

BRAC Holds "Food Security And Rural Capacity Building Project" Inception Event

BRAC Liberia on Thursday, December 2, 2021 held a one-day project inception event on "Liberia Food Security and Rural Capacity Building Project".

Liberia Food Security and Rural Capacity Building Project, implemented by BRAC Liberia, is a three-year (January 2021-December 2023) project funded by USA Based Private Foundation.

The overall objective of the project is to increase the income of targeted farmers from agricultural production and poultry rearing, increase the agricultural yields of targeted farmers and improve household food consumption score.

Agriculture is the production sector most affected by climate change and also one of the largest contributors (about 27%) to climate change. Making farmers and agriculture systems more resilient to climate change is a priority area; therefore, the project is promoting Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) technologies in all its interventions.

The project will target three counties in Liberia: Bong, Nimba and Montserrado. These locations are chosen primarily based on their agriculture potential, food insecurity, malnutrition levels and alignment with the USAID Liberia Mission selected zone of influence. The project will directly target 7,500 new smallholder households, including about 2,512 very poor households with severe or moderate food insecurity and about 4,988 moderately poor households.

The project also seeks capacity building and start-up support to smallholder farmers on climate smart agriculture.

The capacity building and start-up input support to community-based service providers include food diversity and nutrition awareness campaign, cooking demonstration and gender awareness workshops.

Under the project, capacity building on gender, women economic

empowerment, youth employment and nutrition awareness with strong engagement of Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection will be focused.

The project will quarterly engage with officials of the Agriculture Ministry at the central and county levels via project sites, visits for observation and knowledge exchange on modern production technology, crop and livestock diseases and monitoring.

The project's inception event, held at a local hotel in Monrovia, brought together national and county-level government officials, INGO partners, UN-FAO, USAID representative, farmers from Bong, Nimba and Montserrado counties and stakeholders in the agriculture sector in Liberia.

In her opening remarks, the Interim Country Director of BRAC Liberia, Paroma Afsara Husain, outlined the achievements of BRAC globally and in Liberia.

She said in 1972, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed founded BRAC in Bangladesh to create opportunities for millions of people living in poverty.

BRAC has expanded in other developing countries with a distinctive integrated approach, adapted to each country context.

BRAC has been operating in Liberia since 2008 through two entities: BRAC NGO and BRAC Microfinance Company Limited. BRAC Liberia works in 12 of Liberia's 15 counties in 32 branches, and has reached about 520,000 people.

The Interim CD of BRAC noted that the institution's expertise through decades of implementing programs across multiple sectors is currently being applied in ten countries outside Bangladesh.