

Liberia Concept note 2: Strengthening Capacity for Certified Rice Seed Production and Handling		
1. Title (Full name)	Strengthening Capacity for Certified Rice Seed Production and Handling in Liberia	
2. Project Location	7 Counties: Lofa, Bong, Nimba, Maryland, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, & Montserrado	
3. Implementing Agencies	GOL/MOA/CARI	
4. Beneficiaries	Certified rice seed production companies, Agro-Inputs Dealers (Rice seed distributors)	
5. Target Group	Private and public investors	
6. Type of project	1. Grant, 3. Technical Coop. /Assistance, 4. National budget, 5. Private sector	
7. Field of support	3. Extension & Training, 4. Production, 5. Marketing, 7. Quality Control 8. Capacity Building	
8. Suggested Funding sources	GoL, Development Partners (USAID, WB, EU, ADB, Islamic Development Bank, JICA)	
9. Budget (USD)	1,245,000	
10. Duration of the project	5 years	
11. Background/Justification	<p>Food production and demand for quality seeds is growing faster in post-conflict Liberia. Crop productivity is low, value chain are undeveloped. The use of good quality seeds of adapted and improved varieties along with other inputs and appropriate cultural practices is the most cost-effective way of achieving the desired advances in crop production and productivity.</p> <p>Most farmers have limited access to improved seeds; therefore, they recycle seeds that has less genetic viability hence yield is low. Furthermore, the local seed do not have genetic potential to withstand pests, diseases attack and adverse weather condition. This project will provide rice seed companies with domestic multiplication and building capacity of existing agro-input dealers for professional handling and timely distribution of certified seeds.</p>	
12. Goal and objective:	Overall objectives: Availability and accessibility of quality rice seed for improved productivity.	
	Specific objective 1	Output
	Invest in specialized rice seed companies for domestic multiplication of certified seeds for access to farmers.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secern (7) seed companies supported for seed multiplication. 2. 200MT of certified seeds produced

	Specific objective 2	Output
	Improve the capacity of existing agro-input dealers for professional handling and timely distribution of CS.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capacity of seven (7) agro-input dealers strengthened 2. Seed handling equipment provided 3. Supported with logistics for effective seed distribution
13. Activities	Activities of Output 1-1	
	1-1-1. Create nationwide awareness/sensitization of the investment for the purpose of attracting potential investors.	
	1-1-2. Identify and liaise with 7 potential rice seed companies to multiply improved rice seed: private investors & public-private-partnerships.	
	1-1-3. Plan and host business launching to obtain commitment of interested investors: private investors & public-private-partnerships.	
	1-1-4. Conduct workshop(s) with the contracted rice seed multiplication companies (7) to establish detailed investment implementation plan.	
	Activities of Output 1-2	
	1-2-1. Conduct nationwide information dissemination on the availability of certified rice seed.	
	1-2-2. Assess and create mapping of farmers for linking farmers to rice seed dealers (agro-input dealers) operating in close proximity to farmers.	
	Activities of Output 2-1	
	2-1-1. Identify and select 7 community agro-input dealers (1 per county) for professional handling and distribution of improved rice seed to farmers in their respective counties.	
	2-1-2. Build the capacity of the 7 selected agro-input dealers through (training, provision of appropriate equipment/machines, storage facility rehabilitation/construction, logistics).	
	2-1-3. Enter into business arrangement with the county agro-input dealers and supply them the rice seed for distribution.	
	2-1-4. The 7 empowered county Agro-input dealers distribute about 210 metric tons of certified rice seed, produced by the 7 rice seed companies, to farmers.	
2-1-5. Monitoring and evaluation to the project.		
14. Expected Impact:	Improved productivity of rice farmers through available, accessible and of certified rice seed.	