm concessions), NGOs, and CSOs to improve and regulate the oil Palm sector of Liberia.

[Read more about this story](#)

Editorial: The Need to Prioritize Agriculture Communication in Liberia

Agriculture remains a cornerstone of Liberia's economy, providing livelihoods for the majority of the population and contributing significantly to the nation's GDP. However, the sector faces numerous challenges, including outdated farming techniques, limited access to markets, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of modern technology. Amid these challenges, the importance of effective agriculture communication cannot be overstated. Prioritizing agriculture communication in Liberia is not only essential for improving productivity and sustainability but also for empowering farmers and fostering economic growth.

One of the primary roles of agriculture communication is to bridge the information gap between farmers and the resources they need. Many Liberian farmers rely on traditional knowledge and practices, which may not be sufficient to address contemporary agricultural challenges. Effective communication channels can provide farmers with timely information on weather patterns, pest control, soil management, and crop diversification. Leveraging radio, mobile phones, and community meetings, information can be disseminated widely and efficiently, helping farmers make informed decisions and adopt best practices.

Agriculture is rapidly evolving with the advent of new technologies and innovative practices. From precision farming and drones to improved seed varieties and sustainable irrigation methods, modern agriculture offers numerous opportunities to enhance productivity and resilience. However, the adoption of these technologies in Liberia remains low due to a lack of awareness and understanding. Prioritizing agriculture communication can help demystify these innovations, showcasing their benefits and practical applications. Demonstration projects, training sessions, and success stories can inspire farmers to embrace new technologies, leading to higher yields and better livelihoods.

Market access is a critical issue for many Liberian farmers. Often, they struggle to find buyers for their produce or are forced to sell at low prices due to a lack of market information. Agriculture communication can play a pivotal role in connecting farmers with markets. By providing up-to-date information on market prices, demand trends, and buyer contacts, farmers can negotiate better deals and reduce post-harvest losses. Furthermore, creating platforms for farmers to share their experiences and collaborate can foster a sense of community and collective bargaining power.

Climate change poses a significant threat to agriculture in Liberia, with unpredictable weather patterns and extreme events becoming more frequent. Effective communication is crucial for building resilience and promoting sustainable practices. Farmers need access to climate-smart agriculture techniques, such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry, and integrated pest management. Through targeted communication campaigns, farmers can learn how to adapt to changing conditions, protect their natural resources, and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Women and youth are vital to the future of agriculture in Liberia, yet they often face unique challenges and barriers. Prioritizing agriculture communication can help empower these groups by providing tailored information and support. Women farmers, for instance, can benefit from programs that address their specific needs, such as access to credit and land rights. Similarly, engaging youth through modern communication tools like social media and mobile apps can ignite their interest in agriculture, showcasing it as a viable and rewarding career path.

Agriculture communication is not just about disseminating information; it is about transforming lives and communities. By prioritizing agriculture communication, Liberia can unlock the potential of its farmers, driving economic growth and ensuring food security. It requires a collaborative effort from government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and the media to develop and implement effective communication strategies. Together, we can create a thriving agricultural sector that benefits all Liberians.

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