

CAPACITY BUILDING AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING : WVSTU-SAPEC-MOA PROJECT

PROJECT SUMMARY

William V. S. Tubman University, conscious of its role as agent of transformation and national development sought participation with the Ministry of Agriculture on the Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization (SAPEC) Project. With the project's goal of reducing rural poverty and household food insecurity, and objective of increasing, on a sustainable basis, the income of small holder farmers and rural entrepreneurs, particularly women, youths and the physically challenged, it was imperative that the University, which mission is to transform lives for worthy service participate in this project particularly on the component of "*capacity building and institutional strengthening*".

RATIONALE OF THE PROJECT

William V. S. Tubman University as a premiere educational institution has always viewed itself as an instrument of development. It is not just a repository of knowledge but also an active agent of change. This is consistent with the University's mission of providing quality experiences that will transform the lives of individuals for worthy service. The need therefore, to assess and identify capacity areas of the organization that are strong and where improvements are needed is deemed necessary. Manpower is the most vital resource in any organization. With this ingredient – the right quantity and quality- the wheels of the organization are expected to perform to optimum levels.

Building the human foundation for the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS) of William V. S. Tubman University is timely given its newly approved curriculum as it will bring the College into the next level of operational, programmatic and organizational maturity. It will enable itself to be relevant and constantly creative of new ideas; approaches, innovations and experiences to better achieve the University's mission.

Given the present organizational capacity of the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences being the implementing arm of the University for SAPEC, the project was sought and is worked on to improve the capacity of the faculty and strengthen the College.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project provides a rare and valuable opportunity to determine how the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences thrives in key areas that affect its ability to deliver quality services effectively. These include strength of management, soundness of finances, and commitment to ongoing improvement, among other measures of performance and capacity. It gives emphasis on the importance of examining each element both individually and in relation to the other elements, as well as in the context of the whole University system.

As it aims to build the capacity of the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences to effectively provide relevant and globally competitive education for the students to be able to serve the interest of the agriculture sector not only in the Southeast region but the whole of Liberia, a 21st century Crop and Soil Laboratory in the University is being established by the project to assure quality training and educational experiences of the students in the desire to transform their lives to be worthy to serve in a country so much needing technical know-how in crop production and protection, in aqua culture, and the like.

The project also aims to participate in the scholarship program in order to strengthen capacity in areas where enrichment is needed especially in the following: Soil Science, Crop Science, Animal Science and the General Applied Agriculture.

Finally, the project aims to develop capacity building training program designed according to the development needs of the College with which SAPEC has prioritized.

The project is implemented by the College of Agriculture and Food Sciences under the supervision of the Office of the Vice-President of Academic Affairs.