Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Hand-in-Hand Initiative

Liberia

HAND-IN-HAND INITIATIVE | 2026 INVESTMENT FORUM

IMPORTANT NOTES

FAO'S HAND-IN-HAND INITIATIVE

The investment opportunities presented in this document derive from government-led investment plans developed under FAO's Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative. The Initiative supports countries in identifying high-impact agrifood system investments through a combination of data-driven territorial analysis, value chain assessments, and close collaboration with national counterparts. Using the Hand-in-Hand Geospatial Platform, the Initiative integrates geospatial, biophysical, and socio-economic data to identify priority "green zones" where agricultural potential and poverty incidence overlap, creating strong opportunities for transformative investment. Based on these analyses, national governments lead the development of investment plans that identify priority value chains, key bottlenecks, and potential investments required to accelerate agrifood system transformation. These investment opportunities aim to raise incomes, improve nutrition, and empower poor and vulnerable populations, while strengthening resilience to climate change and supporting the sustainable management of natural resources. The Initiative focuses on territories where targeted investments can generate the greatest impact in reducing poverty and hunger, contributing to progress towards Sustainable Development Goals SDG1 (No Poverty), SDG2 (Zero Hunger), and SDG10 (Reduced Inequalities), while balancing economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

IMPORTANT CLARIFICATIONS

The opportunities presented in this document are derived from government investment plans and reflect national development priorities identified through the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. FAO provides analytical and technical support in the identification and assessment of these opportunities and facilitates engagement with potential partners. The concepts presented are indicative and require further structuring and discussion with the relevant governments and potential investors. This document therefore presents a pipeline of government-prioritized agrifood investment opportunities that have been pre-screened using FAO's Hand-in-Hand analytical tools. FAO can support interested partners by facilitating technical exchanges and follow-up discussions with relevant government counterparts.

IMPACT TAGS

Investment cases are classified across four impact areas to highlight their primary development contributions and ensure comparability across countries and value chains.

Livelihoods	Income, productivity, jobs, and market access
Gender & Youth	Inclusion and opportunities for women and young people
Planet & Environment	Climate resilience and sustainable resource management
Digital	Use of technology to improve efficiency and access

LIBERIA

A resource-rich, underexploited agrifood system with strong political stability and an open investment climate

KEY INVESTMENT SIGNALS

POPULATION

5.7M

(MILLION)

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 907

AGRICULTURAL LAND

4.2M ha

(MILLION HECTARES)

INVESTMENT CASE

STABLE & OPEN ECONOMY

- 20 years of uninterrupted peace, 3 consecutive fair elections
- 10th in Africa on the 2025 Global Peace Index
- Tax holidays up to 25 years; full profit repatriation
- Dual currency (USD/LDR); no foreign exchange risk

GROWING DOMESTIC DEMAND

- Only 51% of consumption is met by local production (strong unmet demand)
- Market size of US$5.1 billion in 2025
- Population of 5.7 million, growing 2.6%/year, with 65% under age 25

PROVEN INVESTOR CONFIDENCE

- US$5.1 billion in FDI inflows since 2010
- Duty-free/quota-free access under AfCFTA, ECOWAS ETLS, AGOA, EBA, and the Mano River Union
- Low labor costs (averaging US$5.50/day)

LIBERIA: INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

Closing the food-import gap and building agro-processing capacity across Liberia's staple and export value chains

INVESTMENT PLAN **LIBERIA**	INVESTMENT CASE **1. RICE**	INVESTMENT CASE **2. CASSAVA**	INVESTMENT CASE **3. COCOA**	INVESTMENT CASE **4. MAIZE**
IMPACT TAGS	IMPACT TAGS	IMPACT TAGS	IMPACT TAGS	IMPACT TAGS
INVESTMENT **USD 370.0 million**	INVESTMENT **USD 243.0 million**	INVESTMENT **USD 32.0 million**	INVESTMENT **USD 70.0 million**	INVESTMENT **USD 25.0 million**
NPV **USD 175.5 million**	NPV **USD 66.9 million**	NPV **USD 1.5 million**	NPV **USD 105.0 million**	NPV **USD 2.2 million**
AVG IRR **20.5%**	IRR **18.9%**	IRR **14.4%**	IRR **30.5%**	IRR **15.3%**
DIRECT BENEFICIARIES **23.9 thousand**	DIRECT BENEFICIARIES **10.0 thousand**	DIRECT BENEFICIARIES **4.9 thousand**	DIRECT BENEFICIARIES **5.0 thousand**	DIRECT BENEFICIARIES **4.0 thousand**
INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES **119.7 thousand**	INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES **50.0 thousand**	INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES **24.7 thousand**	INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES **25.0 thousand**	INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES **20.0 thousand**
AVG PER CAPITA INCOME INCREASE **+USD 1,650**	PER CAPITA INCOME INCREASE **+USD 2,240**	PER CAPITA INCOME INCREASE **+USD 628**	PER CAPITA INCOME INCREASE **+USD 2,116**	PER CAPITA INCOME INCREASE **+USD 845**
GHG IMPACT **+2.5 million tCO2-e**	GHG IMPACT **+2.6 million tCO2-e**	GHG IMPACT **-52.2 thousand tCO2-e**	GHG IMPACT **-79.0 thousand tCO2-e**	GHG IMPACT **-3.0 thousand tCO2-e**

1. RICE

Boosting food security and reducing import dependence through irrigated, climate-resilient rice production

INVESTMENT PROFILE (INDICATIVE)

INVESTMENT
USD 243.0M
(MILLION)

NPV
USD 66.9M
(MILLION)

IRR
18.9%
(%)

RATIONALE

- Liberia's staple food: per capita consumption of 133 kg annually, among the highest in Africa
- Annual demand of 650,000 mt; local production meets only 25–30% of demand
- Paddy production reached 322,000 mt in 2025, but post-harvest losses run 35–70%
- Rice imports surpassed US$260.7 million in 2025

KEY BOTTLENECKS	PROPOSED INVESTMENTS(*)
1. Limited access to modern agricultural practices, technologies and quality inputs	Public · PPP • Climate-resilient irrigated lowland farming, 50,000 ha (Public) • Rehabilitate 5 dams (Public) • 5 mechanization hubs (PPP) • Seed multiplication & climate-resilience centers (Public)
2. Lack of infrastructure for post-harvest handling and processing	Private · PPP • Paddy aggregation systems (Private) • commercial mills & solar-automated milling 1–5 mt/hour (Private) • mini on-farm milling units (Private/PPP)
3. Government regulates rice imports, but suspended import duties	Private · PPP Digital market-linkage platform connecting millers, importers, distributors (Private/PPP)

SUSTAINABILITY BENEFITS

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES
10.0K
(THOUSAND)

INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES
50.0K
(THOUSAND)

PER CAPITA INCOME INCREASE
+2,240
(USD/PERSON)

GHG IMPACT
FAO EXACT CARBON TOOL
+2.6M
(MILLION tCO2-e)

Note: (*) Opportunities reflect government priorities identified through the FAO Hand-in-Hand Initiative and require further structuring with relevant public and private stakeholders.

2. CASSAVA

Hand-in-Hand Initiative

Building an industrial-scale cassava production and starch-processing sector for food security and rural jobs

INVESTMENT PROFILE (INDICATIVE)

INVESTMENT
USD 32.0M
(MILLION)

NPV
USD 1.5M
(MILLION)

IRR
14.4%
(%)

RATIONALE

- Liberia's second staple food, consumed at 121 kg per capita annually
- Production reached 618,268 mt in 2025, contributing 23% of total Agricultural GDP
- Cultivated by 60% of farming households on 77,013 ha
- Average yield just 8.28 mt/ha (far below potential)

KEY BOTTLENECKS / PROPOSED INVESTMENTS(*)

1. Limited access to improved inputs, planting materials and extension services

PPP | Public | Private

- Seed multiplication hubs (PPP)
- Agro-dealer & digital input platforms (PPP)
- Digital extension/farmer field schools (Public)
- Commercial cassava farms, 200 ha initial (Private)

2. Lack of labor-saving technologies (mechanization)

Private | Public

- 8–13 mechanization hubs (Public/Private)
- Mechanized land-prep services (Private)

3. Lack of infrastructure for post-harvest handling and processing

Private | Public

- 2–4 industrial starch processing plants, 50 mt/day (Private)
- Cluster-based production units + processing hubs (Public/Private)

SUSTAINABILITY BENEFITS

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES
4.9K
(THOUSAND)

INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES
24.7K
(THOUSAND)

PER CAPITA INCOME INCREASE
+628
(USD/PERSON)

GHG IMPACT
FAO EXACT CARBON TOOL
-52.2K
(THOUSAND tCO2-e)

Note: (*) Opportunities reflect government priorities identified through the FAO Hand-in-Hand Initiative and require further structuring with relevant public and private stakeholders.

Hand-in-Hand Initiative

3. COCOA

Revitalizing cocoa plantations to boost yields, quality, and Liberia's position in premium global markets

INVESTMENT PROFILE (INDICATIVE)

INVESTMENT
USD 70.0M
(MILLION)

NPV
USD 105.0M
(MILLION)

IRR
30.5%
(%)

RATIONALE

- 40,000 smallholder farmers cultivate cocoa on 81,500 ha
- Annual production of 11,600 mt dry beans generated US$223 million in exports (2024)
- Average yield of just 150–300 kg/ha — low quality and far below regional peers
- Cultivated by 60% of national farming households

KEY BOTTLENECKS / PROPOSED INVESTMENTS(*)

1. Limited access to improved inputs, planting materials and extension services

PPP | Public | Private

- 20 certified nurseries, 10M seedlings/year (Public/Private)
- 5 agro-dealer/cooperative hubs (Private)
- Digital tools & demonstrations (Public/PPP)
- New planting/rehab on 25,000 ha (Private)

2. Lack of labor-saving technologies (mechanization)

Private | PPP

Mini mechanization service hubs, pay-per-use (PPP/Private)

3. Lack of infrastructure for post-harvest handling and processing

Private | Public

- 10 fermentation/traceability/quality hubs (Public/Private)
- 1 automated medium-scale processing facility (Public/Private)

SUSTAINABILITY BENEFITS

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES
5.0K
(THOUSAND)

INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES
25.0K
(THOUSAND)

PER CAPITA INCOME INCREASE
+2,116
(USD/PERSON)

GHG IMPACT
FAO EXACT CARBON TOOL
-79.0K
(THOUSAND tCO2-e)

Note: (*) Opportunities reflect government priorities identified through the FAO Hand-in-Hand Initiative and require further structuring with relevant public and private stakeholders.

4. MAIZE

Hand-in-Hand Initiative

Scaling domestic maize production to cut feed costs and grow Liberia's livestock and poultry sector

INVESTMENT PROFILE (INDICATIVE)

INVESTMENT
USD 25.0M
(MILLION)

NPV
USD 2.2M
(MILLION)

IRR
15.3%
(%)

RATIONALE

- Cultivated on just 4,635 ha (2024) by 60% of farming households; average yield 1.5 mt/ha
- Feed costs (60–75% of livestock/poultry production) are 40–60% maize
- Feed import value reached US$45 million in 2025
- Liberia imports more than 50% of poultry meat and eggs, valued at US$70 million (2025)

KEY BOTTLENECKS / PROPOSED INVESTMENTS(*)

1. Limited access to improved inputs, planting materials and extension services

   PPP | Public | Private
   - Nucleus-outgrower farm model, 500 ha / 12,500 farmers (Private/PPP)
   - 20,000 ha cultivation expansion (Private)
   - 500 cooperative clusters (Public/Private)

2. Lack of labor-saving technologies (mechanization)

   Private | PPP
   5 integrated input & mechanization service hubs (PPP/Private)

3. Lack of infrastructure for post-harvest handling and processing

   Private | Public
   - 20 aggregation hubs; 1 automated feed processing plant, 8 tons/day (Private/Public)
   - 8–12 cluster-based feed mills (Private)

SUSTAINABILITY BENEFITS

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES
4.0K
(THOUSAND)

INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES
20.0K
(THOUSAND)

PER CAPITA INCOME INCREASE
+845
(USD/PERSON)

GHG IMPACT
FAO EXACT CARBON TOOL
-3.0K
(THOUSAND tCO2-e)

Note: (*) Opportunities reflect government priorities identified through the FAO Hand-in-Hand Initiative and require further structuring with relevant public and private stakeholders.

Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Hand-in-Hand
Initiative

Liberia

HAND-IN-HAND INITIATIVE | 2026 INVESTMENT FORUM

Click here to see full Investment Note:

Click here to request a bilateral meeting: