



FOREST and FARM FACILITY Country achievements



Liberia

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HIGHLIGHTS OF IMPACTS

- **Forest-related business opportunities among members of Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs) developed** with the Farmers Union Network of Liberia (FUN), following Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) support.
- **FFF Market Analysis and Development training for lead community entrepreneurs provided tools** for choosing products with the best marketing potential: bitter root, bitter kola, bush pepper, honey, rattan, snails.
- **Commodity associations established** with a development plan for their business options agreed on, and supported by FUN.
- **National Association of Charcoal Unions of Liberia (NACUL)** expanded and organized memberships and networks, strengthened organizational structures and capacities of member associations. NACUL was then able to engage in policy discussions for the development of new charcoal regulations approved in 2017.
- **Internal governance and sustainable forest practices of NACUL and the Liberia Chainsaw and Timber Dealers Union (LICSATDUN) improved** with FFF and FAO-EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme support.



MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE NUMBERS

- **FFPOs improved governance and outreach** as producers, traders registered in NACUL.
- **357 members advocated** for official regulations on charcoal.
- **60 small FFPO businesses incubated** by FUN. Forestry commodities association developed.
- **25 women's organizations connected** with the national Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, and with the Forestry Development Authority in Liberia, achieved with the support of the African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF).



A LIBERIAN SUCCESS STORY

Martha Sarmie has collected non-timber forest products (NTFP) in Nimba County for over eight years, and belongs to the Botanical Products Association of Liberia (BOTPAL). Through that producer organization and FFF, Martha was able to increase her income from sales of products from the xylopias plants and thus, was able to purchase five bundles of zinc to roof her house in Lepula, Gbehlay-Geh District, Nimba County. She also was able to voice her concerns to the local authorities about the need for more structured support to the NTFP sector. This all came after FFF provided a small grant requested by BOTPAL to help the organization become stronger by mobilizing greater membership among NTFP producers in Nimba County. The producer group helped producers to engage in policy debates on sustainable forest management and improved livelihoods at the local and county level. BOTPAL was able to mobilize and enlist 225 NTFP producers, sellers, and transporters – including 112 men and 113 women – in Nimba County. It conducted a major needs assessment of NTFP producers and helped structure the leadership of NTFP groups in those areas.



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LESSONS LEARNED

2.4 billion people worldwide depend on charcoal for cooking and heating, and 95 percent of Liberian population uses fuelwood for cooking. Therefore, collaborations between charcoal-based FFPOs in Liberia can contribute to better understanding of pathways to sustainable use and production.

Business coaches with FUN proved valuable since a coach supported member groups with tailored training, market links and exchanges, and supported the establishment of village savings and loan associations.



GENDER/YOUTH IMPACT

FFF initiated valuable partnerships with organizations building gender expertise, including a gender-sensitive value chain analysis that helped women gain status in charcoal production.

REFACOF supported FFF's country work in Liberia by mapping 21 women's organizations in forest landscapes.

Partners: Botanical Products Association of Liberia (BOTPAL); Farmers Union Network of Liberia (FUN); National Association of Charcoal Unions of Liberia (NACUL).

Government counterparts: Forestry Development Authority (FDA); National Forest and Landscape Forum (NFLF).