



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

6th African Soil Partnership plenary meeting

26-27 April 2022
VIRTUAL MEETING

*National TCP projects: the successful case of
Liberia*

Mr. Keita Gelboikai, FAO Liberia



Technical cooperation Programme (TCP/LIR/3804)

Strengthening soil analysis and information systems to enhance sustainable soil management and support evidence based decision making in Liberia

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Order of Presentation

Back ground/ case study for the approval of the project

Role of the Government and GSP to the TCP SOILS Studies

Progress on Implementation activities

Importance of TCP and why other countries should apply

Question and Answers

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Background / case study for approval of the project

Situated in West Africa
±300 miles north of the
equator

Soil types a function of
location and climatic
conditions.

Agricultural potential
varies between high and
lowlands

Soil management in Liberia
requires extensive
knowledge of soil
characteristics & optimal
use

Liberia has made some
effort to document and
classify soils, however we
still lack a full soil inventory
and assessment.

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Background / case study for approval of the project

General connotation that “since we practice rain feed agriculture our soils are rich”

Government Intervention; through MoA to FAO

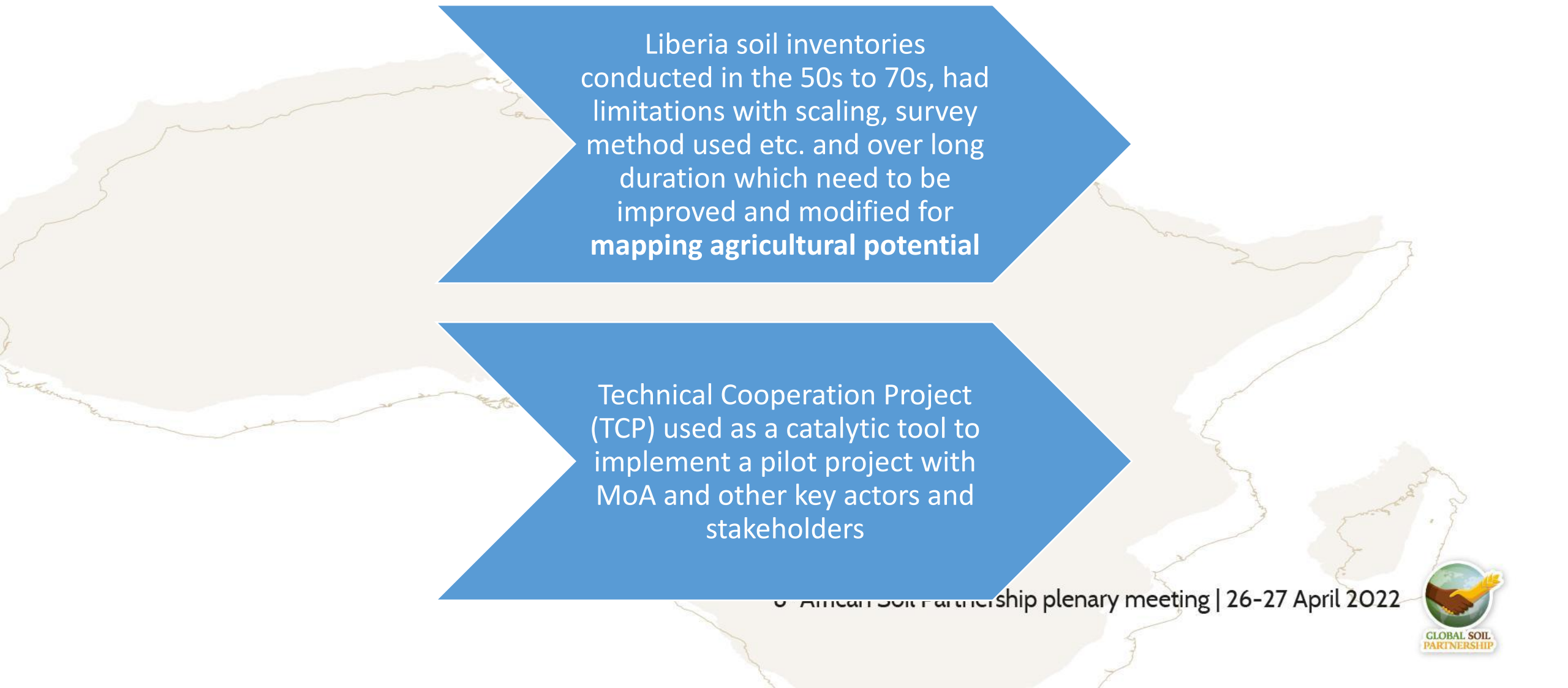
- Concertation on supporting 3 labs, nationwide
 - Tubman University TU, Soils Lab; south east Maryland, grand kru etc
 - South central Region CARI, ; Bong, Nimba, Lofa etc
 - **University of Liberia UL, Monstrado, Bomi Grand Cape Mount etc**
- Est. cost of 4 million to this project
- In 1964-1969 FAO implemented a soil assessment
- In sec 4.2 National Soil Survey (1970) report, under the conclusion and recommendation page 13. states the importance of soils classification and survey

Most recent, *Forestry Division* and *Division of Land and Water* organised constant and direct engagement with FAO

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Background / case study for approval of the project

A light beige map of Liberia is shown in the background. Two blue arrow-shaped callouts point to the right, containing text. The top callout contains text about soil inventories, and the bottom callout contains text about a Technical Cooperation Project.

Liberia soil inventories conducted in the 50s to 70s, had limitations with scaling, survey method used etc. and over long duration which need to be improved and modified for **mapping agricultural potential**

Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) used as a catalytic tool to implement a pilot project with MoA and other key actors and stakeholders

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Role of the Government and GSP to the TCP SOILS Studies

Soils laboratory at University of Liberia chosen to receive support

Staff from laboratory assigned to project with oversight from FAO (Division of Land & Water)

Regular progress reports provided to the Minister as well as stakeholders

FAO Liberia continues to support the Soils TCP through procurement, training opportunities, and logistical support for pilot field activities

Role of the government and GSP to the TCP SOILS Studies

Liberia to join GLOSANS Network

- Take part in proficiency testing
- Harmonization of Lab results
- Interpretation and readability of soils data
- QA-QC

Currently, supporting with ongoing arrangement with EU on the possibilities of scaling-up the project (5-6 mil) from initial 414,000 USD

Participate in the World Soils Day (Halt soil salinization and boost soil productivity)

- organised a radio talk show on awareness

Other includes providing technical support with training materials and technical specification for lab equipment

- Support with training materials and technical guidelines to FAO Liberia.

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Progress on implementation activities

New Work plan for the delivery of the outstanding activities

Activities/timeline	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8
<u>Activity 1.1</u> Inception workshop & Implementation Agreement								
<u>Activity 1.2</u> Training of staff & Proficiency testing								
<u>Activity 2.2 & 2.3</u> Field work								
<u>Activity 2.4 & 2.5</u> Training on soil data and digital soil mapping								
<u>Activity 2.6</u> Laboratory analysis of collected soil data								
<u>Activity 2.7</u> Production of soil properties and threat maps								
<u>Activity 2.8</u> Establishment of LiBSIS Data Repository								
<u>Activity 3.1 & 3.3</u> LibSIS Inception Workshop and Launching								
<u>Activity 3.2</u> Development of LiBSIS								
<u>Activity 3.4</u> Policy, Project proposal and project document writing								

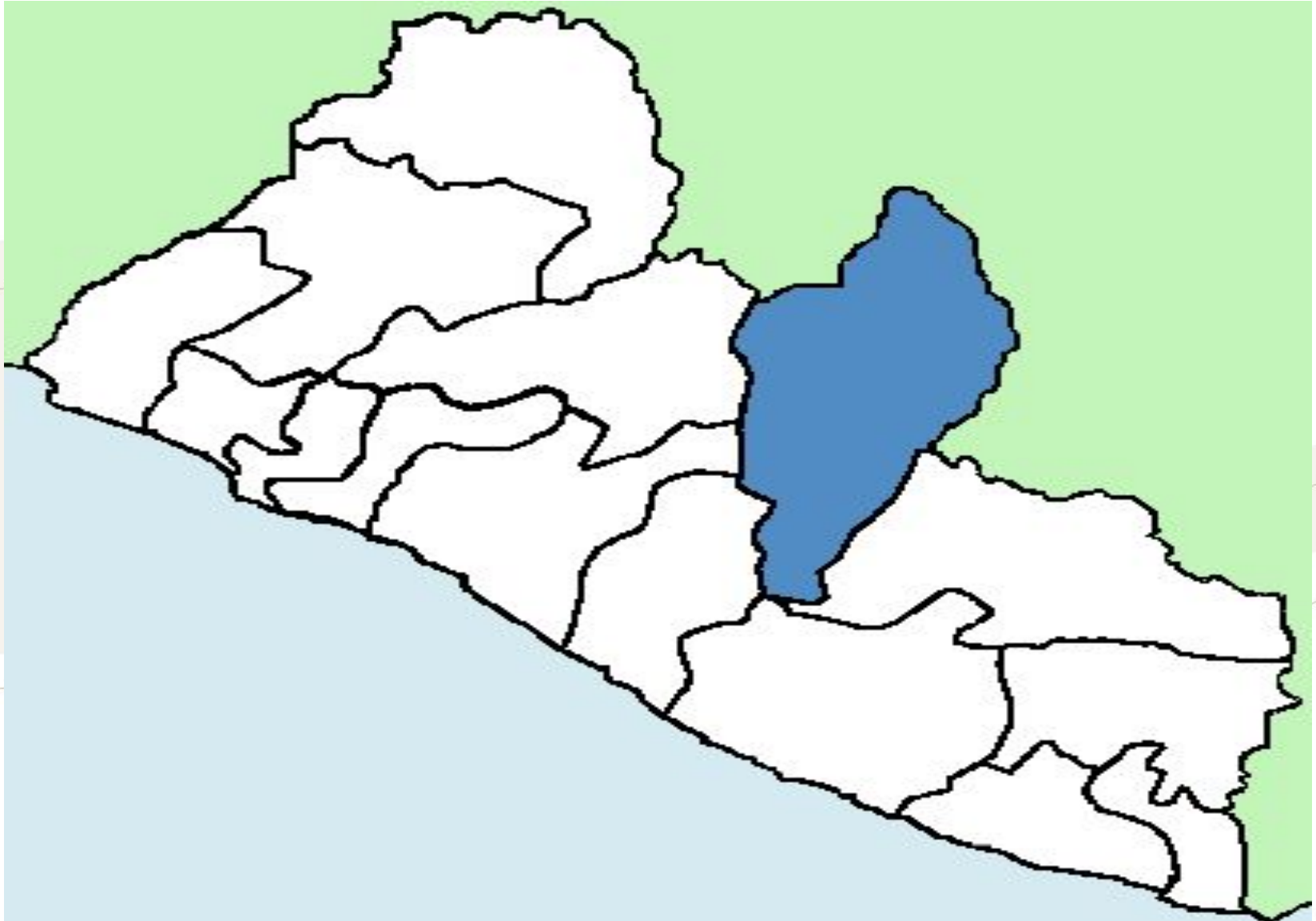
Completed: 

Ongoing: 

Planned: 

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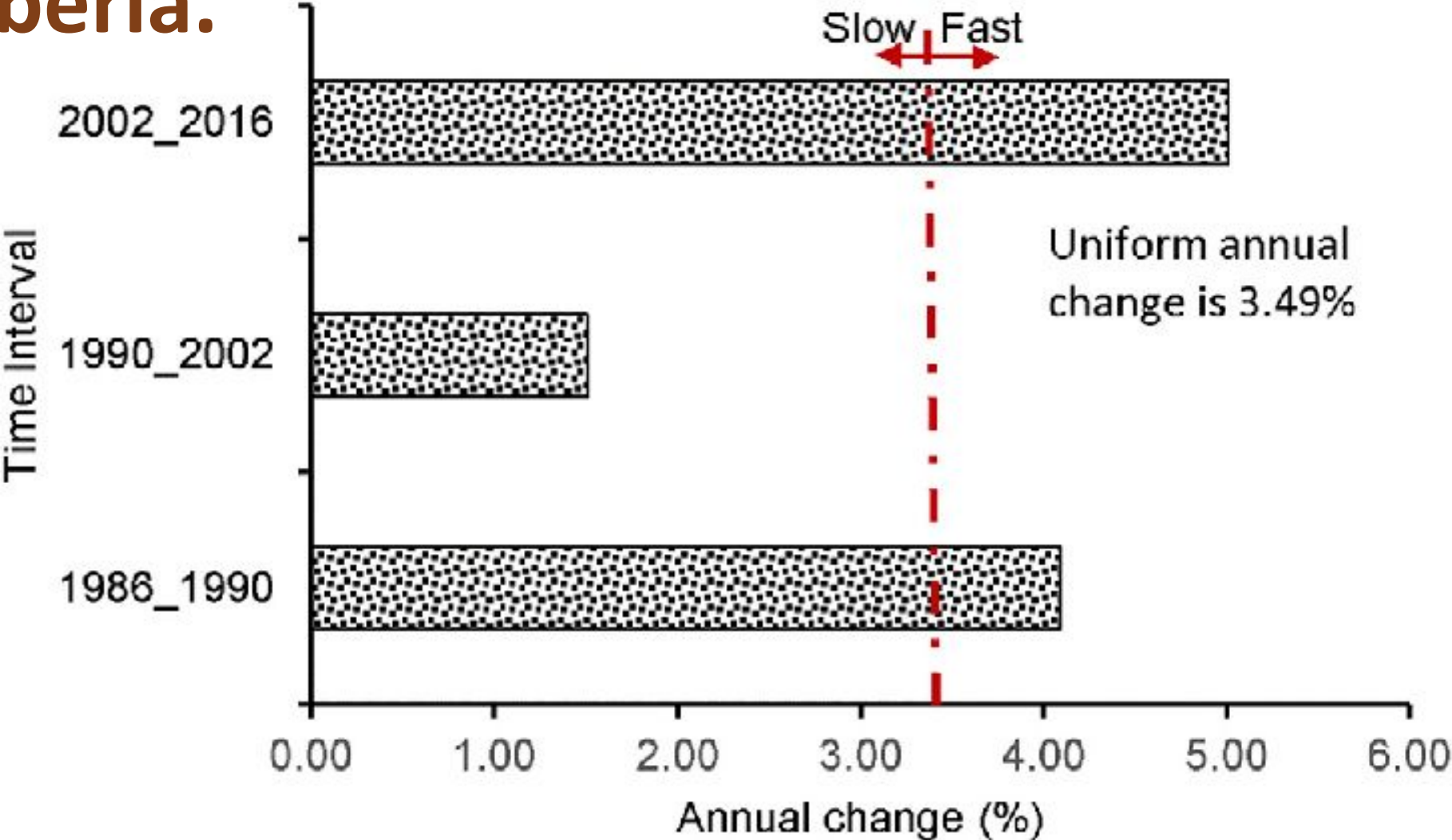




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Land use change in northern Nimba County, Liberia.



April 2022



Importance of TCP and why other countries should apply

TCP provides support required for scoping of project needs and helps to build a working relationship between FAO and government stakeholders

Project size is catalytic only, FAO and government stakeholders should have a plan to leverage outcomes from TCP to source additional funds

TCP should provide concrete outcomes highlighting potential national scale products donors could support

TCP facility allows the country office and government stakeholders to better understand risks and mitigate these in larger projects

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How to apply for a TCP project?

Notes:

- **TCP projects are assigned by FAO every 2 years.** All proposals should be submitted within specific deadlines.
- TCP projects provide maximum US\$ 500 000
- TCP projects should be implemented on average in one – one and a half years time
- TCP projects can be used to kick off activities, assess needs and write a second phase project proposal



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Thanks for your attention!

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