



THE CASSAVA TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

END-LIFE BROCHURE

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FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

Cassava has long been a cornerstone of Liberia's food security, livelihoods, and cultural heritage. Today, it stands poised to play an even greater role as a catalyst for economic transformation, job creation, and industrial development. The Cassava Transformation Project (CASTRAP) embodied this vision, bridging the gap between smallholder farmers, processors, entrepreneurs, and national stakeholders to unlock the full potential of this vital crop.

However, all projects eventually reach their conclusion. The Cassava Transformation Project, funded by the European Union under the West Africa Competitiveness (WACOMP) Programme, has now officially ended. With the steadfast support of dedicated partners and stakeholders, we have surmounted the unthinkable and delivered transformation to the cassava value chain. These achievements, detailed in the pages that follow, reflect the dedication, innovation, and resilience of all involved.

I would be remiss not to acknowledge the selfless efforts of the CERATH team under the leadership of Isaac Donkor, and subsequently Derek Adabie. I also acknowledge the invaluable contributions of partners, institutions, and individuals who played pivotal roles in this journey. Your commitment has made these successes possible.

Fellow sector colleagues, while the project has ended, the work of advancing Liberia's agricultural sector, particularly the cassava value chain, continues. The impact stories and feedback from the independent evaluation affirm that this initiative has left a lasting mark — one that will inspire further investment, collaboration, and innovation in the sector.

I am reminded of the words of Ina Duley Ogdon from the hymn *Brighten the Corner Where You Are*, stanza 3:

*"Here for all your talent you may surely find a need,
Here reflect the bright and Morning Star;
Even from your humble hands the Bread of Life may feed,
Brighten the corner where you are."*

Through this project, we have endeavored to serve the people of Liberia, brightening the corner where we found ourselves and advancing the goal of improving the cassava sector.

Is this the end of CERATH's journey in Liberia's agricultural sector? Certainly not. As Albert Einstein once said, "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow." Building on the lessons learned, and with hope for tomorrow, we remain committed to strengthening the foundations laid by this project, developing new interventions, and extending our reach to additional counties in Liberia.

In conclusion, CERATH is profoundly grateful to the European Union for this opportunity, which has had lasting positive impacts on our organization. On a personal note, it has been an honor to serve in this capacity. May God bless Liberia and all who continue to work towards its prosperity.

Paa Kofi Osei-Owusu,

Director, West Africa

CERATH Development Organization

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The CERATH Development Organization (CDO) extends its sincere gratitude to the European Union (EU) for its generous funding of the Cassava Transformation Project under the West Africa Competitiveness Program (WACOMP). CDO also expresses appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture for its guidance and support during the implementation of this project.

Furthermore, we would like to acknowledge the contributions of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, the Cooperative Development Agency (CDA), the Ministry of Commerce, the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI), the County Authorities of Sinoe, Grand Kru, Maryland, River Gee, and Grand Geedeh counties, and all other partners for their active collaboration throughout the project. CDO extends sincere gratitude to the County Agricultural Officers for their invaluable expertise, guidance, and insights, which significantly contributed to the project's success.

Additionally, CDO expresses appreciation to the former and the latter CASTRAP project managers, the lead technical officer, and all staff members for their dedicated efforts throughout the project implementation phase.

We extend our profound appreciation to the cassava producers and processors within the project landscape for their collaboration and readiness to embrace innovative technologies in cassava production and processing.

And finally, we thank God for His guidance.



MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

When I look back to late 2020, I remember the silence. Not the peaceful kind, but the silence of abandonment. The kind that comes when opportunities are announced, and one by one, institutions quietly step away. When the European Union set out to find a partner to implement Liberia's national component of the West Africa Competitiveness Programme in the cassava sector, many organizations declined. Not because the vision was weak, but because the road was hard. Southeast Liberia had poor roads. Limited telecommunications. Long stretches where you could not call your family. Where emergencies felt farther away. Where the cost of doing development was higher than the comfort of staying away.

But CERATH Development Organization did not walk away. *We stepped forward.*

I stepped forward because this is home. Because I could see clearly, farmers who had waited too long. Mothers who worked in cassava fields without markets. Youth who knew how to farm but had no pathway to dignity. And CERATH believed that where others saw difficulty, there was responsibility. That decision gave birth to the **Cassava Transformation Project, CASTRAP**, Liberia's national component under WACOMP, funded by the European Union and implemented from April 16, 2021, to 2025. Its goal was simple but bold: to enhance the competitiveness and regional integration of Liberia's cassava sector through sustained production, value addition, entrepreneurship, and sustainable markets.

What followed was not easy. But it was real. Across Sinoe, Grand Kru, Grand Gedeh, Maryland, and River Gee, we worked with 1,500 smallholder farmers, 10 cooperatives, 20 agribusinesses, regulators, financial institutions, and communities that had every reason to doubt promises. And yet, they trusted the process. Today, I stand proud to say that 10 farmer cooperatives are fully licensed, with 1,063 farmers organized, including 610 women, 408 youth, and 14 persons with disabilities. These are not numbers on paper. These are families now visible in the system. We supported farmers with improved cassava varieties. 577,631 improved cuttings reached 985 farmers. Through Farmer Field Schools, 1,746 farmers were trained in climate-smart agriculture. Yield per hectare rose from 2.7 metric tons in 2021 to 15.66 metric tons today. That is not an improvement. That is a transformation.

We moved from raw roots to real value. Where processing once meant rudimentary tools and lost income, today there are 13 integrated production, processing, and commercialization systems across the five counties. Some are fully funded by the project. Some were built through cost-sharing. Others renovated. In Sinoe, a fully equipped incubation and resource center now stands as proof that rural counties can drive innovation. Over 100 processors, mostly women and youth, now produce gari, super gari, starch, HQCF, cassava bread, and chips. Nearly 300 processors were trained in quality

management systems. For the first time, cassava products from six MSMEs were tested and certified by the National Standards Laboratory, now Liberia Standards Authority, connecting local efforts to national standards.

But development is not only about production. It is about resilience.

Through 29 Village Savings and Loan Associations, over 1,100 people, most of them women, learned to manage money, save together, and invest in their futures. By September 2025, these groups saved 49.5 million Liberian dollars, disbursed 52.4 million in loans, and achieved 100 percent loan recovery. That is trust. That is discipline. That is power shifting to communities. We also engaged in policy. We supported the development of the National Agricultural and Rural Financing Framework. We contributed to strengthening Liberia's quality infrastructure by supporting the enactment of the Liberian Standards Authority, now headed by my good friend Hon. Stephen Mambu, a strong professional who believes Liberia can surpass other West African countries in quality. We played our part in processes that strengthened the systems governing trade and standards in this country. Along the way, we learned hard lessons. About accountability. About the dangers of one-man control. About why strong governance matters more than good intentions. We adjusted. We created safeguards. We stayed honest about what worked and what did not.

And today, when I return to these counties, I no longer see cassava as just a crop. I see organized farmers. I see women running enterprises. I see youth who can stay rather than migrate. I see savings books, not empty promises. I see dignity. Now it's time to find a way to build on the progress and the foundation laid to move the cassava sector in the southeast forward. This is what happens when development is done with courage.

CERATH did not ignore the odds because we were fearless. We ignored them because communities mattered more. And I am deeply grateful to the European Union, our partners, our team, and most importantly, the farmers who believed even when the road was still bad, and the signal was still weak.

This work will outlive the project.

And that, for me, is the true measure of success.

Thank you.

Leroy N. S. Kanmoh

Country Director, Liberia

CERATH Development Organization

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CASSAVA TRANSFORMATION PROJECT IN BRIEF

PROJECT GOAL

Enhancing the competitiveness and regional integration of Liberia's cassava sector through a value chain approach focused on sustained production, value addition, entrepreneurship, and sustainable markets.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES



Strengthened efficiency of actors engaged in the cassava value chain to improve access to inputs and markets.



Enhance production, processing, and commercialization of the cassava value chain.



Cassava value chain enhanced to be financially sustainable, and commercially viable.

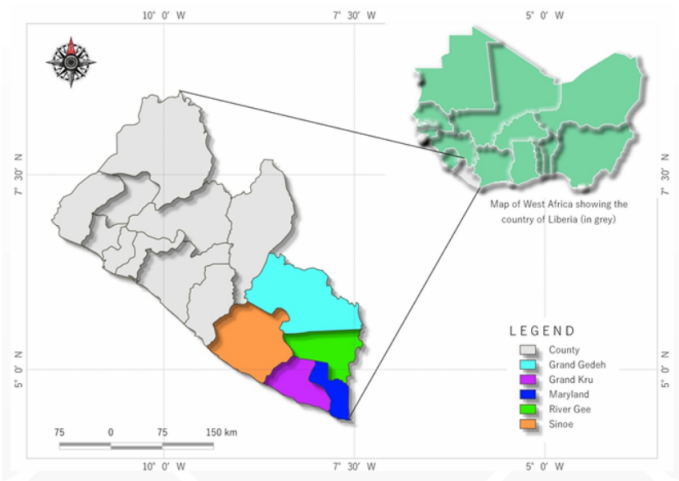


Policies, programs, and incentives to stimulate the commercialization of the cassava sector advocated for and implemented



TARGET AREAS

The project was conducted in the five counties that constitute the South Eastern Landscape of Liberia; Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland, Grand Kru, and Sinoe



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



PROJECT APPROACH

Assessment

(Pre-activity, implementation and post-activity)

Technology needs assessment

Cooperative assessment

Market Study

(to understand the context and tailor support)

GESI Study

Cassava market study

Business Support Services

(business plan development)

Linkages

Trade fair & B2B

Contracts

(defining roles and responsibilities)

MoU to support Coops

Local subsidy contracts

Competency based training

(practical training)

Production: GAPs, FFS

Processing: QMS

Financial support

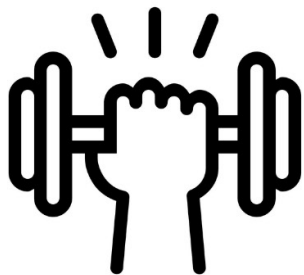
Grant call, equipment

Partnership/ Advocacy

IDH, IRFFS, NARFF



OBJECTIVE ONE



Strengthened efficiency of actors engaged in the cassava value chain to improve access to inputs, and markets.



KEY MILESTONES ACHIEVED

1



Before CASTRAP

Cooperative, but it had expired.
CASTRAP, in its first year,
supported this group in renewing
its license

CDA licensed.

Achievement of Results

1063 farmers (**632** males, **431**
females, **439** youth and **15** PwDs)
organised around **10** cooperatives

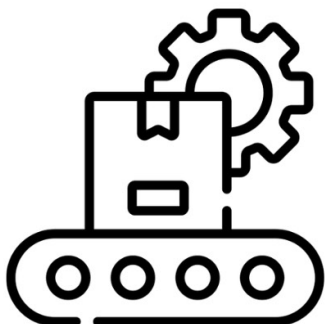
*This was achieved in partnership with the
Cooperative Development Agency (CDA)*

10

cooperatives acquired
CDA license



OBJECTIVE TWO



Enhanced production, processing, and commercialization of the cassava value chain.



RESULTS ACHIEVED

PRODUCTION

Farmers Yield at baseline

(2021) average yield per hectare in the 5 counties was **2.7mt/ha**)

As a result of the CASTRAP's Farmer Field School (FFS) program the average yield per hectare has increased to hectare 23.49mt/ha per unit area compared to baseline figures from 2021.



143.9



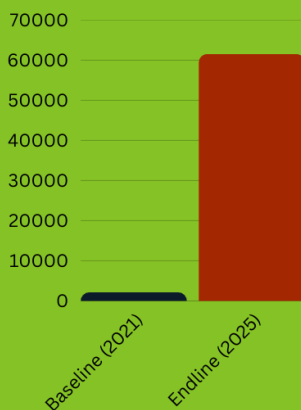
acres of land under improved cassava cultivation

1746



1746 cassava farmers including **1086** women, **665** youths, and **17** PWDs trained in climate-smart practices

Volumes of cassava produced annually (metric tonnes)



24



Demonstration farms and **12** nurseries with a capacity of **2** hectares established across the **5** counties through the FFS approach

985



farmers have access to approximately **577,631** improved cassava cuttings

VALUE ADDITION

Typical processing facilities and
Existing processing equipment in
the Southeast prior to CASTRAP
intervention



13

functional integrated production, processing, and
commercialization systems (IPPCs) established
across the five counties

5

fully funded by the project

4

on a cost-sharing basis with
the groups

3

existing renovated and
equipped by the project

1

incubation and resource centre
established in Sinoe County

106



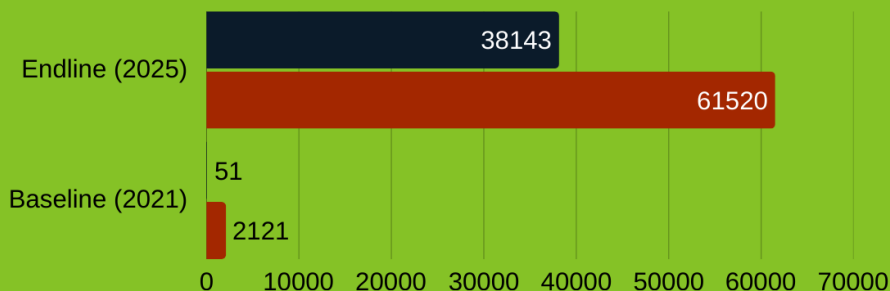
processors, including 67% females,
42% youth, & 2% people with
disabilities across 14 enterprises,
trained in the processing of gari,
super gari, starch, HQCF, cassava
bread, and chips.

292



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Volume of Cassava Produced vrs Volme of Cassava



13 sample cassava products from 6 MSMEs to the National Standards Laboratory of the Liberia Standards Authority (LiSA) for testing and certification. The products include gari, super gari, dipper, fufu powder, and cassava flour



National Quality Awards

Through the project quality management system support, four processing enterprises were honoured with the prestigious National Quality Award from the Liberia Standards Authority during the World Quality Day. This recognition was bestowed upon the enterprises for their exceptional performance in meeting and exceeding the minimum quality standards during the 2025 National Quality Assessment. These enterprises have demonstrated a strong commitment to quality

and innovation, setting a benchmark in the food industry and showcasing their dedication to continuous improvement and excellence in food safety.

Below are the names of enterprises and the award categories





OBJECTIVE THREE



Cassava value chain
enhanced to be financially
sustainable, and
commercially viable





29 VSLA Formation

VSLAs established across 5 counties since April 2022. Note: As of the close of the project, 26 groups are functional

1109 Beneficiaries trained

(865 females (78%), 244 males, 437 youth, 23 PwDs) beneficiaries trained in financial management.

27% Interest Earned

All 26 groups completed at least two full savings cycles. Members earned avg. interest of 27% p.a on savings.



49.5 Amount Saved

49.5 million LD (approximately USD \$267,810,000) has been saved by the 27 groups across the five counties as of September 2025.

52.4 Amount Distributed

52.4 million LD (approximately USD 283,697.30) has been disbursed in loans to 743 members from the 27 VSLAs established across the five counties as of September 2025, with a recovery of 100 percent.



Incubation and Resource Centre

The Incubation and Resource Centre, located in Greenville, Sinoe County, is a key investment in advancing cassava agribusiness in southeast Liberia. The centre was established under the Cassava Transformation Project (CASTRAP), implemented by a consortium led by CERATH Development Organization with funding from the European Union.

Designed as a hub for training, innovation, and enterprise development, the centre focuses on improving value addition along the cassava value chain. It supports commercial processing of gari, high-quality cassava flour, starch, and fufu powder, while providing a reliable market for cassava producers in the Greenville, Butaw, and Kpanyan districts. Revenues from product sales form the backbone of the centre's operational sustainability.

Beyond processing, the centre delivers practical training in cassava processing techniques, climate-smart agriculture, food safety and quality assurance, as well as business management and entrepreneurship. It also offers business incubation and advisory services, including coaching, mentorship, and support for enterprise development.

A core principle of CASTRAP is shared ownership. For all construction and support to private enterprises, the project encourages contributions from beneficiaries



to strengthen commitment and long-term sustainability. In line with this approach, Natemujee Agrio-Resources (NAR), a project beneficiary, contributed land, materials, and labor for the centre and now owns and operates the facility under an agreed framework.

Technical design, construction oversight, equipment, and advisory support were provided by CASTRAP. The centre is managed by NAR, led by Managing Director Morris Q. Wiah, with post-project monitoring and support from the Ministry of Agriculture (Liberia) through the Sinoe County Agriculture Coordinator.

The Incubation and Resource Centre reflects a practical, private sector-driven model for sustaining cassava value chain gains, strengthening local enterprises, and expanding economic opportunities in southeast Liberia.



OBJECTIVE FOUR



Policies, programs, and incentives to stimulate the commercialization of the cassava sector advocated for and implemented.

Existing cassava/agriculture-related policies and programs were reviewed and updated.

01 National Agricultural and Rural Financing Framework Developed

02 Supported the National Standards Laboratory (NSL) to develop and upgrade the national quality infrastructure (NQI) of Liberia



IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

CDA-RELATED CONSTRAINTS



Earlier on, CDA perceived itself as a service provider instead of being a partner (on the project)

Absence of some CDA personnel from their operational counties

Limited institutional capacity at the county level

Thus, impeded the smooth transitioning of farmer groups into cooperatives

1

2



ILLITERACY AND DATA CAPTURE

High illiteracy rates (among beneficiaries) served as a great barrier to effective records keeping

3

ORGANIZATIONAL SETUP OF FARMER GROUPS

A couple of the farmer groups revolved entirely around the vision bearer, creating a “one-man show” scenario

Observed mainly with faith-based groups

Major group decisions were deferred to this single person

This *one-man* desired to control all financial activities of the group, even though a financial secretary was at post

Resulting in poor accountability structures and mismanagement of group funds



4

INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIT IN THE SOUTH-EAST

Poor road networks impeded the movement of the project team, the conduct of activities, and the delivery of project materials

Limited telecommunication connectivity was a barrier to timely communication with beneficiaries across the counties



5

LAND TENURE CONSTRAINTS

Insecure land access hampered farm expansion and large-scale cassava production

Challenge was even greater among women and youth



LESSONS LEARNED

Farmer Organization and Capacity Building

01

Organizing farmers into cooperatives and building their management and production capacity improved coordination, access to inputs, and market participation.

02

Stakeholder Collaboration and Co-creation

Collaboration with CDA, CARI, and LiSA, and cost-sharing by processors and cooperatives enhanced ownership and sustainability.

Adaptive Project Management

03

Adjusting the project approach when CDA related to the project as a service provider (than as a partner) helped reduce costs and prevent stalling of planned activities.

Flexibility and adaptive management are essential in navigating institutional and operational challenges.

04

Mechanization and Technology Adoption

Mechanized weeders were not adopted by individual farmers due to cheaper traditional labour through the kuu support system.

Technology introduction must consider local cost structures and socio-cultural systems.

Adaptive Project Management

05

Three VSLAs collapsed due to leadership challenges and internal disputes.

Aside from providing training to beneficiary groups, ensuring the right leadership at all points in time is crucial for maintaining group cohesion and sustaining VSLAs.





SUCCESS STORIES



Mrs. Elsie G. Sackey

*CEO, Lydia Field
Agriculture Project
Processing Enterprise*

“

Even though we didn't know much about it at the time, we started the Lydia Field Agriculture Project because we loved growing and processing cassava. Despite our diligence and determination, our operations were proceeding slowly. At the time, our farm was barely 2.5 hectares in size, and we were mostly using locally produced equipment and simple processing techniques. Notwithstanding, we employed a technician to provide technical support, which also put a constant financial strain on us.

CASTRAP engaged us in 2022, which was a watershed moment for us. The project support took a significant load off our shoulders and revolutionised our overall

business operation. CASTRAP supplied us with new equipment, improved cassava planting materials, and hands-on technical training, which increased both our farming and processing capabilities.

With the project assistance, our farm has grown from 2.5 hectares to 14 hectares, greatly expanding our output capacity. Our processing, packing, and storage efficiency have increased thanks to the modern equipment provided by the project. Because of this, our monthly sales have increased from L\$60,000 to L\$125,000, indicating a notable increase in revenue and market penetration.

One significant accomplishment for which we are very grateful to CASTRAP is training in standard food quality control measures. As a result of this training, the Government of Liberia has today recognised the Lydia Field Agriculture Project processing centre as one of the producers of high-quality food products in the country—a milestone that reflects our growth, dedication, and improved operational standards.

Above all, we recognise that none of these accomplishments would have been possible without the assistance of the EU-funded Cassava Transformation Project. Their assistance has strengthened our capability, expanded our operations, and given us the ability to compete effectively in the cassava value chain. We are appreciative of their support.

”



Oretha Cooper

*Chairlady, Gbawanken
Tende Rural Women
Cooperative*

“

My name is Oretha Cooper, and I am the Chairlady of the Gbawanken Tende Rural Women Cooperative. I want to share the story of my cooperative and our work with the EU-funded Cassava Transformation Project (CASTRAP).

In 2022, negotiated a supply contract with the World Food Programme (WFP) to produce gari for its school feeding project. However, we had no dedicated processing centre, and the quality of our products was inconsistent. “This threatened the almost 0.7 metric ton/month contract with WFP.

Upon this development, we reached out to CASTRAP, who were already supporting us in various areas, including capacity-building training in cooperative development and training in climate-smart agriculture practices through the Farmer Field Schools approach.

We informed the project that we had negotiated a gari supply contract with WFP, but we lacked the capacity to meet the huge demand. We only had one old cassava grater machine sitting outdoors, where we processed gari. CASTRAP then accepted our business proposal and supported the construction of a processing centre equipped with all necessary gari-processing machinery. Additionally, the project built a sun-dryer for producing food-grade, high-quality cassava flour.

Today, thanks to this centre and the numerous training we received in value addition, including improved processing techniques, food safety, and quality management from CASTRAP, we now supply 3.4 metric tons of gari to schools across the Karluway District, Maryland County, every month under the WFP school feeding contract. “In sales value, we are getting approximately US\$2000 plus per month.

”



Madam Alecia Toe Keita

Chairperson, Panama Women for Future

“

Before CASTRAP intervention, we once faced limitations without a dedicated processing centre, confined to producing only gari at our individual homes using the traditional methods that were labour-intensive and time-consuming. It was just a hand-to-mouth thing. The construction of a turn-key mini-processing centre by CASTRAP has been a game-changer. The facility, equipped with essential machinery and a tricycle for transport, has dramatically enhanced our processing capabilities. CASTRAP taught us that it was possible to derive other products from cassava. We were amazed how it was possible. After receiving training, we have been doing it, and the products taste good.

We have a good marker for super gari, and the deepah, with the latter being a faster-selling product. We sell them in the main market in Greenville and the surrounding mining areas. For the super gari, we target various school campuses across Kpanyan and Greenville districts. Every month, the cooperative earns an average of 95,000 Liberian Dollars from selling products and charging for facility usage. The group has never made this much money from selling gari before CASTRAP came to help us. We thank CASTRAP for their support.

All of our women are very happy because they are making a real difference in the marketplace by producing fufu powder and bread from high-quality cassava flour. They are earning more money, which helps improve their livelihoods and support their families. To conclude, I want to thank the European Union and our CASTRAP family.

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Since 2018, we have been planting a local cassava variety called “Bassa Girl” and making fufu in our small kitchen in Polla village. We use local handmade tools. At that time, there were no clear standards for food safety or quality control. We primarily produced fufu for home consumption, selling only small quantities at local markets.

“In November 2021, CASTRAP started working with us after assessing our needs. With their support, we now have access to improved planting materials from the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) that produce more cassava and of higher quality. “We have multiplied the improved cuttings to the point where both our members and non-members are now cultivating it on their individual farms”. “Our cooperative farm size has also expanded significantly—from just 3 hectares

Mr Badio Yarl

Chairman, Badio Farmers' Cooperative

initially to 20 hectares, allowing us to increase production and meet growing market demand. Moreover, the training we received on value addition and food quality control has enabled us to diversify our product line. “We now produce traditional gari and super gari, both of which have gained significant attention in the market. “The introduction of these products has led to a remarkable surge in our sales volume, greatly benefiting the cooperative and its shareholders”. “The modern processing centre constructed by CASTRAP has the quality and efficiency of our production. Besides, the tricycle provided has significantly streamlined the transportation of raw materials and our finished products, enabling quicker and more efficient deliveries.

Because of the project support, our monthly fufu sales income increased dramatically, from L\$26,000 to L\$65,000. We used to generate between L\$50,000 and L\$70,000 per month from gari, but this has increased significantly to between L\$150,000 and L\$180,000 every month. Before we obtained the tricycle, my women and I would walk roughly 18 to 20 kilometres to get our fufu to the central market in Zwedru. Fortunately, the CASTRAP tricycle has completely changed our logistics, making operations considerably smoother and more efficient.

CASTRAP also helped us with both funding and guidance, enabling us to transform an informal farmers' group into a registered Farmers' Cooperative in Liberia, which is now called the Badio Farmers' Cooperative.

“This accomplishment has not only strengthened our unity but also boosted our business and raised our profile in Grand Gedeh County. Now that we have officially registered as a cooperative, we are eligible to apply for grants or loans from the government or various NGOs. Previously, we couldn't access these opportunities because we weren't recognised as a legal entity. We owe this progress to CASTRAP and the support from the EU.

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Lawrence K. Morgan

*Financial secretary,
Lawolo Village Savings
and Loan Association*

66

My name is Lawrence K. Morgan, and I serve as the financial secretary of the Lawolo Village Savings and Loan Association, which is part of the Well-Airnee Cassava Farmers' Cooperative. I would like to highlight the impact of CASTRAP on our village. Let me begin by informing you that CASTRAP is the first development organisation to engage with our village, Callava Kunoduki. In my nearly 50 years of life, I have not seen any development programmes in our village until now.

Our village is near the border with the Ivory Coast, so we regularly conduct our daily business in the nearby city in the Ivory Coast. This proximity has allowed us to engage deeply with our Ivorian neighbours, from whom we have learned how to process acheke from cassava.

In 2021, CASTRAP field officer Eric Weah visited us and learned that the women in our village were involved in processing acheke. He then informed us about the EU-funded Cassava Transformation project and offered to reach out to the office on our behalf. This engagement marks a turning point for our livelihoods and the overall development of our village. The project established a village and a loan association, and

supported the group in obtaining a license to become a licensed Cooperative Development Agency (CDA) of Liberia.

Fast forward: from our social funds from the VSLA, we began building a mini-processing centre on our own. However, the building was not well constructed because we lacked sufficient funds and skills in food processing and safety. We did not have modern equipment, and the floors and walls were not properly finished to keep food safe from dirt and other contaminants. We used simple hand-made tools and roasted the gari in regular cooking pots.

When CASTRAP saw our hard work, they decided to support the Well-Airnee Cassava Farmers' Cooperative Society with a matching grant. The grant helped us build our mini-cassava processing centre. We used the funds to tile the production floor, install doors, plaster the walls, and equip the centre. Thank you, CASTRAP.

Also, through the VSLA, many people in the village can now get loans to buy solar lights for their homes. "Most of our homes have light, and we are happy." Now, we also have cash-for-credit available in our village in case of emergencies

In February, during our second VSLA savings cycle share-out, we saved a total of 849,900 Liberian Dollars. I believe this amount will grow by the next share-out at the end of our third cycle. We are helping ourselves. All thanks to the project.

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Hon. Stephen Y. Mambu

*Director General,
Liberia Standards
Authority.*

Since October 2021, targeted investments have focused on strengthening Liberia's quality infrastructure for the cassava value chain, improving standards development, testing, certification, and quality assurance systems to support market access, trade facilitation, and competitiveness.

Through a structured partnership with the National Standards Laboratory (NSL) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, significant progress has been made in reinforcing Liberia's National Quality Infrastructure (NQI). This collaboration, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding in 2022, supported critical institutional and regulatory reforms, including contributions to the enactment of the Liberia Standards Authority (LiSA) Act and the revision and technical validation of the National Quality Policy.

These reforms were complemented by nationwide awareness efforts and the establishment of core institutional systems such as management policies, a strategic plan, a functional standards desk, and certification and technical services units.

Substantial investments were also directed toward strengthening LiSA's technical capacity to deliver effective quality infrastructure services. The Food Chemistry Laboratory is now accredited, following a series of targeted interventions that included equipment calibration, enhancements to quality management systems, staff training, and logistical support to enable consistent testing and data generation. The laboratory facility was refurbished to meet operational and safety requirements, further improving its functionality and service readiness.

To enhance accessibility and institutional visibility, LiSA's digital and communications infrastructure was upgraded through the establishment of an independent domain and the development of an institutional website, now available at www.lisa.gov.lr. These improvements have strengthened information sharing, service delivery, and engagement with stakeholders across the cassava value chain.

Capacity development efforts extended beyond national borders, with staff attachments to the Ghana Standards Authority and support for Liberia's membership in regional and international standards bodies, including the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the African Electrotechnical Standardization Commission (AFSEC). Collectively, these interventions have positioned the Liberia Standards Authority as a functional and credible national standards body, capable of sustaining quality infrastructure services and supporting Liberia's broader objectives in trade facilitation, industrial development, and regional integration.

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PHOTO GALLERY











WACOMP

The West Africa Competitiveness Programme aims to support a number of selected value chains at national and regional level to promote structural transformation and better access to regional and international markets, while taking into account social and environmental concerns. The WACOMP consists of one regional component and sixteen national components (15 ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania)

www.wacomp.ecowas.int