



Agricultural Missions, Inc.

Empowering Rural Voices, Locally and Globally.

Food Security • Youth in Agriculture • Gender Justice

Annual Report 2021

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TABLE OF CONTENTS



→ A Letter from Jamie Rye

→ Who We Are

→ 2021 at a Glance

→ Youth in Agriculture Program

→ Gender Justice Initiative

→ What We Achieved in 2021

→ Our Partners & Supporters



Foreword



Agricultural Missions,
Inc.

Dear Friends and Partners,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Agricultural Missions, Inc. (AMI), I am pleased to present our 2021 Annual Report—a reflection of what can be achieved when rural communities are trusted, equipped, and supported to lead their own development.

The year 2021 marked the beginning of a renewed community food security program through AMI's West Africa Initiative. Working alongside the West Africa Initiative of Liberia and the Village to Village Federation in Sierra Leone, AMI expanded its work into six communities and supported locally controlled approaches to food production, storage, youth livelihoods, and gender justice.

The response from participating communities was remarkable. A total of 165 young women and men, 38% more than originally anticipated, joined youth agriculture groups across Liberia and Sierra Leone. Together, they prepared farmland, planted and maintained crops, participated in nutrition and agricultural training, and helped establish storage systems designed to reduce post-harvest losses and extend food availability through the hunger season. Their work directly benefited approximately 1,175 household members.

In 2021, AMI also strengthened its commitment to gender justice. With support from Week of Compassion, village-based awareness sessions brought women, men, traditional leaders, and other community members together to address gender-based violence and advance the rights of women and girls. School support, mentorship, and monitoring helped 165 girls remain enrolled during the critical junior secondary school years, when many face an increased risk of leaving school.

These accomplishments belong first and foremost to the young people, farmers, women's committees, teachers, community leaders, facilitators, and families who contributed their knowledge, labor, and leadership. They also reflect AMI's longstanding approach: we do not enter communities with predetermined solutions. We accompany local partners and rural people as they identify priorities, strengthen their organizations, and develop solutions rooted in their own experience.

We are deeply grateful to our implementing partners, supporters, donors, and friends whose trust made this work possible. Your partnership helped rural communities strengthen food security, create opportunities for young people, support girls' education, and build local capacity that will endure beyond a single program year.

As we look ahead, AMI remains committed to the belief that lasting change begins with rural people having the resources, voice, and decision-making power to shape their own futures. The progress documented in this report provides a strong foundation for the years ahead—and reminds us of what is possible when we work together in solidarity.

With gratitude,



Executive Director



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Agricultural Missions,
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Who We Are

Agricultural Missions, Inc. (AMI) accompanies rural communities as they build food security and dignity. Through the West Africa Initiative (WAI), AMI works with two locally registered partners, the West Africa Initiative of Liberia (WAIOL) and the Village to Village Federation (V2V) in Sierra Leone. Launched at the community level in 2009 after two years of assessment and planning, the program began by stimulating village-based food production. Today it partners with 51 rural farmers' groups across both countries.

Our Goals

- To strengthen the capacity of rural community groups to develop self-reliant, independent organizations engaged in food production and marketing — improving community food security and the well-being of their members.
- To develop the management and technical capacity of local partner organizations to fully operate the WAI program.



The 2021 Program

- 2021 was the first year of this renewed community food security program. The goal was to improve food security in six villages, three in each country, through locally controlled, resilient food systems. At the same time, the program created farming livelihoods for young people. Both the Food Security and Gender Rights programs run within the Youth Agriculture Program (YAP), engaging youth as community leaders.



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2021 at a Glance



6

New communities engaged in
2021, three per country

165

Youth participants across both
countries (Liberia 90, S. Leone
75)

1,175

Direct beneficiaries (household
members)

+38%

Above the planned 120
participants and 840
beneficiaries

51

Rural farmers' groups
partnering with WAI across
both countries

12

Years accompanying
communities since the program
began in 2009

In its first year, the program engaged six youth groups in food production, storage construction, and gender rights work. Demand ran high. Participation came in 38% above plan, as many young people returned to their villages and chose to build livelihoods in farming. Every group completed land preparation, planting, crop maintenance, nutrition training, and store-manager training, working toward a stronger harvest and more secure storage.

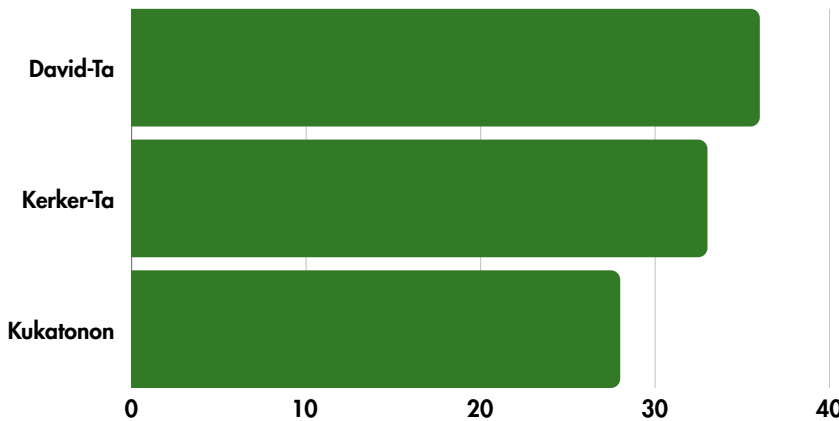
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Youth in Agriculture: Liberia

Rice Harvested by Group (bag)



Three youth groups engaged 90 young women and men in rice, cassava, corn, and vegetable production across Bong and Nimba Counties.



Harvest by Group

No	Group	Youth (F/M)	County	Harvest
01	David-Ta	30 (112F/18M)	Bong	36 rice, 75 cassava, 45 veg
02	Livestock Sales	30 (20F/10M)	Bong	33 rice, 48 veg
02	Livestock Sales	30 (16F/14M)	Bong	28 rice, 64 veg

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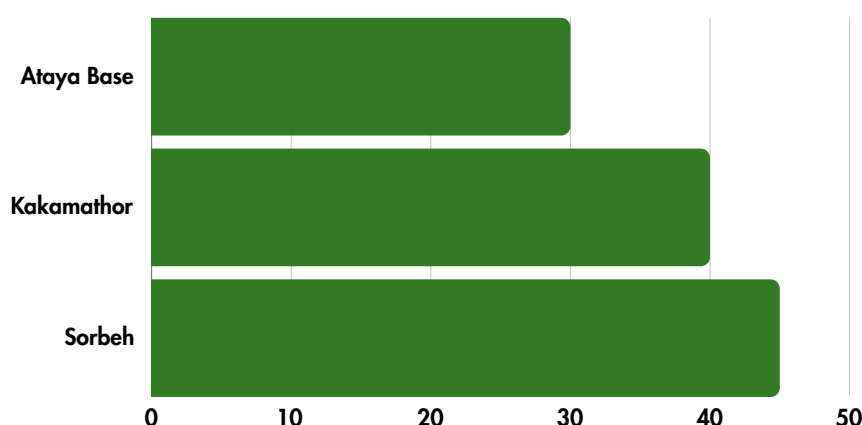


Youth in Agriculture: Sierra Leone



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Cassava Harvested by Group (bag)



Three youth groups engaged 75 young women and men in rice, cassava, and vegetable production across Tonkolili, Safroko Limba, and Bombali.



Harvest by Group

No	Group	Youth (F/M)	District / Chiefdom	Main crops
01	Ataya Base	25 (15F/10M)	Tonkolili — Lower Yoni	Rice, cassava, vegetables
02	Kakamathor	20 (10F/10M)	Safroko Limba	Rice, cassava, vegetables
02	Sorbeh	30 (15F/15M)	Bombali — Gbanti	Rice, cassava, vegetables

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Gender Justice Initiative

Gender Justice Initiative

Added in 2021 with the support of the Week of Compassion, the Gender Justice Initiative advances the status of women and girls on two fronts.

The first is community awareness. Village-based sessions, open to all and with men and local leaders specially invited, engage the whole community in reducing gender-based violence.

The second is education. School support keeps girls enrolled through Junior Secondary School, the period when they are most at risk of dropping out. Attendance has historically been lower for girls: 60% of adolescents who left school between 2013 and 2017 were female (World Bank)—a gap this program is built to close.

A Foundation for the Years Ahead

In its first year, the program launched village awareness sessions and enrolled girls into school support, with monitoring and mentorship to keep them in school.

Training-of-trainers workshops built local capacity, so WAI's own staff and boards could lead the sessions in the years ahead.

Gender Rights & Girls' School Support 2021(Appendix):

Indicator (2021)	Liberia	Sierra Leone
Village-based awareness sessions	Held	Held
Girls receiving school support	90	75
Sessions open to	Women, men & local leaders	Women, men & local leaders

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What We Achieved



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- Six new youth groups launched — three in each country — engaging 165 youth and reaching 1,175 direct beneficiaries (Groups and Participants)
- Participation came in 38% above the planned 120, driven by strong community demand (Program Summary)
- Youth completed land preparation, planting, crop maintenance, nutrition training, and store-manager training across all groups (Table I)
- Grain storage facilities were built to reduce post-harvest loss — historically as high as 25–30% — and extend food availability through the hunger season (Context and Need; Table I)
- Girls were enrolled into school support (Liberia 90, Sierra Leone 75), with monitoring and mentorship to keep them in Junior Secondary School (Gender Rights section)
- Village-based gender awareness sessions engaged women, men, and local leaders together (Gender Rights section)





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Our Partners & Supporters

The 2021 West Africa Initiative was made possible by the generous support of:

- Growing Hope Globally
- Week of Compassion / Disciples of Christ
- The Presbyterian Hunger Program

Implementing partners:

- West Africa Initiative of Liberia (WAIOL)
- Village to Village Federation (V2V), Sierra Leone



Above all, we thank the youth groups, women's committees, traditional leaders, teachers, facilitators, and families whose daily work turns support into lasting change.



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