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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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## European Union and Liberian Government Launch US\$4.6M Soils4Liberia Project



The European Union, in partnership with the Government of Liberia and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), on October 22, 2025, officially launched the Liberia Land and Soil Resources Knowledge Project (Soils4Liberia), a landmark US\$4.6 million initiative aimed at strengthening Liberia's capacity for sustainable land and soil management.

Funded by the European Union Delegation to Liberia and implemented by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the four-year project will support the development of the Liberia Land and Soil Information System (LSIS). It is a comprehensive, data-driven platform designed to provide reliable and up-to-date information on Liberia's soil and land resources.

The initiative aimed to improve land-use planning, agricultural productivity, and climate resilience across the country by ensuring policymakers, researchers, and farmers had access to essential soil data. [Read more on this story](#)

## Cocoa Prices in Lofa Crash by 56%, Farmers Voice Frustration



Cocoa farmers in the Wanhassa District are expressing deep frustration over a sharp decline in cocoa bean prices this year, a drop they say is threatening their livelihoods and undermining the local cocoa economy. For generations, cocoa farming has been a cornerstone of Wanhassa's agricultural activity, providing income for thousands of families across Bolahun, Massabolahun, and Fangoda towns.

Farmers report that the price of cocoa beans, which previously sold for LD\$800 per kilo, has plummeted to LD\$350 per kilo, a decline of more than 56 percent, forcing many to reconsider their planting and harvesting plans.

The Liberia Agriculture Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA) provided context on the situation, highlighting challenges faced by both farmers and buyers in Lofa County, particularly in Wanhassa District.

According to LACRA County Coordinator Augustine Argbah, many farmers are now selling wet cocoa beans instead of fermented ones due to urgent financial needs, including school fees, farm maintenance, construction projects, and other personal obligations. This shift has affected cocoa quality and pricing. [Read more of this article](#)

## RETRAP Boosts Market Access with New Modern Vegetable Kiosk in Monrovia



The Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETRAP) and with support from the World Bank, recently handed over a modern vegetable kiosk at Barnersville Junction, situated in the Monrovia suburb. The facility is expected to transform how farmers sell their produce and enhance food availability in the capital region.

The new kiosk is expected to have far-reaching benefits for smallholder farmers because it allows farmers to reduce post-harvest losses that occur due to inadequate storage and selling conditions. The electronic price display ensures transparency in pricing, helping farmers negotiate fair prices and protect their earnings. [Read more on this article](#)

## Minister Nuetah Engages FAO Director-General to Advance Liberia's Agricultural Transformation

While in Rome, Italy, recently, Liberia Agriculture Minister Dr. Alexander Nuetah met with the Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Dr. Qu Dongyu, on the sidelines of the World Food Forum and World Food Day celebrations.

Minister Nuetah expressed deep appreciation for FAO's continued support and reaffirmed Liberia's dedication to



strengthening cooperation under two key frameworks – the One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) initiative and the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. He further updated the Director-General on ongoing work with FAO Chief Economist Mr. Máximo Torero and his team to organize a Liberia Agricultural Investment Forum in early 2026. and threatening the livelihood of hundreds of residents who depend on coconut oil production for survival.



The bilateral meeting focused on strengthening FAO–Liberia collaboration, advancing key agricultural programs, and mobilizing new investment opportunities to accelerate Liberia’s agricultural transformation. [Read more of this article.](#)

### VOSIEDA and Partners Launch Deforestation National Multi-Stakeholder Platform



The platform was launched under the VOSIEDA project, ***“Addressing Deforestation in Smallholder Agricultural Commodity Supply Chains in Liberia,”*** in Monrovia on October 29, 2025.

According to VOSIEDA Executive Director Timothy Kortu, the initiative seeks to strengthen environmental governance and align Liberia’s agricultural practices with international climate and market commitments. It will serve as a national framework to harmonize policies, encourage collective action, and ensure that agricultural expansion does not come at the expense of the country’s rich forest resources.

The platform’s establishment is expected to lay a solid foundation for inclusive dialogue, policy coherence, and sustainable agricultural practices that balance economic growth with forest conservation and improved community livelihoods. [Read more on this article](#)

### LACRA Moves Toward EU Deforestation Compliance with Support from European Forest Institute



Liberia has taken a crucial preparatory step toward developing a comprehensive national forest map, a cornerstone for meeting the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) through the validation of the consultant’s scope of work for the mapping exercise.

The process, led by the Liberia Agriculture Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA) in partnership with the European Forest Institute (EFI), brought together key national institutions responsible for forestry, land administration, and geospatial data. The session focused on reviewing and approving the technical roadmap that will guide its development, marking an essential step in Liberia’s efforts to align its agricultural exports with global sustainability requirements.

If executed effectively, the forest mapping project will not only facilitate EUDR compliance but also position Liberia as a regional leader in traceable, sustainable commodity production. Beyond market access, it offers long-term dividends in forest governance, land-use transparency, and smallholder empowerment. [Read more on this article](#)

### 30-Year Cocoa Lease in Grand Gedeh Sparks Controversy Over Land Rights



A 30-year land lease agreement signed between Grand Gedeh County authorities and Burkinabé investor Boubou Sebu in October generated both excitement and concern in the county. The deal grants Sebu exclusive rights to develop a 500-acre plot in the B’hai

Administrative District for cocoa cultivation, marking a major step toward agricultural investment in the region.

The National Union of Community Forestry Development Committee (NUCFDC) raised questions about the transparency of the lease and the status of over 500 acres of land reportedly executed by the Grand Gedeh County authority, describing the process as cloudy and potentially harmful to local communities.

Representative Jacob Debee of Electoral District #3 in Grand Gedeh County also criticized the deal, citing provisions of Liberia's Land Rights Act (LRA). He stressed that only the Liberia Land Authority can conduct confirmatory surveys and issue statutory deeds for customary land, and that communities themselves must approve any lease agreements. [Read more on this article](#)

### Konawolala Commissioner Launches Eight Communal Farms to Boost Food Security



The unveiling ceremony in Gbayaita and Sackie-Bonbota brought together local leaders, youth, and women's groups from across the district, reflecting growing community participation in agricultural development.

Commissioner Stephen Binda described the initiative as a practical step toward community empowerment and collective prosperity. ***"These farms are not just about growing rice," he said. "They are about empowering our people and ensuring that Konawolala is placed on the agricultural map for massive food production."*** The eight communal farms, located across several towns and villages, are currently focused on rice cultivation—Liberia's primary staple crop. However, plans are already underway to diversify production next season to include cassava, vegetables, and cash crops such as rubber, cocoa, and oil palm.

According to Binda, the communal farming project aligns with Liberia's National Agriculture Development Plan, which aims to make the country 70 percent self-sufficient in food production within the next five years. [Read more on this story](#)

### CFA Currency Surge Threatens Liberia's Cocoa Economy as Migrant Farmers Reject Local Payments



The promise that cocoa farming would transform Liberia's southeastern region into a hub of economic growth is dimming amid growing tensions over the dominance of the CFA franc in local cocoa trade.

In River Gee and Grand Gedeh Counties, Burkinabé migrant farmers—who now make up a significant portion of the cocoa workforce—are increasingly demanding payment in CFA francs rather than Liberian dollars, triggering currency instability and weakening local markets.

Local cooperatives are now calling on the Ministry of Agriculture, the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), and the Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) to urgently intervene. They warn that the unregulated dominance of the CFA franc undermines national monetary policy, weakens fiscal control, and deepens rural poverty. [Read more on this story](#)

### Agriculture Minister Launches 'Gbadin Processed Rice' in Nimba County



The Gbadin Process Rice, produced by Gbadin Agrobusiness Inc. under the leadership of Mr. Samuel Brown, comes in parboiled and white rice varieties, both packaged in 25-kilogram bags for the local market.

Minister Nueteh commended Mr. Brown and his team for reviving the once-dormant Gbadin Rice Project and taking bold steps to increase food production.



***"We must appreciate what we grow," Minister Nueteh said. "That is why the government is investing in local farmers — to make agriculture profitable and ensure Liberia's food security."***

According to Mr. Samuel Brown, the Gbadin Rice Project was first established in the 1960s by the Government of Liberia, but collapsed in 1990 due to the civil conflict. The project was revived in recent years, cultivating 309 acres and producing 422 metric tons of rice in 2024. [Click the link to read more about this article](#)

### **Teacher Creates Over 50 Jobs in the Agriculture Sector in Grand Bassa**



Michael Kpoghomou, once a classroom teacher, is now the Chief Executive Officer of K&K Investment and Organic Feeding Corporation, an agribusiness that has provided more than 50 jobs for residents while supplying communities with clean, organic produce.

***"I started with a simple idea — to go beyond teaching and do something that creates lasting change," Kpoghomou said. "Now, that idea is giving people jobs and putting food on tables."***

Located on 46 acres of land in Neekreen District, just outside Buchanan, Kpoghomou's farm boasts over 30,000 organically raised chickens, 14 poultry houses, as well as vegetable plots, pigs, and goats. [Click the link to read more](#)

### **Gaps and Opportunities Identified at MOA's Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Liberia Rice Sector**



Held at the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Ministerial Complex in Congo Town, the dialogue brought together a cross-section of key players — from policymakers and private

investors to farmer organizations, civil society actors, and international partners — to critically examine the country's rice value chain and chart a practical roadmap for its transformation.

Deputy Minister for Development Planning, David Akoi, underscored that the engagement was not merely another consultative forum but a deliberate effort to align policies, investments, and actors toward a shared vision for the rice sector. According to him, Liberia's heavy reliance on rice imports — which cost the country millions of U.S. dollars annually — continues to expose it to external market shocks and food insecurity.

***"The objective of this dialogue is to generate alignment, develop a shared vision, and identify and prioritize investment incentives for Liberia's rice sector transformation,"*** Akoi explained. He noted that persistent issues such as low productivity, limited mechanization, weak financing, and poor market access have constrained the growth of local rice production for decades. [Click the link to read more](#)

### **River Gee Farmers Decry Market Access as 10-Acre Cassava Farm Rots**



The affected farmers, many of them members of the Karford Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society, described the situation as devastating, saying months of hard labor and financial investment have gone to waste.

Speaking to LAEJN, Oliver Jay, Business Manager of the cooperative, and Madam Susannah S. Donmon, a senior member, said poor farm-to-market roads made it impossible to transport harvested cassava to nearby markets.

***"There's no access road to move our cassava to the market,"*** Madam Donmon lamented. ***"We worked hard, cleared the land, planted, and weeded. But when it was time to harvest, the road became impassable. We couldn't move the cassava to sell it, and now most of it has spoiled in the ground."*** [Read more on this article](#)

## Agriculture Ministry Showcases Women-Led Agribusiness as World Bank Reaffirms Support



The Ministry of Agriculture has reaffirmed its commitment to transforming Liberia's agriculture sector, with a focus on empowering women, smallholder farmers, and agribusinesses. This commitment was highlighted during a field visit hosted for a high-level visiting World Bank delegation at the cassava processing site of Destiny Women Incorporated in Bensonville.

During the visit, World Bank Vice President for Ethics and Internal Justice, Lisa Rosen, praised the Ministry's leadership and the resilience of Liberian women in agribusiness:

*"It is amazing to meet you and see all of the incredible work that you do to put food on the table for yourselves, for the country, and for the future of your children. We are very grateful to be partnering with Destiny's Women and with the Ministry here in Liberia, to build a better future together."* [Read more on this article.](#)

## IFAD-Funded STAR-P Boosts Farmers' Productivity in Kana Hill Town, Margibi



For farmer Samuel Jimmy, agriculture has long been more than just a livelihood—it is the backbone of his family's survival. Since 2016, he has cultivated a variety of vegetables, ranging from peppers, eggplants, cabbage, and watermelon. But despite his commitment and dedication, limited access to inputs and resources kept his yields modest.

That changed in 2023 when Samuel received support from the **Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAR-P)**, funded by the **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** and the **World Bank**. The project provided him with high-quality vegetable seeds, fertilizer, cash assistance, and training in improved farming practices and techniques.

*"STAR-P gave me quality seeds and fertilizer, and that changed everything,"* Samuel told the Liberian Agricultural Journalists Network Coordinator in Margibi during a farm visit in Kana Hill Town, situated in Electoral District-4. *"My crops came out well, and I was able to increase production."* [Read more on this article](#)

## Young Agriculturalist Introduces New Bean Variety, Signaling Youth Potential in Liberia's Farming Future



Marker Gbarwee, a graduate of the Booker T. Washington Institute and current student of General Agriculture at the Liberia International Christian College, has spent the past eight years conducting empirical research on what he calls the **"Marpea"** bean.

Discovered in 2016 near the East Nimba Nature Reserve, the variety has proven highly adaptable to Liberia's changing climate conditions. According to Gbarwee, Marpea matures in just two months, making it a fast-growing option for farmers. Its resilience and productivity, he said, position it as a potential game-changer for household nutrition and market farming. [Read more on this story.](#)

## Liberian Journalist Nukanah Kollie Receives Prestigious IFAJ-Alltech Young Leaders Award in Kenya

Nukanah Kollie, a journalist with the **Liberia Agricultural and Environmental Journalists Network (LAEJN)**, has been honored with the prestigious IFAJ-Alltech Young Leaders in Agricultural Journalism Award during the 2025 program held in Nairobi, Kenya. The program, organized by the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists (IFAJ) in partnership with Alltech, brings together emerging agricultural communicators from



around the world to build leadership, skills, and global networks.



Journalist Kollie expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Liberia Agricultural and Environmental Journalists Network (LAEJN) for nominating him to participate in the prestigious IFAJ-Alltech Young Leaders Program.

***"This opportunity would not have been possible without LAEJN's support and belief in my potential," Kollie said. "I am grateful for the trust they placed in me, and I hope to use the knowledge and experiences gained during this program to strengthen agricultural journalism in Liberia and amplify the voices of our farmers on global platforms." [Click the link to read more](#)***

### **STAR-P Empowering Rural Women Farmers in Lofa to Scale Rice Production**



The Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAR-P), funded by the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, is empowering and changing the face of smallholder farming in Liberia.

One of the standout success stories and shining examples is the Mayour River Women Agricultural Cooperative in Foyah Lofa County, led by Ms. Tewah L. Blama.

***"This support has been life-changing," says Blama. "Before STAR-P, we struggled with manual labor and limited harvests. Now, with the mini dam and rehabilitation of our swamps, over 30 hectares of rice***

***fields will benefit not just us but neighboring farmers too."***

With support from IFAD and the World Bank, and the Ministry of Agriculture's leadership, STAR-P is proving that strategic investments in smallholder farmers can unlock Liberia's potential to reduce rice imports, improve livelihoods, and ensure food security for generations to come. [Read more of this article](#)

### **Agriculture Ministry and LIFAAS Host Generative AI Workshop to Strengthen Extension Services**

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), in collaboration with the Liberian Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (LIFAAS), has hosted a one-day workshop on Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) to explore how new technologies can bridge extension gaps and improve the delivery of agricultural advisory services.



Facilitator Eliot-Jones Garcia, Senior Research Analyst from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), emphasized the need to design AI systems that reflect real agricultural challenges:

***"I am here to guide extension officers through the design of generative AI for advisory services. Artificial Intelligence is becoming more accessible, and if we are to use it, we must ensure that the expertise of extension workers is integrated into these systems. Starting from the ground up is the best way forward."***

He further explained that AI should empower farmers rather than dictate to them, reassuring participants of its role as a complementary tool:

***"These platforms should be intuitive, listening to farmers and guiding them through their challenges rather than simply instructing them. When designed this way, AI can open up new possibilities for farmers, moving beyond the limitations of static extension systems. People often worry that AI will replace their expertise, but in truth, it is meant to strengthen and expand their capacity, not take it away."***