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Liberia Agricultural and Environmental Journalists Network (LAEJN) is a registered media network connecting journalists, farmers, underserved communities, environmentalists, climate advocates, researchers, and policymakers through science-based agricultural and environmental reporting and communication

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From 40 Birds to 6,000: How IMONIK Poultry Farm is Transforming into a Regional Hub in Southeastern Liberia



Back in 2017, Isaac Tarley Monah started with just 40 birds in his backyard in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County, situated in southeastern Liberia. What began as a modest but determined experiment would grow into the thriving enterprise now known as IMONIK Poultry Farm today.

At the time, poultry farming was extremely challenging. Feed had to be imported from outside the country, costing between US\$100 and US\$120 per bag. These high prices made production expensive and unsustainable.

RETRAP Intervention, a Major Game Changer

The breakthrough came with the intervention of the **Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETRAP)**, implemented through the Ministry of Agriculture and funded by the Government of Liberia and the World Bank.

According to Isaac Tarley Monah, with support from the **Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETRAP)**, IMONIK Poultry Farm received an investment of approximately **US\$114,000**, which was instrumental in transforming the farm into a modern and competitive agribusiness. [Click the link to read more on this story](#)

From Credit Dependence to Self-Resilience: A Widow Fishmonger's Journey to Independence



Over many difficult seasons, **Betty Simpson**, a widow and fishmonger in Charlesville Township in lower Margibi County, survived on credit, relying on it to sustain her fish trading business. With no steady capital and the responsibility of providing for her household

alone, she relied on borrowed fish and informal credit arrangements just to remain active in the market.

"I used to live on credit," Betty said. "If I didn't get fish on credit, I couldn't sell."

Betty's situation reflects the reality faced by many widowed women in Liberia's coastal fishing communities, where limited access to capital often traps small-scale traders in cycles of debt and dependency. Any profit she made was quickly absorbed by repayments, leaving little room to save, reinvest, or plan for the future.

A turning point came when Betty was selected as a beneficiary of the Women Fishmonger Grant Empowerment Program under the Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project

(LSMFP), a component implemented by Conservation International in collaboration with the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) through funding from the World Bank. [Follow the link and read more](#)

Gbarnga Residents Raise Alarm Over Flooding Linked to Sand Mining



As the rainy season intensifies across Liberia, residents of Brooklyn Community, a densely populated area in Gbarnga, are raising growing concerns over flooding, environmental degradation, and worsening living conditions they believe are linked to ongoing sand mining activities in the area. For many families, the fear is no longer only about damaged land. Residents say the issue now threatens their safety, livelihoods, and the future of a community already struggling with poor roads, weak drainage systems, and abandoned public infrastructure.

Standing near large pits carved into the earth, Wendell S. Dunbar, Quarter C Chairman of Brooklyn Community, described what he called a growing environmental crisis that has left residents anxious and frustrated.

"We do not know what will happen next because the flooding is getting serious," Dunbar said during an interview with the Liberia Agricultural and Environmental Journalists Network (LAEJN). [Read more](#)

CHAP Showcases Liberia's Climate Resilience at Global Desertification Conference



The Community of Hope Agriculture Project (CHAP) has taken Liberia's climate resilience efforts to the international stage, participating in the 6th Desertification Action Conference on Djerba Island, Tunisia, where it engaged policymakers and technical experts on strategies to combat land degradation across Africa.

Represented by its Executive Director, Dr. Robert S. M. Bimba, CHAP joined high-level discussions with the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), focusing on strengthening collaboration under the RICOWAS project and identifying new opportunities for project design and implementation. The meetings also addressed reporting procedures, while OSS assured stakeholders of upcoming capacity-building support in financial management, procurement, and proposal development.

As part of the conference proceedings, CHAP featured prominently in a panel session titled "Climate Change in Africa and its Connection to Desertification," where it shared practical experiences from Liberia. Dr. Bimba, who also serves as RICOWAS Project Coordinator, highlighted the resilience of Liberian farmers, citing innovations such as double-cropping practices in Dulinema, Bong County, and partnerships that are helping to boost local rice production. [Read more on this article](#)

From US\$900 to Over US\$90,000 Annually: How a Farmer Cooperative Is Breaking Revenue Barriers in Northern Liberia



What began as a small farmers' group struggling with post-harvest losses and low income has grown into a rapidly expanding agricultural cooperative through targeted support from the Ministry of Agriculture under the Rural Economic Transformation Project RETRAP, an initiative funded by the World Bank. The **Say No to Hunger Farmers' Multipurpose Cooperative Society**,

based in Wallena Town in Nimba County, was established in 2016 with **15 members, eight men and seven women**, cultivating just **five acres of land**. Limited financing, lack of storage facilities, and poor market access constrained growth for this farmers' cooperative during its early stage of operation.

"Before the intervention from the Ministry of Agriculture, we were producing but losing a lot after harvest," said Ezekiel Sayetee, Executive Director of the cooperative. **"We were compelled to sell our vegetables at any price because there was no place to store them."** According to Mr. Sayetee, the cooperative's total harvest before the World Bank and Ministry of Agriculture technical and financial support stood very low, and they occasionally generated between **US\$700 and US\$900** in revenue. Cash reserves were minimal to take care of reinvestment in the vegetable cooperative farm. [Click the link to read more](#)

Overcoming Cash Risk to Digital Security: How Mobile Banking is Transforming Women Fishmongers in Robertsport



Before the intervention of **Conservation International (CI)**, women fishmongers in **Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County**, faced persistent challenges in securing and managing their earnings.

Operating almost entirely in cash, many had no safe place to store money and no reliable system for tracking daily income or expenses. After long days in the market, profits were often quickly spent on immediate needs, misplaced, or stolen, leaving little to save or reinvest. Despite their hard work, this lack of financial structure kept many women trapped in cycles of economic insecurity, limiting their ability to grow their businesses or plan for their families' futures. "We had no proper system to control our money," recalled **Korpo Ballah**, Chairperson of the women fishmongers in Robertsport. "When we sold fish, the money would finish quickly because nothing was holding it."

This reality began to change when CI introduced **financial literacy and business management training** under the **Women Fishmonger Grant Empowerment Program**. Apart from financial

literacy and business management, the women fishmongers have also received training in risk management and mitigation, environmental and social safeguards, and sustainable fishing and livelihood practices. These practical business skills, combined with capacity-building activities in risk management and business diversification, have empowered the women in fishing communities through Conservation International to strengthen their resilience. [Read more on this article](#)

William V. S. Tubman University Agriculture Students Harvest Watermelons, Turning Classroom Knowledge into Practice.



In Maryland County- Students from the College of Agriculture and Food Science at William V. S. Tubman University are beginning to translate classroom theory into hands-on agricultural practice, demonstrating the growing role of practical training in Liberia's higher education system.

Faculty members, through the college Dean Dr. Larry Hwang, describe the harvest as part of a broader practical learning initiative designed to equip students with the technical and managerial skills needed in Liberia's agricultural sector.

According to Dr. Hwang, through such activities, students are trained not only in agricultural supervision but also in the production techniques necessary to increase local food output.

"This program is about moving beyond theory," one instructor noted during the harvest. "Students learn best when they can apply what they study in the classroom directly in the field."

Dr. Larry Hwang said. The head of Tubman University Agricultural College, however, maintained that the initiative also contributes to local food production while providing students with firsthand experience in crop management, harvesting, and post-harvest handling. [Click the link to read more](#)

Sankofa Farm Leads Successful Soybean Trial in Liberia



Deep in the fertile agricultural belt behind Palala in Kpai District, a bold experiment is unfolding at Sankofa Farm, one that could redefine Liberia's approach to food production, nutrition, and agribusiness investment. At the center of this effort is the farm's Chief Executive Officer, Nyamah Dunbar, who is spearheading the introduction and testing of soybeans as a viable commercial crop in the country.

This initiative forms part of the broader Building Resilient Seed Systems for Rice, Cassava, Soybean, Coffee, and Fish Value Chains to Strengthen Food and Economic Diversification in Liberia (SEEDS4LIBERIA) project, which is designed to strengthen Liberia's agricultural seed systems, improve food security, and increase incomes.

The project is funded by the European Union and implemented through a consortium of partners including the Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), and WorldFish, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), and the Liberia Agriculture Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA). [Read more on this article](#)

Bartuogbeh Farmers Launch Second Lowland Clearing After Successful First Harvest in River Gee



The Bartuogbeh Farmers Association in electoral district 3, River Gee County, has launched its second phase of lowland site clearing following a highly productive first harvest under the Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project – STAR-P.

The cooperative, whose name “Bartuogbeh” translates to “Let’s Put Strong” in the Grebo dialect, was formed to strengthen farmer collaboration and increase food production across the Tuobo Administrative District.

Members of the association describe their initial harvest as a breakthrough, underscoring the impact of collective farming in improving yields, enhancing food security, and generating income for rural households. The success has encouraged the group to expand its operations, leading to the current second-phase land clearing for increased rice production.

The project is supported by STAR-P, a flagship agricultural program implemented by Liberia’s Ministry of Agriculture with funding from the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development – IFAD.

STAR-P focuses on strengthening smallholder farmers by improving productivity, enhancing agricultural value chains, and expanding access to markets. Through the program, farmers benefit from improved rice varieties, modern farming equipment, and hands-on training in better cultivation and post-harvest techniques. [Read more of this article](#)

A Weeklong Farmer Field School Empowers Twelve Local Farmers in River Gee



The Ministry of Agriculture in River Gee County has concluded Phase II of its Farmer Field School Training of Trainers, marking a key step in strengthening grassroots agricultural capacity. The weeklong training, which ended on April 4 in Fish-Town, brought together 12 lead farmers—10 men and two women—under the Smallholder Agriculture Development for Food and Nutrition Security (SADFONS) project.

SADFONS is a major agricultural initiative aimed at improving food security, reducing rural poverty, and increasing productivity among smallholder farmers

across Liberia. Supported by international partners, including the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), the project targets more than 11,700 farming households nationwide. Its interventions focus on key value chains, including rice, cassava, and vegetable production. [Read more of this article](#)

Local Farmers Experience Improved Yields as Vegetable Production Increases in River Gee



Farmers in River Gee County are reporting increased vegetable production and improved livelihoods, as agricultural support programs begin to yield tangible results across the county.

The gains are largely attributed to the Smallholder Agriculture Development for Food and Nutrition Security (SADFONS) project, a nationally led initiative supported by international partners. The program provides farmers with access to improved seeds, modern tools, and training in improved farming techniques to increase productivity and strengthen food security. In Chedepo Administrative District, farmers are already seeing the impact. Amos Varfly and his wife, Rose Varfly, recently harvested about 50 kilograms of cucumbers, marking their first successful venture into vegetable farming.

The couple said the shift from traditional crops such as cassava to vegetables has significantly improved their farming outcomes. ***“Before, we mainly grew cassava, but since the introduction of new farming methods and tools, things have improved greatly,”*** Rose Varfly said, noting that the income from farming supports their children’s and grandchildren’s education. [Click the link to read more](#)

CARI Develops Climate-Resilient Rice to Boost Food Security



As climate change continues to threaten agricultural production in Liberia, scientists at the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) are developing new climate-resilient rice varieties aimed at helping farmers adapt to changing weather conditions and improving national food security. At CARI's research station in Suakoko, Bong County, rice breeders are testing several rice varieties capable of withstanding irregular rainfall, rising temperatures, drought, and emerging pest outbreaks that increasingly affect farming communities across the country.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with the Liberia Agricultural and Environmental Journalists Network (LAEJN), CARI rice breeder and plant researcher Joseph Ndebeh said climate change is already disrupting Liberia's traditional farming calendar and reducing agricultural productivity. According to him, rainfall patterns that farmers once depended on for land preparation and planting have become unpredictable. [Read more](#)

Bread Basket's Best Farmers Scale Up Rice Production in Bong County



As Liberia intensifies efforts to achieve 70 percent rice self-sufficiency within the next five years, one locally driven farming enterprise in Bong County is steadily emerging as a model of rural agricultural transformation. Bread Basket Best's Farming Company (BBBFCO), based in Zowienta, is expanding its rice production operations by opening 30 new acres in Quoiaporta, in addition to

its existing 18 acres of lowland rice fields in Zowienta. The expansion reflects growing momentum among Liberian-owned agribusinesses seeking to boost domestic food production and reduce dependence on imported rice. What began just four years ago as a modest 6.5-acre initiative has now evolved into a growing commercial rice project supported technically by the Ministry of Agriculture and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Despite relying largely on manual farming methods, BBBFCO produced 206 bags of polished rice in 2025 from 48 acres of cultivated land. Each bag weighed 25 kilograms — a significant milestone for a company still operating without major mechanized equipment. [Click the link to read more](#)

LIFADCO Places 5,000 Bags of Locally Produced Rice on Market to Boost Liberia's Domestic Rice Production



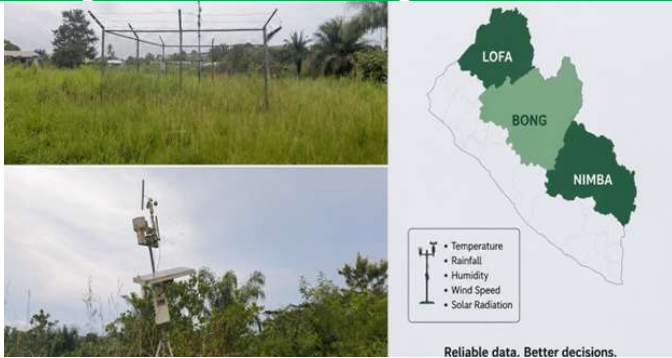
The Liberia Farmers Development Corporation (LIFADCO), a locally owned agricultural organization operating in Nimba County, has taken major steps to boost domestic rice production as part of efforts to reduce Liberia's heavy dependence on imported rice.

In an exclusive interview with the Liberia Agricultural and Environmental Journalist Network, LIFADCO Executive Director, Mr. Boris Barleah, disclosed that the organization has placed 5,000 bags of locally produced rice on the market from its 2025 harvest season, with plans to release an additional 7,000 bags in June.

According to Mr. Barleah, the rice was produced through collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, development partners, and the Kpodoe Farmer Cooperative. He said the initiative reflects practical efforts by Liberian farmers to increase local food production and reduce reliance on imported rice.

Liberia continues to spend more than US\$200 million annually on rice importation, making rice one of the country's largest import commodities. [Read more on this article](#)

CARI Deploys Regional Weather Stations to Strengthen Climate-Smart Agriculture in Liberia



The Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) is expanding the use of technology to improve climate monitoring and agricultural research in Liberia through two regional weather stations installed at its headquarters in Suakoko, Bong County.

The stations are collecting and analyzing climate data from Bong, Nimba, and Lofa Counties, providing scientists with real-time information on weather patterns that increasingly affect farming activities across the country.

According to CARI researchers, the stations form part of a regional climate monitoring system designed to improve agricultural planning and support climate-smart farming practices through accurate environmental data collection. The system continuously records rainfall, temperature, humidity, wind direction, sunshine intensity, and atmospheric pressure, allowing scientists to generate detailed climate profiles for research and agricultural decision-making. [Read more on this article](#)

Gift Farm Enterprise Champions Fish Farming for Job Creation and Food Security in Liberia



On a quiet stretch along the Gbarnga–Lofa highway, about six kilometers from the Bong County Police Station, adjacent the Jor Creek, the sound of flowing water and activity around freshly dug ponds signals what Jeff Juahkollie believes could become part of Liberia's agricultural future.

Sitting near a series of fish ponds at Gift Farm Enterprise, Juahkollie speaks with optimism about aquaculture, the farming of fish, and its potential to improve nutrition, create jobs for young people, and reduce Liberia's dependence on imported frozen food.

For him, fish farming is not simply another agricultural project. It is a vision tied to economic survival, public health, and rural transformation.

"Fish farming has fast income," Juahkollie told Liberia Agricultural and Environmental Journalists Network reporter during an interview recently at the farm. "Once the ponds are prepared and the fingerlings are stocked, the main work is feeding them every morning and evening. In about six months, if managed properly, the fish are ready for sale." [To read more of this article, click the link](#)

Soil4Liberia Project Launches Nationwide Soil Mapping Exercise



In close collaboration with Liberia's Ministry of Agriculture, the Soil4Liberia Project has officially launched a nationwide soil mapping exercise aimed at transforming the country's agricultural sector through science, innovation, and data-driven farming practices.

The landmark initiative, which commenced in Bong County, represents a major step toward strengthening national food security, improving agricultural productivity, and promoting sustainable land management across Liberia. The exercise forms part of broader efforts to modernize the country's agriculture sector and provide farmers with the scientific information needed to increase production and improve livelihoods.

According to project implementers, the data generated through the mapping exercise will contribute significantly to evidence-based agricultural planning and policymaking in Liberia. Farmers, researchers, extension workers, development partners, and government institutions are expected to benefit from improved access to reliable agricultural information. [Read more](#)

Women's Cooperative in Bomi County Seeks Support to Expand Sustainable Farming



A remarkable group of 35 predominantly women in Allasala Town has formed the Human Initiative Agriculture Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society of Liberia to challenge stereotypes and promote sustainable farming.

The cooperative is appealing for material and financial support to sustain its activities and broaden its vision of agricultural success.

The women say their mission is self-sustainability in food production while supporting their children's education and providing for their families. Chairlady Madam Zoe Johnson notes that the group was formed after years of facing cultural barriers, including a perception that Bomi women are lazy. Through cooperative effort, they aim to rewrite that narrative and demonstrate their capability in agriculture.

"We have been sitting down doing nothing here, so we decided to join this group Mr. Varney brought to us because people continue to say Bomi women are lazy people, so we want to prove them wrong," Johnson said.

[Read more on this article](#)

Ministry of Mines and Energy Shuts Down Huiren Mining Operations in Bong County Over Safety Violations



The Ministry of Mines and Energy has ordered the immediate suspension of Huiren Mining Company's operations in Bong County after uncovering major breaches of regulatory, safety, and environmental standards.

The shutdown, which took effect on Saturday, March 28, 2026, followed a high-level technical assessment conducted over the weekend by a team led by Director of Mines Alwell Aloysius Carr and Deputy Inspector General for Mines Adolphus Gleekia.

The inspection revealed what authorities described as a systemic failure by the company to comply with established mining regulations and safety protocols. According to the Ministry, Huiren Mining Company failed to provide mandatory production reports and other key documentation required for operational transparency and regulatory compliance.

Inspectors also identified serious structural issues at the site, including an unsafe and unstable shaft collar that poses significant risks to workers. Further findings pointed to a near absence of basic health and safety measures at both the mining and processing facilities, raising concerns about employee welfare and adherence to occupational safety standards. [Click to read more on this article](#)

U.S. Diplomat Tours Liberia American Poultry Farm, Highlights Investment in Rural Agriculture



The United States Chargé d'Affaires to Liberia, Joseph Zadrozny, paid a one-day working visit to the Liberia American Poultry Farm in Bomi County as part of the U.S. Embassy's ongoing engagement in Liberia's agricultural development and its ties to American-linked investments.

During the visit, Zadrozny toured the rapidly expanding agricultural complex, which is reshaping poultry production and creating employment in rural Liberia. He was taken through several sections of the farm, including large-scale poultry houses that produce eggs for the local market, a growing piggery operation, and cultivated fields where cucumbers, lemons, and sweet peppers are grown. In a close interaction with the Poultry Management team, the diplomat expressed keen interest in the project's progress and its contribution to strengthening Liberia's agricultural sector and local food production.

The visit also reflects a broader shift in U.S. foreign policy toward promoting trade, investment, and private sector development as key drivers of sustainable economic growth. Rather than focusing primarily on traditional development assistance, the United States is increasingly prioritizing partnerships that stimulate local enterprise, expand markets, and encourage entrepreneurship. [Read more](#)

Olivia's Farm Dedicates Palm Processing Factory in Gboawuta Panta District



Citizens of Gboawuta Panta District, Bong County, are celebrating a new development in the area's agricultural sector following the official dedication of a palm processing factory established by Olivia's Farm, headed by Miss Olivia Paye.

The dedication ceremony drew a large gathering of community members, traditional and local leaders, smallholder farmers, and development partners who came together to witness what many described as a major step toward improving agricultural productivity and value addition in the district. Speaking during the ceremony, Miss Paye provided an overview of Olivia's Farm and the journey that led to the establishment of the processing facility. She explained that her passion for agriculture began at a young age and gradually developed into a vision to contribute meaningfully to Liberia's agricultural growth. [Read more on this story](#)

International Trade Centre, Farmers Union Network of Liberia, Empower Coffee Farmers on Cooperative Governance



Efforts to reposition Liberia's coffee sector are gaining renewed momentum as the International Trade Centre (ITC), in partnership with the Farmers Union Network of Liberia (FUNL), intensifies support to coffee farmers

through a comprehensive cooperative governance training program.

The workshop, funded by the European Union (EU) under the ACP programme, is being hosted at the Development Education Network Liberia (DEN-L) in Gbarnga City, Bong County. It is implemented in collaboration with the Cooperative Development Agency (CDA), the government body responsible for regulating and supervising cooperatives in Liberia.

The training brings together representatives of coffee farmer groups from Nimba, Lofa, Bong, Bomi and Montserrado counties—regions historically known for coffee production. Organizers say the initiative is designed to build strong, transparent and accountable cooperatives capable of improving farmers' incomes and contributing to rural economic transformation.

Participants are receiving practical instruction on cooperative principles, leadership structures, financial management, democratic decision-making, conflict resolution, and member accountability. The training also covers business planning, quality improvement, value addition, record keeping, and strategies for accessing credit and structured markets. [Click on the link to read more](#)

French Ambassador Lauds the Impact of REALISE Project During Field Visit to Suehn Mecca, Western Liberia



The French Ambassador to Liberia, Isabelle Le Guellec, has commended the impact of the REALISE Project following a field visit to Suehn Mecca District in Bomi County.

Ambassador Le Guellec expressed satisfaction with the level of progress achieved under the program, noting that it is not only boosting agricultural production but also strengthening local capacities, promoting group cohesion, and building resilience among rural households. [Click the link to read on this article](#)