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Contact Us: agrijourna@gmail.com / +231886663484
GSA Road Community, Paynessville City
Montserrado County, Liberia

Editorial Note to Readers

March 2025 has been a month of remarkable strides for women in agriculture, a time to honor the tireless contributions of women who are reshaping Liberia's agricultural landscape. From rural farms to urban communities, the stories produced by the **Liberia Agricultural and Environmental Journalists (LAEJN)** this month have shed light on the vital role women play in ensuring food security, economic growth, and sustainable development across the country.



Women in Liberia's agricultural sector are often the backbone of rural communities, yet their contributions are frequently overlooked. This month, however, the spotlight has firmly been on their achievements, as they continue to challenge traditional barriers and drive innovation in a sector long dominated by men.

Whether it's through cultivating crops, managing livestock, or leading agricultural cooperatives, these women are not only supporting their families but are also contributing significantly to the national economy. The month was also marked by inspiring stories of individual women who are breaking barriers in the field. From smallholder farmers using innovative



techniques to boost crop yields to young women entrepreneurs creating sustainable agricultural businesses, the narrative of women in agriculture in Liberia is one of resilience and empowerment. These women are not only cultivating the land but also cultivating a new future—one where women have an equal seat at the table in shaping agricultural policies and practices.

However, while the month has brought much-needed attention to these issues, it also serves as a reminder of the work that remains to be done. Women in agriculture continue to face significant challenges, including limited access to resources, financial services, and educational opportunities. Despite the growing recognition of their contributions, these barriers must be addressed to unlock the full potential of women in agriculture and ensure their continued success.

March has undoubtedly been a month of progress, but it is just the beginning. As we continue to elevate the role of women in agriculture through sustained reporting, we will remain committed to supporting and advocating for the rights of women in agriculture, recognizing their contributions, and ensuring that they have the tools they need to thrive. More interesting articles on women in agriculture in this edition of [Agri Journal and initiative of LAEJN](#)

IFAJ and LAEJN Train 30 Agricultural Journalists in Liberia

The Liberia Agricultural and Environmental Journalists Network (LAEJN), with support from the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists (IFAJ), Wednesday, March 26, 2025, concluded a one-day Agricultural Journalism Seminar at the Amazing Plaza in Paynesville City, near Monrovia.



The seminar, held under the theme ***“Strengthening Agricultural Journalism in Liberia to Improve Farmers’ Access to Information,”*** sought to enhance the skills of agricultural journalists across the country. This training aimed to equip media professionals with essential tools to effectively report on agricultural issues, contributing to national development and informed policymaking. [More on this article](#)

Women Making the Difference in Liberia’s Agriculture Sector, Says WASUDEV Executive Director

Women are playing a pivotal role in transforming Liberia’s agricultural sector, contributing significantly to food security and economic growth. According to the Executive Director of the Women in Agriculture for Sustainable Development (WASUDEV), the active participation of women farmers is not



only helping to improve agricultural productivity but is also creating pathways for sustainable development in rural communities.

WASUDEV Executive Director, Hawa Dunor Varney speaking in a recent exclusive interview with the **Liberia Agricultural and Environmental Journalists Network** highlighted that women make up a substantial portion of the workforce in Liberia’s agriculture sector, yet their contributions have often gone unnoticed. *“Women have always been at the forefront of agriculture in Liberia, whether it’s in farming, marketing, or food processing. They are the backbone of the industry, yet their work continues to be undervalued,”* she said. [Click on the link to read more on this article.](#)

“Disability is NOT Inability”: Esther Peter Defies the Odds to Provide for Her Children

Esther Peter’s life has been defined by both hardship and resilience. At the age of 20, an accident forever altered the course of her life, leaving her with the loss of both legs. Yet, today, she stands not only in spirit but also as an example of grit in her rural community, where she has become an inspiration to many.



It all began nearly two decades ago when Esther, then a young woman, was struck by a car while walking home from work. The driver fled the scene, and despite her urgent efforts to seek medical help, Esther’s injuries were too severe. The accident resulted in the amputation of both her legs. *“I never thought I would survive that day. I lost so much in a single moment,”* Esther recalls with a somber expression. *“But here I am, determined to live, to be a mother, and to provide for my children.”* [Read more on this inspiring article.](#)

Harvesting Resilience: Sianneh's Journey Growing Vegetables Amid Challenges

Sianneh H. Kulleh, a graduate of Cuttington University with a BSc degree in Plant and Soil Science, is among the growing number of Liberian farmers who are determined to turn their passion for agriculture into a means of economic sustainability.



This season, she has embarked on an ambitious journey into vegetable farming, cultivating a variety of crops, including cucumbers, okra, tomatoes, cabbages, and watermelons in Tomato Camp, upper Bong County. Yet despite her academic background and practical knowledge, Kulleh's journey has been fraught with major challenges.

Farming in Liberia, particularly for women like Kulleh, remains a complex undertaking. Agriculture in the country is largely underdeveloped, and small-scale farmers face multiple obstacles, including limited access to financing, inadequate infrastructure, and an unpredictable climate. Despite these challenges, Kulleh is making strides, not only in her farming operations but also by providing jobs for more than ten individuals, contributing to her local community's economic growth. [Read more on this article](#)

A female Agriculturist in Bomi Calls for Inclusivity and Support for Women in Agriculture

Tubmanburg, Bomi County – In a heartfelt appeal, a young female agriculturist is calling for greater inclusivity and support for women in agriculture, urging her fellow women to invest

in the land as a powerful means of economic empowerment and national development.

Phelomena Yarwoah Lah, a trained forester and graduate of the Forestry Training Institute in Tubmanburg, has, over the past few years, ventured into the agricultural sector, cultivating 4.5 hectares of vegetable farmland in the Weakama vicinity of Bomi County. While her professional background is in forestry, she has found a deep passion for agriculture, seeing it as both a sustainable source of livelihood and a crucial element of food security in Liberia.



In an interview with the Liberia Agricultural and Environmental Journalists Network, Madam Lah emphasized the vital role women play in building a resilient and sustainable food system in Liberia. She believes that women are indispensable in fostering agricultural growth, especially in a country where agriculture is regarded as the backbone of economic development. [Read more on this article](#)

Female Agribusiness Entrepreneur Champions Growth of Organic Food Production in Liberia

Siatta Gardiner Lewis, a passionate entrepreneur and the founder of **Shalom Foods Production** is making significant strides in Liberia's agribusiness sector. However, she acknowledges that despite the progress, there is still much to be done to fully realize the potential of her business and the industry at large.

In an exclusive interview with Liberia Agricultural Journalist Network, Madam Lewis shared insights into her venture, which focuses on producing nutritional and organic food products to promote healthy consumption.



Shalom Foods Production offers a diverse range of organic and natural products, including instant meal mixes, organic spices, and condiments, all made from locally grown ingredients. These products have gained popularity in supermarkets and local markets, further highlighting the shift in consumer preferences. [Read more on this article](#)

Female Agriculturalist Advocates for Greater Empowerment of Women Farmers in Liberia

Madam Princess Yonmie, a dedicated agriculturalist and the Executive Director of Yonmie Containment Farm Incorporated, is calling for greater support and empowerment opportunities for women involved in agriculture across Liberia. Sharing her experiences as a female farmer and entrepreneur, Madam Yonmie reflected on her journey into agribusiness, which began modestly in 2022 with just a pair of pigs and goats.



Since its inception, Yonmie Containment Farm Incorporated has significantly expanded, specializing in livestock farming—particularly piggery and goat farming—as well as vegetable production. Today, the farm supplies high-quality livestock products and fresh organic vegetables, directly catering to the growing demands of local markets and supermarkets across Montserrado County. [Click the link to read more](#)

Female Farmers in Rural Montserrado Advocate for Government Support, Showcase Success in Agriculture

In a push to overcome gender barriers and compete alongside their male counterparts, several women farmers from Todee Statutory District in Montserrado County have shared powerful stories highlighting their remarkable contributions to Liberia's agricultural sector.



These female farmers are making remarkable strides in agriculture, overcoming challenges to establish thriving farms and contributing significantly to Liberia's food security. Despite working in a traditionally male-dominated sector, these women have demonstrated resilience, creativity, and leadership in advancing sustainable farming practices. [Read details of this story here.](#)

The Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project-LSMFP Launches Women Empowerment Grant in Montserrado County

The Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project (LSMFP) has launched a Women Empowerment Grant aimed at supporting female entrepreneurs in the fisheries sector in Montserrado County. This initiative is designed to enhance the economic opportunities of women fishery sector and strengthen their role in Liberia's marine economy.



The initiative, which is funded by the World Bank, is currently being implemented by Conservation International, Liberia with

technical support from The National Fisheries & Aquaculture Authority Republic of Liberia and the LSMFP.

It aims to enhance financial empowerment, promote sustainable fisheries governance, and create economic opportunities for women engaged in the sector. [Read more about this article](#)

Tubman University Making the Impossible Possible, Harvests First Rice Planted on Savannah Land

In a breakthrough for agricultural research in Liberia, the College of Agriculture and Food Science at William V.S. Tubman University has successfully harvested its first rice from a Savannah demonstration site, challenging long-held beliefs about the viability of rice farming in such terrain.



Last week, faculty members and students gathered at the university's demonstration farm near the main campus in Harper City, Maryland County, to reap what they had sown—a milestone in agricultural education and food production for the region. Dr. Larry Hwang, dean of the College of Agriculture and Food Science, praised the harvest as a significant step forward. [Read on about this story](#)

Liberia Recognizes IFAD as Leading Contributor to Agriculture Development

The Liberian Government has acknowledged the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as the top contributor to the country's agricultural sector, commending its vital support in recent years.

IFAD, a specialized agency of the United Nations, is dedicated to addressing poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries. It is the only multilateral organization that focuses exclusively on rural economies and food security, supporting 180 member states worldwide.



Liberia's Deputy Minister of Finance for Economic Management, Dephue Zuo, highlighted that since IFAD resumed operations in Liberia in 2009—after a 20-year suspension due to the civil war—the organization has continuously provided millions of US dollars to improve food security in the country.

“We are in final discussions with all partners funding the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development. Given that IFAD is now the largest donor in the agriculture sector, it will take the lead in aligning strategies,” Minister Zuo noted. [Click the link to read more](#)

Venecious Molley Champions Inclusive Investment in Agriculture, Launches Cassava Processing on 25-Hectare Farm in Bomi County

On March 11, 2025, Venecious Molley, CEO of Molley Farm, officially launched a significant cassava processing project on his 25-hectare farm in Suehn Mecca District, Bomi County. This venture marks a major expansion of his agricultural operations, which also include pig farming, poultry, and the cultivation of palm apples, fish, and palm.

At the commencement of the cassava harvest, Molley emphasized his commitment to job creation and food security in Liberia. He aims to enhance local food production and contribute to

the nation's goal of self-sufficiency. Molley plans to process the cassava into super gari and fufu, supported by newly acquired processing machines that will streamline production.



The farm currently employs over 50 Liberians, whom Molley views as a vital part of his empowerment strategy. He expressed his vision for the future, noting that his farm intends to become a key supplier of pig meat to the Liberian market. In the coming years, he plans to establish a processing facility to market all his products under a single, branded label. [Read more](#)

Sankolo Brings New Energy to LACRA

Christopher Sankolo, the new Director General of the Liberia Agriculture Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA), has introduced significant reforms to revitalize the institution since taking office in April 2024.



In a telephone interview with the Liberia Agricultural and Environmental Journalists Network, Mr. Sankolo shared key updates, including the restoration of Liberia's membership in the International Coffee and Cocoa Organization (ICCO) and its reintegration into various other regional and global agreements.

Among the major developments he highlighted, Sankolo pointed to the successful restoration of basic utilities—water and electricity—at the LACRA office, a critical step in improving working conditions. He also introduced new financial policies designed to combat waste and mismanagement, ensuring more responsible oversight of LACRA's resources. [Read more](#)

GOL and IFAD Empower CDA Field Staff to Boost Productivity

The Government of Liberia (GOL), in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), has provided significant logistical support to the Cooperative Development Agency (CDA) aimed at boosting agricultural productivity and enhancing market access across rural communities.



Included in the 2025 fiscal budget, the Government has supplied the CDA with a Land Cruiser jeep, eight Yamaha motorbikes, and a wide array of essential farming tools such as wheelbarrows, shovels, watering cans, and rain gear. IFAD has complemented this support by contributing three laptops and an additional three motorbikes specifically intended to enhance the supervision of cooperative groups and cocoa producers in Lofa County. [Read more](#)

Barrobo Glofaken Farmers Embrace Composting for Sustainable Agriculture

In a concerted effort to push toward sustainable farming, seventeen farmers—fourteen women and three men—recently gathered at the *Arise from Ashes* demonstration farm in Barrobo Glofaken for a hands-on training in compost production and application. The initiative is part of the nonprofit's wider mission to build

climate-resilient communities through eco-friendly agricultural practices.



The one-day workshop, facilitated by Arise from Ashes in partnership with local agricultural stakeholders, introduced participants to the science and practicalities of composting, emphasizing its role in improving soil fertility, reducing reliance on chemical inputs, and increasing farm productivity over time. [Read more](#)

Surviving the Shift: Liberian Farmers Tackle Climate Change for Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security

Mr. Joseph Ndebeh, an agricultural scientist at the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) and lecturer at Cuttington University College of Agriculture & Sustainable Development, expresses deep concerns about Liberia's farmers' challenges due to climate change. Despite his busy schedule, Mr.



Ndebeh's calm conduct and connection to the land reflect his passion for both his professional work and personal farming. [Read more on this article](#)

LACRA Charts New Course for Institutional Efficiency at Strategic Retreat

Like many government institutions in Liberia, the Liberia Agriculture Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA) has faced numerous challenges over the years, including low budgetary allocations that have, at times, hampered its operations. However, under the new leadership of Director General Christopher D. Sankolo, there appears to be a renewed



commitment to enhancing the institution's operational efficiency.

In a bid to foster institutional development and effectiveness, LACRA recently hosted a three-day retreat in Zoewinta, Bong County. The retreat, which brought together key personnel of the agency, was designed to reflect on past achievements and chart a new path forward for LACRA.

The event was aimed at enhancing the agency's internal cohesion and improving its critical role in Liberia's agricultural sector. The retreat provided a platform for reflection, open discussions, and strategic planning, with a focus on strengthening collaboration and ensuring the regulatory body's operations are more efficient and resourceful. [Read more](#)