



METEOLIBERIA

EVALUATION MEETING OF THE METAGRI LIBERIA

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INTRODUCTION

- * The training workshop was conducted so as to empower farmers to be able to install, use and collect data from rain gauge in their communities for interpretation and weather prediction at Meteorological Department of the Ministry of Transport

OBJECTIVES OF THE ROVING SEMINAR

- * Inform and sensitize farmers on the effect of weather and climate on agriculture activities in Liberia
- * Train some selected farmers in acquiring knowledge and skills in the use of rain gauge and how to collect and register rainfall data in the fifteen counties in the country.
- * Distribute rain gauges to the trained farmers

ORGANIZATION OF ROVING SEMINARS

The Roving Seminars was organized in full cooperation with:

County Agricultural Extension Officers
with in the fifteen (15) counties of
Liberia

FAO Liberia

Land Line Ministries

Local leaders

ORGANIZATION CONT'D

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPANTS

- * The gender and youth dimensions was considered in the selection process.
- * The person selected must:
- * Be literate with a minimum of 6 grade and above level of education.
- * Be a permanent resident of the community for 5 plus years.
- * Have 3 plus years of farming experience.
- * Belong to a farmer group or cooperative
- * Have participated in the FAO Farmer Field School (FFS) type of training.
- * Have his/her own dwelling structure in the community of residence
- * County Agriculture coordinators (CAC) and District Agriculture Officers (DAO)
- * Local leaders and representatives of local radios at the various training sites .

SITE SELECTION

- * The roving seminars took place in eight administrative regions covering the 15 counties in the country.
- * The training centers were as follow:
- * **Tubmanburg, Kakata, Gbarnga, Voinjama, Saclepea, Fish Town, Zwedru and Greenville**

LOGISTICS

- * Purchase of a projector , camera and other related office materials and stationery to host the seminar
- * One Vehicle was provided by the Ministry of Transport
- * Steno pads and pens were donated by FAO
- * Hall and P A Systems rental services to host all invited participants/ farmers
- * Tea/ coffee and lunch for all participants/ farms
- * Transportation and lodging allowance for invited farmer and resource persons

COMPOSITION OF TRAINING TEAM

- * Presenters/Trainers
- * Mr. Henry A. Simpson METAGRI Focus point Meteoliberia
- * Mr. Albert Sherman Assistant Director Meteoliberia
- * Mr. Moses Wonsiah FAO Training Officer
- * Odaphus Zardee FAO Training Officer
- * Mr. Korboi Johnson MOA
- * Roland Wolobah MOA

Support Staff

Mr. Olinga Flomo MOT

Mr. Morris Tuagebor Finance Officer MOT

Roland Thomson Driver



METAGRI Focus Point in a chart with the press

Invite the local head of each region and representative of the Community Radio of each region for the opening ceremony

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Content of the seminars

* **Topics Discussed**

- * Topics discussed and demonstrated were:
- * Climate change and its impact/effect in Liberia
- * The effect of weather and climate on Agriculture
- * How to handle the rain gauge
- * Installation and maintenance of rain gauge
- * Method of measuring and compiling rainfall data
- * Method of sending recorded rainfall values/data to meteorological office



RESULTS / OBJECTIVE ACHIEVED NO. OF PARTICIPANTS TRAINED

	Venue	Date	# of Counties	# of Districts	# of Train Participants	# of Rain Guages Distributed
1	Tubmanburg, Bomi County	27Aug.2012	3	8	30	20
2	Kakata, Margibi County	30Aug 2012	3	9	30	20
3.	CARI, Bong County	03Sept.2012	1	5	30	20
4	Voinjama, Lofa County	06Sept.2012	1	5	30	20
5	Saclepea, Nimba County	10Sept.2012	1	6	30	20
6	Fish Town, River Gee County	14Sept.2012	3	10	30	20
7	Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County	17Sept.2012	1	5	30	20
8	Greennille, Sione County	2 Sept.2012	2	7	30	20
Total			15	55	240	160

RESULTS -

- Trainees acquire new knowledge and practical skills on rain gauge,
- Trainees were able to install and collect and record rainfall data
- Trainees will be able to train other farmers in their communities
- 105 rain gauges with stands were distributed to trained farmers.
- 55 rain gauges and stands were distributed to agriculture extension workers
- 8 of the 55 were installed at the head quarters of the County Agriculture Offices at the various training sites.
- MOU with County Agriculture Coordinators and District Agriculture Officer in monitoring and collection of data from farmers at various installation sites for submission to MET office for seasonal forecast

Constraints

- * Late start of the roving seminars
- * Short training workshop duration hampered/impeded topics elaborations
- * Inadequate transportation and lodging funds discouraged farmers attendance
- * Bad road conditions
- * Size of rain gauge
- * Inadequate funds for data transfer from farmers to MET office via mobile phone/internet
- * Lack of vehicle to follow-up activities with the farmers

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ The need for GPRS for the purpose of getting the coordinates (longitude, latitude and elevation) of the rain gauges planted during Roving Seminar.
- ❖ Provide training opportunities for METAGI focus point and facilitators to enable them use the GPRS;
- ❖ Involvement of local authorities, community radio stations in the sensitisation and supporting the division's initiative in getting the daily forecast broadcast on the local radios;
- ❖ Strengthening the capacities of regional officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and meteorological staff in the collection of rain fall data

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Organize evaluation & monitoring missions - frequent field visits
- ❖ Strengthening partnership with GSM operators, community radios to improve communications with the farming community.
- ❖ Strengthening partnership with FAO, Ministry of Agriculture, German Agro, research institutions and other agriculture and food security institutions
- ❖ Organisation of the METAGRI seminar at county level