



Press Release

Government of Sierra Leone and European Union sign € 35M Financing Agreement for "Sustainable Food and Agricultural Value Chains Development" Programme

Freetown, Sierra Leone: On 31 January 2025, the Government of Sierra Leone and the European Union signed a **Financing Agreement** for the "Sustainable Food and **Agricultural Value Chains Development**" Programme. This agreement represents a significant milestone in the cooperation between the EU and Sierra Leone, aimed at promoting agricultural development in the **palm oil, cassava and infant food** value chains.

The "Sustainable Food and Agricultural Value Chains Development" is a EUR 35 million EU- (currently about 860 million new leones) funded programme designed to strengthen sustainable and climate resilient agri-food systems in Sierra Leone.

The specific objectives of the programme are to:

1. Improve the sustainability, efficiency and inclusivity of the **oil palm, cassava, and infant food value chains**, through the use of climate-smart approaches in production and processing, while facilitating decent green job creation; and
2. Enhance the use of **market opportunities** by Sierra Leoneans, particularly **women and youth** who have participated in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes.

This new agreement complements ongoing EU-Sierra Leone agricultural cooperation programmes focused on access to agricultural finance, rural infrastructure (feeder roads) and targeted support to the orange-fleshed sweet potato, pineapple, cashew and cocoa value chains.

In his remarks, H.E. Jacek Jankowski, the EU Ambassador to Sierra Leone emphasized the EU's commitment to supporting Sierra Leone's path to inclusive and sustainable growth.

"This Financing Agreement represents our shared vision of greener, more productive and more resilient food systems in Sierra Leone."

Sierra Leone's Minister of Finance, Mr. Sheku Ahmed Fantamadi Bangura, highlighted the relevance of this partnership for advancing the country's food security and agriculture policies. *"The objectives supported under this Financing Agreement are consistent with the Government's Feed Salone priorities, notably thanks to the focus on climate smart approaches and the empowerment of women and youth."*

The European Union has been a long-standing partner in supporting the sustainable development of Sierra Leone's agricultural sector, focusing on the employment-oriented agriculture food system for health and nutrition. This new agreement, part of the [EU's Multiannual Indicative Programme \(2021 – 2027\)](#), reaffirms the EU's commitment to improving food security, empowering local communities, and promoting inclusive economic growth through climate-smart practices and strengthened value chains.

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*Delegation of the European Union to Sierra Leone
Leicester Peak, Regent, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Web: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/sierra-leone_en
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EUinSierraLeone/>
Twitter: @EUinSierraLeone
Tel: +232 88 13 6000*

For more information, please contact:

N’Fa Alie Koroma

Press & Information Office, EU Delegation to Sierra Leone

Email: N’Fa-Alie.Koroma@eeas.europa.eu

NOT COORDINATED

Delegation of the European Union to Sierra Leone
Leicester Peak, Regent, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Web: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/sierra-leone_en;
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EUinSierraLeone/>
Twitter: @EUinSierraLeone
Tel: +232 88 13 6000