



Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)

## **Action Plan for Mainstreaming Nutrition in Agriculture**

### **LIBERIA**

**West Africa Regional CAADP Nutrition Programme Development Workshop**  
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## Action Plan for Mainstreaming Nutrition in Agriculture

### Participants

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### **Reference document : Liberia Agriculture Sector Investment Plan (LASIP) 2010**

*During the Group Work exercises, please work with your Country Team members to complete the document below, referring to the National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plan (NAFSIP) and Nutrition Country Paper for your country, and other relevant documents.*

**Group Work 1: Review of existing National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plan (NAFSIP)**

Element	Yes/No	Comments
<b><i>Nutrition Situation</i></b>		
What are the main nutrition problems in your country which should be addressed by the NAFSIP for your country?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very high rate stunting in children under 5. (42%, CFSNS 2010)</li> <li>• High rates of anemia in children 60% and women 48% of child bearing age,</li> <li>• Poor infant and young feeding practices (low EBF, poor dietary diversity of complementary foods)</li> </ul>
Are the key nutrition problems in your country discussed in the plan? If yes, please identify.	Yes	The Plan makes reference to the FSNS which outlines the problems identified above. However, interventions addressing these problems are discussed in the Liberia Agricultural investment plan.
<b><i>Vulnerable Populations/Target Beneficiaries</i></b>		
Are the vulnerable populations/target beneficiaries identified in the plan? If yes, who are they?	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pregnant and lactating women</li> <li>• Children under 5 years</li> <li>• People affected with HIV/AIDS</li> <li>• Small scale farmers especially women farmers in the rural and poor Farmers ( youths, and household vulnerabilities)</li> </ul> <p>The plan does not highlight the critical window of opportunity to address stunting i.e. the period of pregnant up to the age of 24 months</p>
If yes, is information provided on their geographic location in the country?	Yes	This information is available, from the comprehensive food security and nutrition surveys and is presented in the country paper
If yes, is information provided on their number/% of total population?	Yes	About 52%

<b>Nutrition Goals/Objectives</b>		
Is/are goal(s) specific to food and nutrition security in your country stated in the plan? If yes, please state it/them.	Yes	Improved nutritional status and management of food emergencies: To enhance access to food and facilitate improved utilization by 2015 particularly for children under 5 and PLW.
Are there nutrition-specific objective(s) stated in the plan? If yes, please state them.	Yes	“ To enhance access to food and facilitate improved utilization by 2015 particularly for children under 5 and PLW” We do not consider this objective to be smart and propose to modify as follows: <b>To enhance access to food and facilitate improved utilization in order to reduce stunting by 5% by 2015 with a focus on PLW and children under 2 .</b>
<b>Priority Activities/Best Practices</b>		
Are specific nutrition activities/best practices identified in the plan that will be implemented to achieve the objectives? If yes, please summarize them.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote child growth,</li> <li>• Taking essential nutrition actions</li> <li>• Saving acutely undernourished children</li> <li>• Addressing the food and nutrition needs of those affected by HIV</li> <li>• Improving nutritional caring practices</li> </ul> <p>These activities address the priority nutrition problems and are based on proved effective interventions.</p>
Are prioritization criteria identified in the plan?	No	
<b>Timeline</b>		
Is there a timeline in the plan for implementing the nutrition activities/best practices? If yes, what is it?	No	The plan has a general timeline but no detailed implementation plan for the specific activities.
<b>Implementation</b>		
Are existing/appropriate institutions for implementing nutrition activities identified in the plan?	Yes	Activities are to be coordinated by Min. Agriculture, Gender, Health, and Education and international institutions such as World Food Program (WFP) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

**Group Work 2 : Objectives framework for strengthening the Nutrition Component of the NAFSIP**

<i>Objectives Framework</i>	<b>Recommendations for strengthening the nutrition component of the NAFSIP.</b>	<b>Actions to be taken to achieve integration of nutrition in the agriculture sector.</b> <i>What processes need to be established to make the recommendations in column 2 possible? Next steps to be taken by participants within the next 6-12 months.</i>
a. Vision	A nation with food and nutritional adequacy and security enabling a nourished population, thus contributing to optimal health, education and training, economic growth and development, and improved and sustained quality of life of the people.	This vision was developed and accepted through a multi stakeholder process.  All recommendations will be presented for incorporation during the LASIP multi stakeholders review.
b. Target Beneficiaries	We propose: Children under 2 and PLW nationwide.	
c. Goal(s)	What are your desired medium-term outcome(s) by the year 2015?  Reduce by 5% Stunting and Anaemia in children under 5.	
d. Objectives	What are the specific, measurable results/outcomes you aim to achieve via your projects/activities?  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase awareness that lead to behaviour change in proportion of children 6-8m who receive complementary foods and</li> <li>• Proportion of children 6-23mth who receive a diversified diet</li> </ul>	

<p>e. Priority Projects/Activities to achieve objectives</p>	<p>Identify the main priority activities/best practices that should be implemented using a multi-sectoral approach to achieve the stated objectives.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote production and access to diversified diets</li> <li>2. Strengthen nutrition communication for behavior change</li> <li>3. Make value chain addition activities more nutrition sensitive</li> </ol>	
<p>f. Timeline <i>Realistic timeline to achieve objectives.</i></p>	<p>What is your timeline for implementing your project(s)/activities? Identify milestones for key activities.</p> <p>Activity 1: February 2012 to December 2015  Activity 2: February 2012 to December 2015  Activity 3: February 2012 to December 2015</p>	<p>What is the timeline for strengthening the nutrition component of the NASFIP?</p> <p>Identify key milestones for implementing this process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and update the NASFIP to include nutrition component.</li> <li>• Policy documents and guidelines for implementing nutrition activities</li> </ul>

**Group Work 4: Monitoring, evaluating, and learning about the nutritional impact of agricultural policies and programmes**

Current situation as described in the NAFSIP.	Recommendations for strengthening the nutrition component of the NAFSIP.	Actions to be taken to achieve integration of nutrition in the agriculture sector. <i>What processes need to be established to make the recommendations in column 2 possible? Next steps to be taken by participants within the next 6-12 months.</i>
<p>Are indicators to measure the performance of the nutrition activities identified in the plan? If yes, which ones?</p> <p>Yes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dietary Diversity Score (DDS)</li> <li>• Proportion of the population below minimum dietary energy consumption</li> <li>• Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age</li> <li>• Global Hunger Index</li> </ul> <p>Is the existing capacity in the country (within government, NGOs, etc.) for data collection and analysis discussed in the plan? If yes, which institutions are responsible for M&amp;E?</p> <p>How could this capability be improved?</p>	<p>What are the main indicators that should be used to measure nutrition improvement attributable to actions coordinated with the NAFSIP?</p> <p>Who at the national level should be in charge of designing, implementing, and maintaining/updating the M&amp;E and learning system and process related to strengthening the nutrition component of the NAFSIP? How should this capacity be built?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to improve the result base framework to fully address M&amp;E needs</li> <li>• Operationalize the framework and clarify roles and responsibilities of different actors</li> <li>• Strengthen the different data collection, analysis and reporting structures at all levels</li> <li>• Mobilize adequate funding including core funding from the government ministries</li> </ul>	<p>What steps need to be taken to ensure nutrition indicators are mainstreamed in agricultural M&amp;E systems?</p> <p>Who should you engage to do this and by when can you do it? Should any specific upcoming opportunities be seized (e.g., planned surveys or large-scale nutrition programme evaluations)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to improve the result base framework to fully address M&amp;E needs. By sectors M&amp;E units of MOA, MOH &amp; Nutrition Division by end of Feb, 2012</li> <li>• Develop strategy to strengthen the M&amp;E structure. By consultant recruited by the Technical Working Group by end of May, 2012.</li> </ul>

Group Work 3: Partners and coordination mechanisms		
Current situation as described in the NAFSIP.	Recommendations for strengthening the nutrition component of the NAFSIP.	Actions to be taken to achieve integration of nutrition in the agriculture sector. <i>What processes need to be established to make the recommendations in column 2 possible? Next steps to be taken by participants within the next 6-12 months.</i>
<p>Are the partners/stakeholders/change agents (e.g., governmental ministries/agencies, NGOs, international donor agencies, etc.) that will collaborate in implementing nutrition activities/best practices identified in the plan? If yes, who are they?</p> <p>Yes, however the roles of the different partners/stakeholders are not defined and NGOs who are key implementing partners are not mentioned in the plan.</p> <p>These partners includes; National Nutrition Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Commerce, etc. (FAO and NGOs)</p>	<p>If the NAFSIP does not already have this component, what partners/stakeholders should be involved in strengthening the nutrition component of the NAFSIP? What should be their role(s)?</p> <p>How should they coordinate and communicate among themselves?</p> <p>To development a framework that will clarify and strengthen the coordinating arrangements for mainstreaming nutrition into the LASIP.</p>	<p>What steps need to be taken to build or strengthen existing coordination mechanisms? What new coordination mechanisms might need to be introduced? Who should you engage in this process (governmental and non-governmental)? How soon can you do it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to review the existing membership of coordinating entities and ensure that all relevant stakeholders are included. By the FSN Technical Committee by Dec. 2011</li> <li>• Revisit the hosting of the FSN Secretariat and consider possible options such as Min. Planning &amp; E, Office of the Vice President etc. By the FSN Technical Committee by Jan.</li> </ul>



Are mechanisms (existing or proposed) to facilitate coordination and communication among stakeholders discussed? If yes, what are the mechanisms and at what level do they operate? Who is involved in this process?

Multi- level mechanisms exist to share information, experiences and make decisions and coordinate implementation and mobilize resources. All the major stakeholders are involved.

The following structures are in place to facilitate coordination and communication:

**National level:**

- National Nutrition Coordination Committee, Chaired by the MOHSW
- The Nutrition Technical Working Committee

**County level:**

- County Coordination Meeting

**Group work 5: Partnerships: public-private and public-public**

Current situation as described in the NAFSIP.	Recommendations for strengthening the nutrition component of the NAFSIP.	Actions to be taken to achieve integration of nutrition in the agriculture sector. <i>What processes need to be established to make the recommendations in column 2 possible? Next steps to be taken by participants within the next 6-12 months.</i>
<p>Are any opportunities for public-private partnerships to address food and nutrition security discussed in the plan? If yes, please describe.</p> <p>How could these partnerships be improved?</p> <p>Yes. The Plan mentioned the role of the private sector in agriculture and a number of opportunities exist for public- private partnership to address food and nutrition security ie food fortification, value addition, provision of agric inputs, market linkages</p>	<p>Specify for which specific food and nutrition security issue(s) a public-private partnership should be implemented to strengthen the nutrition component of the NAFSIP.</p> <p>Discuss how these initiatives should be driven. Who (which stakeholders) should be involved in supporting and guiding these initiatives? How should they be involved/what are their roles?</p> <p>Develop framework that will define the types of PPP initiatives to be formed with different private sector entities (large, small and medium scale). This will range from policy directives and public sector intervention (credit and financing, direct subsidy and capacity bldg )</p>	<p>Which immediate steps can you take to ensure relevant public-private partnerships are established or strengthened? Who should you engage and by when can you do it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities for PPP with small and medium scale food processing units/entities in the next 6 month</li> <li>• Finalize the National Food Fortification Strategy</li> </ul>
<p>Are public-public partnerships (e.g., collaboration of Ministry of Agriculture with Ministry of Health/Nutrition Unit and/or Ministry of Education, among others) discussed in the plan? If yes, please describe.</p> <p>The collaborative mechanism is not detailed in the LASIP document. However, the Technical Advisory Committee being anticipated can review the document and improve the</p>	<p>Specify for which nutrition issue(s) a public-public partnership should be implemented. Which public institutions should participate in this partnership and what would be their roles?</p> <p>Food producers and food processor, local food processors, and food safety.</p> <p>The Public sector to come up with the regulatory framework to provide the enabling environment and carry out monitoring and evaluation. The private sectors provide the capital and investment</p>	<p>Which immediate steps can you take to ensure relevant public-public partnerships are established or strengthened? Who should you engage and by when can you do it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The national Food Fortification Alliance is yet to be established and is at its infancy stage. However, this will further enhance the formal establishment of the Alliance in the next few months (March-April 2012).</li> </ul>

collaborative mechanism.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize the process of the regulation of code of marketing breast milk substitutes</li> <li>• Review of the Salt Iodization Regulation to provide the regulatory framework.</li> </ul>
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**Group Work 6: Capacity development**

Current situation as described in the NAFSIP	Recommendations for strengthening the nutrition component of the NAFSIP.	Actions to be taken to achieve integration of nutrition in the agriculture sector. <i>What processes need to be established to make the recommendations in column 2 possible? Next steps to be taken by participants within the next 6-12 months.</i>
<p>Are nutrition capacity development needs in your country discussed in the plan? If yes, please describe.</p> <p>No. Though Nutritional capacity needs are not addressed but there is scope through the subcomponents of the plan to integrate nutrition concept into capacity building of extension workers, researchers, CBOs &amp; agric training institutions. Also, the National Capacity Development Strategy aims to reach a target of 8 nutrition specialist by 2015 &amp; 16 by 2020.</p>	<p>What is needed in terms of capacity development in projects/activities coordinated with the NAFSIP?</p> <p>Who needs training? In what areas is training needed (e.g., project design; project management; monitoring and evaluation; behavior change communication; etc.)</p>	<p>Which steps can you take to strengthen capacity-development efforts? With whom should you engage? By when can you do it?</p> <p>Develop a detailed and prioritized capacity proposal for strengthening nutrition into agric and health sectors.</p>

<p>Are training activities to develop nutrition capacity identified in the plan? If yes, please describe.</p> <p>How else could this capacity be improved?</p>	<p>What training (existing or planned) could help develop capacity? Give recommendations for future actions in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop and implement training for Health and Agric workers on basic nutritional concepts relevant to achieving nutritional outcome of the plan.</li> <li>• Conduct advocacy and sensitization for policy makers (at national and county level) and networks (NCC, FSNTG, ) to inform them of the importance of mainstreaming nutrition into agriculture programs, how this can be done, how they can contribute and what the capacity and resource needs are.</li> <li>• To ensure that nutrition communication strategy emphasizes the production and consumption of nutrient rich locally produced and processed food.</li> <li>• To review and update the nutrition training component of the curriculum for agric extension workers, Agronomist, and General Agricultural</li> </ul>	
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**Group Work 7: Budgeting and financing**

	Budgeting and financing to strengthen the nutrition component of the NAFSIP.	Budgeting and financing the nutrition integration process at the national level.
<p>a. What resources exist/what are additional resources needed to achieve the stated objectives, outcomes, and targets (e.g., staffing, technical assistance, IT, capacity development, other)</p>	<p>Conduct a review of the detailed national health and agriculture budget and county level budgets for 2011/12 by economic and functional structures in order to identify :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for the midyear budget reallocation to give increase support for nutrition activities</li> <li>• Existing funded nutrition activities that can be enhanced to achieve the nutrition outcomes of the plan</li> <li>• Opportunities for working together between MOH &amp; MOA</li> <li>• Opportunities for partnership with others e.g. NGOs</li> </ul>	
<p>b. Categories of costs (i) Recurrent (list the main ones) (ii) Capital (list the main ones)</p>		
<p>c. Possible sources of financing including government budget, international donors (grant and loan), PPPs, and other innovative mechanisms.</p>	<p>UN joint program on food security and nutrition, DANIDA, EU food facility, Government etc.</p>	

**Nutrition Projects/Activities Level**

**National Level**

<p><b>Constraints and Strategic Solutions to effective action plan implementation</b></p>	Key Constraints	Possible Solutions	Key Constraints	Possible Solutions
	<p><i>Identify potential constraints/barriers (limit to top 4) to efficient implementation and identify possible strategic solutions to achieve effective and efficient Implementation.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inadequate Resources (Logistic and Human)</li> <li>-Ineffective Coordination</li> <li>- Low level of nutritional awareness on Nutrition</li> <li>-High level of poverty</li> </ul>	<p>Recruit and train more man power and provide funding for logistics and implementation</p> <p>Strengthen existing coordination mechanisms</p> <p>Support poverty reduction strategies</p> <p>Increase school enrolment especially for girls Improve and intensify information, education and communication and behavioral changes communication activities.</p>	

**NEXT STEPS:** what are the next steps to complete the results-focused action plan? Please use the following format to summarize your response.

	Next Steps	Timeframe	Main Responsible Party	Resources/ Support Required	Comment
<b>SHORT TERM</b>	<b>Complete country team report of Nutrition workshop</b>	By November 18, 2011	Kou Baawo (Nutrition Division MOHS)	N/A	Requires a team meeting to review and agreed the report
	<b>Briefing of key actors:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate supervisors</li> <li>• Ministers</li> <li>• Liberia Business Association(LBA)</li> <li>• Agriculture Coordinating Committee(ACC)and Nutrition Coordinating Committee (NCC)</li> </ul>	By end of November	MoA- Norwood Langley MoHS- Kou Baawo	N/A	Requires team participation
	<b>Completion of Action Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop work plan</li> <li>• Budget analysis</li> <li>• Capacity development analysis and framework</li> </ul>	By January 15, 2012 By Nov 19, 2011 By Dec 15, 2011 By Dec 15, 2011	MOA,Norwood Langley	Technical Assistance from CAADP	Requires active commitment from team members and support form supervisors.
	<b>Discussion and approval of action plan (with key actors)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate supervisors</li> <li>• Ministers</li> <li>• Liberia Business Association (LBA)</li> <li>• Agriculture Coordinating Committee</li> </ul>	Begin January 15 2012 Complete/ approval by March 15, 2012	Kou Baawo (MoHSW) & Norwood Langley (MoA)	N/A	

	<b>Integration of nutrition into the budget cycle/process</b>	End of January 2012	MoA (Norwood Langlay ) MoHSW ( Kou Baawo) Note: In collaboration with budget officers		
	<b>Implementation of Action Plan</b> Monitoring	Begin by March 15, 2012 Quarterly monitoring			