



# SSC Highlights

## Liberia

### Updates on FAO Liberia's Collaborations & Interventions

## South-South Cooperation Project Turns One Year Old

- Training 38 MoA extension workers, introducing new crops, boosting production



**Participants at the SSC first project review meeting held at FAO office, Monrovia**

**A** two-day project review meeting of the South-South Programme took place in May to gauge activities, achievements, constraints, and to redevelop the annual work plan and budget for the remaining phase of the project.

The meeting brought together stakeholders, beneficiaries, and partners including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Government of the People's Republic of China, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Mis-

sion In Liberia (UNMIL), European Union (EU), and the media.

SSC Project's National Coordinator, Zubah F Gorgego, outlined the key activities, achievements, constraints, and roles of Liberian counterparts stressing that the Project is enabling Liberians achieve their potentials in agriculture.

Addressing the gathering, FAO Country Representative Mr. Jean-Alexandre Scaglia, said within just one year, the Chinese have not only introduced new crop and vegetable varieties but have also brought many innovative technologies rang-

ing from pest control to better ways of growing crops, livestock, and fish farming.

He said the SSC Project activities were in line with the "Mandate of the UN System to encourage and support knowledge sharing among all peoples and nations of the world."

Also speaking, Mr. Yang Jun, Political Consul at the Chinese Embassy, praised the efforts made by the GoL and FAO for working alongside the Chinese experts in making sure the project impacts Liberians positively.

Dr. Sizi Z. Subah, Deputy Minister/Technical Services, who represented Agricul-

ture Minister, Dr Florence Chenoweth, lauded FAO and the GoC for their support to the agricultural sector.

UNDP Country Director Mr. Dominic Sam said the SSC aimed to build the agricultural infrastructure from the perspective of extension, adaption, research, and inputs. He expressed appreciation over the level of support given the SSC by FAO and GoL. The EU's Cires Alonso Adolfo lauded the effort and said he visited the Klay station and saw an aspect of the work which was satisfactory. ■

## SSC Partnership Building Capacities of Liberians

**T**hirty-eight (38) Liberian counterparts (extension workers) undergoing skills transfer technologies with the Chinese experts say their skills in agriculture have improved greatly.

David Soko has one hectare demonstration site where he planted watermelon, pepper and cucumber. He said the skills he's acquiring from the Chinese are a crucial driving force in producing nutritious vegetables thus boosting food production. He then appealed to the Government of Liberia and FAO to maintain the Chinese experts in Liberia for a longer period in order for extension workers to acquire more knowledge and assist other local farmers.

He said working on the demonstration sites enabled him and his colleagues apply improved techniques, and help local farmers grow better crops. "Since I was recruited by the Ministry of Agriculture to work alongside the Chinese, I have acquired lots of new methodologies including transplanting, sowing seeds, and fertilizer application. I can layout my own farm and train local farmers."

The South-South Cooperation project is funded by Government of the People's Republic of China in support of

the National Food Security Program of Liberia. The project is a capacity building and knowledge-sharing tripartite agreement signed in November 2011

praised the efforts of the Chinese: "We have achieved a lot from the Chinese since their arrival as the SSC program has improved our knowledge



between the Government of Liberia, FAO, and China.

Meanwhile, Liberians at the Klay demonstration site are practically engaged in extensive training in animal husbandry (goat, rabbits, pig), animal castration, disease control, crop multiplication, and improved vegetable production.

Peter Gbawoquiya, head of the Liberian counterparts at Klay demo site,

in the different kinds of fish, crops, and animals and field lay out." He also pointed out that they are transferring knowledge acquired from the Chinese to other students/farmers at the demonstration sites. "Recently we offered training to some people in vegetable production and aquaculture. I constructed a fish pond that can take about 150 fingerlings," said Mr. Gbawoquiya. ■

## Duty Stations' Areas of Concentration

Since taking up assignment in Liberia in June 2012, the 24 Chinese agro experts took up field positions at key Liberian agricultural development stations providing expert knowledge, transfer of skills, and introducing new crops and methodologies. Here below are the various areas of concentration.

### Klay Site

1. Rice production training
2. Vegetable production training
3. Fish production training
4. Livestock production training
5. Plant protection training

### Center Songhai Liberia Initiative Site

1. Rice production training
2. Vegetable production training
3. Fishery production training
4. Animal/Livestock production training
5. Agro-machinery (processing) training
6. Plant Protection

### Measuagoon Site

1. Vegetables
2. Cassava
3. Corn

### Central Agricultural Research Institute Site

1. Rice production training
2. Vegetable production training
3. Animal/Livestock production training
4. Plant protection training
5. Water conservation training

### Tumutu Site

1. Rice production
2. Vegetable production
3. Animal/Livestock production
4. Plant protection



## Chinese Agro Experts' Efforts Bearing Fruits for Families

**L**i Zhi, SSC Project Coordinator said: "We have attracted more than 500 local technicians and farmers to our vegetable gardens for visiting and learning. We have 38 national agricultural professionals working with us. These people represent the face of a sustainable Liberian agriculture for the future. The Chinese team members have also undertaken the following:

- Reclaim wastelands in Center Songhai Duty Station
- Level land at CARI Duty Station
- Reclaim wastelands at Klay Station
- Make grass ashes for potassium at CARI Duty Station
- High standard demo site in CARI."

Positive effects of the Chinese interventions are now being felt among Liberian farming households. For example, Moses Queapor, his wife and their four children have squatted on approximately 1.5 acres of land near the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) for nearly 17 years. On this land, the 43-year old farmer and his family have grown and survived on cassava, sugarcane, vegetables, corn and other crops. With little or no practical skills, the farmer has over the years grown very little to eat and nothing



to sell for extra income.

With the coming of the Chinese experts at CARI, Moses Quipu engaged them, and they enthusiastically welcomed the farmer and his family to the demonstration/training site for hands-on practical skills. Today, Moses and his family have benefitted from the Chinese experts and technicians transfer of skills in nursery preparation, seeds sowing, planting methods, fertilizer application, harvesting among others. In addition, the Chinese team gave Moses and his family improved varieties of watermelon, eggplant, and Chinese

pepper seeds. In a short period of time and with the Chinese pepper in demand, Moses, for the first time, harvested and sold 25 kilograms of pepper from a small and well managed plot thus generating L\$2,040 or US\$28. Moses Quipu later increased earnings from LD\$5,000.00 to LD\$40,000.00 (US\$540) over a short period of time.

Mr. Queapor said: "I am very happy about the new ideas I have learned from the Chinese. This is just the beginning. I will grow more pepper and vegetables and teach other people do the same." ■

## Extension Workers at CSLI Enthusiastic, Happy

**L**iberians working with Chinese agro-experts at Center Songhai Liberia Initiative (CSLI) are elated about learning new techniques in agro machinery

The FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) with support of the Government of China introduced the SSC Project to build the technical expertise of Liberian extension workers and farmers for Liberia's food security improvement.

The Chinese arrived in June 2012 and, in addition to agro machinery operations, have introduced innovative ideas including animal castration, insect control, growing fish and rice together (rice-cum fish culture) and

also growing rice on the surface of water, fertilizer application, and vegetables and rice production.

By assigning young agriculture trainees with the Chinese technicians, FAO and MoA are increasing Liberia's

future potential to produce more.

Chen Liangyan, Head of Chinese team at CSLI, said the Liberians were enthusiastic and responding positively to the training exercise. "We have introduced a new technology at the site: light build or lantern insect attractor" used at night to attract insects into a bucket of water and kill them thus preventing the use of pesticides.

Speaking on behalf of other extension workers, Michael Aquay, Head, CSLI Liberian counterparts, said being with the Chinese experts, has added more value to their agriculture career: "I can boast that SSC has built my capacity that I can do animal castration, produce fish and rice together and make vegetable farm." He lauded FAO and GoL for the SSC project. He said they are happy and enthusiastic about the practical skills they learn and the knowledge they are sharing with Liberian farmers in their surroundings. ■



operations and other agro techniques. It will enable them operate agro machines including the processing of palm nuts into quality palm oil and production of made-in-Liberia laundry soaps.

## South-South Cooperation Project Profile



In November 2011, the Government of Liberia, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the People's Republic of China signed the project title "Technical Assistance Under the South-South Cooperation (SSC) Project in Support of the National Programme for Food Security.

The project is a tripartite agreement jointly implemented by Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and FAO with funding from the Government of China.

The project's objective is to promote food security through capacity building of agriculture technicians, local farmers, students and also to transfer hands-on practical skills, modern technologies, and provide advisory services in agriculture (rice, cas-

sava, vegetable), fishery, livestock, poultry, agro machinery (including processing), and water conservation.

In line with this agreement, 24 Chinese experts and technicians with skills in agronomy, agro-machinery, aquaculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, and engineering arrived in Liberia in early June 2012. They took up assignments in Bong, Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, and Montserrado Counties performing technical knowledge-sharing and skills transfer to farmers, students, and 38 young Liberian agriculture extension workers known as counterparts.

The 24 Chinese experts and technicians are in Liberia for 24 months to work with the Government of Liberia in promoting

food security.

SSC project is an initiative of FAO member countries to support National and Regional Programmes for Food Security in developing countries. The initiative involves a comparatively more developed country (like China) which is supporting a national food security programme in a developing country.

Under the SSC, technical experts and field technicians from the cooperating country do work in the field of the host country as an active and supplementary part of the existing extension network, for 1-3 years to share their experiences and transfer new techniques or knowledge.

The Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Agriculture recruited 38 Liberians from various universities and technical colleges to work full-time with Chinese experts to build their capacities as part of the Government's efforts to combat poverty and increase food production.

The 38 Liberian counterparts (extension workers) are learning new ideas with hands-on training in crops and livestock production. They are assigned at key agriculture development centers including Tumutu and Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), Bong County; Center Songhai Liberia Initiative, Montserrado; Klay, Bomi County; and Measuagoon, Grand Cape Mount County. ■

For Details on the work of FAO, please contact:

**Mr. Jean-Alexandre Scaglia**  
FAO Representative in Liberia  
2nd Floor - H & G Plaza - Sekou Toure Ave  
Mamba Point, Monrovia  
E-mail: [JeanAlexandre.Scaglia@fao.org](mailto:JeanAlexandre.Scaglia@fao.org)

Visit us @: [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)  
<http://coin.fao.org/cms/world/liberia/home.html>

Produced / Printed By:  
FAO (Liberia) Communications  
John T. Monibah (Communications Officer)  
Snotee O. Sorboh (Communications Assist.)  
Tel. 0776737521  
June 2013