



***GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
FORESTRY AND FOOD
SECURITY (MAFFS)***

Table of Content

- Participants profile
- Map of Sierra Leone
- Introduction
- Key Result Area
- Ministry Organogram
- Organizational Duties
- Current situation of NRDS; Achievements, On-going activities
- Process storage and market infrastructure
- Challenges
- Pictorial presentation

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worldatlas

125 mi

CLICK HERE FOR LARGER MAP

125 km



INTRODUCTION

Sierra Leone is located on the West coast of Africa, north of the equator. It covers an area of 71,740 km². It borders Guinea on the north and northeast and Liberia on the east and southeast. The Atlantic coastline is about 340 kilometers, covers the West and Northwest. The country has a tropical climate, and four main type of vegetation: forest, savannah, grassland and IVS, with rivers running from North to Northeast to the West and Southwest to the Atlantic ocean.

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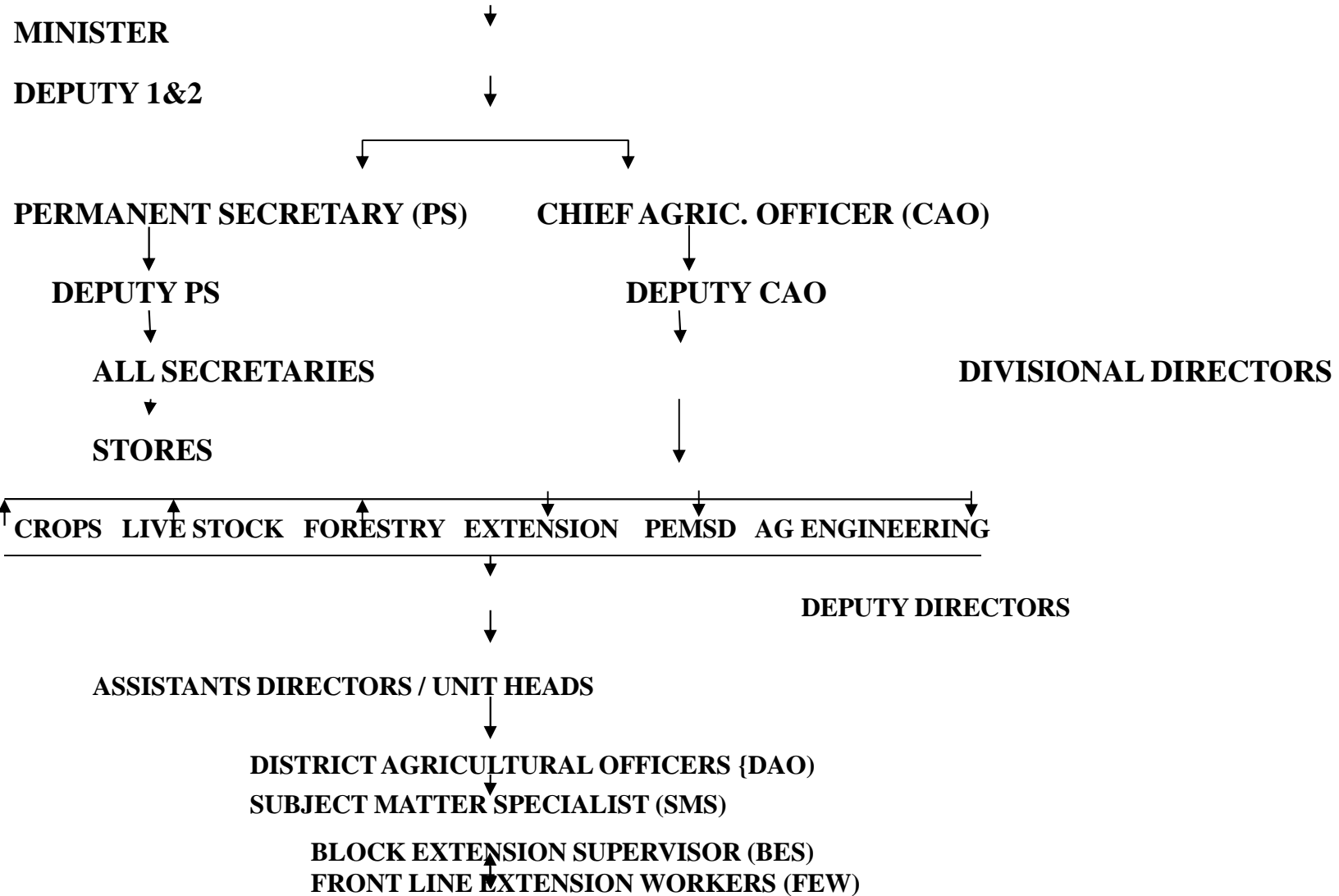
The dry season in the north is characterized by hot dry *harmattan* winds that blow from the Sahel. The south tends to be protected from these winds by the hills and mountains of the Interior Hills and Plateaux region. This favours the production of tree crops in the south of the country. The most common natural hazard in Sierra Leone is flooding, and it occurs mainly from June to September. The practice of shifting cultivation means that there is little primary forest left. Most of the country is now covered by secondary forest or farm bush. The country is rich in minerals such as rutile, diamonds, gold, iron ore and bauxite. The country relies on mining as its economic base. But two-third of the population lives from subsistence agriculture which represents more than half of the national income.

KRA

CREATE 10,000 AGRICULTURAL JOBS ALONG KEY VALUE CHANS

- ❖ Access to agricultural production productivity of target crops
- ❖ Enhance commercial agricultural development

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FORESTRY AND FOOD SECURITY ORGANAOGRAM



ORGANIZATION DUTIES

Rice being the staple food and main agricultural produce, government policy for its development is embedded in the general agricultural development policy which is best described as a seed system. Therefore formulation and implementation of a national seed policy which provide a framework for the development of an effective and sustainable seed system, guide all seed related operations, the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security plays a leading role in its formation. Generally with regards NRDS the Ministry coordinating and is responsible for its implementation.

CURRENT SITUATION OF NRDS

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The development of NRDS; with the support from CARD
- Establishment of a seed bill 2012 which also resulted to the formation of the Sierra Leone Seed Certification Agency (SLeSCA)
- The production of seed through formal institution SLARI/ Rokupr Agricultural Rice Center.
- The multiplication of foundation seed by Seed Multiplication Program (SMP)
- Provision of community service including Agricultural Business Centers and provision of machineries, post-harvest processes innovations.
- Provision of agricultural services particularly the development and dissemination of appropriate technologies along with value chain
- Provision of credit to small scale farmers through community banks/ FSA
- WAAPP- provision of quality rice seed and fertilizer to farmers nationwide. Secondly, to replace the disseminated and adulterated worn out seeds referred to as quality declared seeds.

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- JICA- provides technical cooperation for the seed sector and to participate in seed production and create distribution network for seed supply.
- FBOs and FAs -production and maintenance of certified seeds. Collect seeds from research center or seed producing entities and distribute to farmers. Store and maintain quality standards as required by the seed certification agency.
- WFP – the purchase for progress (P4P).

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Farmers have just benefited from the Post Ebola seed support of which over 5,000 of them has benefited for this cropping season.
- The Agricultural Business Centers (ABC's) are presently supplying over 10,000 bags of rice to WFP for the P4P.
- Currently 52 ABC's are to be transformed to cooperatives.
- Support from JICA to farmers with seeds and fertilizers for second cropping for Demos and Adoption.

Processing, storage and marketing infrastructure

The Ministry builds the Agricultural Business Centers (ABC's) which are operated by the farmers who produce their rice, then taken to the center for processing, storage then ready for sale to their various customers like WFP, periodic sellers, consumers etc.

The marketing infrastructure in SL is still characterized by mainly small domestic market on diversified economy, poor infrastructure and unskilled labor force. The small economy is mostly dominated with agriculture, while the secondary and tertiary are underdeveloped. The lack of infrastructures continues to pose serious threats in the country's capacity to make proper use of its natural resources.

Challenges

The challenges of the National Rice Seed Sector are multiple.

- The lack of seed law to regulate the operations of the seed industry and ensure its development is a critical challenge that is undermining the development of the seed sector. The National Seed Policy was developed in 2006 and reviewed in 2009. The Seed Bill was first drafted in 2012, followed by Seed Regulations in 2014. The Seed Bill is expected to be enacted in 2016.

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- Human capacity is inadequate hence the need to encourage the private sector into the seed business, as the private sector will create employment opportunities for the citizenry of Sierra Leone as long as the seed industry is attractive and booming.
- Low budgetary allocation for seed production.

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- Institutional challenges include inadequate human resource capacity for seed production and certification for breeder, foundation and certified Seeds. Human resource capacity is inadequate at SLeSCA, SMP and SLARI including seed producers, seed suppliers/marketers and agro dealers and extension officers of MAFFS.

Thanks you very much for
listening.

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