



LIBERIA - Safe and Sustainable Food Systems

#GLOBALGATEWAY

#TEAMEUROPE

TEAM EUROPE PROPOSAL

Support Government's policy development and implementation capacity (knowledge co-creation and governance):

- **TA to line ministries/ authorities:** prepare a strategy and roadmap for intensification and diversification of the rural economy
- TA to support MoA's service delivery through knowledge systems and extension services development
- Support to the business environment (public-private dialogue)

Interventions on intensification/ commercialisation and diversification/ industrialisation:

- Increase agricultural output from existing/abandoned areas of cultivation
- Add value to commodities (processing of raw agricultural materials, private sector, trade, marketing, domestic and export markets)
- Increase food quality and safety of processed commodities (SPS legislative framework)

Infrastructure interventions:

strategic location of agribusiness interventions and/or provision of access to roads, energy, and water

Cross-cutting interventions and mainstreaming:

- Healthy and nutritious food across the value chains
- Explore untapped green economy potential (organic waste)
- TVET
- Private investment incentives (capacity building and grants to SMEs and banks)
- Youth and gender inclusion (women and young girls)

EU partners involvement & indicative amounts:

- **DE:** TVET, rural roads, renewable energy, nutrition
- **FR:** TVET, PSD, access to rural finance, fisheries and aquaculture; indicative grant: EUR 10 mil
- **IE:** nutrition, gender; indicative grant: EUR 5 mil
- **SE:** gender, CSOs, agri-business development, vegetable and cocoa value chains, feeder roads; indicative grant: EUR 10-15 mil
- **EIB:** rice value chain; indicative loan: EUR 15 mil

MODALITIES/ TOOLS

Indirect management/ services procurement:

- Grant programme
- Twinning grant

Technical assistance (TA)

Budget support

Blending (loans)

KEY DELIVERABLES

Rice value chain (partnership with the EIB):

Increase domestic rice production and establish 15 commercially-run rice business hubs.

Rehabilitation/construction of weirs and water control structures for irrigation of lowland farms as well as construction of ponds and other water storage facilities on upland farms.

TRANSFORMATIONAL POTENTIAL

Smart management of the natural environment:

- Support the production of more food, increase value addition and trade in agriculture and fisheries
- Create jobs for youth and women and generate (public) revenue
- Domestic consumption of safe and nutritious food to serve a healthy and more resilient society

*This Team Europe Initiative is work in progress



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NATIONAL CONTEXT

Liberia's public investment in agriculture and fisheries: 1 - 1.5%

2% per year deforestation rate, among the highest in the world

70% of Liberia's labour force is currently engaged in agriculture

Agriculture sector: \approx 30-40% of GDP, mostly earned by the rubber sector

Majority of farming households cultivate around 1ha on average

Average household use: 81% of its food from local markets, 11% from own production

Heavily import - dependent:

- 80% of staple food (rice and cassava)
- 73% of all food consumed is not produced domestically

Almost 80% of Liberians are younger than 35 & earn a living in the informal sector

About 50% of population lives below poverty line and faces food shortages

Value chain development of cash and staple crops:

- Limited access to inputs and extension services
- Restricted finance for investments
- Absence and weak organisation of essential value chain actors and their linkages
- Poorly informed policy making, restrictive private sector policies
- Limited infrastructure (roads and energy)

National policies:

- Liberia's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (2018-2023)
- Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Plan II (LASIP II, 2018-2022)

GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT AND RELEVANT SDGs

EU Green Deal

African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) Joint EC-EEAS Communication "Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa"

Regional programme "Oceans Governance/Blue Economy in West Africa"

AU's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme

COVID-19 Pandemic

EU: on-going investments in cassava, rice, cocoa, coffee and fisheries sectors; support capacity strengthening of the line ministries