



REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FOOD SECURITY  
YOUYI BUILDING, FREETOWN**

**COUNTRY REPORT ON THE NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY SITUATION AND PROSPECTS FOR  
THE 2009 HARVEST**

**INTRODUCTION**

This presentation is on the food security situation in Sierra Leone and prospects for 2009 crop harvest. The government of Sierra Leone promotes two pronged visions for the period 2009-2015.

- (1) Food security programmes
- (2) Poverty reduction livelihood security programmes

As a mechanism for promoting this dual visionary objective, the MAFFS has put in place a national agricultural development plan for Sierra Leone, (NADPSL) under which national agricultural development programmes are promoted.

**SECTOR PROGRAMMES THE SUPPORT BOOSTING OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION**

	<b>INSTITUTION</b>	<b>SUPPORT PROGRAMME</b>	<b>AREA OF INTERVENTION</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS)</b>	National Agricultural Response Programmes (NARP)	This strengthens support programmes that promote the pillar IV of the CAADP process, within the scope of the national vision of commercialization of Agriculture along the value chain and infrastructural development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening small scale enterprise development for farmer based organisations (FBOs)</li> <li>• Supporting collaborative research, food security monitoring and EWS.</li> <li>• Promoting advocacy networking for supporting investment programmes in agriculture.</li> </ul>
		Response to hiking costs of food prices in S/L	
		Operation Feed the Nation (OFTN)	Extension technology transfer methodology through farmer field schools and distribution of planting materials/seed, food processing machiner farmer training etc.
		National Sustainable Agricultural Development Programme (NSADP)	Development of a national Agricultural Plan
		Food Security and Commercialization of Agriculture (FSCA)	Agricultural production, processing and Domestic marketing

Rural and Private Sector Development Project (RPSDP)

**i. Domestic Marketing**

**ii. Agricultural Export promotion**

**iii. Supports technology improvement**

**iv. Policy Regulation, Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation**

- This promotes food security and job creation.
- Improvement of efficiencies along the value chain of commodities yielding higher benefits to the producers.
- Outcomes of the project are measured against value addition and quality premium in agricultural exports.

It focuses on four components.

**i. Domestic Marketing:**

- Improving domestic distribution channels for agricultural products;
- Improving access of farmers and trader to market goods in domestic market centres,
- Improving domestic marketing to bring major incentives to producers for increased production.
- Assisting consumers to ensure availability of commodities at competitive prices

**ii. Agricultural Export promotion**

- Provides the necessary facilities and services for promoting agricultural export of commodities such as Cocoa, Coffee, Cashew, Oil palm (Palm Oil); Cassava and Gin
- Supports initiatives for commodities identified as promising for export and targets agricultural producers, agricultural exporters and other private farmers in the value chain

**iii. Supports technology improvement**

- Increasing farmers access to improved technological practices that influence quality improvement of commodities supported under component (ii above)
- Promotes strategic studies on additional commodities and their market
- Targets rural producers for support in the following activities:
  - (a) strengthening legally registered farmer organisations and their unions
  - (b) Supports agribusinesses, marketing enterprises and other rural business through capacity building, policy regulation and market information.
  - (c) Support demonstration and introduction of improved technologies such as improved varieties, crop diversification, processing technologies (post harvest operations), irrigation techniques for off-season production, crop diversification etc.
  - (d) Studies in strategic areas (rehabilitation of agric-research export promotion etc to initiate future programmes)

**(IV) Policy Regulation, Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation**

It finances the development of key policy regulation project management functions and monitoring and evaluation

2	Africare	Livelihood Security and assets development	Agricultural production, capacity building /support to Farmer Based Organizations (FBO's) /communities ,processing, Domestic marketing and feeder roads
3	World Vision Sierra Leone	Livelihood Security and assets development	Agricultural production, capacity building /support to Farmer Based Organizations (FBO's) /communities and processing
4	CARE S/L (US Aid)	Livelihood Security and assets development	Agricultural production, capacity building /support to Farmer Based Organizations (FBO's) /communities and processing
5	Catholic Relief Services	Livelihood Security and assets development	Agricultural production, capacity building /support to (FBO's) /communities and processing
6	Wlthungerhlife (WHH)	Conservation of forest reserves- Sierra Leone Western Area Peninsula (WAPFR) and its watersheds	Innovative pro-poor financing for forest conservation piloted, and private business enhanced in area of eco-tourism
7	Wlthungerhlife (WHH)	Food Security and Economic Development (FoSED)	Agricultural production, capacity building /support to Farmer Based Organizations (FBO's) /communities domestic marketing and forestry
8	Wlthungerhlife (WHH)	Use of STABEX Transfers Fund -Support to Cocoa/Coffee Production	Agricultural production, capacity building /support to Farmer Based Organizations (FBO's) /communities ,processing, Export promotion and financing
9	Wlthungerhlife (WHH)	Rural Development	Agricultural production, capacity building /support to Farmer Based Organizations (FBO's) /communities, Health/Gender/Education and Forestry
10	Oxfam Great Britain	Women LEAP (Leadership Empowerment, Accountability and Participation)	Agricultural production processing, domestic marketing and Health/Gender/Education
11	COOPI	Food Security and Development Opportunities for Disadvantaged Groups in Freetown (COOPI)	Agricultural production, capacity building /support to Farmer Based Organizations (FBO's) /communities Domestic marketing Health/Gender/Education
12	Concern Worldwide	Enhancing Food Security and Development Opportunities for Disadvantaged Groups in Freetown (Concern)	Agricultural production, capacity building /support to Farmer Based Organizations (FBO's) /communities ,processing and Domestic marketing
13	Christian Aid	Bonthe Food Security Project	Agricultural production, capacity building /support to Farmer Based Organizations (FBO's)/communities ,processing Health/Gender/Education and Forestry
14	Care (EU Funded Project)	Agricultural production, capacity building /support to FBO's /communities	Agricultural production, capacity building /support to Farmer Based Organizations (FBO's) /communities
15	Action Plus	Livelihood Project	Health/Gender/Education
16	UN World Food Programme	Purchase for Progress (P4P)	Capacity Building and Marketing of Domestic Rice for food Aid
17	ASREP	Agriculture Sector Rehabilitation Project	Agricultural production, capacity building /support to Farmer Based Organizations (FBO's) /communities, Financing, Health/Gender/Education, Feeder Roads and Research and Extension
18	IFAD	International Fund and Agricultural Development	Production support, Feeder roads and rural financing
19	RPDP	Rural and Private Development Project	capacity building /support to Farmer Based Organizations (FBO's) /communities ,processing, Domestic marketing Export Promotion, Financing, Health/Gender/Education, Research and Extension and Forestry
20	Diversified	Diversified Food Production Project	Agricultural production and Forest preservation
12	PAGE	Promoting Agricultural Governance and Environment	Agricultural production, Domestic marketing and Financing
22	Action Aid	Food Security and	Youths in agriculture programme and Advocacy for

	International S/L	Advocacy on Right to Food	stakeholders to respect, protect and fulfil the right to food for all.
23	Seed Multiplication Project	Seed processing and Multiplication	Seed quality control and technology transfer & adoption
24	Cotton Tree Foundation	Food security and Livelihood Security	Production of food & cash crops
25	Multinational National	NERICA Multiplication and adoption	National distribution of the NERICA Lines to farmer groups and Varietal trials and Selection

## 2.0 HIGHLIGHT OF THE CROPPING SEASON 2009

- The on-set of the rains for 2009 was observed to be late. At the on-set of the rains, a relatively dry spell was experienced in March and April. River levels were much lower as late as mid June. This led to delays in planting of the upland fields. Peak planting of upland fields was in June and July but further delayed in the lowland fields. During peak upland cultivation, very severe rainfall was experienced. This high amount of rain water was fairly spread. This implied high consumptive use of rain water in crop fields, especially the uplands. By the same token, the upland fields are performing quite well.
- In 2009, all crop ecologies were cultivated with less hindrance, due to favourable weather condition.
- Several programmes are being promoted in low land rice irrigation, to enhance double cropping of rice and vegetable in selected localities.
- Rehabilitation of basic facilities of veterinary clinics(Tower Hills, Kabala, Bo, Kenema & Kono), plus strategic livestock inspection posts and holdings is on –going around the county.
- Livestock beneficiaries are involved in a small number of restocking programmes. DFPP targets for 2009 is 2340 sheep,2340 goats, 2340 poultry and 375 rabbits;
- Increase participation of farmer associations in sector activities; with a registration of 7,261 farmer groups, constituting 583,914 members of which 276,341 are women.
- Cash crop rehabilitation and new planting is in progress.
- 2009 Crop Area measurement and yield studies is in progress. Yield plots for all major crops have been established in all ecologies nation wide.
- Agricultural commodity price data collection, trade flow, market concentration and inventory of major economic operators is in progress.
- The national green scenery programme for tree replanting for forest improvement is in progress.

## 3.0 PROSPECTS FOR 2009 CROP HARVEST

No	Crops	Observation	Empirical Evidence
1	Rice	Area under cultivation has increased	<b>523,151 Ha</b>
		Yield potential	<b>1.43Mt/ha</b>
		Expected production	748,105.93 Mt
		Optimum rain water level recorded	3,659.0 mm
		Expanded cultivation of high yielding rice varieties (NERICA)	500.00mT
		Increased seed rice support to farmers by national programmes.	4,511.85 Mt
		No serious incident of pests and disease outbreak	No out break is reported above the thresh hold
		Increased seeded area under rice cultivation by support programmes	180,475 AC
		Optimum soil moisture condition at sowing / planting time; (June-July)	Severe precipitation at planting time.
		Luxury use /high consumptive use of soil water by plants/ greenness of fields	May-261.5 mm June-569.9mm July-839.7mm
		Morphological stages of crop growth	Rice fields are well established/

		is promising	greenness and luxuriant growth
<b>2</b>	<b>Cassava</b>	Area under cultivation has increased	359,002 Ha
		Yield potential	6.37Mt/ha
		Expected production	2,516,604Mt
<b>3.</b>	<b>Maize</b>	Area under cultivation has increased	32,218 Ha
		Yield potential	0.84 Mt/ha
		Expected production	29,641 Mt
<b>4</b>	<b>Sweet Potato</b>	Area under cultivation has increased	38,724 Ha
		Yield potential	3.77Mt/ha
		Expected production	163,705 Mt
<b>5</b>	<b>Ground nut</b>	Area under cultivation has increased	100,070 Ha
		Yield potential	0.68Mt/ha
		Expected production	75,053 Mt
<b>6</b>	<b>Cocoa beans</b>	Area under cultivation has increased	111,855 Ha
		Yield potential	0.44Mt/ha
		Expected production	49,213 Mt
<b>7</b>	<b>Coffee</b>	Area under cultivation has increased	64,981 Ha
		Yield potential	1.89 Mt/ha
		Expected production	122,814 Mt
<b>8</b>	<b>Oil Palm</b>	Area under cultivation has increased	478,825 Ha
		Yield potential	4.75Mt/ha
		Expected production	2,274,419 Mt

#### 4.0 MONITORING OF FOOD PRICES IN SIERRA LEONE

1. The steep rise in food prices particularly cereals such as rice and wheat pose significant challenges for Sierra Leone which is a net importer of grains.
2. In the past two years, the prices of basic food commodities such as rice, palm oil, vegetables, fish etc. have rise sharply
3. The year on year food price index rose by 17% in December 2007 and 23% by October 2008. This food price increase trend is expected to be the same in December 2009.
4. The price for local rice is increasing above that of imported rice.
5. The retail cost of 1kg rice (4butter cups), now stands at Le 3,000.00(approximately US \$ 1.0), compared to Le1600.00 ( )in October 2008.
6. Thus , a 50.0kg bag of rice now goes for closely Le 120,000.00 (US\$40.00)
7. This cost of Le 120,000.00(US\$40.0) per bag in itself is far above the minimum wage.
8. Rural farm households that spend the highest proportion of their incomes on food are the worst affected.

#### 5.0 FACTORS BEHIND THE PRICE INCREASES

1. Structural factors are strongly supply -side issues. These supply-side bottlenecks strongly highlight the important role of agriculture in our economies.
2. High energy prices are also influencing agricultural commodity prices by raising the prices of production inputs.
3. High exchange rate of the US\$ especially July- September 2009, has also contributed to the upwards driving prices of food commodities. Consumers are therefore responding by reducing the quantity they eat and are shifting to lower –costs/ lower quality foods.
4. This would mean that the minimum daily nutritional requirement of 27,000 calories per equivalent adult would hardly be met due to the decline in the purchasing power of their incomes.
5. This in turn will significantly contribute to the rise in mal-nutrition in the country.

THANK YOU

