



**ASSESSMENT OF AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION NEEDS IN
AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN & PACIFIC (ACP) STATES**

WEST AFRICA

Country Study: Liberia

Final Report

Prepared by:

**Dr. James S. Kiazolu
&
Mr. Arthur R. Tucker**

On behalf of the

Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)

Project: 4-7-41-254-7/p

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Disclaimer

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAL	Action Aid Liberia
A2N	Africa 2000 Network Liberia
ACDI/VOCA	Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance
ACF	Action Contre La Faim
ACI	African Concern International
ACP	African Caribbean and Pacific
ADA	Foundation for African Development Aid
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AEL	Association of Evangelicals of Liberia
AFA	Assistance for All
AGOA	African Growth and Opportunity Act
AGRHA	Action for Greater Harvest
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AITB	Agricultural Institute and Training Bureau
AMEU	African Methodist Episcopal University
ARC	American Refugee Committee
ARS	Agriculture Relief Services Inc
BADU	Bettie's Agriculture Development Union
BEEKAA	Beekeepers and Agriculturist Association (BEEKAA)
BNF	Bureau of National Fisheries
BWI	Booker Washington Institute
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CAM	Christian Aid Ministries
CAP	Children Assistance Programme
CCC	Concerned Christian Community
CCF	Christian Children's Fund
CDA	Cooperative Development Agency
CHS	Christian Humanitarian Service
CI	Conservation International
CONCERN	Concern Worldwide
CONWASA	Concerned Women Against Spread of AIDS
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSA	Civil Service Agency
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
CU	Cuttington University
CUC	Cuttington University College
CUSD	Community Union for Sustainable Development
CVTI	Cheale Vocational Training Institute
DEA	Diakonie Emergency AID
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
EBA	Everything But Arms
EC	European Commission
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
FACE	Farmers Associated to Conserve the Environment

FAH	Farmers Against Hunger
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFI	Fauna and Flora International
FLY	Federation of Liberian Youth
FRC	Finnish Refugee Council
GAA	German Agro Action
GADP	Gbartoh Agriculture Development Programme
GASP	Global Age Sustainable Programme
G-BAG	Grand Bassa Agriculture Group
GDI	Grassroots Democracy INC
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GOL	Government of Liberia
GRT	Gross Registered Tonnage
GTZ	German Technical Corporation
HDF	Human Development Foundation
ICM	Information Communication Management
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture and Development
IHI	IMANI House Inc.
IMC	International Medical Corps
IRC	International Rescue Committee
IRDO	Integrated Rural Development Organization
KKG	Kpain-Kpain-Gbo
KRDA	Kweatornor Development and Relief Agency
LAS	Liberia Agro Systems
CAAS-Lib	Comprehensive Assessment of the Agriculture Sector of
Liberia	
MCC	Monrovia City Corporation
WAT	West Africa Telecommunications
LAW	Liberia Association of Writers
LBS	Liberia Broadcasting System
LCC	Liberia Christian College
LDHS	Liberia Demography Health Survey
LEAF	Lofa Educational and Agricultural Foundation
LECO	Liberia Environment Care Organization
LHETP	Liberia Handicap and Ex-combatant Training Programme
LEC	Liberia Electricity Corporation
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
HCS	Humanitarian Community Section
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
CFNS	Comprehensive Food and Nutrition Survey
CDC	County Development Committee
FAPS	Food and Agriculture Policy and Strategy
LIBTELCO	Liberia Telecommunications Corporation
LIDS	Liberia Initiative for Development Services
LIFE	Liberian Innovation Foundation for Empowerment
LINFU	Liberia National Farmers Union
LINNK	Liberia National NGOs Network
LIR	Liberia
LISGIS	Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo Information Services
LIWOMAC	Liberia Media Women Action Committee
LMA	Land Mine Action
LMC	Liberia Media Center

LNFCFS	Liberia National Federation of Cooperative Societies
LOIC	Liberia Opportunities & Industrialization Center
LPMC	Liberia Produce Marketing Cooperation
LRDA	Liberia Rubber Development Authority
LRDO	Liberia Relief Development Organization
LUSTA	Let Us Try Again
LWF/WS	Lutheran World Federation/World Service
MC	Mercy Corps
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MVTC	Monrovia Vocational Training Center
NARDO	National Resettlement and Development Organization
NARDA	New African Research & Development Agency
NAWOCOL	National Women's Commission of Liberia
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa Development
NETCOM	Netcom Cyber City
NFAPD	National Foundation Against Poverty and Disease
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
NIMAC	National Information and Management Center
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
ODAFARA	Organization for the Development of Agriculture and Farmers Related Association
PACESL	Professional Agricultural Consultancy Expertise Services of Liberia
PAPI	People Against Poverty Inc (PAPI)
PLAN	Plan Liberia
PMU	Pentecostal Mission Universal Interlife – Liberia)
PNN	Post Neo Natal
PNO	Project New Outlook
PRLIB	Project Rebuild Liberia
PUL	Press Union of Liberia
PWJ	Peace Winds Japan
SAI	Smile Africa International
SARA	South-Eastern Agricultural Relief Agency
SASU	Sustainable Agriculture Services Union
SC-UK	Save the Children Fund – UK (SC-UK)
SDP	Sustainable Development Promoters
SEWODA	South Eastern Women Development Association
SLPP	Sustainable Livelihood Promoters Programme
SP	Samaritan's Purse
TAIC	The Ark Internet Café
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
TCS	Trinity Computer Solutions
TECURD	Technocrats United for Reconstruction and Development
TF	Tear Fund (TF)
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
TRAWOCO	Transworld Computer Services
UL	University of Liberia
UMCOR	United Methodist Committee on Relief
UNCTAD	United Nations Commission for Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women

UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
URFA	Union for Rural Farmers Association Inc
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USIS	United States Information Service
V_WELFOL	Vulnerable Welfare Foundation of Liberia
VIA	Visions in Action
VMHS	Voinjama Multilateral High School
VODWOPED Development	Voinjama District Women Organization for Peace and Development
WAWL	War Affected Women in Liberia
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPNET	Women in Peace Building Network
WOCHIDO	Women & Children Development Organization
WONGOSOL	Women NGO Secretariat of Liberia
WTO	World Trade Organization
WVL	World Vision Liberia
YATC	Youth Agriculture Training Center
YPCD	Youth for Peace and Community Development
ZADC	Zao Development Council
ZMHS	Zwedru Multilateral High School
ZRTTI	Zorzor Rural Teachers Training Institute

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

In 1983 the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA) was established under the Lomé Convention between the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the European Union Member States. The CTA has operated within the framework of ACP-EC Cotonou Agreement since 2000.

CTA's tasks are to develop and provide services that improve access to information for agricultural and rural development, and to strengthen the capacity of ACP countries to produce, acquire, exchange and utilise information in this area.

Since 2003, CTA has been systematically conducting needs assessment studies across the Pacific, Caribbean and Africa regions. These studies have been in direct response to calls for CTA, in various evaluations of its products, services and programmes, to be more strategic in its choice regarding the setting of its own agenda and reacting to demand.

CTA works primarily through intermediary public and private partners (research centres, extension services, libraries, NGOs, farmers' organizations, regional organisations and networks, etc to promote agriculture and rural development by increasing the number of organisations capable of accessing and combining modern and conventional ICTs, generating and managing information and developing their own ICM strategies..

Consequently, this study on information and communication management (ICM) as well as capacity building and information needs of organizations in Liberia will enable them access information readily and provide services to their beneficiaries.

Objectives of the study

- To provide an overview of main agricultural services and actors existing in the country (information supply side) in terms of their strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for collaboration with CTA;
- To identify agricultural information and ICM capacity building needs of key actors/key strategic partners for CTA products and services;
- To identify potential strategic partners for CTA activities and services (paying special attention to e.g. print media, editors, radio, TV and journalist networks);
- To develop some baseline data on the status of ICM and ICTs in the country to facilitate subsequent monitoring and updating activities.

Methodology

The assessment objectives were divided into three phases as follow:

- Phase I. A literature review or desk study was conducted to collect an overview of main agricultural services and actors existing in the country

(information supply side) in terms of their strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for collaboration with CTA;

- Phase II: During this phase, field studies were undertaken and fourteen (14) institutions including community-based organizations, Government ministries and agencies, a research institute, academic and media institutions, youth and women groups, were met and interviewed as regards their involvement in ICM and related activities. Data were collected on existing ICM operations of these organizations, resources available, challenges including capacity building needs and sources where information are obtained. The above information was collected from a prepared CTA data capture form covering wide range of issues with respect to the institutions. These data forms were introduced to participants during the January 28 – 29, 2008 CTA Lome, Togo briefings.
- Phase III. The preparation and submission of the required report constituted the 3rd and final phase of the assessment.

Expected results

- Status of infrastructure, information services and ICM capacity of institutions involved in agriculture and rural development described and analysed;
- Information and capacity building needs in the area of ICM identified for key institutions and potential CTA partners involved in agriculture and rural development;
- Baseline data on the status of ICM and ICT in agriculture and rural development compiled for monitoring purposes and improved outreach.

Findings

Prominent amongst one of the limiting factors that continue to weaken the agriculture sector of the economy is the lack of effective and available agricultural and market information to both the farmers and consumers. Delivering effective information services bridges the gap between farmers and consumers, and to a large extent, stimulates agricultural growth. Small farmers cannot benefit from new market opportunities if they have no access to information that is comprehensible to them. Also of significance is the promotion of the Information and Communication Technology, including broad coverage of radio, TV stations, mobile telephone and the Internet, across the country to enhance information dissemination and to improve marketing and related activities.

Most agricultural information on varietal and livestock improvement and farm economics were available at the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), which have not been consistently disseminated to farmers because of weak extension delivery systems. Even though the extension arm of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) had made several attempts aimed at providing and delivering relevant information to small farmers as a means to increase their productivity, this has had limited impact. Consequently, there is a need to strengthen information dissemination for agriculture and rural development through printed materials such as technical and assessment reports (hard and electronic copies), collection of books, and production of newsletters, brochures, flyers, cataloguing of photographs, video documentaries, audio visual materials, production estimates and market information, among others.

In Liberia, information needs are enormous as expressed by most of the organizations interviewed during the assessment study. The use of computers and Internet services are not widely used especially in the rural areas due to lack of service by Internet providers, inadequate training, limited facilities and obsolete equipment as well high costs associated with commercial service providers.

Almost all of the institutions visited expressed their difficulties associated with sourcing information. Except for the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO that have so far developed and produced newsletters, magazine CDs, DVD, video tapes on a regular basis depending on the availability of funds, few organizations and international NGOs such as German Agro Action (GAA), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Sustainable Tree Crops Programme (STCP) with support of the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) based in Nigeria and Agriculture Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Overseas Cooperation Assistance (ACDI/VOCA) have also produced brochures on how to grow food and tree crops, raising animals and fish farming through simple English and illustrations.

Conclusions

The benefits and gains of ICTs in the agricultural sector of Liberia can only be realized with the full support of the institutions and organizations concerned. The Government should provide policies and strategies as well as create the enabling environment for ICTs diffusion. It is of vital importance that concerted and collaborative efforts be exerted towards providing appropriate and widespread information and training to would be beneficiaries of this programme in a bid to ensure the success of agricultural and rural development in Liberia. This would require:

- Adequate funding
- Capacity building/manpower training in ICM skills
- Infrastructural development
- Provision of equipment
- Increased awareness and access to ICT tools and services
- Well structured extension programme

Information needs

The information needs as expressed by the interviewees were predominately in the areas of production, marketing data, extension methods and use of ICT's as well as rural development information and technical Information. This includes the need for timely and sector specific production data as indicated by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Personalities interviewed during the study indicated their reliance on personal efforts and interaction with friends and others organizations in-country and via Internet to acquire needed information in the discharge of their duties. It goes without saying that all of the organizations that are selected would be in a better position to access information readily through contacts with other networks, which offer similar services and best practices.

It was made clear that CTA should devise appropriate strategies such that current information available to it can be harnessed in a timely manner for the benefit of users in the agriculture and rural development sectors. Therefore, CTA should build partnerships particularly in a post-conflict country like Liberia.

It is important to prioritize the use of agricultural information system but the

development of contents by subject matter specialists to support the production is very essential. This is why training sessions are necessary in the following areas: scientific writing, statistical methods, website creation, writing annual reports, writing project proposals, radio production techniques, editing and publication, among others.

The use of transistor radio is an important channel whereby farmers and residents in rural communities are adequately informed on agricultural and technical information that impact (negatively or positively) their lives. The Ministry of Agriculture has radio programmes on two radio stations which have a wider coverage of most parts of the country. Star Radio and ELBC have trained personnel in disc jockey and magazine programmes but none of them has knowledge in producing and presenting programmes that can convey the much desired information in agriculture.

Prominent amongst one of the limiting factors that continue to weaken the agriculture sector of the economy is the lack of effective and available agricultural and market information to both the farmers and consumers. Delivering effective information services bridges the gap between farmers and consumers, and to a large extent, stimulates agricultural growth. Small farmers cannot benefit from new market opportunities if they have no access to information that is comprehensible to them.

It was suggested for more coordinated data collection in the field and a structured manipulation and transformation of said data into appropriate information. Crucial components of the information that have been deemed difficult to acquire are locally generated and must be collected as part of a structured, managed and integrated system

Capacity building needs

Capacity building was identified by the respondents in light of the acknowledged importance of ICM as an area for immediate intervention. In the absence of the tools and staff required, many of these institutions will continue to operate under their true potential and not fulfill their respective mandates. The main institutions, with the exception of the Ministry of Agriculture, CAF/UL, CARI and FAO do not have the staff, hardware or software to effectively and efficiently carry out their tasks. Many of the respondents were acutely aware of that shortcoming and saw this study as the basis to secure assistance from CTA.

Some basic skills training needs such as computer training can be undertaken by local service providers but organizations might need to acquire specialized ICM training in and outside the country as regards training for extension staff; human resource information management; training of staff to produce newsletters and magazines; training of personnel to translate technical information into simple English and in local dialects and information cataloguing system.

All key institutions identified by this study have mandates that would make them worthy candidates to be CTA beneficiaries and or partners.

Overview of CTA's Products and Services

CTA provide a wide range of products and services which are aimed at strengthening the capacity of African, Caribbean and Pacific individuals and countries to produce, obtain and exchange and use information in agricultural and rural development.

Although nearly all of the interviewees do not have ready access to CTA's products and services, the MOA, CARI, CAF/UL and other selected institutions will be

delighted to get hooked up with the Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) service through which research scientists in Liberia will be regularly provided with specific up-to-date information on research topics. The CD-ROM Research Programme that supports access to research centers, NGOs, Farmers' Organizations and the Private Sector will be an opportunity for many here. Since 70% of Liberians are involved in agriculture, CTA Rural Radio Programme will be a useful channel to disseminate scientific and technical information to our rural farmers through the community radio stations.

In a bid to improve and build the human resource capacity of these institutions, the availability of and access to information on priority topics in agriculture and rural development, it is acknowledged that Co-seminars and Seminar Support Programmes of CTA will be encouraged. Other areas of support will include Seminar Support Programme. Through this programme, selected individuals should attend regional and international conferences on topics of relevance to their area of work. The programme also helps us to ensure that the views of participants are expressed at international conferences dealing with agriculture and rural development issues. CTA's Publications Distribution Service (PDS) will be a useful asset to all agriculture and rural development organizations in Liberia.

Potential partners and beneficiaries

In consideration of the information and capacity building needs of organizations interviewed in this survey, it clear that all of them with the exception of the FAO are in desperate need of CTA's intervention to transform the agriculture and rural development sector of Liberia.

It is our desire that CTA consider eight (8) of the 14 selected institutions, including, MOA, CARI, CAF/UL, G-BAG, LINNK, Daily Observer, Star Radio and WOCHIDO as potential and strategic partners for CTA's future intervention in Liberia. These organizations are best placed to benefit most from general assistance and from CTA's products and services. All of them operate for the direct benefit of farmers in rural communities, working closely with vulnerable groups and those desirous of engaging in meaningful activities.

The MOA is the agency of government responsible for planning and coordinating all agricultural activities in the country. The MOA is working to get a system of information for the farmers which will include technical information, marketing and price information, etc. CARI and CAF/UL conduct training and research activities for students, farmers and research fellows, while Daily Observer and Star Radio are both print and electronic media institutions that have a wider coverage within and outside the country. WOCHIDO is a rural-based organization focusing on women, young people and resource-poor farmers in target areas while LINNK is the umbrella organization of all national NGOs in Liberia. These organizations have the ability to deliver CTA products and services in a timely and efficient manner.

Recommendations

Following discussions and consultations with selected institutions and their personnel, it is recommended that Government of Liberia (GOL) and CTA provide special incentives to expand information and telecommunication technologies to remote locations in the country with emphasis on the following:

Information needs

The Government of Liberia acknowledges the extent to which Liberia will benefit from the advances of ICT will depend on how well it will be able to develop and harness its human resources to support, initiate and maintain the inclusion of local service providers into the overall Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). It is envisioned that CTA could assist some of them to address ICT training need in the following categories:

- Improved extension techniques through the use of available communication technology such as mobile phones, emails and the website facilities for small-scale farmers in rural areas;
- Radio and video production techniques;
- Collating and disseminating of market information;
- Developing and implementing ICM strategies and plans;
- Developing appropriate print and audio visual extension training packages for rural farmers.

During the assessment, all interviewees expressed the need for timely information, funding and training opportunities for agricultural and rural development-based organizations in Liberia. This should include information of training courses, conferences, seminars, workshop and meetings.

Although the Government of Liberia is trying to resuscitate the agricultural and rural development sectors, the Ministry of Agriculture, CARI, CAF/UL lack the requisite trained personnel, equipment and facilities to run an effective communication programme that would cater to the needs of farmers. Hence, CTA will be encouraged to provide advice and assistance to meet the challenges of capacity building.

Capacity Building Needs

In view of the findings of this study, it is recommended that CTA provides support (technical and financial) to the selected institutions so that they can access information from other sources that are involved in similar agricultural programmes and projects at the local, sub-regional and regional levels. This assistance should include but not limited to training opportunities; seminars, workshops, assessments and conferences.

Since most of the interviewees are not conversant with CTA's products and services, we wish to recommend that CTA establish linkages with local media institutions (Star Radio, Liberia Broadcasting System and Daily Observer) to create the much needed public awareness about what CTA has to offer in Liberia and other member nations.

It is also recommended that CTA assists the Ministry of Agriculture in Liberia, which has the statutory mandate to plan, supervise, monitor and evaluate agricultural activities in the country to produce brochures, leaflets and video documentaries on improved agricultural techniques while at the same time publicize the availability of CTA's products and services throughout Liberia's 15 counties.

Following discussions and consultations with selected institutions and their personnel, it is recommended that Government of Liberia (GOL) and CTA provide special incentives to expand information and telecommunication technologies to remote locations in the country with emphasis on the following:

- i. Support to the establishment of rural information centers complete with all information and communications gadgets, including computers with Internet access, local area and wide area networks, radio and television sets, telephones and fax machines, multimedia projectors, video and audio

- recorders, etc.;
- ii. Ensure market for mobile telephone is open to competition;
 - iii. Promote access to Internet service that has wider coverage and is competitive, and affordable;
 - iv. Promote universal access to telecommunications through broad geographic coverage, including signal coverage of mobile and broadcast networks throughout remote regions of the country;
 - v. Relevant civil servants, public and government officials, agriculture extension workers who are not computer proficient should be encouraged to undergo mandatory “introductory computer courses” to assist in the transitioning from manual processes to automated processes. Their training will focus on basic operation of the system as it relates to their job functions;
 - vi. It was made clear that CTA should devise appropriate strategies such that current information available to it can be harnessed by member nations in a timely manner for the benefit of users in the agriculture and rural development sectors. Therefore, CTA should build partnerships particularly in a post-conflict country like Liberia.

CTA’s Products and Services

CTA provide a wide range of products and services which are aimed at strengthening the capacity of African, Caribbean and Pacific individuals and countries to produce, obtain and exchange and use information in agricultural and rural development.

Although nearly all of the interviewees do not have ready access to CTA’s products and services, the MOA, CARI, CAF/UL and other selected institutions will be delighted to get hooked up with the Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) service through which research scientists in Liberia will be regularly provided with specific up-to-date information on research topics. The CD-ROM Research Programme that supports access to research centers, NGOs, Farmers’ Organizations and the Private Sector will be an opportunity for many here. Since 70% of Liberians are involved in agriculture, CTA Rural Radio Programme will be a useful channel to disseminate scientific and technical information to our rural farmers through the community radio stations.

In a bid to improve and build the human resource capacity of these institutions, the availability of and access to information on priority topics in agriculture and rural development, it is acknowledged that Co-seminars and Seminar Support Programmes of CTA will be encouraged. Other areas of support will include Seminar Support Programme. Through this programme, selected individuals should attend regional and international conferences on topics of relevance to their area of work. The programme also helps us to ensure that the views of participants are expressed at international conferences dealing with agriculture and rural development issues. CTA’s Publications Distribution Service (PDS) will be a useful asset to all agriculture and rural development organizations in Liberia.

Potential Strategic Partner institutions

The MOA should be chosen as a strategic partner with CTA to coordinate and facilitate the dissemination of information of its products and services throughout the country. The Information Management Division of the MOA would be very instrumental to assume such vital responsibility. The media (print and electronic), including state-owned Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS) and community radio stations will work with other institutions to promote CTA’s products and services nation-wide.

Mini libraries at the MOA, CAF/UL and FAO will secure and make available various CTA's products such as the *Spore* magazine to students, research fellows, farmers and personnel from other agriculture-related and media institutions in order to broaden their knowledge on diverse agricultural and rural development practices and research findings.

Massive awareness will be carried out by media institutions not necessarily included in the study but those that have the capacity to reach out to the rural masses.

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) is striving to develop and provide services that improve access to information for agricultural and rural development, and to strengthen the capacity of African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to produce, acquire, exchange and utilise information in this area. CTA's programmes are organised around three principal activities: providing an increasing range and quantity of information products and services and enhancing awareness of relevant information sources; supporting the integrated use of appropriate communication channels and intensifying contacts and information exchange and developing ACP countries capacity to generate and manage agricultural information and to formulate information and communication management (ICM) strategies including those relevant to science and technology.
2. Since 2003, CTA has been systematically conducting needs assessment studies across the Pacific, Caribbean and Africa regions. These studies are in direct response to assist CTA, improve and better target interventions and activities aimed at potential partners and beneficiaries (including women, youth, private sector, the media and civil society organizations) provide substantial information of their needs that would lead to the formulation of a strategy and framework of action
3. Through these partnerships, CTA hopes to increase the number of ACP organisations capable of accessing and combining modern and conventional ICTs, generating and managing information and developing their own ICM strategies. The identification of appropriate partners is therefore of primordial importance, whilst bearing in mind issues such as geographical coverage, decentralisation, regionalisation, thematic orientation and transparent and objective criteria and procedures for partner selection.
4. As a result of the study in Liberia, 14 organizations including media institutions, national research institution, women and small-scale farming organizations and NGOs were visited, selected and interviewed to ascertain their capacity building needs (IC policies and strategies, sensitization, networking skills, training, media, ICT and equipment).

2. COUNTRY PROFILE

5. Liberia is Africa's oldest Republic located on the western part of Africa, bordering to the west and northwest by Sierra Leone and Guinea, and to the east by Cote D'Ivoire. The total land area is estimated at 9,775,000 hectares consisting mainly of tropical rain forests. The arable land is estimated at 4.6 million hectares (46%) of the total land surface of which 4 million and 600,000 hectares are upland and swamps respectively. There is a potential pastureland of 182,000 hectares.
6. Liberia has a population of 3.5 million and the growth rate is 2.1 percent (Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo Information Services – LISGIS, 2008). Life expectancy is only 39 years and the fertility rate is 6.8 live births per woman, which is one of the highest in the world. Infant and child maternal mortality rates are high. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that the maternal mortality ratio is 760 deaths for every 100,000 births, while the infant mortality ratio is 156.8 deaths for every 1,000 live births.
7. Liberia has a tropical climate characterized by two seasons - the rainy season and the dry season. The rainy season starts in May and ends in October of each year while the dry season starts in November and ends in March of the following year. The average annual rainfall is 2,373 mm per annum.
8. Liberia's 16 ethnic groups make up 95 percent of the population and are divided into three main cultural groups. Tribes in each group share linguistic and traditional similarities. These groups are the Mende and Mel from the western, central and northern regions of the country and the Kwa, from the coastal and heavily forested southeastern region. Other tribes include the Krahn, Mandingo, Gio and Mano. Americo-Liberians, descendants of freed American slaves and the Congo People, freed slaves from the Caribbean make up the other five percent of the population. There also are sizable numbers of Lebanese, Indians, and other West African nationals who comprise part of Liberia's business community. The Liberian constitution restricts citizenship to only people of Negro descent, and land ownership is restricted to citizens. In terms of religion, 40 percent of the population practises indigenous beliefs, 40 percent Christianity and 20 percent Islam.
9. In 2006 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (purchasing power parity) was estimated by some at almost 3 billion, with a GDP of about \$900 per capita, but by the World Bank at \$631 million, with per capita at about \$185, with real GDP growth rate of 7.8% and an average annual inflation 7.2% in 2006. Natural resources: Iron ore, rubber, timber, diamonds, gold, and tin. There is also mining of lead, barite, cyanite, graphite, manganese. The Government of Liberia believes there may be sizable deposits of crude oil along its Atlantic Coast.
10. A greater part of the population (70%), which primarily resides in rural Liberia, depends on agriculture for their livelihoods. Before the country's civil crisis, it had established itself as a traditional exporter of cash crops, primarily, rubber coffee, cocoa and sugarcane. In 2006, export trade accounts for over \$157.8 million of which rubber \$150 million. The major markets are Germany, Poland, United States of America and Greece. Imports accounted for \$466.7million with two

essential commodities petroleum netting \$122 million and rice, the country's staple, \$62 million.

11. Liberia has a bicameral legislature consisting of 64 representatives and 30 senators. The 2005 election placed a spectrum of political personalities in the legislature, most for six-year terms. Senior senators were elected for nine-year terms. Historically, the executive branch heavily influenced the legislature and judicial system.
12. The judiciary is divided into four levels, including justices of the peace, courts of record (magistrate courts), courts of first instance (circuit and specialty courts), and the Supreme Court. Traditional courts and lay courts exist in rural areas of the country. Trial by ordeal, though officially outlawed, is practiced in various parts of Liberia. The formal judicial system remains hampered by severe shortages of qualified judges and other judicial officials. Locally, political power emanates from traditional chiefs (town, clan, or paramount chiefs), mayors, and district commissioners. Mayors are elected in principal cities in Liberia. Superintendents appointed by the President govern the counties. There are 15 counties in Liberia.

2.1 Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Livestock

2.1.1 Agriculture

13. The agriculture sector is a major source of employment (nearly 70% of economically active population is engaged in the sector), the dominant contributor to export trade and earnings (accounting for over 90% of exports, nearly all being rubber), and a source of livelihood for a greater number of people than any other sector.
14. Liberia's agricultural sector is dominated by traditional subsistence farming systems on uplands, characterized by labor intensity, shifting cultivation, low technologies, and low to near absence of inputs, resulting in low productivity. While production of rice has fallen, roots and tubers (particularly cassava) generally sustained increases. The level of rice self sufficiency is far below the national requirement. Vegetable production is also far below consumption levels.
15. Small acreages of tree crops are maintained for generating cash income, while rice, intercropped with vegetables and other food crops, occupy the major portion of cultivated land (about 87%), which is on the upland. Currently over 95% of Liberia's farms are located on uplands, which are far less productive and contribute to environmental degradation. A secondary root and tuber based farming system (involving some cereals) is concentrated in the northern region, and a third farming system occurs in the costal belt with fishing as a major activity complemented with mixed cropping.
16. Commercial agricultural activities are almost exclusively plantation estates of rubber, coffee, cocoa, and oil palm, which (except for oil palm) do virtually no value addition and produce exclusively for export. Besides the plantations estates, very little private sector investment has been made in the agriculture sector, (except for limited commodities trading which has persisted over the years, and a few recently established poultry and livestock farms)
17. The Ministry of Agriculture, of Liberia through its various Departments and

programmes is the primary government body responsible for the development of the agriculture sector, It does so by ensuring that an effective organizational structure is put in place and manned by staff capable of planning, coordinating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating agricultural development programmes. A policy and strategy document of the agriculture sector developed by the MOA in collaboration with FAO in 2008, aims to achieve: (1) Pro poor agriculture and agriculture business development, (2) food and nutrition security and (3) human and institutional capacity development. While the MOA has remained central, numerous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have emerged. A major challenge is the integration, harmonization and coordination of the activities of the estimated 600 NGOs involved in food security and/or rural development into the mainstream of the national agriculture development plans and to ensure that resources are decentralized.

18. The Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) Liberia's agricultural research system is now in ruins due to the civil crisis. Public sector research includes other agencies beyond CARI, including the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), Liberia Rubber Research Institute (LRRI), and Department of Fisheries. These agencies have had little interaction in the past. There is need for greater collaboration, cooperation and coordination between these agencies, CARI, universities, extension systems, private and civil society sector actors, and users of research results. This would build on the synergies and complementarities that exist among them.
19. The biggest challenge facing CARI is how to revitalize itself to achieve its mission and mandate, rebuild important previous partnerships with the University of Liberia (UL), CGIAR centers such as WARDA and IITA as well as regional agricultural networks.
20. Prior to the war, the state engaged in agricultural marketing in both input and output markets. Intervention in output markets was particularly invasive, with a number of parastatal organizations mandated as the monopoly marketing agencies and a Cooperative Development Agency was established to coordinate small-holders. These State marketing organizations are: The Liberia Produce Marketing Corporation (LPMC) was mandated to procure from farmers' cooperatives and farmers in general farm products, and package them for subsequent exports to buyers. It was also charged with the responsibilities of providing farm advisory service at all levels. The Liberia Cocoa and Coffee Corporation (LCCC), was set up to build the capacity of cocoa and coffee growers with the provision of farm advisory services such as nursery development, farm layout and planting operations.
21. The National Palm Corporation (NPC) was charged with the responsibility of overseeing and managing Government owned oil palm holdings. The NPC failed to survive not only because of the civil crisis, but primarily due to poor management.
22. The Liberia Rubber Development Authority (LRDA), formerly the Liberia Rubber Development Unit (LRDU), was established to build the capacity of small holder rubber producers with farm size within the range of 2 – 5 acres with improved seedlings, extension services and marketing.
23. The Co-operatives Development Agency (CDA) was set up to build awareness on cooperative movement and the benefits to the economy, assist in the organization and development of cooperatives, registering and certificating

cooperatives and advocating on their behalf.

2.1.2 Fisheries

24. The fisheries sub-sector contributed 12 percent of agricultural GDP and 3.2 percent of the GDP of the country in 2002. The sub-sector creates job opportunities and income earnings for a substantial number of urban and rural inhabitants particularly the youth and women.
25. The artisanal fishery provides a means of livelihood to approximately 33,000 full-time fishers and processors in the coastal counties. Liberian participation is about 80% with females accounting for about 60% (Bureau of National Fisheries - BNF 2004). There are an estimated number of 3,473 canoes operating in the marine waters of Liberia only 8% are motorized (BNF 2004).
 - i. 26. The industrial fishery is high capital investment involving fishing trawlers and cold storage facilities. There are currently fourteen (14) fishing companies operating in Liberia: 6 companies are exclusively engaged in the importation of frozen fish from the high seas, and 8 companies are engaged in fish catching activities operating 27 fishing vessels with a combined Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) of approximately 4,000 tons.
 27. Fish farming in Liberia is largely subsistent. There are about 3,581 fish farmers nationwide engaged in some form of fish culture on part-time basis. 449 ponds of various sizes with a total area of 17.47 hectares are distributed in 159 communities around the country. Presently, there are 704 women participating in aquaculture¹.
 28. The major species cultured in Liberia are *Oreochromis niloticus* and other local species of Tilapia, and catfishes, including *Heterobranchus longifilis* and *Clarias spp.*

2.1.3 Forestry

29. The country is situated within the tropical rain forest belt of West Africa and occupies 43% of the remaining Upper Guinea Forest, of which 42% is covered by rain forest. The land area is 9.58 million hectares. The forest land is 5.7 million hectares (59% of total land area). The area for conservation/preservation is 1.5 million hectares (30% of the total forest area of Liberia). The multiple use of forest area is 4.0 million hectares (70% of the total forest area of Liberia). (FDA Annual Report – January 1 – December 31, 2007)
30. Considering the biodiversity contents of Liberia's forest, the country has a diverse plant and animal species, which include 590 bird species; 125 mammal species, 74 reptile and amphibian species; 1,000 insects species; 2,000 flowering plants, 59 endemic to Liberia; 240 timber species of which about 60 species have been exported. In 2002, timber and logs production accounted for one million cubic meters and contributed 50% of export earnings with a 20% to government's revenue intake. 10,000 Liberians are directly employed by the forestry sector².

¹. Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Bureau of National Fisheries – 2007 estimates).

². Source: Forestry Development Authority (FDA) Annual Report – 2002.

31. Liberia's forest ecosystem can today be divided into four classes: primary dense forest, climax secondary forest, secondary forest (which has not reached climax) and other mixed vegetation. This forest ecosystem is a major component of one of the 25 biodiversity hotspots identified by Conservation International. The Mount Nimba, Cestos-Senkwen River Shed, Lofa-Mano and Sapo National Park areas contain many endemic species. These four areas are among the 14 centers of plant endemic within the Upper Guinea Hotspot.

2.1.4 Livestock

32. The livestock sub sector has been decimated as a result of the years of civil conflict and current livestock population is inadequate. The fisheries sub sector is under developed with good potential for growth; only about 6.8% of sustainable yield is harvested annually.
33. Historically, traditional farmers use local, less productive animals and basis techniques, with access to few inputs and receive very little or no government support services. The native Liberian cattle species consist of the *N'dama* and *Muturu* races, and are all typano-tolerant as are the *Djallonke* type of small ruminants. These races are well adapted to local conditions. Livestock (as few as 2 – 3 heads per proprietor) are left to roam free, scavenging for food. *N'dama* cattle account for 41% of all local cattle but are of low productivity; their average carcass weight is 95kg; the age of first calving ranges from 30 m- 35 months; weight of calves is typically less than 18 kg; fertility rate rarely exceeds 82%; the mortality rate during the first years is estimated at 27%. Dairy production is essentially nil. Sheep and goats of *Djallonke* breed are also of low productivity; average carcass weights are 11 and 9kg respectively (Hoste, 1984).
34. According to data from Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MIC), imports of meat and meat products in 2005/6 amounted to six million United States dollars (US\$6m). An estimated 26,000 heads of live cattle and 15,000 – 16,000 of live sheep and goats were imported from neighboring countries (estimated to equate to, respectively, 3,000mt and 312mt).

2.2 Brief Description of the Status of ICT infrastructure and Recent Developments in the Sector

35. Access to information and communication technologies is critical for Liberia's emerging democracy and should serve as an important tool for community's participation in economic and political development of the nation. The GOL has embarked on a national agenda that involves the telecommunications and ICT sectors to better the lives of its citizens and alleviate poverty through inducing economic activities and ensure that citizens are stakeholders in the national policy agenda.
36. The merging of communications and computing technology with printing and public information using intelligent tools has made the availability of information easier. The prospects of information technology for Liberia are tremendous. Nowadays, it is becoming increasingly difficult to run an office without using computers. Desktop machines and laptops are gradually replacing traditional office typewriters.

37. Secondary and primary schools, universities, public and private offices are now equipped with computers, even though some of these computers are obsolete and frequently malfunction.
38. Since the introduction of computers and Internet services in Liberia, there has been significant increase in the number of users. Regrettably, bulk of the Internet services are confined in Monrovia and extend to some major Counties and towns in rural areas. With the growing importance of Internet connectivity and the potentials of ICTs in furthering economic and social development, defining national ICT policies and strategies are now high on the agenda.
39. In April 2007, a Conference on ICT for Development, code name, Vision 2010 was held in Monrovia to articulate government policy direction for the evolution of the ICT sector and its impact on the overall Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). The Government of Liberia recognizes the role information communication technology has in the creation of an innovative and information-rich society, where telecommunications services are attractive, everywhere and of high quality. Moreover, the Government realizes that its ability to accelerate its economic development process and gain global competitiveness and improve the well being of its people depends on the extent that it can develop, use and sell ICT in one form or another. Concrete outcomes were achieved from the conference addressing ICT applications in healthcare, agriculture, education, commerce, infrastructure, security and rule of law, among others.
40. There is a significant lack of skills to use computers and Internet connectivity, wherever available is unaffordable by many users. The use of Internet is also constrained by the lack of trained personnel to carryout routine maintenance and trouble shooting. At present, it is assumed that each government ministry and agency has computers ranging from 50 – 100 or more sets (though older generation computers). However, there has been no accurate record on the stock of computers across sectors and the availability of Internet services.
41. Public Internet services are provided in some resource centers, libraries and Internet cafes. The irregular and non-existent of electricity supplies are common and a major barrier in the use of computers and Internet services, especially outside Monrovia. The bulk of power supply in the country is provided through privately-run generators. Tax regimes still consider computer and cell phones as luxury items, which makes them more expensive and even less obtainable by the majority. Another factor is that the road and transport networks are limited, costly to use and often in poor conditions
42. Broadcasting policy for Liberia which seeks to protect and promote constitutional principles and in particular respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law have been developed and passed into law the Liberian National Legislature in July 2008.
43. The Liberian telecommunications sector is continuing to show a more liberal policy to attract foreign investments and to improve its infrastructure and service. This trend is reflected in the independence as a regulatory agency.
44. The National Telecommunications Policy of September 2008 requires mobile telecommunication operations to open the market and support the licensing of six (6) public telecommunications using wireless technology. The licenses are

required to provide services which are modern technology such as GSM technology, CDMA, or WiMAX platform to route telecommunications signals and allow the provisions of voice telephony, data transmission and video services.

45. Fixed telecommunications operations policy is to open the market and support the licensing of two (2) fixed facilities-based operations for the provision of land-based and terrestrial telecommunications networks, which use modern technology to route traffic/calls between other carrier facilities and end users. Fixed license is required to provide international call termination services.
46. The policy of ICT facility-based networks provides an open market including local area networks (LAN) metro area networks (MAN) and wide area networks (WAN) and data storage facilities. These networks support the provision of ICT services like Internet, fax, voice over Internet protocol (VOIP), electronic mail (E-mail), Internet café, telecentres, enterprise business solutions, audio and video conferencing.

3. STATUS OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Institutional and Regulatory Policy Framework

47. The Ministry of Agriculture does not have a policy on ICM, even though some efforts have been made by the Liberia Information Communication and Technology for Development (LICT4D) to reflect government's policy and vision for the evolution of the ICT sector and its impact on the overall Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). The GOL realizes that its ability to accelerate its economic development process and gain global competitiveness and improve the well being of its people depends on the extent that it can develop, use and sell ICT in one form or another. However, the Comprehensive Assessment of the Agriculture Sector of Liberia (CAAS-Lib), conducted in 2006/2007 coupled with the FAPS recognize the need for information and management for returnee farmers, community based farming groups and commercial and individual farmers.
48. Currently, the government of Liberia has embarked upon county, regional and town hall meetings for the purpose of developing land reform programmes. Many interviewees consider the land issue as very critical for the country's new democracy in land acquisition for agricultural purposes. The Government has imminent domain on all lands (private or communal) and has professed to maximize the use of private lands that are not utilized for national development purposes.
49. The communication strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture seeks to increase public awareness and participation in the implementation of the country's food and nutrition sector. Information is disseminated through various media channels, example, radio, television, brochures, leaflets, pamphlets, newsletters, technical bulletins and to some extent through Internet connectivity. All of the media institutions and agricultural and rural development organizations visited did not mention any government legislation that poses restrictions to meet their information needs as regards collation, dissemination and retrieval.
50. In Liberia, there are no policies that restrict communications and exchange of information including agricultural and rural development information in both the print and electronic media. Newspapers and radio stations are operated by private individuals with the exception of the state-owned Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS), which operates both radio and television reaching about 40 percent of the listening and viewing audiences as well as the New Liberia newspaper with a circulation of 2,000 copies, published three times weekly.
51. The Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism (MICAT), which is Government's regulatory arm for media activities has no jurisdiction over the content of and opinions expressed in news organs and other publications. Article 15 of the 1986 Constitution provides that every person have the right to freedom of expression. This right which goes along with responsibility is not constrained, restricted or enjoined by the Government.

52. MICAT is charged with the responsibility to grant authorization to media institutions to operate including foreign journalists who might be on special assignments in the country. Frequency for broadcast media (radio and television) is provided by the LTA, while MICAT gives the authorization for them to operate, for example the granting of licenses to community radio stations that promotes information on agriculture and rural development.
53. Concerns were raised by almost all of the interviewees on the lack of coordination and collaboration between Government ministries and agencies as well as inadequate training opportunities. The ineffectiveness of extension service delivery poses serious impediment in the management of information and communication for agriculture and rural development.

3.2 Operational Aspects

3.2.1 Description of Agricultural Information and Services

54. The Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) is a semi autonomous agency of government responsible for agricultural research in Liberia, the only one so far established to date. In pre-war years, research results from CARI were released locally to extension agents and farmers and published internationally. Nonetheless, the College of Agriculture and Forestry of the University of Liberia (CAF/UL) and the Cuttington University College (CUC) are also involved into some research activities. CARI has a very strong linkage with international organizations such as West African Rice Development Association (WARDA) now Africa Rice Center, based in Benin, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), FARA, CORAF, etc.
55. As a result of the civil war, the documentation center (library) at the Ministry of Agriculture was completely vandalized and books and other useful materials stolen. With support from the FAO, two mini libraries were set up (one at the Ministry's main office and the other at FAO). Students from high schools, colleges, universities as well as representatives from NGOs, community-based organizations and research fellows visit these libraries on a routine basis to conduct research and obtain useful technical information.
56. As a means of translating improved knowledge and skills to targeted beneficiaries mostly farmers and agricultural extension agents, the MOA in collaboration with FAO and other NGOs, the concept of Farmer Field School (FFS) is being introduced whereby 250,000 farmers will be trained within a period of three years.
57. As regards education and training courses in agriculture and rural development, under graduate (BSc.) degrees are being offered locally at the CUC, UL and AMEU, while post graduate degrees are sought within the sub region or in Europe or America. Technical colleges including BWI, multilateral institutes in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County and Voinjama, Lofa County offer training opportunities in agriculture at the diploma level, while the Rural Development Institute (RDI) once offered Associate degree in general agriculture.

3.2.2 Information Sources

58. Of the 25 institutions selected, only 14 were interviewed. This is due to the fact that those who were not interviewed are skeptical of the outcome from such a

study. They argued that countless studies have been conducted referencing their organizations without tangible results. With the exception of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), there are no special libraries established for agricultural books and materials.

59. Some international Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as Concern Worldwide and the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) operate resource centers where Internet services and resource materials are made available for mostly their implementing partners (IPs). Most of the professional staff interviewed intimated of their personal collections and reliance on the website Google for information which in some instances the information is obsolete and not up-to-date.
60. The institutions and organizations made mention of their close relationship with beneficiaries, mostly farmers by means of extension services. The Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, and other UN agencies, agriculture related NGOs are major providers of information to targeted beneficiaries. Periodic surveys on food and nutrition, capacity building, farming inputs and market information are conducted to obtain information on their needs. Farmer Field School (FFS) concept is being implored by the Ministry and FAO to initially train 250 master farmers and agriculture technicians who will then train other farmers on improved farming techniques and low input approaches.
61. A monthly meeting of the Agriculture Coordination Committee (ACC), which is chaired by the MOA, is also a channel of information sharing among relevant stakeholders in the agriculture and rural development sector. Periodic meetings, conferences, workshops, symposia, training programmes and other mediums have proven useful for the exchange of information. Study tours, agricultural fairs and training and visits to share experiences and learn lessons are also sources to obtain general and specific information as well as skills for personnel of these institutions.
62. The Universities (University of Liberia – UL, Cuttington University College – CUC and African Methodist and Ecumenical University – AMEU) and the Booker Washington (BWI) – a technical college, provide useful source of agriculture information to students and researchers of their respective colleges. The Ministry of Agriculture and FAO have been producing the Liberian Farmer magazine and quarterly newsletters, which are not scientific in nature, but provide useful information on who is doing what and where including success stories about the Ministry, its parastatals and agriculture-related organizations. Information are also sourced through international research institutes; WARDA, IITA, IRRI, USAID, among others.

*Table 1: Internal and external sources used by organizations
(Count = number of organizations per response category)*

Source	Count
Internal	
Individuals knowledge and information	13
Data base	2
Internet	10
Library	2
External	

Source	Count
Organization	
CARI	13
Beneficiaries (meetings with small-scale farmers and CBOs)	13
International organizations	1
Non-Governmental Organizations	6
Universities	1
Print	
Agricultural magazines	2
Newsletters	4
Personal collections	13
Posters	5
Research Reports	3
Electronic	
CD-ROM	2
Internet	13
Radio	4
TV	2
Video	3
Other	
Agricultural Fairs	1
Personal Contacts	13
Workshop, training courses, conferences	4

Source: *Personal interviews of identified and selected institutions for CTA survey - 2008*

With exception of the two organizations (MOA and FAO) that were interviewed, the others indicated that they are not aware of the online information resources being provided by CTA.

3.2.3 Information Products and Services Provided

63. In most instances, information is provided through extension communication. Newsletters, brochures, magazines, assessment reports are also channels used in communicating to farmers and extension workers. Some radio and television stations are beginning to utilize their airtime for agriculture and rural development programmes. The Ministry of Agriculture has a 30-minute programme on Star Radio, titled, "Farmers Forum and the Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS), has a programme called "On the Farm". The Ministry also has a website: www.moa.gov.lr. The MOA, LISGIS, FAO, Ministry of Commerce (MOC), Central Bank of Liberia (CBL), Ministry of Internal Affairs, FAO and WFP have begun collecting data on market information for dissemination to users in urban and rural areas.

3.2.4 Information and Communication Management Capacity

64. In this study, information includes items such as: technical reports, files (hard and electronic) and correspondence, collections of books, bulletins, newsletters, photographs, videos, audio cassettes, data sets (e.g. statistical data, market information), advisory services. The institutions were profiled using a data capture format that identified the role, mission, fields of specialization, current work programme, sources of information and use of information and communication technologies.

65. With the exception of the MOA, FAO, CAF/UL, Star Radio and LBS, all the other stakeholders do not have personnel responsible for information communication management. These organizations have to be capacitated to improve their information and communication management capacities. Most of the Communication and Public Relation Officers majority of whom are High School graduates (certificates and diplomas) with few from technical colleges and Universities (AA Degrees & B.Sc.) are not well trained to deliver technical and agriculture related information to beneficiaries. There are very few trained librarians to handle records, books and other reading materials. They require trained staff to develop and expand their activities.
66. Communication refers specifically to the mechanisms for the dissemination and exchange of information through various means such as: radio and TV programmes, email, websites, electronic discussion groups, meetings, television and publications.
67. The MOA has a Division of Information Management comprising, IT and Communications. These two sections complement each other in the collation and dissemination of information through print and electronic media. Unlike major partners, smaller groups are dependent on commercial Internet services to transmit and retrieve information. They do not have any budget for ICM as they operate on meager operational funds. The MOA has infused into its 2008/2009 fiscal budget the amount of US\$38,000 (€29,000) to start its ICM activities. This amount may increase under the recast budget depending on the needs expressed. Equipment and other resources are provided under a different budget line.
68. Nowadays, most of the ministries and agencies of Government including, MOA, CARI, as well as NGOs in the agriculture sector hire qualified and well trained personnel that is charged with the responsibility of providing information technology (IT) support, such as access to Internet services and designing websites. In all other cases, the responsibility to manage their institutions information was left in the hands of a particular secretary or an office attendant.
69. From July 14 – 18, 2008, three staff members of the Communications Division of the MOA represented Liberia at a CTA sponsored First Voice International (FVI) training programme: Agricultural Information Production with Satellite Receivers for Anglophone Countries in Accra, Ghana. Relevant and updated agricultural information sources are often difficult to obtain for rural and remote communities throughout Africa. Many agriculturally focused NGOs and extension offices are off the Internet grid or have intermittent, limited, or prohibitively expensive service. In order to deliver timely, relevant and cost effective agricultural information FVI uses a system to deliver web-based content via satellite. This system, called the FVI Multimedia Service (MMS), allows users to access important development information by connecting their PC to a satellite receiver; this allows the user to download 64kbps of content directly onto a hard drive without depending on any terrestrial infrastructure or ISP.

*Table 2: Information services and products being provided by organizations through various communications channels
(Count = number of organizations per response category)*

Service	Provided by	Count
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Service	Provided by	Count
Conferences, seminars and workshops	MOA, FAO, CAF/UL	3
Database for beneficiaries	MOA and FAO	2
Extension service	MOA, CARI, WOCHIDO, ODAFARA, G-BAG, BADU	6
Farmers Field Days	MOA, CARI,	2
Meetings with beneficiaries	MOA, FAO, CARI, WOCHIDO, LRDA, ODAFARA, G.GAG, LINNK, LIN FU, BADU	10
Newsletters or magazines	MOA, FAO, Daily Observer	3
Pictorial and/or audio visual materials	MAO, FAO,	2
Press release	MOA, FAO, LINNK, CARI, LINFU, CAF/UL, Star Radio, Daily Observer	8
Print information	MOA, FAO	2
Radio	Star Radio	1
Research reports	CARI, CAF/UL	2
Tertiary agriculture training	BWI,	1
Website with information	MOA, FAO and CAF.UL	3

Source: *Personal interviews of identified and selected institutions for CTA survey - 2008*

3.3 Interventions Supporting Information and Communication for Agriculture and Rural development

- 70 Most Liberian farmers have little or no access to information communication technology. Computers donated by partners to some NGOs are obsolete and broke down frequently. The Liberian Information Communication and Technology for Development (LCTD4D) Policy is the first of its kind to be formulated in Liberia. Its development comes at a critical juncture in the push for total national development of the interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme (iPRSP). The GOL recognizes the significance of ICT to not only leapfrog its efforts in poverty reduction but also accelerate some aspects of realizing the MDGs.
71. A policy document for the realization of objectives in the iPRSP and the subsequent PRS of the GOL using ICT as a catalytic engine to transform Liberia from a post-conflict stricken country into a prosperous information-rich and knowledge-based country in 15 years has been developed.
72. The GOL realizes that increased arms to ICT infrastructure – the foundation upon which ICT sector is found is a critical tool for agriculture, trade and rural development as well as major contributor to poverty reduction. It is a recognized fact that if Liberia is to accelerate its economic development process and gain global competitiveness and improve the well-being of its people will depend largely on the use of ICT in one form or another.

73. Although ICT is beginning to gain momentum in Liberia, it is evident from this assessment study that personal interaction with farmers to exchange ideas has proven to be the most effective means of acquiring skills and knowledge. Additionally, radio is an effective medium of information dissemination and education, hence, more than 26 community radio stations are now operating in rural Liberia and they broadcast agriculture and rural development programmes in English but mostly in vernacular languages accustomed to the listeners
74. Agricultural libraries and information centers play a vital role in acquiring, processing and disseminating agricultural information to extension workers. However, the existing few ones are concentrated in Monrovia. Extension workers and other stakeholders based in the rural areas find it difficult to access information from these libraries and information centers. It is against this background that some international Non governmental Organizations (NGOs) have established resource centers in the leeward counties.
75. Local Area Networks (LAN) and Wide Area Networks (WAN) in central and government offices, urban and rural communities, educational institutions, agricultural and health facilities, commercial related agencies, security related agencies and financial related institutions are being established. The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications has established four regional headquarters for postal services and) post offices in eight (8) of the 15 counties.
76. As a result of the low level of training and access to ICTs, which include fixed-line telephones, computers with Internet facilities, most of the interveners in the agriculture and rural development sector are unable to communicate with their beneficiaries mostly small-scale farmers and fisher folks. Some international NGOs including Concern World Wide and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) are operating resource centers in areas of their operations.

4. INSTITUTIONAL NEEDS ANALYSIS (STRENGTHS, MAIN BOTTLENECKS/SHORTCOMINGS)

This section which is the most important part of the report draws on the findings in section 3 and the findings in Annex 3.2. In section 3, the study captured the institutional and regulatory policy framework of government as well as information sources, needs and ICM capacity building needs. Annex 3.2 gathered extensive data and other information on selected list of key institutions involved in agriculture and rural development, the problems faced and why they are considered as key actors.

Table 3: Strengths and weakness of institutions interviewed as regards their information and capacity building needs

#	Name of Institution	Strengths	Weaknesses
1	MOA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political will to support agriculture and rural development • Appropriate policies • Available human resources • 70% farming population • Ability to implement programmes and projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak extension service • Inadequate trained staff • Inadequate funding • Lack of awareness of ICTs tools and services • Illiterate farmers and food producers • Inappropriate methods of information transfer • Lack of education to create awareness in the role and potential of ICTs
2	LRDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to providing extension services to rubber producers nationwide • Skilled staff • Ability to expand services to rural farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of commitment and willingness by policy and decision makers • Lack of awareness of ICTs tools and services • No access to Internet services • Lack of education to create awareness on the role and potential of ICTs

#	Name of Institution	Strengths	Weaknesses
3	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to Government's policies and legislations • Providing technical guidance to farmers • Support to research and extension • Provision of emergency assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding limitations
4	CAF/UL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imparting knowledge to students of higher learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited trained instructional staff
5.	Liberian Observer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to inform the public on a sustained basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate trained staff • Funding limitations to expand services to its readers
6.	Star Radio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to inform the public through the electronic media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate trained staff • Funding limitations to expand services to its readers
7.	WOCHIDO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of extension services to women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited funding • Lack of trained manpower
8.	GADP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of root and tuber crops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Untrained workers • Limited financial resources
9.	CARI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of research findings to farmers and extension workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No knowledge on ICM • Limited funding to undertake research activities • Inadequate research scientists
10.	LINFU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to organize and train farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding limitation • Lack of equipment to work with
11.	ODAFARA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision or extension services to farmers • Inputs distribution to farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding limitations • Inadequate training for staff
12.	BADU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision or extension services to farmers • Inputs distribution to farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding limitations • Inadequate training for staff
13.	G-BAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision or extension services to farmers • Inputs distribution to farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding limitations • Inadequate training for staff
14.	LINNK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to manage the consortium of NGOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited funding for NGOs in the sector • Low level of training

Source: *Personal interviews of identified and selected institutions for CTA survey – 2008*

4.1 Information Needs

77. In Liberia, information needs are enormous as expressed by most of the organizations interviewed during the assessment study. The use of computers and Internet services are not widely used especially in the rural areas due to lack of service by Internet providers, inadequate training, limited facilities and obsolete equipment as well high costs associated with commercial service providers.
78. Almost all of the institutions visited expressed their difficulties associated with sourcing information. Except for the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO that have so far developed and produced newsletters, magazine CDs, DVD, video tapes on a regular basis depending on the availability of funds, few organizations and international NGOs such as German Agro Action (GAA), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Sustainable Tree Crops Programme (STCP) with support of the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) based in Nigeria and ACDI/VOCA have also produced brochures on how to grow food and tree crops, raising animals and fish farming through simple English and illustrations.

Table 4: Information needed by institutions to service on-going programmes

Name of Institution	Information Needs	Preferred format
Ministry of Agriculture	Technical information on agriculture and rural development, Market information, Extension methods and use of ICT's; Costing of equipment, How to grow food and tree crops; Raising small ruminants	Materials suitable for mass distribution Visual and pictorial information
CARI	Timely and sector-specific production data, Market information, Extension methods and use of ICT's; New developments in the sector; International regulations, Networking	Scientific articles in journals

Name of Institution	Information Needs	Preferred format
CAF/UL	Post harvest; Networking; management of information, technical information	Scientific articles in journals
LINFU	Networking, Technical information on agriculture and rural development; Food and tree crops	Information suitable for mass distribution
LINNK	Networking, Technical information on agriculture and rural development; Food and tree crops	Information suitable for mass distribution
WOCHIDO	Post harvest, snail farming, market information; new developments in the sector	Information suitable for mass distribution
G-BAG	Extension methods and use of ICT;s ; Rural development information, Technical Information	Information suitable for mass distribution
ODAFARA	Extension methods and use of ICT's; Rural development information, Technical Information	Information suitable for mass distribution Visual or pictorial information

Source: *Personal interviews of identified and selected institutions for CTA survey - 2008*

4.2 Capacity-building Needs (IC Policies and Strategies, Sensitization, Networking, Skills, Training, Media, ICT, Equipment)

79. Capacity refers to the ability of the institution to identify and satisfy their information needs. Consequently, the tabulated responses to questions on capacity building refer to the need for equipment, funds, additional staff and the need for staff training, to better manage information and communication activities. Although not identified by several respondents, there were performance and skills gaps that suggested there might be need for assistance to develop a strategic information policy for Liberia.

Table 5: Identified needs by institutions for building capacity for improvement in the

management of information.

Name of Institution	Capacity building needs
Ministry of Agriculture	Training for extension staff; resource center for staff, students, and farmers; human resource information management; training of staff to produce newsletters and magazines; training of personnel to translate technical information into simple English and in local dialects; provision of computer resources; adequate funding to carryout on-going programmes and projects; adequate funds to undertake printing of technical bulletins, brochures, etc; recruitment and training of staff to manage all aspects of information management; information cataloguing system; information specialists to manage production and marketing data; functional website
CARI	Training of research and extension specialists; training of staff to manage all aspects of information management; timely collection of data in the field and subsequent download; training of staff to produce newsletters and magazines; training of personnel to translate technical information into simple English and in local dialects; provision of computer resources; adequate funding to carryout on-going programmes and projects;
CAF/UL	Training of young staff to replace ageing professors; funds to undertake printing of technical bulletins, brochures, etc; functional website; Electronic record management,
Daily Observer	Functional website; training of staff to report technical information on agriculture and rural development; database management; provision of computer resources, adequate funding to carryout on-going activities
Star Radio	Functional website; training of staff to report technical information on agriculture and rural development; database management; provision of computer resources, adequate funding to carryout on-going activities
WOCHIDO	Training for extension staff; provision of computer resources; adequate funding to carryout on-going programmes and projects;
LINNK	Computer resources; Secretariat with trained staff members; funds to implement planned programmes; recruitment of additional staff to catalogue information.
ODAFARA	Funds to implement programmes and projects; training of staff in extension methodologies; computer resources; Information management system
G-BAG	Funds to implement programmes and projects; training of staff in extension methodologies; computer resources; Information management system

Source: *Personal interviews of identified and selected institutions for CTA survey - 2008*

4.3 Feedback on CTA's Products and Services

80. To a large extent, nearly all of the interviewees do not have ready access to information except from colleagues in the same organization or through discussions, reports and information sharing. Some of the personnel interviewed were of the opinion that CTA is a chartered accounting firm because of their limited knowledge of its products and services. They expressed firm desire to benefit from CTA's products and services if given the opportunity. Only WOCHIDO, the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Forestry of the University of Liberia (CAF/UL) and the Ministry of Agriculture have so far benefited from CTA's products and services through the provision of the *Spore* magazine as well as short term training opportunities in agriculture communication and related fields.
81. According to the respondents interviewed, CTA publications have been very useful to them although limited availability of publications for distribution that will support training and decision making in the agriculture and rural development sector.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

5.1.1 Information Needs

82. The information needs as expressed by the interviewees were predominately in the areas of production, marketing data, extension methods and use of ICTs as well as rural development information and technical information. This includes the need for timely and sector specific production data as indicated by the Ministry of Agriculture.
83. Personalities interviewed during the study indicated their reliance on personal efforts and interaction with friends and other organizations in-country and via Internet to acquire needed information in the discharge of their duties. It goes without saying that all of the organizations that are selected would be in a better position to access information readily through contacts with other networks, which offer similar services and best practices.
84. It was made clear that CTA should devise appropriate strategies such that current information available to it can be harnessed in a timely manner for the benefit of users in the agriculture and rural development sectors. Therefore, CTA should build partnerships particularly in a post-conflict country like Liberia.
85. It is important to prioritize the use of agricultural information system but the development of contents by subject matter specialists to support the production is very essential. This is why training sessions are necessary in the following areas: scientific writing, statistical methods, website creation, writing annual reports, writing project proposals, radio production techniques, editing and publication, among others.
86. The use of transistor radio is an important channel whereby farmers and residents in rural communities are adequately informed on agricultural and technical information that impact (negatively or positively) their lives. The Ministry of Agriculture has radio programmes on two radio stations which have a wider coverage of most parts of the country. Star Radio and ELBC have trained personnel in disc jockey and magazine programmes but none of them has knowledge in producing and presenting programmes that can convey the much desired information in agriculture.
87. Prominent amongst one of the limiting factors that continue to weaken the agriculture sector of the economy is the lack of effective and available agricultural and market information to both the farmers and consumers. Delivering effective information services bridges the gap between farmers and consumers, and to a large extent, stimulates agricultural growth. Small farmers cannot benefit from new market opportunities if they have no access to information that is comprehensible to them.
88. It was suggested for more coordinated data collection in the field and a structured manipulation and transformation of said data into appropriate information. Crucial

components of the information that have been deemed difficult to acquire are locally generated and must be collected as part of a structured, managed and integrated system

5.1.2 Capacity-building Needs

89. Capacity building was identified by the respondents in light of the acknowledged importance of ICM as an area for immediate intervention. In the absence of the tools and staff required, many of these institutions will continue to operate under their true potential and not fulfill their respective mandates. The main institutions, with the exception of the Ministry of Agriculture, CAF/UL, CARI and FAO do not have the staff, hardware or software to effectively and efficiently carry out their tasks. Many of the respondents were acutely aware of that shortcoming and saw this study as the basis to secure assistance from CTA.
90. Some basic skills training needs such as computer training can be undertaken by local service providers but organizations might need to acquire specialized ICM training in and outside the country as regards training for extension staff; human resource information management; training of staff to produce newsletters and magazines; training of personnel to translate technical information into simple English and in local dialects and information cataloguing system.
91. All key institutions identified by this study have mandates that would make them worthy candidates to be CTA beneficiaries and or partners.

5.1.3 Overview of CTA's Products and Services

92. CTA provide a wide range of products and services which are aimed at strengthening the capacity of African, Caribbean and Pacific individuals and countries to produce, obtain and exchange and use information in agricultural and rural development.
93. Although nearly all of the interviewees do not have ready access to CTA's products and services, the MOA, CARI, CAF/UL and other selected institutions will be delighted to get hooked up with the Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) service through which research scientists in Liberia will be regularly provided with specific up-to-date information on research topics. The CD-ROM Research Programme that supports access to research centers, NGOs, farmers' organizations and the private sector will be an opportunity for many here. Since 70% of Liberians are involved in agriculture, CTA's Rural Radio Programme will be a useful channel to disseminate scientific and technical information to our rural farmers through the community radio stations.
94. In a bid to improve and build the human resource capacity of these institutions, the availability of and access to information on priority topics in agriculture and rural development, it is acknowledged that Co-seminars and Seminar Support Programmes of CTA will be encouraged. Other areas of support will include Seminar Support Programme. Through this programme, selected individuals should attend regional and international conferences on topics of relevance to their area of work. The programme also helps us to ensure that the views of participants are expressed at international conferences dealing with agriculture and rural development issues. CTA's Publications Distribution Service (PDS) will

be a useful asset to all agriculture and rural development organizations in Liberia.

5.1.4 Potential Partners and Beneficiaries

95. In consideration of the information and capacity building needs of organizations interviewed in this survey, it clear that all of them with the exception of the FAO are in desperate need of CTA's intervention to transform the agriculture and rural development sector of Liberia.
96. It is our desire that CTA consider eight (8) of the 14 selected institutions, including, MOA, CARI, CAF/UL, G-BAG, LINNK, Daily Observer, Star Radio and WOCHIDO as potential and strategic partners for CTA's future intervention in Liberia. These organizations are best placed to benefit most from general assistance and from CTA's products and services. All of them operate for the direct benefit of farmers in rural communities, working closely with vulnerable groups and those desirous of engaging in meaningful activities.
97. The MOA is the agency of government responsible for planning and coordinating all agricultural activities in the country. The MOA is working to get a system of information for the farmers which will include technical information, marketing and price information, etc. CARI and CAF/UL conduct training and research activities for students, farmers and research fellows, while Daily Observer and Star Radio are both print and electronic media institutions that have a wider coverage within and outside the country. WOCHIDO is a rural-based organization focusing on women, young people and resource-poor farmers in target areas while LINNK is the umbrella organization of all national NGOs in Liberia. These organizations have the ability to deliver CTA products and services in a timely and efficient manner

5.2 Recommendations

5.2.1. Information Needs

98. The Government of Liberia acknowledges the extent to which Liberia will benefit from the advances of ICT will depend on how well it will be able to develop and harness its human resources to support, initiate and maintain the inclusion of local service providers into the overall Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). It is envisioned that CTA could assist some of them to address ICT training need in the following categories:
- Improved extension techniques through the use of available communication technology such as mobile phones, emails and the website facilities for small-scale farmers in rural areas.
 - Radio and video production techniques
 - Collating and disseminating of market information
 - Developing and implementing ICM strategies and plans
 - Developing appropriate print and audio visual extension training packages for rural farmers.
99. During the assessment, it was expressed by all interviewees the need for timely information, funding and training opportunities for agricultural and rural development-based organizations in Liberia. This should include information of

training courses, conferences, seminars, workshop and meetings.

100. Although the Government of Liberia is trying to resuscitate the agricultural and rural development sectors, the Ministry of Agriculture, CARI, CAF/UL lack the requisite trained personnel, equipment and facilities to run an effective communication programme that would cater to the needs of farmers. Hence, CTA will be encouraged to provide advice and assistance to meet the challenges of capacity building.

5.2.2 Capacity Building Needs

101. In view of the findings of this study, it is recommended that CTA provides support (technical and financial) to the selected institutions so that they can access information from other sources that are involved in similar agricultural programmes and projects at the local, sub-regional and regional levels. This assistance should include but not limited to training opportunities; seminars, workshops, assessments and conferences.
102. Since most of the interviewees are not conversant with CTA's products and services, we wish to recommend that CTA establish linkages with local media institutions (Star Radio, Liberia Broadcasting System and Daily Observer) to create the much needed public awareness about what CTA has to offer in Liberia and other member nations.
103. It is also recommended that CTA assists the Ministry of Agriculture in Liberia, which has the statutory mandate to plan, supervise, monitor and evaluate agricultural activities in the country to produce brochures, leaflets and video documentaries on improved agricultural techniques while at the same time publicize the availability of CTA's products and services throughout Liberia's 15 counties.
104. Following discussions and consultations with selected institutions and their personnel, it is recommended that Government of Liberia (GOL) and CTA provide special incentives to expand information and telecommunication technologies to remote locations in the country with emphasis on the following:
 - i. Support to the establishment of rural information centers complete with all information and communications gadgets, including computers with Internet access, local area and wide area networks, radio and television sets, telephones and fax machines, multimedia projectors, video and audio recorders, etc.
 - ii. Ensure market for mobile telephone is open to competition
 - iii. Promote access to Internet service that has wider coverage and is competitive, and affordable
 - iv. Promote universal access to telecommunications through broad geographic coverage, including signal coverage of mobile and broadcast networks throughout remote regions of the country.
 - v. Relevant civil servants, public and government officials, agriculture extension workers who are not computer proficient should be encouraged to undergo mandatory "introductory computer courses" to assist in the transitioning from manual processes to automated processes. Their training will focus on basic operation of the system as it relates to their job functions.
 - vi. It was made clear that CTA should devise appropriate strategies such that current information available to it can be harnessed by member nations in a

timely manner for the benefit of users in the agriculture and rural development sectors. Therefore, CTA should build partnerships particularly in a post-conflict country like Liberia.

5.2.3 CTA's Products and Services

105. CTA provide a wide range of products and services which are aimed at strengthening the capacity of African, Caribbean and Pacific individuals and countries to produce, obtain and exchange and use information in agricultural and rural development.
106. Although nearly all of the interviewees do not have ready access to CTA's products and services, the MOA, CARI, CAF/UL and other selected institutions will be delighted to get hooked up with the Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) service through which research scientists in Liberia will be regularly provided with specific up-to-date information on research topics. The CD-ROM Research Programme that supports access to research centers, NGOs, Farmers' Organizations and the Private Sector will be an opportunity for many here. Since 70% of Liberians are involved in agriculture, CTA Rural Radio Programme will be a useful channel to disseminate scientific and technical information to our rural farmers through the community radio stations.
107. In a bid to improve and build the human resource capacity of these institutions, the availability of and access to information on priority topics in agriculture and rural development, it is acknowledged that Co-seminars and Seminar Support Programmes of CTA will be encouraged. Other areas of support will include Seminar Support Programme. Through this programme, selected individuals should attend regional and international conferences on topics of relevance to their area of work. The programme also helps us to ensure that the views of participants are expressed at international conferences dealing with agriculture and rural development issues. CTA's Publications Distribution Service (PDS) will be a useful asset to all agriculture and rural development organizations in Liberia.

5.2.4 Potential Strategic Partner Institutions

108. The MOA should be chosen as a strategic partner with CTA to coordinate and facilitate the dissemination of information of its products and services throughout the country. The Information Management Division of the MOA would be very instrumental to assume such vital responsibility. The media (print and electronic), including state-owned Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS) and community radio stations will work with other institutions to promote CTA's products and services nation-wide.
109. Mini libraries at the MOA, CAF/UL and FAO will secure and make available various CTA's products such as the *Spore* magazine to students, research fellows, farmers and personnel from other agriculture-related and media institutions in order to broaden their knowledge on diverse agricultural and rural development practices and research findings.
110. Massive awareness will be carried out by media institutions not necessarily included in the study but those that have the capacity to reach out to the rural masses.

6. PROPOSED CTA INTERVENTION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

6.1. Proposed Intervention Strategies

111. It is proposed that CTA establish partnership with the Communications Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, CARI, CAF/UL, LBS, Star Radio and Daily Observer to widely advertise and promote its products and services throughout the country and beyond. Against this background, CTA should make visible, available and deliver its products and services to farmers and potential beneficiaries in Liberia. In so doing, three key areas of interventions are proposed:

- i. Increased awareness of CTA's products and services in Liberia as well within the sub-region and regional levels;
- ii. Assist selected organizations increase their capacities for ICM by ensuring access to information and training to address their specific needs;
- iii. Promote increased information exchange and knowledge sharing between agricultural and rural-based organizations in Liberia and the sub-regional and regional levels.

6.2. Concrete Action Plan

Based on the above interventions, the proposed Action Plan is indicated in the matrix below:

Table 6: Concrete Action Plan

Strategies	Activities	Objectives	Expected results	Beneficiaries	Responsible parties	Duration of Activities
Increase awareness of CTA's products and services in Liberia	Organize talk shows on local and community radio stations	Create public awareness via public participation in talk shows and reading articles	Informed public on CTA products and services	The public mostly farmers and rural dwellers	Star Radio, Daily Observer and the Ministry of Agriculture Communications Division	6 – 12 months
	Write feature articles and news releases on CTA in the print media					
Increase capacities for ICM to access information and training to address their specific needs	Provide ICM training (workshops) materials and equipment	Provision of training materials and equipment to access ICM methodology	Increased capacities of beneficiaries in use of ICM equipment and methodology	Personnel of selected institutions	Ministry of Agriculture, CAF/UL, CARI, WOCHIDO,	12 months
Increase information exchange and knowledge sharing between agricultural and rural-based organizations in Liberia	Organized training workshop i.e., Farmer Field School and Agricultural Fairs at county and national levels	To observe and share experiences on new farming methods;	Increased knowledge of CTA's publications as well as peer education	The public mostly farmers and rural dwellers	Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, CARI, and selected master farmers	6 – 12 months
	Public display and distributions of CTA publications					

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) was established in 1983 under the Lomé Convention between the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) Group of States and the European Union Member States. Since 2000, it has operated within the framework of the ACP-EC Cotonou Agreement.

CTA's tasks are to develop and provide services that improve access to information for agricultural and rural development, and to strengthen the capacity of ACP countries to produce, acquire, exchange and utilise information in this area. CTA's programmes are organised around three principal activities: providing an increasing range and quantity of information products and services and enhancing awareness of relevant information sources; supporting the integrated use of appropriate communication channels and intensifying contacts and information exchange (particularly intra-ACP); and developing ACP capacity to generate and manage agricultural information and to formulate information and communication management (ICM) strategies, including those relevant to science and technology. These activities take account of methodological developments in cross-cutting issues (gender, youth, information & communication technologies – ICTs, and social capital), findings from impact assessments and evaluations of ongoing programmes as well as priority information themes for ACP agriculture.

CTA's activities are currently distributed among three operational programme areas / departments:

- Information Products and Services;
- Communication Channels and Services;
- Information and Communication Management Skills and Systems.

These operational departments are supported by Planning Corporate Services (P&CS) which is charged with the methodological underpinning of their work and monitoring the ACP environment in order to identify emerging issues and trends and make proposals for their translation into programmes and activities. This current exercise, therefore, falls within the mandate of P&CS.

2. BACKGROUND

Since 2003, CTA has been systematically conducting needs assessment studies across the Pacific, Caribbean and Africa regions – the regions it has been mandated to serve. These studies have been in direct response to calls for CTA, in various evaluations of its products, services and programmes, to be more strategic in its choice regarding the setting of its own agenda and reacting to demand. In putting together its Strategic Plan and Framework for Action 2001 – 2005, CTA took a pragmatic view and opted to develop a strategy combining the benefits of both approaches, whereby the need to address the expressed demands of its stakeholders and the potential long-term advantages of developing programmes that address future needs were combined.

The Centre's new strategic plan covering the 2007 – 2010 period places emphasis on: improving CTA's efficiency and increasing the Centre's outreach by addressing the major bottleneck of difficult or insufficient access to information in ACP countries; (ii) honing CTA's profile and further defining the niche where the Centre has a comparative advantage. Consequently, reaching more beneficiaries and further strengthening CTA's partnership networks is key as well as the thrust to make ICTs and ICM strategies more widely available.

3. MAIN ISSUES

CTA works primarily through intermediary public and private partners (research centres, extension services, libraries, NGOs, farmers' organisations, regional organisations and networks, ...) to promote agriculture and rural development. Under the new strategic plan, the organisations targeted will be extended to include print media, editors, radio, TV and journalist networks in order to further maximise outreach. Through these partnerships, CTA hopes to increase the number of ACP organisations capable of accessing and combining modern and conventional ICTs, generating and managing information and developing their own ICM strategies. The identification of appropriate partners is therefore of primordial importance, whilst bearing in mind issues such as geographical coverage, decentralisation, regionalisation, thematic orientation and transparent and objective criteria and procedures for partner selection.

4. OVERALL OBJECTIVE

Collaboration strategies with ACP agricultural organisations and relevance of CTA's support to African ACP countries improved.

5. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study will focus on:

- providing an overview of main agricultural services and actors existing in the country (information supply side) in terms of their strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for collaboration with CTA;
- identifying agricultural information and ICM capacity building needs of key actors / key strategic partners for CTA products and services;
- identifying potential strategic partners for CTA activities and services (paying special attention to e.g. print media, editors, radio, TV and journalist networks);
- developing some baseline data on the status of ICM and ICTs in the country to facilitate subsequent monitoring and updating activities.

The study should assist CTA to improve and better target interventions and activities aimed at potential partners and beneficiaries (including women, youth, private sector and civil society organisations) to have a more informed picture of their needs and aid in the elaboration of a strategy and framework of action. The study should also highlight where there are specific needs for CTA's products and services thereby enabling improvement in the delivery of the same.

6. EXPECTED RESULTS

The expected results of the study are as follow:

- status of infrastructure, information services and ICM capacity of institutions involved in agriculture and rural development described and analysed;
- information and capacity building needs in the area of ICM identified for key institutions and potential CTA partners involved in agriculture and rural development;
- baseline data on the status of ICM and ICT in agriculture and rural development compiled for monitoring purposes and improved outreach.

The study should therefore also provide updated country profiles on the status agricultural information services, the status of ICM/T in the country, which will allow CTA to make informed decisions re type and mode of intervention as well as partner selection. This will be summarised in one (1) main report per country not exceeding 30 pages excluding annexes (cf. section 8 below).

7. METHODOLOGY

The consultant will use a combination of qualitative and quantitative rapid appraisal methods including:

- the desk review of available literature and information sources including the findings of programme evaluations;
- the conduct of face-to-face interviews with relevant stakeholders / concerned parties;
- the limited use of questionnaires.

The rapid appraisal approach will allow a general overview of the key issues and company / organisational profiles on a per country basis and may give rise to more in-depth studies as and when needed in the future.

8. REPORTING

The country reports will not exceed 30 pages (excluding annexes) and is broken down as follows:

Main report

Acknowledgements

List of Acronyms

Executive summary

1. Introduction

2. Country profile

2.1 Brief description of agriculture and recent developments in the sector:

2.1.1 Agriculture

2.1.2 Fisheries

2.1.3 Forestry

2.1.4 Pastoralism / Livestock (where applicable)

2.2 Brief description of the status of ICT infrastructure and recent developments in the sector

3. Status of information and communication for agriculture and rural development

3.1 Institutional, regulatory and policy framework

Status of national and/or other sectoral policies on information and communication for agriculture and rural development; definition of main strategic focus and principal characteristics; opportunities and threats posed by the political, institutional and regulatory environment

- 3.2 *Operational aspects*
 - 3.2.1 Description of agricultural information and services (main actors in the area of information and communication for agriculture and rural development)
 - 3.2.2 Information products and services provided
 - 3.2.3 Information and communication management capacity
- 3.3 *Interventions supporting information and communication for agriculture and rural development*

Examine the main interventions undertaken, planned or foreseen by the State, donor agencies, private sector (e.g. telecommunications sector) to respond to identified needs paying particular attention to the priorities and means mobilised. Lessons learnt should also be addressed in this section
- 3.4 *Needs analysis (Main bottlenecks and shortcomings)*
 - 3.4.1 Information needs
 - 3.4.2 Capacity building needs (IC policies & strategies, sensitisation, networking, skills, training, media, ICT, equipment)

4. Conclusions and recommendations

- 4.1 Conclusions
 - 4.1.1 Information Needs
 - 4.1.2 Capacity Building Needs
 - 4.1.3 Potential Strategic Partners
- 4.2 Recommendations
 - 4.2.1 Capacity Building Needs
 - 4.2.2 Information Needs
 - 4.2.3. Potential Strategic Partner Institutions

5. Proposed CTA Intervention Strategy and Action Plan

From the above analysis, establish a link between the needs which are not currently met or for which complementary actions are needed and CTA's supply (products and services). This should lead to an overall and coherent strategy for CTA and an action plan in priorities are identified and an implementation schedule defined.

Annexes

1. Terms of reference

2. Country profile

- 2.1 *General agricultural profile (from available documentation)*
 - 2.1.1 Size of agricultural population (male / female / youth)
 - 2.1.2 Farmed land, forests, fishing areas
 - 2.1.3 Agricultural systems
 - 2.1.4 Agriculture in the economy (percentage GDP)
 - 2.1.5 Main agricultural produce and secondary products
 - 2.1.6 Main export markets
 - 2.1.7 Trade agreements that include agriculture
 - 2.1.8 Sectoral policy related to agriculture, fisheries and forests
- 2.2 *Socio-economic profile (from available documentation)*
 - 2.2.1 Total active population, demographic breakdown
 - 2.2.2 Literacy level and languages
 - 2.2.3 Access to services (health, schools, electricity)
 - 2.2.4 Rural urban drift
- 2.3 *Media and telecommunications (update / check)*
 - 2.3.1 Newspapers, periodicals, magazines, radio stations, television channels,
 - 2.3.2 Telecommunication services (fixed, mobile, etc.)
 - 2.3.3 Computers and Internet access

3. Profile of institutions

3.1 List of all main institutions involved in agriculture and rural development activities, including private sector and civil society organisations, with name, contact details, type and role of institution

3.2 Select list of key institutions involved in agriculture and rural development, with extensive data and information on the institution, the problems faced and why it is considered a key actor

4. List of institutions / persons interviewed (to include full contact details)

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

9. TIMING

The draft final report is to be submitted within three months after contract signature by CTA; the final report is due two weeks after receipt of comments from CTA.

10. EXPERTISE NEEDED

The **national consultant** should have a university degree or equivalent by experience. In addition, he/she should have at least 10 years experience in field of agriculture, rural development or social / economic sciences. He/she must have in-depth knowledge of the agricultural sector in his/her country and be able to identify key players and institutions / organisations active in this area. Some knowledge of information sciences would be an added advantage. The ability to communicate and write clearly in English is essential, while knowledge of at least one of the local languages for communication / interview purposes is an added advantage.

In addition to the skills above, the **regional coordinator** is expected to be fluent in English, have some knowledge of the 9 countries forming the object of this study, have demonstrated experience in coordinating studies with several consultants and in producing synthesis reports.

The overall coordination of the exercise will be carried out by Ms Christine Webster, Deputy Head, Planning and Corporate Services CTA.

11. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE (CTA)

- Preparation/Finalisation of ToR; Identification/ short-listing of (potential) consultants; Call for offers: January – April 2007;
- Selection of consultants & contractual arrangements: May/June 2007
- Briefing: July 2007
- Start date of contract: June/July 2007
- Contract implementation period: June 2007 – March 2008
- End date of contract: March 2008.

12. KEY DOCUMENTS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO CONSULTANTS

Documents include:

- Cotonou Framework Agreement
- Executive Summaries of previous evaluation reports including ITAD, OPM, etc.
- CTA's Strategic Plan (2007-2010)

- Annual Reports
- Examples of reports of previous needs assessment studies
- Documents on products & services provided by CTA

13. DEFINITION OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Regional Coordinator

- Respect the timeframe regarding submission of reports and deadlines
- Help identify/vet country consultants
- Attend pre-briefing and briefing meetings
- Review the terms of reference
- Finalise questionnaires¹ and methodological approach after due consultation with CTA Team
- Finalise the briefing notes and guidelines² for local consultants to ensure accurate and consistent application of the agreed methodology in data collection
- Answer queries (technical & otherwise) of local consultants
- During the studies, monitor and provide technical assistance/information to the local consultants
- Review preliminary country reports and findings and send comments back to local consultants
- Send edited draft final country reports to CTA for feedback
- Coordinate and ensure consistency of country reports
- Prepare the overall report taking into account the findings and recommendations of all the country reports (table of contents to be agreed).

Local Consultants

- Respect the timeframe regarding submission of reports and deadlines
- Attend briefing meeting
- Familiarise themselves with background documents received from CTA; including the Terms of Reference
- Undertake desk study and prepare country profile, list of institutions involved in agriculture as well as preliminary list of select institutions.
- Undertake field visits in the country specified in the contract
- Conduct interviews and gather information in the country specified in the contract
- Draft preliminary country reports and send to Regional Coordinator for initial comments
- Based on comments received from Regional Coordinator, revise country reports and send draft final report to CTA within the specified timeframe
- Finalise country reports based on comments and observations received from CTA and send final report back to CTA

Role of CTA

- Draw up initial Terms of Reference and prepare relevant background documents
- Appoint the Regional Coordinator and the ACP Local Consultants
- Prepare and attend briefing meeting of consultants
- Invite the Regional Coordinator and Local Consultants for Briefing Meeting

¹ The documents used in previous needs assessment studies are available and will need some slight modifications.

² See footnote above.

- Provide input to the Regional Coordinator with regard to fine-tuning terms of reference, questionnaires, interview guide and reporting guidelines for the consultants
 - Provide relevant background documents to the Local Consultants & Regional Coordinator
 - Elaborate budget and discuss contractual obligations with the Team of consultants & Regional Coordinator
 - Liaise with Regional Coordinator throughout the study
 - Pay invoices for services rendered in a timely manner on condition that all payment conditions are fulfilled
 - Overall responsibility for the supervision and implementation of the studies
 - Bear the agreed costs of expenditure in respect of the study (economy class return tickets, hotel accommodation and subsistence allowances during briefing meeting, or during agreed and specified field visits)
 - Provide feedback and comments on draft country reports to the Local Consultants
 - Give feedback to the Regional Coordinator on the Overview Report.
-

ANNEX 2: COUNTRY PROFILE – (LIBERIA)

2.1 General Agricultural Profile

Liberia's economy was traditionally based on agriculture. Subsistence agriculture was and remains predominate amongst 60% of the population. Of the remaining 40%, who are employed in the "formal" sector, 43% of these people have strong connections to the agricultural sector, typically in the plantation industry. Agriculture has always been the backbone of the Liberian economy with subsistence production, rubber and timber accounting for significant shares of GDP, export earnings and employment. Subsistence agriculture, which has focused on rain-fed food crop production, has however, been characterised by its low productivity. Commercial tree crop production for export has been undertaken by large-scale plantation also includes smallholder and out grower production systems.

2.1.1 Size of agricultural population (male / female / youth)

The total agricultural population of Liberia in 2001² was 881,400. On the average it appears that more women are involved in agriculture than men. The youth see agriculture as a punishment rather than an economic activity that provides employment, income and sustainable livelihoods. The current agricultural population has aged and programmes need to be developed to encourage the youth participate more meaningfully in agriculture. Liberia had an average Farm Family population of about 183,300 between 1983 and 2001, with Nimba County having about 20%, followed by Bong 16% and Lofa 11.3%. These three counties constituted about 47% of the total farm family population of Liberia. About 25% of the agricultural household members are between the ages of 10-19 years

Table 7: Size of Agricultural Population (male/female/), 2001

County	Agricultural Population					
	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Bomi	20,870	49.0	21,720	51.0	42,590	4.8
Bong	75,180	46.0	88,260	54.0	163,440	18.5
Cape Mount	21,650	49.0	22,530	51.0	44,180	5.0
Grand Bassa	33,700	48.0	36,500	52.0	70,200	8.0
Grand Gedeh ¹	36,740	49.0	38,240	51.0	74,980	8.5
Grand Kru	20,150	52.0	18,600	48.0	38,750	4.4
Lofa ²	-	-	-	-	-	-
Margibi	26,140	48.0	28,310	52.0	54,450	6.2
Maryland	22,270	50.0	22,270	50.0	44,540	5.1
Montserrado	22,300	49.0	23,200	51.0	45,500	5.2
Nimba	109,890	47.0	123,930	53.0	233,820	26.5
Rivercess	10,380	47.0	11,700	53.0	22,080	2.5
Sinoe	23,430	50.0	23,440	50.0	46,870	5.3
Liberia	422,700	48.0	458,700	52.0	881,400	100.0

1. Grand Gedeh and River Gee Counties are combined; 2. Lofa county was excluded in the survey due to inaccessibility during the war; 3. Ministry of Agriculture survey report, 2001

Source: Ministry of Agriculture Survey, 2001

Table 8: Distribution of Farm Families per County, 1988 and 2001.

Nos.	Counties	1988	2001	Average	% Ave.
1.	BOMI	6,470	6,400	6,435	3.5
2.	BONG	29,480	29,660	29,570	16.1
3.	GBARPOLU	6,875	6,875	6,875	3.8
4.	GRAND BASSA	16,080	15,840	15,960	8.7
5.	GRAND CAPE MOUNT	7,430	7,330	7,380	4.0
6.	GRAND GEDEH	6,760	12,640	9,700	5.3
7.	GRAND KRU	4,900	4,650	4,875	2.7
8.	LOFA	20,625	20,625	20,625	11.3
9.	MARGIBI	10,790	12,460	11,625	5.3
10.	MARYLAND	6,820	6,160	6,490	3.5
11.	MONTSERRADO	7,810	8,400	8,105	4.4
12.	NIMBA	38,800	38,100	38,450	21.0
13.	RIVER CESS	3,900	3,480	3,690	2.0
14.	RIVER GEE	6,760	6,760	6,760	3.7
15.	SINOE	6,790	6,620	6,705	3.7
	TOTAL	180,290	186,200	183,245	100

Source: Ministry of Agriculture Survey, 2001

Table 9: Age Category of Agricultural Household Members

Age Category	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	% of Total
0 – 9 years	131,300	49	136,650	51	267,950	30.4
10 – 19 years	111,060	50	111,060	50	222,120	25.2
20 – 29 years	64,370	44	81,930	56	146,300	16.6
30 – 39 years	43,820	44	55,780	56	99,600	11.3
40 – 49 years	30,660	49	31,920	51	62,580	7.1
50 years and over	43,080	52	39,770	48	82,850	9.4
Total	424,290	48	457,110	52	881,400	100.0

Source: Ministry of Agriculture Survey - 2001

2.1.2 Farmed land, forests, fishing areas

Liberia has a total land area exterminated at 9.8 million hectares, consisting mainly of tropical rain forests.

The total forested land is estimated at 4.9 million hectares, or about 50% of the total land surface. The total arable land is estimated at 4.6 million hectares, or 46%, of the total land surface of which four million are uplands and 600,000 hectares are lowlands (swamps). There is a potential pasture land of some 182,000 hectares. Prior to the civil crisis some 634,000 hectares, or 11.5% of the arable land were cultivated mainly with rice and cassava under a farming system called shifting cultivation. Table 10 contains estimates of land use in the country.

Table 10: Land Distribution in Liberia

Land Type	Area ('000 Hectares)	Percent
Forest	4,600	46.9
Arable	4,600	46.9
Including: Uplands	4,000	40.8
Lowlands	600	6.1
Others	600	6.1
Total Area	9,800	100.0

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, CAAS-Lib – Sector Report, 2007

Farmed land:

Land types include tidal swamps, coastal beach plains, flood plains, valley swamps, low and high hills with different **land use capabilities** (Table 1). For the tidal swamps, high tide could destroy crops, requiring substantial investments in drainage if such lands have to be used for agricultural production. The coastal beach plains generally have low fertility and low organic matter and will require some amount of fertilization when cropped. The flood plains also have the problem of potential flooding that can destroy crops but proper timing and adequate drainage that improve the situation. The valley swamps which are potential rice fields are also poorly drained and have low fertility and organic matter. Adequate drainage and fertilization can improve its agricultural capability. The low hills are well-drained and can be used for upland rice, vegetables and cassava but also have the problem of low fertility and are prone to soil erosion. Fertilization and long fallow periods can improve the agricultural capability of the soil.

Table 11: Agricultural Land Capability

Agro-ecology	Drainage	Crop Suitability	Constraints	Improvement Measures
Tidal Swamps	Poor	Intensive lowland rice	High tide destroys crop	Adequate drainage
Coastal Beach Plains	Poor to well drained	Unsuitable for most crops except cassava, coconut, oil palm	Low fertility, low organic matter (OM)	Fertility management
Flood Plains	Poor to well drained	Cocoa, oil palm, upland rice, irrigated rice possible	Potential flooding	Proper timing of the cropping activities, adequate drainage
Valley Swamps	Poor	Lowland rice	Water logging, low nutrients, low OM	Adequate drainage, fertility management
Low Hills	Well drained; foot slopes poorly drained	Upland rice, vegetables, cassava	Low fertility, erosion	Fertility management, Adequate fallow

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - CAAS-Lib Volume I, Synthesis Report – 2007

About 5.4% of Liberian land amounting to about 600,000ha is said to be cultivated but 220,000ha of this is said to be under permanent crop or plantation, while the rest is arable (FAO, 2005). Broadly, these are uplands and lowlands or swamps. Swamps can be classified as mangroves, riverine grassland, floodplains and inland valleys. It is not known the level of suitability of the swamps since they have not been

characterized but there is the general notion that the swamps are more productive lands for rice.

Forest land

Liberia is located on the West Coast of Africa and falls within Latitudes 4° 10'-9° 45' North of the Equator and Longitudes 7° 20'-11° 30' West of the Greenwich Meridian. The country is situated within the tropical rain forest belt of West Africa and occupies 43% of the remaining Upper Guinea Forest, of which 42% is covered by rain forest. The land area is 9.58 million hectares. The forest land is 5.7 million hectares (59% of total land area). The area for conservation/preservation is 1.5 million hectares (30% of the total forest area of Liberia). The multiple use of forest area is 4.0 million hectares (70% of the total forest area of Liberia).

Considering the biodiversity contents of Liberia's forest, the country has a diverse plant and animal species, which include 590 bird species; 125 mammal species, 74 reptile and amphibian species; 1,000 insects species; 2,000 flowering plants, 59 endemic to Liberia; 240 timber species of which about 60 species have been exported.

In 2002, timber and logs production accounted for one million cubic meters and contributed 50% of export earnings with a 20% to government's revenue intake 10,000 Liberians are directly employed by the forestry sector

Prior to the imposition of sanctions on Liberia's timber export by the United Nations, the forests of Liberia was being depleted at the rate of 1.2% per annum and it is estimated that more than 50% of the forests have been destroyed over the years, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) report states.

According to the report, it is believed that Liberia is the only country within the West African sub region that was covered entirely with rainforest. As a result of the destruction, the remaining dense forest areas are now found in the northwest and southeast of the country separated and isolated from each other by a corridor extending from Monrovia to Nimba County. These two forest blocks are further fragmented and dissected by the advances of shifting cultivation and other man-made actions.

Liberia's forest ecosystem can today be divided into four classes: primary dense forest, climax secondary forest, secondary forest (which has not reached climax) and other mixed vegetation. This forest ecosystem is a major component of one of the 25 biodiversity hotspots identified by Conservation International. The Mount Nimba, Cestos-Senkwen River Shed, Lofa-Mano and Sapo National Park areas contain many endemic species. These four areas are among the 14 centers of plant endemic within the Upper Guinea Hotspot.

Liberia is richly endowed with a vast and diversified forest resource base amounting to about 47% of its land area, which from all indications should be capable of contributing significantly to the social, economic and cultural developments of the country.

However, illegal and excessive timber exploitation thrives during the times of civil insecurity. During the civil war years, the forest resource base and the entire forest infrastructure were subjected to serious destruction through indiscriminate felling, widespread illegal trade of forest products, forest fires, looting and damaging of the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) facilities. Also, the loss of forest habitat has adversely affected the availability of bush meat, which represents between 70 and 80% of the total meat consumed annually in Liberia.

The FDA's agenda for the 21st Century is to pursue forestry development in line with international requirements and standards and to allow Liberia's population to truly benefit from its forest resources. In achieving this, a recognized and restructured forest administration capable of managing and conserving the nation's forest, wildlife and related resources have been put in place.

Fishing areas

Liberia has a coastline of 570 km and a continental shelf averaging about 34 km in width extending 200 nautical miles off-shore from the geographical baseline providing an area of about 20,000 km² of fishing grounds. Liberia also has approximately 1810.125 km of rivers that transverse the country, and countless perennial swamps and inland water bodies with enormous potentials for increased production in inland capture fisheries and aquaculture. Over 80 percent of the population directly depends on fish for animal protein supply.

The major fisheries resource-base over the years has been predominantly marine (ocean fishing activities) in nature with the Artisanal and Industrial components as active operators. The marine fisheries itself covers a coastline of about 579 kilometers with an irregular continental shelf (narrow at some point and wider at another) averaging 34 km in width, which affords an area of about 20,000 km of fishing ground suitable for artisanal fisheries. The fisheries also have a territorial jurisdiction of about 200 nautical miles of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and shares common stocks with fisheries of the neighboring countries (La Cote d' Ivoire and the Republic of Sierra Leone).

2.1.3 Agricultural systems

Liberia agricultural system can be categorized into two: Namely, commercial and traditional subsistence agriculture. The commercial system which accounts for about 72% of exports produces mainly rubber and forestry products. This sector also consists of two sub-sectors.

1. A foreign enclave of commercial plantations, which engaged in the cultivation of perennial crops (rubber, oil palm and forestry) using improved technologies. It also produces semi-processed export products and employs large numbers of skilled labour.
2. Liberian – owned Commercial farms are also engaged in the production of perennial crops (predominantly rubber) but produces mainly raw materials normally sold to the large-scale concession that exist around them, as well as to commission agents. They also have commercial livestock (pigs, poultry, cattle, sheep and goats)

The traditional subsistence system is predominantly crop (rice, root and tubers, vegetables) producing entity.

The farmers practiced shafting cultivation as the mainstay of soil fertility in the production of these crops as well as cocoa, coffee and fruit trees. The average farm size is about 1.2 Ha and family labour as well as rudimentary hand tools and low technology are used for farming. Crop yields under this system are low. About 70% of the population is involved in the traditional agriculture system. Although data is incomplete, evidence suggests that most rice farms are around 1ha in size (FAO, 2001).³

Liberia can be described to have four distant agro – ecological zones (AEZ), each having its unique vegetation determined by rainfall pattern, attitude topography, and temperature. These are: **Coastal Plans. Upper Highland Tropical Forest. Lower Tropical Forest Zones and North Savannah Zones.** The table below describes the location, and characteristics of the agro-ecological zones in Liberia.

Table 12: Location and Characteristics of the Agro-ecological Zones in Liberia.

AEZ	Land Coverage	Counties	Agro-Climate	Vegetation & Farming System
I. Coastal Plans	Commences from sea level and extends to height of 30m inland as well as savannah up to 25km into the interior of the country.	Bomi, Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, Margibi and River Cess	Very high levels of rainfall (4,450 to 4,550mm), high humidity (85 -95%), longer sunshine hours with high and wider temperatures ranges	Vegetation is swampy along rivers and creeks, mangroves, scattered patches of both low and high bushes and a savannah belt up to 25km inland. Farming System: Rice on upland & lowland, cassava intercropped with vegetables & sugarcane. Rubber, coffee and cacao are cultivated. Land preparation from November to March and harvesting August to March
II. Upper Highland Tropical Forest (Agric. Belt)	Composed of the plateaux (tablelands) about 30m above sea level and mountain ranges (600m) behind rolling hills.	Upper Cape Mount, Lofa, Bomi, Margibi, Bong, Grand Bassa, River Cess and most of Nimba	Bi-model rainfall (subdivided by short dry spell of 2 weeks) more evenly spread: of 2,900mm from Lofa to Nimba, 1265mm in Bong and 3,200 max (overall). Temperature variation is 5 degrees	Veg: semi-deciduous forest and transition zone of secondary forest (low bush), high broken and high closed forests Farming System: Excellent for cocoa and coffee typical in Lofa, Bong and Nimba, as well as rubber, citrus and oil palm are the mean cash crops. Upland and lowland rice in the forest (upper & lower region), plus yams, cocoyams, plantains, potatoes and vegetables. Farming starts September/October and harvesting starts June/September.
III Lower Tropical Forest	Mid-altitude rolling hills composed of valleys, hills and numerous water courses.	Sinoe, Maryland, Grand Kru, Grand Gedeh and parts of Nimba County	Average rainfall from 3,000mm in Maryland to 4,1000mm in Sinoe. long dry spell & 2 distinct peaks of rainy season.	Vegetation is mostly evergreen rainforest in south-eastern part of the effected counties Farming System: Upland and lowland rice cultivation in the forest (upper & lower region), plus yams, cocoayam, plantains, potatoes and veggies. Farming starts September/October and harvesting starts June/September. Rubber, cocoa, coffee and sugarcane are major cash crops
IV Northern Savannah Zone		Northern Lofa & Northern Nimba	High elevation with average rainfall between 700mm - 1,750mm	Veg. Dense elephant grass of up to 1.5mt, scattered trees and patches of forests.

Source: Agriculture Sector Assessment for Liberia & Draft Agriculture Strategy – USAID 2000

2.1.4 Agriculture in the economy (percentage GDP)

Agriculture is a significant component of Liberian Economy. Its importance is manifested in its contribution to: the GDP, employment, food security, regional/cross – border trade, and economic growth stability and social contribution potential. This report contains agriculture contribution to GDP.

Contribution to the GDP: The agriculture sector has over the years, and increasingly so during the most recent past, significantly contributed to the overall Liberian economy. This is reflected in agriculture's (including fisheries') overall contribution to GDP which was eleven percent (11%) in 1980, substantially increasing to fifty two percent (52%) by 2005, reflecting the emergence of agriculture's relative importance over the decades of civil conflict as other economic sectors have declined. Table 2.1.4 contains data on GDP from 1978 to 2005.

Table 13: Sub Sector Composition of GDP (percentages)

	1978	1979	1980		1987	1988	1989		2003	2004	2005
Agriculture and fisheries	11%	10%	11%		33%	28%	34%		46%	52%	52%
Rubber	6%	5%	6%		7%	5%	7%		11%	20%	21%
Coffee & cocoa	-/-	-/-	-/-		1%	1%	1%		0%	0%	0%
Rice	0%	0%	0%		10%	9%	10%		6%	5%	6%
Cassava	0%	0%	0%		5%	4%	5%		10%	8%	8%
Other	5%	5%	5%		11%	9%	11%		19%	18%	17%
Forestry	6%	6%	6%		5%	5%	5%		22%	12%	12%
Logs and timber	0%	0%	0%		3%	3%	3%		9%	0%	0%
Charcoal and wood	0%	0%	0%		2%	2%	2%		13%	12%	11%
Mining and panning	25%	26%	30%		11%	8%	11%		0%	0%	0%
Manufacturing	8%	9%	7%		8%	8%	7%		7%	12%	12%
Services	50%	49%	45%		46%	46%	47%		26%	24%	24%
Transport & communication	12%	11%	10%		-/-	-/-	-/-		7%	7%	7%
Government services	10%	10%	11%		-/-	-/-	-/-		3%	3%	3%

Source: World Bank (1982), UNDP (2001) and IMF (various years).

2.1.5 Main agricultural produce and secondary products

The civil war since 1990 destroyed much of the Liberian economy, including agriculture, and adversely affected the majority of Liberia estimated 2.8 million citizens at the time. An estimated 1.6 million Liberian were displaced by fighting, with three-quarters of a million refugees fleeing into surrounding countries. Thus, this section will present a brief overview of: 1. Agriculture prior to the 1990 civil war and 2. The current status of Liberia Agriculture.

Agriculture Prior to the 1990 Civil War. In the decades prior to the 1990 crisis, Liberia's agriculture did not change much in terms of the composition of inputs and outputs. Most farmers in the interior produced upland rice and cassava as staple crops. Vegetables and fruits were produced as secondary crops to supplement rice and cassava. About 90 percent of the small farmers produced these crops on a subsistence level, usually selling small amounts to local traders and using the income to purchase simple farming tools and family needs.

Cash Crops: The production of rubber, coffee and cocoa by traditional staple producers grew with increased opportunities, offered mainly by Firestone Rubber

Plantation Company and the Liberian Produce Marketing Cooperation (a Government parastatal), for farmers to sell their produce domestically. Non traditional, non-food, cash crop farmers, such as government officials and others, engaged in medium-scale rubber production. The Firestone Rubber Plantation Company had the largest operation in cash crop production. There are 6 other rubber producing companies in Liberia but Firestone was Liberia's largest single rubber producer and employer.

Table 14: Core Statistics for Rice – Paddy Production and Imports

Year	Area harvested (1000 Ha)	Average National Yield per hectare in tonnes	National production (1000 tonnes)	Rice Imports – Qty Mt	Imports Value \$'000 US\$
1990	175.00	1.03	180.00	70,328	25,145
1991	110.00	0.91	100.00	171,945	64,200
1992	120.00	0.92	110.00	141,392	51,715
1993	60.00	1.08	65.00	178,473	48,650
1994	45.00	1.11	50.00	120,895	44,130
1995	50.00	1.12	56.20	155,169	35,100
1996	75.60	1.25	94.450	195,443	46,900
1997	135.20	1.25	168.40	147,657	24,800
1998	161.90	1.29	209.40	170,571	25,700
1999	153.70	1.28	196.30	136,091	20,800
2000	143.50	1.28	183.40	221,420*	37,000
2001	130.00	1.12	145.00	100,000	20,000
2002	120.00	0.92	110,00	100,000	20,000
2003	120.00	0.83	100,00	100,000	20,000
2004	120.01	0	110,00	100,000	22,000
Average	114/66	1.03	125.21	125,864	33,742

Source: FAOSTAT Note: combined milled paddy rice, wheat, flour maize and maize, FAO Estimates.- 2006

These tables illustrate the rapid decline in area harvested for rice paddy and cassava production over the war period from 1990 to 2004. Rice area farmed has averaged around 114,000 hectares with an average yield of 1 tonne/ha over this period. National production swung in this period erratically from 180,000 tonnes in 1990 to a low of 50,000 tonnes in 1994 averaging over the longer period to 2004 to around 125,000 tonnes. Cereal imports have correspondingly filled the short fall.

In terms of cassava and vegetable production (non-disaggregated by type) FAO estimates show that a steady increase in the area devoted to cassava took place whilst the area set aside for vegetable production has been rather static. Production in both cases has also hardly changed in the 14-year period over which these statistics are available.

Rice and cassava: Rice is the staple food of Liberia with an estimated annual consumption of 300,000 tons yet Liberia only produces about one third of this. This means there is local market potential. Although the world market price is currently depressed it sells as a fairly high price in Liberia, so making rice production for the local market profitable.

Table 15: Core Statistics for Cassava and Vegetables Production

Year	Cassava (fresh and dried)			Vegetables		
	Area harvested (1000 Ha)	Quantity produced (1000 tonnes)	Yield per hectare (tonnes/ha)	Area harvested (1000 Ha)	Quantity produced (1000 tonnes)	Yield per hectare (tonnes/ha)
1990	55.00	380.00	6.91	17.00	70.00	4.12
1991	42.00	270.00	6.43	17.00	70.00	4.12
1992	40.00	280.00	6.67	17.00	70.00	4.12
1993	40.00	245.00	6.13	17.00	70.00	4.12
1994	29.00	250.00	6.25	17.00	75.00	4.41
1995	32.81	175.00	6.03	17.00	75.00	4.41
1996	43.30	213.26	6.50	17.00	75.00	4.41
1997	47.00	282.20	6.52	17.00	75.00	4.41
1998	55.50	307.00	6.53	17.00	75.00	4.41
1999	67.00	361.30	6.51	17.00	75.00	4.41
2000	72.50	440.50	6.57	17.00	75.00	4.41
2001	72.50	480.00	6.62	17.00	75.00	4.41
2002	75.00	480.00	6.62	17.00	75.00	4.41
2003	75.00	490.00	6.53	17.00	75.00	4.41
2004	75.00	490.00	6.53	17.00	75.00	4.41
Average	54.77	342.95	6.49	17.00	73.66	4.33

Source: FAOSTAT, 2006

Cocoa and Coffee have been a major occupation of the Liberian farmers as a source of farm income as well as major contributor of foreign exchange earnings and a source of revenue for the national budget. Both crops are ranked second and third respectively to rubber but their cultivation is more widespread than rubber, mainly due to the ease with which they can be produced and the land required for an economically acceptable operation.

Livestock and Poultry: The production of livestock begins to decline in the 1980s due to civil disturbances and was completely destroyed during the 14 years (1990 - 2003) of civil war. Prior to this there were 3 large scale poultry production farms in operation. Table eggs as well as broilers were produced for the local market. Rural households also raised poultry, pigs, sheep and goats.

The Ministry of Agriculture established cattle ranches in several areas (4) of Liberia. Additionally, the College of Agriculture and Forestry and the Central Agriculture Research Institute developed cattle ranches for their research and training purposes. Traditional cattle-raising was also practiced largely in the Southeastern part of the country and sparingly elsewhere.

The livestock situation before and after the war has to be analyzed along with consideration of the general organization of the various industries, from the production or importation of products to their marketing/commercialization through necessary processing sanitary control and veterinary technical assistance required at each level of the industry.

One must also identify different participants/actors to know who can count on who as the ability to invest, who has technical know-how/knowledge, and who should be assisted financially and technically.

The native Liberian cattle species consist of the N'Dama and Muturu races are all trypanotolerant, as are the Djallonke type small ruminants. These races adapted to local conditions should be considered the base on which improvement might be made.

Fisheries

Fisheries is important to the social and economic development of Liberia because of their enormous potentials to generate employment opportunities and reduce poverty, improve nutritional standard of the population, and generate revenue and foreign exchange earnings that can be used to develop other sectors of the national economy. However, the level of investment in fisheries is quite low and fisheries have not been given the priority they rightfully deserve. As a result, fisheries have been largely marginalized from most development and food security debates and are absent from national planning processes.

The fisheries sector is under-developed and fishermen and fish farmers are presently classified as the poorest among the poor. Their living conditions are sub-standard, they lack basic amenities such as clean water and sanitation, they lack basic education and suffer from social exclusion. But it can be logically argued that a well managed fisheries sector that is supported by adequate Government policies and interventions can be directly and indirectly linked to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

The fisheries sector is presently generating direct employment to thousands of fishermen, fish processors, fish traders and boat builders, and also to farmers practicing fish farming during the off planting season. Presently fisheries is providing direct employment to approximately 33,000 fishermen and fish processors and aquaculture is providing employment 3,600 farmers in 169 communities. If these figures are multiplied by a factor of 10 to take into account the dependents of the people who are directly employed in fisheries and aquaculture, it can be estimated that 366,000 people are critically dependent on fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihood security. Fisheries and aquaculture are also providing food security to many poor people through affordable high protein food. Over 80 percent of Liberians depend on fish as their source of animal protein supply. A fully developed and well managed fisheries and aquaculture sector can significantly increase its contribution to poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods.

The potentials of fisheries to make significant contributions to national socio-economic development are quite obvious. Presently, fisheries and aquaculture are providing employment and livelihoods security for an estimated 366,000 Liberians based on an annual fisheries and aquaculture production of only 10,000 tons of fish. The marine fishery has a potential sustainable production of 180,000 tons, the potential of 40,000 tons for inland fisheries. The 1800 km of river, lakes, lagoons, perennial swamps and other water bodies offer great potential for increased production from small-scale and commercial aquaculture.

Table 16: Estimates of the evolution of Liberia's National Herds

Species	1980	2002	2005	Compound Annual Growth Rates (2002 – 2005)
Cattle	39,000	36,000	25,000	-11,21%
Sheep/Goats	400,000	430,000	435,160	0,40%
Pigs	103,000	130,000	131,950	0,50%
Chicken	2,620,000	5,200,000	5,428,000	1,44%
Total (LUs)	106,000	139,000	136,786	-0,53%

Sources: FAO/AGAL – 2005 LUs = Livestock Units covered on the basis of cattle = 0.50; sheep and goats = 0/10; pigs = 0.2 and chickens = 0.01

Table 17: Fresh Eggs Imports in 2006

Importation	Cartoon	Quantity		CIF US\$
		Dozens	Tonnes	
UN Drive Supermarket	6,560	196,800	125.20	98,928.00
Roomey Brothers	13,128	393,840	250.74	195,488.00
West Africa Enterprise	24,928	747,840	4,761.24	271,741.44
Monoprix Supermarket	28,800	864,000	550.06	320,190.40
Venus Corporation	96,705	2,901,150	2,901.15	1,420,005.70
Eid Supply Center	13,058	391,740	391.74	180,220.98
Abi Jaoudi & Azar Trading	15,593	467,790	467.70	372,939.80
Total	218,446	6,553,560	10,833.91	3,173,882.87

Source: Based on figures provided by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Table 18: Importation of Frozen/Process Meat and Live Animals in 2006

Meat	Quantity(tonnes)	Value in US\$
Frozen buffalo meat	56	47,600
Frozen beef	66	95,960
Frozen turkey wings	148	221,449
Frozen pig meat	690	524,886
Frozen chickens	1,893	1,464,135
Pigs' feet	8,082	378,339
Total Frozen & Processed Meat	10,935 tonnes	
• Live animal importation: 12,000 heads of N'Dama and 14,000 of Zebu	3,000 tonnes	
• 15 to 16,000 heads of sheep and goats/year	312 tonnes	
Grand Total:	14,237 tonnes	

Source: Based on figures provided by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry - 2006

The current agriculture status:

After 14 years of civil conflict a new Government was elected into office at the beginning of 2006. This government has been to establish series of measures through it will address urgent problems and priorities of the country and lay the foundations for sustainable peace leading to economy recovery and development. The agriculture sector is central to this strategy and is looked upon as meeting access to food, employment and income as well as foreign exchange. With a population of about 3.5 million people the vast majority are involved in agriculture production for subsistence purposes, producing little surplus either for the home market or for export. Commercial cash crop on the other hand such as rubber and oil

palm attract different players and are operated at different levels. The agricultural sector is estimated to employ over 70% of the entire labor force although its contribution to GDP is about 20%.

The Government of Liberia (GOL) identified the following objectives for agricultural recovery and natural resource development:

- Sustainable resettlement of all vulnerable groups (internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), returnees and conflicted host communities and creation of employment for youth.
- Enhancing food security and achieving self-reliance in the main staple crops particularly increased and stable supply and availability of food products.
- Improvement of access to food for the most vulnerable social groups and enhancement of the nutritional absorption capacity of the population.
- Increasing incomes of the smallholders through improved productivity, marketing and value addition with emphasis on gender issue in agriculture.
- Rejuvenating the commercial and plantation sector.
- Restocking of livestock and rehabilitation of the fisheries sector
- Institutional and policy reforms directed at addressing the main pillars of governance including decentralization, economic management and food security.
- Increasing investment both public and private to jump start the sector's contribution to overall economic development.

The vast majority of Liberians depend on food imports, which substitutes for local production. The local food production is also held back by a combination of factors including poor infrastructure and input use, limited support services either privately available or from government, as well as limited access to credit at affordable rates. Agriculture production continues to operate at very low levels of productivity as well as output.

2.1.6 Main export markets

Agriculture in Liberia was previously dominated by export crops which included rubber, oil palm, coffee, cocoa and citrus. Although these export crops still account for a substantial portion of Liberia's foreign exchange earnings, an increase in food crop production is now very evident. Food crops grown include rice (both upland and swamp), cassava and other root crops, banana, pulses and vegetables. The most prevalent methods of cropping are "slash and burn" and shifting cultivation. At present, food crops are produced mainly by subsistence farmers.

Cocoa has traditionally been a key commercial and poverty reduction crop in Liberia. An estimated 28,000 hectares were planted with cocoa by 1987; however recent production levels average around 2,000 - 3,000 metric tons per year.

Due to high rehabilitation cost of cocoa and coffee farms affected by the civil war, 61 percent and 71 percent of the pre-war cocoa and coffee farms respectively, have not been rehabilitated. Between 1998 – 2001, the quantity of cocoa exported totaled 7,457.65 metric tons. Of this amount, 2,163 metric tons were exported in 2000; 2,080 metric tons in 1999; 208.5 metric tons in 1998 and 1,205.95 in 2001.

Nevertheless, cocoa presents an opportunity to start improving the livelihoods of farmers and providing a solid platform for rural development. Production can be

restarted, initially through tree rehabilitation and improved management, followed by replanting with appropriate planting materials. Cocoa can generate relatively high incomes, particularly with an improved marketing system, while increasing productivity on existing farms can discourage expansion into forests.

During the period 1998 – 2001, total quantity of coffee exported amounted to 2,110.80 metric tons; 914.50 metric tons in 2000; 872.80 metric tons in 1999; 257.50 metric tons in 1998, and 66.00 metric tons in 2001.

Rubber is produced primarily for export. Between 1998 – 2001, total quantity of rubber exported was 332,102 metric tons with a total export value of US\$180.9 million dollars. The volume of rubber exported in 2001 was the highest (110,900 metric tons); next export was in year 2000 (108,780 metric tons); followed by 1999 (68,103 metric tons) and 1998 (44,280 metric tons).

During the same period, the average annual export value of rubber was recorded at US\$45.2 million. Of the total export value, the value of exportation in 2000 was the highest, accounting for 33.7 percent; and 1998 13.7 percent. Export value per metric ton did not vary much during the period. It is substantially skewed around the average of the four years and slightly high in the years 2000 and 1998 with US\$560.01 and 560.00 respectively.

The exportation of rubber increased significantly over the period under review. Between 1998 – 1999, the volume of rubber export increased by 54 percent. From 1999 to 2000, exports rose by 60 percent reflecting an increase in rubber export from 68,130 metric tons to 108,780 metric tons.

The export data for cocoa, coffee and rubber are presented in the table below:

Table 19: Cocoa, Coffee and Rubber export by quantities and values
1998 – 2001.

Details	Quantity		Values		
	Metric Tons	% Total	US\$(000)	% Total	USD/MT
Cocoa Exports					
1998	2,008.50	26.93	N/A	N/A	N/A
1999	2,080.20	27.89	N/A	N/A	N/A
2000	2,163.00	29.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
2001	1,205.95	16.17	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total:	7,457.65	100.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Coffee Exports					
1998	257.50	12.20	N/A	N/A	N/A
1999	872.80	41.35	N/A	N/A	N/A
2000	914.50	43.32	N/A	N/A	N/A
2001	66.00	3.13	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total:	2,110.80	100.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rubber Exports					
1998	44,282.00	13.33	24.8	13.71	560.00
1999	68,126.00	20.51	37.9	20.95	556.28
2000	108,781.00	32.76	60.9	33.67	560.01
2001	110,913.00	33.40	57.3	31.67	516.58
Total:	332,102.00	100.00	180.9	100.00	544,74

Source: Ministry of Agriculture Crop Survey - 2002

Table 20: Destinations of Main Export Markets

#	Export commodity	Destination
1.	Cocoa beans	USA, Spain, Germany and Netherlands
2.	Rubber	USA, Belgium and Netherlands
3.	Palm Oil	USA, Gambia

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry - 2006

Table 21: Estimates of Liberian Export Earning by Products from 2000 – 2005

Product	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Rubber	47.0	42.1	33.2	40.3	90.4	88.0
	5%	2%	6%	3%	0%	%
Timber	50.7	54.1	60.3	50.1	0.0	0.0%
Cocoa	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.8	3.4	5.1%
	%	%	%	%	%	
Coffee	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0%
	%	%	%	%	%	
Other	0.9	3.4	3.8	8.7	6.7	7.0%
	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	120	127	166	108	103	112.
exports	.3	.9	.5	.9	.8	2
(US\$ millions)						

Source: IMF, 2006

2.1.7 Trade agreements that include agriculture

In an effort to halt and reverse the decline of the agricultural sector in the continent, the African ministers for agriculture endorsed, on 9 June, 2002, the NEPAD Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). CAADP provides an integrated framework of development priorities aimed at restoring agricultural growth, rural development and food security. The African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government during its Second Ordinary Session, held in Maputo between 10 and 11 July 2003, provided strong political support to CAADP and the Heads committed themselves to allocating at least 10 percent of national budgetary resources to the agricultural sector.

In line with the NEPAD philosophy, the 2006 Abuja Food Security Summit has renewed its commitment to eradicating hunger by 2030. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has also called (4 July 2007) for African Green Revolution that must not only contribute to more efficient food production, but also address concerns of environmental protection and support diverse livelihoods in African rural areas.

Liberia is not a member of WTO but the Organization is pushing for further trade liberalization (in both developed and developing countries) to boost economic growth and contribute to reduction of poverty in the longer term. It has been suggested that poor African countries would benefit from free trade, provided that the pace and sequencing of the trade reform measures are properly handled and sufficient

resources are provided by the donor community to cushion short-adjustment costs.⁴ The Everything But Arms (EBA) and the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA) provide trade preferences for quota- and duty-free entry into the EU and US markets respectively. Agricultural products are among the main promising areas to benefit from AGOA, which provides trade and technical assistance packages. The sector plays a major role in other bilateral trade and investment agreements as well.

2.1.8 Sectoral policy related to agriculture, fisheries and forests

Agriculture sector policy

Policies usually are the vision towards a given goal at a time. In Liberia, there had been no evidence of a complete national agricultural policy before 1972. However, the Government vision was to promote export crop production, especially rubber. There was an “Open Door Policy” designed to encourage foreign investment into the country. In promoting this policy, the Government used the following strategies:

1. signing profit-facilitating long-term concession agreements with foreign investors to encourage them to do business in Liberia;
2. removing import taxes on specified production inputs imported by companies in targeted agricultural production and marketing businesses; and
3. Wage stabilizing regulation.

This led to the establishment of a plantation for the first export crop rubber, which was set up in 1926 by Firestone in Liberia. The Open Door Policy had significant impact on the number of companies in the country, international trade and foreign earnings, employment creation, food availability, and overall economic development.

From 1947 to 1972, the importance attached to the agriculture sector of Liberia increased institutionally i.e. from a unit in Government in the late forties to a full Ministry by May, 1972 by series of Acts passed by the National Legislature. During this time and prior to 1980, the driving force behind Liberia’s agriculture was focused on capacity building to increase food availability through the promotion of productivity. Special attention was given to research and extension, production and exportation of cash crops, especially rubber, coffee and cocoa.

Political upheavals and social disorder generally dominated agriculture development efforts in the years following 1979. During this period, most of the country’s limited development resources were devoted to non- agricultural activities .There were slogans used to draw people’s attention to agriculture, for example, ‘Green Revolution’ and “Back to the Soil”. However, national resource allocation did not reflect an emphasis on agriculture. For decades Liberia made several attempts to develop and adopt a National Agricultural Development Policy, but none reached to its final conclusion. It is believed that the Act of 1972 establishing the Ministry of Agriculture was the first attempt at providing a clear and recorded mandate with an institutional arrangement for the implementation of said mandate.

The current mandate of the Ministry, which is contained in the 1972 Act, is “..... achieving self-sufficiency in food production, increasing the country’s ability to earn

⁴ Kym Anderson, Agriculture, Trade Reform And Poverty Reduction: Implications For Sub-Saharan Africa, Policy Issues in International Trade And Commodities Study Series No. 22, UN/ UNCTAD, New York and Geneva, 2004.

and conserve foreign exchange, to increase farmers income and purchasing power, and to bring them out of subsistence farming into commercial farming, thereby enabling the country as well as its people to prosper”

During the 14 years of civil war (1990 - 2003), potential farmers and farm workers were either fighting or displaced, and government authority was fragmented. No clear agricultural policies were articulated or implemented however, the 1972 mandate remains the vision of the Ministry to date. The main problem areas for achieving the mandate were the supporting policies, strategies, and programmes to ensure its successful accomplishment.

The current government was inaugurated in January 2006. Under the leadership of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the Government of Liberia is seeking to rebuild the shattered economy, restore peace and security and improve the livelihoods of the 3.5 million inhabitants, many of whom were displaced by the conflict. With the strong support of the international community, including the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) as well as multilateral and bilateral partners, the Government is articulating its vision for sustained economic growth and poverty reduction. A draft Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (I-PRSP) for the period July 2006-June 2008 has been formulated. The draft sets out a comprehensive strategy for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including the goal of reducing substantially the proportion of people who suffer from hunger (one of the MDGs) that member countries of the United Nations have pledged to achieve by 2015.

In October 2006, the Statement of Policy Intent for the Agricultural Sector identified supporting the transition from relief to recovery and development, ensuring food security, and building capacity as the priority three strategic priority objectives for 2006-2007. The realization of these short term objectives is expected to lay the foundation for realizing longer term goals that include ‘self-sufficiency in food production, expansion of cash crop production, development of an agricultural processing infrastructure, and diversification of production.

This Comprehensive Agriculture Policy document is being developed within the context of the government of Liberia’s multi-year MDG-based Poverty Reduction Strategy.

The overriding goal of the Food and Agriculture Policy and Strategy (FAPS) is ‘*a modernized, revitalized agriculture that contributes to shared, inclusive and sustainable economic development and growth of Liberia*’

The broad objectives of FAPS are:

1. Enhance inclusive and pro-poor growth of agricultural production, productivity, value addition and diversification;
2. Ensure that all Liberians, throughout their life cycle, enjoy at all times safe food in sufficient quantity and quality to satisfy their nutrition needs for optimal health;
3. Build and strengthen human and institutional capacities of public sector, civil society organizations and private sector capable of sustaining natural resources, mitigating risks to producers and mainstreaming gender.

Fishery policy

The fisheries sub-sector, both marine and inland (including aquaculture), has a huge potential to make substantial contribution to national socio-economic development and help address the major challenges of the rehabilitation and recovery efforts of the country’s economy. A well managed fisheries and aquaculture sub-sector that is

supported by adequate Government policies and interventions will continue to contribute to achieving national development priority objectives in the short, medium and long-term.

Liberia's continental shelf area has considerable maritime fish resources that can be harvested on a sustainable basis to achieve meaningful socio-economic benefits for country and people especially in terms of contributions to national food security; improving nutritional standard of the population; employment generation and poverty reduction; curbing rural-urban migration; revenue and foreign exchange earnings that can be used to develop other economic and social sectors. The most abundant marine species are the pelagics comprising mainly *Engraulis encrasicolus*, *Sardinella aurita*, *Decapterus* spp, *Caranx* spp and *Ethmalosa fimbriata*. The main oceanic pelagic resources are tuna and tuna-like species such as bonito and marlin. Demersal fish resources such as *Lutjanidae* spp, *Sparidae* spp and *Dentex* spp are also found and can be harvested on commercial basis. Crustaceans such as shrimps and lobsters are less abundant but are of much higher value than finfish species. A research survey conducted in 1986 indicated a total fish biomass of about 800,000 tons of pelagic and demersal species. The pre-war estimated maximum sustainable yield (msy) of the continental shelf area was 180,000 tons per year. The estimated maximum sustainable yield (msy) for the inland fishery is 40,000 tons per year. Liberia's six major rivers of approximately 1810.125 km that transverse the country and the countless number of perennial swamps and inland water bodies offer enormous potentials for increased production in inland fisheries and aquaculture.

In 2002, fisheries contributed 12% of agricultural GDP and 3.2% of the national GDP. The fisheries sub-sector creates job opportunities and income earnings for a substantial number of urban and rural inhabitants particularly the youth and women. Presently, fisheries is playing a key role in the livelihoods of the coastal population and directly employ about 13,000 fishers and 18,000 fish processors and their families residing in 139 communities in coastal counties. There are about 3,600 fish farmers nationwide engaged in some form of fish culture on a part-time basis, currently operating 450 ponds of various sizes, with a total area of 21 hectares, distributed in 159 communities around the country. Taking into account the dependents of the fishers, processors and fish farmers and multiplying by a factor of 10 as the number of persons per household, it can be estimated that presently about 660,000 people are dependent on fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihood security. This figure excludes the boat builders, fish traders and their dependents.

Given the sub-sector's present level of contribution to agricultural and national GDP, based on a total fish production in 2004 of approximately 10,000 tons from an estimated maximum sustainable yield (msy) of 180,000 tons per year. The current level of fish and aquaculture production is evidently quite low and can be increased significantly when the sub-sector is fully developed.

The primary concern of fisheries management is to ensure sustainable use of the resources to benefit present and future generations. In Liberia, therefore, the point of departure is to elaborate and implement a clearly defined policy and policy objectives aimed at achieving the best possible use of the country's fisheries and aquaculture resources and the attainment of sub-sectoral development policy objectives such as: contribution to national food security and improved nutritional standards of the population, creating employment opportunities and poverty reduction particularly in rural communities, improving incomes and quality of life, and revenue and foreign exchange earnings for the country. In this context, fisheries management will consider traditional fisheries and practices and industrial fisheries and address their constraints and harness their opportunities. Management will accord importance and

priority to capacity building and institutional strengthening; legislation and regulatory measures; monitoring, control and surveillance and enforcement; regional and international cooperation in fisheries management. Government interventions will be primarily focused on the development of artisanal fisheries and small-scale aquaculture; the development of industrial fisheries and commercial aquaculture will be led by the private sector with Government providing requisite backstopping and creating the enabling environment for sustained development and growth.

Forestry policy

Prior to 2003, the forestry sector was a major contributor to economic growth in Liberia. Total log and timber production per annum reached 1 million cubic meters, with a value of approximately \$US100 million, and an average of 7,000 persons employed in the sector. Forestry contributed approximately 50% of Liberian export earnings and about 20% of GDP.

In 2003 the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) imposed sanctions on Liberian log and timber exports because of poor governance in the sector and its fueling of conflict. In particular, the Government lacked control over forest areas, revenues were being assigned to individuals rather than Government accounts, human rights abuses were being committed by sector operators, and forest area ownership was often duplicated. After a legal review of the sector, the new Government declared null and void all timber contracts and instituted reform measures that were accepted by the UNSC and led to the lifting of the sanction in 2006. The reform measures included enacting a new forest reform law, forest land use planning, forest institutional reforms, and transparent control of timber production through a chain of custody system. The legal framework and the ground rules have now been laid for sustainable forest management and the economic revival of the sector. In particular, timber production is about to start in 2008 and steadily increase to a sustainable level by 2012.

The central goal for forestry is for the sector to become a source of higher incomes for the rural population, ensuring that the benefits are shared equitably, and that adequate environmental and other regulatory safeguards being in place to ensure sustainability.

The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) is responsible for implementing forestry policy, and does so using a forestry management approach that balances conservation, community and commercial uses. The FDA focuses on the following strategic objectives with respect to forestry management:

- Develop commercial forestry to be a significant source of revenue generation and growth for local dwellers, small scale enterprises, and the nation at large.
- Use community forest management techniques to identify viable economic opportunities for communities from forest resources and provide extension and technical assistance in community forest management.
- Conserve protected and bio-diversified important areas, with an emphasis on providing sustainable livelihoods for contiguous communities within the fringes of the forest and promoting tourism.
- Enhance environmental benefits from forestry reserves through an analysis of potential carbon markets.
- Enter into a Chain of Custody Management Contract to induce transparency and protect revenue generation, as well as to maintain a forestry database of pertinent information on available fauna and flora species.

Forestry production is projected to grow substantially from 30,000 cubic meters (m³) to more than 1,300,000 M3, with approximately 2.9 million hectares of forest being used for commercial and community forestry and 1.2 million hectares allocated for conservation and tourism. Rural employment from this sector is targeted at 5,000 for a period of three years.

With the chain of custody system promoting good governance and transparency, the prospects for revenue growth are strong. Revenues are projected to grow from \$1.77 million in 2007/08 to \$26 million in 2009/10. This will be supported by a shift towards more value-added timber products.

Concession contracts are said to differ from those in the past in several ways. First, the Government will be committed to negotiating concession contracts that balance competitive returns for the investor with the need for sustained revenues for the people of Liberia. Second, concession agreements will include commitments to build and maintain local infrastructure, such as feeder roads, schools, and clinics, and otherwise ensure that local communities share in the benefits of concession agreements. Third, Liberia will ensure that royalty and tax payments are publicly, transparently, and fully reported.

The Government will undertake community-based natural resource management reforms that focus on boosting economic activity through the sustainable utilization of timber products, non-timber forest resources, and agro-forestry products, while also improving land management and conservation. It will establish practical mechanisms to enable communities to become directly involved in forest management and to participate in the equitable sharing of benefits stemming from commercial logging. Special efforts are being made to create new opportunities for women in the forestry sector. Market and value chain analyses will be done to identify likely timber and non-timber forest products or promising products derived from agro-forestry systems that could be promoted through community forest activities. These activities are targeted to increasing rural incomes, reducing poverty and building local capacity to maintain and restore forest cover in the country.

2.1.9 Institutional regulatory and policy framework for information and communication

The basic goal for the telecommunications sector is to develop a national Information Technology (IT) infrastructure and a nationwide communication backbone that will ensure a secure communications network for the Government and people of Liberia. Four major cellular phone companies now provide services and competition in the sector is high. But the sector faces several key issues, including weak infrastructure, lack of accessibility, and issues of affordability, especially for the rural poor.

A major achievement in recent past was the passage of a new Telecommunications Act that lays out the regulatory and operational architecture for the sub-sector (standardization of licensing fees and concession agreements, assessment of the value of frequencies/spectrum and other national resources in the sector). The Government also established the Liberian Telecommunications Authority (LTA). In addition, it made initial progress in laying the foundation towards the reinstallation of a national fixed line network by the Liberia Telecommunication Company (LTC), and concluded the payment of salary arrears to redundant LTC staff. It took initial steps towards the formulation of a national ICT policy through robust stakeholder consultations.

Currently, the Government is aiming to achieve the following objectives:

- Ministry of Post and Telecoms (MOPT) will complete the telecommunication and ICT policies that have been initiated;
- LTA will complete the standardization of licensing and fee regimes and the setting of procedures for the implementation of Universal Access based on the telecommunication and ICT policies;
- LTA will make substantial progress in the reinstallation of a predominantly fixed telecom network by 2010 (50% local, 25% rural) and significantly increasing the subscriber base, reaching as many of the major areas of the country as possible;
- LTC will implement the Universal Access policy and a Government secure communications network, as well as initiate preparation for the privatization of LTC; and
- LTC will put into place a competent management team and workforce, and settle all relevant and justifiable issues concerning back pay and retrenchment of some 50% of former employees.

2.2 Socio-economic Profile

2.2.1 Total active population, demographic breakdown

Estimated population

Liberia has just completed a detailed population census and demographic breakdown, March, 2008. According to Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), an official result of the census will be released in 2008. However, based on a release by the Liberia Health Sector Rapid Assessment Validation and Strategy Design Work published in August, 2006 a population estimate of about 3.5 million people has been estimated. Table 22 presents the population distribution per county and the total population estimate.

Table 22: Summary of total population estimate and distribution per county

County	Number of Districts	Population
Bomi	4	96,480
Bong	8	522,049
Gbarpolu	5	109,000
Grand Bassa	7	280,000
Grand Cape Mount	5	71,288
Grand Gedeh	6	74,203
Grand Kru	5	56,487
Lofa	6	233,889
Margibi	4	261,068
Maryland	6	149,329
Montserrado	4	852,148
Nimba	6	607,000
River Gee	6	56,914
River Cess	6	86,733

County	Number of Districts	Population
Sinoe	10	91,400
Total	88	3, 547,988

Source: Liberia Institute of Information and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) – 2008
Housing and Population Census

Demographic breakdown

According to the preliminary report of the Liberia Demographic and Health Survey (2007) and published by LISGIS the population distribution of men and women (age 15-49) based on weighted average is presented in Table 2.2.1b. It can be observed that the proportion of both men and women generally decline with increasing age, reflecting the comparatively young age structure of the Liberian population.

The data revealed that sixty-four percent of women are married or living in an informal marital union as compare to 57% of men. About 38% of the surveyed men have never married compared to 26% of women.

The data further indicated that six in ten men and women live in rural areas. About one-third of the respondents are in the North Central Region, while another one-third is in greater Monrovia. Men are considerably more likely to be educated than women, e.g. About 42 % of the women have never been to school , compared to only 18% of men.

In the religious category, about 8 in 10 respondents are Christians, while about one in 10 are Muslims.

Table 23: Background Characteristics of Respondents from Liberia Demographic and Health Survey Preliminary Report, 2007

Background Characteristics of Respondents						
Percent distribution of women and men by background characteristics, Liberia 2007						
Background characteristics	Weighted Percent	Women Weighted Number	Unweighted Number	Weighted Percent	Men Weighted Number	Unweighted number
Age						
15-19	18.4	1,307	1,340	19.1	1,146	1,178
20-24	19.3	1,368	1,386	17.4	1,042	1,065
25-29	16.4	1,166	1,161	15.3	920	897
30-34	13.6	963	1,003	12.7	765	768
35-39	13.5	957	927	13.8	829	819
40-44	9.3	657	671	11.5	689	657
45-49	9.5	674	604	10.2	613	625
Marital status						
Never married	26.1	1,851	1,906	37.7	2,265	2,368
Married	41.7	2,956	2,913	32.6	1,958	2,004
Living together	22.4	1,588	1,595	24.2	1,453	1,325
Divorced/separated	7.2	513	511	4.7	283	279
Widowed	2.6	183	167	0.7	40	31
Residence						
Urban	42.4	3,006	3,194	40.5	2,434	2,531
Rural	57.6	4,086	3,898	59.5	3,569	3,478
Region						

Background Characteristics of Respondents						
Percent distribution of women and men by background characteristics, Liberia 2007						
Background characteristics	Weighted Percent	Women Weighted Number	Unweighted Number	Weighted Percent	Men Weighted Number	Unweighted number
Monrovia	32.9	2,333	1,858	31.1	1,868	1,428
Northwestern	7.2	510	765	6.8	407	654
South Central	14.2	1,009	1,071	14.9	894	934
Southeastern A	5.3	374	803	5.9	356	724
Southeastern B	6.3	450	1,244	6.8	407	1,120
North Central	34.1	2,417	1,351	34.5	2,072	1,149
Education						
No education	42.3	3,000	2,961	17.6	1,054	943
Primary	32.2	2,283	2,425	31.5	1,889	2,025
Secondary	23.4	1,658	1,565	44.1	2,649	2,707
More than secondary	2.0	145	135	6.8	408	330
Religion						
Christian	84.6	6,002	6,116	81.9	4,915	5,023
Muslim	10.4	739	694	11.9	711	685
Traditional	0.6	43	28	2.4	143	88
None	3.4	238	184	3.3	199	182
Other/missing	1.0	70	70	0.6	34	31
Total	100.0	7,092	7,092	100.0	6,009	6,009

Note: Education categories refer to the highest level of education attended, whether or not that level was completed. Total includes some cases with missing information.

Fertility

Based on the demographic and Health Survey report (2007) the data for the current fertility, total fertility rate (TFR) and its component age-specific fertility rates is presented in table 24. According to the table the TFR is 5.2, indicating that on the average, a Liberian woman who is at the beginning of her child bearing years will give birth to 5.2 children by the end of her reproductive period. The TFR in rural areas (6.2births) is considerably higher than the rate in urban areas (3.8births).

Table 24: Current fertility.

Age-specific and cumulative fertility rates, general fertility rate, and crude birth rate for the three years preceding the survey, by urban-rural residence, Liberia 2007			
Residence	Urban	Rural	Total
Age group			
15-19	101	181	140
20-24	192	281	242
25-29	168	269	225
30-34	135	221	187
35-39	103	168	143
40-44	46	88	73
45-49	17	33	29
TFR	3.8	6.2	5.2
GFR	134.0	215.0	180.0
CBR	32.4	40.4	37.6

Note: Rates for age group 45-49 may be slightly biased due to truncation.
TFR: Total fertility rate for ages 15-49, express per woman
GFR: General fertility rate (births divided by the number of women age 15-44),

Age-specific and cumulative fertility rates, general fertility rate, and crude birth rate for the three years preceding the survey, by urban-rural residence, Liberia 2007
expressed per 1,000 women
CBR: Crude birth rate expressed per 1,000 population

Source: Liberia Demographic and Health Survey Preliminary Report, 2007.

2.2.2 Literacy level and languages

Liberia has 18 recognized languages, however, only one (English) has been used as the official accepted language for business, science education and many other formal public activities. Approximately only 2% of the population speaks standard English. Apart from standard English, colloquial English is spoken and understood by many Liberians. Table 25 contains the 18 recognized and proportion spoken by the population. The Kpelle language is spoken by more people (14.4%) than any of the other languages. The literacy rate has been estimated at 38.3%.

Table 25: Recognized languages and percentages of population in Liberia

Nos.	Recognized Languages	Population	Percent population spoken
1.	Bassa	352,600	10.4
2.	Belle	12,800	0.38
3.	Deh	8,100	0.24
4.	Gola	107,300	3.16
5.	Geo/Dan	200,000	5.90
6.	Grebo	387,000	11.4
7.	Kissi	200,000	5.90
8.	Gbandi	107,000	3.16
9.	Sapo	31,600	0.93
10.	Mende	19,700	0.58
11.	Krahn	47,800	1.41
12.	Kru	2,913	0.09
13.	Kpelle	487,000	14.4
14.	Lorma	141,800	4.20
15.	Mano	256,022	7.55
16.	Mandingo	138,400	4.08
17.	Vai	105,000	3.10
18.	English	69,000	2.04
19.	Others		
Population estimated at 3,547,988			

Source: Bendor-Samuel, 1989; TILL 1973–1998.

2.2.3 Access to services (health, schools, electricity)

Health

As a direct result of the civil war, the health of the common person living in Liberia has deteriorated. During the civil war the government could not keep its focus on maintaining or improving the national health care, and for this reason the system deteriorated. Another result of the war was the downturn of the economy, which resulted in over 80% of today's population living in poverty. As with other systems affected by the war, the healthcare system is beginning to get back to a position where it can handle the needs of the people of Liberia. A summary of functional health facilities against population distribution per county in 2006 is presented table 2.2.3a. The data reveals that seven out of the 15 counties did not have a functional

hospital in 2006, however, attempts have been made by the Government of Liberia and her partners in progress to have all of these hospitals renovated in 2008

Infant and Child Mortality

Information on infant and child mortality is useful in identifying segments of the population that are at high risk so that programmes can be designed to reduce it. Table 26 presents infant and under-five mortality rates from the LDHS. The infant mortality rate is 111 per every 1000 births, while the less than 5 mortality rate is 185 per 1000 born. These numbers have been dropping due to the end of the civil war, after many years of climbing upwards. The infant mortality rate recorded in the survey 72 death per 1,000 live births.

Table 26: Early Childhood Mortality Rates

Neonatal, post neonatal, infant, child, and under-five mortality rates for five-year periods preceding the survey, Liberia 2006-07					
Postneonatal					
Years preceding the survey	Neonatal mortality(NN)	mortality (PNN)	Infant Mortality (1q0)	Child mortality (4q1)	Under- five (5q0)
0-4	32	40	72	42	111
5-9	33	75	113	69	174
10-14	44	95	139	93	219

Computed as the difference between the infant and neonatal mortality rates

Source: Liberia Demographic and Health Survey Preliminary Report, 2007.

HIV/AIDS Knowledge

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a public health threat worldwide. The LDHS data presented in table 27 shows that more than more than nine in ten respondents in Liberia have heard of AIDS. Knowledge is slightly lower among older women and younger men as well as those who have never had sex, rural women and men.

Table 27: Knowledge of AIDS

Percentage of women and men who have heard of AIDS, by background characteristics, Liberia 2007					
Background characteristics	Women	Men	of AIDS	Number	
	Heard	Heard			
Age					
15-24	91.8	2,676	87.4	2,187	
25-29	90.2	1,307	81.9	1,146	
30-34	93.4	1,368	93.3	1,042	
35-39	88.6	1,166	93.7	920	
40-44	89.4	1,920	96.8	1,594	
45-49	85.0	1,331	95.5	1,303	
Marital status					
Never married	93.7	1,851	88.2	2,265	
Ever had sex	96.3	1,487	95.5	1,600	
Never had sex	82.8	364	70.8	665	
Married or living together		87.4	4,545	95.2	3,411
Divorced/separated/widowed		91.0	696	95.3	323
Residence					
Urban	97.1	3,006	97.4	2,434	

Percentage of women and men who have heard of AIDS, by background characteristics, Liberia 2007				
Rural	83.7	4,086	89.3	3,569
Region				
Monrovia	97.9	2,333	97.8	1868
Northwestern	90.9	510	96.6	407
South Central	92.1	1,009	97.4	894
Southeastern A	82.7	374	92.9	356
Southeastern B	86.3	450	88.3	407
North Central	81.2	2,417	85.8	2,072
Education				
No education	82.8	3,000	86.3	1,054
Primary	90.7	2,283	87.2	1,889
Secondary and higher	98.7	1,803	98.1	3,058
Total 15-49	89.4	7,092	92.6	6,003

Source: Liberia Demographic and Health Survey Preliminary Report, 2007.

Table 28: Summary of Total Population Estimate and Functional Health Facilities (2006)

County	Number of Districts	Population	Nos. of Hospitals	Nos. of Clinics	Nos. of Health Centers	Total Health Facilities (HF)	Population per Health Facility
Bomi	4	96,480	1	14	1	16	6,030
Bong	8	522,049	2	25	2	29	18,000
Gbarpolu	5	109,000		12	2	14	7,786
Grand Bassa	7	280,000	3	17	2	22	12,727
Grand Cape Mount	5	71,288		18	2	20	3,564
Grand Gedeh	6	74,203	1	12		13	5,708
Grand Kru	5	56,487		8	2	10	5,649
Lofa	6	233,889		31	9	40	5,847
Margibi	4	261,068	1	22	4	27	9,669
Maryland	6	149,329	1	9	4	14	10,666
Montserrado	4	852,148	6	44	10	60	14,202
Nimba	6	607,000	3	41	6	50	12,140
River Gee	6	56,914		11	4	15	3,798
River Cess	6	86,733		17	1	18	4,819
Sinoe	10	91,400		5	1	6	15,233
Total	88	3,547,988	18	286	50	354	135,838

Source: Liberia Demographic and Health Survey Report 2007

Education

Liberia's education system has also suffered due to the civil unrest in the country. Due to this fact, only 38.3% of the total population can read or write. Out of this figure, 62.3% of females and 29.9% are literate. However, these levels are increasing as a result of the recent stability in the country and the money the government has invested into improving school system. More boys (51%) attend primary schools than girls (48%) as can be seen in table 28. A similar trend is observed in both junior secondary, senior secondary as well as the overall enrolment for the school year 2007/2008.

Table 29: Pre-Primary School Enrolment for 2007/2008 Census

County Name	Enrolment			Percent		County to Liberia	# of schools
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls		
Bomi	5 921	5 647	11 568	51.18%	48.82%	2.36%	115
Bong	33 155	29 806	62 961	52.66%	47.34%	12.82%	382
Gbarpolu	8 359	7 001	15 360	54.42%	45.58%	3.13%	118
Grand Bassa	18 136	15 884	34 020	53.31%	46.69%	6.93%	288
Grand Cape Mount	7 424	7 018	14 442	51.41%	48.59%	2.94%	140
Grand Gedeh	6 830	6 479	13 309	51.32%	48.68%	2.71%	132
Grand Kru	6 802	5 481	12 283	55.38%	44.62%	2.50%	129
Lofa	17 264	17 033	34 297	50.34%	49.66%	6.98%	280
Margibi	13 710	13 765	27 475	49.90%	50.10%	5.60%	204
Maryland	7 299	7 335	14 634	49.88%	50.12%	2.98%	135
Montserrado	57 833	61 344	119 177	48.53%	51.47%	24.27%	1 067
Nimba	48 216	46 070	94 286	51.14%	48.86%	19.20%	589
River Cess	7 576	6 312	13 888	54.55%	45.45%	2.83%	118
River Gee	4 658	4 256	8 914	52.25%	47.75%	1.82%	96
Sinoe	7 634	6 800	14 434	52.89%	47.11%	2.94%	195
Total	250,817	240,231	491,048	51.08%	48.92%	100.00%	3,988

Source: Ministry of Education Census – 2007/2008

Table 30: Junior High School Enrolment for 2007/2008 census

County Name	Enrolment			Percent		County to Liberia	# of schools
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls		
Bomi	914	711	1625	56.25%	43.75%	1.59%	13
Bong	4416	3112	7528	58.66%	41.34%	7.39%	87
Gbarpolu	249	125	374	66.58%	33.42%	0.37%	16
Grand Bassa	1879	1267	3146	59.73%	40.27%	3.09%	37
Grand Cape Mount	477	350	827	57.68%	42.32%	0.81%	19
Grand Gedeh	1459	1085	2544	57.35%	42.65%	2.50%	22
Grand Kru	879	437	1316	66.79%	33.21%	1.29%	33
Lofa	4272	2214	6486	65.86%	34.14%	6.37%	52
Margibi	4142	3429	7571	54.71%	45.29%	7.43%	78
Maryland	2068	1052	3120	66.28%	33.72%	3.06%	24
Montserrado	26843	24863	51706	51.91%	48.09%	50.75%	533
Nimba	7389	5431	12820	57.64%	42.36%	12.58%	165
River Cess	245	88	333	73.57%	26.43%	0.33%	13
River Gee	739	299	1038	71.19%	28.81%	1.02%	17
Sinoe	1072	377	1449	73.98%	26.02%	1.42%	42
Total	57,043	44,840	101,883	56%	44%	100.00%	1,151

Source; Ministry of Education Census 2007/2008

Table 31: Senior High School Enrolment for 2007/2008 Census

County Name	Enrolment			Percent		County to Liberia	# of schools
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls		
Bomi	379	311	690	54.93%	45.07%	1.24%	4
Bong	2 103	1 100	3203	65.66%	34.34%	5.77%	17
Gbarpolu	77	28	105	73.33%	26.67%	0.19%	3
Grand Bassa	911	559	1470	61.97%	38.03%	2.65%	11
Grand Cape Mount	98	23	121	80.99%	19.01%	0.22%	4
Grand Gedeh	719	243	962	74.74%	25.26%	1.73%	6
Grand Kru	125	18	143	87.41%	12.59%	0.26%	3
Lofa	1 615	506	2 121	76.14%	23.86%	3.82%	13
Margibi	2 294	1 502	3 796	60.43%	39.57%	6.84%	24
Maryland	1 275	558	1 833	69.56%	30.44%	3.30%	9
Montserrado	19 478	15 563	35 041	55.59%	44.41%	63.13%	179
Nimba	3 268	2 098	5 366	60.90%	39.10%	9.67%	38
River Cess	37	10	47	78.72%	21.28%	0.08%	1
River Gee	195	39	234	83.33%	16.67%	0.42%	4
Sinoe	292	83	375	77.87%	22.13%	0.68%	5
Total	32,866	22,641	55,507	59.21%	40.79%	100.00%	321

Source: Ministry of Education Census 2007/2008

Table 32: All Students at all Levels 2007/2008 Census

County Name	Enrolment			Percent		County to Liberia	# of schools
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls		
Bomi	11 480	10 181	21 661	53.00%	47.00%	1.82%	146
Bong	70 218	58 491	128 709	54.56%	45.44%	10.84%	389
Gbarpolu	15 967	12 401	28 368	56.29%	43.71%	2.39%	122
Grand Bassa	40 315	33 062	73 377	54.94%	45.06%	6.18%	299
Grand Cape Mount	13 398	12 066	25 464	52.62%	47.38%	2.14%	186
Grand Gedeh	16 818	14 612	31 430	53.51%	46.49%	2.65%	146
Grand Kru	15 292	10 955	26 247	58.26%	41.74%	2.21%	151
Lofa	44 645	38 240	82 885	53.86%	46.14%	6.98%	289
Margibi	37 632	35 336	72 968	51.57%	48.43%	6.15%	224
Maryland	22 823	17 960	40 783	55.96%	44.04%	3.43%	169
Montserrado	190 720	191 034	380 854	50.08%	49.92%	32.08%	1150
Nimba	105 744	94 804	200 548	52.73%	47.27%	16.89%	608
River Cess	14 386	11 103	25 489	56.44%	43.56%	2.15%	120
River Gee	11 033	8 409	19 442	56.75%	43.25%	1.64%	121
Sinoe	16 297	12 758	29 055	56.09%	43.91%	2.45%	197
Total	626,768	560,512	1,187,280	53.00%	47.00%	100%	4,317

Source: Ministry of Education Census 2007/2008

Electricity

The conflict resulted in collateral damage, looting and vandalism of all energy infrastructures, including power plants, substation transmission lines, petrol storage tanks and depots. Today less than 2% of rural residents and 10% of urban residents have access to electricity produced mainly from private generators at prohibitive costs. More than 90% of Liberia's population depends on unreliable and inferior sources of energy such as firewood, charcoal, candles, kerosene and palm oil. The lack of reliable energy sources has put serious strain on Liberia's forest resources. Prior to the war, the total electricity installed capacity of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) was approximately 191 MW, while that of concessionaires was 212 MW. According to the LEC by mid-2008, electricity installed capacity will be a mere 12 MW. However, the Government has made the following progress:

- (i) provision of approximately 2.65 MW of power to some parts of Monrovia;
- (ii) installation of additional generators and network rehabilitation;
- (iii) requesting and receiving Expressions of Interest for the Monrovia Power Concession;
- (iv) awarding the contract for the feasibility studies for the rehabilitation of the Mt. Coffee Hydroelectric Facility; and
- (v) entering an MOU with the West African Power Pool for the connection of 18 Liberian communities with electricity from Cote d'Ivoire.

Between 2008 and 2011, the Government will pursue four key strategic objectives:

1. Complete and publish the national energy policy and master plan. The Government will complete its overall strategy for energy policy, and complete and publish the relevant legislation.
2. Expand the Monrovia grid, and begin to expand the grid to other cities. The
3. Government is planning a concession for an additional 30 to 50 MW for Monrovia
4. Develop new hydro capacity and assess other energy sources. Upon completion of the Mt. Coffee feasibility study the Government will consider

various financing options for the rehabilitation and expansion work, which is expected to last 5-6 years.

5. Develop the upstream and downstream petroleum sectors. The Government will review and determine the most appropriate structures and functions of the National Oil Company of Liberia and the Liberia Petroleum Refining Corporation. It will institute measures to increase the product quality and profitability of the downstream petroleum sub-sector and expand and improve the petroleum product delivery service to rural Liberia.

Water and Sanitation

Poor access to safe water for drinking and sanitation services are major causes of illness and poverty. The impact of inadequate safe water and sanitation services is greatest on the poor, who are badly served by the formal sector. Many fetch water from long distances or pay high prices from vendors. In addition, water and sanitation related sicknesses put severe burdens on health services, keep children out of school, and undermine investment in agriculture and other economic sectors.

The war significantly undermined the delivery of water and sanitation services. Access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities fell from 37% and 27% of the population in 1990, respectively, to 17% and 7% respectively in 2003. Monrovia's water supply fell from 18 million gallons daily to just 1 million gallons. Since the end of the war, significant progress has been made in improving the water and sanitation situation. Monrovia's water supply has tripled to 3 million gallons daily, access to safe drinking water has increased from 17% to 25% of the population, and access to adequate sanitation facilities has increased from 7% to 15%. But much remains to be done in the provision of basic water and sanitation service to the bulk of the citizens of Liberia.

The Government has introduced improved solid waste management with the establishment of 120 collection points in Monrovia, with waste skips and pad in place. Weekly haulage of solid waste in Monrovia increased from 980 m³ in March 2007 to 2,125 m³ in November 2007. Under this arrangement the secondary collection of solid waste from communal dumpsites has been outsourced to private service providers to collect the backlog and current daily generation of 700 m³. The Monrovia City Corporation (MCC), which previously provided this service, has now assumed the role of a facilitator responsible for providing guidelines and monitoring adherence to them. In addition to this arrangement, primary collection of waste from households and other sources to communal dumpsites is being undertaken by community based enterprises and other groups. This has provided jobs in solid waste, while also enhancing the appearance of communities.

The basic goals of the Government with respect to water and sanitation are to increase access to safe drinking water from 25% to 50% of the population, increase access to adequate human waste collection and disposal facilities from 15% to 40%, increase solid waste coverage from 30% to 60%, and sustain 90% of both water and sanitation facilities in the country. To achieve these goals, the Government is addressing three strategic objectives:

- rehabilitate all existing damaged facilities and construct new facilities;
- establish water quality testing facilities nationwide; and
- scale-up hygiene promotion in all fifteen counties nationwide.

In working towards these objectives, the Government is addressing four key policy issues:

- the prospect of establishing an appropriate body to plan, manage and collaborate with partners on water and sanitation issues, with a realistic and unambiguous mandate;
- determine the appropriate role for the private sector in the development, planning, operation and maintenance of facilities and providing services;
- formulate an appropriate strategy for cost recovery; and
- determine to what extent, if any, the Government should subsidize the costs to ensure service delivery to the poorest, and how any such subsidies should be delivered.

2.2.4 Rural-urban drift

Liberia estimated population is about 3.5 million. Of this population 55% live in the rural areas; 70% of the economically active Liberian population is engaged in agricultural activities, although it dropped there after due to the rural-out migration, massive displacements and insecurity in the country side as the result of the civil crisis. An estimated 1.6 million Liberian were internally displaced by fighting and three-quarters of a million refugees fled into surrounding countries. Presently, over 50 % of the Country's population live in urban areas.

Despite resettlement efforts, much of the displaced population has not returned to their areas of origin yet. While gender disaggregated data do not exist on displaced persons, women tend to predominate among those who stayed behind during the conflict.

Similarly, many ex-combatants, the majority of them men, have not returned either. This joined to the fact that labour migration out of rural areas is a male phenomenon in Liberia and countrywide, in 93 percent of households with migrants, it is the male who leaves (CNFSS, 2006), might have led to a deficit of men in rural communities. Additionally, anecdotic evidence points to young males' reluctance to go back to rural areas. Lack of work – 30 percent of those displaced declared lack of work in origin area as one of the main reasons for not returning (CNFSS, 2006), as well as cultural perceptions linked to pre-war agriculture in which young males were exploited by adult elite men, may be influencing the slow path of return for men. If this trend is confirmed, absence of men may have profound implications for the organization of social and economic life in rural areas, which should be analyzed carefully in the design of sector strategies.

2.3 Media and Telecommunications

Freedom of speech and press is fundamental to the building of a peaceful, cohesive and progressive Liberian society because it protects the free flow of information, creativity, and innovation and above all it creates the avenue for society to examine itself. It is through free speech and press that information about politics; religion, culture, health, education, agriculture, basic laws and general ideas about life in any society, country, or community are transmitted to the people. In Liberia, journalists are to make sure of the truth of what he or she reports without distortion. They are to refrain from accusation. The Liberian media provides and ensures equal access for the presentation of divergent views and dissenting opinions.

2.3.1 Newspapers, periodicals and broadcast media

2.3.1.1 Print media – newspapers, periodicals and journals

To date, there are sixteen (16) radio stations in the country. One of them is state-owned, another is being operated by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL); four of them are operated by religious organizations and the rest by private institutions. Except in extremely remote areas, most rural people have access to local community-based radio stations, which to date number 25. There also exist four television stations. Regarding the print media, there are twenty (24) local newspapers with a circulation ranging from 500 copies to 3,000 copies. Only five of these newspapers appear daily on the newsstand while others come out weekly or bi-weekly. More media establishments are expected to spring up as the need arises. Except for the UNMIL Radio and the state-owned Liberia Broadcasting System which broadcast time is 24 hours a day, other radio stations ration their airing schedule mainly due to inadequate supply of electricity, high costs associated with operating a generator and limited staff.

Daily and weekly newspapers in Liberia

Name: Daily Observer Ownership: Liberia Observer Corporation: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 2,500 – 3,000 copies; Average daily readers: 18,000 Distribution: Five of the 15 Counties of Liberia Agric & development focus – Website: www.liberianobserver.com Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions
Name: The Inquirer Ownership: New Era Publications: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 1,500 copies; Average daily readers: 12,000 Distribution: Three of the 15 counties Agric & development focus – Website: www.theinquirer.com Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions
Name: The Analyst Ownership: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 3,500 copies; Average daily readers: 20,000 Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Agric & development focus – Website: www.analystliberia.com Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions
Name: The New Democrat Ownership: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 3,000 – 3,500 copies ; Average daily readers: 25,000 Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions

<p>Name: Heritage Ownership: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 1,500 copies Average daily readers: 10,000 Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>
<p>Name: Chronicle Ownership: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 2,500 copies Average daily readers: 7,000 Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>
<p>Name: The News Ownership: Liberia Media and Marketing Services/Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 1,000 copies Average daily readers:20,000 Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>
<p>Name: Liberian Express Ownership: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 2,000 – 3,000 copies Average daily readers:8,000 Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>
<p>Name: The Informer Ownership: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 1,000 copies; Average daily readers: 6,000 Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>
<p>Name: The New Vision Ownership: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 1,000 copies Average daily readers:5,000 Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>
<p>Name: Liberian Diaspora Ownership: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 1,000 copies Average daily readers: 6,000 Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>
<p>Name: Monitor Ownership: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 700 – 1,000 copies Average daily readers: Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>
<p>Name: The Parrot Ownership: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: Average daily readers: Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>

<p>Name: New Footprints Ownership: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 1,000 copies Average daily readers: Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>
<p>Name: The Labour Journal Ownership: The Labour Journal Publications/Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 900 Average daily readers: 8,000 Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>
<p>Name: Plain Truth Ownership: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 1,000 copies Average daily readers: 7,000 Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>
<p>Name: Diary Ownership: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: copies; 1,000 copies Average daily readers: 9,000 Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>
<p>Name: The Evidence Ownership: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 800 copies ; Average daily readers: 7,000 Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>
<p>Name: The Independent Ownership: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: copies: 1,000 copies; Average daily readers: 7,000 Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>
<p>Name: Nation Times Ownership: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: copies: 1,000 copies Average daily readers: 9,000 Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>
<p>Name: Tribute Ownership: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 1,000 copies Average daily readers: 6,000 Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>
<p>Name: Business Journal Ownership: Private Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 1,000; Average daily readers: 10,000 Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>

<p>Name: Versity Parrot Ownership: University of Liberia Government Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 1,500 Average daily readers: 9,000 Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>
<p>Name: New Liberia Ownership: Ministry of Information - Government Circulation: Average Daily Sales: 2,000 Average daily readers: 12,000 Distribution: Montserrado and surrounding counties Website: Delivery outlets: kiosks, street vendors, and by subscriptions</p>

2.3.1.2 *Electronic media – television and radio*

Television stations currently operating in Liberia

<p>Name: Clar Television Ownership: Private Reach: Parts of Monrovia Broadcast duration: Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Power Television Ownership: Private Reach: Parts of Monrovia Broadcast duration: Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Real Television Ownership: Renaissance Communications: Private Reach: Parts of Monrovia Broadcast duration: Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Love Television Ownership: Serafna Communications: Private Reach: Parts of Monrovia Broadcast duration: Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: ELTV Ownership: Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS) Government Reach: Parts of Monrovia Broadcast duration: Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>

Commercial and community radio broadcast stations in Liberia

<p>Name: Radio Kakata Frequency - 104 FM Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 30 watts transmitter covering 35 miles in Magribi and Bong Counties – Audience - 60,000 Broadcast duration: 15 hours Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Radio Peace – Frequency – 96.0 FM Ownership: community/Private Reach: 300 watts transmitter - audience- 50,000 Broadcast duration:16 hours, 35 minutes Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Radio Gbehzohn Frequency – 106.3 FM Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 100,000 Broadcast duration 18 hours, 45 minutes: Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Smile FM Frequency – 98.6 Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 60,000 Broadcast duration: 16 hours, 30 minutes Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Salala Broadcasting Service – Frequency – 91.8 Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 50,000 Broadcast duration: 12 hours Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Radio Heritage – Frequency – 02,6 FM Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 80,000 Broadcast duration: Seventeen hours Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Radio Kergheamahn – Frequency – 94/5 FM Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 300 watts transmitter covering 35 miles – Audience – 100,000 Broadcast duration: 19 hours Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Radio Saclepea – Frequency – 99.7 FM Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 35 watts transmitter covering 20 miles – Audience – 15,000 Broadcast duration: 17 hours, 45 minutes Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>

<p>Name: Voice of Pleebo – Frequency – 93.5 FM Ownership: Community/Private Reach: Broadcast duration: Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Radio Harper 89.8 FM Ownership: Community/Private Reach: Broadcast duration: Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Radio Piso – Frequency – 93.2 FM Ownership: Community/Private Reach: Broadcast duration: Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Radio Bomi – Frequency – 98.9 Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 70,000 persons Broadcast duration: 16 hours, 30 minutes Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Voice of Sinoe – Frequency – 88.3 FM Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 40,000 persons Broadcast duration: Eleven hours, 30 minutes Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Rivercess Broadcasting Service – Frequency – 99.3 Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 35,000 persons Broadcast duration: Thirteen hours, 30 minutes Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Radio Voinjama Frequency – 95.3 Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 50,000 persons Broadcast duration: 12 hours Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Stone FM – Frequency 105 FM Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 35 watts transmitter covering 12 miles – Audience – 12,000 Broadcast duration: Seventeen hours, 30 minutes Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Radio Karn – Frequency – 99.7 FM Ownership: Community/Private Reach: Broadcast duration: Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>

<p>Name: Radio Gbarnga – 150 watts transmitter covering 60 miles – Frequency – 96.5 Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 150,000 persons Broadcast duration: 13 hours Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Radio Life – 93.5 FM Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 15,000 Broadcast duration: 10 hours, 30 minutes Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Voice of Tappita -98.0 FM Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 70,000 persons Broadcast duration: 13 hours Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Radio Ylamba – 30 watts transmitter, covering 12 miles - Frequency – 96.2 FM Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 4,000 persons Broadcast duration: 18 hours Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Radio One - Magic FM - Frequency – 99.3 FM Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 60,000 persons Broadcast duration: 16 hours Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Radio Sehnwai (EL SEHNWAI) – Frequency – 97.9 FM Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 20,000 persons Broadcast duration: 14 hours Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Radio Harleygneee – Frequency – 102.5 FM Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 15,000 persons Broadcast duration: 10 hours Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Radio Tamba Taiko – Frequency – 94.1 Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 15,000 persons Broadcast duration: 9 hours Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>

<p>Name: Radio Y-Echo – Frequency – 95.3 FM Ownership: Community/Private Reach: 100,000 Broadcast duration: 16 hours Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Voice of Reconciliation – 35 watts Frequency – 104.1 Ownership: Community/Private Reach: Broadcast duration: Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: ELBC - Liberia Broadcasting System – Frequency – 99.9 FM Ownership: Government Reach: 1.5 million Broadcast duration: 24 hours Agric & development programmes –“On the farm” weekly radio programme Website: www.liberiabroadcastingsystem.com</p>
<p>Name: Star Radio Frequency – 104 FM Ownership: Private Reach: 2 million covers the entire country Broadcast duration: 17 hours Agric & development programmes – Website: www.starradio.org.lr</p>
<p>Name: Sky FM Ownership: Private Reach: 500,000 Broadcast duration: 19 hours Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Renaissance Communications Inc Ownership: Private Reach: 500,000 Broadcast duration: 21 hours Agric & development programmes – Website: www.truthfm.com</p>
<p>Name: Radio Veritas Ownership: Private – Catholic Church Reach: 700,000 Broadcast duration: 17 hours Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: Power FM Ownership: Private Reach: Broadcast duration: Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>
<p>Name: King’s FM Ownership: Private Reach: Broadcast duration: Agric & development programmes – Website:</p>

Name: Magic FM Ownership: Private Reach: Broadcast duration: Agric & development programmes – Website:
Name: Crystal FM Ownership: Private Reach: Broadcast duration: Agric & development programmes – Website:
Name: Radio Advent Ownership: Private Reach: Broadcast duration: Agric & development programmes – Website:
Name: United Methodist Radio Ownership: Private Reach: Broadcast duration: Agric & development programmes – Website:

2.3.2 Telecommunications Services in Liberia

The Liberian telecommunications sector is continuing to show a more liberal policy to attract foreign investments and to improve its infrastructure and service. This trend is reflected in the independence as a regulatory agency.

- The partial privatization of the telecommunications operator, and
- The increase in the number of cell phone operators.

The path taken in the liberation of the telecommunications sector includes:

- Separation of the posts and telecommunications sector
- Separation of the telecommunications regulating and operating agencies
- Licenses of operators of various types of telecommunications services
- Partial privatization of the post and telecommunications operators

The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications has the power and regulatory authority to undertake such functions that are appropriate for the development of telecommunications in Liberia and in particular, the Ministry has the capacity and responsibility under the telecommunications Act of 2006 to do the following:

- (a) provide policy advise to the Government of Liberia (GOL) on matters relating to the telecommunications sector, including both domestic and international matters;
- (b) develop policy of general application to the telecommunications sector;
- (c) encourage and promote the provision and availability of high quality and affordable telecommunications services to the public in all parts and regions of Liberia;

- (d) represent the telecommunications policy interest of Liberia in international telecommunications organizations;
- (e) support the establishment of a regulatory environment that facilitates the development of telecommunications services in Liberia, in accordance with the objectives and other provisions of the Telecommunications Act; and
- (f) take such other actions as are needed to coordinate government policies and programmes affecting the telecommunications sector generally.

In order to have substantial impact on the telecommunications sector, the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications seeks the views and recommendations of the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA), and conduct a process of public consultations appropriate to the circumstances and take account of the results of the public consultations in determining the relevant policy decisions or other exercise of authority.

The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications facilitates and does not interfere with the proper exercise of authority by the LTA under the Act including considering the recommendations of the LTA regarding policy development or any other government initiatives relevant to the telecommunications sector.

The LTA is an independent legal entity and undertakes the regulation of telecommunications services and the telecommunications sector of Liberia. Its functions and operations include but not limited to the following:

- (a) issue individual and class licenses including licenses for international telecommunications facilities and services, and design and implement the process for issuing such licenses;
- (b) monitor and enforce compliance by licenses with the conditions of their licenses
- (c) Implement tariff regulations
- (d) Prescribe procedure for the approval of telecommunications equipment for attachment to telecommunications networks in Liberia, using the least onerous method available, such as approval of equipment previously approved for attachment in specific countries or regions;
- (e) Establish a radio spectrum and manage radio spectrum allocated to the telecommunications sector;
- (f) Regulate intercommunication between telecommunications network of different service providers;
- (g) Resolve disputes between service providers and between customers and service providers;
- (h) Establish and manage numbering plan and allocate numbers to service providers;
- (i) Institute and maintain appropriate measures for the purpose of preventing service providers from engaging in or continuing anti-competitive practices, including the identification of telecommunications markets, determining dominance and abuse of dominance in identified telecommunications markets and responding to anti-competitive agreements.

The Liberia Telecommunications Corporation (LIBTELCO) was created to do business which is the transferee and successor in interest of all assets of its predecessor, The Liberian Telecommunications Corporation (LTC). The general purpose and capacity of LIBTELCO is to establish and operate all manner of telecommunications facilities, and to provide telecommunications services, as provided for in one or more licenses issued by the LTA.

LIBTELCO has the power and capacity to do the following:

- Establish subsidiaries or affiliated companies and to enter into partnerships or joint ventures including with private investors;
- Own, lease and otherwise acquire, use and dispose of lands and all other forms of tangible or intangible properties;
- Borrow money and engage in other financial transactions, in accordance with the Articles and Memorandum of Incorporation, by-laws and other applicable rules of the corporation;
- Enter into all other contracts and transactions in accordance with the Articles and Memorandum of Incorporation, by-laws and other applicable rules of the corporation;
- Sue and be sued and to represent itself in any legal process or proceedings;
- Do all other things determined by the Board of Directors of the Corporation in accordance with the Articles and Memorandum of Incorporation, by-laws and other applicable rules of the corporation; and
- Do all other things provided for in the *Public Utilities Authority Law or the Liberia Corporation Law*

LIBTELCO shall be solely responsible for revenue collection, its own expenditure and other financial administration and all related financial obligations of the corporation.

Licensed Service Providers – Telecommunications licenses have the rights and responsibilities for the operations of telecommunications networks and the provision of telecommunications services in Liberia. The LTA issues regulations to establish license fees including license application fees and annual license feeds:

- radio spectrum usage; and
- radio frequency authorization fees and other fees for the use of telecommunications numbers

There are provisions for confidentiality of customer information, protection of personal information and quality service. There are two types of licenses:

1. Individual license; and
2. Class licenses.

2.3.3 Computers and the Internet

Access to information and communication technologies is critical for Liberia's emerging democracy and should serve as an important tool for community's participation in economic and political development of the nation.

The merging of communications and computing technology with printing and public information using intelligent tools has made the availability of information easier. The prospects of information technology for Liberia are tremendous. Nowadays, it is becoming increasingly difficult to run an office without using computers. Desktop machines and laptops are gradually replacing traditional office typewriters.

Secondary and primary schools, universities, public and private offices are now equipped with computers, even though some of these computers are obsolete and frequently malfunction.

Since the introduction of computers and Internet services in Liberia, there has been significant increase in the number of users. Regrettably, bulk of the Internet services are confined in Monrovia and extend to some major Counties and towns in rural areas. With the growing importance of Internet connectivity and the potentials of ICTs in furthering economic and social development, defining national ICT policies and strategies are now high on the agenda.

In April 2007, a Conference on ICT for Development, code name, Vision 2010 was held in Monrovia to articulate government policy direction for the evolution of the ICT sector and its impact on the overall poverty reduction strategy. The Government of Liberia recognizes the role information communication technology has in the creation of an innovative and information-rich society, where telecommunications services are attractive, everywhere and of high quality. Moreover, the Government realizes that its ability to accelerate its economic development process and gain global competitiveness an improve the well being of its people depends on the extend that it can develop, use and sell ICT in one form or another. Concrete outcomes were achieved from the conference addressing ICT applications in healthcare, agriculture, education, commerce, infrastructure, security and rule of law, among others. .

There is a significant lack of skills to use computers and Internet connectivity, wherever available is unaffordable by many users. The use of Internet is also constrained by the lack of trained personnel to carryout routine maintenance and trouble shooting.

At present, it is assumed that each government ministry and agency has computers ranging from 50 – 100 or more sets (though older generation computers). However, there has been no accurate record on the stock of computers across sectors and the availability of Internet services.

Public Internet services are provided in some libraries and Internet cafes. The irregular and non-existent of electricity supplies are common and a major barrier in the use of computers and Internet services, especially outside Monrovia. The bulk of power supply in the country is provided through privately-run generators. Tax regimes still consider computer and cell phones as luxury items, which makes them more expensive and even less obtainable by the majority. Another factor is that the road and transport networks are limited, costly to use and often in poor conditions.

GSM Operations: Liberia has turned to *Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM)* technology for its communication needs. There are four licensed GSM companies in Liberia: However, there is no functioning land/fixed-line communications system:

1. Lonestar Communications Corporation;
2. Comium Liberia Incorporated;
3. Atlantic Wireless /LiberCell;
4. Cellcom Telecommunications Inc.

The GSM Companies are all foreign and privately owned. Thousands of Liberians have acquired mobile phones. According to recent estimates, the total number of mobile subscribers is 407,500, this may have increased. The GSM operators have gone beyond Monrovia in Montserado County and operate in twelve other counties.

Internet Services: Internet access is available at Internet cafes spread across Monrovia. Three of the four GSM companies (Cellcom, LiberCell-Atlantic Wireless and Comium) are also Internet Service Providers (ISPs). Recent and other additions to the market are; LIBCOM, West Africa Telecom (WAT), NAS Global, Consolidated

Group, Inc. Competition and liberalization has led to lower Internet subscription fees. Internet access can be obtained through wireless equipment only.

Computers: Liberia does not have central electricity. Power is generated by generators and this has limited the demand for computers. Computers are mostly used in government agencies, banking institutions, large, medium and small business. Very few particularly private institutions have introduced computer education with a basic computer lab. On the average, there are;

- Three (3), computers to every 1 000 persons.
- The number of Internet subscriber is about 10,000.
- There is no dial-up service due to the lack of fixed/land lines.
- There is no ADSL service, however, with the introduction of GPRS technology and the gradual restoration of electricity in selected areas of Monrovia subscribers can easily access the Internet in cafes and private homes..

Telecommunications companies (fixed, wireless, mobile telephones and others):

#	Name	Category	Ownership	Number of Subscribers
1	Liberia Telecommunications Corporation	Fixed	Government	
2.	West Africa Telecommunications (WAT)	Fixed – wireless, mobile	Joint Venture – French, Italian, Moroccan, Liberian (Private)	150,000
3.	Lone Star Communications Corporation	GSM	Joint Venture – Liberian, Lebanese, South African (Private)	185,000
4.	Libercell	GSM	Joint Venture – Liberian, Lebanese, (Private)	4,500
5.	Cellcom	GSM, fixed-wireless	Jewish-American (Private)	18,000
6.	Comium	GSM	Lebanese (Private)	50,000

ANNEX 3. PROFILE OF INSTITUTIONS

3.1 List of all Institutions Involved in Agriculture and Rural Development

Name and Contacts		Type	Role
Governmental Agricultural Rural Development Institutions/Organizations			
1	Name: Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) Postal Address: P.O. Box 9010 1000 Monrovia 10 Liberia Tel: +231-6 478077 E-Mail: jchristoe27@yahoo.com Website: www.moa.gov.lr	GOV	PP
2	Name: Cooperative Development Agency (CDA) Postal Address: 14 Street,, Coleman Avenue Monrovia, Liberia Tel:+231 6558856 Fax: E-Mail: garnaikwekwe@yahoo.com Website:	AS-F	RU
3	Name: Liberia Produce Marketing Cooperation (LPMC) Postal Address: Bushrod Island Monrovia, Liberia Tel: +231 6484069 Fax: E-Mail Website	AS-F	TM
4	Name: Liberia Rubber Development Authority (LRDA) Postal Address: C/o. Ministry of Agriculture P.O. Box 9010 1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia. Tel: +231 6523576 Fax: E-Mail Website:	STE	RD
5	Name: Liberia National Federation of Cooperative Societies (LNFCS) Postal Address: 14 Street,, Coleman Avenue Monrovia, Liberia Tel: +231 6435387 Fax: E-Mail: lnfcscahq@yahoo.com tambasa2000@yahoo.com Website	AS-F	RU
6	Name: Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) Postal Address: Suakoko, Bong County Tel: +231 6494261 Fax: E-Mail: jqsubah@yahoo.com Website	REG	RD
Non-Governmental Agricultural Rural Development Organizations – UN Agencies			
7	Name: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Postal Address: LISCO Building, UN Drive, Mamba Point Tel: +231 6453021 E-Mail: hammondw.fao@undp.org Website: www.fao.org	OTH	PP; IN
8	Name: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Postal Address: Sekou Toure Avenue, Mamba Point Tel: +231 6995555 Fax: E-Mail: dominic.sam@undp.org Website: www.undp.org	OTH	PP; IN

Name and Contacts		Type	Role
9	Name: United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Postal Address: LISCO Building, Mamba Point Tel: +231077741114 E-Mail: signe.allimadi@unifem.org Website: www.unifem.org	OTH	PP; IN
10	Name: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Postal Address: Sekou Toure Avenue, Mamba Point Tel: +231 6870780 Fax: E-Mail: dubini@unhcr.org Website: www.unhcr.org	OTH	PP
11	Name: World Food Programme (WFP) Postal Address: Tel: +231 5514367 Fax: E-Mail: louis.imbleau@wfp.org Website: www.wfp.org	OTH	PP
Non-Governmental Agricultural Rural Development Organizations – International Non Governmental Organizations (INGOs)			
12	Name: Action Aid Liberia (AAL) Postal Address: Adjacent Winners Chapel, Tubman Boulevard Congo Town Tel: +231 6531165 E-Mail: ernest.gaie@actionaid.org Website: www.actionaid.org	NGO	RU
13	Name: Action Contre La Faim Postal Address: Mamba Point, Monrovia, Liberia Tel: +231 6 847284 E-Mail: headofmission@lr.missions.acf.org Website: www.actioncontrelafaim.org	NGO	RU
14	Name: Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Postal Address: Smythe Road, Sinkor – Old Road Tel: +231 6888102 Fax: E-Mail: p.lutke@adraliberia.org Website: www.adra.org	NGO	RU
15	Name: AFRICARE Postal Address: 98 Sekou Toure Avenue, Monrovia, Liberia Tel: +231 6550656 Fax: E-Mail: djhynes@hotmail.com Website: www.africare.org	NGO	RU
16	Name: American Refugee Committee (ARC) Postal Address: Atlantic House, Tubman Blvd., Monrovia Tel: +231 6530720 Fax: E-Mail: pnawrocki@arc-liberia.org Website: www.archq.org	NGO	RU
17	Name: Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Postal Address: 19th Street Sinkor, Monrovia Tel: +231 6587123 Fax: E-Mail: rkd@africamail.com Website: www.catholicrelief.org	NGO	RU
18	Name: CHF International (CHF) Postal Address: Old Road Junction, Congo Town Tel: +231 6589497; +231077071144 E-Mail: laurinlb@yahoo.com Website: www.chfinternational.org	NGO	RU
19	Name: Christian Aid Ministries (CAM) Postal Address: Tower Hill Robertsfield Highway Tel: +231 6528 592 Fax: E-Mail: pmastlib@mailagape.com Website: www.anabaptists.org	NGO	RU
20	Name: Christian Children's Fund (CCF) Postal Address: Warner Ave. Sinkor, Monrovia Tel: +231 6956562 Fax: E-Mail: fckbaldeh@yahoo.com Website: www.christianchildrensfund.org	NGO	RU
21	Name: Concern Worldwide (CONCERN) Postal Address: VP Road, Sinkor Tel: +213 6533352 E-Mail: marianne.byrne@concern.net Website: www.concern.net	NGO	RU

	Name and Contacts	Type	Role
22	Name: Conservation International (CI) Postal Address: Smythe Road, Sinkor Tel: +231 6511138 Fax: E-Mail: a.peal@conservation.org Website: www.conservation.org	NGO	RD
23	Name: Danish Refugee Council (DRC) Postal Address: Old CID/Gibson Street, Mamba Point Tel: +231 6600699 Fax: E-Mail: anne.laenholm@drc.dk Website: www.drc.dk	NGO	RU
24	Name: Diakonie Emergency AID (DEA) Postal Address: Congo Town, Monrovia Tel: +231 6497543 E-Mail: diakonieliberia@yahoo.com Website: www.alertnet.org	NGO	FS
25	Name: Equip Liberia (EQUIP) Postal Address: 14 th Street, Sinkor Tel: +231 6518846; +231 6532291 E-Mail: equipliberia@yahoo.com Website: www.equip.org	NGO	RU
26	Name: Fauna and Flora International (FFI) Postal Address: LBDI Building, Congo Town Tel: +231 6514 013 Fax: E-Mail: vohiri@yahoo.com Website: www.fauna-flora.org	NGO	RD
27	Name: Finnish Refugee Council (FRC) Postal Address: Dennis Compound, Mamba Point Tel: +231077510096 E-Mail: markku.vesikko@finnref.org Website:	NGO	RU
28	Name: German Agro Action (GAA) Postal Address: 18th Street, Sinkor - Monrovia Tel: +231077097829 Fax: E-Mail: bernd.schwenk@dwhh.org Website: www.welthungerhilfe.de	NGO	RU
29	Name: German Technical Corporation (GTZ) Postal Address: UN Drive, Mamba Point, Monrovia Tel: 231 6566352 Fax: E-Mail: gtz-liberia@gtz.de Website: www.gtz.de	NGO	RU
30	Name: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Postal Address: Bushrod Island, Monrovia Tel: +231 6556558 Fax: E-Mail: monrovia.mon@icrc.org Website: www.icrc.org	NGO	RU
31	Name: International Rescue Committee (IRC) Postal Address: Congo Town, Monrovia Tel: +231 6530538 Fax: E-Mail: aitorl@their.org Website: www.theirc.org	NGO	RU
32	Name: Land Mine Action (LMA) Postal Address: Near MSF-B Compound, Mamba Point Tel: +231 6821179 Fax: E-Mail: davidelliottis@gmail.com Website: www.landmineaction.org	NGO	RD
33	Name: Lutheran World Federation/World Service (LWF/WS) Postal Address: Lutheran Church Compound, Sinkor - Monrovia Tel: +231 6515251 Fax: E-Mail: adlwfliberia@gmail.com Website: www.lutheranworld.org	NGO	RU
34	Name: Mercy Corps (MC) Postal Address: Newport Street Monrovia, Liberia. Tel: +231 6520278 Fax: E-Mail: tevert@lr.mercycorps.org Website: www.mercycorps.org	NGO	RU
35	Name: Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Postal Address: Randall Street, Monrovia Tel: +231 6592100 Fax: E-Mail: resrep@liberia.nrc.no Website: www.nrc.no	NGO	RU
36	Name: OXFAM-GB (OXFAM-GB)	NGO	RU

	Name and Contacts	Type	Role
	Postal Address: 10 th Street, Sinkor Tel: +231077551348 Fax: E-Mail: amesopir@ofam.org.uk Website: www.oxfam.org		
37	Name: Peace Winds Japan (PWJ) Postal Address: Tubman Boulevard, Congo Town Tel: +231 6413006 Fax: E-Mail: osman@peace-winds.org Website: www.peace-winds.org	NGO	RU
38	Name: Plan Liberia (PLAN) Postal Address: Off Tubman Boulevard, Behind YWCA Building, Congo Town Tel: +231 6645213 Fax: Email: augustine.allieu@plan-international.org Website: www.plan-international.org	NGO	RU
39	Name: PMU Interlife (PMU – Liberia) Postal Address: 12 Houses Road, Paynesville Tel: Fax: E-Mail Website: www.pmu.se	NGO	RU
40	Name: Premiere Urgence Postal Address: Tel: Fax: E-Mail Website: www.premiere-urgence.org	NGO	RU
41	Name: Samaritan's Purse (SP) Postal Address: 9th Street, Sinkor Tel: +231 5530960 Fax: E-Mail: spliberia@yahoo.com Website: www.samaritanspurse.org	NGO	RU
42	Name: Save the Children Fund – UK (SC-UK) Postal Address: Mamba Point, Monrovia, Liberia Tel: +213 6553 210 E-Mail: s.grant@savethechildrenliberia.org Website: www.savethechildren.org	NGO	RU
43	Name: Solidarites Aide Humanitaire D'urgence (SOLIDARITES) Postal Address: P12th Street, Sinkor Tel: +231 6531706 Fax: E-Mail: solliberia_cdm@yahoo.fr Website: www.solidarites.org	NGO	RU
44	Name: TearFund (TF) Postal Address: ELWA Compound. Paynesville Liberia Tel: +231 6659290 Fax: E-Mail: dmf.liberia@tearfund.org Website: www.tearfund.org	NGO	RU
45	Name: United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Postal Address: 24th Street Sinkor Tel: +231 6582937 Fax: E-Mail: sillah@umcor-liberia.org Website: gbgm-umcor.org	NGO	RU
46	Name: Visions In Action (VIA) Postal Address: 2 nd Street, Congo Town Tel: +231 6538593 Fax: E-Mail: visionsdir@yahoo.com Website: www.visionsinaction.org	NGO	RU
47	Name: World Vision Liberia (WVL) Postal Address: Congo Town, Monrovia, Liberia Tel: *231 6915448 E-Mail: mapanza_Nkwilimba@wvi.org Website: www.wvi.org	NGO	RU
48	Name: ZOA Refugee Care Postal Address: 3rd Street Sinkor, Monrovia Tel: +231 6452 717 Fax: E-Mail: liberia@zoa.nl , streetnic@yahoo.co.uk Website: www.zoa.org	NGO	RU

Name and Contacts		Type	Role
Non-Governmental Agricultural Rural Development Organizations – Local Non Governmental Organizations (LNGOs)			
49	Name: ACROSI (ACROSI_) Postal Address: Montserrado County Tel: +231 6531675 Fax: E-Mail: ocdrsi@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
50	Name: Association of Evangelicals of Liberia (AEL) Postal Address: Paynesville, ELWA Compound Tel: +231 6513670 Fax: E-Mail: dewing63@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	CHU
51	Name: Action for Greater Harvest (AGRHA) Postal Address: Paynesville, Wood camp Tel: +231 6526370 Fax: E-Mail: Website:	NGO	RU
52	Name: Africa 2000 Network Liberia (A2N) Postal Address: Gbarpolu, Liberia Tel: +231 6534120 Fax: E-Mail: wounuah@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
53	Name: Agriculture Relief Services Inc (ARS) Postal Address: Nimba County, Liberia Tel: Fax: E-Mail: Website:	NGO	RU
54	Name: Assistance for All (AFA) Postal Address: Montserrado County, Liberia Tel: +231 6531363 Fax: E-Mail: assistancefd@hotmail.com Website:	NGO	RU
55	Name: Bettie Agriculture Development Union (BADU) Postal Address: Grand Cape Mount, Liberia Tel: +231 6644611 Fax: E-Mail: badulib@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
56	Name: Beekeepers and Agriculturist Association (BEEKAA) Postal Address: Montserrado County, Liberia. Tel: +231 6667258 Fax: E-Mail: beekaainc@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
57	Name: BUCCOBAC (BUCCOBAC) Postal Address: Grand Bassa & Rivercess Counties Tel: +231 077356748 Fax: E-Mail: buccobac@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
58	Name: Caritas Gbarnga (CARITAS) Postal Address: Gbarnga, Bong County - Liberia Tel: +231 6556629 Fax: E-Mail: gerogefarngalo@yahoo.com caritasgbarnga@hotmail.com Website:	NGO	
59	Name: Caritas Cape Palmas (CARITAS) Postal Address: Harper, Maryland County Tel: +231 6566959 Fax: E-Mail: pmikejerry@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	
60	Name: CATALYST (CATALYST) Postal Address: Gbarnga, Bong County - Liberia Tel: +231 6528484 Fax: E-Mail: gayflowu@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	EX
61	Name: Christian Humanitarian Service (CHS) Postal Address: Harper, Maryland County - Liberia Tel: +231 6512831 Fax: E-Mail: chrhuser@yahoo.com Website:	CHU	RU

	Name and Contacts	Type	Role
62	Name: COMFORT (COMFORT) Postal Address: Duport Road, Monrovia Tel: +231 6486386 Fax: E-Mail: domfortliberia@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
63	Name: Community Union for Sustainable Development (CUSD) Postal Address: Nimba County Tel: +231 6558443; +231 6416823 Fax: E-Mail: cusdtappita@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
64	Name: Farmers Against Hunger (FAH, Inc) Postal Address: Capital Bye Pass, Monrovia Tel: +231 6524189 Telex: Fax: E-Mail: fahlib@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
65	Name: Farmers Associated to Conserve the Environment (FACE) Postal Address: Montserrado County, Liberia Tel; Fax: E-Mail: faconserver@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
66	Name: Foundation for African Development Aid (ADA) Postal Address: Congo Town, Monrovia - Liberia Tel: Fax: E-Mail: Website:	NGO	RU
67	Name: Gbartoh Agriculture Development Programme (GADP) Postal Address: Grand Baas County, Liberia Tel: +231077033623 Fax: E-Mail: gadp@20032000@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
68	Name: Global Age Sustainable Programme (GASP) Postal Address: Grand Cape Mount County, Liberia Tel: +231 6445704 Fax: E-Mail : benkpace@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
69	Name: GIGAL (GIGAL) Postal Address: Duport Road, Monrovia, Liberia Tel: +231 6530743; +231 6580929 Fax: E-Mail: prattdadda@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
70	Name: Grand Bassa Agriculture Group (G-BAG) Postal Address: Grand Bassa & Rivercess Counties Tel: +231 6845340 Fax: E-Mail: gbagliberia95@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
71	Name: Grassroots Democracy INC (GDI) Postal Address: Nimba County, Liberia Tel: Fax: E-Mail: Website:	NGO	RU
72	Name: Human Development Foundation (HDF) Postal Address: Grand Cape Mount, Liberia Tel: +231 6533788 Fax: E-Mail: humani1954@yahoo.com Website	NGO	RU
73	Name: Helping Hand Liberia, Inc Postal Address: Margibi County, Liberia Tel: +231 6532183 Fax: E-Mail: helphandlib@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
74	Name: IMANI House Inc. (IHI) Postal Address: Jah Tondo Town, Montserrado County Tel : +231 6651393 Fax: E-Mail: imani@imanihouse.org Website: www.imanihouse.org	NGO	RU
75	Name: Integrated Rural Development Organization (IRDO) Postal Address: Gbarnga, Bong County Tel: +231 6519171 Fax: E-Mail: samjack1954@yahoo.com Website	NGO	RU

	Name and Contacts	Type	Role
76	Name: Kweatornor Development and Relief Agency (KDRA) Postal Address: Nimba County, Liberia Tel: +231 6571030 Fax: E-Mail: kdroliberia@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
77	Name: Kpain-Kpain-Gbo (KKG) Postal Address: Grand Bassa County, Liberia Tel: +231 077406047 Fax: E-Mail: kgbokinc@yahoo.co.uk Website:	NGO	RU
78	Name: Liberia Agro Systems (LAS) Postal Address: Nimba County, Liberia Tel: Fax: E-Mail: Website:	NGO	RU
79	Name: Lofa Educational and Educational Foundation LEAF) Postal Address: Lofa County, Liberia Tel: +231 6538467 Fax: Email: leaf2113@yahoo.com dietbah@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
80	Name: Liberia Environment Care Organization (LECO) Postal Address: Bong County, Liberia Tel: +231 6526716 Fax: Email: ataikerweyah@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
81	Name: Liberia Handicap and Ex-combatant Training Programme (LHETP) Postal Address: Montserrado County, Liberia Tel: Fax: Email: htp2032000@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
82	Name: Liberia Initiative for Development Services (LIDS) Postal Address: Rivercess County, Liberia. Tel: +231 6523339 Fax: Email: lidservices2002@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
83	Name: Liberian Innovation Foundation for Empowerment (LIFE) Postal Address: Bong County, Liberia Tel: +231 077203353; +231 077338591 Fax: Email: lifengo2003@yahoo.com ; georgekaryah@gmail.com Website:	NGO	RU
84	Name: CESEEP Postal Address: Bong County, Liberia Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	NGO	RU
85	Name: Let Us Try Again (LUSTA) Postal Address: Bong County, Liberia Tel: 231 6524844; +231 6524864 Fax: Email: fimares@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
86	Name: Mano River Relief Services (MARS) Postal Address: Grand Cape Mount County, Liberia Tel: +213 6551876 Fax: Email: plane3@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
87	Name: National Foundation Against Poverty and Disease (NFAPD) Postal Address: Nimba County, Liberia. Tel: +231 6525515 Fax: Email: nfapde@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
88	Name: National Resettlement and Development Organization (NARDO) Postal Address: Nimba County, Liberia Tel: +231 6524212 Fax: Email: nardo94@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU

	Name and Contacts	Type	Role
89	Name: Children Assistance Programme (CAP) Postal Address: Montserrado County Tel: +231 6522870 Fax: Email: Website:	NGO	RU
90	Name: Organization for the Development of Agriculture and Farmers Related Association (ODAFARA) Postal Address: Lofa County, Liberia Tel: +231 6558731 Fax: Email: odafara@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
91	Name: People Against Poverty Inc (PAPI) Postal Address: Montserrado County, Liberia Tel: +231 6-558443 Fax: Email: cusdev4919@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
92	Name: Professional Agricultural Consultancy Expertise Services of Liberia (PACESL) Postal Address: Montserrado County Tel: +231 6552074 Fax: Email: Website:	NGO	RU
93	Name: Project New Outlook (PNO) Postal Address: Margibi County Tel: +231 6526491 +231 6516946 Fax: Email: pnoliberia@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
94	Name: Project Rebuild Liberia (PRLIB) Postal Address: Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	NGO	RU
95	Name: South-Eastern Agricultural Relief Agency (SARA) Postal Address: Harper, Maryland County Tel: +231 6822272 Fax: Email: saraagromate@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
96	Name: Sustainable Agriculture Services Union (SASU) Postal Address: Voinjama, Lofa County Tel: +231 6537990 Fax: Email: sasu@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
97	Name: Sustainable Development Promoters (SDP) Postal Address: Gbarnga, Bong County Tel: +231 6539871 Fax: Email: wacliberia@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
98	Name: Sustainable Livelihood Promoters Programme (SLPP) Postal Address: Grand Cape Mount County Tel: +231 6557852 Fax: Email: sust08@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
99	Name: Smile Africa International (SAI) Postal Address: Montserrado County Tel: +231 6535588; +231 6503072 Fax: Email: Website:	NGO	RU
100	Name: Technocrats United for Reconstruction and Development (TECURD) Postal Address: Bomi County, Liberia Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	NGO	RU
101	Name: Union for Rural Farmers Association Inc (URFA) Postal Address: Tel: Fax: Email: unionrural@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
102	Name: Zao Development Council (ZADC) Postal Address: Nimba County, Liberia Tel: +231 6527422 Fax: Email: zadc92@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU

Name and Contacts		Type	Role
Farmers, Women's and Youth's Association			
103	Name: Mano River Youth Network Postal Address: 16 th Street, Sinkor - Montserrado County Tel: +231 077250178 Fax: Email: Website:	AS-Y	EX
104	Name: Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY) Postal Address: Camp Johnson Road, Monrovia Tel: +231 6928048 Fax: Email: fly_lib@yahoo.com Website	AS-Y	EX
105	Name: Morweh Youth Development Association Postal Address: Grand Gedeh County Tel: Fax: +231 077282937 Email: Website:	AS-Y	EX
106	Name: Youth Development Corps Postal Address: Buchanan, Grand Bassa County Tel: +231 6824264 Fax: Email: Website:	AS-Y	EX
107	Name: Robertsport Youth Foundation Postal Address: Grand Cape Mount County Tel: +231 6946570 Fax: Email: Website:	AS-Y	RU
108	Name: Lofa Youth for Progressive Action Postal Address: Lofa County Tel: +231 6955918 Fax: Email: Website:	AS-Y	RU
109	Name: Margibi Youth Association Postal Address: Margibi County Tel: +231 6694965 Fax: Email: Website	AS-Y	EX
110	Name: Callawa Youth Association Postal Address: Nimba County Tel: +231 6514226 Fax: Email: Website	AS-Y	EX
111	Name: Totota Youth for Progress Postal Address: Bong County Tel: +231 6859945 Fax: Email: Website	AS-Y	EX
112	Name: Webbo Youth Development Association Postal Address: River Gee County Tel: +231 6810610 Fax: Email: Website	AS-Y	EX
113	Name: Federation of Gbarpolu Youth Postal Address: Gbarpolu County Tel: +231 6534151 Fax: Email: Website	AS-Y	EX
114	Name: United Youth Movement of Grand Gedeh County Postal Address: Grand Gedeh County Tel: +231 6969710 Fax: Email: Website	AS-Y	EX
115	Name: Pleebo Youth Association Postal Address: Maryland County Tel: +231 6482373 Fax: Email: Website	AS-Y	EX
116	Name: Timbo District Youth Association Postal Address: Rivercess County Tel: +231 6488088 Fax: Email: Website	AS-Y	EX

Name and Contacts		Type	Role
117	Name: Bomi Youth Association Postal Address: Bomi County Tel: +231 6558044 Fax: Email: Website	AS-Y	EX
118	Name: Grand Kru Youth Parliament Postal Address: Grand Kru County Tel: +231 6664875 Fax: Email: Website	AS-Y	EX
119	Name: Sinoe Youth Association Postal Address: Sinoe County Tel: +231 6936658 Fax: Email: Website	AS-Y	EX
120	Name: Voinjama District Women Organization for Peace and Development (VODWOPEDE) Postal Address: Voinjama, Lofa County Tel: 234084611147 Fax: 234084230406 Email: codep@mail.zoom-ng.com Website:	AS-W	RU
121	Name: National Women's Commission of Liberia (NAWOCOL) Postal Address: Montserrado County Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	AS-W	RU
122	Name: Vulnerable Welfare Foundation of Liberia (V_WELFOL) Postal Address: Lofa County, Liberia Tel: Fax: Email: infov_welfol@yahoo.com Website:	NGO	RU
123	Name: War Affected Women in Liberia (WAWL) Postal Address: Lofa County, Liberia Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	AS-W	RU
124	Name: Women & Children Development Organization (WOCHIDO) Postal Address: Caldwell, Montserrado County Tel: +231 6518117 Fax: Email: wochido@yahoo.com Website:	AS-W	RU
125	Name: South Eastern Women Development Association (SEWODA) Postal Address: Zwedru, Grand Gedeh, Tel: +231 6544218 Fax: Email: sewoda@yahoo.com Website:	AS-W	RU
126	Name: Youth for Peace and Community Development (YPCD) Postal Address: Montserrado County Tel: +231 6558473 Fax: Email: Website:	AS-Y	RU
127	Name: Concerned Women Against Spread of AIDS (CONWASA) Postal Address: Montserrado County, Liberia Tel: +231 6554346 Fax: Email: mildred_wesseh@yahoo.com Website:	AS-W	RU
128	Name: Women NGO Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL) Postal Address: Montserrado County, Liberia Tel: +231 6511554 Fax: Email: libngowomen@yahoo.com Website	AS-W	RU
129	Name: Women in Peace Building Network (WIPNET) Postal Address: Montserrado County, Liberia Tel: +231 6519187 Fax: Email: lindorah@yahoo.com Website	AS-W	RU
130	Name: Liberia Media Women Action Committee (LIWOMAC) Postal Address: Montserrado County, Liberia Tel: +231 6559302 Fax: Email: Website	AS-W	RU

Name and Contacts		Type	Role
131	Name: Liberia National Farmers Union (LINFU) Postal Address: Lofa County, Liberia Tel: +231 6610660 Fax: Email: libfarm2005@yahoo.co.uk Website:	AS-F	RU
Educational Institutions (University, Faculty or College of Agriculture)			
132	Name: University of Liberia (UL) Postal Address: Capitol Hill, Monrovia, Liberia Tel: +231 6587654 Fax: Email: alconteh@yahoo.com or alconteh@psych.upenn.edu Website: www.ul.mycportal.com	EDU	TR
133	Name: Cuttington University (CU) Postal Address: Suakoko, Bong County Tel: +231 6558011 Email: cuttingtonuniversity@yahoo.com Website: www.cuttington.org	EDU	TR
134	Name: Booker Washington Institute (BWI) Postal Address: Kakata, Margibi County Tel: +231 6516160 Fax: Email: mulbahjackollie@yahoo.com Website:	EDU	TR
135	Name: Monrovia Vocational Training Center (MVTC) Postal Address: Monrovia, Liberia Tel: +231 6553808 Fax: Email: Website:	GOV	TR
136	Name: Youth Agriculture Training Center (YATC) Postal Address: Johnsonville, Liberia Tel: +231 6561304 Fax: Email: Website:	GOV	TR
137	Name: Liberia Opportunities & Industrialization Center (LOIC) Postal Address: New Matadi, Monrovia, Liberia Tel: +231077029226 Fax: Email: liberia_oic@yahoo.com Website:	GOV	TR
138	Name: African Methodist Episcopal University (AMEU) Postal Address: Camp Johnson Road, Monrovia Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	EDU	TR
139	Name: Liberia Christian College (LCC) Postal Address: Montserrado County, Liberia Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	CHU	TR
140	Name: Agricultural Institute and Training Bureau (AITB) Postal Address: Gardnersville, Monrovia, Liberia Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	GOV	TR
141	Name: Zwedru Multilateral High School (ZMHS) Postal Address: Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County Tel: +231 6453758 Fax: Email: Website:	GOV	TR
142	Name: Voinjama Multilateral High School (VMHS) Postal Address: Voinjama, Lofa County Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	GOV	TR
143	Name: Zorzor Rural Teachers Training Institute (ZRTTI) Postal Address: Zorzor, Lofa County Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	GOV	TR

Name and Contacts		Type	Role
Media and Telecommunications Institutions /Organizations (Radio, TV, print and electronic, Newspapers, Fixed lines, Mobile telephone			
144	Name: Radio Kakata (ELRK) Postal Address: Kakata, Margibi County Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
145	Name: Radio Peace (ELRP) Postal Address: Harbel, Margibi County Tel: +231 6551594 Fax: Email: emanjohnson@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
146	Name: Radio Gbehzohn (ELRG) Postal Address: Buchanan, Grand Bassa County Tel: +231 077022027 Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
147	Name: Smile FM (ELFSM) Postal Address: Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County Tel: +231 6/457-449 Email: vgbeyeah@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
148	Name: Salala Broadcasting Service (ELSBS) Postal Address: Salala, Bong County Tel: +231 077355462 Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
149	Name: Radio Heritage (ELRH) Postal Address: Gbarnga, Bong County Tel: +231 6495650 Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
150	Name: Radio Kergheamahn (ELRKM) Postal Address: Ganta, Nimba County Tel: +231 6412908 Fax: Email: nyahnflomo@yahoo.com or rkfm92@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
151	Name: Radio Saclepea (ELRS) Postal Address: Saclepea, Nimba County Tel: +231 6453272 Fax: Email: royoma2006@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
152	Name: Voice of Pleebo (ELVP) Postal Address: Pleebo, Maryland County Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
153	Name: Radio Harper (ELRH) Postal Address: Harper, Maryland County Tel: +213 4752421 Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
154	Name: Radio Piso (ELRP) Postal Address: Lake Piso, Grand Cape Mount County Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
155	Name: Radio Bomi (ELRB) Postal Address: Tubmanburg, Bomi County Tel: +231 077478870 Fax: Email: Justincole1963@hotmail.com Website:	PRV	IN
156	Name: Voice of Sinoe (ELVS) Postal Address: Greenville, Sinoe County	PRV	IN

Name and Contacts		Type	Role
	Tel: +231 06/816314 Fax Email: Website:		
157	Name: Rivercess Broadcasting Service (ELRBS) Postal Address: Cestos City, Rivercess County Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
158	Name: Radio Voinjama (ELRV) Postal Address: Voinjama, Lofa County Tel: +231 494825 or +231 07777195 Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
159	Name: Stone FM Postal Address: Harbel, Margibi County Tel: +231 6583462 Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
160	Name: Radio Karn (ELRK) Postal Address: Karnplay, Nimba County Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
161	Name: Radio Gbarnga (ELRG) Postal Address: Gbarnga, Bong County Tel: +231 6593090 Fax: Email: moneequire@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
162	Name: Radio Life (ELRL) Postal Address: Gbarnga, Bong County Tel: +231 6520-581 Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
163	Name: Voice of Tappita (ELVT) Postal Address: Tappita, Nimba County Tel: +231 6473103 Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
164	Name: Radio Ylamba (ELRY) Postal Address: Saclepea, Nimba County Tel: +231 6481724 Fax: Email: radioylamba@yahoo.com skenvadomah@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
165	Name: Radio One - Magic FM Postal Address: Buchanan, Grand Bassa County Tel: +231 6824264 or +213 077777993 Fax: Email: yodec203@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
166	Name: Radio Sehnwai (EL SEHNWAI) Postal Address: Sanniquellie, Nimba County Tel: +231 6480686 Fax: Email: princekarsieh@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
167	Name: Radio Harleygnee (ELRH) Postal Address: Kolahun, Lofa County Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
168	Name: Radio Tamba Taiko (ELRTT) Postal Address: Foya, Lofa County Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
169	Name: Radio Y-Echo (EL -Y-ECHO) Postal Address: Ganta, Nimba County Tel: +231 6522477 Fax: Email: jamesking@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN

	Name and Contacts	Type	Role
170	Name: Voice of Reconciliation (ELVR) Postal Address: Palala, Bong County Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
171	Name: Radio ELBC - Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS) Postal Address: Paynesville, Liberia Tel: +231 6814338 Fax: Email: snettercas@yahoo.com Website:	STE	IN
172	Name: Star Radio Postal Address: Broad Street, Snapper Hill, Monrovia Tel: +231 6518572 Fax: Email: james_morlu@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
173	Name: Sky FM Postal Address: Broad Street, Monrovia, Liberia Tel: +231 077747747 Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
174	Name: Renaissance Communications Inc Postal Address: Ashmun Street, Monrovia Tel: +231 6458993 Fax: Email: blamo2004@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
175	Name: Radio Veritas Postal Address: Mamba Point, Monrovia Tel: +231 6520332 Fax: Email: fsainworla@yahoo.com Website:	CHU	IN
176	Name: Power FM Postal Address: Carey Street, Snapper Hill - Monrovia Tel: +231 6518418 Fax: Email: abk@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
177	Name: King's FM Postal Address: Mechlin Street, Monrovia Tel: +231 6522511 Fax: Email: trasheid1@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
178	Name: Magic FM Postal Address: Monrovia, Liberia Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
179	Name: Crystal FM Postal Address: Tubman Boulevard, Monrovia Tel: +231 6514611 Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
180	Name: Radio Advent Postal Address: Old Road, Sinkor Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	CHU	IN
181	Name: United Methodist Radio Postal Address: 13 Street, Tubman Boulevard, Monrovia Tel: Fax: Email: Website:	CHU	IN
182	Name: Daily Observer Corporation Postal Address: Benson and McDonald Streets Tel: +231 6472772 Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
183	Name: Inquirer Postal Address: Gurley Street, Monrovia, Tel: +231 6516533 Fax: Email: phiwesseh1958@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN

	Name and Contacts	Type	Role
184	Name: Analyst Postal Address: Carey Street, Monrovia Tel: +231 6568024 Fax: Email: analystliberia@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
185	Name: New Democrat Postal Address: Bushrod Island, Monrovia Tel: +231 6484201 or +231 077007529 Fax: Email: nfo@newdemocratnews.com Website	PRV	IN
186	Name: Heritage. Postal Address: Gurley Street, Monrovia Tel: +231 6533090 Fax: E-Mail: Website:	PRV	IN
187	Name: Chronicle Postal Address: 10 th Street, Sinkor Tel: +231 6600190 Fax: Email: Website:	PRV	IN
188	Name: The News Postal Address: Broad Street, Monrovia Tel: +231 6554409 Fax: E-Mail: Website:	PRV	IN
189	Name: Liberian Express Postal Address: Broad Street, Monrovia Tel:+231 6510255 Fax: E-Mail: szadams2001@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
190	Name: The Informer Postal Address: Broad Street, Monrovia Tel:+231 6519515 Fax: E-Mail: darkollie2003@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
191	Name: The New Vision Postal Address: Gurley Street, Monrovia Tel:+231 6525196 Fax: E-Mail: media2h2@yahoo.com or jmoses1970@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
192	Name: Liberian Diaspora Postal Address: Gurley Street, Monrovia Tel: Fax: E-Mail: Website:	PRV	IN
193	Name: Monitor Postal Address: Broad Street, Monrovia Tel:+231 6517546 Fax: E-Mail: monitorliberia@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
194	Name: The Parrot Postal Address: Broad Street, Monrovia Tel: +231 6530008 Fax: E-Mail: media_newsmen2000@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
195	Name: New Footprint Postal Address: Carey Street, Monrovia Tel: +231 6461880 Fax: E-Mail: Website:	PRV	IN
196	Name: Labour Journal Postal Address: Johnson Street, Monrovia Tel: +231 6518235 Fax: E-Mail: Website:	PRV	IN
197	Name: Plain Truth Postal Address: Broad Street, Monrovia Tel: +231 6552569 Fax: E-Mail:	PRV	IN

Name and Contacts		Type	Role
	Website:		
198	Name: Diary Postal Address: Broad Street, Monrovia Tel:+231 6557551 Fax: E-Mail: Website:	PRV	IN
199	Name: Evidence Postal Address: Broad Street, Monrovia Tel: Fax: E-Mail: Website:	PRV	IN
200	Name: Independent Postal Address: Broad Street, Monrovia Tel: +231 6559059 Fax: E-Mail: Website:	PRV	IN
201	Name: Nation Times Postal Address: Monrovia, Liberia Tel: +231 077329318 Fax: E-Mail: Website:	PRV	IN
202	Name: Tribute Postal Address: Monrovia, Liberia Tel: +231 6625975 Fax: E-Mail: Website:	PRV	IN
203	Name: Business Journal Postal Address: Monrovia, Liberia Tel: +231 077330326 Fax: E-Mail: Website:	PRV	IN
204	Name: Versity Parrot Postal Address: Capitol Hill, Monrovia Tel: +231 6534594 Fax: E-Mail: Website:	PRV	IN
205	Name: The New Liberia Postal Address: Capitol Hill, Monrovia. Tel: Fax: E-Mail: Website:	PRV	IN
206	Name: Clar Television Postal Address: Mechlin Street, Monrovia Tel: +231 6522511 Fax: E-Mail: trasheid1@yahoo.com Website: /	PRV	IN
207	Name: Power Television Postal Address: Carey Street, Snapper Hill – Monrovia Tel: +231 6518418 Fax: E-Mail: abkollie2002@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
208	Name: Real Television Postal Address: Ashmun Street, Monrovia Tel: +231 6550021 Fax: E-Mail: mykarlay@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
209	Name: Love Television Postal Address: 10 th Street, Sinkor - Monrovia Tel: +231 6586264 Fax: E-Mail: fincast2003@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
Agriculture Information and Documentation Institutions (Library, Resource Center)			
210	Name: Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) Postal Address: P.O. Box 9010 1000 Monrovia 10 Liberia Tel: +231 6478077 E-Mail: jchristoe27@yahoo.com Website: www.moa.gov.lr	GOV	IN

Name and Contacts		Type	Role
211	Name: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Postal Address: LISCO Building, Mamba Point - Liberia Tel: +231 6453021 E-Mail: Winfred.hammond@fao.org or hammondw.fao@undp.org Website: www.fao.org	OTH	IN
212	Name: University of Liberia (UL) Postal Address: Capitol Hill, Monrovia Tel: Fax: E-Mail: Website:	GOV	IN
213	Name: Cuttington University College (CUC) Postal Address: Suakoko, Bong County Tel: Fax: E-Mail: Website:	PRV	IN
214	Name: United States Information Service (USIS) Postal Address: Mamba Point, Monrovia Telephone: Fax: Email: Website:	GOV	IN
215	Name: Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Postal Address: 19 th Street, Sinkor Tel: Fax: E-Mail: Website:	NGO	IN
216	Name: Mercy Corps (MC) Postal Address: Newport Street Monrovia, Liberia. Tel: +231 6520278 Fax: E-Mail: tevert@lr.mercycorps.org Website:	NGO	IN
217	Name: World Food Programme (WFP) Postal Address: Sekou Toure Avenue, Mamba Point Tel: +231 5514367 Fax: E-Mail: louis.imbleau@wfp.org Website: www.wfp.org	OTH	IN
218	Name: Concern Worldwide (CONCERN) Postal Address: VP Road, Sinkor Tel: +213 6533352 E-Mail: marianne.byrne@concern.net Website	NGO	IN
219	Name: Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo Information Services (LISGIS) Postal Address: Tubman Boulevard, Monrovia Tel: Fax: E-Mail: Website:	GOV	IN
220	Name: National Information and Management Center (NIMAC) Postal Address: Sekou Toure Avenue, Mamba Point Tel: Fax: E-Mail: Website:	OTH	IN
221	Name: Liberia Media Center (LMC) Postal Address: Jallah Town, Sinkor - Monrovia Tel: Fax: E-Mail: Website:	PRV	IN
222	Name: Press Union of Liberia (PUL) Postal Address: McDonald Street, Monrovia, Liberia Tel: +231 6529611 Fax: E-Mail: Website:	PRV	IN
223	Name: Liberia Association of Writers (LAW) Postal Address: Monrovia, Liberia Tel: Fax: E-Mail: Website:	PRV	IN
Information and Communication Technology Institutions /Organizations			
224	Name: Quelac Computer Services (QUELAC)	PRV	IN

Name and Contacts		Type	Role
	Postal Address: Broad Street, Monrovia Tel: +231 6522529 Fax: E-Mail: quelacinfo207@yahoo.com Website:		
225	Name: Cheale Vocational Training Institute (CVTI) Postal Address: Tubman Boulevard, Sinkor - Monrovia Tel: +231 6520089 E-Mail: chealevocational@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
226	Name: Trinity Computer Solutions (TCS) Postal Address: Tubman Boulevard, Monrovia Tel: +231 687143 Fax: E-Mail: jjbarnes@yahoo.com Website:	PRV	IN
227	Name: Transworld Computer Services (TRAWOCO) Postal Address: Randall Street P.O. Box 104812 1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia. Tel: Fax: E-Mail: Website:	PRV	IN
228	Name: The Ark Internet Café (TAIC) Postal Address: Ashmun Street, Monrovia Tel: +231 6534172 Fax: E-Mail: admin@providencebc.net Website: : www.providencebc.net	CHU	TR
229	Name: Netcom Cyber City (NETCOM) Postal Address: Old Road, Sinkor – Monrovia Tel: +231 6510929 E-Mail: netcomcybercity@yahoo.com Website: :	PRV	IN

Key:

Type of institution	Role of organization
AS-F Farmers organizations	EX Extension
NGO Non governmental organization	FS Financial services
AS-W Women's associations	IN Information services
CHU Church-based group	OT Other
EDU Educational institution	PP Policy & planning
GOV Government department	PS-P Producer
PRV Private enterprise	PS-S Supplier
REG Regional organization	RD Research & development
OT Other	RU Rural development
	TR Training

3.2. Select List of Key Institutions Interviewed

Name of Institution: Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)
<p>Objective/mission statement: The Ministry of Agriculture is charged with the responsibilities of achieving self sufficiency in food production, increasing the country's ability to earn and conserve foreign exchange; to increase farmers income and purchasing power, and to bring them out of subsistence farming into commercial farming, thereby enabling the country as well as its people prosper.</p>
<p>Field of Specialization: Food Security, Agriculture and Nutrition</p>
<p>Number of staff (professional, clerical, technical, etc. permanent/temporary): There is a total of 263 staff on the regular payroll of the Ministry</p> <p>professionals, technical, clerical, support staff and permanent temporary 58 162 28 15 31 contractual and 6 international consultants</p>
<p>Branches, other sites: The Ministry's activities cover the entire country</p>
<p>Annual budget (in kind currency with euro equivalent): US\$3.5 million increased to US\$6 million or (€2.6 million increased to €4.6 million) 2008/2009 fiscal year</p>
<p>Source of funding, including main donors/sponsors: Government of Liberia as well as strategic partners such as FAO, World Bank, USAID, Italian Government, Swiss Government, etc.</p>
<p>Programme/projects undertaken: All aspects of food production including food and tree crops, livestock, fisheries, women empowerment programmes, seed multiplication, etc.</p>
<p>Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated): The farming community representing 70 percent of the population</p>
<p>Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore Magazine, SDI, QAS, DORA, seminars, consultants, publications, training, etc. In pre-war years, CTA Spore Magazine was in circulation at the Ministry. We also benefit from training opportunities.</p>
<p>Appreciation of CTA's products and services: CTA has a well coordinated and productive information network and services that can be made useful to many.</p>
<p>Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature): The Ministry of Agriculture collaborates with relevant government ministries and agencies, UN System, donor agencies, national and international NGOs, farmers' based organizations, youth groups, women groups and academic institutions.</p>
<p>National/sectoral policies impacting ICT use/information and communication within the institution: The Ministry Post and Telecommunications (MPT's) Policy Unit and the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) are responsible to publish up to date industry information (based on operators' reports and ongoing monitoring activities) and make available any reports on the status of the industry. This information shall be made available in the form of annual reports on the status of the industry and</p>

Name of Institution: Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)
quarterly or semi annual newsletters informing the public on the status of the sector, including sector developments and planned activities.
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom: Through print and electronic media, mobile phones, brochures, newsletters, leaflets, commercial Internet connectivity and the Ministry's website
Main information needs not satisfied (including types and format of information) Library – Information Management
Successes/main problems faced in terms of information and communication management: <i>Successes:</i> Established website, producing newsletters, annual reports and information dissemination through local media channels. <i>Problems:</i> Inadequate computers, Internet connectivity unreliable; Reading Room or Library non existent as reading materials are stored in a make-shift office; difficulties are associated with the collection and dissemination of information e.g. transportation (bad roads), cost of air time and space in newspapers; etc.
Successes/main problems faced in terms of knowledge management (e.g. available list of organizations/clients using products, databases, etc.) University students, NGOs, farmers and the general public make use of the information materials available at the Ministry's Communications Division and the website. Members of the Agriculture Coordination Committee (ACC) provide data and make use of the data base at FAO. Reluctance of clients to provide regular data for computation into the data base.
Why Institution selected as a key: The MOA was selected as key institution because of its statutory mandate responsible for the development of the agriculture sector. It does so by ensuring that an effective organizational structure is put in place and is manned by staff capable of planning, coordinating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating agricultural and rural development programs from time to time. It also ensures that its staff and the farmers are trained to cope with the challenges of the agricultural activities.
Other observations: It is observed that the MOA has embarked upon decentralizing its activities by constructing offices in all 15 counties and provided vehicles and motorbikes for its county coordinators and district extension workers.

Name of Institution: Liberia Rubber Development Authority (LRDA)
Objective/mission statement: LRDA is the technical arm of the Ministry of Agriculture responsible for regulating and monitoring all laws relative to the rubber industry as provided for in Article IV, section (1) of the Act creating the LRDA.
Field of Specialization: Development of rubber nurseries, bud wood gardens as well as give rubber advisory services to local rubber farmers
Number of Staff- (professional, clerical, technical, etc permanent/temporary): Professionals-6, technical-2 and clerical-1, all are permanent staff
Branches, other sites: Tumutu, Salala, Bong County
Annual budget (in kind currency with euro equivalent): US\$75,000 or equivalent €58,000
Source of funding, including main donors/sponsors: For now only the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Agriculture

Name of Institution: Liberia Rubber Development Authority (LRDA)
Programme/projects undertaken: Development of nurseries at Tumutu; training ex-combatants in rubber culture at the Tumutu Training Center; monitor/regulate illegal movement of rubber from one point to the other in Bomi, Cape mount, Gbarpolu and Montserrado Counties.
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated): Twenty thousand (20,000) local farmers plus eight (8) foreign own rubber companies
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore Magazine, SDI, QAS, DORA, seminars, consultants, publications, training etc. No interaction with the above mentioned
Appreciation of CTA’s products and services: N/A
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature): Has at present interaction with DFID through Landmine Action an international NGO in Liberia training approximately 400 ex-combatants in Tumutu, Salala, Bong County
National/sectoral policies impacting ICT use/information and communication within the institution: N/A
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom: Through newspapers, radio and commercial Internet services
Main information needs not satisfied (including types and format of information): N/A
Success/main problems faced in terms of information and communication management: Lack of Internet system as well as basic office supplies and equipment
Successes/main problems faced in terms of knowledge management (e.g. available list of organizations/clients using products, databases, etc. N/A
Why Institution selected as a key: LRDA was selected because of its role as the technical arm of the Ministry of Agriculture responsible for regulating and monitoring all laws relative to the rubber industry.
Other observations: LRDA is currently being restructured by the Ministry of Agriculture to carryout extensive and vigorous extension service to rubber farmers.

Name of Institution: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Liberia
Objective/mission: FAO's mandate, since 1945, has been to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to improve agricultural productivity, and to better the conditions of rural population.
Field of specialization: FAO is a specialized agency of the <u>United Nations</u> that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO is also a source of knowledge and information, and helps developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve <u>agriculture</u> , <u>forestry</u> and <u>fisheries</u> practices, ensuring good nutrition and food security for all.
Number of staff- (professional, clerical, technical, etc permanent/temporary): Professionals, technical, clerical, support staff and permanent temporary
Branches, other sites: FAO's activities extend throughout Liberia
Annual budget (in kind currency with euro equivalent): N/A
Source of funding, including main donors/sponsors: FAO's budget and support from donors including USAID, Swedish Government, Italian Government, Government of Ireland, European Union, World Bank, International Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development (IFAD), etc.
Programme/projects undertaken: Emergency and regular programmes. Rehabilitation of the fisheries sub-sector; Integrated Pest Production and Management (IPPM), support to women groups in income generating activities, TeleFood projects to small-scale farming groups for income and employment generation, rehabilitation of veterinary services and has established a Veterinary Diagnostic laboratory, provision of emergency farm inputs supplies to crisis-affected farming families in Liberia; formulation of food security and agriculture policy of Liberia
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated): The farming community representing 70 percent of the population
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore Magazine, SDI, QAS, DORA, Seminars, consultants, publications, training etc.: FAO has a very good interaction with CTA as regards the above mentioned
Appreciation of CTA's products and services: CTA's products and services are very much appreciated by FAO.
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature): FAO works with the government of Liberia through the Ministry of Agriculture and other strategic partners
National/sectoral policies impacting ICT use/information and communication within the institution: FAO communication policy and strategies aimed at identifying priorities and opportunities as well as to reach and interact with defined target groups in a planned, coordinated fashion. The policy rests on the conviction that success depends on more communication and that the organization is best served by opening more and better channels for the exchange of information and ideas with its key partners and audiences.
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom: Through print and electronic media, mobile phones, brochures, newsletters, leaflets, Internet connectivity and FAO's website

Name of Institution: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Liberia
Main information needs not satisfied (including types and format of information): Library – Information Management
Successes/main problems faced in terms of information and communication management: To gain public support, it is important to present an image of FAO and its partners as teams of people dedicated to combating hunger and rural poverty, this is a challenge. Communication products highlighting the contributions of individuals, both FAO staff and partners to organizational accomplishments will help present the “human face” of technical and emergency assistance. The best way to present FAO as an effective action-oriented organization is to increase awareness of successful field programmes and projects.
Successes/main problems faced in terms of knowledge management (e.g. available list of organizations/clients using products, databases, etc.): University students, NGOs, farmers and the general public make use of the information materials available at FAO and the website. Members of the Agriculture Coordination Committee (ACC) provide data and make use of the data base at FAO. Reluctance of clients to provide regular data for computation into the data base.
Why Institution selected as a key: Globally, FAO is the lead agency for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, livestock and rural development. It does so by ensuring that technical assistance are provided to beneficiaries. FAO is working in partnership with the Liberian Government through the Ministry of Agriculture.
Other observations: Currently, FAO has projects in all parts of the country and its impact is being felt positively by small-scale farmers and fisher folks. Not much is being done in livestock development for now.

Name of Institution: William R. Tolbert, Jr. College of Agriculture & Forestry – University of Liberia (CAF/UL)
Objective/mission statement: To train interested Liberians in the field of agriculture and its related activities thus providing quality manpower to address future challenges facing the country’s agriculture and forestry sectors.
Field of Specialization: General Agriculture, General Forestry, Agronomy, Home Science and Community Development and Wood Science and Technology
Number of Staff- (professional, clerical, technical, etc permanent/temporary): professionals, technical, clerical, support staff and permanent temporary 45 5 10 31
Branches, other sites: None
Annual budget (in kind currency with euro equivalent): US\$304,836.00 or €234,000
Source of funding, including main donors/sponsors: Government of Liberia as well as collaborating partners Government of Liberia (GOL) – 80%; tuition and fees, enrollment, etc – 20%

Name of Institution: William R. Tolbert, Jr. College of Agriculture & Forestry – University of Liberia (CAF/UL)
Programme/projects undertaken: Development Soils Laboratory; Revitalization of Animal and Field Crop Programmes; Initiation of Fisheries Programme and Revision of Existing Curricula
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated): Interested: Liberians and foreign nationals, estimated 1,200 plus enrollment
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore Magazine, SDI, QAS, DORA, Seminars, consultants, publications, training etc.: Periodic receipt of <i>Spore</i> Magazine and to limited extent some publications
Appreciation of CTA's products and services: Very informative and practical
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature): Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, CARI: Information sharing, conduct joint assessments, attend workshops, seminars, etc, provide scholarships for needy students
National/sectoral policies impacting ICT use/information and communication within the institution: Through the library (books, magazines) and Internet services
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom: Text books, reference materials and current literature on specialized topics
Main information needs not satisfied (including types and format of information): The main problem is the lack of Internet services for faculty, staff, students and unreliable electricity supply for the use of computers and other communication equipment
Successes/main problems faced in terms of information and communication management: Same as above
Successes/main problems faced in terms of knowledge management (e.g. available list of organizations/clients using products, databases, etc. Same as above
Why institution selected as a key: CAF/UL is a major institution that is training interested Liberians in the field of agriculture and its related activities thus providing quality manpower to address future challenges facing the country's agriculture and forestry sectors.
Other observations: It is observed that most of the professors at the college have aged and their replacement is needed through training of younger and interested personnel.

Name of Institution: Liberian Observer Corporation, publishers of the Liberian Daily Observer Newspaper
Objective/Mission Statement: To disseminate accurate and factual information without prejudice to our audience.
Field of specialization: Newspaper publishing, printing services
Number of Staff- (professional, clerical, technical, etc permanent/temporary): 50
Branches, other sites: Mainly in Monrovia, but newspaper circulation nationwide
Annual budget (in kind currency with euro equivalent): N/A
Source of funding, including main donors/sponsors: Mainly newspaper circulation and advertising
Programme/Projects undertaken: Created a subsidiary, Observer Publishing House to print and publish books
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated): The Liberian Nation to whom the daily is circulated, and the world, through observeronline.com
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore Magazine, SDI, QAS, DORA, Seminars, consultants, publications, training etc. None so far, but publish a weekly farm page
Appreciation of CTA's productive and services: The Dean of the College said he is aware of CTA and has been receiving the Spore, magazine.
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature): Ministry of Agriculture, which contributes to the farm page; also cover the Ministry of Agriculture programmes extensively
National/sectoral policies impacting ICT use/information and communication within the institution: N/A
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom: We have a team of reporters covering the entire country regularly
Main information needs not satisfied (including types and format of information): We would welcome Global and regional agriculture information
Success/main problems faced in terms of information and communication management: Getting the newspaper circulated in more parts of the country, especially leeward counties. We can do this, but usually at a loss. Need logistical support.
Successes/main problems faced in terms of knowledge management (e.g. available list of organizations/clients using products, databases, etc. Challenge is to actually find out the level of interest generated for certain topics covered, e.g. Farming and environment.
Why Institution selected as a key: The Daily Observer is one of the leading and credible newspapers in the country which has a wider reading audience.
Other observations: This news organ has the potential to disseminate information in a timely manner.

Name of Institution: Star Radio, Incorporated
Objective/mission statement: To provide independent, objective, impartial and credible news information to Liberia, the Sub-Region and the globe, under an editorial policy that allows no interference and or dictation.
Field of specialization: Transmission of independent news and information, education and entertainment through radio/electronic broadcast
Number of staff- (professional, clerical, technical, etc. permanent/temporary): 47 professional-36; clerical-0; Technical-5; temporary-6
Branches, other sites: No branches; only affiliate radio stations
Annual budget (in kind currency with euro equivalent): US\$385,439 (2008 FY) or €296,000
Source of funding, including main donors/sponsors: Self income generation through training, public service announcements, partnership, advertisements, donations
Programme/projects undertaken: Training, ads, health and social issues, education, agriculture, etc.
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated): Services are national, sub-regional and global in nature
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore Magazine, SDI, QAS, DORA, Seminars, consultants, publications, training etc. No interaction; no link established as yet
Appreciation of CTA's productive and services: Up to April 23, 2008 no link between STAR radio and the CTA
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature): Excellent collaboration with Save the Children (children programme), Liberian Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE) (produce and air programmes on its activities), Search for Common Ground (Talking Drum Studio) Liberia (air programmes/dramas produced by institution); International Finance Corporation (IFC) (produce and air programme called Business World), Liberia Teacher's Training Programme (LTTP) (produce programmes/hold discussions on activities and programmes of the LTTP and the Ministry of Education, etc.
National/sectoral policies impacting ICT use/information and communication within the institution: Annual payment of fees for frequency use to the Liberia Telecommunication Authority (LTA) and license to the Ministry of Finance (MOF)
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom: Through rounds in the city, field trips to rural parts of the Country, Correspondents' reports from across the country, telephone/mobile phone contacts, Internet service, etc., all by station's staff
Main information needs not satisfied (including types and format of information): Simulcast of selected programmes nation wide through networking with and relay by community radio stations; education, health, social issues, community development, etc., varying formats.
Success/main problems faced in terms of information and communication management: High team

Name of Institution: Star Radio, Incorporated
spirit, functional equipment, adherence to editorial policy, and respect for one another; inadequate revenue generation beclouds job security
Successes/main problems faced in terms of knowledge management (e.g. available list of organizations/clients using products, databases, etc.) N/A
Why institution selected as a key: In view of its ability to provide independent, objective, impartial and credible news information in particular agriculture and rural development programmes to the listening audience in Liberia and parts of the Sub-Region, Star Radio was selected.
Other observations: This station covers the entire country and has committed and professional producers and news casters.

Name of Institution: Women and Children Development Organization (WOCHIDO)
Objective/mission statement: To cater to the social, economic and educational advancement of the less fortunate in our society, through community development initiatives such as: agriculture, education, health care, food & nutrition as well as skills training
Field of specialization: Agriculture Promotion, production, multiplication and utilization of: - Chicken/Poultry Production - Soybean, Cowpea and Maize - Cassava - Snail farming - Beekeeping - Moringa Olefera (Medicinal and Food tree) - Vegetables - Plantain and bananas
Number of Staff: The staff of WOCHIDO includes: Executive Directress, Programme Officer, Administrative Assistant, General Secretary, Technical Coordinator, Field Supervisors, Support Staff and volunteers. (17 staff members) (Professional (6), clerical (5), technical (6))
Branches, other sites: Operating in Montserrado county in ten Townships/Districts: Caldwell, New Georgia, Dixville, Louisiana, Crozerville, Harrisburg, Logan Town Whiteplains, Johnsonville & Duport Road
Annual budget (in kind currency with euro equivalent): US\$80,000.00 or €62,000
Source of funding, including main donors/sponsors: i. United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) provided food for both the centers and agriculture (Food for Work) ii. SARDI-UMCOR now SA&D (United Methodist Committee on Relief. Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Initiatives now Sustainable Agriculture and Development in New York as a major donor/Sponsor. iii. UNFAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization as an agricultural) training and

Name of Institution: Women and Children Development Organization (WOCHIDO)

production materials provider

- iv. Sue Metozen an individual from Minnesota – United States of America.
- v. USAID/Liberia Community Infrastructure Project(USAID/LCIP): The project was to train 100 community members (60 Ex-combatants and 40 war-affected people in Vegetable, Soybeans, Cowpeas and Maize production and how to take care of a day old chicks. The project started in August 2005 and will end in May, 2006.
- vi. Jim Perry Africa Sub Committee/Edenton Street UM Church/Raleigh, NC USA

Programme/projects undertaken:

Training, workshops, promotion, production, multiplication and utilization of:

- Chicken/Poultry training and production
- Soybean, Cowpea and Maize training and production
- Cassava production
- Snail farming
- Beekeeping
- Moringa Olefera (Medicinal and Food tree) training, multiplication and production
- Vegetables production
- Plantain and bananas production
- To train sixty (60) Ex-combatants and forty (40) war affected people - women.
- Rice farming production

Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated):

Most of the townships along the St. Paul River left bank (New Georgia, Caldwell, Logan town, Dixville, Crozerville Whiteplains, Johnsonville Louisiana and Duport Road

TARGETED GROUPS:

Caldwell Community:	250 Beneficiaries		
	Children	-	45%
	Adult/Women	-	30%
	War Affected People and Ex-combatants	-	25%
Crozerville:	225 Beneficiaries		
	Children	-	50%
	Adult/Women	-	20%
	War Affected People and Ex-combatants	-	30%
Louisiana:	200 Beneficiaries:		
	Children	-	40%
	Adult/Women	-	35%
	War Affected People and Ex-combatants	-	25%
Dixville:	150 Beneficiaries:		
	Children	-	35%
	Adult/Women	-	45%
	War Affected People and Ex-combatants	-	20%
Johnsonville:	200 Beneficiaries:		
	Children	-	33%
	Adult/Women	-	25%
	War Affected People and Ex-combatants	-	32%

Name of Institution: Women and Children Development Organization (WOCHIDO)	
New Georgia:	150 Beneficiaries: Children - 35% Adult/Women - 45% War Affected People and Ex-combatants - 20%
Duport Road:	150 Beneficiaries: Children - 35% Adult/Women - 45% War Affected People and Ex-combatants - 20%
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore Magazine, SDI, QAS, DORA, Seminars, consultants, publications, training etc.: WOCHIDO has an order number: 43386 Can receive <i>Spore</i> magazines and books.	
Appreciation of CTA's productive and services: CTA's productive and services are very good and informative once you have a direct link with them and your mailing system is active.	
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature): The terms of collaboration/interaction with other institutions are good. WOCHIDO can interact with the Ministry of Agriculture to attend meetings. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization use us as an implementing partner and support most of our programmes. United Nations World Food Programme provides food for work for beneficiaries. As women's group, we always inter act with Ministry of Agenda in many aspects relating to women development. We interact with the United Methodist Church by find sponsors to support our programmes. Sustainable Agriculture and Development a New York based group that is the main sponsor for WOCHIDO group. Women World Summit – to always plan and host a programme – Prevention of Child Abuse on November 19 of every year.	
National/sectoral policies impacting ICT use/information and communication within the institution: N/A	
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom: Information needs are met by posting letters by mails, telephones and emails communication.	
Main information needs not satisfied (including types and format of information): Developing appropriate print and audio visual extension training packages for our rural farmers.	
Success/main problems faced in terms of information and communication management: Lack of trained manpower to carryout the information and communication management of the organization	
Successes/main problems faced in terms of knowledge management (e.g. available list of organizations/clients using products, databases, etc.): Lack of funding	
Why institution selected as a key: The services of this organization are met through community development initiatives such as: agriculture, education, health care, food & nutrition as well as skills training. The women of this organization have focus and are prepared to meet the challenging times in restoring the productive capacities in the agricultural sector.	
Other observations: If given the requisite support, this organization will make a greater impact on the lives of the beneficiaries, mostly, women and children in rural Liberia	

Name of Institution: GBARTOH Agriculture Development Programme (GADP)
Objective/mission statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote food security in the country with a view to improve the lives of people in need. To produce cassava and process the tubers into Gari, fufu and flour.
Field of Specialization: GADP is specialized in cassava multiplication, production and processing.
Number of Staff- (professional, clerical, technical, etc permanent/temporary): 4 1 6
Branches, other sites: District #1 and District #3, Grand Bassa County
Annual budget (in kind currency with euro equivalent): N/A
Source of funding, including main donors/sponsors: None – Self supported
Programme/projects undertaken: Cassava production, processing and marketing
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated): 10,000 farming families
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore Magazine, SDI, QAS, DORA, Seminars, consultants, publications, training etc. No interaction with CTA before, except through this study
Appreciation of CTA's productive and services: No idea. However, we would appreciate the inclusion of GADP for CTA's products and services
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Agriculture through the ACC Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) United States Embassy – US Ambassador's Fund
National/sectoral policies impacting ICT use/information and communication within the institution: N/A
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom: Through personal interaction, Internet, local newspapers and radios news and information.
Main information needs not satisfied (including types and format of information) Agricultural exhibitions, markets and trade; specific information on integrated pest management, etc; equipment and products; sources of farm inputs ; new crop vareties that are high yielding and disease resistant.
Successes/main problems faced in terms of information and communication management: Resources-personnel and funding; lack of technology to maximize on efficiency of current staff resource.
Successes/main problems faced in terms of knowledge management (e.g. available list of organizations/clients using products, databases, etc.
Why Institution selected as a key: As a local NGOs, it is actively involved in cassava production and processing in a densely populated town of Grand Bassa County
Other observations: This organization has the potential to expand if given technical and financial assistance.

Name of Institution: Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI)
Objective/Mission Statement: Rehabilitate and strengthen agricultural research and extension to lead the process of transfer of knowledge and skills in increasing food and agriculture production
Field of Specialization: Agricultural research
Number of Staff- (professional, clerical, technical, etc permanent/temporary): 1 Research Scientist (Director-General); 30 professional young scientists, and 130 technical and support staff.
Branches, other sites: Zorzor, Lofa County
Annual budget (in kind currency with euro equivalent): US\$705,000 or €543,000
Source of funding, including main donors/sponsors: Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Agriculture
Programme/projects undertaken: (1) Office building and 4 residences renovated and occupied, (2) 55 clones of high yielding cassava cultivars, 9,000 mini yam set and 14 varieties from IITA introduced (3) 11 hectares developed for rice research
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated): Liberian farmers through the Ministry of Agriculture extension programme
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore Magazine, SDI, QAS, DORA, Seminars, consultants, publications, training etc.: None so far
Appreciation of CTA's products and services: Heard about CTA products and services and would appreciate it, if CTA was to be visible in Liberia and collaborate with the research institute.
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature): International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) – Cassava and Yam; West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA) now Africa Rice Center and CORAF.
National/sectoral policies impacting ICT use/information and communication within the institution: N/A
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom: Through print and electronic media, mobile phones, commercial Internet connectivity and the website of the Agriculture Ministry
Main information needs not satisfied (including types and format of information) Costs and costing methodology; seeds and planting materials (adaptable sources); types of farm technology (e.g. flammings); specialized equipment; quarantine info
Successes/main problems faced in terms of information and communication management: CARI has diverse needs for information access, exchange and management.
Successes/main problems faced in terms of knowledge management (e.g. available list of organizations/clients using products, databases, etc.) Lack of trained personnel

Name of Institution: Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI)
Why Institution selected as a key: The only research institution in the country that caters to farmers' needs.
Other observations: Possibilities to garner external funding due to the political will to develop research activities.

Name of Institution: Liberia National Farmers Union (LINFU)
Objective/mission statement: To mobilize and incorporate farmers of Liberia into one body to promote their agricultural activities to achieve self-reliance, self-sufficiency and food security.
Field of specialization: Agriculture and farming
Number of Staff- (professional, clerical, technical, etc permanent/temporary): 4 professionals, 4 technical, 3 clerical and 9 permanent/4 temporary
Branches, other sites: Lofa, Bong, Nimba with an intent to establish nation-wide agriculture project for farmers
Annual budget (in kind currency with euro equivalent): US\$40,000 or €31,000
Source of funding, including main donors/sponsors: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and other partners.
Programme/projects undertaken: Agriculture programmes and projects in swamp rice production and development of nurseries for tree crops and food crops.
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated): 120,000 50,000
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore Magazine, SDI, QAS, DORA, seminars, consultants, publications, training etc. None of these
Appreciation of CTA's productive and services: No contact with CTA presently
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature): Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) through linkages and provision of technical assistance.
National/sectoral policies impacting ICT use/information and communication within the institution: Not familiar
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom: Through print and electronic media, mobile phones and commercial Internet connectivity
Main information needs not satisfied (including types and format of information): Lack of Internet facilities such as website
Success/main problems faced in terms of information and communication management:

Name of Institution: Liberia National Farmers Union (LINFU)
Information Technology (IT) not available
Successes/main problems faced in terms of knowledge management (e.g. available list of organizations/clients using products, databases, etc.): Not yet available to us as stated above
Why Institution selected as a key: This body incorporates many small associations and entrepreneurs and has a special need to network and access information on related activities to farmers and fisherfolks..
Other observations: Has the potential to promote and develop the agricultural sector

Name of Institution: Organization for the Development of Agriculture and Farmers Related Association, Inc.
Objective/mission statement: To encourage, strengthen and empower the grassroots Liberian farm families for speedy and efficient delivery of services through product market outlets, extension training and research, financial accountability, Micro-Credit Scheme advocacy and proper record keeping.
Field of specialization: Agriculture, Micro-Credit Scheme, Training and Cooperative Development
Number of staff- (professional, clerical, technical, etc permanent/temporary): 10 professionals, 30 technical and 10 clerical.
Branches, other sites: Foya, Lofa County; Voinjama, Lofa County; Buchanan, Grand Bassa County; Cestos, Rivercess County; Monrovia, Montserrado County, and Bong Mines, Bong County.
Annual budget (in kind currency with euro equivalent): US\$755,311.00 or €581,000
Source of funding, including main donors/sponsors: USAID/LCIP, Action Aid/Liberia, Board Members
Programme/projects undertaken: Agriculture production (lowland rice, vegetables, roots/tubers, rural skills training, fishery, and rehabilitation of oil palm farms.
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated): 800 young farmers in Bong County, 1,000 young people in rural skills, 500 young farmers in Lofa County, and 1000 women.
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore Magazine, SDI, QAS, DORA, seminars, consultants, publications, training etc.: No interaction
Appreciation of CTA's productive and services: ODAFARA will appreciate CTA's products and services only when provided
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature): a) FFDC-shared in the construction of fish ponds, b) Smile Africa-provided psycho-social training for our trainees, c) World Vision/ Liberia-provided food, materials, and stipends for our trainers.
National/sectoral policies impacting ICT use/information and communication within the institution:

Name of Institution: Organization for the Development of Agriculture and Farmers Related Association, Inc.
N/A
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom: Information needs are currently met from newspapers, national radio stations and website
Main information needs not satisfied (including types and format of information): Market information for fresh produce internationally; Local agricultural production information; extension materials, internet connectivity.
Success/main problems faces in terms of information and communication management: Funding limitations; lack of training for the many specialized areas of the organization; staff members not trained in ICM and ICT skills and lack of information policy
Successes/main problems faced in terms of knowledge management (e.g. available list of organizations/clients using products, databases, etc.): N/A
Why Institution selected as a key: This organization is encouraging and empowering grassroots Liberian farm families for speedy and efficient delivery of services through product market outlets, extension training and research, financial accountability, Micro-Credit Scheme advocacy and proper record keeping.
Other observations: It is a truly grassroots development organization

Name of Institution: Bettie's Agriculture & Development Union (BADU) Lib. Inc.
Objective/mission statement: To see the incidence of hunger and poverty amongst the rural poor, abused, marginalized and hungry alleviated through community development programmes; and to enlighten their participation in sustainable development programmes so that they can become self-reliant in food production in the attainment of food security.
Field of specialization: General Agriculture
Number of staff- (professional, clerical, technical, etc permanent/temporary): 2 professionals, 3 technical, 3 clerical and over 40 temporary casual workers.
Branches, other sites: Cape Mount and Montserrado Counties
Annual budget (in kind currency with euro equivalent): Sixty four thousand, eight hundred dollars - US\$64,800.00 or €50,000
Source of funding, including main donors/sponsors: Through self initiatives, proceeds from agricultural produce and partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), German Agro Action (GAA), Samaritan's Purse, CARITAS and Christian Aid Ministries.
Programme/projects undertaken: Agriculture development programmes including lowland rice and vegetables production as well as roots and tubers. Inputs distribution (seeds and tools) to vulnerable farming families; skills training and building the capacity of rural farmers.
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated):

Name of Institution: Bettie's Agriculture & Development Union (BADU) Lib. Inc.
With a developed capacity, BADU intends to reach-out to 70,000 farmers. The current targeted farming population is six thousand, eight hundred and nineteen (6,819) due to limited human and institutional capacity.
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore Magazine, SDI, QAS, DORA, Seminars, consultants, publications, training etc.: Limited interaction. It was only once that we came across the <i>Spore Magazine</i> , which we found to be very informative
Appreciation of CTA's productive and services: BADU do appreciate CTA's products and services but have not benefited from any of these products and services; we hope to benefit in the future.
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature): BADU collaborates with other stakeholders through the Agriculture Coordination Committee (ACC), which is the highest decision-making body of the agriculture sector; the County Development Committee (CDC) where agriculture initiatives and county development agendas are discussed and ideas exchanged including workshops, seminars and other training opportunities.
National/sectoral policies impacting ICT use/information and communication within the institution: The impact is not felt because of limited capacity in the use of ICT/information and communication.
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom: Information needs are currently met by browsing from commercial Internet outlets; newspapers, national radio stations, etc.
Main information needs not satisfied (including types and format of information): Most of our information needs are not met due to lack of Internet connectivity; inadequate computers and if found they are obsolete; reading materials are not readily available; the use of radio in information dissemination has proven to be effective in reaching to a wider audience but requires additional support to extend broadcast time.
Success/main problems faced in terms of information and communication management: The Ministry of Agriculture conducted a comprehensive assessment of the agriculture sector (CAAS-Lib) and a Policy Intent Statement; Comprehensive Food and Nutrition Survey (CFNS), and the Food and Agriculture Policy and Strategy (FAPS). On this issue of constraints, information is not readily available and managed due to inadequate resource materials and trained manpower.
Successes/main problems faced in terms of knowledge management (e.g. available list of organizations/clients using products, databases, etc. The Agriculture Coordination Committee (ACC) meets on a monthly basis for information sharing. Information is not readily available. The data base for the agriculture sector is at FAO, which needs to be updated regularly but tracking of activities amongst NGOs needs to be strengthened.
Why Institution selected as a key: This organization is playing a very critical role in rural development, assisting a large number of small farmers and other agricultural entrepreneurs with farm inputs and technical advice and on-farm training.
Other observations: BADU would like to expand to other rural communities but requires the necessary technical and financial support to achieve its desired objectives.

Name of Institution: Grand Bassa Agriculture Group (G-BAG)
Objective/mission statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote agricultural extension in rural areas through training programmes • To minimize urban to rural migration • To engage in agricultural and its related activities • To engage in small local agricultural hand tools industry • To create a medium of exchange in agricultural technology for local farmers • To engage in agricultural food preservation • To link farmers with international trade and markets • To engage farmers in food security activities • To engage farmers to form community based organizations (CBOs) for sustainability <p><u>Mission:</u> To work with rural and urban farmers to become self-reliant in food production so as to reduce hunger, increase food security and to also create avenue to sustain urban and rural CBOs and farm families through cooperative initiatives for livelihood improvement.</p>
Field of specialization: General agriculture, community development (mobilization and sensitization), food security, social enterprise development and income generation programmes.
Number of staff- (professional, clerical, technical, etc permanent/temporary): 5 6 15
Branches, other sites: James Town, Rivercess County
Annual budget (in kind currency with euro equivalent): US\$150,000 or €115,000
Source of funding, including main donors/sponsors: FAO, UNDP and income from projects implemented by G-BAG
Programme/projects undertaken: CRS (TAP) Transitional activities Programme: Small ruminant multiplication and plantain production Establishment of 4-H Clubs (PTA Training) Rivercess County, Grand Bassa County and Sinoe County; FAO TeleFood Projects – Plantain production; Vegetable Production for Income Generation – Rivercess County; Food Security Programme supported by Concern Worldwide – Multi Annual Project (MAP). Projects include, multiplication of small ruminant animals, vegetable seed multiplication, capacity building (Training of farmers and establishing farmers resource centers, pineapple, cassava and plantain production and bridge rehabilitation. Community Peace Building and Community Development (Diomplor) programme – Agriculture and economic development – Best Practice Innovation Demonstration Site (BPIDS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Income generation project - Adult literacy Training Reflect Methodology for community development project - Water and sanitation (construction of ,latrines and wells) - School and clinic construction project
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated): Farmers – 22, 200 farming families CBOs – 579
Extent of interaction with CTA – Spore Magazine, SDI, QAS, DORA, seminars, consultants, publications, training etc.: None so far
Appreciation of CTA's productive and services: N/A
Extent of collaboration/interaction with other institutions (name, nature):

Name of Institution: Grand Bassa Agriculture Group (G-BAG)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bassa NGOs Network (BNN) information sharing, coordination and networking; - New African Research and development Agency (NARDA) – capacity building; - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Cooperative partner and donor - Concern World Wide – core partner and donor - Mercy Corps – core partner and donor
National/sectoral policies impacting ICT use/information and communication within the institution: N/A
How information needs are currently met, and from where or by whom: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Agriculture - various technical information ▪ Commercial Internet services ▪ Colleagues - various technical information ▪ Community radio stations ▪ Local newspapers
Main information needs not satisfied (including types and format of information) Inadequate human resource capacity and funding limitations.
Successes/main problems faced in terms of information and communication management: Inadequate human resources or technology that would allow the limited available resources to be more efficient; funding allocation
Successes/main problems faced in terms of knowledge management (e.g. available list of organizations/clients using products, databases, etc.) No mention
Why Institution selected as a key: This organization plays a very critical role in rural development, assisting a large number of small farmers with farming inputs and technical knowledge.
Other observations: A truly rural based organization that is assisting vulnerable farmers and groups

Name of Institution : Liberia NGOs Network (LINNK)
Objective/mission statement: To coordinate/ Support activities of Local NGOs and empower them through capacity building and networking
Field of specialization: Agro information, food crop production, training
Number of Staff: Professional : 8, Clerical : 2, Technician : 13
Branches, other sites: Maryland, Gbarpolu, Bong, Nimba, Grand Gedeh, Grand Cape Mount
Annual Budget (in kind currency with euro equivalent) : US\$80,000 or €62,000
Sources of funding : Membership contribution, project /programme implementation, fund raising

Name of Institution : Liberia NGOs Network (LINNK)
Programme/ project undertaken : Networking and implementing projects such as agriculture, health, education, water and sanitation, advocacy and other rural based activities for donor organizations
Target audience (plus number, actual or estimated) : Farmers, advocates
Extent of collaboration/ interaction with other institutions (name, nature): Close collaborating National and International NGOs, the Government and other stakeholders. Collaboration involving projects implementation, training, workshops, coordination through our member organizations. Some of the institutions are : 1. UNDP, HCS, UNMIL, Save the Children UK, ACCORD of South Africa, ECOWAS, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Health, etc.
National/sectoral policies impacting ICT use/information and communication within the institution: Need some clarity
How information are currently met, and from where and whom:
Main information needs not satisfied (including types and format of information) : This requiring clarification
Success/main problems face in terms of information and communication (e.g. available list of organizations/clients using products, data bases, etc.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made significant progress in information dissemination through internet connectivity and regular coordination sessions, which to a large extent concentrated on information sharing. • Members of LINNK and international NGOs are the main users of our information packages. • There are problems in accessing information by member organizations due to limited resource capacities including Internet facilities; lack of transportation, communication link, and distance from official domicile.
Successes/main problems faced in terms of knowledge management (e.g. available list of organizations/clients using products, databases, etc. Funding limitation; lack of office for secretariat; lack of marketing information; inadequate training in ICT and ICM technology
Why Institution selected as a key: An apex group of local NGOs and farmers' based organizations with a keen interest in networking and accessing information on newer technologies, etc.
Other Observations: Has the potential to grow and make the most impact on the lives of our small-scale farmers. They need all the support to fill the gap when the INGOs phase out.

ANNEX 4. LIST OF INSTITUTIONS/PERSONS INTERVIEWED

No	Organization/Address	Acronym	Type	Name of Persons interviewed	Telephone #	Email
1.	Ministry of Agriculture P.O. Box 9010 Monrovia, Liberia	MOA	GOV	Dr. J. Chris Toe Mr. Ousman Tall Mr. James Logan	+231-6- 478077 +231-6- 517202 +231- 6- 518830	ichristoe@yahoo.com ostall@yahoo.com jblogan02@yahoo.com
2.	Liberia Rubber Development Authority C/o. Ministry of Agriculture P.O. Box 9010 Monrovia, Liberia	LRDA	STE	Mr. Lodean Teage	+231- 4 - 712501	
3.	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations LISCO Building, Mamba Point Monrovia, Liberia	FAO	OTH	Dr. Winfred Hammond Mr. Joseph Boiwu	+231 - 6 -453021 +231-6- 553891	hammondw.fao@undp.org boiwuj.fao@undp.org
4.	College of Agriculture & Forestry/University of Liberia Capitol Hill, Monrovia	CAF/UL	EDU	Mr. Morlee Mends-Cole Eric Eastman	+231 -0777011770 +231 - 6- 513365	ermaeastman@yahoo.com
5.	Liberia Observer Corporation Mcdonald Street, Monrovia	Observer	PRV	Mr. Kenneth Y. Best Mr. J. Alaska Moore	+231 - 6 -812888 +231- 6- 631025	Liberianobserver.com ajohnson@liberianobserver.com
6.	Star Radio Broad Street, Monrovia		PRV	Mr. James Morlu Mr. Matthias Daffah	+231-6- 518572 +231 -077042424	james_morlu@yahoo.com
7.	Women & Children Development Organization Caldwell, Rural Montserrado County Liberia	WOCHIDO	AS-W	Ms. Margaret Russell	+231-6- 518117	wochido@yahoo.com
8.	Gbartoh Agriculture Development Programme Grand Bassa County Liberia	GADP	NGO	Mr. John Jackson	+231 - 077033623	gadp@20032000@yahoo.com
9.	Central Agricultural Research Institute Suakoko, Bong County Liberia	CARI	REG	Dr. J. Q. Subah Dr. Charles McClain	+231-6-494261 +231-6-874343	jqsubah@yahoo.com worjoloh@yahoo.com
10.	Liberia National Farmers Union Lofa County, Liberia	LINFU	AS-F			
11.	Organization for the Development of Agriculture and Farmers Related Association Lofa County, Liberia	ODAFARA	NGO	Mr. Joseph Kettor Mr. Nelson Fallah	=231 - 6 -558731	odafara@yahoo.com

No	Organization/Address	Acronym	Type	Name of Persons interviewed	Telephone #	Email
12.	Bettie Agriculture Development Union Grand Cape Mount County Liberia	BADU	NGO	Mr. Shedrick Bettie	+231 - 6- 644611	badulib@yahoo.com
13.	Grand Bassa Agriculture Group Grand Bassa County, Liberia	G-BAG	NGO	Mrs. Dehsaywren Tugbe	+231 6 -845340	gbagliberia95@yahoo.com
14	Liberia NGO Network C/o. Farmers Against Hunger (FAH) Capitol Bye Pass, Monrovia	LINNK	AS-F	Mr. John Jukon	+231-6 - 524189	fahlib@yahoo.com

ANNEX 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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