

COMMUNIQUE

Communique of National Summit on Agroecology and Climate Justice held under the theme "Climate Financing for Agroecology and Renewable Energy," as part of the Strategic Partnership Agreement Project"

A. INTRODUCTION

We, civil society organizations, government ministries and agencies, academia, farmers' organizations, media, international non-governmental organizations, and the private sector gathered at the National Climate Justice Summit on Agroecology and Climate Justice from **October 30th to November 1, 2024** under the theme "Climate Financing for Agroecology and Renewable Energy."

B. Collaborative effort of diverse stakeholders

Having brought together stakeholders from both public and private sectors, farmers' organizations, development partners, young people's movements, traditional leaders, policymakers, community leaders, security apparatus, rural women, donors, academia, media institutions and agriculturists to promote agroecology; during which, field results knowledge were adopted and scaling up were shared, emphasis made on innovations that support sustainability, equitable adaptation measures for frontline communities obtained, public-private partnerships for market access to sustainably produced agroecological goods highlighted to encourage wider adoption across Liberia.

Aiming to increase the quantity and quality of public financing for agroecology and renewable energy, pushing for greater political and budget commitments towards agroecology and renewable energy programs in Liberia and West Africa with over four hundred 400 participants in attendance, the event successfully fostered collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Hereby commend the Government of Liberia; Environmental Protection Agency; Minister of Agriculture Liberia; Ministry for Mines and Energy; Rural Renewable Energy Agency; Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection; Ministry of Youth and Sports; Ministry of Commerce; Ministry of Transport; Forestry Development Authority; National Disaster Management Agency; Cities Corporations; development partners; women groups; the disable community; the Central Bank of Liberia; forestry and private investors in Liberia and smallholder women farmers and young people for their resilience and commitment;

C. Hereby do make the following observations:

Whereas Liberia is faced with daunting food and nutrition insecurity caused by low public investments in agriculture, climate financing, late budget releases. Climate change impacts manifesting in form of floods across the country that has ravaged farmlands and livelihoods and our high post-harvest losses.

Whereas, climate shocks continue to affect rural communities and have resulted to loss of livelihood and survival. Hence, as many as possible of these types of projects on Agroecology and Climate Justice are needed to help communities to produce nutritious food sustainably In Liberia.

Whereas, research shows that even though developing countries like Liberia and other African countries use only 25% of chemical pesticides produced worldwide, we experience 99% of pesticide negative impacts. Research shows the World Health Organization estimates that 385 million farmers fell victim to unintentional acute pesticides poisoning in 2019, most of them in Asia and Africa.

Whereas, symptoms like difficulty in breathing, dizziness, headaches, nausea, vomiting, eye problems, skin rashes, cataract, diarrhea, and respiratory problems were reported among the most common health effects and damage to the soil and other impacts on food consumed by Liberia people.

Whereas, issues of land rights have hampered food production due to lack of access to land use and controlled by small holder farmers and young people in Liberia.

Whereas, poor climate financing has hampered the fight on climate change and increased climate injustice.

Whereas, lack of adequate research to increase knowledge-based action has hampered agroecology thinking and practice in Liberia.

Whereas, despite \$88.25 million dollars investment into the renewable energy projects in Liberia between 2021-2023, as of 2023, only about 28% of the Liberian population has access to electricity, with renewable energy sources accounting for approximately 10% of the country's total electricity generation, according to World Bank.

D. Now hereby make this call to action:**1. Scale Up Agroecology Investments:**

- We call on Government: The Executive, and National legislature to scale up agroecology and extension services yearly budget, and ensure timely consideration, passage, and total budget releases as a strategic approach to increase food production, reduce hunger and poverty and achieve the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme commitments to Enhancing Resilience of Livelihoods & Production Systems to Climate Variability and Other Shocks.

2. Establish Climate Financing Framework:

- The framework for climate financing should be in place with measurable indicators for sectors in Liberia to commit to climate financing and climate conscious activities

3. Develop a National Agroecology Strategy:

- We recommend creating a comprehensive National Agroecology Strategy under the Ministry of Agriculture to scale up Agroecology Programmes.

4. Define Agroecology and Climate Justice Focus:

- The Government of Liberia should define the focus for agroecology and climate justice within the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment Protection Agency to drive the transition.

5. Prioritize Land Rights and Access:

- We recommend that land and climate change nexus be urgently addressed by implementing the land rights law that allows women and youth access and control to land for production.

6. Strengthen Extension Services:

- Strengthen Extension Services with mobility, incentives and resources for field visits and employ more extension agents especially women and youths. This will increase agroecology adoption.

7. National Agricultural Development Fund:

- Set up and implement a National Agricultural Development Fund with major component focused on supporting the scaling up agroecology across communities in Liberia.

8. Invest in Agricultural Research and Innovation:

- Increase investment in agricultural research and innovation (Invest in Local Science), this will scale up agroecological practices and improve food security.

9. Promote Agroecological Markets:

- Consumers and producers' market on Agroecologically produced food should be prioritized by government to aid scale up and sustainability of these markets.

10. Support Organic and Green Farming Practices:

- Promote nature-friendly farming systems like agroecology and organic farming. Encourage the creation of green jobs to support sustainable livelihoods.

11. Advance Land Tenure Reforms:

- Promote land tenure reforms and resource rights for smallholder women and youth farmers and their access to farmland schemes to drive agricultural productivity.

12. Enforce Economic Justice and Wealth Distribution:

- Urgently promote and enforce economic justice and equitable wealth distribution and engender support for initiatives that promote financial inclusion and reduce disparities.

13. Support Women and Youth-Led Climate Solutions:

- Promote and support women and youth-led alternative solutions to climate change incorporating their innovative approaches that are critical for sustainable development.

14. Ban Hazardous Chemical Imports:

- Ban the importation of hazardous chemicals from entering Liberia to aid the transition to sustainable agricultural solutions.

15. Implement the NDC

- The government should be deliberate in implementing the NDC with inclusion of all actors. Frameworks that would aid tracking of the progress of the NDC in Liberia should be put in place.

16. Support Capacity Building in Energy Transition

- Enhance women, youth, and local communities' knowledge in renewable energy to aid just transition.

17. Inclusive Renewable Energy Policies Processes

- Ensure local communities, women and young people are included in current Renewable Energy Policy implementation processes to promote comprehensive and inclusive energy saving technologies.

We urge all stakeholders to take immediate action on these recommendations to foster a sustainable and resilient agricultural sector in Liberia and beyond.

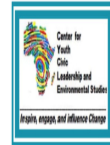
Endorsed by the following Institutions

1. ActionAid Liberia
2. Women NGO Secretariat of Liberia

3. National Civil Society Council of Liberia
4. Center for Youth Civic Leadership and Environmental Studies
5. Youth Go Green Network
6. Domafeign
7. Multi Actors Platform (MAP Liberia)
8. Women Agriculture for Sustainable Development
9. Liberia Feminist Forum
10. Rights and Rice Foundation
11. Sustainable Development Institute
12. Youth Bridge Inc.
13. Female Journalist of Liberia
14. Her Voice Liberia
15. Liberian Youth for Climate Actions
16. Eco Climate Initiative (ECI)
17. Foundation for Community Initiatives
18. Women Farmers Alliance
19. Organization for Women and Children
20. Natural Resource Women Platform (NRWP)
21. Liberian Youth Biodiversity Network
22. Youth Transforming Africa Narrative
23. Liberian Youth and Civil Society Environmental Secretariat
24. Alliance for Rural Democracy (ARD)
25. Liberian Youth and Civil Society Environmental Secretariat
26. Community Empowerment and Innovation in Agriculture Cooperative Society.
27. Go-Solar Fresh (GSL)
28. Geo-Environmental Research Agency for Development (GERAD-Liberia)
29. Youth Action for Transformation Network (YATN)
30. United Youth Social Symposium for Education and Development (UYSSSED)
31. Consortium of indigenous people and local community
32. Action for Community Transformation (ACT)
33. Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment
34. National Coalition Against Harmful Practices (NACAHP)
35. YOUTH AID-LIBERIA (YAL)
36. ySTEM, INC.
37. Shana foods Production
38. Fefe's Coco-Fresh
39. Climate and Environmental Protection Initiative of Liberia (CEPIL)
40. Youth Humanitarian Movement-YHM
41. Organization for Women Empowerment (OWE)
42. Liberian Women Empowerment Network
43. Society of Women Engineers of Liberia
44. Women Care Initiative (WOCI)
45. Liberia Chamber of Commerce (LCC)
46. Foundation for Community Initiatives
47. Ecosoap Liberia
48. TAO Corporation Liberia



act:onaid



CYCLES



act:onaid
GLOBAL PLATFORM
Liberia

