

LIBERIA

Summary of Bankable Investment Project Profile – Volume II of IV

Project for Inland Swamp Rehabilitation and Development

Estimated Cost: US\$7 m

Project Duration: 5 years

Rationale. The project would operate in the main areas where inland swamp is prevalent and where there is a tradition and experience in swamp cultivation, i.e., Lofa, Grand Gedeh and River Gee counties. A total of 4,000 ha of swamp area would be rehabilitated; while about 2,300 ha would be newly developed. Some 1,400 farmers, mostly women, would also be assisted to practice small-scale irrigation by constructing shallow wells and small reservoirs, to produce crops during the dry season.

Project Objectives:

- **Overall Goal/Development Objective:** The objective of the project is to increase food production by expanding cultivation within the inland swamps, thereby contributing to poverty reduction and food security.
- **Project Development Objectives:** The project would: a) rehabilitate abandoned inland swamps and develop new ones for the production of rice and vegetables; b) promote small-scale community irrigation, especially for women market-gardeners to produce high value crops; and c) strengthen institutional capacity in water resources management to support farmers. To this end the project would organize farmers to obtain technical assistance, training, extension service and credit for the purchase of farm equipment and inputs. MOA staff would also be strengthened through the provision of training, technical assistance equipment and incremental operating funds.

Project Components and Main Activities:

- *Rehabilitation and development of inland swamps*
- *Promotion of small-scale community irrigation*
- *Strengthening institutional capacity in water resources management*

Implementation Responsibility. The overall responsibility for the project would be vested with MOA. However, the actual execution of the project would be carried out under an implementation unit to be established under MOA.