



Agricultural Sector

Opportunities in the Sierra Leonean Agricultural Sector





Sierra Leone Netherlands Business and Culture Council- SLNBCC

The Sierra Leone Netherlands Business and Culture Council (SLNBCC) is an organization that *represents the business interests of both Sierra Leonean, Dutch and other foreign companies and institutions in Sierra Leone.*

The SLNBCC has been active since 2016, and is an extension of the Ghana Netherlands Business and Culture Council (GNBCC).

Both organizations work closely together with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ghana.



Opportunities



Sierra Leone is an agrarian country: over 70% of the total manpower is involved in agriculture

- Agriculture contributes 49% of Sierra Leone's GDP
- The country's total arable land area is 5.4 million ha, with different ecologies allowing to grow crops year round

Source: USAID, MAF, World Bank

The major agriculture products includes rice, coffee, cocoa: there are also commercial potential in others like pepper, ginger, cassava, mangoes, palm products and cashew, etc.

This are where opportunities remain abound for highly profitable commercialization

The current situation

Financial Challenges

- Mainly Primitive farming systems despite huge investments in the sector
- Low production and productivity
- Food insecurity
- Significant revenue loss due to huge expenditure on food imports
- Annual import of food commodities is estimated at over \$300m, including rice with an estimate of \$200m

Gender and youth in agriculture

- Most youth are not attracted to agriculture
- Women and youth access to agricultural inputs and resources are very low
- Low Private Sector Involvement
- Private sector investment is still insufficient across agricultural value chains

Unpacking the New Direction: Seven Priorities on Agriculture

1. Improve policy coherence, joint & strategic planning, coordination and resource mobilization for scaled-up investment in agriculture by both the public and private sector
2. Increase investment in rice production, processing and marketing
3. Make youth and women a catalyst for agribusiness development and growth
4. Invest in catalytic technology: e.g. mechanization, irrigation, water management, remote sensing feeder roads...by government and private sector
5. Encourage innovative investment in livestock development
6. Strengthen sustainable biodiversity conservation and management including forest and tree crop development
7. Increase production of other crops to ensure diversification



Priority 1: Policy Coherence, Strategic Planning, Coordination & Resource Mobilization

- Develop and/or review policies across all 7 priority areas
- Develop and finance a 5-Year Agricultural Investment Plan
- Create and operationalize Consolidated Agricultural Programme Administration Platform (CAPAP)
- Realign all existing programmes and projects to the 7 priority areas
- Create and sustain new partnerships to invest (technical and financial) in Agriculture
- Establish a functional Agriculture sector Communication for Development Unit





Priority 2: Increase investment in Rice Production, Processing and Marketing

- Establish a rice production division
- Develop and operationalize National Irrigation Master Plan
- Increase investment to improve on the utilization of arable lands (IVS, bolis, etc.), new rice varieties, rice processing, packaging and marketing
- Mobilize and sustain new Public-Private Partnerships to invest in rice production, processing and marketing



Priority 3: Make Youths and Women Catalysts for Agribusiness Development and Growth

- Establish at least one Songhai Model Presidential Farm
- Establish 5 Integrated Regional Youth Farms
- Allocate 10% of MAF budget to promote youth and women participation in agribusiness
- Create robust partnerships with relevant MDAs and donors to encourage and boost learning & training opportunities for women in Agriculture
- Re-establish 5 functional Regional Nutrition, Food and Feed Safety (NFFS) units



Priority 4: Invest in catalytic technology: e.g. mechanization, irrigation, water management, remote sensing by government and private sector

- Develop and disseminate a comprehensive agricultural mechanization policy and industrial development
- Develop and operationalize national Irrigation master plan including irrigating 150,000 ha of lowland ecologies for rice and vegetable production
- Construct 2000 km of feeder roads to link up agricultural products to markets



Priority 5: Improved and Innovative investment in livestock development

- Rehabilitate and restock existing production stations, and establish at least 2 new livestock stations in the country
- Use cattle, small ruminants and buffalo in cross breeding & artificial insemination technologies to increase production of meat and milk
- Scale-up and implement poultry farming including sustained local production of poultry & other animal feeds
- Set-up veterinary school for training, and veterinary labs and clinics for the effective management of animal diseases
- Produce guinea fowls & ducks, snails, grass cutters, rabbits, honey, fish farms to enhance access and affordability of protein source
- Ensure value chain development for livestock
- Provide the necessary trainings to farmers for the management of livestock



Priority 6: Strengthen Sustainable Biodiversity Conservation and Management, including Forest and Tree Crop Development

- Introduce new technologies & strengthen MAF to conduct biodiversity inventory and monitoring to guide policy decision making process
- Create new partnerships with communities and other partners to scale up the protection of (new) forests and fragile ecosystems
- In collaboration with relevant partners, physically demarcate boundaries of risk prone protected areas e.g. Western Area & enforce appropriate Laws
- Invest in massive reforestation and afforestation programmes across the country
- Create and manage a Forestry Product Management Agency (FoPMA) that will be responsible to generate revenue for government whilst embarking on best practice management systems.



Priority 7: Increase the production of other crops to ensure diversification

- Develop a comprehensive Crop Development Plan
- Increase the production of key cash crops along the value chain-cocoa, coffee, cashew and oil palm
- Increase production leguminous crops (Groundnut, soybean, cowpea)
- Increase production of cereal and root tubers (maize, sorghum, etc.)
- Increase produced of vegetables (onions, pepper, tomatoes, etc.)
- Introduce new varieties of targeted crops
- Making SL an investors hub



Challenges

- The main challenges attractive large investment along the agriculture value chain e.g. production, processes and marketing and distribution

Thank You!



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