

**Central Agricultural Research Institute
Suakoko, Bong County**

**To: Mr. John Medendorp
BHEARD Coordinator USA**

**From: Mandela K. Hinneh
Head Fishery Unit/ BHEARD Scholar**

Introduction

On December 2, 2018, the Fishery and aquaculture unit of the Central Agricultural Research Institute participated in a 4H Agriculture fair in Monrovia. The agriculture fair was attended by important personalities from reputable institution around Liberia. Some of these personalities were Mr. Alvin Wesseh (Assistant Minister) of Agriculture Ministry and Mr. Saku Dukuly (Assistant Minister) Education Ministry. The Central Agricultural Research Institute was represented by Mr. Mandela Hinneh (Head of Fishery and Aquaculture), Mr. Samuel Mulbah and Mr. Simpson Kerkula. Also, there were some representatives of the American Peace Corp and the United Methodist Church of Liberia. The essence of this fair was for 4H Liberia to show what some schools in Liberia especially the ones in the hinterland have been doing as it relate to Agriculture and other health related issue. Also they want to motivate the students in the hinterland by exposing them to other schools in Monrovia through many activities that will create a friendship between them. This fair was also attended by six Junior high school who were competing for the grand prize for Best School. Mr. Umaru Sheriff, Head of 4H Liberia welcome us in a grand style.

Objectives

1. To showcase to the student what the Fishery and Aquaculture Unit of the Central Agricultural Research institute has been doing as it relates to Fish Farming
2. To encourage students to study Animal Science especially Fisheries as they enter in to the university.
3. To encourage the Ministry of Education to introduce Animal Science (livestock and Fishery) in to the school gardening project.

Justification

From practical experience as a part time Lecturer at the Cuttington University College of Agriculture and Development Studies, it has been observed that majority of the students prefer to study crops science rather than animal science. It is with this that the Fishery and Aquaculture unit gathered a lot of information on animal and its essential nutrients to start encouraging the younger generation in to studying Animal science when they enter university. Also, from reliable sources, besides the school gardening project that are ongoing in most schools, it has been observed that no school in Liberia is rearing or growing animals. This unit wants to encourage the growing of animals in all schools around Liberia with collaboration with Ministry of Education.

During the fair, we showcased what we brought from CARI and did a short presentation on activities in the Fishery and Aquaculture Unit. We explained the role of CARI as it relates to Agriculture work within the Country and how the Institution is available to the general public when it comes to solving Agricultural matters that cannot be understood by the farmers. It was realized that the majority of the students did not have an idea about CARI. A lot of relevant questions were pose by the students and all of these question were answered to their satisfaction.



Lecturing Student



Nile Tilapia in the Barrel



With Research Assistant Simpson



Lecturing the students

While all aspects of Agriculture are important to the society, it was realized during interaction with these students that most of them would prefer to study Crops Science over Animal Science. After a lengthy conversation with the students regarding the essence of animal nutrition and the mantle it plays in the human body, it was observed that they started to grow interest in the Animal field especially from the way they were amazed by the conversation. We also motivated them in to studying Fisheries Science or Aquaculture when they enter the

University. The good thing for some of these students who will want to enter the Fishery or Aquaculture field is that by the time of their graduation, the University of Liberia will be offering a Degree in this discipline. According to the Dean of the Agriculture College at University of Liberia, the Fishery and Aquaculture programs might likely start this year if all goes as plan. As a young Fish Scientist and representative of CARI, I have made it my duty to start encouraging high school students get in this field.



With the Winning School



Lecturing some students and Teachers



With some Students



Showing some Photos to Students

During the program, I spoke on behalf our CARI and Borlaug Higher Education for Agriculture Research and Development (BHEARD) program. Firstly during speech, I reference CARI and spoke about how they have impacted a lot of young people lives in Liberia and later elaborated on BHEARD program and how the program have been transforming the younger generation in to a certify scientists in Liberia, Africa and Asia. It was realize that the Ministry of Education School Gardening project was only focus on crops and as such during my speech I stress on the essence of adding Animal Science to this project. Fortunately for us, right after the program, the Head of Research and the Deputy Minister for education approach me as it relates to adding Animal Science to the School Gardening project. The conversation was great and a pending meeting is to be set up hopefully at the end of January where this issue will be discuss amongst the key players. One thing we notice after the program was most of the people at the program grew interest when glance at the fish we brought to exhibit. Even the Assistant Minister was so impress.



Students and 4H Members



With Deputy Minister Alvin



General Audience



Some Member of Peace Corp

Recommendation

The following recommendations were made base on the relevance of promoting fish farming and encouraging high school to study Animal Science;

1. That the Central Agricultural Research Institute should established linkage with the Ministry of Education in regards to Agriculture matters.
2. That CARI should take the lead on the school Gardening project as it relates to introducing the Animal Science
3. That a special program should be created by CARI to encourage high school in to studying Animal Science.

Conclusion

The Ministry of Education have been doing extremely well through the School Gardening project as it relates to helping schools around the Country. It will be prudent that CARI and the Ministry of Agriculture work in collaboration with the Ministry of Education to help established the animal program in all of the high schools in the 15 Counties.