



Liberia Seed Sector Investment Round Table

Concept Note and Seed Roadmap Summary



CGIAR
SCALING FOR
IMPACT



Technologies for African
Agriculture Transformation





Liberia!
Towards an effective
seed system
that will enhance the
adoption of innovative
technologies for
food systems
transformation



1. Introduction and Continental Context

Food security across the African continent has been increasingly affected by climate change, conflicts, pests and diseases, as well as broader global economic shocks. More recently, the Russia–Ukraine conflict triggered a major food crisis in Africa by disrupting grain supply chains and access to critical agricultural inputs. In response, the African Development Bank (AfDB) established the African Emergency Food Production Facility (AEFPF) as a rapid-response framework to mitigate the impacts of the crisis across the continent. The AEFPF built on AfDB’s experience in responding to previous crises—most notably the COVID-19 pandemic—during which the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) program played an integral role in supporting countries to accelerate agricultural production under the auspices of the African Union’s Special Emergency Assistance Fund.

Through the AEFPF, TAAT and its CGIAR-led consortium of

partners supported countries to strengthen seed systems, expand access to certified seeds and fertilizers, and built institutional capacity. As a result, 5.9 million farmers were reached, 476,000 metric tons of certified seeds were distributed, and 17.2 million metric tons of additional food production, ultimately benefiting over 10 million farmers and doubling yields in many cases.

2. TAAT’s Facilitation of Seed Roadmaps and Investment Plans: The Sierra Leone Example

The Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) Programme supports African Development Bank Regional Member Countries in developing national seed roadmaps and investment plans to address seed system gaps and improve access to quality certified seeds. These roadmaps provide demand-driven frameworks, covering seed needs assessments, stakeholder mapping, and prioritized interventions aligned with national agricultural plans. They identify actionable solutions across policy, institutional, financial, technical, and market systems to strengthen productivity and food security. To date, TAAT has supported the development of seed roadmaps in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, and Cameroon.

The Sierra Leone National Seed Roadmap illustrates the catalytic role of these instruments in mobilising political commitment and investment. A Partners’ Roundtable convened with the support of President Julius Maada Bio secured USD 67 million from development partners, while IFI- and TFP-funded projects have begun integrating roadmap priorities into their investments. Aligned with the Feed Salone Vision, the roadmap provides a pathway for strengthening the national seed industry and improving farmers’ access to quality certified seeds.





High-level delegation at the 2024 Liberia Seed Business Summit

3. The Liberia Seed Roadmap and Investment Plan

The Six-year National Agriculture Development Plan (NADP; 2024–2030), the Corporate Strategic Plan, and the Dakar 2 Liberia Compact served as strategic entry points for the development of the seed roadmap. Building on these frameworks, the roadmap development was operationalised through a government-led Seed Summit process that mobilised political leadership, technical partners, and stakeholders to identify seed system constraints for priority value chains, and develop a coordinated investment plan to strengthen access to quality seed and improve agricultural productivity.



3.1. Priority Value Chains Targeted

The National Agriculture Development Plan (NADP; 2024–2030) identifies cassava, maize, rice, and aquaculture as priority value chains for improving food security, nutrition, and incomes in Liberia. Soybean, alongside maize, is also prioritized

to support diversification of food systems and strengthen livestock and poultry production through animal feed supply. The NADP emphasizes investment in production and efficient delivery of high-quality seeds, planting materials, and fish seed to farmers to improve productivity. The Liberia Seed Roadmap and Investment Plan align with these priorities by focusing on the same strategic value chains.

3.2. Organisation of the Seed Summit

Recognizing the critical role of seeds, planting materials, and fish fingerlings in driving the agricultural sector, the government of Liberia in collaboration with TAAT organised a seed summit in March 2024 in Monrovia to develop the seed roadmap and investment plan that ensures a sustainable seed system for priority commodities (cassava, maize, rice, aquaculture, and soybean).

3.3. The Role of Political Leadership and Partnership

The Office of the President, together with the Honorable Ministers of Agriculture, Education and Youth and Sports, actively participated throughout the summit, providing policy guidance to the process and demonstrating the government’s commitment to seed sector development. Stakeholders engagement helped define priority activities, resource needs, and the budgets for producing and supplying climate-smart, high-yielding, consumer-preferred crop varieties and fish breeds, as well as the production and supply of early generation and certified seeds and fingerlings to meet national demand. The involvement of Technical and Financial partners further strengthened joint ownership and support for roadmap implementation.



3.4. Highlights of the Seed Roadmap and Investment Plan

To meet 25% of the national demand for rice, Liberia will need **4,442 MT** of certified/commercial seeds beginning from 2025, increasing gradually to **6,116 MT by 2030**, covering 106,126 hectares and producing **335,000 tons of paddy** with a budget of **USD 21.16 million**. The targeted cassava production will require **5 million cuttings in 2025**, increasing to **50 million by 2030**, to cover 5,000 ha and generate **150,000 MT** of roots during the same period with a **USD 45 million** budget.

Maize will require **2,500 MT** of certified seeds in 2025 to plant 100,000 ha, increasing to **3,118 MT by 2030** to plant 124,700 ha and produce about **190,000 tons of grain**, for a total budget of **USD 22.58 million**. **Soybean** is a newly introduced crop to support the poultry and livestock sectors; the initial production of certified seeds in 2025 is scheduled at 225 tons, with a progressive increase to **1,125 MT**, generating **27,692 MT of grain by 2030 at USD 6.01 million**. The number of fish fingerlings is predicted to increase from **27,000** in 2025/2026 to **198,904 by 2029/2030**, boosting fish production from 21,600 tons in 2025/2026 to 50,000 tons by 2029/2030 with a budget of **USD 13.30 million**. *Financing will be mobilised from both*



the public and private sectors, depending on the priority value chains. Planned activities and budget allocations may be adjusted as needed, based on evolving financial conditions and implementation priorities.

3.5. Progress since the Development of the Seed Roadmap and Investment Plan in Liberia

Liberia has made substantial progress in strengthening its seed system through the full operationalisation of the Seed Development and Certification Agency (SDCA) as the national regulatory authority, supported by reactivated governance structures, financial systems, and approved work plans. The development and validation of ECOWAS-aligned seed certification systems, together with the introduction of a national certified seed quality seal have established a standardised, enforceable framework for quality assurance, thereby reducing counterfeit seeds and enabling regional market participation. Additionally, advances under the EU-funded Seeds4Liberia initiative, including training of the first cohort of certified seed professionals, and registration of private seed companies are laying the foundation for a market-driven seed industry. These efforts are reinforced by availability of improved high-yielding varieties, stronger coordination across key agricultural institutions, and a clear government commitment to eliminate uncertified seeds, collectively positioning Liberia to scale productivity and farmer adoption of quality seeds.

3.6. The Rationale of the Seed Sector Partners Round Table

Significant investment opportunities exist in Liberia's seed sector, driven by strong national demand for improved seed to support food security priorities and availability of improved varieties and breeds from CGIAR, NARS, the private sector and other partners. These opportunities are further strengthened by government's commitment and regional seed market integration. However, a major constraint remains the absence of coordinated investment platforms to effectively link public priorities with private capital and development finance. The Seed Sector Partners Investment Roundtable therefore serves as a deal-oriented platform to mobilise and align investments, structure partnerships, and accelerate the commercialisation and scaling of quality seed systems

in Liberia.

Outcomes: These include increased productivity and production, improved food security, reduced imports, improved livelihoods, reduced poverty and strengthened value chains.

3.7. Structure of the Round Table

Diagnostics and Opportunities

- State of the seed sector overview
- Investment opportunities Presentation
- Partner and stakeholder mapping

Deal Structuring and Commitments

- Thematic investment sessions
- Investor roundtables and B2B meetings
- Financing mechanisms and PPP dialogue
- Commitment session and next steps
- Post-round table Monitoring and Evaluation framework.

Private Sector Engagement Track

- Session for seed companies and financial intermediaries to present investment-ready business cases.

3.8. The Objectives and Outcomes

General Objective: To mobilise financial and technical partners to support the implementation of the five-year seed roadmap and investment plan in strengthening Liberia's seed sector.

Specific Objectives

1. To showcase priority seed sector investments across value chains.
2. To engage development finance institutions (DFIs), donors, and private investors.
3. To promote public-private partnerships (PPPs) and blended finance models.
4. To align Stakeholder Investments by harmonising ongoing and planned interventions.
5. Define priority financing areas and mechanisms (2026–2030).

Expected Outcomes

- Technical and Financial Partners, large-scale investment projects, and the private sector aligned around the seed roadmap's facilitation role in agricultural transformation.
- Partners committed financing and technical support to expand the supply of quality seeds to farmers.
- Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs) were strengthened to support sustainable seed sector investment.
- Investment commitments were consolidated to finance and coordinate technical assistance for seed system development.
- The national seed sector partnership platform was reinforced to support implementation of the seed policy, roadmap, and investment plan.
- Next steps were agreed to advance implementation of the decisions reached

4. Participants

Key Development and Financial Partners in Liberia: AfDB, World Bank, FAO, IFAD, WFP, EU, France (Agence Française de Développement), UNDP, GIZ, Ireland, JICA, and Chinese projects, large-scale agricultural investment projects funded by the International Finance Institutions (IFIs), and commercial Banks.

National Stakeholders: Office of the President, Ministry of Agriculture, CARI, Agricultural-Related Universities, National Seed Board (NSD), Farmer Organisation (NaFAA), Seed companies, LACRA, etc.

TAAT and Partners: The African Development Bank, Ministries of Agriculture of Benin, Guinea, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, and Sierra Leone, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Gates Foundation, Africa Agricultural Leadership Institute (AALI), BASICS-II Project, AfricaRice, African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), WorldFish Centre, and Seed Companies.



A cross-section of participants at the 2024 Seed Business Summit



6. Date and Venue

Agenda

Liberia Seed Sector Investment Round Table

30th April 2026 at Royal
Grand Hotel Monrovia

Time	Activity	Responsible
09:00 – 09:15	Introduction of Participants	Ministry of Agriculture
09:15 – 09:25	Short Video	TAAT
09:25 – 09:35	Welcome Address	Hon. Minister of Agriculture
09:35 – 09:45	Goodwill messages	IITA/TAAT, AfDB, IsDB, Gates Foundation.
09:45 – 09:55	Keynote Address	Office of the President
09:55 – 10:10	State of the Seed Sector (agric. Potential, challenges and seed sector interventions)	Ministry of Agriculture - DG Seed Development and Certification Agency (SDCA)
10:10 – 10:20	Government five-year agricultural transformation plan (NADP 2025-2030)	Deputy Minister for Planning MOA
10:20 – 10:35	The Seed Roadmap and Investment Plan (2025 – 2030)	Ministry of Agriculture & TAAT
10:35 – 11:00	Coffee Break	All Participants
11:00 – 12:30	Partners Roundtable discussion and commitments	Hon. Minister of Finance Hon. Minister of Agriculture
12:30 – 12:40	Post-roundtable Communication	Deputy Minister for Planning MOA
12:40 – 13:00	Next Steps, Conclusions, Vote of Thanks and closing	Office of the President
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break/End of Round Table	