



EUROPEAN UNION - LIBERIA PARTNERSHIP

MOVING LIBERIA FORWARD AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES



The European Union (EU) is a longstanding partner and friend of Liberia and has been supporting the country since 1973 through many different channels. The EU contributes to the implementation of Liberia's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), which sets the framework for EU engagement in the country. Support to the development of agriculture and fisheries is key to that commitment.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES SECTOR IN LIBERIA?

In line with its PAPD, Liberia is seeking to boost productivity and develop value chains of selected agriculture and fisheries products in a bid to enhance food security and nutrition, create jobs, and improve livelihoods, thereby reducing poverty.

By helping to grow more food locally, Liberia is working to improve food security and increase resilience – which has particularly proven important during crises such as the Ebola virus disease outbreak and the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as reduce its reliance on food imports – which has a positive impact on Liberia's balance of payments.

Liberia's focus on sustainable agriculture and fisheries within the framework of the PAPD matches the EU's own Green Deal, with the Farm to Fork Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy at its heart. These strategies seek to ensure that nutritious food is secured for all at all times and that the farming and fishing methods used are sustainable as well as increase resilience to the climate and biodiversity crises.

HOW DOES THE EU SUPPORT AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES IN LIBERIA?

The EU specifically focuses on increasing productivity of and adding value to staple (rice and cassava) and other foods (e.g. plantain, groundnuts, and cowpeas, but also fish – an important addition to the diet of most Liberians), and also invests in cash crops (cocoa and coffee).

In all of its efforts, the EU seeks to develop the skills and safeguard the livelihoods of those involved – the fisher folks, farmers, traders, processors, as well as small but commercially viable enterprises and artisans who rely on agriculture and fisheries to make a living. The EU interventions aim to develop selected value chains – from seeds, over production and cultivation methods, to processing, marketing and distribution. This also includes support to the government to create the enabling policies, plans and regulations, facilitate access to finance, as well as building the infrastructure that is critical for the produce to reach domestic and international markets.

The EU pays particular attention to ensuring that women and youth benefit from developments in agricultural and fisheries value chains. Women make up approximately 60 percent of those making a living in the fishing industry and take 75% of the agriculture sector jobs. Many of these women are heads of impoverished households. Supporting them will really help reduce poverty.

The EU's support to agriculture and fisheries contributes to Liberia's efforts to achieve a number of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including no poverty, zero hunger, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, climate action, life below water, life on land as well as partnerships for the goals.

WHICH PROJECTS DOES THE EU FUND IN LIBERIA IN SUPPORT OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES?

The EU's total investment in agriculture and fisheries over the period 2014 - 2020 amounted to at least USD 45 million. With this investment the EU has leveraged almost USD 5 million in addition, mainly through non-governmental organisations (NGOs) - key implementing partners in the sectors concerned.

Projects funded under the bilateral EU-Liberia Agriculture Programme (EULAP), the regional West Africa Competitiveness Programme (WACOMP), and the thematic programme on "Development of Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture (DeSIRA), include:

AGRICULTURE

The **Liberia Cocoa Sector Improvement** programme seeks to create a vibrant, competitive and profitable cocoa economy, driven primarily by farmer groups/associations and private cocoa supply chain companies, within a robust national regulatory and institutional framework.

While the **Cocoa Value Chain** Development programme focuses on reducing poverty through increased resilience / competitiveness of the Liberia cocoa sector and improved cocoa farmer livelihoods/food security.

To strengthen food security, the **Prosperous Agriculture Roadmap to Nutrition and Entrepreneurship, Reinforcing Sustainability** project aims to improve food and nutrition security and increasing the income and resilience against shocks in the rural areas in Liberia, specifically improving the productivity and sustainability of nutrition-sensitive agriculture at the level of smallholder farmers.

The **Cassava Transformation** project aims to enhance the competitiveness, and regional integration of Liberia's cassava sector through a value chain approach focused on sustained production, value addition, entrepreneurship, and sustainable markets.

The project **Linking Extension and Research to Farmers for Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition** focuses on strengthening agricultural research and extension systems to enhance smallholder farmer's productivity and their livelihoods.

FISHERIES

The support to the fisheries sector includes the **Long-term Assistance to the National Aquaculture and Fisheries Authority of Liberia** project, which is working towards an improved sectoral governance and fisheries management in Liberia.

To empower fishers, the **Creating Skilled, Capable, and Effective Community Co-management Associations to Secure Legal and Sustainable Fisheries in Liberia** project aims to reduce illegal fishing and improve the sustainability of fisheries by expanding and strengthening community co-management associations, creating effective capacity for community monitoring and reporting of illegal fishing.

INTEGRATED AGRICULTURE-FISHERIES

As part of promoting innovative farming methods, the **Enhancing Smallholder Fish Farming by Agro-ecological Intensification and Integration into Inclusive Commercial Value Chains** project is enhancing fish farming value chains in rural inland communities through the development of productive, integrated rice-fish farming, increased partnership between government, private sector and civil society and supporting technical development of farmers skills and, consequently, incomes.

The **Integrated Rice-Fish Farming: a Research and Extension Development based Initiative to Improve Food Security and Nutrition in Liberia** project focuses on enhancing the development of rice and fish value chains for improved food, nutrition, and economic security in Liberia through targeted research and extension by transforming low-yielding, climate-risky traditional rice-fish production systems into more climate-resilient, high-yielding and resource-use-efficient systems.



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