



October, 2020 Newsletter

Dear Members and supporters.

It's been a while for our newsletter to reappear. However LNBC has not been idle. A lot of contacts were made in Liberia and in the Netherlands. We hope coming period till the end of the year will bring enough activities. We pray that everyone has been healthy during the period, in spite of the team contracting Covid and recovered from mild symptoms.

As mentioned in our newsletter of December 2019 the year 2020 would be dedicated to recycling of plastics that might reduce the amount of plastic waste in and on the streets of Liberia. Covid 19 has stalled the interests of many participants till now. However there are still quite some activities to be developed in this field. Two members are preparing a project that we intend to follow up with them.

Further the focus is also on agriculture as Liberia has the possibility to hugely improve on production and export, in the fields of Cocoa, Rubber (drying), Fresh fruits and Fisheries

We herewith invite you to our next lunch meeting on October 20th at Paddy's bar Mamba Point.

Stay safe , wear your mask and wash your hands

LNBC Team

TRANSCO Trains EPA, FDA LEC Staff on Health, Environmental Protocols amid Rapid Expansion of Transmission Lines.



TRANSCO CLSG or Transmission Company Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinée is an ECOWAS regional supranational company with the objective of financing, constructing, owning, operating, maintaining, and developing the Interconnection power line for the region.

TRANSCO CLSG has embarked on a weeklong training for staff of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), along with the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) for the promotion of best environmental practices and safety measures amid the construction of substations and transmission lines from Nimba to Grand Bassa Counties.

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As part of the project, a high voltage power line is being built to connect the four countries and increase the efficiency of power supply for economic growth in the region.

In Liberia, the line, when completed will stretch from Yekepa, Nimba County to Buchanan in Grand Bassa, covering 230 kilometers with 569 towers. The other, covering 300 kilometers with 573 towers, will run from Buchanan through Margibi County to Mount Coffee and then to Bo Waterside, into Sierra Leone.

[See More:](#)

Swedish Mission Visits Liberia



Mr Peter ERIKSSON is expected to have an open-ended discussion with Liberia's Finance and Development Planning Minister, Honourable Samuel D. Tweah, Jr., and key Ministers of government, on the country's development challenges, and to identify areas where Swedish support fits. Priority areas where discussion will focus include the work for gender equality, women's empowerment, anti-rape and anti-SGBV.

Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation, Mr. Peter ERIKSSON, is heading a high-level Mission to Liberia and will arrive on October 8, 2020.

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Earlier this year, the Swedish embassy in Liberia in consultation with Liberian authorities developed a proposal for a 5-year Country Development and Cooperation Strategy to be implemented from 2021 to 2025. The new proposal is more or less a continuation of the current cooperation strategy with the addition of a new thematic area relating to Climate Change and the Environment.

The Swedish government is expected to approve this proposal before the end of this year. The discussion with Minister Eriksson is therefore an opportunity for the Government of Liberia to further influence the direction of this cooperation strategy in the context of the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development. Minister Eriksson has outlined four priority areas for all Swedish Embassies for the working year 2020/21 which includes a focus on Feminist Foreign Policy, the Drive for Democracy, Climate Change, Environment and Biodiversity, and Anti-Corruption.

[See More:](#)

Old Folks Cocoa Farmers Lifted first Harvest (Cocoa Beans) to Better Market



Loading Cocoa Beans for Market



A Proud Cocoa Farmer with his Solar Dryer

breaking pods, fermenting, drying (Solar Dryer), and paying better farm-gate price to the Old folks. This program, which is co-financed by Solidaridad West Africa, Liberia, and funded by the European Union has brought not only smiles to the Old folks but also helped them to meet their basic needs such as food, medication and assist paying their grandchildren school fees, etc.

It has brought dignity and respect to the Old folks in their communities.

VADEMCO rehabilitated old cocoa farms early this year (2020) own by Old folks in Bong and Lofa counties after the farms were unproductive for 10-15 years. The Old Folks' lifted their first cocoa harvest for the market on October 2, 2020. VADEMCO links Old folks cocoa beans commodity to better local cocoa exporting market.

VADEMCO serves as an aggregator of the Old producing communities in Liberia. As a result, VADEMCO obtained a legal status from the Liberia Agriculture Commodity Regulatory Authority (LACRA); the government of Liberia regulatory body for exporting commodities. The license was given to mainly serve these Old folks who have been exploited over the years by illegal and non-trained cocoa buyers in the cocoa services, and post-harvest services including harvesting, hauling harvested pods to the center fermentation station,



Fermentation Block (box)



Cocoa Pods Ready to Break



Cocoa Stacked in Warehouse

Over the years, these Old folks cocoa farmers have been exploited by non-trained and illegal cocoa buyers in the cocoa producing communities in Liberia, also tarnishing the Liberian cocoa quality (no fermentation, not properly drying, etc) in the markets. This went on while the government of Liberia and its development partners were striving to improve the cocoa sector to enhance the Liberia cocoa quality for the world markets. In order to achieve this, improve Liberia's cocoa quality, it is prudent that LACRA weeds out these non-trained and illegal cocoa buyers from the cocoa producing communities in Liberia.

VADEMCO is willing to collaborate and partner with LACRA to weed out these illegal and non-trained cocoa buyers and help to provide training for those who want to make cocoa buying their business.

VADEMCO STRIVES to improve Liberian cocoa quality and its reputation for the world markets.

Air France resumes flights between Monrovia and Paris Charles de Gaulle

Despite the global health situation, Air France will re-establish the route between Monrovia and Paris **Charles de Gaulle**. **As from 19 November 2020, Air France customers will once again be able to travel** to Monrovia (Liberia) thanks to seven (7) weekly flights operated by Airbus A350-900. Air France will serve Monrovia daily as a continuation of service to Bamako (Mali).

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Flight schedules (in local time):

Flight n°	Departure	Flight times	Arrival	Flight times	Frequency
AF520	Paris-CDG	10:10	Bamako	14:55	7/7Days
	Bamako	16:20	Monrovia	17:55	
AF521	Monrovia	19:30	Bamako	21:00	7/7Days
	Bamako	23:25	Paris-CDG	06:00	

Air France is continuing to adapt its flight schedule in the current COVID-19 context and subject to applicable travel restriction.

[Read More:](#)

Natural & health products to ward off COVID-19 symptoms

The coronavirus has increased consumer interest in health and natural products. Retailers across Europe are reporting a big increase in the demand for food supplements, healthy foods and essential oils. Consumers are trying to boost their immune systems.

Much of Europe has been in lockdown since March. However, organic and health food shops have stayed open. Many are benefiting from the increase in consumer demand. In France, specialist [organic food shops](#) have reported sales increases of over 40 percent. Holland & Barrett, the leading health food retailer in the UK, put a cap on supplement purchases because of the rising demand. Online retailer Health span revealed at the end of March 2020 that [sales of vitamin C supplements had tripled](#) in a week.

Food supplements are in demand as they provide vital minerals and vitamins that [can help protect the body from viruses](#). Philip Calder, a professor of nutritional immunology at the University of Southampton, says that they are a “safe, effective and low-cost way to support an optimal immune system”.

Natural essential oils and aromatherapy products are also experiencing an increase in sales. Consumers want to improve their health and wellness, as well as disease prevention. [Essential oils](#) with antibacterial and antiviral qualities are the highest in demand. These include tea tree oil and eucalyptus oil.

[See more](#)

MOA Gets US\$10.5M from World Bank to Mitigate COVID-19 Impacts on Food Security



The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) says the World Bank has approved US\$10.5 million funding support to the Government of Liberia (GOL) through the MOA for its COVID-19 food security, nutrition and livelihood plan aimed at mitigating the impacts of the coronavirus on the country's food security and livelihood.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak in Liberia, there are reports that smallholder farmers and other value chain actors are finding it difficult to increase production and access better markets due to lockdown restrictions.

According to the MOA latest food security situation report, upon a recent request from the GOL, the funding was drawn from the Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) within the World Bank's funded Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAR-P), which kicked off since 2019 that is under the direct supervision of the MoA.

[See more:](#)

Liberians Take Steps to Improve Their Livelihoods through EU Funded Projects



Liberians benefit through various development projects funded by the European Union and its partners after the European Union allocated 279 million Euros to support Liberia’s Good Governance, Agriculture, Forestry, Education, Energy and Transport sectors for the period between 2014 and 2020.

In March 2020, the “European Union – Liberia Partnership Campaign for Young Media Professionals” gave eight journalists, four Liberians and their European counterparts, an opportunity to learn more about the impact of these projects on the lives of Liberians. The national campaign was implemented by the Delegation of the European Union to Liberia in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

The journalists traveled over 14 days visiting nine projects in seven counties. The visited communities and partnering organizations working with the Delegation had insightful stories to share.

Notably, the journalists met several communities taking impressive steps to improve their livelihood through agriculture. Through projects funded by the European Union, farmers improved their skills, and they have begun seeing the results of their hard work.

[See more:](#)

Solidaridad Deploys Digital Tools for Agricultural Extension

Support to Local farmers



Solidaridad Liberia has introduced digital tools to help provide information from farmers and partners about agronomic activities involving the production of cocoa, oil palm, and other food supplies.

Using Interactive Voice Response (IVR) platform, Solidaridad, an international civil society organization, is increasing access to agronomic and other production support information by farmers and communities that produce cocoa, oil palm, and other food staples. Part of the COVID-19 restriction is to do distant communication now rather than close or face-to-face communication and for that interviews and ceremonies that require people to come together are done through teleconference.

The platform is compatible with the basic features of android phones. It allows the targeted audience to receive pre-recorded messages in real-time. It is an important part of a remote support approach that helps Solidaridad to quickly assess ground situations to generate response plans and interventions.

“At this time when physical interactions are less desired, the IVR platform helps us to reach out to a large number of our program beneficiaries quickly to share important information on COVID-19 protection protocols and to deliver other technical crop production content that aligns with the farming season and the cropping calendar”, says Isaac Gyamfi, Regional Director for Solidaridad in West Africa.

[See more:](#)

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