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FOOD AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR LIBERIA (FED)

MONTHLY REPORT: OCTOBER 2012



2012

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FOOD AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (FED) PROGRAM FOR LIBERIA

MONTHLY REPORT: OCTOBER 1 – 31, 2012

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COVER PHOTO: First harvest of dry season vegetable “Okra” at 72 community demonstration site.

DISCLAIMER

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ACRONYMS

AEDE	Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics
AY	Advancing Youth
BRAC	Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee
BWI	Booker T. Washington Institute
DAI	Development Alternatives, Inc.
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ED	Enterprise Development
EDP	Enterprise Development Plan
EU	European Union
FACET	Fostering Agriculture Competitiveness Employing Information Communication Technologies
FED	Food and Enterprise Development
GBCC	Grand Bassa Community College
GEMS	Government and Economic Management Support
GIS	Geographic Information System
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFC	International Finance Cooperation
IFDC	International, International Fertilizer Developmental Center
INGOs	International Non-Government Organizations
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contract
IRP	International Resource Person
ISFM	Integrated Soil Fertility Management
IT	Internet Technology
LDHS	Liberia Demographic and Health Survey
L-MEP	Liberia Monitoring and Evaluation Program
LTTAs	Long Term Technical Assistants
MDF	Market Development Fund
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
MoHSW	Ministry of Health Social Welfare
MSME	Medium, Small Medium Enterprise
NCCC	Nimba County Community College
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
PIDS	Performance Indicator Data System
NIC	National Investment Commission
PMP	Project management Plan
PPR	Peste Des Petits Ruminants
RFP	Request for Proposal
SME	Small Medium Enterprise
STTA	Short Term Technical Assistant
TAMIS	Technical and Administrative Management Information System
TVET	Technical Education and Vocational Training
UDP	Urea Deep Placement
UMU	United Methodist University
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VES	Vocational Education Specialist
VTNFES	Vocational Technical Non Formal Education Specialist

Table of Contents

ACRONYMS.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.	2
Geographic Reach of FED.....		4
Background.....		5
Summary		6
COMPONENT ONE: INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY.....		6
Task 1.3 Input Supply System Interventions		8
Task 1.5 Increased Productions and Profitability of Quality Rice		9
Task 1.6 Increased Productions and Profitability of Quality Cassava.....		14
Task 1.7 Peri-urban Vegetable Production		14
Task 1.8 Goat Intervention.....		15
COMPONENT TWO: STIMULATE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.....		18
Activity 2.3.A.i Profile Commercial Buyers and Activity, 2.3.A.ii.a – Profile and Select Lead Producers, FBOs, and Enterprises.....		18
Activity 2.3.A.ii.e – Targeted Technical Support.....		18
Activity 2.3.B.vi – Increase Enterprise Registration and Local Government Engagement.....		19
Future Activities for November.....		19
Task 2.4 Use of ICTs in Stimulating Liberian Agri-Business.....		18
COMPONENT THREE: BUILD LOCAL HUMAN CAPACITY.....		19
Task 3.1 Creating Centers of Excellence.....		20
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.	19
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING.....		23
MONITORING AND EVALUATION.....		23
MARKET DEVELOPMENT FUND.....		26
FED Activity Table – APPROVED and LIVE ACTIVITIES.....		26
FED STTAs Track Table - September 2012.....		35
ANNEX.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.	35
Success Stories.....		35

Geographic Reach of FED



Background

The Food and Enterprise Development (FED) Program for Liberia is a USAID-funded initiative that began in September 2011. Through implementing a Liberian strategy which incorporates women and youth, FED will help the government of Liberia and the country achieve food security — in terms of food availability, utilization, and accessibility — by building an indigenous incentive structure that assists a range of agricultural stakeholders to adopt commercial approaches.

This incentive structure will be built upon:

- Improved technology for productivity and profitability;
- Expanded and modernized input supply and extension systems;
- Commercial production, marketing, and processing;
- Enterprise Services; and
- Workforce Development.

FED's activities will work with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the private sector to link communities to agricultural inputs (including improved seeds), extension services, nutritious food products, processing services, market information, transportation, credit, and appropriate education, training, and enterprise services.

Over the life of the five-year FED program, expanded market linkages will lead to substantial income and job growth and major increases in the production, processing, marketing, and nutritional utilization of rice, cassava, vegetables, and goats in Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Montserrado, and Margibi counties. These counties are being targeted in the context of regional development corridors that foster intra- and inter-county commerce, simultaneously improving food availability and access for all Liberians.

FED's methodology is market-led, value chain-driven, continuously dedicated to indigenous capacity building, and specifically focused on benefiting Liberia's women and youth. FED's approach aims to be collaborative, catalytic, and driven by the goals and objectives of our partner clients. It will lead to increases in incomes for rural households, new employment opportunities for Liberians, increased access to food and improved household dietary diversity scores for food-insecure Liberians, and the adoption of improved inputs, farming practices, and technologies which boost agricultural productivity.

FED is implemented by seven partners including: Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), Winrock International, International Fertilizer Developmental Center (IFDC), Samaritan's Purse, Louisiana State University, The Cadmus Group, and the Center for Development and Population Activities.

Summary

In October 2012, Diosis and African rice gall midge damage were observed in Bong and Nimba counties. At the NCCC demonstration site, FED observed that insects, nutrient deficiency, and water management were the main problems. Diosis, case worm, and African rice gall midge was responsible for some of the damage done to the rice. At a few of the sites, iron toxicity and water management problems were also observed.

In Bong County, the damage of NERICA L19 at the Totota demonstration site was also caused by insects. At the Zeansue site considerable damage was done by uncontrolled weed growth. In Grand Bassa County, weed growth was a problem at the Yarmah Town site.

The updating of the input supplies interventions action plan from September to December 2012 was finalized and IFDC regional director for the Northern and West Africa Division paid a weeklong visit to the FED project. During his visit, he met with selected partners, including MoA, CARI, agro-input dealers, and rice seed producers and assured them that IFDC through FED will continue to support the integration of input supply interventions into lowland and upland rice, cassava, and vegetable value chains activities. Integration of the FED action plan into regional input supply strategies will also receive attention.

Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) training was conducted in the four main FED counties of operation (Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, and Nimba) and encompassed classroom sessions and visits to FED-led cassava demonstration plots. The main objectives of the classroom sessions were to interact with cassava producers and county extension workers, share knowledge, and determine knowledge gaps. About 355 cassava producers and extension officers from the MoA and FED participated in the trainings.

In Montserrado and Margibi counties, harvest continued at the FED peri-urban sites. Fifty members from the Yarnquelleh and Air town demonstration sites were instructed in the harvesting of carrots and bitter ball. During the harvest demonstration session the 50 farmers (33 men, 17 women) were taught how and when to harvest carrots and bitter ball. The training also demonstrated selection of appropriate cultivars during harvest for seed extraction.

Implementation of the Goat Pass-on Schemes began in three (Nimba, Lofa, and Bong) of the FED focus counties. Responses to public solicitation for farmers willing and able to serve as lead farmers in Goat Pass-on Schemes were evaluated, and based on extensive field site visits of short-listed candidates, twelve lead farmer associations have been selected (five in Nimba and Lofa counties, and two in Bong County) for participation in the program.

Numerators from Subah Belleh Associates underwent a three-day data collection training. Currently, the Subah Belleh Associates is conducting a stakeholder survey within the four FED major counties of operations, Bong, Nimba, Lofa, and Grand Bassa.

Three interns, including two women, also completed the training to build their skill set in project management and technology in agriculture. Participants presented on their training and created a sample electronic survey on agriculture. The training was conducted by the FED ICT specialist MTTA, and included presentations by Grameen Foundation, Episurveyor, and USAID LAUNCH.

A rapid ICT assessment was conducted on MoA's extension system (Activity 2.3 d. MoA Extension Service Assessment and Implementation). Primary findings included 1) MoA extension forms are not standardized among counties, 2) Computer literacy is a barrier for CACs using computers to send data to MoA and 3) the newly implemented free calling/texting program has increased communication within the extension system, but not all members are aware of conference calls. Further recommendations and findings will be provided in a separate report.

A two-day capacity building training workshop for FED's interns was held in Montserrado and Bong counties with 58 interns in attendance. The purpose of the workshop was to review progress and assess the skills and knowledge the interns have gained from their various placements. During the workshop, the following topics were covered: leadership, goal-setting, interviewing, resume and cover letter writing, agribusiness, FED value chains, project management, and service learning.

In celebration of World Food Day, held every year on October 16, FED collaborated with Child Art Liberia, a local nongovernmental organization, in a competition called "Agricultural Cooperatives—Key to Feeding the World." Catering to 8-to 18-year-old artists from middle schools in each of FED's six areas of operation, the competition portrayed scenes of kids and families growing food together. The contest has been held in concert with other World Food Day events and activities organized by the MoA and Liberia-based FAO chapter.

The review of the Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) is near completion and selected site visits were conducted at FED's PUA unit in Yanquellie and FED's MoA demonstration site in Margibi County. The aim was to reinforce FED's position on best management practices for agriculture productivity. Farmers were assessed in their knowledge acquired in managing the impact of agricultural activities from ongoing trainings. From observation, while trainings in soil management techniques have been developed, they should be complemented with efforts from IFDC, and inclusive of integrated soil fertility management, which is in line with integrated pest management issues.

During the month of October, FED received the draft DQA report from L-MEP outlining the findings and recommendations on FED's data management and reporting system. FED reviewed the findings and responded to L-MEP, copying USAID, with planned lines of action to address any areas identified as needing improvement and strengthening. FED also completed data entry into the USAID's PIDS system covering the first year of the program. This data was matched to the Indicator Progress Table data which was included in the annual report to USAID. This process required review, verification, and cleanup of data collected earlier in the year to ensure accuracy for both PIDS and the annual report.

In preparation for year two of the program, FED revised the PMP and indicator table based on the revised year two work plan, and continued to work on revisions to the work plan, incorporating initial USAID feedback into their plans for year two.

COMPONENT ONE: INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

Project Planning

An increase in agriculture productivity for Year 1 was developed during the reporting period. The increase in the agriculture productivity chart outlines all activities that will be undertaken to contribute to the Year 1 annual work plan.

Task 1.3 Input Supply System Interventions

The main activities implemented within the framework of input supply interventions for the month of October include:

1. Updating the action plan from September to December 2012.
2. Organizing the visit of the IFDC regional director for the Northern and West Africa Division.

The main activities of the action plan for September-December 2012 include:

1. The recruitment of staff for the input supply component of the FED program (12 community-based workers and one input supply advisor). The announcements were made in the local newspapers and posted in the different county offices. The application deadline was October 19, 2012.
2. Updating the list of potential agro-dealers integrating those identified in the vegetable, rice, cassava, and goat value chains. The current number has therefore moved from 12 in September, to 41 at the end of October 2012.
3. Networking with agro-dealers including Wienco (an agro-input supplier based in Monrovia) and R&S/Harriet a rice seed producer for opening an input shop at Totota/Bong counties and scale up on lowland rice demonstration.
4. Planning ISFM, UDP demonstrations, and agro-dealers capacity building. These activities will be implanted once the purchase of the inputs needed is completed by mid-November 2012.

The visit of the IFDC regional director/NWAFD involved meeting with selected partners, including MoA, CARI, agro-input dealers, and rice seed producers:

The IFDC regional director met members of FED component one, the MoA, agro-input dealers (Wienco, Gro-Green, and Green Field). Out of these meetings, the following decisions were made:

- IFDC will continue support and integration of input supply interventions into lowland and upland rice, cassava, and vegetable value chains activities. Integration of the FED action plan into regional input supply strategies will also receive attention.
- IFDC will partner with Wienco to conduct UDP demonstrations on selected sites for lowland rice.
- IFDC will provide support to Gro-Green to promote local production of Urea briquettes for UDP demonstrations.
- IFDC will also facilitate contacts with East-West Seed to test some locally adapted vegetable seeds with the PUA team.
- The IFDC regional director also met with CARI in Bong County, visited R&S/Harriet, and Arjay Farm.

Task 1.5 Increased Productions and Profitability of Quality Rice

On October 23, 2012, the first rice program harvest took place at the WOFPD site in Kahie, Kolahum District, Lofa County. During this harvest of NERICA 2, farmers expressed considerable satisfaction with and interest in the NERICA 2 rice variety because of its short duration. Samples were taken to estimate the yield at the demonstration site, and the results were available on October 29, 2012. At the other sites, rice is at different stages of the growth cycle (panicle initiation, booting, flowering, heading, and maturity) due to different planting dates.

During a FED site visit to Nimba, Bong, and Grand Bassa counties, damage was observed, caused by Diosis and African rice gall midge. At a few of the sites, iron toxicity and water management problems were also observed.



At the NCCC demonstration site, FED observed that insects, nutrient deficiency, and water management were the main problems. Diosis, case worm, and African rice gall midge were responsible for some of the damage done to the rice. The attack of these insects reduces the tillering ability of the rice plant because the adult lays eggs in the sheath leaf of the rice plant, and larva of these insects live in the stem of the plant and cut/chew the growing point. When this happens, it makes it difficult for the insects to be controlled, as the insecticide only reaches the outside of the plant. The remedy is to plant a

resistant variety or incorporate systemic pesticide into the soil so that the rice root absorbs it into the stem to kill the insect larva. Crop rotation will also help to remedy this situation.

In Bong County, FED observed that insects damaged the NERICA L19 variety at the Totota site. At the Zeansue site considerable damage was done by uncontrolled weed growth. In Grand Bassa County, weed growth was a problem at the Yarmah Town site.



Case worm & Diosis damage (NERICAL19)



Diosis (stalk-eye fly)

The following rice activities are planned for the month of November 2012:

- Final selection of the farmer groups.
- Training of FED and MoA extension officers.
- Training of community-based extension agents.
- Continuation of harvesting activities.
- All of the rice demonstration sites moved toward maturity and harvesting.

The tables that follow indicate the anticipated harvesting dates:

NIMBA

Town/Village	Variety	Date nursed	Date transplanted (Lowland)	Date Planted (Upland)	Anticipated Harvesting date
Nyempa	FKR 19	June 29, 2012	July 12, 2012	-	October 30, 2012
	NERICA-L19	June 29, 2013	July 12, 2012	-	October 30, 2012
Kpaglay	FKR 19	July 8, 2012	July, 31, 2012	-	November 15, 2012
	NERICA-L19	July 8, 2012	July, 31, 2012	-	November 15, 2012
	S-8 (local variety)	August 14, 2012	September 2, 2012	-	December 10, 2012
Payee	FKR 19	July 17, 2012	August 7, 2012	-	November 18, 2012
	NERICA-L19	July 17, 2012	August 7, 2012	-	November 18, 2012
Boweh	FKR 19	July 24, 2012	August 13, 2012	-	November 20, 2012
	NERICA-L19	July 24, 2012	August 13, 2012	-	November 20, 2012
Gbeasillah	NERICA 2	-	-	July 13, 2012	November 20, 2012
	LAC 23	-	-	July 30, 2012	November 30, 2012
Nagbain	NERICA 2	-	-	July, 12, 2012	November 18, 2012
	LAC 23	-	-	August 23, 2012	November 30, 2012
Karnwee	FKR 19	July 18, 2012	August 3, 2012	-	November 20, 2012
	NERICA-L19	July 18, 2012	August 3, 2012	-	November 20, 2012
Whynor	FKR 19	July 18, 2012	August 2, 2012	-	November 18, 2012
	NERICA-L19	July 18, 2012	August 2, 2012	-	November 18, 2012
Sanniquelleh	FKR 19	July 27, 2012	August 16, 2012	-	November 20, 2012

	NERICA-L19	July 31, 2012	August 16, 2012	-	November 20, 2012
	S-8 (local variety)	June 5, 2012	August 15, 2012	-	December 15, 2012
LOFA					
Town/Village	Variety	Date nursed	Date transplanted (Lowland)	Date Planted (Upland)	Anticipated Harvesting date
Kolliemai	FKR 19	June 23, 2012	July 16, 2012	-	November 15, 2012
	NERICA - L19	June 23, 2012	July 16, 2012	-	November 15, 2012
	Melekeh	June 23, 2012	July 16, 2012	-	December 20, 2012
Kormai	FKR 19	July 19, 2012	August 15, 2012	-	November 20, 2012
	NERICA - L19	July 19, 2012	August 15, 2012	-	November 20, 2012
	Tordee				
Sammie Ta	NERICA 2	-	-	-	November 15, 2012
	LAC 23 (local variety)	-	-	July 6, 2012	November 30, 2012
Kuluka	FKR 19	July 23, 2012	August 16, 2012	-	November 20, 2012
	NERICA - L19	July 23, 2012	August 16, 2012	-	November 20, 2012
	Mangenee	May 25, 2012	August 20, 2012	-	January 20, 2013
Kahai	NERICA 2	-	-	June 28, 2012	November 10, 2012
	LAC 23 (local variety)	-	-	May 6, 2012	October 20, 2012
Kahenjala	FKR 19	July 7, 2012	July 28, 2012	-	November 18, 2012
	NERICA - L19	July 7, 2012	July 28, 2012	-	November 18, 2012
Kpandu	FKR 19	July 9, 2012	July 29, 2012	-	November 15, 2012

	NERICA - L19	July 9, 2012	July 29, 2012	-	November 18, 2012
	Witta 4 (local variety)	July 10, 2012	August 2, 2012	-	December 10, 2012
	Turnowoe (local variety)	July 10, 2012	August 2, 2012	-	December 10, 2012
Foya	FKR 19	August 5, 2012	August 25, 2012	-	November 20, 2012
	NERICA - L19	August 5, 2012	August 25, 2012	-	November 20, 2012
	Witta 4 (local variety)	July 10, 2012	August 2, 2012	-	December 10, 2012
	Turnowoe (local variety)	July 10, 2012	August 2, 2012	-	December 10, 2012

BONG

Town/Village	Variety	Date nursed	Date transplanted (Lowland)	Anticipated Harvesting date
Maimu	NERICA - L19	July 23, 2012	August 15, 2012	November 20, 2012
	FKR 19	August 7, 2012	September 3, 2012	November 30, 2012
	Local variety		August 15, 2012	December 15, 2012
Totota	NERICA - L19	July 16, 2012	August 18, 2012	November 20, 2012
	FKR 19	August 3, 2012	September 19, 2012	December 10, 2012
	Local variety		September 12, 2012	January 10, 2012
Donfah	NERICA - L19	July 22, 2012	August 21, 2012	November 25, 2012
	FKR 19	July 30, 2012	August 28, 2012	November 30, 2012
	Local variety		September 23, 2012	January 15, 2012
Zeansue	NERICA - L19	July 22, 2012	August 25,	November 25, 2012

			2012	
	FKR 19	August 5, 2012	August 30, 2012	November 30, 2012
	Local variety		September 22, 2012	January 10, 2013
Duita	NERICA - L19	July 16, 2012	August 8, 2012	November 20, 2012
	FKR 19	July 18, 2012	August 5, 2012	November 15, 2012
	Local variety		July 20, 2012	December 15, 2012
GRAND BASSA				
Town/Village	Variety	Date nursed	Date transplanted (Lowland)	Anticipated Harvesting date
Blaygbahn	NERICA - L19	27-Jul-12	August 21, 2012	November 15, 2012
	FKR 19	August 4, 2012	August 28, 2012	November 15, 2012
Yarmah Town	NERICA - L19	July 24, 2012	August 25, 2012	November 10, 2012
	Gissi (local rice)	July 24, 2012		January 10, 2013
Gardour Town	NERICA - L19	July 24, 2012	August 24, 2012	November 10, 2012
	Gissi (local rice)	July 24, 2012		January 10, 2013
Kourta Town	FKR 19	July 20, 2012	July 10, 2012	November 10, 2012
	Rock 5	July 20, 2012	July 10, 2012	December 10, 2012
Kpelleh Town	FKR 19	July 29, 2012	August 17, 2012	November 20, 2012
	Gissi (local rice)	August 19, 2012	September 19, 2012	January 10, 2013

Task 1.6 Increased Productions and Profitability of Quality Cassava

Integrated Soil Fertility Management (ISFM) training was conducted in the four main counties (Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa and Nimba) and encompassed classroom sessions and visits to FED-led cassava demonstration plots. The main objectives of the classroom sessions were to interact with cassava producers and county extension workers, share knowledge, and determine knowledge gaps. About 355 cassava producers and extension officers from the MoA and FED participated in the trainings.



Demonstration of ISFM skills

Learning targets during the classroom sessions included (but were not limited to) 1) understanding the relevance of proper site and cultivar selection and preparation of healthy planting material for yield improvement, 2) proper land and seedbed preparation and appropriate planting of cassava stem cuttings, 3) recognizing the potential role of proper crop rotation and ISFM in improving soil fertility, 4) understanding the relevance of the proper management of pest, disease, and weeds in increasing cassava yield, and 5) and the proper handling of cassava tubers in order to reduce post-harvest losses.

The field exercises focused on 1) participatory evaluation of different land and seedbed preparation illustrated in the FED-led cassava demonstration plots, 2) selection of appropriate and efficient integrated soil, water, and nutrient conservation measures using either contour ridging, mounds, and/or cover cropping, and 3) identification and proper selection of pest and disease free planting materials.

Main conclusions and lessons learned drawn from the classroom and field training sessions include the following points:

- Building mounds are most appropriate for cassava planting in the temporary swamps in order to avoid cassava root rot disease.
- Building ridges against the slope significantly reduces soil and water erosion.
- Planting cassava cuttings flat or on mounds is advisable for flat land - but not for erosion control in the slope.
- Planting cassava on mounds or ridges significantly reduces weed infestation.
- Crop rotation using leguminous species in combination with biomass incorporation in ridges and mounds is the most appropriate and efficient organic soil amendment to replenishing soil fertility in the cassava-based cropping systems.
- Participating cassava producers clearly expressed the need to use cassava planting materials that produce leaves and tubers as well (dual purpose cassava varieties).



Harvested vegetables is been sold

Task 1.7 Peri-urban Vegetable Production

Harvest and Planting Demonstrations

Harvest continues at the FED peri-urban sites. Fifty members from the Yarnquelleh and Air town demonstration sites were instructed in the harvesting of carrots and bitter ball. During the harvest demonstration session the 50

farmers (33 men, 17 women) were taught how and when to harvest carrots and bitter ball. The training also demonstrated selection of appropriate cultivars during harvest for seed extraction.

Sweet potatoes were harvested from the FED model site in Kakata, Margibi County. The sweet potatoes harvested were donated to My Brother's Keeper and Ethel's orphanages in Caryesburg, Montserrado County. Expanded plantings of sweet potato were carried out at the MoA demonstration site in Kakata and plant material distributed to Air Town and Yanquali PUA demonstration sites.

As FED makes preparations for the 2012 peri-urban production, the identification of new groups is in progress. A total of 22 groups have been identified, five in Montserrado, seven in Margibi, five in Bong, and five in Nimba.

Control of Sheet and Rill Erosion

Loss of topsoil is a serious problem affecting long-term soil fertility in Liberia. PUA is actively addressing this issue by introducing contour marking using simple 'A' frames and plumb lines, encouraging bed alignment along contours, and contour stabilization using mixed vetiver/moringa systems.



Training of MoA and FED staff in contour marking using an 'A' frame.

To support this activity, the PUA component is busy establishing vetiver nurseries and demonstrations of how the plant is used to control rill and sheet erosion. Mini vetiver nurseries and efficacy demonstrations have now been established at four sites using vetiver plants procured earlier in 2012¹.

Soil Fertility

FED has been very active in identifying soil fertility problems and is developing methods to address identified problems. Thin top soils are being addressed by the use of beds including pH amelioration techniques and practices. Some which are well known to Liberians include the wider use of compost and biochar. These amendments have been introduced to project beneficiaries where possible. Low pH also leads to issues of toxicities and deficiencies of a range of nutrients other than N, P, and K, and the amendment of soil with biochar is one solution to the problem.



Bitterball at Air Town, Margibi County showing the effects of biochar amended soil from an old charcoal producing mound.

Two trails have been established to conduct a rapid assessment of soil fertilizer using pot grow outs. The biochar looked promising, while there were issues with most of the pots where pH was corrected with dolomitic lime. The result indicated that N, P, and K mixes are not the answer.

Seedling Production and Sales

Training continued to be provided to the owners of 17 decentralized vegetable seedling nurseries located in the six FED project counties. Following the initial training in August and September, seedling producers received training in composting, vegetable seed production, and the proper instructions to give seedling buyers. Vegetable seedling sales started in late September,

and by the end of October, approximately 80 percent of the total produced, or about 27,000 seedlings, had been sold, with the average farmer purchasing between 100 and 200 seedlings. These same nursery operations have also begun to grow vegetable seed, which will be sold to small farmers located in the market areas of these

¹ Through multiplication this has now risen to approximately 2500 corms

enterprises starting in December. Compost, to which biochar may be added, is also being produced. Vetiver, moringa, and possibly fruit tree seedlings will be added to the next training exercise to start in early November. At least one new seedling producer will be trained in each county at that time.

Dryer Production Training

At the end of September, STTA Eric Nzokou began training a metal workshop (Old Folks Workshop) in Monrovia to fabricate a forced-air vegetable dryer. This processing technology will increase drying capacity and improve the quality of dried produce, resulting in increased incomes for processors and users. During the training exercise, Old Folks Workshop produced three dryers and conducted two demonstrations, attracting approximately 40 people. Three other FED-supported demonstrations are scheduled. At the time of these demonstrations, workshop staff were also trained in the use and maintenance of the dryer, varying drying times, and vegetable and cassava preparation depending on the crop. With its own resources, Old Folks will continue to demonstrate the dryer technology and advertise it on the radio. Demonstrations will be conducted on the workshop premises and by the workshop owner's spouse, with customers paying indirectly for these demonstrations. A biomass-fired drier will be tested and demonstrated in November and December, offering the possibility of significantly lower capital and operating costs.



Irrigation equipment

FED staff technician Dennis Wilson began the training of two private-sector metal workshops located in Foya and Voinjama in Lofa County in the manufacture of the treadle irrigation pump, a technology that lifts and distributes five to six times the amount of water that can be distributed by hand. At a later date, depending on hydro-geological and market conditions, these workshops may also be trained in the installation of shallow tube wells. This training is timed to coincide with manufacturers who will be prepared to sell to farmers from November through February, when the highest irrigation equipment sales numbers are usually recorded in Liberia. In October, the three workshops previously trained by FED were continuing to prepare for the start of the dry season. These preparations included purchasing pump fabrication materials. They will soon start to verify the pumps sold to German Agro-Action at the end of the last dry season to ensure they are in good operating condition. At least two other workshops – possibly in Monrovia and Kakata – will be trained to manufacture the treadle pump in November and December. New shallow tube well drillers will be trained starting in December and January when surface water starts to become scarce.

Task 1.8 Goat Interventions

Implementation of the Goat Pass-on Schemes began in three (Nimba, Lofa, and Bong) of the FED focus counties. Responses to public solicitation for farmers willing and able to serve as lead farmers in Goat Pass-on schemes were evaluated, and based on extensive field site visits of short-listed candidates, twelve lead farmer associations have been selected (five in Nimba and Lofa counties, and two in Bong County) for participation in the program.

Of the twelve farmer associations selected, four are women's based producer associations that already have adequate herd numbers and interest in intensification of existing goat herd production practices. Basic herd production intensification training materials are being developed based on the FED lead farmer goat producer needs. Topics such as basic animal health, fencing, animal shelter construction, mineral and feed supplementation, etc., will be the primary focus of these training programs. In support of anticipated management needs of the upcoming programs, three local livestock extension agents have been identified (one in each county) with the necessary experience and basic training required to backstop these efforts. Plans are underway to expand

the Goat Pass-on Schemes into the other FED focus counties early in 2013. FED is also working with FtF to bring in volunteers to assist with this program and with Samaritans Purse to engage the several hundred goat farmers that have graduated from their previous programs, in order to take them to the next level of management.



PPR vaccinators verifying record

The Land O'Lakes, USDA project is tasked with a restocking exercise involving some 20,000 goats, while the FED intervention aims to improve productivity of existing flocks of goats through improvement in management (nutrition, breeding, housing, health, marketing, etc.).

Past importations from Guinea and Mali had not been that successful due to high mortality rates among imported animals. Reasons may include animals that were too old and sold for slaughter and animals which were not adapted to Liberian conditions (health and environment) because of possible introgression of Sahelian goat genes, making animals more susceptible to Liberian diseases, including high internal parasite loads and trypanosomiasis.

The MoA and LoL have agreed that buying Trypanotolerant West Africa Dwarf goats from the Gambia from the catchment areas of the International Trypanotolerance Centre Open Nucleus Breeding Scheme is a good way to restock and improve the genetics of the West African Dwarf (WAD) goats. Over time, 20,000 breeding age females and males are available. An MOU is being drawn up between MoA, LoL, and FED and a visit to Gambia has been approved for early November to investigate the logistics and feasibility further. FED is working with the USAID regional expert in Senegal, as well as Gambian experts on this activity.

The goal of the Goat Pass-on Scheme and genetic improvement program is to improve returns to goat farmers by addressing genetic, health, and husbandry constraints. An estimated 15-16,000 head of sheep and goats are imported annually. Currently, average carcass weight of the Liberian WAD goats is 9 kg, while the Gambian WAD goats average is 13-14kg. Goats sell at twice the price of beef in supermarkets, importing 20,000 live GG's equals a minimum of 100 ton extra goat meat per year. Currently mortality rates are 40-60% prior to one year of age. West African Dwarf goats kid approximately every six to eight months with a litter size of 1.2 to 1.4. A decrease in mortality from 50-60% to 15% translates into an additional two or more animals raised for each ten born, or approximately 0.5 more animals raised per female per year. The proposed management and health initiatives plus improved access to inputs that reduce mortality rates in goat yearlings could theoretically result in national herd increases of the order of 15-20,000 animals per year.

In September, the MoA with FED's assistance, vaccinated over 122,000 sheep and goats in the four core FED counties. Nimba leads with an estimated 22,675 goats, followed by Bong with 20,866, Lofa with 13,657, and Grand Bassa with 2,958. These goats have a capital value of approximately \$6 million.

COMPONENT TWO: STIMULATE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

During the month of October, the ED team accomplished the following activities:

Activity 2.3.A.i Profile Commercial Buyers and Activity, 2.3.A.ii.a – Profile and Select Lead Producers, FBOs, and Enterprises

Presently, the completion of approximately 900 – 1,000 stakeholders' surveys across the six FED counties of operation is ongoing by the Subah Belleh Associates, a local service provider.

Activity 2.3.A.ii.e – Targeted Technical Support

The evaluation of process for business plans and applications in response to the Enterprise Development Expression of Interest is still under review. Fourteen of those applications are participants that benefited from the FED six-week mentorship program. An additional 15 concept notes and applications are being reviewed for possible MDF assistance funding.

The FED Business Plan Competition for Youth was published in various newspapers, on the campus of universities, at the county offices, and radio stations in the counties. The application process is ongoing as the deadline was extended due to the late announcement at the county level. So far, FED has received 15 applications.

On October 4, 2012, a grant signing ceremony was held between Chevron Liberia Ltd., and the Agency for Economic Development and Empowerment (AEDE) on behalf of New Generational Women. The grant signing ceremony took place in Cooper Town, Clay-Ashland, Montserrado County. During the program, remarks were given on behalf of FED by the Jonathan Greenham chief of party, Richard Weaver, Chevron Liberia, Alex Peal, AEDE, Richelieu Mitchell, Cooperative Development Agency. The statement of appreciation was given by Gertrude Cooper on behalf of New Generational Women.



Female farmers preparing lunch

The ED team met with AEDE and New Generational Women to draft operational framework for their project. The ED team also worked with the MDF team to develop a MoU for New Generational Women, which was signed by both FED and New Generational Women. AEDE have developed and submitted a draft operational framework to the FED technical team for inputs.

The assessment that was conducted in collaboration with the AY/USAID project, in Bong, Nimba, Lofa, and Grand Bassa counties by the AY and ED team for the AYP literacy classes has started. Current FED beneficiaries that were selected after the pre-testing was conducted in September are participating in the literacy classes.

The ED team worked along with MDF to process necessary documents for Subah Belleh Associates for the conduction of the stakeholder's survey. Numerators underwent a three-day data collection training by Subah Belleh Associates. Currently, the Subah Belleh Associates are conducting a stakeholder survey within the four FED major counties of operations of Bong, Nimba, Lofa, and Grand Bassa.

The ED team, chief of party, as well as technical leads met with Deputy Chief of Party Laura Dillon Binkley, and Manager/Agricultural Extension Agent, David K. Yennego, of the ACDI/VOCA LAUNCH project to discuss

how the ED team could collaborate using the Farming as a Business training modules. An agreement from that meeting was reached that ACDI/VOCA will do a draft MoU for review/revision. Upon their final approval, a copy will be sent to the FED/ED team for review and inputs for possible collaboration.

A training assessment was conducted with 46 groups within four of FED's operating counties included Bong, Nimba, Lofa, and Grand Bassa. An RFTOP was developed, and an IQC was sent to the Holders Rights and Rice Foundation and Educare for possible competition. The Rights and Rice Foundation was selected based on the RFTOP selection criteria by the review committee headed by acting MDF Director, Shahram Ahmadzadegan and the ED team. Therefore, the Organization Rights and Rice Foundation will conduct the Organizational Strengthening Training for a period of three months, with nine groups selected within the four counties listed above. Under the organizational strengthening training the following topics will be presented: organization development, conflict management, and leadership/good governance.

The groups in the counties were selected in collaboration with the ED and the county team. The ED team worked with the Rights and Rice Foundation to ensure gender leadership training is embedded within their curriculum and delivery system.

Activity 2.3.B.vi – Increase Enterprise Registration and Local Government Engagement

Since the implementation of the EDP pilot training sessions, FED participants shared their perceptions of the business and association registration process, which indicated there is a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding about the process and costs for registering. Therefore, FED has partnered with the MSME of the MoCI on a 90-day radio and mobile outreach program in order to disseminate information in the four counties. The MoU which MOCI refers to as a joint venture activity statement was signed at the end of October and the technical team will start working with the MDF to process the printing of the flyers, jingles, and signage board next week. This process is expected to take place within the first week of November.

Future Activities for November:

- Organizational strengthening training with nine FED producer groups in Bong, Nimba, Lofa, and Grand Bassa counties.
- A youth business plan competition.
- Completion of the AEDE/Chevron/New Generational Women baseline survey.
- Completion of the Stakeholders Survey by Subah Belleh Associates.
- Validation of the work plan of New Generational Women and agreement on concrete steps for implementation.

Task 2.4 Use of ICTs in Stimulating Liberian Agri-Business

Mobile Data Collection Training

FED staff completed a ten-day training to transition management of FED's internal mobile data collection to the M&E/GIS coordinator.

Three interns, including two women, also completed the training to build their skill sets in project management and technology in agriculture. Participants presented on their training and created a sample electronic survey on agriculture. The training was conducted by the FED ICT specialist MTTA, and included presentations by Grameen Foundation, Episurveyor, and USAID LAUNCH. A listserv on mobile data collection in Liberia was also launched. Due to limited capacity and experience in using listservs in Liberia, a Facebook page on mobile data collection in Liberia was also launched as an alternative. This activity was prepared for implementing FED Activity 2.3, a FED agricultural communications system.

Mobile Money Workshop

FED hosted a mobile money workshop at county offices (Activity 2.3 f Mobile Money Workshop) to familiarize FED staff with mobile money. The workshop was designed by the FED ICT specialist and featured Lonestar representatives. Originally, Lonestar ambassadors were responsible for providing the entire presentation, however, it was decided that FED needed to provide more context of mobile money in agriculture and remove the focus from a single business. FED will continue to provide information on how mobile money can be used to address payment constraints in agriculture, while featuring Lonestar as one single possibility among other options. These workshops lay the groundwork for future mobile money activities with lead producers and agribusinesses. The MoA was also invited to attend.



Twenty Eight Student Interns at Workshop in Gbarnga, Liberia

Enterprise Development and GPS

FED trained SBA enumerators on using mobile phones to collect GPS points. This was conducted by the ICT specialist, M&E/GIS officer, and FED intern in cooperation with FED's ED team. SBA is responsible for conducting the Agriculture Stakeholder Profiling survey. Collecting GPS points of stakeholders creates a richer set of data for Activity 2.3 h. Agricultural Business Resource Database.

MoA ICT Assessment

FED conducted a rapid ICT assessment of MoA's extension system (Activity 2.3 d. MoA Extension Service Assessment and Implementation). Primary findings included 1) MoA extension forms which are not standardized among counties, 2) Computer literacy is a barrier for CACs using computers to send data to MoA and 3) the newly implemented free calling/texting program has increased communication within the extension system, but not all members are aware of conference calls. Further recommendations and findings will be provided in a separate report.

COMPONENT THREE: BUILD LOCAL HUMAN CAPACITY



Cross section of interns and FED staff

Task 3.1 Creating Centers of Excellence INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Activities during the month of October focused on the internship program mid-term evaluation and training conference. On October 16 and 17, 2012, the thirty Monrovia-based interns gathered for mid-term evaluations, and leadership and career training. A second group met at the FED Bong County office one week later on October 23 and 24, 2012. A total of 28 interns were in attendance.

During the workshops, the following topics were covered: leadership, goal-setting, interviewing, resume and cover letter writing, agribusiness, FED value chains, project management, and service

learning. Students were organized in groups to strategize and present what they learned during the workshops, were encouraged to start Vocational Subject Leadership Organizations in their own institutions, and form camaraderie of interns for future correspondence and mutual career assistance. The first day of the workshop centered mainly on developing the capacity of interns for the job market in respect to interview skills, CV preparation, career goal setting, writing cover letters, etc., while the second day was geared toward providing substantive information on food value process and agri-business concepts.

The current internship program will end on November 16, 2012. A closing ceremony will take place, and a job fair is planned for after. The second phase of the internship program will commence early in 2013. In this next phase, more students will be recruited to apply for internship opportunities mainly from institutions where FED has activities.



Dennis Eaton, component two lead, engaged in a life-skill training exercise during the intern workshop.

Recommendations:

- The FED Internship Committee will make recommendations to other institutions to emulate the FED BWI internship module. FED will collect feedback from partners and make recommendations to the BWI faculty on needed improvements. This structured process, therefore, will make it easier for external internship programs to form a team and work along with what is already established for better results.
- Establish a “FED Internship Club” which will provide an interactive space for sharing experiences and lessons learned from subsequent internship programs. The club will provide the necessary forum where students who have benefited from past internships could be invited to share success stories with incoming interns and also serve as peer educators for new interns. At the end of the project, this internship base can be used for final monitoring and tracking purposes on the overall success of the program.
- Consideration should be given to the agriculture seasonal calendar which should serve as a guide when planning agro-internships in order for agriculture students to obtain the greatest benefit when placed with agriculture-based programs. Internships programs that come in the middle or at the end of agriculture seasonal calendars provides little or no benefit to students who want to gain comprehensive practical experience at the field level.
- The FED Internship Committee should recommend to participating universities and technical schools to allocate credit hours to internship programs. This will give subsequent internship programs the necessary leverage and support from partners, and students will begin to view internship programs as a relevant and practical part to their learning process and completion of studies.

Recommendations from the recently conducted workshop are as follows:

- FED should include more government ministries in the next phase when considering partners.
- FED should consider extending the internship program to accommodate BWI students who finish their internship as per their own internal internship program.

Child Art Competition:

In celebration of World Food Day, held every year on October 16, FED collaborated with Child Art Liberia, a local nongovernmental organization, in a competition called “Agricultural Cooperatives—Key to Feeding the World.” Catering to 8-to 18-year-old artists from middle schools in each of FED’s six areas of operation, the competition portrayed scenes of kids and families growing food together. The contest was held in concert with other World Food Day events and activities organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Liberia-based FAO chapter.

Participating students were given art supplies, including pencils, watercolor, crayons, and pen and ink, taught drawing and painting techniques, and educated on the competition’s theme. The artwork for each county was judged on technical skill, creativity, and successful incorporation of the theme. First, second, and third place winners were awarded cash prizes, while all participants were recognized for their contribution. The goal of the competition was to increase awareness of FED activities among youth and families, using creative learning processes to promote the production and consumption of Liberian food.

At the final event in November, the winners will have their artwork displayed on National Agriculture Day, where the Liberian president and minister of the MoA will be in attendance.

Outstanding activities:

Library Acquisitions

In order to provide for outstanding teaching in the five institutions in which FED operates, textbooks and teacher resources are critically needed. FED is currently in the process of issuing a RFQ to local book suppliers as an opportunity to import 30 different topic textbooks that relate to the National Agriculture Diploma (NAD) curriculum of the ECOWAS, TVET office. Three copies of each book will be provided to the five institutions as well as the Ministry of Education’s Bureau of Science, Vocational, and Special Education. In addition to the books, adequate storage and display, where needed, will be provided. Deadline for the RFQ is November 16, 2012.



Cassava Grinder Processing Charcoal for Liberian soil amending.

Technology Demonstration

Component Three is committed to teaching the youth of Liberia unique methods of agricultural production. As such, one intern is working on a drip irrigation demonstration project at the FED Bong County office. Land preparation includes raised beds and soil amendments prior to setting out the drip lines. At twenty tons per hectare recommendations, the 100 square meter area would need 15 bags of charcoal ground to a course powder. FED’s technology interventions for cassava grinding can also simplify the grinding process of charcoal.

The rainy season has made is especially difficult for FED to work with the NCCC. FED Component Three staff has tried repeatedly to reach the site in the month of October, however, poor road conditions have hindered the vehicles.

However, the President of NCCC, Rev. Gonway-Gono asked Component Three for the following:

Farm Development: The NCCC would like to involve youth, up to age 40, of the departments of agriculture and business management to become involved in all aspects of entrepreneurship training. The college would form a training ground in best practices in local agriculture production and in entering agriculture as a business enterprise.

Library Facility: FED has committed to supplying three copies of relevant textbooks for each of the 30 classes (90 books total) in the Ministry of Education's approved ECOWAS, TVET's National Agriculture Diploma.

Internet Access: NCCC has requested an adequate internet system to be installed for academic and administration needs. A MoU must be established, whereby NCCC can provide the electrical energy required of an adequate VSAT internet system. With this assured, FED can provide the appropriate satellite internet system.

Student Leadership: There are student organizations already established on campus. With the request of NCCC, FED will begin to assist in establishing vocational subject associations along the lines of the United States model of FFA and skills-USA. The NCCC is requesting help in providing leadership and organizational assistance for both emerging and current programs.



FED Component Three VES observing the bad road situation

Curriculum Development: Lesson planning, local learning materials and making effective use of practicing vocational subjects is a priority of NCCC. This request follows along the mandates of FED's Component Three focus and will be provided in the MoU to be negotiated.

Vocational Teacher Training: NCCC is requesting FED to assist with training teaching staff to be effective vocational and technical teachers. In the words of the college president "The skills training we are proposing requires a postsecondary vocational curriculum that includes learning to learn, critical thinking skills, from war to work skills, and a commitment to continuous learning." These priorities will help form a unique plan to bring NCCC into focus as a model Center of Excellence for Liberia.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

Compliance Monitoring of Other Activities

- The review of the Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) is near completion. Active participation of county managers, and M&E officers at the county level has been highlighted and is crucial to this undertaking. Consequently, training in the use of monitoring templates will also proceed along with the project. Additionally, the provision of standalone quarterly reports has been proposed in the EMMP for review by USAID.
- Visited sites selected by FED's PUA unit in Yanquellie and FED's-MoA demonstration site in Margibi County. The aim was to reinforce FED's position on best management practices for agriculture productivity. Farmers were assessed in their knowledge acquired in managing the impact of agricultural activities from ongoing trainings. From observation, while trainings in soil management techniques have been developed, they should be complemented with efforts from IFDC, and inclusive of integrated soil fertility management, which is in line with integrated pest management issues.

- The use of cover crops having direct economic value to farmers has been agreed on as an inducement for farmers. It was agreed that cover crops not having a direct benefit to farmers would not be of interest even if to improve soil for the next cropping season.
- Water quality monitoring¹ for water wells in the FED project is now ongoing. Four of five wells have been tested in the Bong County area, with all four showing presence of e-coli. Two of the four have also shown a presence of arsenic, although within an acceptable range. The remaining well will be tested when logistical conditions are favorable.

Planned Activities

Four wells in Nimba County will have to be tested for e-coli and arsenic depending on travel arrangements. Wells for irrigation purposes have been suggested as deserving further environmental examination in conjunction with the environmental officer. The current level of performance of the tested wells suggests that siting, depth requirement, and recharged tests have been non-compliant.

Challenges

- Transport problem.
- Initial planning of activities does not contain environmental input.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The month of October was a busy month for the M&E team in terms of process improvement, data cleanup, and reporting, staffing, and monitoring activities.

Process Improvement, Data Cleanup & Reporting

During the month of October, FED received the draft DQA report from L-MEP outlining the findings and recommendations on FED's data management and reporting system. FED reviewed the findings and responded to L-MEP, copying USAID, with planned lines of action to address any areas identified as needing improvement and strengthening.

FED also completed data entry into the USAID's PIDS system covering the first year of the program. This data was matched to the Indicator Progress Table data which was included in the annual report to USAID. This process required review, verification, and cleanup of data collected earlier in the year to ensure accuracy for both PIDS and the annual report.

In preparation for year two of the program, FED has revised the PMP and indicator table based on the revised year two work plan and will submit to USAID for approval.

Staffing Update

On October 4, 2012, the M&E team released a job vacancy announcement for one additional M&E coordinator and an M&E assistant who will focus on data entry for each FED county office. This additional staff will allow for more systematic monitoring of activities, especially for year two of the program when FED expects an increase in the volume of projects. FED is now reviewing resumes for short-listing and scheduling of interviews. On October 27, 2012, after receiving USAID approval, the new M&E Manager, Robert Resseguie, arrived in country and has begun the hand-over and transition process with the current acting M&E manager.

Monitoring & Data Collection

Monitoring and data collection activities conducted by the M&E team in the month of October are summarized in the table below:

Table 1: M&E Activities for October 2012

FED M&E – Monitoring & Data Collection Activities (October 2012)		
Month	County	Activities
October 2012	Bong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinated with the ED team in development of a survey tool for the stakeholder profile survey to be conducted in all four primary FED counties. - Conducted farmer association profiling survey in the four primary counties to generate data for the annual report. - Monitored the ChildArt World Food Day program activities in Montserrado and Nimba counties. - Verified three-week computer training provided to Doumpa, a farmer group in Nimba. - Monitored vegetable dryer training with metal workshops held in Montserrado County. - Monitored installation of treadle pump and tube well at My Brother's Keeper orphanage. - Gathered plot measurement data on rice and vegetable demonstration plots in all four counties. - Reviewed AEDE survey tool for baseline survey to be conducted in Montserrado County. - Helped train enumerators for yield crop survey.
	Grand Bassa	
	Lofa	
	Margibi	
	Montserrado	
	Nimba	

Market Development Fund

Activities Summary

During the month of October 2012, the MDF approved two new activities under Component Two totaling \$131,593. One focus was on providing training to targeted FBOs on organizational strengthening and the other will organize a business plan competition which incorporates a training component. In summary, from the beginning of the program through October 2012, FED has generated and approved 39 activities, totaling \$1,240,315 in budget estimates. There are another 19 activity concepts covering all three components, totaling \$1,987,290 in budget estimates that have been proposed and are in the approval process. A summary table demonstrating completed and ongoing activities follows below (please note that completed activities are shaded grey):

FED Activity Table – APPROVED and LIVE ACTIVITIES

Activity Name	Numb	Description	Start Date	End Date	Approx. Value (USD)	Location	Activity Name
COMPONENT 1							
Rice Production and Processing Demonstration	C1-MDF-01	26 sites/partnerships with farmer associations in training by module (site selection, rice variety selection, land preparation, fertilizer application, seedling production, transplanting, irrigation, weeding, harvesting, post-harvest). In addition, labor-saving production technologies (rotary weeders, power tillers) will be demonstrated.	5/21/12	10/31/12		Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Bong	Ongoing
Water Well Drilling	C1-MDF-02	Assess local conditions for the installation of tube wells, including a technique that increases the recharge rates of existing shallow wells, and train the FED project technical trainer and workers from two local enterprises in the manual installation of tube wells.	5/24/12			Bong, Montserrado, Nimba, Margibi	Ongoing
MoA Participation at Scientific Conference of the Global Cassava	C1-TRN-03	Enhanced the MoA's knowledge of climate change concerns for the cassava sector by funding the attendance of their program officer at the Scientific Conference of the Global	6/18/12	6/22/12		Montserrado	Completed

Partnership in Kampala, Uganda		Cassava Partnership in Kampala, Uganda.					
Training Private sector on Soil Testing processes and procedures	C1-TRN-04	Enhanced soil testing services in the private sector by partnering with a company that is currently providing soil testing for engineering services but who would like to expand soil testing to the Agriculture sector. FED will provide training on how to test soils while the company will provide the soil tests required by the FED program so extension agents can make fertilizer recommendations.	5/28/12	9/30/12		Montserrado	Completed
Training and Demonstrations on Integrated Soil Fertility Management/ISFM	C1-MDF-06	Train 1,000 farmers on 22 FED cassava demonstration sites, upland rice out-growers, members of three cooperatives, 20 extension staff, and 12 agro-dealers. The total ISFM demonstration coverage is 150 hectares covering all FED sites (60x50) per plot.	09/24/12	11/30/12		Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Nimba	Ongoing
Capacity Building for the Safe Use of Authorized Agro-chemicals in Bong and Lofa counties	C1-MDF-08	Collaborated with input dealers in organizing sensitization, awareness creation, and demonstrations for the safe use of authorized agro-chemical and equipment. Conduct two demonstrations of innovative tools, inputs (fertilizer, chemicals, etc.) in Lofa and Bong counties.	7/24/12	8/15/12		Lofa, Bong	Completed
Arjay Farms Out-grower Expansion	C1-MDF-11	Work with Arjay Farms in expanding and training additional out-grower staff. In addition, provide Arjay Farms with the necessary tools and training in order to process the significant increase in rice seed.	6/18/12	10/15/13		Montserrado	Ongoing
Vegetable Seedling Special Study	C1-MDF-13	Identified approximately 30 independent vegetable seedling producers in the focus counties (five per county). Conducted mini-survey with 30 producers to collect data on each production sites' setup and location, scope of seedling production and sales, inputs and costs for production, as well as challenges	6/5/12	7/02/12		Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Nimba, Montserrado, Margibi	Completed

		in producing and selling vegetable seedlings. Based on the survey, determined the best candidates to be trained as commercial vegetable seedling producers through the FED Vegetable Seedling Program.					
Food Consumption Patterns & Expenditure Among Peri-Urban Farmers (FCPE) Special Study	C1-MDF-14	Conducted a mini survey of a sub-sample of the FED Baseline Survey of households that was conducted between February and May 2012. The baseline sampled approximately 85 households involved with FED in the peri-urban areas of Margibi and Montserrado counties. The specific objective of this survey was to characterize the following: types of food consumed (dietary variety) and types of food sources by household head type, main livelihood of household head and household size; estimate average household food expenditure and share of different food types in total food; and consumption shocks and coping strategies.	5/21/12	6/29/12		Montserrado, Margibi	Completed
Soy Flour Compost Distribution	C1-MDF-15	Collaborate with OICI on the transfer of 485 MT of spoiled soy flour that was imported by OICI but is unfit for neither human nor animal consumption. FED will work with local partners on using the soy flour for compost on FED and partner sites. A warehouse will be constructed to store the soy flour.	7/9/12	12/31/12		Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, Nimba	Ongoing
Completion of National Peste des Petits Ruminant (PPR) Vaccination Campaign	C1-MDF-18	Assist MoA with effective completion of the national PPR vaccination campaigns at the county level. Significant EU/AU/IBAR provided vaccines remain unused due to closure of program.	7/2/12	10/15/12		Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, Nimba	Ongoing
Vetiver Expansion Program	C1-MDF-20	Develop plant materials that are effective at stopping soil erosion. Establish small nurseries of Vetiver at the county offices to be eventually planted out at demonstrate sites to	6/29/12	10/31/12		Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Montserrado, Nimba	Ongoing

		assist with soil erosion.					
Cassava Demo Site Training and Cultivation – Phase I	C1-MDF-21	22 sites/partnerships with farmer associations to increase farmer’s capacity to increase the production of cassava, expand network of out grower farmers in cassava, and build sustainable and profitable cassava farming operations for cassava farmers in the target counties.	6/18/12	10/31/12		Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Bong	Ongoing
Phase I, Youth Nutrition Program	C1-MDF-22	Build demonstration site to increase overall nutrition at orphanage. Train orphanage leaders and children in vegetable farming and input supplies and provide technical assistance on goat health.	6/29/12	12/31/12		Montserrado	Ongoing
Vegetable Seedling Production and Sales	C1-MDF-24	Motivate farmers to invest in vegetable production by training seedling producers in use and promotion of improved inputs and on how to provide technical information services to farmers.	8/15/12	01/31/13		Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, Nimba	Ongoing
Johnsonville Women Agriculture Project	C1-MDF-25	Improve the water management system through the construction of peripheral canals to collect and control water from the catchment areas and the construction of peripheral bunds.	7/23/12	10/22/12		Montserrado	Ongoing
Comprehensive Food Security and Nutrition Survey (CFSNS)	C1-MDF-26	Partner with the Government of Liberia on the 2012 CFSNS goals to provide baseline food security and nutrition information that will underpin the measurement of progress in the implementation of PRS II and UNDAF 2013-17. The main objective is to ensure availability of timely and appropriate high-quality food security and nutrition data to inform policy and programming.	7/16/12	12/14/12		Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, Nimba	Ongoing
One-day Technical Consultative Workshop on Livestock Interventions in	C1-MDF-29	Assisted the MoA in achieving a sound understanding of development interventions in the livestock sector by arranging a meeting to identify donor funded interventions currently under implementation in the livestock sector	9/6/12	9/6/12		Montserrado	Completed

Liberia		and facilitated relationship building among participating organizations.					
Soy Flour Compost Production Training	C1-TRN-30	Collaborated with Sangay Farm based on their knowledge and experience in compost production to train lead cassava farmers from Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa, and Lofa counties in compost production and its application.	8/16/12	8/30/12		Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Lofa	Completed
T-shirt for Cassava, Up and Lowlands Rice, and Vegetables Demonstration Trainees	C1-MDF-31	Increase awareness of FED programs in targeted communities by production of a FED T-shirt to be distributed to those who are participating in FED activities.	8/21/12	9/30/12		Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Lofa	Ongoing
T-shirt for Cassava, Up and Lowlands Rice, and Vegetables Demonstration Trainees	C1-MDF-31	Increase awareness of FED programs in targeted communities by production of a FED T-shirt to be distributed to those who are participating in FED activities.	8/21/12	9/30/12		Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Lofa	Ongoing
Training in Treadle Pump Manufacturing and Tube Well Installation	C1-MDF-32	Train metal workers and other artisans in the production and installation of treadle irrigation pumps and tube wells, which are relatively low cost and highly-productive irrigation equipment.	8/16/12	2/28/13		Lofa, Margibi, Nimba	Ongoing
Vegetable and Cassava Processing	C1-MDF-34	Train local manufacturers in producing low-cost, efficient cassava and vegetable processing equipment. Provide portable cassava mill and other processing equipment allowing for easy transportation from one location to another.	9/24/12	12/15/12		Montserrado, Bong	Ongoing
COMPONENT 2							
Business Management Skills Training	C2-TRN-01	Stimulated agribusiness growth by conducting a business management training that will help attendees to identify their business skill strengths and weakness; developed a stronger business plan; learned about the various	5/23/12	6/8/12		Grand Bassa, Montserrado, Nimba	Completed

		components of managing a successful agri-business; and presented an action plan to develop and manage a profitable agriculture business.					
Formation of National Cassava Sector Coordinating Committee	C2-MDF-02	Facilitate the establishment of a sustainable system for coordination, advocacy, and information dissemination within the cassava sector as agreed in the National Cassava Sector Strategy document.	6/1/12	9/30/12		Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Bong	Ongoing
Enterprise Development Pilot Program	C2-TRN-03	Prepared various producer groups in Nimba County to meet the minimum standard requirements as business associations (business registration and establishing bank accounts as well as putting in place good financial system) through a training workshop.	7/2/12	10/31/12		Nimba	Completed
Computer Literacy Training for From God to Man Farmers Association	C2-TRN-04	Provided basic computer training to ten community members in the village of Doumpa. The computer training enhanced the capacity of the farmer's association to efficiently manage the association.	7/12/12	9/12/12		Nimba	Completed
Stakeholder Profiles	C2-MDF-05	Provide baseline and profile data on lead producers, agro-input dealers, processors, transport and logistics companies, and buyers (including markets) that support the four value chains: rice, cassava, vegetables, and goats in Bong, Lofa, Nimba, Grand Bassa, Montserrado, and Margibi counties.	8/6/12	9/30/12		Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, Nimba	Ongoing
Business Skills Training for SMEs	C2-TRN-06	Stimulated the agriculture sector through working with approximately 25 participants representing 12 SMEs on the following: key considerations when writing a business plan; applying a simple process to write a business plan effectively; coordination of various company departments and resources in the process of writing the business plan; and drafting of the business plan document.	7/18/12	9/7/12		Bong	Completed

Mentorship Program for Business Plan Development for SMEs	C2-TRN-07	Conducted market research training, telephone follow-ups with various groups, market analysis and development of marketing plan training, development of production/operational plan training, development of financial plan training, and finalization of each partner's business plan.	7/25/12	10/31/12		Bong, Montserrado	Completed
Welekamah Farmer Based Organization	C2-TRN-08	Built the capacity of Welekamah to operate more effectively as a business through a training workshop which will address the topics of customer service, selling techniques and farming as a business.	1/4/12	1/6/12		Bong	Completed
New Generational Women/AEDE/ Chevron	C2-MDF-09	Build the capacity of a predominantly women cooperative group to produce pepper and cassava farms with value addition components to increase incomes and food security for farming families of Upper Clay Ashland in rural Montserrado County. Activities include completion of a baseline survey, provision of good governance training, provision of literacy training, provision of agricultural skills training, provision of financial management training, provision of business management, and marketing training.	10/1/12	9/30/13		Montserrado	Ongoing
Mentorship Program for Business Plan Development for SMEs	C2-TRN-07	Conducted market research training, telephone follow-ups with various groups, market analysis and development of marketing plan training, development of production/operational plan training, development of financial plan training, and finalization of each partner's business plan.	7/25/12	10/31/12		Bong, Montserrado	Completed
Welekamah Farmer Based Organization	C2-TRN-08	Built the capacity of Welekamah to operate more effectively as a business through a training workshop which will address the topics of customer service, selling techniques and farming as a business.	1/4/12	1/6/12		Bong	Completed

New Generational Women/AEDE/Chevron	C2-MDF-09	Build the capacity of a predominantly women cooperative group to produce pepper and cassava farms with value addition components to increase incomes and food security for farming families of Upper Clay Ashland in rural Montserrado County. Activities include completion of a baseline survey, provision of good governance training, provision of literacy training, provision of agricultural skills training, provision of financial management training, provision of business management and marketing training.	10/1/12	9/30/13		Montserrado	Ongoing
Mentorship program for Business Plan Development for SMEs	C2-TRN-07	Conducted market research training, telephone follow-ups with various groups, market analysis and development of marketing plan training, development of production/operational plan training, development of financial plan training, and finalization of each partner's business plan.	7/25/12	10/31/12		Bong, Montserrado	Completed
COMPONENT 3							
Agro-Business Internship Program	C3-MDF-01	Partner with universities and vocation schools in establishing a three-month internship program for selected students and place them in agro-business organizations.	6/1/12	11/30/12		Montserrado, Nimba	Ongoing
Staff Training and Curriculum Roundtable Discussion at BWI and Nimba	C3-TRN-02	Conducted a two-day training for BWI Department of Agriculture and Administration staff as well as all staff at the NCCC on instructional development and delivery. A curriculum review with all stakeholders will also be conducted.	6/11/12	6/22/12		Montserrado, Nimba	Completed
Booker T. Washington Institute (BWI): Building a Center of Excellence	C3-MDF-04	BWI lacks the resources and training to be a Center of Excellence for Liberia. Curriculum has not been reviewed, nor improved for several decades. Staff need to be re-trained, and infrastructure for the library and Department of Agriculture is poor, with	6/15/12	9/30/12		Margibi	Ongoing

		<p>inadequate facilities and equipment for teachers and students. FED will work with BWI on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Upgrade BWI to become a Center of Excellence 2) Upgrade curricula and equipment for BWI's agriculture department. 3) Create an environment conducive to learning and to the pursuit of excellence in agriculture. 					
FED World Food Day Participation - Child Art Competition	C3-MDF-06	<p>Meaningfully involve youth in agriculture and business development in order to prepare them to participate more fully in economic development and food security. This will be done through partnership with Child Art to arrange an art competition among school children on the theme of World Food Day, culminating in a final awarding ceremony at the World Food Day event being organized by the MoA.</p>	9/10/12	12/15/12		Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, Nimba	Ongoing

FED STTAs Track Table - October 2012

The below STTAs that completed their assignment and are still contributing to the accomplishment activities for the month of October:

Name	Position	Partner	Date in	Date Out	Summary
Jessica Benton Cooney	Communications Specialist	DAI	August 16	Mid-December, 2012	Communications support to FED program, working in conjunction with FED Communications Manager
Duke Burrus	Value Chain Specialist Cassava	DAI	October 28	November 14	Work with the Technical Program Coordinator County Manager, and Component Two staff to develop a strategy to strengthen the cassava sector productivity and profitability (per the year 2 work plan); and provide a strategy to obtain the necessary market information on current potential for raw and processed cassava (will include meetings with farmers, visits to the counties, markets, etc.);
Jaclyn Carlsen	ICT Specialist	DAI	June 11	Dec 15, 2012	Serve as ICT specialist looking at various ways ICT can assist FED's programs (GIS, mobile money, tablets, etc.)
Agatha Johnson	SME Training Specialist	DAI	October 16	December 21	SME training for Component 2
Charles Weschler	Operations Specialist	DAI	September 15, 2012	October 12, 2012	Oversee finance and operations of FED while DCOP is on leave

Mahawa Wheeler	Capacity Building Advisor	DAI	July 2	October 30, 2012	Capacity Building support to FED team and partners
Kwaku Agyemang	Livestock Policy Guidelines Advisor	DAI	September 26, 2012	October 27, 2012	Develop a draft of national policy guidelines governing both livestock research and extension together with guidelines governing the importation of livestock into Liberia.
Shahram Ahmadzadegan	Acting Market Development Fund and M&E Manager	DAI	September 6, 2012	November 2, 2012	Work with FED technical staff to facilitate and accelerate access to utilizing the FED Market Development Fund. Oversee the development and implementation of reporting procedures and guidelines in compliance with USAID requirements and best practices.
Dermot Cassidy	Peri-Urban Agriculture Specialist	Winrock	September 19, 2012	Nov 30, 2012	Support the development and commercialization of high value vegetable crops produced primarily by smallholder farmers in the hinterland of Monrovia and certain secondary towns in the FED target area in Liberia.
Rama Vellanki	Short-Term Post Harvest Rice Specialist	LSU	September 22, 2012	October 21, 2012	Work with the FED team and the Ministry of Agriculture toward the goals of minimizing post-harvest losses and of providing high quality clean rice to the market.
David Picha	Postharvest Specialist	LSU	October 17	November 7	Work with FED staff, Cassava and Peri-Urban groups and the Ministry of Agriculture to suggest improvements in post-harvest handling and processing.
Souleymane Gaye	Rice Specialist	Winrock	October 12	November 28	Support the development and commercialization of rice produced primarily by smallholder farmers in the project's four priority counties.

Eric Nzokou	Manufacture Trainer	Winrock	September 21	November 28	<p>Eric Nzokou will train one of the FED project manufacturer trainers and at least two local metal</p> <p>workshops in the manufacture of the gas-fired forced-air dryer and the cassava fiber-discharge mill.</p> <p>Following importation from Nigeria, he will also test and assess the IITA mobile cassava grater.</p>
Andre de Jager	Regional Director	IFDC	October 20	October 27	<p>To support input supply interventions by reviewing current IFDC activities in Liberia as well inter & intra FED component collaborative efforts to achieve overall FED objectives and to assess CAPRI's capacity building needs for testing UDP and ISFM technologies in order to help upgrade its capacity to support FED extension/outreach activities.</p>



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

BWI Compost Curricula Increases Yield

New compost practice is enhancing quality and quantity of crops at BWI



A student compost pile, almost at its solidified state at the BWI facility in Kakata Town, Margibi County, Liberia.

“We are grateful to USAID-FED for its continuous support and for the experience we have gained from the practical application of compost. We hope other agriculture institutions will follow in BWI’s footsteps and introduce improved compost production in their academic curriculum,” said BWI Compost Instructor, Varlai W. Jackollie.

In 2011, USAID’s Food and Enterprise Development (FED) project formed a partnership with the Booker T. Washington Institute (BWI) to improve the agriculture curriculum and assist the institution become a Center of Excellence. Toward this goal, FED is providing support in developing a compost curriculum and establishing a linkage with BWI and FED farmers. This initial step by FED has created a market for the BWI’s compost unit, which has created interest amongst local farmers in the county and agriculture students at BWI.

Since 1927, BWI has been contributing technical human resources to Liberia’s reconstruction and development. BWI is largely funded by the government of Liberia through subsidies, and has two parallel training programs, including one that caters to youth across the nation, a regular secondary vocational and technical program, and an accelerated vocational training program for high school graduates. Approximately 25% of BWI students are female, and the Department of Agriculture has a total of 300 regular students and 133 accelerated students.

BWI began the production of compost with the Department of Agriculture and trained BWI’s agriculture staff through a FED-sponsored training for 35 local farmers on how to improve compost using best practices. Additionally, FED utilized BWI staff as a means of creating awareness on compost and its importance to increasing crop yield, quality, and taste.

Compost has become a new phenomenon in the Department of Agriculture, due to Varlai W. Jackollie, BWI compost instructor, who has created interest in studying compost production for his 75 students. Jackollie is demonstrating how to create compost from woodchips, animal manure, green grass, and sawdust, all which require 90 days to solidify in the compost facility at BWI, which is used for teaching, mixing, and processing.

“Since beginning to use organic fertilizer compost in BWI’s plots, crops have grown well and are having better yields than chemical fertilizer crops,” said Jackollie. “This contrast in difference has created a huge interest among farmers and agriculture students to utilize organic compost in their fields.”