Liberia Agricultural Transformation Agenda

Economic Diversification and Inclusive Growth through Agriculture, Agro-processing and Manufacturing

By
Dr. Moses M. Zinnah
Minister of Agriculture

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Agriculture and Liberia’s economic growth and development

- In spite of our political and socio-economic differences, there is a consensus that agriculture is the foundation for the transformation of Liberia into a middle income country.

- Agriculture is the most effective means of reducing poverty and ensuring economic growth and development because the majority of the population depend on agriculture for their livelihoods.

- Agriculture sector is an untapped investment opportunity in Liberia.

- Our current strategy is to concentrate investment across commodity value chains from inputs to markets, associated with both staples and other high-value crops.
The Liberia Agricultural Transformation Agenda (LATA) is the new policy framework and vision for developing agriculture and agribusiness, directly supported by H.E. Madam President.

It represents a decisive holistic move towards transforming Liberian agriculture into a strong economic pillar over the next five years:

- Moving from subsistence farming to business.
- Introducing and making optimal use of science and technology, research and innovation, adequate policies and regulations, regional and international trade agreements.
- Nurturing domestic private sector and attracting foreign investors with a proven track record in Africa.
- Promoting economic development and inclusive growth through job creation.
What is the Value chain approach

1. Vision for Economic Diversification & Industrialisation

- Creates much larger, stable market for farmers
- Creates much larger, stable market for value addition investors
- Crops used as base input
- Processed crops stimulate light manufacturing e.g. packaging

2. Holistic Approach: Value Chain Development & Targeting Products we can Manufacture from our crops

What Products Can we Manufacture AT SCALE in Liberia from Our Main Crops?

- Rubber
  - Rubberwood, RSS, Household utensils, Fan Belts, Shoes, Boots, Mats
  - Cooking Oil, Soaps, Biomass fuel, Feed
- Oil Palm
  - Grade A, Feed, Butter, Powder, Chocolate, Cosmetics
  - Fresh/Dried, Fillets, Canning, Frozen, Fish Sauce
- Cocoa
  - High Quality Flour, Chips, Gari, Fufu, Glue, Starches, Alcohol
- Fish
  - Rice, Cereals, Feed, Snacks, Crackers, Rice Oil, Noodles
- Cassava
  - Plastics, packaging, nails, bolts, eggs, snacks, processing equipment
- Rice
- Other
6 agro-clusters identified

- Marine Fish Hubs
- Palm Areas
- Rubber Processing Clusters
- Rice & Vegetable Hubs
- Aquaculture
- Prime Cocoa Areas
- Cassava
- Wester Corridor
- Monrovia-Santa Belt
- Main Cocoa Belt
- Buchanan Cluster
- South East Cluster
- Lofa Cluster
- Nimba Cluster

Map 2: 2008 Clan-Level Population Density

Population Density Per Sq. Mile
- 1 - 30
- 31 - 60
- 61 - 100
- 101 - 400
- 4001 - 225764

Rural Population
- 0 - 1596
- 1501 - 3500
- 3501 - 7000
- 7001 - 13500
- 13501 - 26117

Urban Population
- 1,000,000
- 100,000
- 10,000

Primary Data Source:
Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services

Map Projection: UTM Zone 29N
Datum: WGS 84

Our execution strategy over the next 12 months

1. Know our customers (initiated and ongoing)
   - E-Registration of all farmers in the 15 counties of Liberia to create a database
   - More than 250,000 farmers already registered. Second phase is underway.

2. Make access to finance easy
   - Cost-sharing mechanism for agro-inputs (initiated and ongoing)
   - Set up a holistic de-risking mechanism for commercial lending, including credit guarantee, technical support, insurance, bank incentive mechanism, bank rating, co-financing and grants to SMEs (initiated and being planned)
   - Promote finance leasing and micro-finance institutions (regulations adopted, some investors operating)
   - Attract and incentivize value chain investors (incentives available)
   - Implement warehouse receipt system (proposal under review)
Our execution strategy over the next 12 months

3. Reform the policy environment *(initiated and ongoing)*
   - Liberia Agricultural Commodity Regulation Agency *(Act adopted)*
   - Seeds, Fertilizers and Pesticides Act *(in process)*
   - Land Rights Act *(being debated at Legislature)*
   - Specific regulations and taxation regime per value chain *(in process)*

4. Promote private sector investment
   - Fast-track investment proposals for LATA through strong Governmental leadership and coordination *(Presidential Task Force ongoing)*
   - Set up a special scheme for incentives and business development support for Signature Investors at critical stages of the value chain *(in process)*
   - Duty-free access for essential equipment, seeds, goods for agricultural development *(Executive Order 73 existing)*
   - Targeted investment promotion and development of export markets *(ongoing)*
Our execution strategy over the next 12 months

5. Doing business differently as a Government

- Redefining the role of the Ministry of Agriculture as a business enabler and not an implementer (*institutional reforms ongoing*)
- Provide clear strategic direction and targets (*LATA programming in process*)
- Strengthen coordination and collaboration across Government agencies to ensure objectives are met (*Task Force, Sector Working Groups ongoing*)
- Strengthen partnerships with all key stakeholders (*Public-Private, Government – Donor, Government - NGO mechanisms set up*)
- Increasing access to information and transparency (*online communication will be strengthened*)
We are looking for investors across value chains:

- **Oil Palm**: Production and processing, including investing in Outgrower Schemes; Bio-energy.
- **Cocoa**: Post-harvest processing; certification and quality control; global demand for cocoa is growing, Liberia has the potential to significantly improve productivity and quality, with committed investors.
- **Rubber**: Ribbed smoked sheets processing
- **Fisheries**: Inputs; Processing; Cold storage facilities; Aquaculture
- **Rice/Cassava**: Industrial investor; Post-harvest processing
Investment Opportunities

We are looking for investors across value chains:

- **Financing:** Private value chain financing; Development financing; Microfinance; strong business case for opening rural branches in (relatively isolated) agricultural concession areas employing significant number of people can have strong impact on agricultural markets and value chain; Insurance; Warehouse receipt;

- **Other Services:** Business development; ICT; Knowledge management; Branding & Marketing

- **Cross-cutting:** Agro-inputs; Agro-logistics; Packaging; Storage; Aggregators
Be part of LATA

I am available to provide additional information and sector profiles upon request

Moses M. Zinnah
Minister of Agriculture of Liberia
E-mail: mzinnah@moa.gov.lr
Telephone: +231-886-420-955

Thank you