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Liberia Agricultural and Environmental Journalists Network (LAEJN) is a registered media network connecting journalists, farmers, researchers, and policymakers through science-based agricultural and environmental reporting.

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### Ministry of Agriculture Recommissions the Rehabilitated Fangoda Dam in Kolahun, Lofa County

On June 14, 2025, the Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Agriculture, officially dedicated the rehabilitated Fangoda Dam in Kolahun District, Lofa County, marking a significant milestone in the nation's agricultural development. With an investment of US\$650,000, this infrastructure project stands as a key pillar in Liberia's ambitious "Liberians Feed Yourselves" agenda, which targets a 70% reduction in rice imports by 2030. The newly restored dam will support year-round rice farming on over 250 acres of lowland, providing a sustainable model for agricultural growth in one of Liberia's most vital region.



At the launch event, Minister of Agriculture **Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah** highlighted the profound implications of the project for the country's food security. He emphasized that the rehabilitated dam is not just a symbol of infrastructure renewal but a tangible catalyst for transforming Liberia's agricultural landscape. Read more on this article.

#### STAR-P Strengthens Rural Finance Infrastructure with Bullion Van Donation to Kolahun Bank

As part of ongoing efforts by the Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen rural financial systems in Liberia that impact farmers, the Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAR-P) has donated a Bullion Van to the Kolahun Rural Community Financial Institution (KRCFI) in Lofa County. This strategic intervention forms part of a broader initiative to enhance financial inclusion and agricultural productivity in underserved regions.

The provision of the van marks a turning point for the rural bank, which has long struggled to transport cash securely, often relying on a motorbike for bulk cash movement — a method fraught with risk and inefficiency. With the introduction of this specialized vehicle, KRCFI is expected to significantly strengthen its operational capacity, improve cash security, and expand its reach to farmers and small businesses in remote communities.



At the vehicle handover ceremony recently, STAR-P Operation Manager Steve Marvie emphasized the transformative impact the donation will have on the Kolahun Rural Community Financial Institution's service delivery. Read more on this story by clicking the link

#### FAO Liberia Launches USD 350,000 Rice Project to Boost National Food Security

Rice, a fundamental staple in Liberia serving its 5.4 million people (World Bank, 2012), faces a critical gap between demand and local production. With an annual demand of 650,000 tons and domestic output limited to 240,000 tons of milled rice, the deficit surpasses 400,000 tons annually, compelling a shift toward sustainable solutions.



In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, the project will address one of Liberia's most pressing agricultural challenges—post-harvest losses. It is closely aligned with the newly adopted Zero National Post-Harvest Strategy (2024–2029) and the National Agricultural Development Plan (2024–2030). At the launch ceremony, held at the FAO One UN House office in Monrovia, stakeholders from across the rice value chain, including farmer group representatives, gathered to witness the initiative's introduction. Read more on this article

#### MOA/RETRAP Project Boost Transport Service for Smallholder Farmers in Southeast Liberia

As Liberia intensifies efforts to modernize agriculture and improve rural livelihoods, the Ministry of Agriculture has completed the distribution of a new batch of tricycles to farming groups in Grand Gedeh and Maryland Counties.

The handover ceremony, held at the Ministry's Technical Transfer Center in Harper City, marked a significant milestone under the Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETRAP)—a World Bank-funded initiative designed to strengthen smallholder resilience and enhance value chain efficiency. The distribution follows a similar event in Grand Gedeh County and forms part of a broader national strategy aligned with the government's AAREST agenda. The intervention aims to address longstanding mobility challenges that limit farmers' access to markets and essential agricultural services



County-level agricultural officials and cooperative leaders gathered at the MOA facilities in Harper and Zwedru to receive the tricycles, which are expected to reduce transportation costs, minimize post-harvest losses, and facilitate the movement of goods from farm to market. Click the link to read more on this article

### Climate Change Disrupts Farming Cycles in Telta Town, Bong County

In Telta Town, a farming community situated in Bong County, central Liberia, climate change is not just a distant scientific concept—it is a lived reality, particularly for smallholder farmers. Farmers in this community are experiencing an unprecedented shift in weather patterns, marked by unseasonal heat and delayed rains, threatening livelihoods and food security.

Traditionally, May signals the start of Liberia's reliable rainy season, critical for planting staple crops like rice, okra, and cabbage. But in 2025, the rains had not come. Instead, a punishing heatwave persists, leaving fields cracked and dusty, and local farmers uncertain about the future.

"We cleared our farm in March and were ready to plant this May, but we couldn't broadcast the rice due to the sun," explained Alice Gbanyan, a local farmer. "The ground is too dry. We're afraid to put our seeds in because there's no sign of rain."



Another farmer, **Sumo Suanikolo**, added, "We depend on farming to feed our families and send our children to school. But with this sunshine, everything is dying." Read more on this article

#### Korean Investment Firm MakeGroup Eyes Major Agricultural Partnership in Liberia

South Korea's leading investment firm, MakeGroup, is setting its sights on Liberia's agriculture sector, expressing a strong interest in forging a transformative partnership with the country. The initiative is a major step toward strengthening international cooperation in support of Liberia's agricultural and economic growth



In addition to its agricultural interests, MakeGroup also announced plans to establish a Universal Bank in Liberia with an initial capital of US\$100 million. This institution, if realized, would be the largest financial entity in the country, providing specialized services including housing and agriculture. However, Mr. Han noted the company's flexibility to align with the Liberian government's plan for a dedicated Agriculture Enterprise Development Bank, a proposal currently under legislative review. Click the link to read more on this article

#### Liberia's World Food Safety Day Emphasizes Scientific Approach to Food Safety

On June 7, 2025, Liberia joined global efforts to observe World Food Safety Day, an initiative aimed at raising awareness about the critical importance of food safety and its far-reaching effects on public health and economies. The event, held at the Ministry of Health in Congo Town, brought together key stakeholders in the food safety sector to focus on the theme "Food Safety Science in Action," underscoring the role of science in advancing food safety research and practices.



In her keynote address, Precelia Cherue, the Director General of the Food Authority of Liberia, stressed the importance of applying scientific knowledge to detect hazards, prevent foodborne diseases, and enforce safety standards that not only protect lives but also foster trade. Cherue emphasized that the newly established Food Authority is prioritizing food safety science and aligning with international food safety standards. *Click the link to read more on this article* 

### Pampaya Farmer Cooperative Board Installed, Receives Official Certification from CDA

A five-member Board of Directors of the Pampaya Multipurpose Cooperative Society (PAMCOS) has been formally installed and certified to operate as a legally recognized cooperative in Liberia. The installation ceremony, held recently in Camp Alpha, Gbarpolu County, marked a significant milestone for the community-based organization, which now holds an official two-year operational license valid until June 2027.



The event at Camp Alpha also coincided with the launch of the new registration certificate to PAMCOS, which has a duration of two years and is embedded with a security code. Read more on this article

### SANKOFA Turns Farming into a Profitable Business with STAR-P Support

Amid Liberia's persistent challenges of food insecurity, youth unemployment, and over-reliance on imported produce, one agribusiness venture is demonstrating that with the right mix of vision, investment, and innovation, farming can be both commercially viable and socially transformative.

Founded in 2014 by agricultural entrepreneur **Nyamah G. Dunbar**, **SANKOFA Farm** has grown from a subsistence cassava initiative into one of Liberia's most advanced vegetable production enterprises. Today, it covers 650 acres in Bong County, with over half actively under cultivation, making it the country's largest diversified vegetable operation.



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The farm is fast emerging as a **scalable model for agricultural modernization** in Liberia—driven by a strategic vision, strong community engagement, and support from the **Ministry of Agriculture** through the **Liberia Agriculture Commercialization Fund (LACF)**. This integrated approach is demonstrating how targeted investments and local ownership can accelerate rural transformation and food system resilience. Read more on this article

### ActionAid Liberia Empowers Women to Champion Organic Farming in Bong County

In a major boost to sustainable agriculture and women's empowerment, ActionAid Liberia is making significant strides in Bong County through its support to the **Khulima Women's Organic Demonstration Site**. The initiative is providing women and smallholder farmers with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to practice organic farming that promotes food security while protecting the environment.

Located in Chief Compound Community, just outside Gbarnga City, the Khulima site has quickly become a hub for innovation and learning, particularly among women farmers. With technical and logistical support from ActionAid Liberia, the demonstration farm is offering hands-on training in eco-friendly farming techniques, composting, organic pest control, and soil health management.



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The **Khulima** site is part of the broader **Feminist and Participatory Agroecology Project (FMP)**, an initiative designed to promote organic farming, women's empowerment, and climate resilience across rural Liberia. The project focuses on teaching practical skills that help farmers adapt to climate change, improve soil health, and increase food production using local, eco-friendly methods. Read more on this article.

# MOA Strengthens Gender-Responsive Extension Delivery and Leadership Skills for Coordinators and Extension Officers

As part of efforts to promote gender equality in the agricultural sector and boost institutional capacity, the Gender and Social Inclusion Unit (GSIU) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) concluded a five-day Gender-Responsive Agriculture Extension Delivery and Leadership Communication Training for Regional and County Coordinators and Extension Officers.



Held in Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County, Phase One is part of the Liberia Women Empowerment Project (LWEP). The workshop is a key component of LWEP, which is led by the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MGCSP) and funded by the World Bank. It aims to promote gender equality, improve livelihood opportunities for women, and strengthen institutional capacity to implement gender-responsive programs in six counties: Rural Montserrado, Bomi, Gbarpolu, Cape Mount, River Cess, and Grand Gedeh.

Macy T.S. Wilson, the Director of the Gender Unit at the Ministry of Agriculture, emphasized the Ministry's dedication to improving agricultural service delivery through continuous capacity-building efforts. *Read more on this article* 

## Deputy Agriculture Minister Concludes Monitoring Visit to Southeast Liberia, Promises Stronger Support for Farmers

In a bid to strengthen agricultural productivity and engage more closely with rural stakeholders, Liberia's Deputy Minister for Research and Extension, Moses Gbanyan, has completed a week-long monitoring mission in Region 5, covering the southeast.

Region 5 encompasses River Gee, Maryland, and Grand Kru Counties and is overseen by Agriculture Coordinator Jay Doe Welah Jr. The Deputy Minister's visit sought to evaluate ongoing agricultural interventions and listen directly to the challenges and opportunities encountered by farmers and stakeholders in these rural communities.



During the tour, Minister Gbanyan met with smallholder and commercial farmers, agricultural cooperatives, and local extension officers. Discussions focused on critical issues including seed availability, irrigation systems, pest and disease control, climate change adaptation, and the adoption of modern farming practices. *Read more on this article* 

#### Liberian Students Return from Israel Poised to **Advance National Agriculture Sector**

More than 44 students from Bong County have graduated with diplomas from the Arava International Center for Agricultural Training (AICAT) in Israel, following an intensive 11-month program combining academic study with hands-on field experience. This could mark a turning point in Liberia's quest for agricultural transformation.

The graduates—drawn from Cuttington University, Bong County Technical College, CEPRESS International University, and Sumo Moye Technical College—are returning home equipped not just with diplomas but with globally relevant knowledge and entrepreneurial skills aimed at tackling Liberia's food security challenges.



Over 11 months, the trainees were immersed in handson agricultural techniques, cutting-edge technologies, and sustainable farming models—elements that are largely lacking in Liberia's current agricultural education framework. The AICAT program, based in Israel's arid Arava region, is renowned for merging academic theory with rigorous field application, especially in water management, desert agriculture, and agribusiness innovation. Click the link to read more

#### Solar-Powered Poultry Facility Signals New Era for Local Farmers

In a groundbreaking move for the country's poultry sector, Kodah Enterprises Incorporated has officially commissioned a state-of-the-art poultry processing facility and solar-powered energy system, a project valued at USD 150,000. Situated in Paynesville, Montserrado County, the facility is set to dramatically improve production, processing, and storage capacities for local poultry farmers operating in and around the capital. The project, spearheaded by Joseph Kodah, President of the Poultry Federation and CEO of Kodah Lib-Chicken, marks a milestone in addressing persistent barriers facing Liberia's poultry sector—namely, the lack reliable electricity, inadequate storage, and outdated processing infrastructure.



"This facility is more than a building. It's a symbol of progress and empowerment," Mr. Kodah remarked during the dedication ceremony. "With cold storage, a modern processing line, and uninterrupted solar power, poultry farmers now have the tools to scale operations, cut costs, and meet rising consumer demand." Click here to read more

#### SAPZ Project Empowers Liberia's Agro-**Cooperative Sector**

The Liberia Special Agro-Processing Zone (SAPZ) Project, implemented by the Urban Association in partnership with the National Investment Commission (NIC), has concluded a three-day training workshop aimed at strengthening the country's agro-cooperative sector.

Held in Gbarnga, Bong County, the capacity-building exercise brought together cooperative leaders from Bong, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, and Nimba Counties. The training focused on modernizing cooperative structures, improving farm productivity, and promoting climate-smart agriculture to enhance food security and rural livelihoods.



Topics covered included cooperative governance and management, member engagement, sustainable farming practices, eco-friendly techniques, rice and aquaculture production, record keeping, tree crop and vegetable marketing, and value chain development. Read more on this article