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Stakeholders Unite to Empower Women in Agriculture at National Policy Dialogue

Stakeholders from across Liberia's agriculture and development sectors who gathered in Monrovia on Monday, April 14, 2025 for a One-day Inclusive Gender Policy Dialogue on Agriculture emerged from the forum with a strong consensus and a set of actionable resolutions directed at the Ministry of Agriculture to mainstream gender and ensure that women are empowered across all levels of the agricultural value chain.



The dialogue was organized by the **Liberia Agricultural and Environmental Journalists Network (LAEJN)** in collaboration with the **UNIDO/Grow 2 Project**, funded by the Embassy of Sweden in Liberia. The event attracted a diverse group of participants, including women farmers, leaders of agricultural cooperatives, civil society actors, development partners, private sector players, including key representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture, Gender and Commerce and Industry. [Read more on this story by clicking the link](#)

Achaea Catocaloides Caterpillar Invasion in Nimba Affects Over 100 Cocoa Farms



An alarming resurgence of *Achaea catocaloides* caterpillars has struck Nimba County, devastating over 100 cocoa farms across several farming communities in north-east Liberia. Local authorities and farmers are raising urgent appeals for immediate government and partner interventions to contain the outbreak before it escalates further.

The alarming development was confirmed by Nimba County Agriculture Coordinator, Mr. Jefferson D. Degon, during a recent briefing at the Ministry of Agriculture's regional office.

According to Mr. Degon, the caterpillars are wreaking havoc across key cocoa-producing areas, including Gbor Zuoplay, Ganwin, Duo Kpala, Sangarplay, and Feaplay — communities located in Electoral Districts 2 and 4. He expressed grave concern over the widespread damage, noting that the pests are aggressively consuming the leaves, stems, and pods of cocoa plants, threatening the very survival of the crops. [Follow the link to read more on this story](#)

Liberia's Cashew Potential: Unlocking Prosperity for Smallholder Farmers



Liberia's agricultural landscape is gradually embracing a new frontier of opportunity—cashew farming. As the nation pivots toward expanding its cash crop portfolio, cashew is emerging as a high-potential commodity capable of transforming the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and contributing significantly to national economic growth.

Dr. James Dolo, Agronomist and Head of the Crops Program at the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), highlights cashew as a strategic crop with multiple benefits.

“Cashew has great potential to improve smallholder farmers’ incomes while enhancing nutritional outcomes,” Dr. Dolo explained. ***“It is rich in essential minerals like copper, magnesium, iron, phosphorus, potassium, and zinc, which support bone health, immunity, and overall wellness. Its high protein content also makes it a nutritious, energy-sustaining food.”*** [Click the link to read more](#)

Liberia Agriculture Minister Champions Climate Finance Alignment at AAA Conference in Morocco



Agriculture Minister Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah represented Liberia at the 5th Ministerial Conference of the African Agriculture Adaptation Initiative (AAA), held in Meknes, Morocco. The conference, centered on the theme “Agroforestry and Climate Resilience: An African Vision for Food Security and Sustainable Development,” brought together African agriculture ministers, policymakers, and global partners to discuss climate adaptation strategies for Africa’s agriculture sector.

During the event, Dr. Nuetah emphasized the critical need for enhanced support for Liberia’s climate-smart agriculture initiatives, which are integral to the nation’s broader goals of sustainable development and climate resilience. He called for increased global climate finance to align with Liberia’s National Agriculture Development Plan, underscoring the importance of such support for the nation’s farmers. [Read more on this article](#)

FAO Liberia’s Forest Farm Facility Project Empowers Beekeepers in Nimba



The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, through its Forest Farm Facility (FFF) Project, is making significant

strides in supporting the growth of beekeeping operations in Liberia. In a move aimed at strengthening local beekeeper operations, FAO Liberia has provided critical assistance to the Association of Beekeepers Liberia (ABEL), which in turn has extended its support to the Twah River Beekeeper Association (TRiBA) in Nimba County.

As the project continues to unfold, the hope is that beekeeping will not only become a cornerstone of rural economies in Liberia but will also inspire a broader movement toward sustainable agricultural practices that prioritize the health of both people and the planet. The FAO’s efforts in supporting beekeepers are a testament to the power of sustainable development and its potential to create lasting change in the fight against deforestation and environmental degradation. [Read more](#)

EPA Executive Director Calls for Urgent Climate Adaptation Measures for Women Farmers



Liberia’s Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Executive Director and CEO, Dr. Emmanuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo, has issued a passionate call for greater investment in climate adaptation initiatives targeting women farmers. He emphasized that rural women are among the most vulnerable groups facing the devastating impacts of climate change on agriculture.

Speaking in Copenhagen, the capital city of Denmark, at a high-level dialogue titled “A Big

Bet on Adaptation for Women in Agriculture,” Dr. Yarkpawolo stressed the urgent need to strengthen meteorological infrastructure, expand rural climate information networks, and empower women with climate-smart agricultural practices to build resilience.

The Copenhagen dialogue is part of a broader international effort to drive locally-led climate adaptation initiatives ahead of the upcoming COP30 summit, to catalyze transformative action for millions of vulnerable women farmers around the world. [Read more](#)

Agriculture Ministry Unveils Cold Storage Facility and Model Piggery Farm in Nimba

As part of its efforts to drive rural economic transformation and strengthen food security, the Ministry of Agriculture, through its Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETRAP), has officially inaugurated two major agricultural facilities in Nimba County: a modern cold storage facility in Whenlenle and a Model Piggery Farm and Livestock Farmers Field School at the Nimba University campus in Sanniquellie.



The launch of the cold storage facility and the commissioning of the model piggery farm represent critical steps toward enhancing agricultural resilience, boosting farmers’ incomes, and building a more sustainable, inclusive food system in Liberia. Through innovative partnerships and investments, the Ministry of Agriculture continues to drive transformation, create jobs, and improve livelihoods across the country. [Click the link to read more](#)

Stakeholders Review Liberia Poultry Policy Draft in Monrovia

In a concerted effort to bolster Liberia’s agricultural sector, the Liberia Poultry Federation has initiated a two-day stakeholders’ consultative review of its draft policy. This significant endeavor aims to refine the National Poultry Policy originally crafted in 2018 under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in collaboration with Liberia’s Ministry of Agriculture, supported by USAID. The policy draft is slated for imminent validation by the Liberian government.



The Ministry of Agriculture is playing a central role in the review process, offering policy oversight and strategic direction, and is expected to lead the next steps toward the formal validation, endorsement, and eventual implementation of the National Poultry Policy.

[Follow this story to read more](#)

Oil Palm Farmer Appeals for Ministry of Agriculture Support to Boost Production



A local oil palm farmer in Bong County is calling on the government to provide much-needed support to enhance the production capacity of

the palm oil industry in the region. Jeremiah Kollie believes that with the right resources and backing, the oil palm sector could become a major driver of economic growth and prosperity for Liberia.

In his appeal, Kollie pointed out the current lack of sufficient government support for the sector, which has hindered its growth and limited its potential to contribute to national economic development. He called on the Ministry of Agriculture to provide essential resources, such as funding, technical training, and access to modern equipment, to help farmers scale their operations and increase yields. [Read more on this](#)

Arcelor Mittal Launches USD 21,000 Vegetable Production Project



Arcelor Mittal Liberia has embarked on a significant initiative to bolster food security in Liberia with the launch of a USD\$ 21,872.05 Vegetable Production Project in Liagbala Town, Yarmein Administrative District, Nimba County. This project aims to cultivate five acres of land near Camp 4 Yekepa, leveraging Arcelor Mittal's presence in the area.

During the launch on Thursday, April 17, 2025, Mikel Vandermerwe, CEO of ArcelorMittal Liberia, emphasized the importance of community empowerment through agriculture. He highlighted that while ArcelorMittal Liberia cannot employ all community members due to limited job opportunities, initiatives like this vegetable production project offer sustainable

livelihoods if managed effectively. [Read more on this story](#)

Liberia's Agriculture Minister Applauds JICA for Strengthening National Rice Sector



Liberia's Minister of Agriculture, Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah, has lauded the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for its instrumental role in revitalizing the nation's rice sector through the "Improving Rice Production for Smallholders Project," widely known as the JICA LIBRICE Project. As the initiative nears its conclusion, its legacy of innovation, capacity-building, and practical support for farmers is already reshaping rice cultivation practices across Liberia.

Since its launch, the LIBRICE project has worked closely with agricultural extension officers, local cooperatives, and farming households to introduce climate-smart agronomic practices, improve seed quality, and promote data-driven farming methods. It has also supported training sessions and demonstration plots in key rice-growing regions of Lofa, Bong, and Nimba counties. [Click the link to read more on this story](#)

Lack of Land Limits Women's Participation in Agriculture — Agnes Fred Urges Immediate Action

Limited access to land is stifling the potential of women in Liberia's agriculture sector, a situation that demands urgent policy and institutional intervention, says Agnes Fred, Program Coordinator at Women in Agriculture and Sustainable Development (WASUDEV).

Speaking at a recent Agriculture Journalism Seminar, Madam Fred highlighted the persistent structural and cultural barriers that prevent women from owning or accessing land, a critical resource for agricultural production.



Experts agree that improving land access for women is key to achieving several development goals. Research shows that when women farmers have secure land rights, agricultural productivity increases, household incomes improve, and community nutrition outcomes rise. [Read more on this story](#)

From Soil to Success: Young Liberian Farmer Cultivates Big Dreams with Pepper Harvest



Based in the agriculture-rich district of Kpai, situated in Bong County, Central Liberia, a young man is sowing the seeds of a brighter agricultural future with substantial investment in the production of pepper for large-scale market supply.

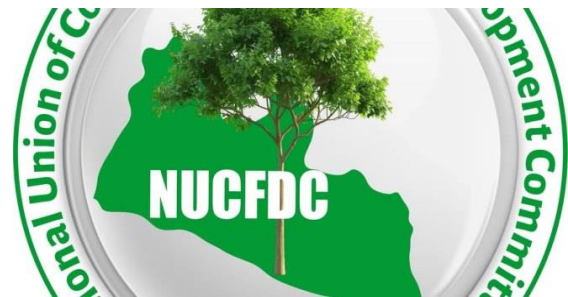
Joseph Brownell, a determined and enterprising farmer in his 30s, is making notable strides in the country's agricultural landscape. Without donor funding or government support, Brownell took a bold leap three months ago by cultivating approximately four acres of land

with pepper, a staple crop in Liberian cuisine.

[Read more on this story](#)

NUCFDC Expands Efforts in Sustainable Forest Management and Community Empowerment

As part of an ongoing effort to strengthen environmental sustainability and increase stewardship in forest-dependent communities, the National Union of Community Forestry Development Committee (NUCFDC) has announced the expansion of its sustainable forest management initiatives to eleven of Liberia's fifteen counties.



In an interview with the *Liberia Agricultural and Environmental Journalists Network (LAEJN)* recently, Andrew Zelemen, Head of the Secretariat and National Facilitator of the NUCFDC, disclosed the development during a recent statement, highlighting the union's unwavering commitment to enhancing both environmental stewardship and socio-economic opportunities for residents in forested regions. [Click the link to read more.](#)

Maryland County Receives Yamaha Motorcycles to Strengthen Agricultural Supervision



Maryland County has received a significant boost in agricultural supervision with the donation of three Yamaha motorcycles to local

officials by the Ministry of Agriculture. This initiative aims to enhance mobility and facilitate more effective monitoring of farming activities across the region.

Peter Klah, the Agricultural Coordinator for Maryland County, expressed gratitude for the donation in a recent interview with the Liberia Agricultural Journalist Network. He emphasized that the motorcycles, generously provided through collaborative efforts between the government and the Ministry of Agriculture, mark a pivotal advancement in their operational capabilities. [Read more](#)

Future Farmers Liberia Announces Bing Plan to Benefit Agriculture Students at Community Colleges



Future Farmers Liberia is set to revolutionize agricultural education and professional development through a strategic collaboration with agricultural colleges and universities across Bong, Nimba, and Lofa Counties. The organization is finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will facilitate students' access to hands-on training at its demonstration farm.

The announcement was made by Mr. Darius K. Nupolu, Executive Director of Future Farmers Liberia, during a special gathering at the organization's headquarters in Gbarnga. Mr. Nupolu highlighted the MOU as a pivotal step towards bridging the gap between theoretical learning and practical application in Liberia's agricultural education system. [Read more](#)

Water Blockage and Pollution Threaten Lowland Rice Farming in Zalakai, Bomi County



Residents of Zalakai, a town in Senjeh District, Bomi County, have expressed growing concern over environmental damage and disruption of livelihoods allegedly caused by the operations of the Congo Mining Company. The community, home to over 500 residents, is reeling from blocked water sources and pollution associated with the company's preparations for full-scale mining activities.

Congo Mining Company, which acquired a Class "A" license in 2024 to extract black sand deposits left behind by the defunct Liberia Mining Company (LMC), is accused of cutting off a vital water source that locals depend on for both agricultural and domestic use. The black sand, or tailings, once considered waste, has in recent years become a productive area for farming due to its rich fertility. [Read more on this story](#)

WASUDEV Empowers Over 100 Women with Hands-On Agroecology Training



In a bid to enhance women's participation in agriculture and address the challenges posed by climate change, over 100 women recently completed an intensive eight-day training program in Agroecology, Climate Change, and Sustainable Agriculture Practices.

The training, organized by Women in Agriculture for Sustainable Development (WASUDEV) in collaboration with the Kwakeh Multipurpose Agriculture Cooperative and supported by Kvinna Till Kvinna, was designed to equip participants with critical skills to tackle unsustainable farming methods and promote climate-resilient agricultural practices. [More read](#)