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## 20 MSMEs win Grants from UNDP Growth Accelerator 4th Cohort

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Growth Accelerator Liberia Programme hosted its 4th cohort pitching and selection event for 28 MSMEs contesting the entrepreneurship and agriculture categories at the Bella Casa Hotel in Monrovia



The event brought together thoughtful entrepreneurs, agriculturists, government, and development partners from across Liberia who share a common interest in practical solutions for sustainable development.

In his opening remarks, UNDP Liberia Resident Representative Anthony Ohemeng-Boamah reassured the agency's commitment to empowering local entrepreneurs, particularly women and youth through the Growth Accelerator. [Read more about this story by clicking the link.](#)

## Purukpeh Agriculture Farm Establishes Business Footprint in the United States

Purukpeh Agriculture Farm, an emerging Liberian agricultural enterprise, has made a significant stride by establishing a business footprint in the United States

This milestone marks a significant achievement for the farm as a new player in Liberia's agricultural value chain sector and promoter of sustainable farming practices to empower smallholder farmers.



Founded by visionary entrepreneur Estelle Liberty-Kemoh, the farm has grown from humble beginnings into a thriving enterprise known for its high-quality products and commitment to community development. The expansion into the U.S. market is set to enhance the agribusiness reach, providing access to a broader customer base and new business opportunities. [Read more on this story](#)

## NaFAA Boss Highlights the Importance of Small-Skills Fisheries in Liberia

The Director General of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) has highlighted the significance of small-skills fisheries in the Liberian Fisheries sector describing them as the heartbeat of the fishing communities across the Country.



Madam Glassco said, in Liberia, small-skill fisheries are the backbone of food security, nutrition, and income generation for many rural families disclosing further that small-scale - fisheries not only offer fish for consumption but a foundation for economic growth, social stability, and environment. [Click the link to read more.](#)

### Farmers in Bong Struggle to Access Market Due to Deteriorating Road Condition

In what has become a severe blow to agricultural activities, the deteriorating conditions of the Tokpapolu road—an essential artery connecting Bong, Margibi, and Grand Bassa Counties—have left farmers and marketers stranded, severely limiting their access to markets and supplies.



This once-vibrant economic lifeline has been reduced to a hazard-laden path, hampering the movement of goods and services between these counties.

For years, residents and road users have raised concerns about the worsening state of this road, but the current rainy season has brought the situation to an all-time low. [Read more](#)

### 43 Liberian Students Set to Travel to Israel for Agricultural Training



In a move to enhance Agricultural Education in Liberia, 43 students from various higher learning institutions in Bong County will embark on a journey to Israel this next week to participate in a hands-on agricultural training

program at the ARAVA International Center for Agricultural Training (AICAT).

Most of the beneficiaries for this training opportunity in Israel are students who have already pursued a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Cuttington University (CU), Bong County Technical College (BCTC) Cpress International University, and Sumo Moye Memorial Technical College in Gbarnga. [Click the link to read more on this story](#)

### MoA- SADFONS Initiative Boosts Smallholder Farmers' Livelihood in Rural Liberia

The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) is making significant strides in advancing agricultural productivity through its Smallholder Agriculture Development for Food and Nutrition Security (SADFONS) project.



With an \$8.2 million budget funded by the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), the SADFONS initiative is focused on enhancing smallholder farmers' productivity, improving market access, to reducing poverty in six counties, including, Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Montserrado and Bomi and Maryland. [Read more by clicking the link.](#)

### 48 Cocoa Farmers Receive Capacity Building through the Building Climate Resilience Project in Bong

As part of strengthening the capacity of Cocoa farmers in rural Liberia the Ministry of Agriculture through its Building Climate Resilience Project, celebrated the graduation of 48 cocoa farmers from four districts in Bong County.



The Building Climate Resilience Project aims to strengthen the capacity of farmers in rural Liberia, ensuring they are better equipped to face the challenges of climate change and food insecurity.

The hands-on Graduation comes following, the successful completion of a comprehensive 14-day Farmer's Feed School Training of Trainers workshop aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of local farmers on coach production. [Click to follow the story](#)

### Rapid Increase in Lowland Rice Farming Across Bong County



Over the past few months, Bong County has witnessed a rapid increase in lowland rice farming. Smallholder farmers across the county have embraced lowland rice cultivation, drawn by the crop's potential for higher yields and resilience in the region's climate. The shift is attributed to favorable weather conditions, improved farming techniques, and government support through the Emergency Rice Production

Offensive (ERPO) project at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Farmers in the county are increasingly utilizing the vast lowland areas for rice cultivation, taking advantage of the fertile soils and abundant water supply in these regions. The adoption of improved farming techniques, facilitated by local and international agricultural organizations, has significantly increased rice yields. [Follow the story here](#)

### Agriculture Minister Engages Recipients of Emergency Rice Production Offensive Grant



Agriculture Minister Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah has held a very crucial meeting with beneficiaries of the Emergency Rice Production Offensive (ERPO) project at the Ministry of Agriculture.

The gathering brought together 139 farmers from Bong, Margibi, Gbarpolu, and Montserrado counties, focusing on assessing the project's progress and ensuring the effective use of resources.

Funded by the African Development Bank, the ERPO initiative which was introduced in 2023 is one of the government's strategies to boost rice production in Liberia in line National Agriculture Development Plan (NADP). [Read the details of this story](#)

### ITC Concludes Field Supervision Visit for EU-funded Coffee Project

The International Trade Centre (ITC) has concluded its field supervision visit for the EU/ACP Coffee Value Chain Project in Liberia.

The visit which was intended to ascertain the level of work being carried out by beneficiaries on the establishment of demo plots covered the five project-implementing counties including, Bong, Nimba Lofa, Montserado, and Bomi.



The ITC conducted the field visit alongside the Farmer Union Network of Liberia (FUNL) the local implementing partner, and the Cooperative Development Agency (CDA). The field mission was earlier participated by the EUD-Liberia to sites in Montserrado County.

[Read more on this story](#)

### Ministry of Agriculture's Beneficiaries Production Capacities Upgraded



Some farmers and agribusiness owners have disclosed that as the result of the intervention of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) through its Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAR-P), their production capacities have been upgraded or transformed.

The beneficiaries who disclosed the recent field supervision mission of the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) are engaged in activities such as the

production, processing, and packaging of rice, oil palm, horticulture, agriculture lending, and aggregation. [Read more](#)

### An Agriculture Group Cultivates Over 20 Hectares in Lowland Rice in Bong

As the need for Liberia to feed itself continues to intensify, a smallholder farming group in Bong County has embarked on the cultivation of over 20 hectares of lowland in rice production



The Kelekula Da-Welekema Agriculture Group says it has reached a memorandum of understanding with the management of Yarvee Farm formerly Taylor's Farm in Melekie Town Bong County to produce rice from their lowland rice field. The group goal is to grow and distribute 25 tons of rice in the Liberian market aimed at addressing food insecurity. [Read more on this story](#)

### A Smallholder Farmer Creates Jobs Through Agri-business Expansion

Johnson Yah, a local farmer, once dreamt of becoming a politician, but following advice from his wife many years ago, he turned out to be a successful farmer. His farm currently provides income for many people in the surrounding villages and contributes to their food security.



Mr. Yah lived around Blomu village, along the Madam Suakoko's Highway, a few minutes drive away from Totota, in Salala District, Lower Bong County. [Read more on this story](#)

### Local Group in Popalahun Town, Lofa County Seeks Assistance for Agricultural Project

The Kulasuluma Agriculture Cooperative based in Popalahun Town, Wanhassa District, Lofa County has called on the government and development partners for urgent support to scale up their agricultural project.



The group, primarily composed of local smallholder farmers, has been striving to boost food production in the region through sustainable farming practices. Still, they are facing numerous challenges that require external assistance. It has a large stretch of land cultivated with groundnut and cassava. [Read more on this story](#)

## Editorial: Agriculture Projects Should Exist Beyond Signboards

Liberia's agricultural sector holds immense potential to drive economic growth, reduce poverty, and ensure food security. Yet, despite the numerous project launches, and optimistic projections, the sector's growth often remains confined to flashy signboards, with limited long-term impact on the lives of smallholder farmers and the broader economy. It's time to ask—are these agricultural projects truly benefiting Liberians, or are they merely publicity stunts?

Many projects designed to improve agriculture seem to disappear out shortly after being announced, leaving little to show for the investment, both from domestic and international partners. The visibility of these initiatives often fades once the launch ceremony is over, with the progress stalling or failing to materialize at all. This has led to growing public skepticism about the intentions and effectiveness of these projects. The signboards that once symbolized hope and opportunity become painful reminders of unfulfilled promises.

However, the success stories of smallholder farmers who have defied these odds tell a different narrative. These farmers, with limited resources but immense determination, have shown that agriculture can be a viable path to economic empowerment. For example, some smallholder farmers in rural Liberia have not only achieved self-sufficiency but have also contributed to their local economies, creating jobs and fostering food security. These success stories should serve as an inspiration and a roadmap for future agricultural initiatives.

But why do so many government-backed and donor-funded projects fall short? The answer lies in the lack of sustainable planning and follow-through. Too often, the focus is on the immediate optics—impressive figures, big announcements, and signboards showcasing new initiatives—without a concrete strategy for long-term sustainability. Once the initial excitement dies down, the projects struggle due to poor management, insufficient resources, or lack of government support.

For agriculture to truly thrive in Liberia, projects must go beyond the signboards. They need to focus on continuous support for farmers, access to markets, and investment in critical infrastructure, such as storage facilities, irrigation systems, and roads. More importantly, there must be accountability mechanisms in place to ensure that funds are used effectively and that projects deliver on their promises.

Additionally, Liberians must be called on to see the agricultural sector as a major source of income generation. The government, private sector, and international partners should prioritize the development of value chains that enhance the profitability of agriculture. Programs that offer training, credit facilities, and modern tools should not be limited to a few isolated areas but expanded nationwide, ensuring that the impact is widespread and long-lasting.

Moreover, this call for support must be coupled with strong political will and the involvement of local communities. The success of agricultural projects depends heavily on the buy-in and commitment of those they are designed to serve. Farmers need to be empowered, not just with resources but with the knowledge and skills to sustain and scale their efforts.

In conclusion, the signboards marking new agricultural projects should no longer serve as the end of the story but the beginning of a sustainable journey. Liberians deserve more than empty promises. With the right investment, infrastructure, and a strong accountability framework, agriculture can indeed be a cornerstone of Liberia's development. Let's move beyond signboards and ensure that these projects translate into tangible benefits for the people they are meant to serve.

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