

Sierra Leone Concep note 4: Support for the enhancement of high yielding resilient seed varieties.	
1. Title (Full name)	Support for the enhancement of high yielding resilient seed varieties
2. Project Location	Bonthe, Pujehun, Tonkolili, Port Loko, Bombali and Kambia Districts
3. Implementing Agencies	SLARI, Njala University, SMP and MAFS
4. Beneficiaries	SMP, farmers and private seed growers
5. Target Group	Seed producers, farmers
6. Type of project:	1. Grant, 2. R&D, 3. Technical Coop./Assistance, 4. National budget, 5. Private sector.
7. Field of support:	1. Policy, 2. R & D, 3. Extension & Training, 4. Production, 5. Marketing, 6. Post-harvest, 7. Quality Control, 8. Credit, 9. Capacity Building, 10. Infrastructure 11. Water Management.
8. Suggested Funding sources	Development Partner (FAO, AfDB), Government of SL, Private sector, AGRA.
9. Budget (USD)	Under development
10. Duration of the project:	5 years
11. Background /Justification	Rice consumption in Sierra Leone far outweighs domestic production thus resulting to importation of the deficit which undermines the country's food security drive and development

	<p>agenda.</p> <p>Availability of high yielding and resilient seed varieties remain a challenge due to low production and poor maintenance of high yielding varieties (HYV). Maintenance of HYV is limited to ex-situ actions at field level which is risky in the event of disaster which poses threat to loss of high yielding varieties and reliance on exotic varieties. There is lack of gene bank for seed storage at Rokupr Agricultural Research Centre (RARC). Most of the seeds used by farmers are adulterated.</p> <p>The need for production of HYV including varietal maintenance is crucial in enhancing stable and sustainable supply of HYV for increased production and productivity. This will contribute to meeting strategic objective 1 of the Feed Salone Programme (import substitution of staples).</p>											
12. Goal and objective:	<p>Overall Objective: To enhance the production of high yielding seed vars to achieve food security by 2029</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Specific Objectives 1</th> <th>Output 1</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. To purify existing varieties</td> <td>1-1. Five (5) existing seed varieties purified.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. To identify and evaluate locally preferred varieties for selection</td> <td>1-2. Four (4) locally preferred varieties identified and evaluated for selection.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. To develop four (4) new seed varieties for four lowland agroecology</td> <td>1-3. Four (4) new lowland seed varieties developed.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Support community on-farm seed multiplication in the six (6) targeted districts</td> <td>1-4. Community on-farm seed multiplication supported in the six (6) targeted districts seeds distributed to farmers and seed entities.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Specific Objectives 1	Output 1	1. To purify existing varieties	1-1. Five (5) existing seed varieties purified.	2. To identify and evaluate locally preferred varieties for selection	1-2. Four (4) locally preferred varieties identified and evaluated for selection.	3. To develop four (4) new seed varieties for four lowland agroecology	1-3. Four (4) new lowland seed varieties developed.	4. Support community on-farm seed multiplication in the six (6) targeted districts	1-4. Community on-farm seed multiplication supported in the six (6) targeted districts seeds distributed to farmers and seed entities.
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		2-2. Preferred varieties in the targeted districts released and maintained.
		2-3. Locally preferred varieties distributed to farmers and seed entities (seed producers).
	Specific Objective 3	Outputs 3
	Improvement in breeding activities	3-1. Desired traits for breeding identified.
		3-2. New varieties developed.
		3-3. Multi-location testing of varieties for yield, adaptability, disease and pest resistance.
13. Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify local varieties for purification 2. Purify seeds 3. Identify farmers and seed entities for distribution of purified seeds. 4. Carry out certified seeds production 5. Distribute CS to farmers for paddy production 	
14. Expected Impact	Delivery of high-quality rice seeds for optimal yields and rice self-sufficiency, food security including improved livelihoods	