Annex VI

Country Specific Guidance

McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program

Cote d'Ivoire

Targeted areas: All regions

Country Context
Côte d'Ivoire is recovering from a long period of economic stagnation and political conflict that culminated in the post-election crisis of 2010-2011. Despite efforts made by the new government to address economic and security challenges, the country remains fragile with security challenges, particularly in the western part of the country. Cote d'Ivoire's long-term challenges include political instability and degrading infrastructure.

Current Education Context
The educational system has been affected by the social political crisis, especially in the center, north and west of the country where schools were damaged during the conflict, and face an influx of returning displaced populations. Parental preference for educating boys rather than girls is a persisting challenge, especially in the west of the country where the primary school enrolment rate is 37.9 per cent among girls compared to 55.9 per cent for boys.

After the post-electoral crisis in 2011, the Presidential Emergency Recovery Plan included education as a priority. The government decided to prioritize specific activities—rehabilitation and construction of school infrastructure, provision of school equipment, purchase and distribution of learning and teaching materials, and the re-launch of the school feeding program, including the acquisition and distribution of micro-nutrients and de-worming tablets, which are particularly critical in post-conflict situations.

Within the Government of Cote d'Ivoire's Ministry of Education, a National Directorate of School Feeding (DNCS) was established to develop a national school feeding program. DCNS implements the Government's National School Feeding Strategy, 2012 – 2017. School feeding is recognized as a major factor in stimulating demand for education, and resuming it on a sustainable basis is one of the main pillars of that strategy. The Government of Cote d'Ivoire is making progress towards establishing a national, home-grown school feeding program.

The Education Sector Plan emphasizes that reconstruction of the educational system in the country as a whole should draw on the mobilization of local communities and on measures aimed at encouraging the return of children to school, and increased retention rates. The Government supports an Integrated Programme of Sustainable School Feeding (PIP/CS), which aims to help rural and peri-urban communities manage their school feeding programs by

providing them with food and agricultural inputs and offering them training to engage in income-generating activities.

Programming Priorities

USDA is soliciting proposals which demonstrate that proposed activities make substantial contributions to the highest level strategic objectives *Improved Literacy of School-Age Children* and *Increased Use of Health and Dietary Practices* as outlined in the McGovern Dole results framework. Proposals do not need to cover all regions of Cote d'Ivoire, but need to provide specific justification for selecting specific regions.

To support the McGovern-Dole literacy goal, competitive proposals will demonstrate support of the Government of Cote D'Ivoire's education priority of rehabilitating and constructing schools and classrooms. Competitive proposals will have a strong focus on training teachers and school administrators in pedagogical skills as well as providing pedagogical supplies such as textbooks and other reading materials. Competitive proposals will demonstrate strong support from the Government of Cote D'Ivoire and a concrete plan for working with the government to sustain the benefits of work done under McGovern-Dole funding. Further, competitive proposals will address in the strategic analysis if a gender imbalance exists in the enrollment and attendance rates within the geographic regions selected and propose a solution to it in accordance with the McGovern-Dole Program focus on girls.

To support the McGovern-Dole goal of creating sustainable, nationally owned school feeding programs, competitive proposals will demonstrate how the applicant will work with the Government of Cote d'Ivoire to support its efforts to establish a sustainable national school feeding program. Proposals should contain a concrete timeline for handover of schools to the government and sufficient capacity building of the government to enable the handover.

To support the McGovern-Dole goal of improving health and dietary practices, competitive proposals will include, in the strategic analysis, the nutritional situation of the beneficiaries to be reached with needs clearly assessed and addressed. De-worming and micro-nutrient support for beneficiaries is strongly encouraged.

Rwanda

Targeted areas: 1st Priority: Nyamagabe and Nyaruguru Districts
2nd Priority: Ngororero, Rutsiro, Burera, Gakenke, Karongi, and Rusizi Districts

Country Context
Rwanda has achieved development progress since the 1994 genocide and civil war. The Government of Rwanda has multiple planning frameworks in place to address poverty reduction and increase the productivity and revenues in the agricultural sector, such as the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) and Strategic Plan for Transformation of Agriculture in Rwanda. The country was among the ten most improved economies in 2013.

Current Health and Education Context
Rwanda has one of the highest primary school enrolment rates in Africa, which is attributed to significant investments made through the Nine Year Basic Education (NYBE) Program, launched in 2006. However, the quality of education remains low. Many children are attending primary school but not gaining functional literacy. Many schools suffer from a lack of qualified teachers and insufficient teaching and learning materials.

The Government of Rwanda's (GOR) Education Sector Strategic Plan 2008 – 2012 emphasizes improvements needed in the education sector such as improving primary school completion rates, reducing drop outs and repeating classes, and improving examination performance. Rwanda currently has one of the lowest enrolment rates at secondary school level in Sub-Saharan Africa. The GOR's Education Sector Strategic Plan also recognizes the importance of training, recruiting and retaining teaching staff in order to achieve the targets in both terms of access and quality of education, increasing teacher motivation and status, and addressing supply side constraints by increasing schooling capacity – classrooms, adequate textbooks, learning materials.

The Government of Rwanda has recognized the importance of school feeding for improving the food security of children and academic attendance. In 2010, the Rwandan Agricultural Board initiated the One Cup of Milk per Child program for primary school children. Although a national program, it is coordinated by local governments at the provincial level.

In 2009 the President signed an emergency plan to fight malnutrition. Approximately 80 percent of Rwanda's children (1.1 million) aged 6-59 months were screened for acute undernutrition, of which 7.7 percent were identified and treated. The government also developed a Malnutrition Emergency Plan, including education, training and school feeding, to scale up community based nutritional interventions to prevent malnutrition particularly amongst the under 5 demographic.

Programming Priorities

USDA is soliciting proposals which demonstrate that proposed activities make substantial contributions to the highest level strategic objectives *Improved Literacy of School-Age Children* and *Increased Use of Health and Dietary Practices* as outlined in the McGovern Dole results

framework.

The Government of Rwanda (GOR) is strongly committed to establishing a home grown school feeding program by procuring foods locally. Therefore, USDA is making available through this solicitation vegetable oil and animal protein products only. Competitive proposals will seek to use these commodities as a take home ration or as a school meal or snack in conjunction with locally provided products. McGovern-Dole Program funds cannot be used to purchase foods locally. Proposals that seek other commodities to be provided by USDA will not be competitive. Competitive proposals should provide a full explanation of the use of the requested commodity.

Competitive proposals will complement, but not duplicate, GOR efforts to establish a home grown school feeding program. Proposals should demonstrate concrete support from the GOR and have solid timeline for handover of schools to the government and sufficient capacity building of the government to enable the handover. Competitive proposals will target the areas of Nyamagabe and Nyaruguru districts of the Southern province. These are the areas where the GOR is working to upgrade school feeding. Proposals may also include the other districts specified under Priority #2 above with a justification for selecting these districts contained in the proposal's strategic analysis.

To support the McGovern-Dole literacy goal, competitive proposals will have a strong focus on training teachers and school administrators in pedagogical skills as well as providing pedagogical supplies such as textbooks and other reading materials. Competitive proposals will also address teacher retention and student drop out.

Honduras

Targeted areas: Camasca, Colomoncagua, Concepcion, Dolores, lntibuca, Jesus de Otoro, La Esperanza, Magdalena, Masaguara, San Antonio, San Francisco de Opalaca, San Isidro, San Juan, San Marco de Sierra, San Miguelito, Santa Lucia, Yamaranguila (All 17 municipalities listed above are located in the Department of Intibuca).

Country Context

Honduras is a middle to low income country facing significant challenges, with more than two thirds of the population living in poverty and five out of ten suffering from extreme poverty (2012). In rural areas 6 out of 10 households live in extreme poverty. Since the 2008-2009 global economic crisis, Honduras has experienced a moderate recovery, propelled by public investments, and export revenues.

Growth is hampered by inequality. Another challenge is the level of crime and violence in Honduras, as it is the country with the highest homicide rate in the world. It is estimated that the annual costs of violence account for about 10% of the country's GDP (nearly US $ 900 million). Crime and violence have also eroded citizens' confidence in the rule of law.

Current Health and Education Context

On average, Honduras spends much more on public education than other Latin American countries. However, Honduras' increased spending on education has not resulted in superior educational outcomes. The Honduran education system faces problems of general service provision, including low teacher accountability and poor performance.

The World Bank Public Expenditure Review (PER) identifies the most prominent quality and efficiency problems in the Honduran educational system including low teacher attendance, shortened class days, and high grade-repetition rates. Various options to correct these shortcomings have been proposed, including better enforcement of teacher attendance and performance, among others (World Bank 2007)

The Honduran National School Feeding Program (SFP) supports more than 1.5 million children. It is the largest safety-net program in Honduras. National SFP has improved enrollment, attendance, and retention among primary school children. In 2012, Government of Honduras made a financial commitment of more than $51 million over two years.

Programming Priorities

The McGovern-Dole Program seeks to expand upon on a current project in the Department of Intibuca. Proposals should demonstrate that proposed activities make substantial contributions to the highest level strategic objectives *Improved Literacy of School-Age Children* and *Increased Use of Health and Dietary Practices* as outlined in the McGovern Dole results framework.

To support the McGovern-Dole literacy goal, competitive proposals will have a strong focus on training teachers and school administrators in pedagogical skills as well as providing pedagogical supplies such as textbooks and other reading materials. Competitive proposals will also have a

focus on teacher retention, the reduction of teacher absenteeism, and incentivizing teacher performance. Proposals will demonstrate strong support from the Government of Honduras and a concrete plan for working with the government to sustain the benefits of work done under the McGovern-Dole funding including achieving functional literacy of students.

To support the McGovern-Dole goal of creating sustainable, nationally owned school feeding programs, competitive proposals will demonstrate how the applicant will work with the Government of Honduras to strengthen the national school feeding program. Proposals should contain a concrete timeline for handover of schools to the government and sufficient capacity building of the government to enable the handover.

USDA is also seeking applications that include a component that engages youth outside of the classroom such as a 4-H-type program. Examples of this would be the 4-S program in Costa Rica, or National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA's) International Positive Youth Development program which promotes agricultural education in their target schools. Proposals should also include activities which address children's safety when going to and from school.

Mozambique

Targeted areas: Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane, Sofala, Manica, Nampula (Muecate and Nacaroa Districts) Provinces

Country Context

Mozambique has emerged as one of the world's fastest growing economies, with foreign investors showing interest in the country's untapped oil and gas reserves. Mozambique is seen as a gateway to global markets for neighboring land-locked countries. Mozambique's economy grew by seven percent in 2013 led by transport and communications, financial services and extractive industries.

Despite the growth, poverty remains widespread in Mozambique, with more than 50 percent of Mozambicans living on less than $1 a day. The slow rate of poverty reduction in the face of robust economic growth is the development challenge in today's Mozambique. The economy suffered serious setbacks when in 2000 and 2001, Mozambique was hit by floods which affected about a quarter of the population and destroyed much of its infrastructure. Furthermore, in 2002 a severe drought hit many central and southern parts of the country, including previously flood-stricken areas.

Current Health and Education Context

The Government of Mozambique has multiple plans in place for human development including the Poverty Reduction Plan, Agricultural Production Strategy, Food Action Plan, Private Sector Development Plan, Strategy for Business Enabling Environment, HIV/AIDS Prevention Strategy, Ministry of Health Human Capacity Development Strategy, and others. In 2012, the Government of Mozambique released its child feeding and nutrition policy. This policy was developed with the assistance of the Brazilian government and the WFP Center for Excellence. Brazilian government officials and the Mozambican Ministry of Education developed a homegrown school feeding program, which is currently operating as a pilot in one area.

Today, one hundred percent of the children are enrolled in primary school, up from 69 per cent in 2003 (UNICEF). In spite of these great strides to expand access to schools, much remains to be done to improve the quality of education in the classroom. A large proportion of primary school teachers do not have adequate training, and double or triple-shift teaching has been introduced to cope with the shortage of classrooms and teachers. In the lower primary level, there is an average of one teacher for every 74 children.

The completion rate, which is a key indicator for measuring the quality of education, remains low – nearly half of primary school aged children leave school before they complete grade five. Only 8 percent of children go on to secondary school. Inequalities persist in terms of access to education, based on where a child lives, the child's gender, and on the level of household poverty. In the poorest families, for example, only 39 per cent of girls compared to 52 per cent of boys attend school. The limited number of female teachers—in the upper primary level, only 23 per cent of teachers are women—means that girls often lack role models who could encourage

them to continue and complete their studies. (UNICEF) Many schools do not have adequate water and sanitation facilities and classrooms lack desks and school materials.

Programming Priorities

USDA seeks to expand upon on current projects in the Maputo province, and the Muecate and Nacaroa Districts in Nampula province. In addition, USDA seeks proposals for the provinces of Gaza, Inhambane, Sofala, Manica. Proposals should demonstrate that proposed activities make substantial contributions to the highest level strategic objectives *Improved Literacy of School-Age Children* and *Increased Use of Health and Dietary Practices* as outlined in the McGovern Dole results framework.

USDA and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) are seeking to work together in Mozambique. To that end, USDA is seeking proposals that demonstrate a very strong early grade reading focus that is appropriate for poor, rural language children. Specifically, competitive proposals will have a focus on the following:

- Professional development and support that provides effective early grade reading instructional strategies to Mozambican primary school teachers; and
- Effective supplementary reading materials aligned to national goals and standards ensuring that children become fluent readers by the end of grade 3.

Competitive proposals will seek to address the following components which have been determined to be needed for functional literacy. Training for teachers, administrators and other professional school staff is essential to ensure these components are put into practice and are effective.

1. ***Phonemic Awareness:*** Words are created from sounds (phonemes). This includes the ability to identify, isolate, and blend sounds into words.
2. ***Phonics:*** Sounds and letter symbols are integrally connected. After learning phonemes, children need to learn the connection between letter sounds and written script.
3. ***Vocabulary:*** Vocabulary refers to the meaning of words. Children need to learn the meaning of new words to progress in reading ability to more difficult text. Teachers need to continually teach the meaning of new and unfamiliar words to increase children's knowledge and understanding. This can be both oral vocabulary (listening) and written vocabulary (reading).
4. ***Fluency:*** Reading fluency requires that a child read with sufficient speed, accuracy, and expression. Fluency allows the reader time to comprehend what they are reading; the more fluent a reader is, the greater potential there is for good comprehension.
5. ***Reading Comprehension:*** Reading comprehension is the ultimate goal. It involves all other aspects of reading and could be summarized as the meaning that the reader makes from the text that is read.

USDA requires a baseline be conducted for all McGovern-Dole Program projects. For any projects awarded in Mozambique, USDA will review the results of the baseline study and work with the implementer to address the results and make any needed changes to the project

structure. Additionally, specific indicators unique to Mozambique will be required of any cooperative agreement. Further, USDA may require a more rigorous evaluation process in cooperation with USAID.

Further, competitive proposals will demonstrate support of the Government of Mozambique's education priority of rehabilitating and constructing schools and classrooms. Also, competitive proposals will address sanitation needs including latrines, hand washing stations and access to water.

As with all McGovern-Dole proposals, competitive proposals for Mozambique will contain a well thought out ration calculation and school feeding structure. Competitive proposals will also demonstrate how the applicant will work with the Government of Mozambique to strengthen the national school feeding program. Proposals should contain a concrete timeline for handover of schools to the government and sufficient capacity building of the government to enable the handover.

Sierra Leone

Targeted areas: District of Koinadugu, northern Sierra Leone

Country Context

After Sierra Leone's civil war (1991 to 2002) wreaked havoc on the country's social fabric and its economy, there have been several years of recovery and improvement in the economy. However, the causes of the conflict persist in many areas. Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth increased to 15.2 percent in 2012 due to the commencement of iron ore production, while non-iron ore GDP growth was only 5.3 percent. The latter was led by an expansion in agricultural production, services and construction, as spending, particularly on roads and the two large iron ore projects, continued at increased levels.

Sierra Leone is a highly diverse country, with a population of about 5.5 million speaking more than a dozen languages. Urban populations grew significantly in the years of conflict (to about 40 percent of the total population), increasing the numbers of people living in slums, and encroaching on the state and private land surrounding urban centers.

Current Health and Education Context

There are numerous contextual factors that currently constrain improvements in food security in Sierra Leone, including weak civil society and rural social hierarchies and patriarchal systems that result in inequitable access to land, and discrimination and marginalization of the extreme poor, women and youth. Lack of gender equity—including lack of education and income-generating opportunities and decision-making power for women, high levels of illiteracy among women, excessive workload, early marriage, high fertility and gender-based violence against women—acts as a constraint against social development. In terms of adult literacy rates (people over the age of 15 who can read and write) 55 percent of males have literacy while women lag at 32 percent. Food insecurity in Sierra Leone increases sharply in the lean season, when 45 percent of the population does not have sufficient access to food with some districts being more food insecure than others.

The Government of Sierra Leone (GOSL) has a program Scaling Up Nutrition to improve the health and nutrition of Sierra Leonean children. Education and nutrition are critical priorities for President Koroma given the youth bulge and high statistics on maternal and child mortality and malnutrition in rural areas. In the coming year the WFP Center of Excellent against Hunger in Brazil will be hosting a delegation of government officials from Sierra Leone to learn about the Brazilian school feeding model and to develop a government action plan for school feeding.

Programming Priority

USDA is soliciting proposals to continue and build upon the McGovern-Dole project currently being implemented in the Koinadugu district. Proposals should demonstrate that proposed activities make substantial contributions to the highest level strategic objectives *Improved Literacy of School-Age Children* and *Increased Use of Health and Dietary Practices* as outlined in the McGovern Dole results framework.

To support the McGovern-Dole Program's focus on education, competitive proposals will have a strong focus on encouraging girls to attend, and complete primary schooling. Competitive proposals will also have a focus on educating the community on the importance of education, especially for girls, as well as encouraging women to participate in community activities such as Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA) and School Management Committees (SMC). Further, competitive proposals will also focus on training teachers (especially women) and school administrators in pedagogical skills as well as providing pedagogical supplies such as textbooks and other reading materials.

To support the McGovern-Dole Program's focus on creating nationally owned, sustainable school feeding programs, competitive proposals will demonstrate how the applicant will work with the Government of Sierra Leone to support its efforts to develop an action plan for school feeding. Proposals should contain a concrete plan to help the government move its school feeding efforts toward national ownership and a timeline for the government takeover of school feeding operations.

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Food for Progress Program

Benin

Targeted areas: The Atlantique/Littoral/ Northern Region

Country Context

Benin has a population of 10.1 million with a life expectancy of 61 years for the population as a whole and a population growth rate of 2.8 percent. Nearly 64 percent of the population is under 24 years of age. Benin has been politically stable for additional than 20 years. The country has been able to maintain security at the national scale. On the economic front, Benin has, since the 1990s, recorded encouraging macro-economic results with an annual growth rate of 5% and a fairly low inflation rate, below the West Africa Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) average. Having come under severe pressure in 2009 and 2010 from the combined effects of the world economic crisis and the floods that hit the country, Benin's economic activity has been recovering since 2011. The economic outlook for 2013 and 2014 is positive and should confirm increase recovery, supported by good results from the 2012/13 cotton season and recovery in port activities.

Despite its democratic structures based on the rule of law, Benin still has work to do on poverty reduction and economic development. Around one third of the population is chronically impoverished. Economic growth is unable to keep pace with the steep rise in population. The government is encouraging private sector involvement in the implementation of the 2011-2015 Poverty Reduction Strategy (SCRP). It is focusing increasingly on promoting public-private partnerships (PPPs) to finance development programs.

Current Agricultural Development Context

Benin's economy is overwhelmingly agricultural, with most workers engaged in subsistence farming. Almost, fifty-eight percent of Benin's labor force works in agriculture and for a large proportion, it is their primary activity. Agriculture contributes about 32.6% to GDP. The chief crops are cotton, corn, cassava, yams, beans, palm oil, peanuts, and cashews. The livestock sector includes goats, sheep, and pigs. There is a sizable freshwater fishing industry, and some ocean fish are also caught. Most of Benin's few manufactures are processed agricultural goods, basic consumer items, textiles, and building materials. Cotton is the main cash crop with a production of 200,000 – 400,000 tons per year.

Programming Priorities

USDA is soliciting proposals which demonstrate that proposed activities make substantial contributions to the highest level strategic objectives *Increase Agricultural Productivity and Expanded Trade of Agricultural Products (Domestic, Regional and International)* as outlined in the Food for Progress (FFPr) results framework. USDA has identified two value chains for interventions. The Pineapple Sector in the Atlantique/ Littoral region and the Cashew in the Northern region. Proposals should address only one value chain (either the pineapple or the cashew value chain), as the project should be targeted and efficient in implementation.

Prioritized Value Chains

1. Pineapple Value Chain

The pineapple sector is very important for Benin´s economy. The country has unused agricultural potentials suitable for pineapple cultivation. Benin has suitable climatic and soil conditions for pineapple cultivation in eight of the 12 of Benin´s districts: Atlantique, Littoral, Outmen, Plateau, Mono, Cuff, Zoo and Collins. The Atlantique/Littoral area produces over 80 % of the total production of pineapple in Benin. The number of households involved in the pineapple industry is estimated at more than 10,000 in 2002 (ABePEC, 2009). Beninese pineapple production has an average increase of 13% a year.

This sector has a potential for export, however lack of processing and export regulations limits the exports of pineapple. The local potential market for fresh pineapple consumption is estimated at about a quarter of the production. The sector has experienced a significant development;, however many failures and weaknesses such as funding, research, processing, transport and access to international markets, and other technical supports hold the sector back. The processing market represents only a tiny part of the total production, despite the potential and proven success of processed products (juices, dried pineapple, syrups, marmalades and jams) on local, regional and international markets. The sub-sector of processing comprises individual actors, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

USDA has identified the following interventions to achieve the goals of the FFPr results framework

1) Strengthen the pineapple processing sector aimed at exports
2) Improve standards for pineapple processing

2. Cashew Value Chain

Benin is the world's eleventh largest producer of raw cashew nuts, which represent the second export cash crop after cotton. The cultivation area has increased from 10,000 hectares of cashew orchards in 1990 to 190,000 hectares in 2008, with a corresponding increase in exports. In 2011 the total cashew export from Benin was about 140,000 tons and contributed four percent to GDP. The cashew sector employs around 200,000 people including 180,000 small-scale farmers.

Cashew is largely cultivated as a complement to food crops. The dry season coincides with the start of the cashew harvest and trading, thus farmers can sell cashew and reinvest the profit into the household's food security.

Although cashew cultivation is one of the most important areas of agricultural development in Benin, little has been done in terms of promoting the crop other than some seedling distribution to farmers. Approximately 95 percent of harvested raw nuts are sold for export to India, Pakistan, Vietnam, and Singapore; thus five percent or less of production is left for local processing. The chain from producer to exporter suffers from speculation and severe price

fluctuations. The lack of communication and flow between value chain actors often results in lower prices for producers. Additionally, variability in the quality of the product, processing methods, and the ignorance of traceability and quality norms, constrain the potential growth of value in this sector.

Several recent initiatives endeavor to develop the commercial organization of the crop in an effort to increase the economic returns to producers and other local participants. These efforts have focused on improving technology via the introduction of improved varieties and new planting techniques, as well as assisting farmers in forming associations to improve market linkages with buyers of raw nuts.

The government of Benin has also provided generous tax incentives that exempt local processors from import and export taxes for the first 10 – 15 years of operation in a bid to capture higher value-added and generate employment at the local level. Key barriers for value chain improvements are: lack of maintenance of cashew orchards, cashew processing sector poorly developed, low quality and lack of traceability along the value chain, low organization of the different actors along the value chain.

USDA has identified the following prioritized needs for interventions to support the FFP framework.

3) Increase cashew production and improve cashew quality consistency
4) Develop viable and dependable local cashew processing capacity

Ghana

Targeted areas: Upper West, Upper East, Northern, Brong-Ahafo, and Greater Accra.

Country Context

Ghana has a population of 25.7 million with a growth rate of 2.19 percent. A full 57.3 percent of the population is under 24 years of age. In addition to being a Feed the Future focus country, Ghana is West Africa's second largest economy after Nigeria, and Africa's twelfth largest. Ghana is the world's second largest cocoa producer behind Ivory Coast. In Ghana about 1.2 million people, representing five percent of Ghana's population, are food insecure in the three northern regions (FAO 2011), and up to 1.5 million people vulnerable to food insecurity live in the rural and urban areas of the remaining seven regions.

The Ghanaian economy proved to be relatively resilient to the world economic shock of 2008–2009, mainly because of the high prices of cocoa and gold. Ghana's growth prospects are positive in the long-term particularly as Ghana commences the production of gas and explores its new oil fields. The country has continued to consolidate good governance, and now enjoys a more open society, with a vibrant media and strong public dialogue.

Current Agricultural Development Context

Ghana has an area of about 240,000 square kilometers, with about 57 percent of the total being arable land. Only about 29 percent is estimated to be under cultivation for major crops. There is significant room for expansion in land use in Ghana for agriculture. Agriculture contributes 21 percent of Ghana's GDP and currently employs 56% of the country's labor force. About 70 percent of agricultural production is by small scale farmers, with land holdings less than one hectare and a daily income of less than a dollar. Ghana's agriculture is predominantly traditional and rain-fed and is sensitive to climatic aberrations and changes.

Agriculture accounts for over 40 percent of export earnings while at the same time providing over 90 percent of the food needs of the country. The major agricultural items produced in Ghana include: industrial crops, starchy staples, cereals, legumes, fruits and vegetables, livestock and, fish. There is room to increase supply as it is estimated that the country produces only 51% of its cereal needs; 60% of the fish requirements; 50% of meat, and less than 30% of agro-based industries demand for raw materials.

Commercial food imports and food aid have constituted about five percent of food needs for the last fifteen years. The food processing sector is underdeveloped. The slow growth of agriculture is due to a combination of factors that reduce farmers' incentives to invest and produce – these include low fertilizer application due to high costs, small plot sizes, lack of agricultural credit, lack of agricultural machinery, unavailability of improved seeds, and a lack of knowledge of improved farming practices. Other related constraints are the lack of market access for farm produce, lack of processing and storage facilities, and poor record keeping. Additional challenges are raised by poor basic infrastructure - poor road networks, inadequate supplies of drinking water, lack of electricity, and a lack of schools in many farming communities.

Programming Priorities

USDA is soliciting proposals which demonstrate that proposed activities make substantial contributions to the highest level strategic objectives *Increase Agricultural Productivity* and *Expanded Trade of Agricultural Products (Domestic, Regional and International)* as outlined in the Food for Progress results framework. USDA has identified the poultry value chain for intervention.

Commercial poultry production has been declining, only providing about ten percent of poultry meat requirements since 2009. Most producers have shifted to egg production which is more profitable. Poultry meat imports into Ghana have grown to fill in the gap. According to industry sources, only 10,000 MT of broiler chickens (meat) and 12,400MT of spent layers (meat) are supplied by domestic poultry producers. This is due primarily to the high cost of production (feed, other inputs), inefficient production methods, limited knowledge of modern poultry management, and lack of processing facilities.

The rise in imports of poultry meat has energized government efforts to increase domestic production. A multi-stakeholder process to kick start broiler processing in the country has recently been launched. The "Ghana Broiler Revitalization Project" (GHABROP) is a ten year initiative between the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Ghana National Association of Poultry Farmers to boost production, processing, and marketing of chicken within Ghana. Commercial poultry production in Ghana can be categorized into large-scale (over 10,000 birds), medium-scale (5,000-10,000 birds) and small-scale (50-5,000) enterprises. Currently there are less than twenty large-scale commercial poultry operators, producing mainly eggs with limited production of broilers (meat). The level of bio-security practice is high in the large-scale category. The large commercial poultry farms are privately owned by individuals or a family. Most operate their own feed-mills. Some maintain a hatchery and parent stock

Broiler birds produced by some commercial poultry farmers are targeted at festive seasons (Christmas, Easter), when Ghanaians would normally buy live chickens. Most of the poultry producers also sell off spent layer chickens during these festive occasions.

Ghana's poultry feed industry has shifted to producing layer feed due to the increase in poultry layer producers. About 90 percent of feed produced by commercial feed millers is layer feed. Corn typically forms about 50-60 percent of the total feed formulation. The poultry industry consumes nearly 30 percent of all corn produced in Ghana.

Soybean meal provides a source of protein for poultry feed. Soybean meal ranges from 10–18 percent of the feed ration for layers and 15–25 percent for broilers. However, soybean meal inclusion in poultry feed remains low due to its high cost. According to industry sources, Ghana requires an estimated 8,000 metric tons of soybean meal in the preparation of poultry feed.

Broiler feed is mainly purchased by small scale backyard poultry producers because most large scale operators produce their own feed. The growth of the domestic poultry (broiler) industry continues to be slow. The supply of broilers in 2011/2012 is about ten percent of the total market demand according to Government of Ghana (GOG) and industry sources.

USDA has identified the following interventions to support the FFPr results framework

1) Integrated layer production while supporting the “Ghana Broiler Revitalization Project” (GHABROP)
2) Improved feed production (with linkages to local sourcing from the Northern Region) and purchasing linkages with poultry producers

Dominic Republic

Targeted areas: All regions

Country Context

The population in Dominican Republic (DR) is 10.4 million with an annual growth rate of just over one percent. The urban population is 75 percent of the total while the rural population is 25 percent of the total. Nearly 46.6 percent of the population is under age 24. Despite many years of high economic growth, the country has a very significant accumulated social deficit. Over thirty percent of the population live in conditions of poverty. The country suffers from marked income inequality; the poorest half of the population receives less than one-fifth of GDP, while the richest 10% enjoys nearly 40% of GDP. High unemployment and underemployment remains an important long-term challenge. Many of its social indicators are significantly below that of other countries with similar economic levels, particularly in the health area.

Current Agricultural Development Context

According to the DR's Central Bank, average growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over the last 5 years was 4.8%. The main drivers of economic growth included: mining (151%); construction (7.3%); agriculture (4.4%); and services (3.0%), which include the tourism, hotels, bars and restaurants category (6.3% growth in 2013).

In 2012, the agricultural sector accounted for 5.6% of the country's GDP. Overall, the sector employs around 14% of the population and is poised to grow by around 4%. The livestock, forestry and fisheries agricultural subsector accounts for close to half of overall agricultural production, followed by other crops such as plantains, bananas, tomatoes, pineapple, coconut, yucca, etc. Within the livestock subsectors, dairy is the predominant, activity, accounting for 29% of subsector revenue during the 2010–12 period. Beef cattle and poultry follow closely, with 28% and 22%, respectively, while pork production is on the rise.

From an export perspective, the DR's top agricultural exports in 2012 included: bananas, cocoa beans, fresh produce, coffee, avocados and peppers. The majority of these exports were destined for the US and EU markets. Sugar (raw cane) has long been one of the DR's principal exports, with a value of US$162 million (221,650 MT) in 2012.

The Dominican Republic is highly dependent on agricultural imports, though self-sufficient in some basic food products including rice, beans, and vegetables. The Dominican Republic has long been viewed primarily as an exporter of sugar, coffee, and tobacco, but in recent years the service sector has overtaken agriculture as the economy's largest employer, due to growth in telecommunications, tourism, and free trade zones. Agriculture still remains the most important sector in terms of domestic consumption and is in second place (behind mining) in terms of export earnings.

Programming Priorities

USDA is soliciting proposals which demonstrate that proposed activities make substantial contributions to the highest level strategic objectives *Increase Agricultural Productivity and Expanded Trade of Agricultural Products (Domestic, Regional and International)* as outlined in the Food for Progress results framework. Proposals do not need to cover northern regions of Dominic Republic, but need to provide specific justification for selecting specific regions. USDA is prioritizing value chains within the high value agricultural commodities (Horticulture and Vegetables, and Meat) sectors.

Food and agricultural producers in the Dominican Republic are challenged by ongoing market liberalization, and increasing requirements to meet food safety and quality standards both for domestic consumption and for export. Local producers lack guidance on international food safety and quality standards, inhibiting their ability to compete in the broader regional and global market.

Within the agricultural and agribusiness sectors, a wide disparity in production methods and sophistication of food safety and quality control practices exist. FAS sees a marked need to help the Dominican Republic's producers to access international markets and comply with quality standards required by international retail chains. Proposals should include agricultural sectors which have demonstrated strong growth in sales both domestically and abroad (e.g. fresh fruit and vegetables), sub-sectors with exceptional opportunities for future growth, and sub-sectors which face competitive trends from other producers (e.g. meats).

FAS sees a strong need for engagement with the private sector, in particular with producers which are currently investing in product quality and safety. Programs should ensure that critical stakeholders (e.g. local and global retailers and consumer advocate groups) play an active role in the project. Special attention should be paid to promoting constructive dialogue with regulatory and food safety authorities, as well as consumer groups, and improving public/private dialogue on food safety.

USDA has identified the following prioritized need for interventions to support the FFPr results framework in the High Value Agricultural Commodities (Horticulture and Vegetables, and Meat)
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1) Food production and processing systems geared towards export markets
2) Cultivation of export-enabling environments and systems (to support the CAFTA DR)