



Liberia Market Brief: Agricultural Crops

Agro-forestry, Horticulture, Food Crops & Tree Crops



COUNTRY AREA

11,137*

* 1000 hectares (ha)

AGRICULTURAL AREA

1,954.04*

IRRIGATED AREA

600*

FOREST AREA

7,647.7*

Source: FAO estimate, 2019

KEY MARKET FACTS

Agro-Forestry

- About 70% of households collect forest products for self-consumption and/or for sale, spending >3 hours daily collecting things like fuelwood and bushmeat
- Only 24% of households process these products for value addition
- The 4th largest contributor to Liberia's GDP after services, agriculture, and fisheries
- Chainsaw milling contributes about US\$41m per annum (3-4% of GDP) and provides up to 24,000 regular jobs while the charcoal industry employs up to 28,000

Horticulture & Food Crops

- Liberia produces only 40% of its primary food staple, rice, and imports the remaining 60% – amounting to 300,000MT/year
- Demand for local and exotic vegetables far outstrips current ability to supply; e.g. in 2018 Liberia produced 3,500MT of tomatoes and imported 41,000MT
- Monrovia is the primary market, with the two major supermarkets importing ~20MT of vegetables per month, increasing significantly during festival months (Eid, Christmas) – but always prefer to source locally from commercial farms
- Together, these factors provide significant opportunity for import substitution by local producers

Tree Crops

- While overall production in cocoa has been decreasing, the production of high quality (and high value) cocoa is on the rise, and premium investors are increasingly looking at Liberia as a unique and undiscovered origin
- A rebound in international rubber prices has sparked increased production since 2018, bringing production to 63,734MT in 2020
- Liberia primarily produces Arabica coffee on a limited scale; However, the country is home to Liberica – one of the rarest and most unique varieties in the world
- Crude Palm Oil production is decreasing, but remains a staple food product locally

INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Warehouse Availability:** >57 (public and private)
- **Total Warehouse Capacity (MT):** > 14,615
- **Port:** Monrovia
- **Soil Types:** Latosols, Shallow Lithosols, Sandy, and Alluvial

MAIN CROPS

- **Food Crops:** Rice, cassava, tubers, plantain, vegetables, and groundnuts
- **Cash/Tree Crops:** Rubber, oil palm, cocoa, and coffee
- **Non-Timber Forest Products:** Fruits, honey, meat, nuts, and plants

FINANCIAL SECTOR

- **Banks:** Ecobank Liberia, Afriland Firstbank, Access Bank, Guaranty Trust Bank LBDI
- **Lending Rate:** 14%

TRADE ADVANTAGES

- **Duty Waiver** for agro-inputs
- **AfCFTA member**

There is ample untapped opportunity for investment across the agro-forestry, horticulture, food crops, and tree crops sub-sectors in Liberia – Invest Today!

