



**Building Climate Resilience Project (BCRP)
Project Inception Workshop Report- Liberia**

April 14 – 16, 2022

GBARNGA ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

GBARNGA CITY, BONG COUNTY

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

September 4, 2022



The Gbarnga Administrative Building where the Inception workshop was held.

Table of Content:

1. Introduction
2. Summary and Recommendation
3. Project Inception Workshop Report
4. Project Objective and Overview
5. Workshop Overview
6. Workshop Presentation
7. Working Groups
8. Annex-1
9. Annex-2 Workshop Agenda
10. Annex 3-List of Participants

1. Introduction:

The Government of Liberia has received an Adaptation grant of US\$8.84 million from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to finance the Building Climate Resilience Project (BCRP). The project is designed to reach 25,000 smallholder farmers including 10,000 rice producers, 10,000 cocoa producers and 5,000 smallholder farmers from other enterprises of which at least 40% will be women and 40% young people. The goal of the BCRP is that livelihoods and climate change resilience of rural farming households in Bong County are improved. The project development objective (PDO) is to promote agriculture as a business for enhanced incomes and reduced rural poverty in Bong County. The project became effective for disbursement on 19 September 2019. The project's current completion date is 30 September 2025 and closing date is 31 March 2026 in line with the implementation period of the Tree Crops Extension Project phase II (TCEP-II).

The project objectives will be accomplished through the implementation of three interrelated components and sub-components with activities and outputs as follows:

Component 1 - Climate-proofed agricultural production and post-harvest combined with livelihood diversification: This component focuses on household/village-level interventions in climate resilient and sustainable agriculture in order to reduce the negative impacts from climate change and climate variability, as well as to contribute to agricultural and rural livelihood development through income diversification. The sub-components include: *Sub-Component 1.1:* Adaptation measures to foster the resilience of cocoa and rice production and post-harvest are implemented along the cocoa value chain; and *Sub-Component 1.2:* Income-generating activities (fish farming and gardening) are promoted as livelihood diversification measures: With regard to this output, the actions to be taken include: (1) Construction of earth dams; (2) Establishment of fish farms; and (3) Establishment of integrated vegetable gardens.

Component 2 - Climate resilient rural infrastructure: The sub-components' goals include: *Sub-Component 2.1:* Rural transportation and storage infrastructure have been rehabilitated and upgraded to withstand weather extremes. Activities under this output are: (1) Warehouse rehabilitation to withstand wetter climatic conditions; and (2) To sustain the climate-proofed investment over a longer period of time, activities will be undertaken to improve critical spots on 90 km of rural roads; and *Sub-Component 2.2:* Potable water supply increased and sanitation infrastructure-built accounting for current and future climate risks. Activities include: (1) Climate-proofed construction and rehabilitation of drinking water supply and sanitation; and (2) Capacity building for potable water management will complement the construction and rehabilitation activities.

Component 3 - Institutional capacity development and policy engagement: The sub-components' goals include: *Sub-Component 3.1* - Governmental capacities are strengthened for climate change adaptation: The activities will consist in: (1) Strengthening of EPA's capacities and staff on climate change adaptation; (2) Strengthening of the Meteorological Department, including capacity building through technology enhancement and training to enhance institutional capacity; and (3) Technical Assistance for improved policy frameworks to mainstream climate risks into sectoral strategies and policies; and *Sub-Component 3.2* - Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Coordination of the Adaptation activities. Activities under this output are: (1) Support to the development of a Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system of climate response programs; (2) Support to improved monitoring & evaluation and knowledge management activities under the Project; and (3) Project management and coordination, including the

recruitment of technical specialists for the duration of the project and Staff training on adaptation-related issues.

The project will be implemented in eight (8) districts in Bong County, eight (8) districts in Nimba County and seven (7) districts in Lofa County over a period of six (6) years. The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) is the executing agency.

2. Summary and Recommendations:

The three days technical start up workshop brought together 87 stakeholders, partners and beneficiaries to ensure that everybody including local government officials and all actors are on the same page in term of project cost, total beneficiaries, location of project intervention, planning, and coordination. The workshop was also held to enlightened the minds of actors on the project implementation approaches, project objectives, main components, project planned activities, value chains involve and who does what, when, how it will be done, and the value attached.

During the inception workshop, several key recommendations to enhance the quality and successful implementation of the project were put forth from cross-section of participants, emanating from group working sessions, and during different presentations sessions. These recommendations were communicated from various stakeholders who attended the inception, including, County Superintendent who serves as the vice juror of the president of the Republic of Liberia, District Commissioners, Paramount Chiefs, Town Chiefs, Youth, Farmers Cooperatives, Farmers network institutions, Cooperative regulatory bodies, and the National Climate Change Secretariat of the Liberia Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The below are recommendations proffered by the participants.

- Climate change is real and there is a need for everyone to be aware and to take mitigation action
- Farmers need to adopt new approaches and measures to adapt
- Farmers need to make use of climate information (weather information)
- Farmers capacity needs to be built to use hydro-meteorological information and devices
- The project needs to provide hydro-met gadgets to farmers
- The Ministry of Agriculture must ensure projects are climate change sensitive / smart.

The presentations were followed by a group working session on the development of road map for components 1 & 2 activities implementation. The participants were split into two groups. Group 1 developed road map for the implementation of component one (1) activities, and Group 2 developed the road map for component 2 activities implementation, upon which presentations were made following plenary discussion where key recommendations were reviewed, agreed upon and adopted for documentation for project enhancement.

A. Implementation road map for component 1 presented by Group 1

1. The project should carry out intensive community awareness and beneficiaries' mobilization to explain the project objectives, components, activities, districts and beneficiaries' selection criteria

2. Cocoa nurseries should be established at a centralized location and clustered farmers should contribute labor
3. Spraying gangs - for sustainability and control of chemicals, well established cooperatives or FBOs should be trained and supported
4. Post-harvest equipment - the project should invest in solar dryers, electric (if possible solar powered) rice dryers, drying floors, and other post-harvest equipment and materials
5. Swamp development- the project should promote group approach for labor, work to improve semi developed swamps and do new development

B. Implementation road map for component 2 presented by Group 2

1. A road feasibility studies be conducted to ascertain which road should be considered for critical spots improvements; and the following stakeholders should participate:

- a. Ministry of Public Works (MPW) County Resident Engineer
- b. MOA/IFAD PIU
- c. EPA
- d. Decentralized MOA
- e. County authority
- f. District and community leadership
- g. Farmers

2. Road maintenance gangs

- a. Selected community members should be trained to provide routine maintenance
- b. Maintenance support in terms of tools and materials should be provided to the gang by the project

3. Model gardens / boreholes

- a. Model garden / borehole irrigation system should be set up where about five farmers or more come together and have access to 4-5 ha of land or individual farmer with 4 – 5ha of land
- b. Individual farmer with 1ha should be supported but no borehole irrigation system should be set up
- c. The borehole irrigation system should have following components: solar powered submersible pumps, water tanks, drip irrigation or sprinklers (based on feasibility studies)

4. Storage facilities / warehouses

- a. Existing warehouses that need renovation should be renovated and districts where there are no warehouses, warehouses should be constructed for farmers' produce
- b. Centralized solar powered cold storage for vegetable farmers should be constructed where farmers will store their produce and sell based on demand

Following the group presentations and plenary discussion, Mr. Emmanuel G. Vah, Project Coordinator of MOA / IFAD-PIU Projects thanked the participants for their level of participation and meaningful contributions to the discussions and assured them that the project team will work to address some of the concerns and issues that came up and elevate those the team cannot address to IFAD supervision mission.

3. Project Inception Workshop Report

The most critical time in a project occurs right at its start. This is where everything required for the project's success must be identified and incorporated into a viable work plan. But in the real world, project startup activities are often slighted in favor of getting the project launched and underway. This inevitably leads to future problems due to lack of foresight, planning, and coordination. Hence, the project Technical Start-Up or Inception Workshop was held from April 14-16, 2022 in Gbarnga, Bong County to facilitate better planning, coordination and partnership between project stakeholders from inception to set the foundation / roadmap for its later success.

The Inception Workshop created an open space for increased awareness at county level and ensured beneficiaries understand the project approaches, including its goal, main components, objectives, and key activities. The workshop also provided a clear understanding of various partners and stakeholders of the project as it relates to roles and responsibilities as well as coordination. The Workshop identified and incorporated critical issues that would enhance or hinder the project from achieving its impactful results.

Specifically, the Workshop achieved the following objectives:

1. Created a sense of awareness at county level and ensured beneficiaries ownership from the very beginning of the project implementation;
2. Ensured that participants acquired common understanding about the project approach particularly its goal, objectives, main components, planned activities and outputs
3. Provided a clear understanding of the various partners and stakeholders' project related roles and responsibilities as well as coordination mechanism;
4. Designed a clear road map for the successful implementation of the various project components;
5. Reviewed the project result framework, Annual Work Plan & Budget and procurement plan for year one (1);
6. Introduced the fiduciary aspects: financial management and accounting system, budget monitoring, designated account, assets management, administration loan disbursement, financial reporting, audit and procurement;
7. Provided overview of rice and cocoa value chains: production and productivity, value chain development, actors, market linkages, challenges and opportunities;
8. Identified gaps, synergies, ensured alignment of activities and strengthened partnership;
9. Developed road map for the conduct of baseline survey;
10. Developed criteria for the selection of project districts of intervention and beneficiaries.

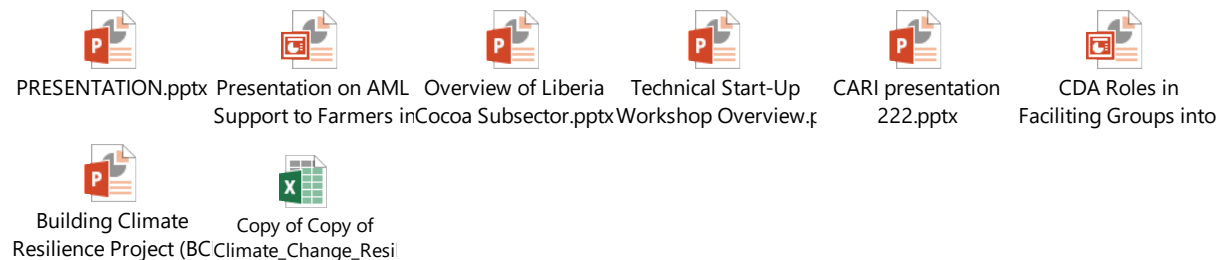
4. Workshop Methodology

A variety of methods and tools including PowerPoints presentations, groups discussion, were used during the workshop to ensure that participants were engaged throughout the day's activities. The facilitators made every effort to ensure that the discussions were participatory and interactive as much as possible. Following every presentation, time was allotted for questions and answers and / or feedbacks.

5. Workshop Participants

A total of 87 persons including representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture Central and decentralized Offices, IFAD-PIU staff, BCRP County level PIU staff, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Central Agricultural Research institute (CARI), Cooperative Development Agency (CDA), Liberia Agriculture Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA), Liberia National Federation of Cooperative Societies (LNFCS), Farmers Union Network (FUN), local county authorities (Superintendent, Development Superintendent, City Mayor, District Commissioners), cooperatives, farmers, County Superintendent who serves as the vice juror of the president of the Republic of Liberia, District Commissioners, Paramount Chiefs, Town Chiefs, Youth, Farmers Cooperatives, Farmers network institutions, Cooperative regulatory bodies, and the Climate Change Secretariat of the Liberia Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

6. Workshop Presentation:



6.1. Day one Activities

The activities of day one started at 9:00am with the arrival and registration of participants. This was followed by breakfast. The actual opening ceremony started at 10:45 with a welcome statement by the City Mayor of Gbarnga City, Hon. Lucia Herbert. Mrs. Herbert in her welcome remarks called for frankness on the part of the project, noting that in the past another agriculture project was introduced in the county, making specific reference to the Bong County Agriculture Development Project (BCADP) which raised the hope of local farmers. This time around “we don’t want to be looser”. She called for assistance in the rehabilitation of roads that were started but not completed. The city mayor called for more involvement in rice production to make the nation self-sufficient.

In the official opening remarks, the Superintendent of Bong County, Mrs. Esther Walker also welcomed all participants to the workshop. She said Bong County was happy to partner with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency on the local level. She called for collaboration at all levels to go back to the soil because handouts cannot address the food and nutrition needs of the country. ‘Handouts only make you look like a bagger but when you are self-sustained, you will always be on top. Noting, “if you want to discourage somebody, work hard and they will be surprised by your performance”. She said the county has initiated her own development project with the construction of two feeder roads because they consider themselves as the government.

Making remarks on behalf of Deputy Public Works Minister for Technical Services, Benjamin Banto, the Director of Feeder Roads, Mr. Christopher M. Blamonh expressed regrets over the inability of the Deputy Minister to attend due to some administrative issues. He however thanked the organizers for the workshop.

He said it was important that all stakeholders are present to discuss the importance of the BCRP. He said the presence of the Superintendent and her team indicates that they are willing to work with the team. He also indicated that from the perspective of the Public Works Ministry, they are prepared to work with the project for the rehabilitation of the roads leading to the farms to enable farmers bring their produce to the market.

Speaking just before the arrival of the Executive Director Professor Wilson Tarpeh, the National Coordinator for the National Climate Change Secretariat, Mr. Jeremiah Sokan thanked the organizers and the people of Bong County. He explained the mandate and functions of the EPA. Noting that the EPA on the global scene is recognized as the leader in climate change in Liberia. The EPA role is to mobilize funds to promote a sustainable environment especially for the agriculture sector. The EPA worked with the Ministry of Agriculture to secure the funds for the project so we are here to work with you for the next six years. The intend of this project is to help you produce more food in a sustainable way.

Representing the Ministry of Finance for Development Planning (MFDP) was the Aid Coordination Specialist Mr. Emmanuel Diabolo. He said the MFDP is charged with the responsibility to coordinate all aids coming into the country. He further said there has been a launch of the National Aid and NGO Policy and it speaks to the effectiveness of aid to ensure that the results are effective. The fact that all the partners are represented speaks to the effectiveness of the coordination. He indicated that the policy has different levels including the high and technical levels.

Speaking on arrival at the workshop, the EPA Executive Director Professor Wilson Tarpeh said he feels shy whenever he has the opportunity to speak about agriculture because of the trend that agriculture is taking. He said when we look at agriculture years back, it shows that we have a lot of work to do. He said several decades back when government needed to borrow money, the government went to cooperative societies to borrow. Those were the days when cooperatives were very viable. He said the new trend is that farmers will not only be members but rather shareholders. He called on farmers to protect the project because they are the owners.

The head of the farmers union network Mrs. Josephine George Francis said the union has been around for 14 years and they have always collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture. She said in spite of the Union leadership in regional and global agriculture organizations, Liberia receives a very small percentage of funding to the sector. We need a paradigm shift. She said neighboring Cote D'Ivoire received USD400 million just recently for similar project while Liberia is just receiving a little over 8 million dollars. She said it's time that we take agriculture seriously because agriculture is a business.

The Deputy Registrar for Gender, Youth Promotion and Program Development at the Cooperative Development Agency, Mohammed K Jalloh hopes the project objectives will be met and to achieve those objectives, everyone has a responsibility and a role to play. The CDA is willing to work with the project coordinator and all stakeholders in the sector so that the project becomes a success

On behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Madam Jeanine Milly Cooper, the Financial Advisor, Mr. Sylvester Taylor noted two things, the goal and project development objective of the project. He said with the high level of personnel recruited to implement the project, the Ministry will expect nothing less in meeting the various objectives. What we expect more from the people of Bong County is the collaboration and coordination throughout the implementation of this project. Mr. Taylor said the Ministry will monitor

the project closely because the Minister is not only interested in project outputs but rather project outcome and impact on the beneficiaries.

Mr. Solomane K. Swaray, the Assistant Superintendent for Development for Bong County who spoke on behalf of the Bong County Legislative Caucus said many projects have come to the county since the post war era, but research shows that none of those projects have been sustained after the departure of the funding agency. He attributed this to the lack of coordination and collaboration. He therefore recommended a strong coordination and collaboration among project stakeholders.

Following the various special remarks, we witnessed presentations on various topics. The following presentation were made:

- Mr. Emmanuel G. Vah, Project Coordinator for MOA / IFAD Projects in Liberia presented the workshop overview and also introduced members of the project Technical Team.
- Mr. Jeremiah G. Sokan, Sr., National Coordinator of the National Climate Change Secretariat presented the project overview. During this presentation, Mr. Sokan explained to participants the project goal, development objectives, and the various components of the project.
- Mr. Darlington F. Doe, the Head Monitoring & Evaluation Officer for IFAD Projects presented the project Results framework and the M & E Plan. He said that M&E plays key roles in the success of the project implementation. During his presentation, he talked about the various M&E processes that will be employed during the project implementation, including data collection, reporting, coordination, among others.
- The Gender and Social Inclusion Officer, Mr. Allen Lincoln, made a presentation on the gender dimension and expectations. Female land access and ownership came out as a key issue from his presentation. From experience on gender issues from other projects (TCEP and TECP-II), he recommended that the project targets in terms of number of beneficiaries be revisited if the project is to meet its target. It was further recommended that the BCRP should put in place a sustained sensitization scheme including engagement with local authorities in project districts and counties at large as part of inception activities to educate them of provision of the Land Rights Act and the Inheritance Law that protect women and youth right to own property including land.
- Mr. Uku Bono, Procurement Assistant made a presentation on the year one procurement plan for the project. The plan was explained to participants and outlined the processes and procedures involved in the procurement process. At the end of his presentation, Makpeh L. Valhmu, a representative of the Sua-Yelle Multipurpose Cooperative recommended that the project team should ensure that items as support to farmers are procured in time to avoid the late arrival of tools, materials and equipment which are intended to enhance the farmers' activities. She said such situation discourages farmers which can lead to the project failure.
- Mrs. Josephine George Francis, Head of the Farmers Union Network made a presentation on the activities of her organization. She outlined the partnership her organization has had with the

Ministry of Agriculture and the importance of the project working with her organization if the impact of the project is to be felt.

- Mr. Michael Samalee, the Project Accountant made a presentation on the year one workplan and some activities that will be implemented.
- The final presentation for the day was made by Mr. Adolphus Tuah, Assistant Internal Auditor on internal control environment, and effectiveness of internal control in project management. This brought to a close the activities of day one of the Technical Start-UP Workshop.

6.2. Day Two Activities

The day started with a recap of day one activities by the Moderator, Anthony Selmah, Knowledge Management & Communication Officer of MOA / IFAD-PIU following registration and breakfast. This proceeded with several presentations and group working sessions.

Dr. John S. Flomo, Director General of the Liberia Agriculture Commodity Regulatory Authority made a brief presentation on the role of LACRA in regulating the prices of agriculture commodities, especially cocoa. Mr. Emmanuel Diabolo, Aid Coordination Specialist of the Ministry of Finance and Development planning presented on Aid Coordination. He emphasized on the roles of the MFD in aid management and the need for proper coordination if the development aids are to be efficiently executed.

The group working sessions which were moderated by Randolph R. Kolleh, Technical Lead, Building Climate Resilience Project focused on the selection criteria and approaches for both beneficiaries and districts of intervention. Before the participants were split up into groups, Mr. Vah informed that gathering that the project will also support farmers in Lofa and Nimba Counties in the rice, vegetables, and fish value chains. He presented the following proportion of beneficiaries per county per value chain.

County	Value Chains			
	Cocoa	Rice	Vegetables	Earth dams/Fish Pond
Bong	10,000	6,000	3,000	4
Lofa	0	2,000	1,000	2
Nimba	0	2,000	1,000	2
Total	10,000	10,000	5,000	8

The participants were split into two groups with keen attention ensuring that district commissions, District Agriculture officers, cooperatives, farmers, private sector and other stakeholders were represented in each group. The two groups were asked to formulate selection criteria for both districts and beneficiaries. Following a period of 45 minutes of group work, each group presented to plenary for discussion and approval of the criteria. Following plenary discussions on the two presentations, the project team led by the Technical Lead was asked to take the two presentations and collate them and do a final presentation for plenary final discussion and approval of the selection criteria for districts and beneficiaries.

Mr. Jeremiah G. Sokan, Sr., National Coordinator for the National Climate Change Secretariat presented on Potential Environmental Issues, Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies. He outlined the overview of

climate change and agriculture, climate smart agriculture and climate change issues in agriculture. Mr. Soka emphasized the pillars of Climate Smart Agriculture, increased productivity, enhanced resilience and reduced emissions.

Mr. Charles King, Agronomist and Supervisor of the National Cocoa Seed Garden presented on the establishment of the National Seed Garden including facilities, supply of certified cocoa hybrid seeds, provision of technical support in the establishment of village nurseries and training of farmers. Participants were eager to know when farmers will start accessing hybrid seeds from the Seed Garden. In response, Mr. King told participants that farmers will start to access from the Seed Garden after five years of its establishment and that the Seed Garden was in its third year.

Mr. Harris B. Wennie on behalf of CDA presented on the Roles of CDA in facilitating groups into cooperative entities. His presentation focused on the brief overview of CDA, mandate, vision and mission, the basic requirements for transforming farmers and / or community-based group into a cooperative society; and the benefits, powers, challenges and opportunities of working as a cooperative society.

The Focal Person of the Cocoa Value Chain of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Michael D. Titoe presented on the overview of the cocoa sub-sector in Liberia: prospects and challenges, value chain development including actors, marketing and market linkages. The day's activities came to a close with a presentation by Mr. Francis W. Mwah, Senior Economist of the ministry of Agriculture on overview of the rice sub-sector in Liberia: Prospects and challenges, value chain development including actors, marketing and market linkages.

6.3. Day Three Activities

The day was the last day of the workshop and its activities included presentations, group working sessions and a tour of the 101 building in CARI, Suakoko where the BCRP project would be housed.

Mr. Anthony K. Selmah, Knowledge Management and Communication Officer of IFAD Projects presented on sharing lessons learned from the ongoing implementation of TCEP and TCEP-II. Mr. Selmah enlightens the minds of the participants on the three-knowledge sharing (KS) tools.

- After Action Review (AAR) – collectively reviewing every aspect of the project when that is completed
- Peer Assist (PA) – it brings peers together in a vertical and horizontal format to share knowledge on areas of expertise based on past experiences and activities that have been successful
- Knowledge Sharing Café (KSC) – an informal gathering where subject specialists are identified to speak on selected subjects

He concluded with lessons learned from past project (STCRP) and ongoing TCEP and TCEP-II where, identifying beneficiaries, organizing them into kuu groups and linking them to cooperatives works well as compare to using cooperatives to identify farmers/beneficiaries.

The day's activities continued with a presentation on the beneficiaries and districts selection criteria by Randolph R. Kolleh, Technical Lead, BCRP. The presentation was drawn from the two presentations by the two groups from the working session on day two of the Workshop. The selection criteria for beneficiaries and districts of intervention presented and agreed upon are stated below.

A. District selection criteria

1. Selection criteria for cocoa production
 - a. The district should have at least four cocoa producing communities
 - b. The district should have at least one farmer's cooperative or FBO
2. Selection criteria for rice production
 - a. The district should have potential lowland rice farming communities
 - b. At least one farmers' cooperative
3. Selection for vegetable production
 - a. The district should have potential vegetable producing communities
 - b. At least one farmer's cooperative or FBO
4. Selection for earth dams/fish ponds construction
 - a. The project team, decentralized MOA, and representative of the county authority will assess the selected cocoa and rice producing districts and identify four potential communities for the earth dam/fish pond construction

B. Beneficiaries' selection criteria for the four value chains (cocoa, rice, vegetable, and fish).

A farmer must:

1. Be currently involved in the production of the value chain(s)
2. Own or have access to land:
 - a. Cocoa – 0.25ha
 - b. Rice – 0.4ha
 - c. Vegetable – 1ha for individual farmer and 4-5 ha for groups
3. Be a resident of the project locality / community
4. Be willing to contribute to group work, provide the required labor and to adopt the project approach
5. Be a member of an existing cooperative or willing to join one
6. Additional priority will be giving to i). women-headed households and female farmers ii). Young farmers from 18 to 35 years old, physically changed persons, and survivors / victims of EVD.

7. Group Working Sessions

The above presentation was followed by a group working session on the development of road map for components 1 & 2 activities implementation. The participants were split into two groups. Group 1 developed road map for the implementation of component one activities and Group 2 formulated the road map for component 2 activities implementation. The two groups presented on the following and plenary discussion was held and agreed upon.

7.1. Implementation road map for component 1 presented by Working Group 1

1. The project should carry out intensive community awareness and beneficiaries' mobilization to explain the project objectives, components, activities, districts and beneficiaries' selection criteria
2. Cocoa nurseries should be established at a centralized location and clustered farmers should contribute labor
3. Spraying gangs - for sustainability and control of chemicals, well established cooperatives or FBOs should be trained and supported
4. Post-harvest equipment - the project should invest in solar dryers, electric (if possible solar powered) rice dryers, drying floors, and other post-harvest equipment and materials
5. Swamp development - the project should promote group approach for labor, work to improve semi developed swamps and do new development.

7.2. Implementation road map for component 2 presented by Working Group 2

Roads' feasibility studies be conducted to ascertain which road should be considered for critical spots improvement; and the following stakeholders should participate.

- h. Ministry of Public Works (MPW) County Resident Engineer
- i. MOA/IFAD PIU
- j. EPA
- k. Decentralized MOA
- l. County authority
- m. District and community leadership
- n. Farmers

7.2.1. Road maintenance gangs

- a. Selected community members should be trained to provide routine maintenance
- b. Maintenance support in terms of tools and materials should be provided to the gang by the project

7.2.2. Model gardens / boreholes

- a. Model garden / borehole irrigation system should be set up where about five farmers or more come together and have access to 4-5 ha of land or individual farmer with 4 – 5ha of land
- b. Individual farmer with 1ha should be supported but no borehole irrigation system should be set up
- c. The borehole irrigation system should have following components: solar powered submersible pumps, water tanks, drip irrigation or sprinklers (based on feasibility studies)

7.2.3. Storage facilities/warehouses

- a. Existing warehouses that need renovation should be renovated and districts where there are no warehouses, warehouses should be constructed for farmers' produce
- b. Centralized solar powered cold storage for vegetable farmers should be constructed where farmers will store their produce and sell based on demand.

Following the group presentations and plenary discussions, Mr. Emmanuel G. Vah, Project Coordinator of MOA / IFAD-PIU Projects thanked the participants for their time and meaningful contributions to the discussions and assured them that the project team will work to address some of the concerns and issues that came up and elevate those the team cannot address to IFAD supervision mission. He then informed the gathering that as a closing activity workshop, the team along with other stakeholders were going to inspect the 101 building in CARI where the project county level PIU will be stationed.

In a separate remark, Mr. Washington Bonnah, Commissioner for Jorquelleh District #3 and Madam Makpeh L. Valhmu, representative of Sua-Yelle Multipurpose Cooperative thanked the Ministry of Agriculture for selecting Bong County for the project and that they will support the project in achieving impactful results.

The MOA / IFAD-PIU led by the Project coordinator, the Ministry of Public Works representative, and the decentralized MOA visited the CARI 101 Building and toured the entire facility where the IFAD PIU in Bong will be hosted.

Annex 1: Technical Start-Up Workshop Agenda

Day 1: April 14, 2022

AGENDA

Time	Activity	Persons Responsible
9:00 – 9:30	Arrival & Registration	
9:30 – 10:15	Breakfast	
10:15 – 10:20	Opening prayer	
10:20 – 10:35	Self-introduction of participants	
10:35 – 10:40	Welcome remarks	City Mayor
10:40 – 11:40	<p>Opening Ceremony – Special remarks by:</p> <p>MIA</p> <p>MPW</p> <p>EPA</p> <p>MFDP</p> <p>MOA / IFAD</p>	<p>Hon. Esther Yamah Walker Superintendent, Bong County</p> <p>Hon. Benjamin Banto Deputy Minister, Technical Department</p> <p>Prof. Wilson Tarpeh Executive Director</p> <p>Hon. Augustus J. Flomo Deputy Minister, Economic Management</p> <p>Representative IFAD</p> <p>Hon. Jeanine Milly Cooper Minister</p>
11:40 – 12:00	Project Overview	Hon. Jeremiah Sokan National Coordinator National Climate Change Secretariat BCRP
12:00 – 12:10	Workshop Overview / Introduction of Project Team (PIU)	Emmanuel G. Vah, Jr. Project Coordinator IFAD-PIU Projects, MOA
12:10 – 13:00	<p>Presentation - Project Result frame and M&E Plan</p> <p>Questions & Answers</p>	Darlington Doe M&E Officer

13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH	
14:00 – 14:45	Review of 1 st year Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWPB) Review of 1 st year Procurement Plan, Procurement Process and Procedures, Timelines Questions & Answers	Ms. Priscilla Thomas Financial Controller Ms. Simaih Wokpeh Procurement Officer
14:45 – 15:30	Presentation - Fiduciary aspects: Financial management & accounting system, budget monitoring, designated account, assets management, administration Loan disbursement; Financial reporting and audit; procurement Questions & Answers	Priscilla Thomas Financial Controller
15:30 – 16:45	The Internal Control & Environment: Effectiveness of Internal control in project Management Questions & Answers	Mr. Joseph Gborie Internal Auditor, PMU
16:45 – 17:00	Closing Day 1	

Moderator: Anthony Selmah – Knowledge Management & Communication Officer

Day 2: April 15, 2022

AGENDA

Time	Activity	Persons Responsible
9:00 – 9:30	Arrival & Registration	
9:30 – 10:15	Breakfast	
10:15 – 10:20	Opening prayer	
10:20 – 10:30	Recap of Day 1 Activities	Moderator
10:30 – 11:00	Presentation – Roles of key partners / stakeholders and coordination mechanism: MOA EPA MFDP (Aid Management & Coordination Unit) MPW Cooperatives Private Sector Partners IFAD-PIU, etc.	Emmanuel G. Vah, Jr Project Coordinator

	Questions & Answers	
11:00 – 12:10	<p>Presentation – The Establishment of the National Seed Garden including facilities, supply of certified hybrid seeds, provision of technical support in the establishment of village nurseries and training of farmers</p> <p>Questions & Answers</p>	<p>Charles King Agronomist / Supervisor, National Seed Garden</p>
12:10 – 13:00	<p>Presentation – Sharing Lessons Learned from the ongoing Implementation TCEP (Nimba County) & TCEP-II (Lofa County)</p> <p>Questions & Answers</p>	<p>Anthony Selmah Knowledge Management & Communication Officer</p>
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH	
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Group Working Sessions:</p> <p>Selection Criteria for project beneficiaries and approach</p> <p>Selection criteria for districts of intervention and approach</p> <p>Plenary Discussion:</p> <p>Group Presentation / Questions & Answers</p>	<p>Moderator: Randolph R. Kolleh (Tech. Lead)</p> <p>Group 1</p> <p>Group 2</p>
15:00 – 15:45	<p>Presentation – Overview of the cocoa sub-sector in Liberia: Prospects and challenges, value chain development including actors, marketing and market linkages</p> <p>Questions & Answers</p>	<p>Mr. Michael Titoe Principal Economist / Focal Person Cocoa Value Chain, MOA</p>
15:45 – 16:30	<p>Presentation – Overview of the rice sub-sector in Liberia: Prospects and challenges, value chain development including actors, marketing and market linkages</p> <p>Questions & Answers</p>	<p>Mr. Francis Nmah Department of Planning, MOA</p>
16:30 – 17:00	Closing Day 2	

Moderator: Anthony Selmah – Knowledge Management & Communication Officer

Day 3: April 16, 2022

AGENDA

Time	Activity	Persons Responsible
9:00 – 9:30	Arrival & Registration	
9:30 – 10:15	Breakfast	
10:15 – 10:20	Opening prayer	
10:20 – 10:30	Recap of Day 2 Activities	Moderator
10:20 – 11:45	<p>Group Working Sessions:</p> <p>Road map for Component 1 activities implementation</p> <p>Road map for Component 2 activities implementation</p> <p>Road map for Component 3 activities implementation</p> <p>Plenary Discussion:</p> <p>Group Presentation / Questions & Answers</p>	<p>Moderator: Randolph R. Kolleh (Tech. Lead)</p> <p>Group 1</p> <p>Group 2</p> <p>Group 3</p>
11:45 – 12:15	<p>Presentation - Potential environment issues and mitigation strategy</p> <p>Questions & Answers</p>	Hon. Jeremiah Sokan EPA
12:15 – 13:00	<p>Gender mainstreaming and gender related issues including land rights issues</p> <p>Questions & Answers</p>	Mr. Allen Lincoln Gender & Social Inclusion Officer
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH	
14:00 – 17:00	<p>Tour to CARI:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TCEP – Cocoa nursery / grafted materials / rain shelter & rootstock garden 2. CARI rice field 3. 101 Building 	
17:00 – 17:10	Closing Day 3 & Departure	

Moderator: Anthony Selmah – Knowledge Management & Communication Officer

Annex 2- Participants Listing

S/N	Participant Name	Phone Number	Position	
1.	Moses M. Mashall	888938430	DAO	MOA
2.	Garsonide K. Watson	888121772	DAO	MOA
3.	John B. Yarkpa	777707626	FFS	BCRP/MOA/IFAD
4.	George Boayou	886365674	DAO	MOA
5.	Theophilus Darwolo	886841632/770300559	DAO	MOA
6.	Washington Bonnah	886491180	District Commissioner	MIA
7	Daniel Dudu	888505021	District Commissioner	MIA
8.	James Kpoquoi	880308896	District Commissioner	MIA
9	Arthue K. Kpadeh	886406081	District Commissioner	MIA
10.	Dennis Chappy	886800406	Commissioner	MIA
11.	Mary Kwannah	880934417	Commissioner	MIA
12.	Frank Kollie	886650909	Manager	Quapolu
13.	Makpeh L. Valhmu	886622614	Extension Officer	Sunyelle Multi Purose Cooperative
14	Junior K. Giddings	886492173	Commissioner	MIA
15	Saydee J. N. Lincoln	880928537	Farmer	Fish Farmer
16.	Saah Massah	880271147	Extension Aide	LNFCFS
17	Martin George	8866147797	Chairman	Margbah
18	Vamuyan A.. Sesay	778114037	Senior Economist	MFDP
19	James Nah	886513169	Farmer	-
20	Augustus Paasaway	770418637	Technical Adviser	MFDP
21	Kollie Y. Ford	775546003	Farmer	Menipalay
22	Michael D. Titoe	886517569	Principle Economist	MOA
23	Mohamed J. Jalloh	886620739	DRG.G	CDA
24	Torhn N. Konisear	886554692	District Commissioner	MIA
25	Rancy Boukou Jr.	888205795	Farmer	Local farmer
26	Jonah Y. Paye	888484628	Farmer	Farmer
27	Betty Karmo	886430900	DAO	MOA
28	Harris B. Wannie	886535214	Director	CDA
29	Kollie K. Nahn	886761134	CAC	MOA
30	Moses R. Gbanyan	886660766	RAC	MOA
31	Christopher P. Sargbah	886193940	DAO	MOA
32	Daniel S. Tubman	880352812	District Commissioner	MIA

33	Aaron Mulbah	775805603	District Commission	MIA
34	Francis J. Nagbe	0770538489	M&E Officer	BCRP/MOA/IFAD
35	Jobson A. Momo	770286104	Agronomist	CARI
36	Christopher M. Blamoh	770795719	Director of Feeder Roads	MPW
37	Torgbayeedah Oliver Zomonway	776574422	Head Engineer/ Work supervisor	IFA
38	Archio Glay	775213967	Finance Officer	Farmer Union Network
39	David C. Karchue	886962683/776458415	Commissioner	MIA
40	Annie Reeves	0886587013	Commissioner	MIA
41	Tryphina Nyan		Farmer	
42	Jeremiah Sokan	771725482	National Coordinator	EPA
43	Joseph T.K. Meesay	770237467	CEO	Liberia Integrated Platform & Trading
44	Anthony Selmah	886108188	Knowledge Management	IFAD
45	Samuel S. Peters	775634769	Agronomist	AML
46	Matthew O. Sulon	777203846EPA	Capacity Building Specialist	
47	A. Melvin Cassel	778014459	Driver	EPA
48	Tinatua C. Kollie	886987748	-	EPA
49	Josephine G. Francis	770510285	President	Farmers Union Network
50	Dr. John Flomo	775503952	Director General	LACRA
51	Samila Fahnbulleh	775714545	-	LACRA
52	Johnson Nugba	776495147	Driver	MOA/IFAD
53	Famata Sasay	886722776	Sr.. Analyst	MFDP
54	Nah Wesseh		Sr. Analyst	MFDP
55	Michael Samalee	770419231	Accountant	BCRP/ MOA56
56	Adolphus Tuah	777757672	Internal Auditor	IA/PMU
57	UKU BONO	777004368	Procurement Assist	IFAD/MOA
58	Darlington F. Doe	886844873	Head M&E OFFICER	IFAD/MOA

59	Veronica S. Roberts	888143113	DAO	MOA
60	Jonah Torkolon	886962596/777542207	DAO	MOA
61	Francis W. Mwah	886400878/778431175	Senior Economist	MOA
62	Solomane Swaray	886654715	Assist Supt. For Development	MIA
63	Nathaniel T. Saah	776652138	Sect. General	LNFCs
64	Emmanuel G. Vah	886985253	PC	IFAD PIU/MOA
65	Charles F. King	88869101	Supervisor	CARI/IFAD
66	Wilson A. Flomo	880929776	Driver	MOA
67	Anthony Barclay		Asst. Minister	MOA
68	Mosses F. Kellen	886801056	Commissioner	MIA
69	Randolph R. Kolleh	886209881	Techn. Lead	MOA/IFAD
70	J. Aaron Sackie Fenlah	770237544	Chairman(CSO) Bong	Civil Society Org
80	Esther S. Carngba	776068971	PP-Min. DRDRE	MOA
81	Aaron S. Mulbah	775805603	MULBUH	MIA
82	Dedee F.C Cooper	886257840	CLF	RETRAP
83	Syvester W. Taylor	777570243	FMA- Min. Office	MOA
84	Lucia Herbert	886552111	Mayor	City of Gbarnga
85	Rossetta T. Cole	886510986	Snr HR Officer	IFAD PIU MOA
86	Jessica Jimmy	7701424413	Personal Analyst	-----
87	Jomah Dolo	886451742	Young Professional	RETRAP-MOA-WB

Photos



Cross section of participants