Sierra Leone Concept note 5: **Support to strengthen linkages between research and extension services**	
1. Title (Full name)	Support to strengthen linkages between research and extension services
2. Project Location:	Kono,Moyamba, Tonkalili, Kambia
3. Implementing Agencies	SLeCAD, NAFSL, SLeSCA, SLRA, SLIEPA
4. Beneficiaries	Women and Youth Farmers, Private Sector, Rice SMEs, Agro-dealers, , Transport
5. Target Group	Women, youths, disable, Farmers, SMEs, Private sector
6. Type of project:	1. Grant 2. Technical Coop./Assistance, 3. National budget
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. Other (specify below)
8. Suggested Funding sources	AFDB, ISDB, BADEA, World Bank, EU, Master Card Foundation, UN Agencies, Irish Aid
9. Budget (USD)	$40 Million
10. Duration of the project:	5 years
11. Background / Justification	Rice is the most economically important food crop in the country. It has become necessary to meet the demand of the country's current population growth rate, and the least costly means for achieving this aim is to increase rice production and productivity principally due to poor infrastructure along the rice value chain. Therefore, effort should focus on sourcing funding to improve on these gaps to enhance the increase in the production and productivity of rice. Some of these gaps are improving on market access and linkages through feeder road improvement and support in the provision of post-harvest infrastructures (processing facilities - drying floors, threshers, storage).

12. Goal and objectives	**Overall Objective:** Improving infrastructure to increase the production and productivity of rice in Sierra Leone	
	Specific Objective 1	Output 1
	Improving market access and linkages for rice through feeder road improvement	1-1. 700 km feeder road constructed.
		1-2. Forty (40) units of processing facilities (drying floors, threshers and storage provided).

	Specific Objective 2	Outputs 2
	Training and retraining of extension agents	2-1. Five hundred (500) extension agents trained.
		2-2. Monitoring and evaluation personnels trained
	Specific Objective 3	Output 3
	Support in the provision of post-harvest infrastructures- processing facilities-(drying floors, threshers, storage)	3-1. Economic and business feasibility study for all operational districts conducted
		3-2. Stakeholder's validation workshop of feasibility studies conducted.
		3-3. contractors to supply the infrastructures identify and selected.
		3-4. Prepare and send out bid documents.
		3-5. contractor recruited.
		3-6. infrastructures procured and installed.
13. Activities	1. Identify roads leading to rice production sites.	
	2. Review the identified roads with stakeholders.	
	3. Prepare and send out bids documents.	
	4. Select contractors to implement the project.	
	5. Carry out a need assessment of the knowledge gaps of the extension agents.	
	6. Select the extension agents to be trained.	
	7. Trained the extension agents both by in-house training and external trainings.	
	8. Deploy extension agents for the dissemination of research findings to farmers.	
14. Expected Impact:	1. Improved market access for rice 2. Improve income for farmers and service providers 3. Create jobs 4. Reduce rice import by 20% 5. Achieve import substitution 6. Reduce poverty in rural communities	