

**National Programme Coordination Unit Monthly Newsletter**  
**Rehabilitation and Community-based Poverty Reduction Programme (RCPRP)**  
**Rural Finance and Community Improvement Programme (RFCIP)**

February, 2014

*1,243 smallholder farmers in Bonthe, Koinadugu, Kono, Kailahun, Kenema set out of poverty*

*1,243 Smallholders Farmers in five districts have benefitted from a loan of \$339,653.00 under a pilot Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) designed by the RFCIP. The ADF is a financial package sets to be lent out to eligible CBS & FSAs for on-lending to eligible small scale farmers for three Agric products. Agric input loans, rehabilitation loans and marketing and processing loans.*

The scheme takes into consideration the 3Cs while appraising the clients for these loans. These: character, capacity and cash flow.

The first set of Community Banks (CBs) to pilot this scheme included the Mattru CB in Bonthe District, Kabala CBs in the Koinadugu District, Sander CB in Kono, Segbema CB & Pendembu CB in Kailahun District and the Tongo field CB in Kenema District.

Highlighting some of the eligibility criteria for the Agric loans, the CB Coordinator at the TAA in Kenema Nelson Salia Konneh revealed that, in order for a small holder farmer to benefit from this scheme, he/she:

- ◆ Must be a citizen of Sierra Leone
- ◆ Must be residing in the bank's operational area for at least last 3 years and at the same residing place for at least 2 years.
- ◆ Must show at least two years of experience for the purpose of the loan applied for individual clients, guarantor and two (2) reference is required
- ◆ Must be existing deposit client of the banks
- ◆ The group should have saved 5% of the total loan amount during a period of four months



**The Smiling Faces of RCPRP supported farmers**

- before accessing the loan
- ◆ Salary workers applying for the agriculture Input Loans should have the salary account held with the bank and should produce the salary slip and six months bank account.
- ◆ The client should be able to convince the loan officer on the expertise of the business, risks associated to the business and physical proofs.
- ◆ The references must not be immediate family members and referrers should be able to provide resident proof and copy of identification proof.

A small scale farmer under this desperation means any farmer engaging in farming activities less or equal to one hectare.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 1,243 SMALLHOLDER FARMERS SET OUT OF POVERTY
- IFAD RATES SIERRA LEONE PROGRAMME SATISFACTORY
- SCIENTISTS TRAINED ON RICE VALUE CHAIN
- SLASH N' BURN SHOW IN THE 4KS
- PROF. MONTY JONES BAGS EMRC'S PRESIDENCY
- CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION



Md. Mariatu Kamara, IFAD Country Manager



Cross Section of Project staff at the TAA Building in Kenema

*IFAD has rated the performance of its Sierra Leone portfolio as satisfactory (an equivalent to very good in the IFAD ranking system). This ranking was done during a joint Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) and IFAD supervision mission of the Rehabilitation and Community-based Poverty Reduction Project (RCPRP) undertaken from 3 to 18 February 2014.*

The main objectives of this sixth supervision mission were to: (i) assess the progress made in implementation against the 2013 AWPB and against recommendations arising from the previous supervision missions; (ii) identify actual and potential/emerging operational problems and challenges; (iii) propose solutions, corrective measures and provide recommendations for improved implementation; and (iv) provide guidance towards finalizing and implementing the 2014 AWPB. Emphasis of the mission was also placed on the need for early preparation and extraction of key lessons learned to inform the coming Country Programme Evaluation (CPE) in 2014.

The mission held initial progress review meetings with the NPCU, followed by visits to the project's operational areas from 6 to 11 February 2014.

The mission members visited all the four target districts (Kenema, Kono, Kailahun and Koinadugu) in sector/component specific teams, met with MAFFS DAOs, District Councils and DPCUs and visited a number of sites related to IVS rehabilitation, tree crops rehabilitation, feeder roads rehabilitation and decentralisation (Ward offices). The mission also interacted with beneficiaries, service providers and public and private sector implementation partners. The findings and feedback arising from the field visits were discussed at a first debrief in Kenema where all project stakeholders were represented, and which were further validated at the NPCU level in Freetown prior to finalization of the Aide-memoire.

At the end of the mission, IFAD team extended thanks to the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone, the National Project Coordination Unit, project beneficiaries, district governments and all other project partners for their cooperation and support during the mission. Forming highlight of the mission was the endorsement of the Aide-Memoire in the wrap-up meeting, which reflected the main mission findings and recommendations. The final wrap-up meeting was held with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) on 17 February 2014.

#### **“ Facts About the NPCU ”**

- ◆ *It's a Semi-autonomous unit of MAFFS*
- ◆ *Oversees the two IFAD projects in Sierra Leone (RFCIP & RCPRP)*
- ◆ *Has MAFFS as its Lead Executing Agency*
- ◆ *Currently operating in the 4Ks Districts (Kenema, Kono, Kailahun & Koinadugu)*
- ◆ *Ranks as the leading Programme in MAFFS*
- ◆ *Ranks 3rd World wide in the IFAD Client survey (2013)*
- ◆ *Headed by a strong Sierra Leonean Farmer*
- ◆ *Runs by 80% young Sierra Leoneans*
- ◆ *1st to host the GALS Learning Event in the World*

*In collaboration with the West African Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS), the Rokupr Agricultural Research Centre (RARC) under the Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI) has concluded a week long training on Rice Value Chain for 66 scientists including extension personnel of the MAFFS in Bo.*

At the opening ceremony there, SLARI Acting Director General Professor Alpha Lakoh explained the importance of the rice crop in Sierra Leone especially as a staple, as a means of putting money into the pockets of our farmers and improving their living standards as well as a sustainable way of saving the huge foreign exchange the country spends for its importation.

He disclosed that SLARI, together with its partners has made commendable efforts in generating needed technologies to develop the rice sub sector in the country, adding that there are yet several problems holding back the development of the rice sub sector. He cited among others poor production practices, low adoption of SLARI improved technologies, poor development of the needed infrastructure such as drying floors, lack of suitable storage facilities and milling stations; inadequate infrastructure such as feeder roads to link major rice production areas to markets together with the movement of farm inputs and other needed services. He told the training participants that because of the need to catch up with changing trends in the sector, policy has shifted from merely focusing on production to what he called the “Agricultural Product Value Chain” (APVC). Professor Lakoh described the APVC concept as a sequence marked by value growth and coordination at each stage of production, processing and distribution driven by consumer demand. This, he said, is a significant departure from the past where there was poor organization of actors in dealing with rice base products, weak coordination and poor value addition and consequently lack of market for the products. He expressed the confidence that the participants who have gone through the Njala University (NU) or similar higher institutions of learning will not find it difficult to go through the training workshop as they have had diverse and sufficient background knowledge on the subject. He therefore urged them to be committed, diligent and focused so that they will be in a better position to deliver the needed goods or services to the various clients of SLARI in the rice value chain. While WAAPP Deputy Coordinator Mr. Suliaman Sesay explained the role of WAAPP Sierra Leone in providing capacity to SLARI Scientists in the areas of training and infrastructure, he urged them to take full advantage of the opportunity so as to help farmers and other actors in the rice value chain to address the constraints and challenges facing them. SLARI Deputy Acting Director General



Dr. Matthew Gboku also urged the training participants to take into account the experience gained by the Njala Agricultural Research Centre at a similar training workshop previously conducted for scientists and extension agents so that better and useful results can be achieved.

RARC Director Dr. Cherner S.Kamara reiterated to the participants the challenges and achievements of the Centre since its establishment in 1934. “One of the challenges is the lack of sufficient knowledge about the rice value chain especially in respect of the linkages among the various actors”. He urged them especially the Extension personnel to help address the impediment. Training Facilitator from Africa Rice in Cotonou Dr. Ali Touri presented and explained the issues in rice value chain. These among others were value chain Concept, value chain analysis and assessment, marketing basics and issues in facilitating development and upgrading; SWOT approach to study rice ecologies in Sierra Leone. Each issue presented was followed by intense discussions, questions and comments.

The training will be followed with a base line survey in rice growing areas in the country. It will identify the constraints and opportunities in the rice value chain in Sierra Leone with a view to improving the quality of rice products through efficient organization and coordination of the various actors in the chain so as to produce and market value –added rice products. As a result of the need to reform and strengthen agricultural research in Sierra Leone and bring it in line with international best practice, SLARI was established in 2007 through an Act of Parliament as the country’s agricultural research and agricultural technology body for the benefit of the farming, fishing and forestry sectors. The RARC is one of the many Centres under SLARI and has among others the responsibility to improve rice productivity, commercialization and competitiveness through the rice value chain.



Cross Section of Spectators in attendance to the Slash n' Burn Road Show in Kenema

*Over 10,000 people in the four RCPRP/RFCIP operational districts of Kenema, Kailahun, Kono and Koinadugu have participated in a wider Climate Change and adaptation (Slash and Burn) awareness raising musical campaign.*

It has been proven that music could be used as a tool towards behavioral change. The role of our local artists in the restoration of peace, after the decade long war is a typical example of what music does. Like the civil war, music, if meaningfully used could address the challenges and threats the country faces with Climate Change in general and slash n' burn in the uplands in particular. In this respect, the Communication Unit of the NPCU has undertaken a Climate Change/Adaptation Musical Concert/Road Show on 'Slash n' Burn' in its four operational districts of Kenema, Kailahun, Kono and Koinadugu.

Giving an overview of the Campaign, the Programme Communication Officer, George Nyambe Williams noted that, according to the last IFAD Implementation Support Mission of the Integrating Adaptation to Climate Change into Agricultural Production and Food Security in Sierra Leone (IACCAPFS), October, 2013, one of the key successes scored by the NPCU was the ability to raise awareness on climate change.

He advanced that, in a bid to maintain this rating coupled with the need for a wider awareness raising on Climate Change and adaptation (Slash and Burn) through musical based tools including theatrical campaign, he thought it fit to undertake a four dis-

tricts road shows.

The show which started from the 19<sup>th</sup> February and ended on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2014 brought together a collection of young talented local artists including Award winning stars like, Bobby of Feli fame, Rumpel of Palampoh fame plus the eight (8) Collaborating artists in a musical splash that hit the four districts.

In partnership with the Community Radio Station journalists and Community trainers, the concert provided fora through which interactions and clarifications on issues affecting the Climate and effect of slash and burning on the environment.

The interactive sessions anchored by the Project Officer, Denis S. Lansana added flavor to what was becoming the spiciest shows for the year in these districts. Thus, restoring its original intent of sensitization. Questions from the spectators were answered by the Project staff.

**“ Like the civil war, music, if meaningfully used could address the challenges and threats the country faces with Climate Change in general and slash n' burn in the uplands in particular ”**

# TREE CROP REHABILITATION

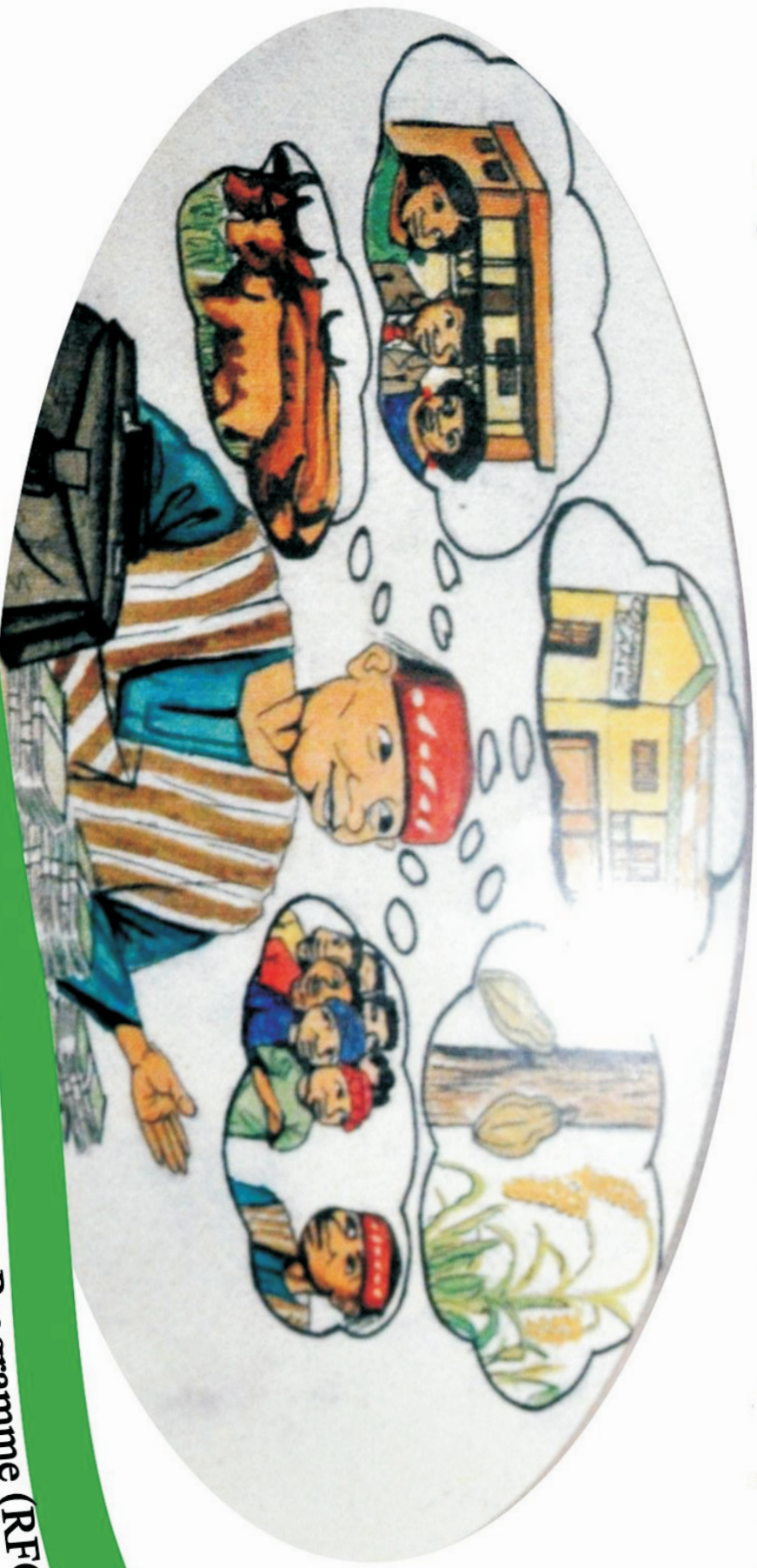
## COFFEE PRODUCTION TIPS

1. SELECT HYBRID COFFEE BERRIES FROM VARIETIES LIKE G98, C115, A182 ETC AND SOAK IN WATER OVERNIGHT .
2. DEPULP USING DEPULPING MACHINE OR USE THE HAND TO DEPULP.
- 3 KEEP THE WET BEANS IN A CONTAINER TO FERMENT IN ORDER TO REMOVE THE MUSILAGE.
4. DRY UNDER SHADE FOR ONE DAY AND EXPOSE THE BEANS TO DIRECT SUNLIGHT FOR 2 - 3 DAYS UNTIL THE BEANS SHADE IN THE PATCHMENT.
5. SOAK IN WATER AND PLACE A FLAT BED THAT HAS BEEN PREPARED AND PLACE THE SEEDS WITH THE FLAT SIDE DOWN IN GROVES OF 2cm DEEP AND COVER WITH LIGHT SOIL.
6. THE SEEDS WILL SPROUT IN 1-2 MONTHS TO REACH THE BUTTERFLY STAGE.
- 7 TRANSFER THE SEEDLING AT THIS STAGE INTO POLYBAGS 13'' 8'' THAT HAVE BEEN FILLED IN ROWS OF 5 SEEDLING WITH 2 SPACING BETWEEN THE ROWS IN A NURSERY THAT HAS BEEN SHADED
8. DO WATERING TWICE EVERYDAY AND DO OTHER CULTURAL PRATICES UNTIL THE SEEDLINGS TRANSPLANTING TIME.
9. CULL OUT ALL SEEDLING THAT ARE NOT HEALTHY. COMMON PROBLEM OF COFFEE IN THE NURSERY IS WILTING / DAMPING OF CAUSED BY NEMATODES. REMOVE AFFECTED PLANTS AND DESTROY.
10. THE SEEDLINGS ARE READY FOR FIELD TRANSPLANTING IN 12-18 MONTHS.



# YOU TOO CAN BE A WEALTHY FARMER

With our Agricultural loan facilities from the Community Banks and Financial Services Associations country wide



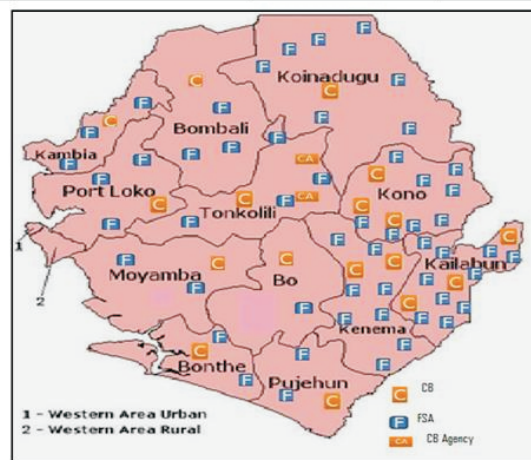
## Rural Finance and Community Improvement Programme (RFCIP)

# Where to find us

## FINANCIAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION (FSAs)

No	Name of FSA	Location	Chiefdom
<b>KOINADUGU DISTRICT</b>			
1	Sengbe FSA	Kabala Town	Sengbe
2	Kasonko	Fadugu	Kasonko
3	Diang	Kondembaia	Diang
4	Neni	Alkalia	Neni
5	Dembelia Sinkunia	Sinkunia	Dembelia Sinkunia
6	Wara wara Bafodia	Bafodia	Wara wara Bafodia
7	Folosaba Dembelia	Musaia	Folosaba Dembelia
<b>KONO DISTRICT</b>			
8	Nimikor FSA	Jiama Town	Nimikoro
9	Nimiyama FSA	Ngo town	Nimiyama
10	Sandor FSA	Wordu Town	Sandor
11	Fiama FSA	Ngegbewema Town	Fiama
12	Lei FSA	Kombayende Town	Lei
13	Gorama Kono FSA	Kangama Town	Gorama Kono
14	Sowa FSA	Kaikadu Town	Sowa
15	Gbaneh FSA	Gardoun Town	Gbaneh
<b>KAILAHUN DISTRICT</b>			
16	Peje West FSA	Bundumbu 111	Peje West
17	Mandu FSA	Mobai Town	Mandu
18	Jawei FSA	Daru Town	Jawei
19	Luawa FSA	Ngiehun Town	Luawa
20	Kissi Kama FSA	Dia Town	Kissi Kama
21	Kissi Teng FSA	Kangama Town	Kissi Teng
22	Yawei FSA	Baaka Town	Yawei
23	Peje Bongre FSA	Manowa town	Peje Bongre
24	Maleme FSA	Jojuma Town	Malema
<b>KENEMA DISTRICT</b>			
25	Niawa FSA	Sandumei Town	Niawa
26	Gaura FSA	Joru Town	Gaura
27	Dama FSA	Kpandabu Town	Dama
28	Kandu Leppiama FSA	Levuna	Kandu Leppiama
29	Tunkia FSA	Gorhun Tunkia	Tunkia
30	Wandor FSA	Bama Konta	Wandor
31	Lower Bambara FSA	Panguma	Lower Bambara
32	Nongowa FSA	Largo	Nongowa
<b>PUJEHUN DISTRICT</b>			
33	Sowa FSA	Bandajuma Sowa	Sowa
34	Gallinese Perri FSA	Bmpeh Town	Gallinese Perri

<b>BONTHE DISTRICT</b>			
35	Burn FSA	Madina Town	Burn
36	Kpanda Kerno FSA	Lawana Town	Kpanda Kerno
<b>MOYAMBA DISTRICT</b>			
37	Lowa Banta FSA	Gbangbatoke Town	Lowa Banta
38	Bompeh FSA	Rotifunk Town	Bompeh
<b>BO DISTRICT</b>			
39	Baoma FSA	Gerehun Town	Baoma
<b>KAMBIA DISTRICT</b>			
40	Mambolo FSA	Mambolo Town	Mambolo
41	Tonko Limba FSA	Kamasasa Town	Tonko Limba
42	Magberna FSA	Rokupr Town	Magberna
<b>PORT LOKO DISTRICT</b>			
43	Debia FSA	Gbinti Town	Debia
44	Koya FSA	Masiaka Town	Kopya
45	Lokomasama FSA	Lokomasama Town	Lokomasama
<b>BOMBALI DISTRICT</b>			
46	Gbndembu Ngohaun FSA	Gbndembu Town	Gbndembu Ngohaun
47	Gbanti kamaranka FSA	Kamaranka	Gbanti Kamaranka
48	Biriwa Limba FSA	Kamabai	Biriwa
<b>TONKOLILI DISTRICT</b>			
49	Konenkie Barrina FSA	Makeli Town	Konenkie Barrina
50	Gbonkolenken FSA	Yele Town	Gbonkolenken
51	Kalasonkia FSA	Bumbuna Town	Kalasonkia



## COMMUNITY BANKS (CBs)

No	Name of Community Bank	Location	Chiefdom
<b>KAILAHUN DISTRICT</b>			
1	Pendembu Community Bank	Pendembu Town	Upper Bambara
2	Koindu Community Bank	Koindu Town	Kissi Teng
3	Segbwema Community Bank	Segbwema Town	Njaluahun
<b>KONO DISTRICT</b>			
4	Sandor Community Bank	Kayima Town	Sandor
5	Nimiyama Community Bank	Njiama sewafe Town	Nimiyama
6	Nimikoro Community Bank	Njiama Nimiko	Nimikoro
<b>KENEMA DISTRICT</b>			
7	Boijubu Community Bank	Boijubu	Simbaru
8	Tongo Field Community Bank	Tongo Field	Lower Bambara
<b>KOINADUGU DISTRICT</b>			
9	Kabala Community Bank	Kabala Town	Wara wara Yagala
<b>BONTHE DISTRICT</b>			
10	Mattru Community Bank	Mattru Town	Jong
<b>PUJEHUN DISTRICT</b>			
11	Zimmi Community Bank	Zimmi Town	Makpele
<b>KAMBIA DISTRICT</b>			
12	Madina Community Bank	Madina Town	Tonko Limba
<b>PORT LOKO DISTRICT</b>			
13	Marampa Massimra Community Bank	Lunsar Town	Marampa
<b>BOMBALI DISTRICT</b>			
14	Kamakwie Community Bank	Kamakwie Town	Sella Limba
<b>TONKOLILI DISTRICT</b>			
15	Yoni Community Bank	Mile 91	Yoni
<b>BO DISTRICT</b>			
16	Sumbuya Community Bank	Sumbuya Town	Sumbuya
<b>MOYAMBA DISTRICT</b>			
17	Taiama Community Bank	Taiama Town	Kori

*Sierra Leone Rice Breeder/Scientist and Special Advisor to the President of Sierra Leone, Prof Monty Jones has been appointed President of EMRC International, replacing Prof Pierre Mathijsen who spent over 10 years at the helm of EMRC.*



Prof. Monty Jones the new EMRC President

Prof Monty Jones is an international agriculture expert, having discovered the genetic process to create the New Rice for Africa (NERICA), which gives higher yields, shorter growth cycles and more protein content than its Asian and African parents. Prof Monty Jones, during his time as the Executive Director of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), spear-headed the African drive to increase the continent's food production with the goal to see the Sub-Saharan Africa produce its own food for consumption and for export. Prof Monty Jones was the co-winner of the 2004 World Food Prize

In an interview shortly after his appointment, Prof Monty Jones' provided his thoughts, ambitions and knowledge of what lies ahead for EMRC and Africa in terms of sustainable growth, thus:

I first and foremost would like to thank EMRC's Executive Committee for their confidence and for confirming me as its President, effective 1st January 2014. I accepted to serve as President because I believe in EMRC's mission, which is to contribute to the development of the private sector in Africa by boosting sustainable and responsible economic growth through partnerships, public-private and others, trade, transfer of knowledge and attracting investment into the continent.

I myself have an agricultural background and have worked for many years to promote African agriculture. Therefore, one of my immediate goals for EMRC is to further strengthen investment in agriculture, which I believe would contribute to addressing some key concerns, and notably one that is dear to my heart, "why Africa cannot feed itself".

This is important for me and for EMRC, which has throughout the years pushed agricultural development and food self-sufficiency to the forefront amongst

other important topics linked to the economic growth of Sub-Saharan Africa such as finance, SME development, empowering the young and the women, etc.... I believe, as does EMRC, that the private sector, working with Governments and NGOs, has a key role to play in addressing some of the most pressing issues affecting the continent.

EMRC helps to create the necessary engagements and collaborations that would allow Africa to achieve long-term growth. I am therefore excited to further my involvement in EMRC's endeavors and I believe that strengthening what EMRC does best is an immediate priority: bringing experts from around the world together at international forums, organizing B2B meetings and bringing international and African entrepreneurs together to exchange best practices and establish business partnerships.

**EMRC:** *You have decades of experience concerning Africa's Agri-Food sector and financial hurdles. How will you bring this experience to the benefit of EMRC's wider community?*

**MJ:** I have spent the last 26 years working on promoting the Agri-Food sector and mobilizing resources to support regional and national programs in Africa.

It is my conviction that Africa can and should feed itself. After all Africa has half the population of India which is food self-sufficient on ½ of the land area of Africa. The real concern is why is Africa not food self-sufficient despite its abundant resources. This concern is simple but the answer is complex.

Through my experience and convictions I will try and ensure that EMRC strengthens key sectors and highlights issues across the continent, such as:

- Economic reforms that broaden the scope and incentives for private sector participation such as land registration, leasing facilities and the establishment of credit bureaus;
- Exploitation of opportunities and addressing emerging challenges for agricultural growth, like large scale land leasing arrangements to local and foreign groups in SSA.

*"I am proud to be a part of spearheading such achievements which will provide powerful advocacy for increased and better harmonized investment both in agricultural research, and local and regional development and SMEs which are at the heart of employment creation and grass root development."*



- Increased regional cooperation through organisations like the African Union, NEPAD and CAADP, FARA, EMRC, the CGIAR's regional collaborative action plans, Regional Economic Communities, Sub Regional Agricultural Research Organisations (SROs); A new professed willingness on the part of African governments and development partners to support agricultural development as a pillar of a broader economic development and poverty-alleviation strategy;

The above opportunities and emerging challenges embody important elements that strategies aimed at accelerating growth should consider.

EMRC does and can play an even larger role in promoting these opportunities and addressing the challenges, as they relate to private sector involvement. This can be done by mobilizing the resources to fund investments and this is where EMRC provides and should continue to provide an essential platform. The main sources of required resources are:

- Domestic (within Africa; public and private); Overseas development assistance and foreign direct investment.

Return on investment is an important indicator for attracting private investment, therefore returns from investment in productivity should be pursued both to maximize the benefits from the available resources and to secure further investment.

**EMRC:** *Why is an organization such as EMRC important for the long-term growth of Sub-Saharan Africa? What are EMRC's resounding qualities which you will strive to promote?*

**MJ:** The objectives of EMRC are:

1. To create the optimum environment for sustainable business partnerships
2. To encourage Public-Private Dialogue
3. To attract new investment to Africa by improving the dialogue between sectors
4. To promote Local, Regional and International Trade
5. To mobilize innovation, technical and educational, towards industrialization

To enhance knowledge sharing and capacity development. EMRC has demonstrated a leadership role in convening key stakeholders across sectors of economic development. Through its forums and training activities which include country tours and economic missions, it contributes to promoting the goals of private sector development, food security and poverty alleviation. To sustain this role EMRC will continue to provide a platform for its stakeholders where the principal elements for improving productivity, profitability, and sustainability will be high-

lighted. This platform will focus on expanding its reach over the coming years to ensure that more of an impact is achieved and more partnerships established. EMRC's ability to combine leadership of strong regional and national institutions, which are actively engaged in private sector involvement in shaping policies, with enduring commitments to contributing to and benefiting from international collaboration lies at the heart of the ethos for development in Africa.

I am proud to be a part of spearheading such achievements which will provide powerful advocacy for increased and better harmonized investment both in agricultural research, and local and regional development and SMEs which are at the heart of employment creation and grass root development. I am, therefore, proud and pleased to be joining EMRC at a time of strength and recognition and will do everything to ensure the sustenance of the EMRC presence in contributing to Africa's growth.

**EMRC:** *Prof Pierre Mathijsen will become honorary President after representing EMRC for 15 years plus, leaving behind a well-established and active international organization. How would you characterize Prof Mathijsen's tenure and what would you like to say to the departing President?*

**MJ:** Under the leadership of Prof. Pierre Mathijsen EMRC has developed strong interests in the development of Africa through the creation of partnerships, capacity development, increased productivity and competitiveness all of which has helped to make Africa a stronger trading partner.

The leadership provided by Prof. Pierre Mathijsen has in fact opened new windows of opportunity for Africa. This adds to Africa's own conviction that the private sector has an ever more important role to play in the future of the continent which has been encouraged throughout the years by EMRC and its partners.

Prof. Pierre Mathijsen should be commended for putting in place structures, mechanisms and programs that have ensured the continued strengthening and recognition of the EMRC. I therefore join EMRC's stakeholders in applauding Prof. Pierre Mathijsen's contribution towards achieving sustainable development in Africa. No doubt we will continue to seek for his guidance and advise as we stir the ship toward higher heights. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors. As the outgoing President, **Prof Pierre Mathijsen** took time to reflect on the work achieved over the last few years by EMRC and what lies ahead for the organization and Prof Monty Jones and Sub-Saharan Africa.

# Our Photo Gallery



Weighing produce to be exported—Project supported Tegloma Cocoa Cooperative - Kailahun Eastern, Sierra Leone



RCPRP providing employment for youths in Kono District through the pilot Feeder Road Maintenance Strategy



Slash n' Burn, a challenge to Climate Change Adaptation in Sierra Leone

*Integrating Adaptation to Climate Change into Agricultural Production and Food Security in Sierra Leone*

# Climate Change is **REAL!**

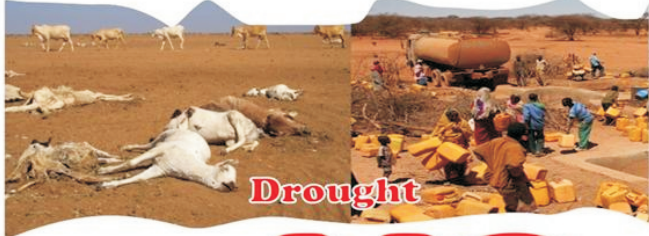


**Wild Fire**



**Deforestation**

# And is **HERE!**



**Drought**



**Flooding**

say **NO** to Slash N' Burn



**Wild Fire**



**Deforestation**

**YES** to Inland Valley Swamp



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Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty



National Programme Coordination Unit



Ministry Of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS)



