



STORIES FROM THE FARM

Special Anniversary Edition of Feed Salone

- Sierra Leone Celebrates **World Food Day** and Feed Salone's First Anniversary in Kailahun
- President Bio's Launches **Feed Salone's One Year Report**
- **World Food Prize 2024:** President Bio and Minister Kpaka at 2024 **Borlaug Dialogue**
- **Minister Kpaka about his agriculture journey in Forbes**



Sierra Leone Celebrates World Food Day and Feed Salone's First Anniversary

On October 16, Sierra Leone celebrated World Food Day and the first anniversary of Feed Salone in Kailahun. President Bio presented the One Year Progress Report and MAFS awarded prizes to outstanding farmers!



Minister Kpaka Advocates for Food Systems Transformation at 2024 Borlaug Dialogue

The Minister champions President Bio's Feed Salone and advocates for more cross-border efforts to enhance food security at the 2024 Borlaug Dialogue in Des Moines.



H.E. THE PRESIDENT, DR. JULIUS MAADA BIO

FEED SALONE, President Bio's agriculture transformation agenda

FEED SALONE is H.E. President Bio's flagship agriculture transformation programme for his second term. It aims to achieve food security, boost agriculture productivity, decrease food imports,

create jobs, especially for women and youth, and build a resilient food system.



Celebrating World Food Day and Feed Salone's First Anniversary

On October 16, 2024, Sierra Leone marked **the first anniversary of Feed Salone** and **World Food Day** in Kailahun under the theme *Right to Food for a Better Life and a Better Future*. The event showcased Sierra Leone's strides toward food security and equitable economic growth, driven by the Feed Salone program.



Farmers from all over the country showcased their produce on World Food Day

Feed Salone One-Year Report

Key achievements include the cultivation of over 600,000 ha of rice, 4,800 ha of cocoa, \$28 million in ag financing, and the first national soil survey in 40 years. These efforts have reduced the import bill for rice, onions, eggs, and chicken, saving over \$20 million in foreign exchange.



Click here to download the full report or go to feedsalone.gov.sl

In his keynote, H.E. emphasized Feed Salone's achievements, **commended the Minister of Agriculture** and his team for their exceptional efforts and called for stronger private-sector involvement.

He launched the Feed Salone Annual Report, highlighting increased local production, reduced food imports, and impactful partnerships over the past year.

MAFS and NaFFSL awarded **prizes to exceptional farmers**, including 200 mobile phones, 16 power tillers, two rice mills, and two combine harvesters.



The World Food Day celebration in Kailahun drew many participants, including farmers from all 16 districts, researchers, government officials, international partners, and local community members.

Together, **#WeWillFeedSalone!**



WATCH NOW



Gbondapi
Pujehun District
Sierra Leone

one of our agricultural hubs that stretches for thousands of hectares.

Minister Kpaka promotes investment in agriculture

Investment promotion, backed by President Bio's leadership, is central to Dr. Kpaka's efforts to attract private investment to Sierra Leone and develop critical infrastructure in our agriculture hubs.



Presidential Council Marks One Year of Feed Salone

President Bio chaired a meeting of the **Presidential Council for Delivering Feed Salone**, reinforcing the government's commitment to transforming food systems in Sierra Leone applying a whole of government approach.

The Council reviewed the past year's progress, discussed lessons learnt and outlined strategies to accelerate the program's impact. Minister Kpaka presented the Feed Salone One-Year Report summary highlighting major achievements.



President Bio chairing the Presidential Council for Delivering Feed Salone, a manifestation of the whole-of-government approach in transforming food systems in Sierra Leone



Minister Kpaka Advocates for Food Systems Transformation at 2024 Borlaug Dialogue

Minister Kpaka travelled to Iowa, USA, to represent Sierra Leone and champion President Bio's #FeedSalone initiative at the **2024 Borlaug Dialogue**. He joined leaders from Honduras and Tanzania to strengthen international collaboration for food system transformation on the panel: *The Fostering Diplomatic Solutions for Food Security*, hosted by the World Food Prize Foundation; it served as a critical platform to discuss how cross-border cooperation and food systems diplomacy can better address global food security challenges.



Dr. Kpaka on the Fostering Diplomatic Solutions for Food Security panel at the Borlaug Dialogue



Presidential Roundtable with Industry Leaders for Feed Salone on the side of the World Food Prize events

President Bio led roundtable discussions with industry leaders such as Hello Tractor, Bayer Crop Science, Kemin Industries, ZeaKal, Inc., Digital Green, and Heifer International on the sidelines of the World Food Prize Foundation's Borlaug International Dialogue, highlighting Sierra Leone's achievements in the first year of Feed Salone and key investment opportunities within the program. Minister Kpaka presented a major initiative, the Rice Special Agro-Processing Zone, a project in collaboration with the African Development Bank designed to expand processing capacity, reduce post-harvest losses, and strengthen food security across the country.



President Bio, First Lady, Minister of Agriculture and Ambassador Abou-Bakarr Wai with Industry Leaders

Forbes

"Agriculture chose me" – Minister Kpaka about his agriculture journey in Forbes

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Speaking on the **Unlocking Capital at Scale for Agribusiness panel**, hosted by the African Development Bank and the World Food Prize Foundation, Minister Kpaka showcased the Feed Salone program, which positions the private sector as a key driver of food system transformation. The Minister detailed efforts to attract capital and partnerships that boost **infrastructure and innovation**, making agriculture profitable for farmers and competitive for investors.



MAFS Commissions 70 Harvesters to Boost Harvesting Season

Minister Kpaka, in collaboration with the World Bank, commissioned **70 combine harvesters** at the Kissy Mechanical Workshop to support farmers during this harvest season. This initiative marks a significant advancement toward scaling up mechanized farming and reducing post-harvest losses.

The new harvesters will allow farmers to work **more efficiently, increasing yields, cutting harvest time, and minimizing post-harvest losses**. By reducing dependence on manual labour, this step empowers farmers to benefit more fully from their efforts. The MAFS remains committed to modernizing agriculture through mechanization, advancing toward a stronger and more self-sufficient agricultural sector.



Minister Kpaka alongside Poultry Farmers at the Launch of the Buy Salone to Feed Salone campaign



Buying Local is Patriotic: Minister Promoting Local Eggs and Chicken

The Minister launched the **Buy Salone to Feed Salone campaign** to boost the marketing and consumption of locally produced eggs and chicken. Led by the **Commercial Poultry Farmers Association of Sierra Leone**, it aims to strengthen local food systems and reduce reliance on imports. **Local poultry farmers now meet 40% to 50% of the country's demand for eggs**, a significant achievement that has contributed to a 69% reduction in egg imports in Sierra Leone since 2021. Their dedication is driving self-sufficiency and strengthening our local food systems.

The government will support local poultry farmers in staying competitive by providing affordable credit options and investing in veterinary services to improve production efficiency.



Chief Minister & Ag Minister Drive Stronger Government- Community Collaboration

Chief Minister and Minister of Agriculture led a symbolic rice harvest at the Radical Inclusion Community Empowerment (RICE) Farm in Pejeh Chiefdom, Pujehun District. The event highlighted government-community collaboration, innovative farming techniques, and the community's resolve to overcome storage challenges by constructing a dedicated facility. Dr. Sengeh awarded scholarships to local students, reinforcing the government's commitment to youth empowerment in agriculture.

Multi-Purpose Agro- Processing Center to Empower Women

MAFS, in collaboration with AAD-SL, officially handed over a **multi-purpose agricultural processing center** to the Makump Doron Community in Bombali Seboru Chiefdom. Supported by the EU and led by KADDRO, this project aims to enhance the livelihoods of rural women and youth in Bombali and Kambia.

The facility provides farmers with seeds, input systems, modern processing capabilities, and access to financial grants. During the event, the Deputy Minister II urged the community to fully utilize the facility to support the government's agricultural goals.



Minister Urges Project Managers to Accelerate Feed Salone Delivery

During a strategic meeting at the Bo District Agriculture Office, Minister Kpaka urged MAFS project managers **to align all ongoing efforts with Feed Salone**, stressing the importance of collaboration and focus: *"The Feed Salone initiative is central to our agricultural development agenda, and every project must contribute toward this goal,"* Dr. Kpaka emphasized. Project managers provided updates on key initiatives, including farmer support, resource distribution, and farming techniques.





FEED SALONE 1 YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS



Formulated and launched the Feed Salone Strategy to deliver President's vision of food secure Sierra Leone.



Developing irrigated rice agro-industrial clusters in key rice hubs across the country.



Ensured timely and efficient distribution of agricultural inputs, tools and machines to farmers.



Mobilized more than USD 1bn in funding and technical support to implement key initiatives.



Completed national soil suitability maps for rainfed upland rice, oil palm, maize, onion, and cassava.



Constructing four rural bridges in Tomparie, Manowa, Mattru, and Gendema and 200 km of feeder roads



Partnerships: leveraged global expertise and best practices to invest in research and innovation.



Introduced orange-fleshed sweet potatoes and yellow-fleshed cassava to school feeding programs.



Increased Access to Agriculture Finance by over \$28 millions, with a \$10m Credit Facility at 10% interest.



Developing policy measures to transform the cocoa sector and meet international regulations (EUDR).



Passed innovative policies to transform the rice value chain & boost home-grown feeding programs.



Developing policy measures to transform the poultry sector, including feed subsidies.



FEED SALONE 1 YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS



Growing high-yielding crop varieties in Technology and Innovation Park in Portloko with SLARI.



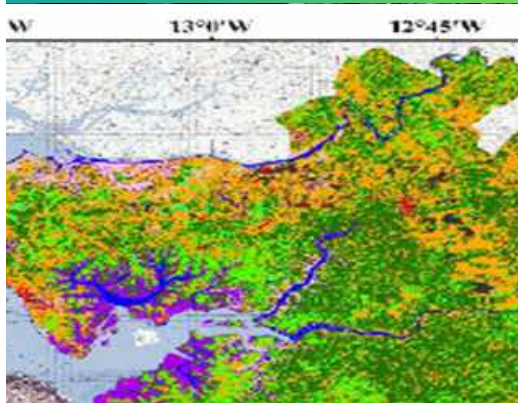
The President commissioned The SABCO Sardine Factory – all ingredients sourced locally.



Developing the biometric National Farmers' Registry linked to National Identity Number.



Piloting 12 fish ponds for youth in 8 districts with the Ministry of Fisheries and the Ministry of Youth.



Developing digital soil mapping with precise information about soil types and nutrient levels.



Seed Business Summit 2024: Developed Seed System Transformation Roadmap.



Implementing the Rural Telephony project with MoCTI to increase connectivity for farmers in remote areas.



Seed Multiplication with SLARI: 6 Tons of Soybean and 4 Tons of Maize Foundation Seeds for SLARI (IITA)



Commissioned the first Waterloo Women's Cashew Processing Factory in Newton



Capacitating SLARI: 14 PhD Scholarships Awarded to SLARI Staff



Launched the Agriculture Transformation Office with African Agricultural Transformation Initiative.



Joined the Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation with Norway, Brazil, Rwanda and Cambodia.