

SIERRA LEONE



Building Sierra Leone One Field At A Time

Sierra Leone was a nation well known for being able to feed itself and had more than enough to export to international communities. The rebel war and mining action ties were harmful catalysts for the deterioration of our agricultural sector.

Now that the war is over, the nation must be able to regain all that has been lost. Yes it is obvious that agriculture was the backbone of our strength before the war, and now we definitely have to strengthen this sector if we are to progress.

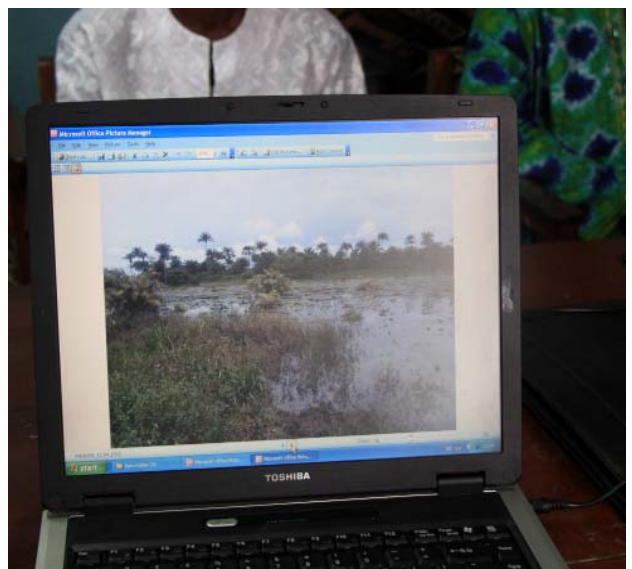
Post-harvest technology, irrigation and farm mechanization are the most important elements lacking in the agricultural sector. The Movement for Agricultural Development (MoSAD) is very enthusiastic in facing those challenges, and we are totally committed to ensuring food security in Sierra Leone.

So far we have 2 main projects well underway and several more in the pipeline. Two years ago we bought land near the Freetown airport and we have now a plantation of pine trees, for harvest of pine oil and palm wine. We also bought land near Bo where we have a maize plantation. We are looking at buying land for milk production, this initiative we are working on with the Sierra Leonean Nurses' Association. Food is health; we are in the health business.

By Arthur Chinsman-Williams BSc, MSc
Mr Chinsman Williams is a baccalaureate in



agricultural engineering, and a Master of Science in soil and water engineering. He works as a research officer in soil and water engineering in Freetown. He is the president of MoSAD, a group of agricultural engineers who meet weekly and create and execute agricultural projects.



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Weekly Friday meetings of MoSAD are held in the Agricultural Institute near the center of Freetown. MJoTA Publisher was invited to sit in on a meeting, where she heard about the projects already underway and projects planned. MoSAD members are all agricultural engineering graduates. They have their hearts in Sierra Leone, their hands in the soil, and their considerable collective and individual intellect in solving agricultural problems in Sierra Leone. MJoTA is proud to work with them in the immense task of creating a milk factory in Sierra Leone: a West African country of less than 6 million lacking electricity, piped running water and milk. Sierra Leone has the highest rate of women dying in childbirth in the world.



Building Peace Through Agriculture

Agriculture is a very important tool in developing a country. For a very good economy in Sierra Leone, agriculture must be made predominant.

The cultivation of crops on a very large scale is not the only answer to agricultural sustainability. We must employ functional agronomic practice, irrigation systems, management schemes and post-harvest systems.

As an agricultural engineer, I believe also that engaging the right people in agriculture to improve their livelihood will make agriculture boom.

And a happy and healthy world is what we are striving for. I love working on the land, and I am excited about the projects MoSAD has up and running.



By Joseph D Gando

Mr Gando is a baccalaureate in agricultural engineering, and a Master of Science in soil and water engineering.

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