

### Soils4Liberia Steering Committee Approves 2026 Annual Plan and Budget

The Soils4Liberia Project successfully held its follow-up Steering Committee Meeting on May 13, 2026, at the Ministry of Agriculture in Monrovia, resulting in the approval of the project’s 2026 annual work plan and budget.

The follow-up meeting builds on the decisions of the first Steering Committee Meeting held on April 29, 2026, which set the foundation for the review and endorsement of the 2026 implementation framework.

Liberia’s Minister of Agriculture, Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah, chaired the meeting and reaffirmed the government’s commitment to strengthening evidence-based agricultural interventions and improving soil health systems to support national food security and sustainable agricultural productivity.



Among those in attendance were Green Team Lead, Mr. Gilles Matayron, and Programmes Officer, Mr. Antonio D. Clemente, along with national partners from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), the University of Liberia, and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. International partners, including ISRIC, MATE, and the Regional Hub, participated virtually, demonstrating continued global collaboration and support for Liberia’s agricultural development agenda.



Presenting on behalf of all project partners, Project Manager Dr. Shiferaw Abebe Dakka provided an overview of the project’s achievements, ongoing activities, and strategic priorities outlined in the 2026 Annual Plan.

The approved 2026 plan includes activities focused on soil mapping, capacity building, stakeholder engagement, laboratory strengthening, data management, and knowledge dissemination. These interventions are expected to enhance soil information systems and support improved agricultural decision-making across Liberia

The Soils4Liberia Project continues to serve as a key platform for strengthening collaboration among national and international institutions working toward improved soil health, sustainable agriculture, and food systems transformation in Liberia.

The approval of the 2026 Annual Plan and Budget reflects the collective commitment of partners to building stronger agricultural systems supported by reliable soil and nutrient information for long-term national development.

### CARI Leads Soils4Liberia Field Campaign in Bong County

The Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI), under the Soils4Liberia Project, has officially commenced the national field campaign to generate reliable soil data and information to improve the management and use of land and soil resources for agricultural development across Liberia.

The field campaign began on May 7, 2026, with activities starting in Bong County. During the first 10 days of data collection, field teams covered several districts, including Yeallequelleh, Salala, Suakoko, Fuamah, Sanoyeah, Kokoyah, Tukpahlee, Boinsen, Kpaai, Jorquelleh, Panta, and Zota.

In Bong County alone, the project is targeting 66 Primary Sampling



Units (PSUs), resulting in 198 Tertiary Sampling Units (TSUs) for soil data collection and analysis.

Following field collection, the soil samples are transported to the University of Liberia Soil Testing,



Plant and Water Analysis Laboratory at Fendell in Montserrado for detailed analysis. The laboratory analysis will help determine soil properties, nutrient levels, and other critical indicators.

The nationwide soil survey and mapping will provide evidence to help farmers, researchers, policymakers, and development partners make informed decisions about soil health and crop production.

The Soils4Liberia Project continues to play a key role in advancing soil research and

strengthening collaboration among institutions working to improve agricultural productivity and food security in Liberia. The field campaign represents another significant step toward building a comprehensive national soil information system capable of supporting long-term agricultural transformation.

CARI is leading the implementation of the field campaign in collaboration with national and international partners under the Soils4Liberia Project. The exercise forms part of broader efforts to strengthen Liberia's soil information systems and provide scientific data necessary for informed agricultural planning and decision-making.

### IITA, under the EU-funded Soils4Liberia Project, Awarded MSc Research Fellowships to Three Liberians Scholars to Study at FUNAAB in Nigeria



The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), through the EU-funded Soils4Liberia project, has facilitated the placement of three Liberian scholars at the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB) in Nigeria, as part of the project's human capacity building in soil science for the advancement of sustainable agricultural development in Liberia.

The partnership initiative involves IITA, Government of Liberia institutions - Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) and University of Liberia (UL), and FUNAAB. It is designed to develop a new generation of highly skilled soil scientists equipped to transform agricultural productivity and promote sustainable land and soil management practices in Liberia.

The three Liberian scholars, Dennis Daniel Goteh from the MOA, Rena Yeawon Kokeh Nuah from the UL, and Victoria Mawee Kafi from CARI, departed from Liberia on May 20, 2026 to commence their postgraduate study at the University under the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Development and Sustainable Environment (CEADESE). At CEADESE, they will undertake advanced studies in Crop/Pasture Production and Sustainable Environment, with a specialized focus on Soil Science.

The successful placement of these scholars at FUNAAB preceded

months of strategic planning and coordination led by Dr. Samuel A. Mesele, Soil Scientist for the Soils4Liberia project/IITA Liberia Country Office. His facilitation was instrumental in fostering collaboration between the institutions and ensuring the successful realization of the academic partnership. These Liberian scholars will also receive mentorship from IITA scientists through their enrolment into its Graduate Research Fellowship Program that allows young professionals to develop the necessary research skills, attitude, and confidence for a successful career in agriculture.

During a formal reception held at the Vice Chancellor's Office, the Vice-Chancellor of FUNAAB, Prof. Babatunde Kehinde, urged the Liberian scholars to remain focused and fully utilize the academic opportunities provided, emphasizing the program's role in contributing to Liberia's efforts to build technical capacity to sustain its soil resources for improved agricultural production and productivity.

He further noted that the study was deliberately structured to provide the scholars with relevant technical expertise and practical skills, and he assured the scholars that the University remains committed to providing a conducive and supportive academic environment throughout their stay.



Meanwhile, the Director of CEADESE, Prof. Adeboye Fafiolu, highlighted the availability of excellent facilities, experienced faculty, and a research-driven environment designed to enhance academic excellence and practical impact.

In separate remarks, the Liberian scholars expressed gratitude to IITA, FUNAAB, the Government of Liberia, and the European Union Delegation to Liberia for the opportunity, pledging to remain committed, disciplined, and diligent in their academic pursuits.