

# LIBERIA

Kathleen Flaherty and Mark Yarnay

## KEY INDICATORS, 2009–2011

Total Public Agricultural Research Spending	2009	2011
Liberian dollars (million constant 2005 prices)	111.7	134.9
PPP dollars (million constant 2005 prices)	4.0	4.8
<b>Overall Growth</b>		<b>21%</b>
Total Number of Public Agricultural Researchers		
Full-time equivalents (FTEs)	18.9	45.1
<b>Overall Growth</b>		<b>139%</b>
Agricultural Research Intensity		
Spending as a share of agricultural GDP	0.39%	0.42%
FTE researchers per 100,000 farmers	2.14	4.82

Note: Acronyms, definitions, and an overview of agricultural R&D agencies are available on page 2.

► Since the end of civil war in 2003, lack of funding has hampered the rebuilding of research capacity and infrastructure at Liberia's main agricultural research agency, CARI, and two higher agricultural education agencies. Despite the country's need for agricultural development, its investment in agricultural research as a share of AgGDP (that is, its research intensity ratio) was only 0.42 in 2011.

► The national number of agricultural researchers more than doubled during 2009–2011, although the majority were only qualified to the BSc- and MSc-degree level. As of 2011, only 5 FTE researchers were qualified to the PhD-degree level, and half of all researchers held only BSc degrees.

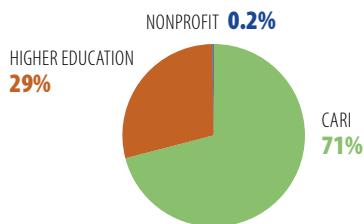
► Given limited funding, CARI has concentrated its efforts and resources on a few key areas, including building junior researcher capacity, rehabilitating its infrastructure, improving local crop varieties, and sourcing new crop and livestock varieties through international partners. Although research activities have expanded in the past decade, CARI is unable to address the research needs of the whole country.

## FINANCIAL RESOURCES, 2011

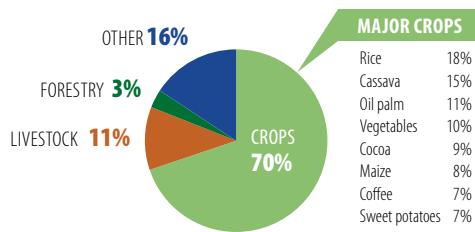
Spending Allocation	
Salaries	20%
Operating and program costs	40%
Capital investments	40%
Funding Sources	
Government	64%
Donors	35%
Sales of goods and services	0.4%

Note: Shares are based on data for CARI only.

## INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE, 2011



## RESEARCH FOCUS, 2011



Notes: Major crops include those that are the focus of at least 5 percent of all crop researchers; 17 percent of all crop researchers focused on a wide variety of other crops.

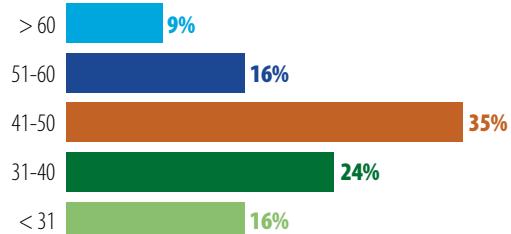
## RESEARCHER PROFILE, 2011



### Number by qualification (FTEs)



### Share by age group (years)



## OVERVIEW OF LIBERIA'S AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AGENCIES

Four agencies conduct agricultural R&D in Liberia. CARI (employing 32 FTE researchers in 2011) is the only government agricultural R&D agency and is by far the country's largest, accounting for 71 percent of researcher capacity in 2011. CARI is a semiautonomous agency under the Ministry of Agriculture and is located in Suakoko. Its seven research programs focus on crops, livestock, and natural resources. CARI began receiving funding from WAAPP in 2013 for research on its priority crops, rice and cassava. The higher education sector includes the University of Liberia's Faculty of the College of Agriculture and Forestry (employing 11 FTEs) and Cuttington University College of Agriculture and Sustainable Development (2 FTEs). Cuttington University is a private university, but many of its students are drawn from government agencies. One nonprofit agency, LEAD (0.1 FTE) conducts limited agricultural research. Research conducted by private-for-profit companies is also minimal.



For a complete list of the agencies included in ASTI's dataset for Liberia, visit [www.asti.cgiar.org/liberia](http://www.asti.cgiar.org/liberia).

## ABOUT ASTI, IFPRI, AND CARI

Working through collaborative alliances with numerous national and regional R&D agencies and international institutions, **Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI)** is a comprehensive and trusted source of information on agricultural R&D systems across the developing world. ASTI is led by the **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)**, which—as a CGIAR member—provides evidence-based policy solutions to sustainably end hunger and malnutrition and reduce poverty. The **Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI)** is Liberia's principal agricultural research agency. It falls under the Ministry of Agriculture and carries out research on crops, livestock, and natural resources.

ASTI/IFPRI and CARI gratefully acknowledge participating agricultural R&D agencies for their contributions to the data collection and preparation of this country factsheet. ASTI also thanks the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for its generous support of ASTI's work in Africa south of the Sahara. This factsheet has been prepared as an ASTI output and has not been peer reviewed; any opinions are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies or opinions of IFPRI or CARI.

Copyright © 2014 International Food Policy Research Institute and Central Agricultural Research Institute. Sections of this document may be reproduced without the express permission of, but with acknowledgment to, IFPRI and CARI. For permission to republish, contact [ifpri-copyright@cgiar.org](mailto:ifpri-copyright@cgiar.org).

## ASTI DATA PROCEDURES AND METHODOLOGIES

- ▶ The **data underlying this fact sheet** were predominantly derived through primary surveys, although some data were drawn from secondary sources or were estimated.
- ▶ **Public agricultural research** includes research conducted by government agencies, higher education agencies, and nonprofit institutions.
- ▶ ASTI bases its calculations of human resource and financial data on **full-time equivalent (FTE) researchers**, which take into account the proportion of time staff actually spend on research compared with other activities.
- ▶ ASTI presents its financial data in 2005 local currencies and **2005 purchasing power parity (PPP) dollars**. PPPs reflect the relative purchasing power of currencies more effectively than do standard exchange rates because they compare prices of a broader range of local—as opposed to internationally traded—goods and services.
- ▶ ASTI estimates the **higher education sector's research expenditures** because it is not possible to isolate them from the sector's other expenditures.
- ▶ Note that, due to **decimal rounding**, the percentages presented can sum to more than 100.



For more information on ASTI's data procedures and methodology, visit [www.asti.cgiar.org/methodology](http://www.asti.cgiar.org/methodology); for more information on agricultural R&D in Liberia, visit [www.asti.cgiar.org/liberia](http://www.asti.cgiar.org/liberia).

## ACRONYMS USED IN THIS FACTSHEET

<b>AgGDP</b>	Agricultural gross domestic product
<b>CARI</b>	Central Agricultural Research Institute
<b>FTE(s)</b>	Full-time equivalent (researchers)
<b>LEAD</b>	Liberia Entrepreneurial and Asset Development
<b>PPP(s)</b>	Purchasing power parity (exchange rates)
<b>R&amp;D</b>	Research and development
<b>WAAPP</b>	West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program