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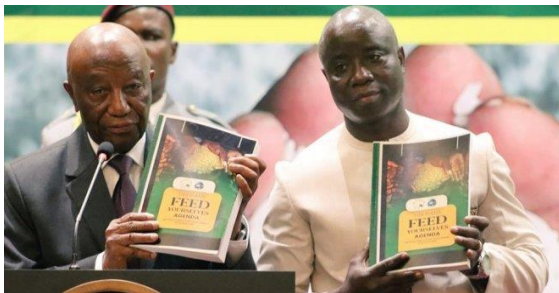
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President Joseph Boakai Unveils 5 Years Agriculture Sector Development Plan for Liberia.

On Wednesday, July 10, 2024, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai officially launched the National Agriculture Development Plan (NADP), a visionary six-year blueprint designed to transform Liberia's agricultural sector and achieve self-sufficiency in food production.

In his compelling address, President Boakai called upon all Liberians to actively participate in what he termed an *"agricultural revolution."* *He envisioned a future where "no one goes to bed on an empty stomach; no child is malnourished; no child goes to school hungry; more jobs are created; poverty diminishes, crime goes down, peace reigns, and the Lone Star shines brightly for all to celebrate."*



The NADP will provide farmers with training in modern agricultural technologies and resources to establish large-scale cooperative farms. This initiative aims to transform agriculture into a profitable business, attracting all Liberians, especially the youth. [Click the link to read more on this article.](#)

Dr.Arthur B. Karnuah Names CARI New Director General

Liberian President, Joseph Boakai recently named Dr. Arthur B. Karnuah as the new Director General of the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) situated in Suakoko District, Central Liberia. Following his appointment as Director General of Liberia's

only agriculture research center as an outcome of a competitive vetting process, Dr. Karnuah is poised to lead the institution with his extensive agricultural research and development background.



Dr. Karnuah has come to the new role with more than 30 years of experience in agriculture sector development including agricultural research, livestock and poultry management and production, extension services, animal science (breeding and genetics), functional genomics, and molecular genetics (biotechnology) for agricultural and animal industry development. This is coupled with his high level of management and organizational skills, and a team player skillset. [Read more on this development from CARI](#)

Agriculture Minister Embraces RICOWAS US\$14 Million Rice Project



Agriculture Minister Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah has embraced the RICOWAS rice project, a significant initiative to expand rice production in Liberia. The project, valued at US\$14 million, is funded by the Adaptation Fund (AF) and implemented across 13 West African countries by the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS).

[Click here to read more on this story](#)

Tumutu Agriculture and Vocational Training Center to Resume Training for Young Agriculturists

The Tumutu Agriculture and Vocational Training Center (TAVTC), situated in Salala District, Bong County, Liberia, is set to resume its full spectrum of training programs targeting the youth population. With the support of Youth Rising – EU-funded Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) project, the initiative aimed at improving the country’s agriculture sector through vocational training mostly for young people



According to the institution’s Director, Prince Kormah, the program is designed to provide comprehensive training in various agricultural disciplines, equipping young Liberians with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in the agricultural sector. He further that the curriculum will cover a wide range of topics, including crop production, livestock management, agribusiness, and sustainable farming techniques. [Follow this link to read more](#)

Pests Threaten Agricultural Livelihoods in Kpamue, Experts Blame Climate Change

Kermue Jutee returns from his 10 acres of beans, pepper, and okra farm on a wet Saturday afternoon, looking very frustrated. As a well-known Farmer who has been cultivating big plots of land over the past 10 years, he is now worried about what else to do to earn money to support his family as he watches his only source of income being destroyed by a growing number of different kinds of pests.



The memory of the lush green fields that greeted him every morning is now a distant dream, replaced by a desolate landscape of withered plants and barren soil. [More on this article can be found on this link.](#)

Purukpeh Agriculture Farm Makes Debut at Made-in-Liberia Trade Fair, Lauds Organizers and Supporters

Purukpeh Agriculture Farm, a rising star in Liberia’s agricultural sector, made a notable debut at the Made-in-Liberia Trade Fair on July 20, 2024, in Monrovia. The agro-business participation highlighted its commitment to sustainable farming practices and its potential to contribute significantly to the country’s agricultural economy.



The annual “Made in Liberia Fair,” at the Monrovia City Hall, showcased the nation’s burgeoning agricultural sector, highlighting a variety of locally produced goods that underscore Liberia’s agricultural potential.

“We are immensely grateful to all the partners involved in organizing this fair,” said Estelle Liberty-Kemoh, head of Purukpeh Agriculture Farm. *“This event has given us a unique opportunity to present our products”.* [Click here to read more](#)

LACRA Boss Urges Agricultural Stakeholders To See EUDR As Liberia's Initiative



The Director General of the Liberia Agriculture Commodity Regulation Authority (LACRA) Mr. Christopher D. Sankolo has called on stakeholders in the agricultural sector to view the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) as Liberia's initiative intended for the country's good.

Speaking Thursday, July 11, 2024, at the Public and Private Stakeholders Conference on the Roadmap to EUDR implementation, Mr. Sankolo stated that the cutting down of trees in the forests will be catastrophic for the future of Liberia. [Follow this link to read more on this story](#)

A Lead Farmer in Lofa County Urges Immediate Action on Food Security in Liberia

The Chief Executive Officer of Liberia Feed Yourself Agriculture Initiative, James Kollie Galakpai has called for urgent measures to address food security in the country. This plea comes amid growing concerns over the nation's ability to sustain its food supply and the increasing challenges faced by farmers.



In a recent statement, Mr. Kollie Galakpai emphasized the critical need for a concerted effort to bolster agricultural production and ensure that Liberians have consistent access to nutritious food. **“Food security is not just about ensuring people have enough to eat; it is about ensuring that the food is nutritious, safe, and produced sustainably,”** he stated. [Here is more on this story](#)

UNDP/ACDP Offers Technical Training to Farmer Cooperatives in Six Counties

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has conducted a five-day technical training on the use of aggro-farming tools, equipment, and machinery under the Accelerated Community Development Program (ACDP) for six farmer cooperatives simultaneously in Gbarpolu and Bong counties. The six cooperatives came from targeted communities in Bong, Lofa, Rivercess, Nimba, Bomi, and Gbarpolu under the ACDP Program.



Beneficiaries attending the training lauded UNDP and the facilitator for an opportunity to gain knowledge that will help them boost their farming activities. [Get more details of this story by clicking the link here](#)

Deputy Agriculture Minister Wants Cooperative Societies to Prioritize Smallholder Farmers and Act with Integrity

Deputy Agriculture Minister for Regional Development Research and Extension, Moses Gbaryan, has urged cooperative societies in Liberia to prioritize smallholder farmers' needs and operate with the highest standards of integrity. His appeal was made during the observance of International Cooperatives Day, a

global event celebrating the contributions of cooperatives to socio-economic development.



Addressing stakeholders in Voinjama, Lofa County, Minister Gbaryan emphasized the indispensable role of smallholder farmers in Liberia's agricultural sector and the pivotal support cooperative societies can provide. [Read more of this story](#)

Liberia Celebrates International Cooperatives Day



Liberia joined the rest of the world in celebrating International Cooperatives Day, an event that highlights the vital role cooperatives play in socio-economic development and community empowerment. The day was marked by various activities, including speeches, exhibitions, and community outreach

At the event, **Cooperative Development Agency (CDA) Registrar General, Lwopu G. Kandakai**, expressed gratitude for the interest that the government has in cooperatives. Emphasized the significant contributions of cooperatives to the agricultural sector. [Read more on this article.](#)

Ministry of Agriculture and World Food Program Join Partnership for School Feeding in Rural Liberia



As part of a quest to enhance food security and educational outcomes, the Ministry of Agriculture and the World Food Program (WFP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to bolster the school feeding program in rural Liberia. The agreement aims to ensure that school children in underserved areas receive nutritious meals, thereby improving attendance and academic performance. [Read more on this story](#)

Liberia's Fisheries Director General Holds Bilateral Engagement with FAO



The Director General of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority NaFAA has held a successful bilateral engagement with Manuel Barange, the Assistant Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in Rome, Italy, during the Committee on Fisheries, 36th Session (COFI 36), at FAO headquarters in the Canada room.

The FAO has committed to direct its attention to Aquaculture development in Liberia through a partnership in the fisheries sector. [Read more on this article with a specific focus](#)

The EU Provides Emergency Funding Following Liberia Floods



Following the extreme rainfall between 28 June – 1 July 2024 and the resulting flooding in Montserrado, Bong, and Grand Cape Mount counties, the European Union has allocated emergency humanitarian funding of EUR 130,000 [141.028,55 United States dollars], to help alleviate the plight of those affected by the floods. With the rains expected to continue until September, immediate action is needed to support the affected population and prepare for future similar events. The emergency funding provided by the EU will support the Liberia National Red Cross (LNRC) in providing the most vulnerable with shelters and multi-purpose cash grants intended to cover non-food items as well as their livelihood, water, hygiene, and sanitation needs. The LNRC action is expected to last four months, i.e. until the end of November 2024. [Read more on this story by clicking the link](#)

EPA, UNDP to Collaborate on \$10M SARTLA Project in Agriculture and Ecotourism



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), is set to implement the \$10 million Strengthening Agricultural Resilience through

Transformational Livelihood Adaptation (SARTLA) project in Liberia.

Speaking at the opening of a workshop on July 22, 2024, Deputy Executive Director Honorable Dweh Boley emphasized that Liberia, through UNDP, will access \$10 million from the Global Environment Facility's Least Developed Countries Fund to implement the SARTLA Project. The project aims to strengthen the resilience of Liberia's agriculture sector in response to the impacts of climate change. [Click the link to read more](#)

EU-EJF Project On Plan To Improve Liberia's Fisheries Sector



The European Union-funded Project (Communities for Fisheries) implemented by the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), has unveiled plans to further impact the Liberian Fisheries sector through the mapping of fishers' landing smoking spaces and Territorial Use rights for Fishing (TURF). The plans are for Collaborative Management Associations (CMAs) to support the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) to manage these areas in ensuring sustainable fisheries, a NaFAA release issued Saturday, July 6, 2024.

The release said the disclosure was made during the EU-funded project's Steering Committee meeting, held in Monrovia recently. [Read More on this Story](#)

Sen. Varpilah Calls For Swift Intervention To Curb Elephants' Invasion



Grand Cape Mount County Senator, Dabah Varpilah has called for immediate intervention to address the alarming invasion of elephants disrupting farming activities in the county.

In her communication to the Senate Plenary dated July 2, 2024, Senator Varpilah highlighted the elephants' invasions in Gola Konneh District, which according to her, is undermining farming activities and has created fear among the local population.

She emphasized the repeated increase in elephants' invasions in towns and villages over the years, causing damage to water sources and food supplies.

The Grand Cape Mount County lawmaker reminded her colleagues of the existing laws that prohibit the killing of wildlife in Liberia, noting that residents have remained in compliance with these laws despite relying heavily on subsistence farming for their livelihoods. [Click the link to read more](#)

Inter-Agency PSMA MoU Set For Signing Soon



Representatives from relevant Government Ministries and Agencies are nearing conclusion on a Memorandum of

Understanding, (MoU) intended to enhance cooperation to Combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing, (IUU) in Liberian waters during an intense three-day working session held in Monrovia.

The Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) is the first binding international agreement that targets illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Its objective is to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing by preventing foreign flag vessels engaged in IUU fishing.

The document according to a NaFAA press release will shortly be ready for an official signing ceremony that will bring together officials from the Ministries of Justice, Defense, and Commerce, National Port Authority, Liberia Maritime Authority, Liberia National Police, Liberia Immigration Service, APM- Terminal, Liberia Revenue Authority, and the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority.

The Signing ceremony which will take place at the corporate headquarters of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority, NaFAA will bring together Ministers and Managing Directors from the various relevant Ministries and Agencies. [Read more by clicking the link here](#)

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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