

Sierra Leone Concept note 2: Promoting increased rice production and productivity in Inland Valley Swamp (IVS) ecology	
1. Title (Full name)	Promoting increased rice production and productivity in Inland Valley Swamp (IVS) ecology
2. Project Location	Bonthe, Kambia and Tonkolili
3. Implementing Agencies	MAFS (SLARI, SLeSCA, Private Seed Companies).
4. Beneficiaries	Small holders rice farmers, processors, marketers, and other Rice value chain actors.
5. Target Group	Women, youths, men for 80 Farmers Groups
6. Type of project	1. Grant, 2. R&D, 3. Technical Coop./Assistance, 4. National budget, 5. Private sector.
7. Field of support	1. Extension & Training, 4. Post-harvest, 2. Production, 5. Capacity Building, 3. Marketing, 6. Infrastructure.
8. Suggested Funding sources	Development partners (JICA, EU, World bank, African Development bank, Islamic Development bank, FAO, WFP) Government Funding.
9. Budget (USD)	Under development
10. Duration of the project:	5 years
11. Background/Justification	Sierra Leone heavily relies on rice as a staple food, with inland valley swamps playing a crucial role in rice cultivation. However, inefficient irrigation systems and outdated agricultural practices have impeded rice production to meet the country's national requirement. Improving community-based irrigation systems and agricultural practices in our IVSs presents an opportunity to increase rice yields, reduce production cost and enhance food security especially under the Feed Salone Initiative.
12. Goals/Objective	Overall Objective: To increase rice production and productivity within irrigated IVS for food security and improved livelihood through surplus for marketing.

Specific Objective 1	Output 1
1. To promote rice cultivation to a minimum of two cropping per annum.	1. 80 FFS identified with the suitable IVS sites
	2. 80 IVS destumped and bunds and drains constructed
	3. Community members trained on irrigation infrastructure maintenance
	4. Eighty (80) FBOs* established
2. To increase rice yield from 1-2 mt/ha to 3-4 mts/ha.	1. Improved rice cultivation techniques introduced.
	2. Pest and disease management strategies implemented.
	3. Good agronomic practices and value addition of rice by-product introduced.
3. Strengthen the Capacity of the 80 FBOs.	1. Farmer cooperatives and support networks strengthened.
	2. Knowledge and skills programmes enhanced.
	3. Gender-inclusive participation introduced.
Specific Objective 2	Output 2
Conduct capacity building of stakeholders in the IVS	2-1. Potential beneficiaries of communities with suitable IVS for development identified
	2-2. 80 FFS** established and their capacity built on good Agronomic practices. To train them on FBOs governance and cropping calendar.
	2-3. Farm (IVS) survey. Land clearing, destumping, construction of bunds and drains conducted
	2-4. Agricultural inputs procured
	2-5. Water conservation techniques and maintenance best practices implemented
Specific Objective 3	Outputs 3

	Conduct trainings on GAP	3-1. Training on modern rice farming methods conducted
		3-2. To high-yield rice seed varieties accessed
		3-3. Workshops on integrated pest and disease management strategies conducted
		3-4. Timely Agronomic practices introduced and conducted
	Specific Objective 4	Outputs 4
	Training on group formation/dynamics	4-1. Farmer Based Organizations and support networks strengthened
		4-2. Farmer Based Organization management training including leadership and governance, record-keeping and market access provided
		4-3. Women's involvement in decision-making processes promoted
13. Activities	1. Water management: Strengthen the capacity of the head bund and protection of the catchment.	
	2. Procurement of Seed Rice from a certify seed source.	
	3. Planting: Nursery and transplanting.	
	4. Procurement of Agro-chemicals- fertilizers, herbicides etc.	
	5. Field trainings on FFS, FBOs.	
14. Expected Impact:	1. Promoting increased rice production and productivity in IVS ecology.	
	2. Increased income status of beneficiaries.	
	3. Enhanced food security.	
	4. Improve standard of living.	
	5. Employment opportunities generated.	

*FBOs: Farmer Based Organisations

** FFS: Farmer Field School