

Sierra Leone Netherlands Business & Culture Council
Sector Scan



Agriculture Sector in Sierra Leone

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About SLNBCC

The Sierra Leone Netherlands Business and Culture Council (SLNBCC) is an affiliate of the GNBCC, Ghana. The SLNBCC has been officially registered and active since September 2017, and is currently building a network of companies from Sierra Leone and the Netherlands. The target being collaborations, investments or partnerships between companies from the two countries

Our network consists of both government and the private sector actors, and we work closely together with the Sierra Leonean Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA) and the Sierra Leonean Chamber for Agribusiness development (SLeCad). The SLNBCC is currently expanding its membership base, these members receive:

- Monthly newsletters
- Quarterly networking and informative events
- Access to the Dutch network, to Dutch companies with interest in Liberia / Sierra Leone and introductions
- Access to more information on the Netherlands Enterprise Agency's (RvO) financial instruments
- Workshops and seminars on business related topics
- The SLNBCC also offers paid business services to both members as well as non-members. These services include:
 - Assisting with travel arrangements for business investors from the Netherlands to Sierra Leone
 - Representing and assisting Dutch companies who do not have their own subsidiary, partner or office in Sierra Leone
 - This sector scan is part of the SLNBCC's efforts to attract foreign companies to engage in business with Sierra Leone.

Chapter 1 | Executive Summary

Sierra Leone is a country located on the Western fringe of Africa, bordering on the Atlantic Ocean. The tropical climate and abundance of water makes it an excellent location for growing crops year-round. Currently, the agricultural sector is not developed up to capacity, and holds the potential for enormous growth in the near future. This document provides background information on the country, the agricultural sector within the country and areas of opportunity for Dutch companies to enter the sector locally. These opportunities include:

Subsection Agric. Sector	Opportunity
Cash Crops (cacao, coffee & oil palm)	Rehabilitation existing plantations Establishment plantations Agro-processing Refined oil Soap production
Rice	Production Processing Marketing
Animal Husbandry	Livestock rearing Slaughter facilities Meat processing factories Development market chain efficiency
Fisheries	Development fishing harbor Processing plants Regional distribution Cold stores Operation & management marine training school
Agricultural Inputs	Fertilizers Improved seed Agro-chemicals Animal feeds Veterinary inputs

Furthermore, the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) is currently executing the National Development Plan 2019-2023, in which the agricultural sector will undergo a significant rehabilitation.

Chapter 2 | Acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank
CBI	Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	Gross domestic product
GoSL	Government of Sierra Leone
ITS	International Trade Centre
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
ND	The New Direction
NRA	National Revenue Authority
RSPO	Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil
SLC	Sierra Leone Local Content Agency
SLeCAD	Sierra Leone Economic Chamber for Agricultural Development
SLIEPA	Sierra Leone Investment & Export Promotion Agency
SLPA	Sierra Leone Port Authority
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United National Development Program

Chapter 3 | The Sierra Leonean Context

Country Overview

Sierra Leone is found in the West Coast of Africa, bordered by Guinea, Liberia and the Atlantic Ocean. It has been experiencing annual GDP growth. Several years back, the country's GDP growth rate was one of the highest in Africa, but had a quick downward turn due to the twin shocks of a shrinking of the global iron ore price and the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease. However, Sierra Leone is actively reforming its business environment in order to facilitate the ease of doing business in the country.

Sierra Leone recently had a change of government, with Brig. Julius Maada Bio of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) as the new president of the country. His New Direction strategy promises an avid investment and development of the private sector, with one of its' goals to attract foreign investors and companies. Real GDP growth of double digits was a clear indication that the country was developing fast. Average GDP per capita has almost returned to its pre-2014 Ebola percentages and growth is registered in almost all sectors.

The mining and agriculture sector are the leading sectors in the country. The mining sector accounts for roughly 90 percent of annual export revenues. In 2016, Sierra Leone's exports were worth approximately US\$897 million, of which mineral resources accounted for approximately 75%, followed closely by cocoa (8.5%) and coffee¹.

History & Politics

Sierra Leone gained independence from Britain in 1961. From 1961 to 1998, the political system shifted between multi-party democracy, military rule and one-party rule. Sierra Leone has remained a multi-party democracy since 1998. The country emerged from a decade-long civil war in 2002. The constitution recognises three branches of government: legislative, executive and judicial. Parliamentary terms last for five years and the President may not serve for more than two terms, whether or not those terms are consecutive. After a two-term reign, former president Ernest Bai Koroma stepped down and was replaced by Julius Maada Bio of the opposing SLPP. Maada Bio won with a 51.8% of votes. However, APC still holds the majority of seats

¹ <https://atlas.media.mit.edu/en/profile/country/sle/>

in parliament. The constitution, as currently drafted, does not allow an incumbent to stand for a third term. The peaceful, credible and stable transition of powers should increase investor confidence by providing a reduced risk of shock and greater predictability.

Governance

The Government of Sierra Leone is led by a President elected directly by the people and who is also the Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. Within the Government of Sierra Leone, the Ministry of Trade and Industry has oversight over policies relating to domestic and international trade. The Sierra Leone Investment & Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA) is responsible for policies to improve the investment climate, promote local and export trade, and encourage the development of small-to-medium-sized businesses. SLIEPA has thus far focused on Foreign Direct Investments in key economic sectors including the agriculture, marine resources, mining, energy, and tourism sectors. A system of local government was established by the Local Government Act 2004, which is comprised of 19 councils. Five city councils, one municipal council, and 13 district councils form the total of this local government structure. The Decentralization Secretariat was established under the World Bank's Institutional Reform and Capacity Building Project to promote decentralisation.

Core industries

Agriculture: key crops are rice, sugar, oil palm and cocoa, as well as agribusiness functions relating to trading and/or processing;

Diamonds: over 600,000 carats exported in 2013;

Iron ore : Sierra Leone has one of the world's largest iron ore deposits;

Rutile: the world's largest reserves, producing an estimated 120,000 tons of contained titanium dioxide in 2014;

Gold : producing approximately 141 kilograms worth of gold in terms of mine output in 2012 and 193 kilograms in 2014

Bauxite mining: including the country's Port Loko deposit, which contains 100 million tons of bauxite reserves)

Key exports and imports

Sierra Leone's main exports are in the mining and agriculture sectors. Until 2012, diamonds were Sierra Leone main export product. Iron ore has since taken its place, accounting for 55.7 percent of total exports in 2013. The mining sector accounts for roughly 90 percent of annual export revenues. In 2016, Sierra Leone's exports were worth approximately US\$897 million, of which mineral resources accounted for approximately 75 percent, followed closely by cocoa (8.5 percent) and coffee. Sierra Leone's main imports are machinery and transport equipment (largely relating to mining and oil investment projects and accounting for approximately 50 percent of total imports) and fuel (10 percent).

Foreign Aid

The country remains largely dependent on foreign aid. The current account deficit was estimated to be US\$511.8 million in 2013 and US\$466.9 million in 2014. The deficit was reported to be around US\$582 million in 2015. Sierra Leone benefits from the support of various international agencies, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

The Ports

Freetown boasts one of the largest deep water natural harbours in Africa. The existing Queen Elizabeth II Quay (QE2) Freetown container port is currently managed by Bolloré Africa Logistics under a 20-year concession agreement awarded by the Sierra Leone Port Authority (SLPA) in 2010. The agreement includes plans to renovate the port's bulk handling terminal and expand its capacity. GoSL is also considering developing a "dry port" to ease congestion at QE2 and facilitate the transportation of containers destined for rural areas. Further efforts to involve private partners in the ports system have seen the SLPA award a 20-year concession for the Marine Slipway and Ship Repair facilities to Holland Shipyard.

To support the needs of the mining sector, the GoSL plans to develop a new deep water port and associated rail infrastructure with the capacity to export between 30-50million tonnes of ore and other minerals each year. A pre- feasibility study to review options for the new deep water port was commissioned by the GoSL in 2014. The World Bank is carrying out the study as part of a project to develop a "Ports Master Plan" assessing the need for the expansion of the Freetown Port and the feasibility of the proposed deep water port.

Chapter 4 | Country Overview

Population	7,369,190 ²
Urbanisation	40.7% ³
Situated	West Africa, coastal, Sub-Sahara
Bordered by	Guinea (North/NorthEast), Liberia (South/SouthEast), Atlantic Ocean (West)
Area	71,740 square kilometres
GDP	US\$3,64 billion ⁴
Real GDP growth	6% ⁵
Official languages	Krio, English
Ha of arable land	5.4 million
Rainfall	3,800mm annually
Climate	Tropical
Seasons	Rainy season (monsoon): May to October & Dry Season (Harmattan) October to May

² *World Bank, 2016*

³ IMF, 2017

⁴ IMF, 2017

⁵ IMF, 2017

Chapter 5 | The Agricultural Sector

Introduction

Sierra Leone has an agrarian economy with a multitude of opportunities for investment. The agricultural sector contributes 55.1% of GDP, employs almost 75% of the population and accounts for approximately 10% of total exports.⁶ . In 2015, 57.9% of households were active within the sector. Nevertheless, only 15% of the 4.3 million hectares of arable land are currently under cultivation. Considering the favourable climate, natural irrigation structures, strategic geographical location near Western Europe, and an encouraging government attitude towards developing the sector, investing in agriculture is one of the largest opportunities the country has to offer.

In 2018, the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) under presidency of Julius Maada Bio came to power. Later that year, the party introduced the New Direction, of which the National Development Plan 2019-2023 outlines plans and policies for the reforms the government aim to execute. Agriculture and education are priority areas within this strategy. Chapter 6: Opportunities, will provide an extensive overview of government-led initiatives in which the private sector are actively encouraged to participate.

Geography

The Sierra Leonean agricultural landscape has lowland and upland, of which the latter is nutritionally depleted. 6.1 million ha (71% arable) is lowland, and 1.16 million ha (90%) arable lowland.

Lowlands differentiated in four ecosystems

- 1) Inland valley swamps (630.000 ha)
- 2) Mangrove swamps (200.000 ha)
- 3) Bolilands (120.000 ha)
- 4) Riverine grasslands (110.000 ha)

⁶Government of Sierra Leone "Sierra Leone's Medium-Term National Development Plan 2019-2023 volume I"(2019) ," page 67

Core industries

Food Crops

According to the Agricultural Census statistics, 3,244,214 ha was under cultivation for **food crops** production in 2015, used to grow six crops:

- 35% upland rice
- 17.3% lowland rice
- 10.6% cassava cultivation
- 9.2% groundnut
- 1.5% sweet potato
- 0.9% maize⁷

The table below shows the metric tonnage of key agricultural products from 2014 to 2017; the high tonnage of cassava versus the relative low hectare cultivation of the crop can be explained by the low density of crop planting versus rice, which requires more arable land for similar yields.

CROP	2014	2015	2016	2017
Paddy rice	832,774	853,677	875,104	897,069
Cassava	2,298,649	2,356,345	2,415,490	2,476,118
Groundnut	18,686	19,155	19,636	20,129
Sweet potato	138,207	145,778	149,438	153,188
Maize	20,812	21,334	21,869	22,418
Sorghum	41,414	42,435	43,500	47,959
Sesame	5,250	5,500	5,638	5,779
Cocoa	27,111	46,537	47,705	48,903
Coffee	60,303	89,892	92,149	92,149
Cashew	317	1,422	1,458	1,494
Palm oil	646,988	668,477	685,256	702,456

Key agricultural products (per metric tonne)- Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security⁸

Tree crops

Coffee, cocoa and oil palm are important crops for both national consumption and international export. However, potential higher yields are restricted due to a number of factors. Tree ageing, using local seeds that do not maximise crop potential,

⁷ Sierra Leone Agriculture Census 2015, page 2

⁸ Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security – Planning, Evaluation, Monitoring and Statistics Division, “national yield study data” (2017)

outdated farming practices and a reliability on rain irrigation are some of the issues that keep yields low. However, these limitations offer opportunities, with increasing access to improved seeds, training modules for Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)⁹ and a government initiative to irrigate established plots of arable land within the next five years¹⁰.

In 2015, tree crop cultivation accounted to 3,164,472 ha, with production happening mainly in the eastern part of the country.

Province	Area of crop cultivation in hectares						
	Total	Coffee	Cocoa	Oil palm	Citrus	Cashew	Vegetables
Sierra Leone	3,244,214	191,791	235,749	307,593	9,487	4,368	79,742
Eastern	1,170,590	162,701	215,442	111,472	3,378	1,031	12,659
Northern	1,220,327	9,045	3,660	84,798	3,602	2,487	32,218
Southern	825,816	19,752	16,473	110,476	2,329	605	31,259
Western	27,481	294	173	847	178	244	3,607

Table: Total hectares of tree crops under cultivation by region (ha). Source: Statistics Sierra Leone, 2015 Population and Housing Census¹¹

Irrigation and water supply

Sierra Leone has nine major rivers, coastal creeks and tidal streams, resulting in a dense drainage pattern. Together, these conditions make it relatively easy to irrigate land for the cultivation of crops such as rice, which can have up to 3 cycles in a single calendar year.

As mentioned before, a solid irrigation system is currently not in place, and many local farmers rely solely on rainfall to water their crops.

⁹ Read more about GAP: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/auditing/gap-ghp>

Government of Sierra Leone “Sierra Leone’s Medium-Term National Development Plan 2019-2023 volume II” (2019), page 267

¹¹ Government of Sierra Leone, Sierra Leone 2015 Population and Housing Census, Thematic Report on Agriculture (2017) page 48

Land Tenure system Sierra Leone has two land tenure systems as a result of past British colonial occupation. This means that the Western Area, including Freetown, land can be bought and sold by nationals. Outside of this area, (referred to as upline or upcountry) land can only be leased. Details on these lease agreements can be found in the Provinces Land Act (see footnotes). Foreigners can lease land for up to 50 years, with the possibility to renew the lease for an additional 21 years.¹²

Environment

In order to comply with national regulations regarding environmental protection, investors are advised to contact the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)¹³ in Sierra Leone. Guidelines regarding mapping exercises, impact assessment and national policies can be found on their website (see footnote).

¹² *National Land Policy, 2015, page 65*

¹³ *EPA Website: <http://epa.gov.sl/>*

Chapter 6^a | Overview

Sierra Leone offers numerous opportunities within the agricultural sector. There are three main arguments in favour of this; firstly, the encouraging attitude the GoSL has towards improving the sector and collaborating with (foreign) private companies and investors.

The GoSL aim to improve the sector through enhancing productivity and competitiveness. A total of 11 policy actions have been established to reach three goals. The first is to be 90% self-sufficient in food production, the second to increase inclusion of women and youth in the sector, and finally to develop the value chain of two agricultural products. Of the 11 policy actions, two are relevant for foreign investors;

1. Provide better market facilities and access to agricultural inputs (i.e. agro-chemicals, including fertilisers, herbicides, and bio-based insecticides and preservatives investment in feeder roads and information technology, etc.).
2. Promote sustainable investment in mechanised commercial agriculture (I.e. Tractors, power tillers, irrigation facilities, etc.) and introduce private sector management to the hiring and lease of machinery at the district lever, in order to increase the acreage of land under cultivation¹⁴. (Source: Development plan)

Secondly, Sierra Leone has approximately 3.7 million hectares of arable land available for cultivation. Of this 3.7 million hectares 1.16 million is located within the fertile lowlands, of which only 90% is arable. The fertile land allows for organic farming and thus offers opportunities for certifications.

Thirdly, the high import numbers of food produce correlates to a large potential domestic market. Large-scale production of rice, vegetables and poultry can positively impact Sierra Leone, the Global Hunger Index ranked as the third hungriest country in the world ¹⁵. Furthermore, due to its relative proximity to Western-Europe, export time is significantly lower than from Latin America.

¹⁴Government of Sierra Leone “Sierra Leone’s Medium-Term National Development Plan 2019-2023 volume I” (2019), *page 70-72*

¹⁵ *Global Hunger Index 2017*

Chapter 6^b | Opportunities

Cash crops and rice

The availability of fertile land for foreign investors can result in large-scale production of cash crops. Coffee, cocoa and oil palm are among the three most promising crops. Most farms were left unattended after the rebel war (1992-2001), which means that existing farms require rehabilitation in order to produce higher yields.

Cocoa

Farming cocoa- Cocoa was an important export crop in the 70s and 80s. Currently, yields are averaged at 410 Kg/HA¹⁶, which is low for African standards. This is due to poor farming practices, aged trees and the usage of low-yielding local varieties. Improved seedlings (from Ghana or Ivory Coast) can increase yields from 5-10 cocoa pods per tree to 50-60 pods after maturity. Organic farming is a suitable option due to fertile soils and favourable climate in the Southeastern part of the country.

Importing cocoa- In 2017, the Center for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries (CBI) in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITS) conducted an analysis of the cocoa value chain in Mano River Union countries. Currently they are recruiting Sierra Leonean SME's to participate in a 3-year programme in order to develop a sustainable export position on the European market. Training includes certification, implementation of CSR Action plan, and Market Access Requirements. This means that within three years, a surge of trained exporters from the Mano River Union (including Sierra Leone) will be ready to engage with European importers of cocoa.

Oil Palm

Currently, most plantations comprise of aged and low yielding trees that produce 1.5MT of crude palm oil per hectare. Although it can be produced in most parts of the country, the south east offers the most favourable climate and currently harbours the majority of oil palm plantations. Organic farming is an option, however, Round

¹⁶ *SLIEPA website*

Table on Sustainable Oil Palm (RSPO)¹⁷ certification is considered a more determining factor for importers¹⁸.

Coffee

CBI has identified coffee as one of the most promising value chains in Sierra Leone. Coffee beans yields are estimated at 390 Kg/Ha, and comprise solely of the robusta variety. Current plantations offer opportunities of rehabilitation and investment.¹⁹The rich natural contents of the country's arable soil placed the country in a privilege position to diversify its coffee productions to certified coffee.

Cashew

CBI has also identified cashew as a commodity that has the potential to become an important export crop. The benefit of cashew is that cashew trees grow well throughout the country, and require less land preparation than oil palm and cocoa.

According to CBI, the African continent is the largest producer of cashew, however, only 10% is processed locally. Countries such as Vietnam, India and Brazil (major exporters) use more advanced processing techniques and can therefore offer higher quality and lower-cost produce. Furthermore, the remaining 90% of Africa's unprocessed kernels is processed in these three countries²⁰. Sierra Leone has the strategic advantage of being in relative proximity to Western Europe. Hence, if companies could increase production rates, invest in quality processing facilities and ensure a sustainable export flow to Western Europe, it could attain a competitive position on the European market. In order to compete with countries such as Vietnam, producers must obtain HACCP certification to ensure food safety.²¹

¹⁷ Read more on RSPO: <https://www.rspo.org/certification>

¹⁸ Based on an interview with an organic sustainable oil palm producer in February 2019

¹⁹ National Export Strategy Team, "Sierra Leone National Export Strategy, 2010-2015", May 2010, page 27

²⁰ CBI Cashew- Page 4,5

²¹ Read more on HACCP certification: <https://www.sgs.com/en/agriculture-food/food/food-certification/haccp-certification>

Rice

Rice cultivation for domestic consumption runs high on the government agenda. The GoSL aims to decrease import of food produce; in 2016 Sierra Leone imported US\$95.9 million of rice,²² whilst approximately 3.7 million hectares of arable land are available for cultivation.

The GoSL therefore encourages (foreign) private sector companies to invest in large-scale rice production within the country.

In order to increase rice yields, the GoSL is currently executing the following programme.

1. Establish a rice production division
2. Develop and operationalise National Irrigation Master Plan
3. Increase investment to improve on the utilization of arable lands (IVS, bolis, etc.), new rice varieties, rice processing, packaging and marketing
4. Mobilize and sustain new Public-Private Partnerships to invest in rice production, processing and marketing
5. Establish and sustain an efficient & transparent Fertiliser Procurement & Management System (FPMS)²³

For more information about this, investors are advised to contact the Sierra Leone Import & Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA).²⁴

²² *Government of Sierra Leone “Sierra Leone’s Medium-Term National Development Plan 2019-2023 volume I” (2019), page 68*

²³ *Information extracted from presentation by the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security, September 2018.*

²⁴ *Visit: <http://sliepa.org/contact-us/>*

Fisheries

Sierra Leone has 506km of coastline with a rich fishing ground. The sector contributes 12% to GDP and created 71.3 billion leones (USD 8,2 million) of revenue in 2017.²⁵

As stated in their National Development Plan 2019-2023. The GoSL has developed a proposal for the construction of a fishing harbour complex under a public-private partnership. It will “have a transshipment quay capable of berthing over 14 vessels at a time, as well as a reefer quay. The complex will provide cold storage facilities, bonded stores for fish export, and ice sales to fishing vessels and fish processing plants. It will also undertake the purchase and processing of fish and fishery products for export and the construction and maintenance of fishing and patrol crafts.”²⁶

Furthermore, the GoSL aims to “promote the use of technology in the value addition chain, and mobilize the private sector to invest in fisheries and the marine sector.”²⁷

Agricultural Inputs

Irrigation systems

Mechanised farms and large-scale operations cannot rely on rainfall. There is no current national irrigation system in place. However, the GoSL aim to invest in a rice irrigation system.

Fertilisers

In 2017, Sierra Leone imported USD 5.09M (N.E.S. Containing nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) worth of fertilisers, and USD 1.13M worth of insecticides. Due to the fertile soils and preference of the GoSL to produce organic

²⁵ Government of Sierra Leone “Sierra Leone’s Medium-Term National Development Plan 2019-2023 volume I.#” (2019)- “Conversion rate at 1:8700 USD to SLL, April 2019”. Page 72

²⁶ Government of Sierra Leone “Sierra Leone’s Medium-Term National Development Plan 2019-2023 volume I.” (2019) page 73

²⁷ Government of Sierra Leone “Sierra Leone’s Medium-Term National Development Plan 2019-2023 volume I” (2019), page 75

materials, there is a growing market for the import of organic fertilisers.

Improved seeds

Local varieties of cocoa, oil palm and coffee deliver lower yields. Ivory Coast and Ghana are two of the main importers providing improved seeds and seedlings and deliver cargo over land.

Manufacturing and storage

The targeted increase of agricultural production will increase the demand of smart storage and manufacturing solutions. Inland facilities remain off-the grid and use generators for electricity supply. There is demand for sustainable solutions such as solar refrigerators and generators.

Biofuel and waste processing

Post harvest wastage of crops such as oil palm can be processed into alternative fuel sources and animal feed. An example of a company that successfully uses employs this is Masada Waste Transformers, who produce biofuel out of waste.

Chapter 8 | Policy Framework

The government of Sierra Leone's policy and strategic framework for the agriculture sector focuses on providing better quality and wider access to inputs and infrastructure, and improving storage and processing facilities. It also has a paramount focus to increase productivity, achieve food security, and expand exports. Investors should consider a number of areas of policy and regulation that impact the structuring and commercial viability of investments in the agriculture sector. These include:

Sierra Leone Local Content Policy (SLLCP)

The Sierra Leone Local Content Policy (SLLCP) is a document born of the shared need to see that Sierra Leoneans take an active role in the establishment and running of private enterprises that are primarily owned by foreign nationals. The document sets out specific setup and performance requirements; especially the idea that all enterprises operating in any area of the country's economy to employ **at least 20%** of Sierra Leoneans in managerial positions and **50%** of Sierra Leoneans in intermediate positions.

Read here: [Sierra Leone Local Content Policy – Diaspora PDF](http://diasporaaffairs.gov.sl/uploads/2017/08/Sierra-Leone-Local-Content-Policy-Diaspora-PDF.pdf)

Land and water rights:

'Final National Land Policy of Sierra Leone: Version 6' (August 1, 2015). Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment.

Read here: <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sie155203.pdf>

'National Water and Sanitation Policy' (July, 2010). Ministry of Energy and Water Resources.

Read here: <http://www.washlearningsl.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/National-WASH-Policy-with-Photos-Sept-2010.pdf>

Environmental regulations:

‘Coordinated Implementation of the Bamako, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Sierra Leone’ (December, 2016). Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone.

Read here: https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/13965/GOV_7_SierraLeone.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

Labor laws:

Employers and Employed Act (No.37 of 1965). Adopted in October 1965.

Read here: <http://www.sierra-leone.org/Laws/Cap212.pdf>

The Finance Act (No.3 of 2013). Adopted in December 2013.

Read here: <http://www.parliament.gov.sl/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=5FAdEo13YPc%3D&tabid=79&mid=436>

Local content requirements:

Sierra Leone Local Content Agency Act (No.11 of 2015). Adopted in March 2016.

This Act established several aspects of the local content inclusion process, namely the Sierra Leone Local Content (SLC) Agency. The act creates a fund to support suppliers, exporters and importers, provisions for employment and training of citizens and rules for tendering processes.

Read here: <http://www.parliament.gov.sl/dnn5/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=4TVSzJOh7ek%3D&tabid=79&mid=650>

Licensing and permitting requirements:

Licenses and costs are established by the National Revenue Authority (NRA).

Find listed costs here: <http://nra.gov.sl/individuals-and-partnerships/licenses>

Rights of foreign investors:

The Investment Promotion Act (No.49 of 2004). Adopted in August 2004.

Read document here: <http://www.sierra-leone.org/Laws/2004-10p.pdf>

Chapter 9 | Institutional Framework

National Revenue Authority (NRA)

The NRA is charged with the responsibility of assessing and collecting domestic taxes, customs duties and other revenues specified by law, as well as administering and enforcing laws relating to these revenues.

Website: <http://nra.gov.sl/>

Sierra Leone Local Content Agency (SLC)

The SLC is a semi-autonomous intervention under the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) to strengthen the local economy by creating linkages between Foreign Direct Investments in Sierra Leone. They focus on capacity development, systems coordination, SLLCA compliance, supplier & market development and community relations.

Website: <http://www.localcontent.sl/index.html>

Environmental Protection Agency Sierra Leone

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established in 2008 through the Environmental Protection Agency Act (2008) and became operational in 2009. The EPA is housed within the President's Office and is the main government agency in charge of all issues concerning the environment and climate change. The EPA was established with the goal of creating and enforcing a strict regulatory framework for environmental regulation in Sierra Leone. It has the mandate to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of national environmental policies, programs and projects, including issuing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) licenses.

Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment

The Ministry is primarily responsible for the management of land in Sierra Leone. This is especially important given the multiplicity of land ownership categories. The Ministry is expected to direct the government on matters relating to ownership, acquisition and use, as well as all the implications for sustainability. As the central

authority for land use and management, the Ministry is required to set policy on the efficient and sustainable use of land. Therefore, the mandate of the Ministry is not limited to land surveying but extends to the formulation and implementation of sustainable human habitat development policies, a process which includes land mapping. The ultimate goal of the Ministry, as reflected in its Mission statement, is to administer effectual policies for land use which contribute to overall socio-economic development.

Read more: <https://psru.gov.sl/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/reports/MIN%20OF%20LANDS%20and%20COUNTRY%20PLANNING%202010.pdf>

Ministry of Energy and Water Resources

The primary responsibility of the Ministry is to formulate and implement policies, projects and programmes on energy and provide oversight functions across the entire energy supply chain for all sub-sector agencies (which include electricity production, electricity transmission, electricity distribution and supply) and other forms of energy supply and utilisation.

Website: <http://www.energy.gov.sl/>

National Union of Forestry & Agricultural Workers

The National Union of Forestry & Agricultural Workers, which forms part of the Sierra Leone Labor Congress (a prominent umbrella organization of trade unions) has approximately 1,100 declared members.

National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

This platform was created and launched in August 2011 by President Koroma. It has seven sub-committees, which cover fires and pest infestation, as well as a range of other socio-natural and man-made hazards such as mudslides, storms, and transport accidents. The Platform's mandate includes lobbying the government to commit and respond to disaster risk reduction through, among other things, the implementation of policies, standards and regulations by the relevant ministries, departments and agencies.

Further reading and reference list

Further reading

- Organic certification for the European Union- Ecocert: <http://www.ecocert.com/en/european-regulation-ec/>
- Round Table on Sustainable Oil Palm (RSPO): <https://www.rspo.org/certification>
- HACCP certification: <https://www.sgs.com/en/agriculture-food/food/food-certification/haccp-certification>

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