



## **Agri Journal Edition 11 May 2025**

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### AGRA Board Chair Urges Liberia to Back Agricultural Transformation with 10% Budgetary Commitment

As part of quest to help reshape the trajectory of Liberia's agriculture sector, His Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn Boshe, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), has called on the Liberian government to match rhetoric with action by allocating at least 10% of the national budget to agriculture in accordance with the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) commitment.



Mr. Boshe, former Prime Minister of Ethiopia and now a prominent voice in Africa's agricultural transformation, delivered this appeal during a three-day high-level mission to Liberia. Joined by senior AGRA officials, including Vice President for Technical Expertise Jonathan Said, the delegation's agenda centers on forging strategic partnerships and finalizing Liberia's Legacy Program—an ambitious roadmap to modernize agriculture, drive economic growth, and attract long-term investment. [Read more on this story](#)

### Liberia, MK Industries Eye Partnership to Build First Fish Processing Plant in Buchanan

In a landmark move aimed at revitalizing Liberia's fisheries and aquaculture industry, U.S. based MK Industries, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, has formally expressed its interest in partnering with the Government of Liberia, through the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), to establish the country's first large-scale fish processing and fish meal factory in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County.



According to the Acting Director General of NaFAA, Cyrus Saygbe, the announcement was made during a high-level meeting held on Monday, May 12, 2025, at the company's facility in Atlanta. The meeting brought together the leadership of NaFAA and MK Industries CEO, Mr. Ali Katoot, who reaffirmed his company's commitment to collaborating with the Government to bring this transformative project to fruition. [Read more on this article](#)

### Elephant Invasions Threaten Farming and Food Security in Gbarpolu County

Farmers in Gbaryama and Karlo towns, Bopolu District, are raising urgent alarms over repeated invasions by wild elephants, which have not only devastated their farms but are also threatening the region's fragile food security and economic resilience.

For the past two farming seasons, residents of these forest-fringed communities have endured significant losses, with elephants trampling and consuming large quantities of essential crops such as cassava, plantains, peanuts, bananas, and vegetables. Local estimates suggest the damage exceeds 150,000 Liberian dollars, plunging many farming families into economic hardship.



**"Last year, we made big peanut and cassava farms, but the elephants used two days to destroy everything,"** lamented Old Lady Varjah Kamara, co-chair of the Nenela Women's Group in Gbaryama. **"We couldn't farm this year because we are afraid. Farming is how we support our children's education and feed our families."** [Click the link to read more on this article](#)

### FAO Liberia Convenes Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue to Strengthen Responsible Agricultural Investment

In a continued effort to foster sustainable and responsible investment in Liberia's agriculture sector, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations convened a high-level multi-stakeholder dialogue on Monday, May 5, 2025, in Monrovia. The forum focused on reviewing the

Liberia Investment and Investor Screening Toolkit—a vital instrument aimed at promoting transparency, accountability, and social and environmental safeguards in agricultural investments.



The one-day event brought together members of the Responsible Agricultural Investment (RAI) Multi-Stakeholder Platform, which includes key government ministries and agencies with investment mandates, members of the National Legislature, and civil society organizations. The inclusive dialogue aimed to assess progress made in the application of the screening toolkit, share experiences, identify challenges, and strengthen coordination among stakeholders. [Click the link to follow this story](#)

#### **LABGC Founder Calls on the Ministry of Agriculture to Boost Support for Smallholder Farmers in Liberia**

Joseph Jimmy Sankaituah, Founder and CEO of Lucky Agro & Bioenergy Group of Companies (LABGC), is urging the Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Agriculture, to scale up support to smallholder farmers across the country, asserting that such an initiative is essential for increasing food production and improving livelihoods in rural communities.



Speaking from Botota in Kokoyah District, Bong County, where his agro-based enterprise is headquartered, Mr. Sankaituah made a passionate appeal for what he called “robust and targeted government support” to cooperatives and farming groups engaged in local food production. He emphasized that if adequately empowered, small-scale farmers could significantly contribute to Liberia’s food security and economic recovery efforts. [Read more on this article](#)

#### **Senator Tyler Calls for Boost in Agricultural Budget as Bomi Launches Rice Transplanting Initiative**

Bomi County has launched an ambitious initiative to cultivate 16 hectares of lowland rice as part of its 2025 Agriculture Program Agenda. The initiative is being framed as a foundational step toward achieving food self-sufficiency and supporting the national ARREST agenda championed by President Joseph Boakai. The ARREST initiative prioritizes Agriculture, Roads, Rule of law, Education, Sanitation, and Tourism as pillars of development.



At the ceremonial launch in Tubmanburg, Senator Alex Tyler positioned the rice cultivation program as a strategic and symbolic gesture that aligns county-level planning with national development priorities. Receiving a copy of the agriculture agenda on behalf of the Bomi Legislative Caucus, Senator Tyler pledged to present the document directly to President Boakai, indicating a clear intent to elevate the county’s agricultural development plan to the national policy conversation. [Follow this article by clicking the link.](#)

#### **After the Rain Farmers Cooperative Launches Landmark Agricultural Project in Northern Liberia**

In a bold step toward enhancing food security and economic empowerment in Liberia, the After the Rain Multi-purpose Farmers Cooperative Society Ltd has launched an ambitious agricultural development initiative in Gbandi Chiefdom, Lofa County. The project aims to transform 100 hectares of swamp land into a thriving center for sustainable agriculture.





Speaking at the launch, Mr. B. Augustine Sangalie, Chief Executive Officer of the cooperative, described the initiative as a catalyst for rural transformation. According to him, the project is expected to directly benefit over 500 smallholder farmers while creating more than 200 employment opportunities for local youth.

**“Our vision is rooted in sustainability and empowerment,” said Mr. Sangalie. “This project will not only increase agricultural productivity but also uplift our communities by creating jobs and equipping farmers with the skills they need to thrive.”** [Click the link to read more on this article](#)

#### Newcastle Disease Outbreak Threatens Poultry Sector Across Liberia’s 15 Counties

As Liberia’s poultry sector continues to grow and play an essential role in food security and rural livelihoods, it is now facing a serious challenge: recurring outbreaks of deadly poultry diseases, most notably Newcastle disease.



According to Mr. Roland Varkpeh, Director of Animal Production at the Ministry of Agriculture in Liberia, the disease has become a major threat to poultry farmers across all 15 counties of Liberia. It affects both free-range and commercial farms and results in widespread losses. [Read more on this story](#)

#### Investing in the Next Generation of Climate-Smart Farmers: Cape Palmas High TVET and Tubman University Lead the Way

With its rich soil and abundance of water, Maryland is a region where agriculture is at the heartbeat of daily life. As a manifestation of this, a new generation of youths is stepping up in this southeastern county of Liberia to protect

the environment, and they’re doing it with the right training.



Arise from Ashes, an environmental and agricultural advocacy group based in Maryland County, has recently concluded an intensive mentorship program in agroecology for students from Cape Palmas High School TVET and William V. S. Tubman University. The training was tailored to transform the farming practices of participants to more environmental friendly approach. [Read more on this article](#)

#### Liberia Takes Bold Steps Towards Poultry Self-Sufficiency

In a bold push to reclaim its domestic poultry market and reduce reliance on imports, Liberia’s poultry industry stakeholders recently convened a five-day pre-validation exercise for its long-stalled National Poultry Strategy—a move hailed as a pivotal moment in the country’s agricultural reform agenda.



Held at the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) in Suakoko, the workshop brought together key stakeholders, including poultry farmers, agribusiness experts, policymakers, and local leaders. The gathering signals Liberia’s intent to revive a strategy first drafted nearly six years ago but left dormant until now. [Read more on this article](#)

### Another Landmark Accomplishment at NaFAA as Liberia Joins Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI)

The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) has reached another major milestone as Liberia officially becomes a member of the global Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI). This landmark achievement underscores the government's commitment to strengthening transparency, accountability, and sustainable governance in the fisheries sector.



Liberia's accession to FiTI places it among a growing list of countries committed to openly publishing fisheries-related data, from licensing and access agreements to subsidies and catches. The move is expected to enhance public trust, promote responsible investment, and ensure equitable benefits for coastal communities.

[Read more on this story](#)

### A Liberian Entrepreneur Takes On Imported Meat with Homegrown Livestock

In Sergeant Kollie's Town (SKT), a peri-urban community in central Liberia, farmer Joe N. Kermion—known locally as “Joe the Goat”—is gaining recognition for his role in promoting food self-sufficiency and healthier meat production. Once a small-scale goat herder, Kermion has become a notable figure in Liberia's agricultural sector, known for his resilience, ethical farming practices, and commitment to reducing the country's reliance on imported meat.



From raising his first few goats in 1999 with modest earnings after high school, Kermion has built a thriving livestock business comprising nearly 50 goats, 36 sheep, and a growing poultry operation. Today, his farm not only sustains his family, including funding his five children's education and building a five-bedroom house in Kakata, it also provides an alternative to imported meat products. [Follow this story by clicking the link here.](#)

### Bomi Farmers Trained to Boost Coffee Yield in Line with Liberia's Agricultural Development Plan

Nearly 100 smallholder farmers in Tehr District are undergoing intensive, hands-on training in coffee production and other agricultural value chains as part of a broader initiative to revitalize Liberia's agriculture sector and strengthen national food security.



The training is being conducted at a one-hectare demonstration site by the Daya-Bai-kai Agriculture Group, with funding support from the European Union and technical implementation by the International Trade Center (ITC) in collaboration with the Farmers Union Network of Liberia (FUNL). [Read more](#)

### River Gee Agriculture Officer Launches Countywide Monitoring Program to Boost Local Farming

In a strategic move to revitalize agricultural activities and improve livelihoods across River Gee County, County Agricultural Officer Jasper Sheriff Tweh has rolled out a comprehensive monitoring initiative aimed at strengthening local farming systems through technical support and practical interventions.

Launched in early April 2025, the initiative spans all six agricultural districts of River Gee—



Gbeapo, Tienpo, Chedepo, Webbo, Potupo, and Sarbo—and targets both cooperative societies and individual smallholder farmers. The program is designed to assess ongoing farming practices, identify key challenges, and deliver targeted support to boost productivity and sustainability.



Speaking with this reporter, Officer Tweh emphasized that the monitoring program is not merely evaluative but also advisory, with the overarching goal of empowering farmers to adopt improved farming techniques and respond to persistent obstacles within the sector. [Read more on this story](#)

### President Boakai Strengthens Liberia's Food Security with Executive Order No. 149



President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., has taken a decisive step toward enhancing Liberia's food security by signing Executive Order No. 149, which establishes the National Food Assistance Agency (NFAA). This landmark executive action underscores the government's commitment to eradicating hunger, improving nutrition, and ensuring food security for all Liberians as part of the ARREST Agenda.

Executive Order No. 149 builds upon prior directives, notably the now-expired Executive Order No. 129, and redefines the scope and functions of the NFAA to effectively coordinate

food assistance initiatives nationwide. [Read more](#)

### South Africa's Avocado Boom: Can Liberia Shift toward the Green Gold?



Earlier this year, I found myself walking through endless rows of neatly planted avocado trees on a commercial farm in Limpopo Province, South Africa. The fresh morning air, the precision with which the trees were spaced, and the buzz of activity around the farm all spoke one thing loud and clear: avocados mean business.

As the global demand for avocados surges—driven by health trends and the booming food industry—South Africa has positioned itself as a key exporter of what many now call “green gold.”

I was in South Africa as part of an international press tour organized by the South African Agricultural Writers Association. Journalists from across the globe came together to explore how agriculture is shaping rural economies in South Africa. As a Liberian journalist passionate about agriculture and development, this experience was more than a reporting assignment—it was an eye-opener. [Read more](#)

to equip participants with critical skills to tackle unsustainable farming methods and promote climate-resilient agricultural practices. [More read](#)