2024 Sierra Leone Crop Yield and Production Report

July 2025

Planning, Evaluation, Monitoring and Statistics Division (PEMSD)
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS)

MINISTER'S FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2024 Production and Yield Survey Report, the annual report on national agricultural production in Sierra Leone. This edition comes at a pivotal moment, marking the first full year of implementation of Feed Salone, the Government's flagship initiative led by His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio to transform our agri-food systems and ensure food self-sufficiency.

The survey was conducted across all agricultural districts, covering rice, cassava, sweet potato, groundnut, maize, and cocoa. It provides comprehensive data on yields, cultivated area, and total national production, laying the foundation for evaluating progress and making informed policy decisions. Importantly, the production and yield presented in this report are key outcome measures for tracking progress under Feed Salone, especially Objective 1: Import Substitution of Key Food Items and Objective 2: Boosting Export Earnings from Agriculture. These indicators will continue to be monitored annually to ensure accountability, guide course correction, and inform future investment.

This year's findings are encouraging. Sierra Leone is making steady progress toward rice self-sufficiency, now achieving about 72% of national demand. This reflects consistent investment in mechanization, improved seed systems, finance for private sector actors, and the digital e-voucher program for input distribution. Feed Salone will continue to invest in and expand these areas, as we work toward the structural transformation of the sector.

Finally, I commend the Planning, Evaluation, Monitoring and Statistics Division (PEMSD) for leading this survey, as well as our partners in the 50x2030 Initiative and all district-level enumerators and farmers who made this possible.

Let us continue this journey together towards a more food-secure, resilient, and prosperous Sierra Leone.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Sierra Leonean economy remains predominantly agrarian. As of 2023, Agriculture continues to employ at least 43 per cent of the national labour force and contributes 29 per cent of gross domestic products (GDP).[1] These characteristics explain the huge potentials Sierra Leone has for rapid agricultural development and socioeconomic transformation. The better utilization of Sierra Leone's agricultural area will improve food security and rural income.

The agriculture sector is heavily dominated by rain-fed production of staple crops, mainly rice, cassava, sweet potato, maize, Vegetables and tree crops accounting for over three-quarters of the sector's output. Women in rural communities contribute a significant proportion of labour (70 percent) to produce these crops. Cash crops such as cocoa, coffee, palm oil, Cashew and others contribute up to 16 % by value. The country is endowed with sufficient land and water resources favourable to agriculture but despite this potential, both production and productivity are still low because of unfavourable hazards such as flooding, challenge of access to improve inputs e.g. Seeds, poor farming techniques, which are highly vulnerable to climate change.

For example, smallholder rice paddy yields in Sierra Leone still ranges between 1.5–2.5 ton/ha compared to west Africa regional average of 2–5 tons/ha. Furthermore, Sierra Leone faces multiple risks from climate change that threaten agricultural production and increase the potential for wider environmental degradation. Rice production is particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts, such as waterlogging and floods, increased humidity, insufficient/intermittent rainfall, drought, dry spells, and low-quality seeds. It is also affected by rising temperatures that result in pest infestation, climate-induced post-harvest losses due to infrastructure damage and road flooding, which disrupts the supply chain. This vulnerability to climate change is exacerbated by numerous other barriers including inadequate water control measures and irrigation structures for continuous production of food and cash crops; low adoption of technologies by smallholders; low and decreasing soil fertility; lack of access to agricultural financing; and marketing constraints.

To this end, the Government has launched the Feed Salone Strategy[2] in 2023 with aims to foster inclusive economic growth, create jobs, ensure food security, and build climate resilience. It consists of six strategic pillars and five objectives. This report presents the results of the 2024 Sierra Leone crop yield and production survey, which covers key crops identified in the Feed Salone Strategy. The report provides the landscape of the national agricultural production and the progress of the Feed Salone implementations.

[1] World Bank Open Data website.
[2] Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS). (2023). Feed Salone Strategy. Freetown, Sierra Leone: Government of Sierra Leone.

2. OBJECTIVE

The main objective of carrying out this study is to measure nationwide yields of rice, cassava, sweet potato, groundnut, maize and cocoa in all agricultural districts. It has provided the basis for measuring production and productivity indicators for performance evaluation. The result of the survey is used as reference materials to implement policy formulation and evaluation.

The survey results are also used to:

- Set the guidelines regarding stabilization of rice supply, demand and prices of stable food and forecast rice supply and demand, based on “Act of stabilization of supply, demand and prices of staple food”.
- Set the target volumes of crop production for consumption sufficiency and evaluate its achievement.
- Calculate the standard yields for farmers capacity enhancement for Agricultural Production and Productivity.

3. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The study employed a scientific crop-cutting method to estimate crop yields and production levels. This methodology involved the demarcation and monitoring of standard yield plots (25m² or 50m²), and the eventual harvesting and measurement of mature crops within these plots. This approach has been adopted as the standard methodology for estimating crop yield and production across key agricultural value chains in the country.

Scope of the Study

This study covered selected crop producing farmers in the 15 agricultural districts supported by the ministry and projects. The study determines the actual yield of key crops, including all Rice ecologies (Boli, Mangrove, IVS, upland, Riverine), Groundnut, Maize, Sweet Potato, Cassava and Cocoa.

Sample Design and Selection

Sample frame: The sampling frame was derived from the 2023 ILP-AG Survey (50x2030)[3], which was built on the 2015 Population and Housing Census. Using Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) sampling, 520 Enumeration Areas (EAs) were selected. From each EA, 10 households were randomly sampled, yielding a total of 5,200 farming households. These households accounted for 7,871 agricultural plots across the country.

[3] Statistics Sierra Leone. (2023). Sierra Leone Annual Agricultural Survey Report. Freetown, Sierra Leone: Government of Sierra Leone.

Crop yield study sample: From the 7,871 plots, stratified sampling was applied by district and crop type (including rice ecologies) to select the study sample. Based on a sample size calculation using a 95% confidence level and 8% margin of error, the target sample size was set at 3,500 plots. Ultimately, a final sample of 3,390 plots was achieved due to limitations such as (i) lack of farmer consent for plot measurement and (ii) overlapping harvest dates, requiring enumerators to prioritize one plot over others in cases of scheduling conflicts. Table 1. shows the sample frame and actual sample size (number of plots).

Table 1: Sample frame vs. crop yield study sample

	Maize		Rice		Ground Nuts		Cassava		Sweet Potatoes		Cocoa		Total	
District	Frame	N	Frame	N	Frame	N	Frame	N	Frame	N	Frame	N	Frame	N
Bo	71	49	316	102	45	35	254	95	32	27	22	20	740	328
Bombali	8	0	145	74	97	60	61	44	31	26	0	0	342	204
Bonthe	12	0	34	28	22	20	107	63	0	0	0	0	175	111
Falaba	10	0	134	72	22	20	5	0	1	0	2	0	174	92
Kailahun	32	27	520	119	9	0	58	43	17	16	339	105	975	310
Kambia	19	17	260	96	107	63	65	46	20	18	15	0	486	240
Karene	9	0	136	72	58	43	47	36	12	0	0	0	262	151
Kenema	91	57	524	117	40	32	170	80	20	18	235	92	1080	396
Koinadugu	14	0	77	52	43	44	14	0	13	0	8	0	169	96
Kono	87	56	538	118	68	48	127	70	23	21	228	91	1071	404
Moyamba	83	54	174	81	111	65	116	66	12	0	3	0	499	266
Port Loko	43	34	323	103	89	57	106	63	22	20	1	0	584	277
Pujehun	25	22	195	86	46	33	145	74	6	0	0	0	417	215
Tonkolili	75	51	345	105	273	98	64	46	15	0	1	0	773	300
W/ rural	24	21	17	17	27	24	32	27	24	21	0	0	124	110
Total	579	367	3,721	1,225	1,030	618	1,339	726	224	146	854	308	7871	3,390

Sampling Method: A multi-stage stratified random sampling approach was employed:

1. District-level stratification
2. Stratification by crop and rice ecology Purposeful selection of chiefdoms and villages, based on factors such as crop concentration, FBO membership, and comparative advantage
3. Random selection of plots within identified farmer fields

This approach ensured that the sample reflected the diversity of production systems while maintaining the rigor of a statistically sound design.

Crop Cutting Survey

Plot Establishment: A total of 3,390 yield plots were successfully established across the country. Plot sizes were standardized to 25m² or 50m², depending on the crop and field conditions. Enumerators ensured that the plots were representative of the field and avoided selecting visibly lush or unusually poor areas.

Monitoring: Monitoring activities included: (i) Regular field visits; (ii) Consultations with farmers; and (iii) GPS referencing for accurate plot tracking. Enumerators tracked the crop development throughout the growing season until the crops reached physiological maturity.

Harvesting and Drying: Upon maturity, all produce within the sample plots was harvested in collaboration with the farmers. Special care was taken to ensure that harvested produce was not lost or damaged.

For rice, the grains were sun-dried to a standardized moisture content of 14%, ensuring comparability of yield estimates and suitability for storage. Following tools were employed:

- Measuring tape Weighing balance (beam or spring)
- Yield rope
- Pegs Jute bags
- GPS device
- Moisture meter

Data collection: Data was collected using a structured electronic questionnaire programmed in ODK (Open Data Kit). The tool captured:

- Demographic and socio-economic information of the household

- Agronomic practices and inputs used
- Factors affecting yield and productivity
- Measured crop yield from crop cutting

The data collection and crop cutting activities spanned from June 2023 to February 2024.

Data analysis and presentation

The data was first cleaned and validated in Microsoft Excel. Tables, graphs, and charts were generated to present the findings in a clear and interpretable manner.

4. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Key findings

The 2024 crop production survey yielded critical insights into the performance of Sierra Leone's agriculture sector, especially regarding rice and other staple crops. Major findings include:

Rice Production: Total national paddy rice production in 2024 reached 1.39 million metric tons from 636,473 hectares, reflecting a 5.7% increase over 2023. Inland Valley Swamp (IVS) rice achieved the highest average yield at 2.56 Mt/Ha, reinforcing its potential for intensification. Conversely, upland rice, though covering the largest area, continues to have the lowest average yield (1.81 Mt/Ha), suggesting the need for targeted interventions.

Cassava: Produced 1.9 million MT from 124,048 hectares, with an average yield of 14.62 Mt/Ha. Districts like Bombali and Moyamba are standout performers.

Sweet Potato: Achieved a national production of 263,460 MT, with Bo district recording a notably high yield of 20.86 Mt/Ha.

Groundnut and Maize: Groundnut yield averaged 2.10 Mt/Ha, while maize averaged 2.43 Mt/Ha with relatively consistent yields across districts.

Cocoa: Produced 17,549 MT from 12,958 hectares, with a stable average yield of 1.36 Mt/Ha.

A. Rice

Results from the 2024 production survey show that rice production varies significantly across districts and ecological zones, with Inland Valley Swamp (IVS) rice recording the highest total production (446,615 MT), followed closely by Upland Rice (439,716 MT) and Boli Rice (196,334 MT). Despite covering the largest cultivated area (246,076 Ha), upland rice has relatively lower yields compared to IVS rice, which demonstrates better efficiency. Additionally, the national averages for all rice ecologies in Sierra Leone show that district yields are relatively consistent,

ranging from 1.93 to 2.49 Mt/Ha, but production levels vary significantly based on the cultivation area. Port Loko and Kambia lead in production with 77,005 Ha and 70,341 Ha yielding 174,801 MT and 157,564 MT respectively. Notably, despite Falaba's high yield of 2.46 Mt/Ha and Kono's top yield of 2.49 Mt/Ha, their total outputs are moderated by the size of the areas under cultivation. The data suggests that yield improvements in upland rice could substantially increase national production, and districts like Kono, Kenema, and Port Loko hold strong potential for further intensification, particularly in IVS and mangrove rice systems.

Table 2: 2024 Upland, IVS, Boli, Riverine and Mangrove rice production by district

	Upland Rice			IVS Rice			Boli Rice		
District	**Area (Ha)**	**Yield (Mt/Ha)**	**Production (Mt)**	**Area (Ha)**	**Yield (Mt/Ha)**	**Production (Mt)**	**Area (Ha)**	**Yield (Mt/Ha)**	**Production (Mt)**
Bo	29,102	1.69	49,182	13,721	2.38	32,656	7,432	2.30	17,094
Bombali	21,264	1.78	37,850	11,026	2.29	25,250	9,808	1.89	18,537
Bonthe	10,753	1.93	20,753	5,336	2.46	13,127	4,536	2.11	9,571
Falaba	16,678	2.38	39,694	9,134	2.80	25,575	6,414	2.20	14,111
Kailahun	18,155	1.96	35,584	12,533	2.43	30,455	5,161	1.78	9,187
Kambia	14,741	1.77	26,092	5,459	2.54	13,866	8,958	1.99	17,826
Karene	17,768	1.74	30,916	15,721	2.52	39,617	9,062	1.62	14,680
Kenema	13,097	1.75	22,920	19,623	2.72	53,375	2,357	1.85	4,360
Koinadugu	17,177	1.34	23,017	12,133	2.49	30,211	8,547	1.95	16,667
Kono	16,505	2.14	35,321	12,209	3.18	38,825	4,994	2.14	10,687
Moyamba	19,414	1.36	26,403	12,407	2.38	29,529	6,946	1.90	13,197
Port Loko	18,139	1.60	29,022	20,413	2.47	50,420	10,477	1.94	20,325
Pujehun	14,243	1.19	16,949	11,472	2.60	29,827	4,408	2.14	9,433
Tonkolili	15,866	2.48	39,348	11,814	2.34	27,645	9,223	2.12	19,553
W/Area	3,174	2.10	6,665	2,244	2.78	6,238	588	1.88	1,105
National	**246,076**	**1.81**	**439,716**	**175,245**	**2.56**	**446,615**	**98,911**	**1.99**	**196,334**

	Riverine Rice			Mangrove Rice		
District	**Area (Ha)**	**Yield (Mt/Ha)**	**Production (Mt)**	**Area (Ha)**	**Yield (Mt/Ha)**	**Production (Mt)**
Bonthe	22,833	2.58	58909			
Kambia	9,865	2.56	25254	31,318	2.34	73284
Moyamba				8,628	2.62	22605
Port Loko	8,654	2.52	21808	19,322	2.82	54488
Pujehun	15,621	2.61	40771			
National	**56,973**	**2.57**	**146,742**	**59,268**	**2.59**	**150,378**

Table 3: 2024 rice production by district

District	Area (Ha)	Yield (Mt/Ha)	Production (Mt)
Bo	50,255	2.12	106,708
Bombali	42,098	1.99	83,635
Bonthe	43,458	2.27	98,650
Falaba	32,226	2.46	79,276
Kailahun	35,849	2.06	73,729
Kambia	70,341	2.24	157,564
Karene	42,551	1.96	83,400
Kenema	35,077	2.11	73,896
Koinadugu	37,857	1.93	72,938
Kono	33,708	2.49	83,821
Moyamba	47,395	2.07	97,871
Port Loko	77,005	2.27	174,801
Pujehun	45,744	2.14	97,663
Tonkolili	36,903	2.31	85,369
W/Area	6,006	2.25	13,534
National	**636,473**	**2.18**	**1,382,854**

Over the three-year period from 2022 to 2024, rice production in Sierra Leone has experienced steady growth nationwide. The total cultivated area increased from 511,430 to 636,473 hectares, while average yields improved from 2.19 to 2.30 Mt/Ha, leading to an overall rise in paddy production from 1,081,422 to 1,379,785 MT. Breaking this down by ecology, IVS rice maintained a constant area and yield from 2022 to 2023 before increasing slightly to 175,245 hectares in 2024. IVS has shown consistent improvements in yield, increasing from 2.35 tons per hectare in 2022 and 2023 to 2.56 tons per hectare in 2024. As a result, total paddy production increased from 409,919 tons in 2022 to 446,615 tons in 2024. Boli rice shows minimal changes between 2023 and 2024 in area cultivated, but its yield improved from 1.81 tons per hectare to 1.99 tons per hectare, leading to an increase in production in 2024 versus 2023. Mangrove and riverine rice both benefited from substantial area expansions; mangrove rice nearly doubled its production from 2022 to 2023 and riverine rice saw its area and production grow markedly by 2024. This increase could be because of the success of the Feed Salone awareness programs that led to an increase in farmer population for these ecologies. However, yields in these ecologies fell slightly in 2024, this was because of irregular quantities of fertiliser utilised by the farmers, this was due to a reduced supply of fertiliser in 2024. Notably, upland rice, after remaining relatively stable in 2022 and 2023, experienced significant gains in area in 2024, but yields fell from 1.92 tons per hectares to 1.81 tons per hectare. Potential reasons for this reduction in yield include:

- An increase in the farmer population which has led to a scramble for the same portion of land, resulting in a reduction in the fallow period of upland rice farms thereby reducing soil fertility.

- In addition, due climate smart practices, Government is supporting upland farmers less – no fertiliser is provided to support upland farming.
- Farmers also practice mixed cropping. They are increasing the planting of other crops which can provide them more revenue (like cassava leaves).

These trends suggest that strategic improvements in cultivated area and yield improvements across different rice ecologies are driving the positive trajectory in national rice output.

Table 4: 2022-2024 National rice production by rice ecology

	2022			2023			2024		
	Area (Ha)	**Yield (Mt/Ha)**	**Production (Mt)**	**Area (Ha)**	**Yield (Mt/Ha)**	**Production (Mt)**	**Area (Ha)**	**Yield (Mt/Ha)**	**Production (Mt)**
IVS	173,872	2.35	409,919	173,872	2.35	409,918	175,245	2.56	446,615
Boli	119,911	1.82	217,998	98,911	1.81	179,382	98,911	1.99	196,334
Mangrove	29,437	2.41	72,224	56,446	2.68	154,547	59,268	2.59	150,378
Riverine	28,594	2.47	71,649	30,254	2.63	81,081	56,973	2.57	146,742
Upland	159,616	1.93	309,632	160,616	1.93	311,489	246,076	1.81	439,716
Total	**554,401**	**1.90**	**947,464**	**610,494**	**2.13**	**1,315,368**	**636,473**	**2.18**	**1,382,854**
% change				**10.12%**	**12.30%**	**38.83%**	**4.26%**	**2.35%**	**5.13%**

IVS Development

In 2024, the MAFS developed/ rehabilitated as much as 4,596 Ha of IVS under the two MAFS projects (AVDP and FSRP) and under the collaboration with WFP. Initially, 3,350 Ha (2,500 Ha from AVDP and 850 Ha from FSRP) was targeted to develop under the two MAFS projects, but one agri-business supported by the AVDP has voluntarily developed additional 200 Ha, making IVS development under the AVDP 2,700 Ha. Adding developed area in collaboration with WFP (1,046 Ha), the total developed area was 4,596 Ha. The newly developed areas recorded average yield of 2.58 Mt/Ha.[4] These outcomes achieve the targets set by the European Union (Table 5).

Table 5: EU target on IVS development and average yield

Indicator	2024 EU Target	2024 Outcome
Development	3,247 Ha	4,596 Ha (AVDP: 2,700 Ha, FSRP: 850 Ha, WFP: 1,046 Ha)
Yield	2.46 Mt/Ha	2.58 Mt/Ha (Developed area) 2.56 Mt/Ha (Nation-wide)

[4] MAFS conducted a separate survey as a part of the AVDP and FSRP projects for the beneficiaries. The average yield of the developed areas is obtained from this survey.

Towards rice self-sufficiency

Table 6 presents the estimated rice self-sufficiency during 2019-2024. With increased yield and cultivated area, rice self-sufficiency has been increasing. This positive trend demonstrates that national efforts, including the **Feed Salone Strategy** and IVS rehabilitation, are beginning to bear fruit. Note that in 2021, MAFS could not run the crop-cutting survey due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the figure is based on the projection.

Table 6: 2019-2024 Rice self-sufficiency trend

Year	Yearly Population	National Requirement -Milled (Mt)	Milled Equivalent of production (Mt)	Rice Self Sufficiency Performance (%)	Note
2018	7,701,185	1,008,855	568,478	56	
2019	7,901,454	1,035,090	623,918	60	
2020	8,100,318	1,061,142	902,515	85	Projected figure. Survey was not implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2021	8,297,882	1,087,023	670,512	62	
2022	8,494,260	1,112,748	691,511	62	
2023	8,689,601	1,138,338	768,645.60	68	
2024	8,884,032	1,163,808	834,469	72	

Rice Varieties

Finally, the figure below presents the distribution of the rice vanities cultivated national wide. Overall, two improved varieties, Rok 34 and NeRICA L19 are commonly planted. ROK 34, a multi-purpose (upland and lowland) variety, is used by 49% and NeRICA L19, a lowland variety, is used by 36% of the farmers.

Table 7 shows the frequency and average yield of different rice varieties. In Upland ecology, majority of the farmers used Rok 34 with average yield of 1.88 Mt/Ha, which is in general higher than other major varieties. In IVS ecology, NeRICA L19 is predominant, while some farmers use Rok 34, and the former records higher average yield. In Mangrove, Rok 32 is the major varieties, recording relatively higher yield than other varieties. In Riverine, most farmers adopt one of the three varieties: Rok 22 and NeRICA L19, where NeRICA L19 records the highest yield. In Boli, Rok 34 is predominant with relatively higher average yield than other varieties. NeRICA L19 is also a common variety in this ecosystem.

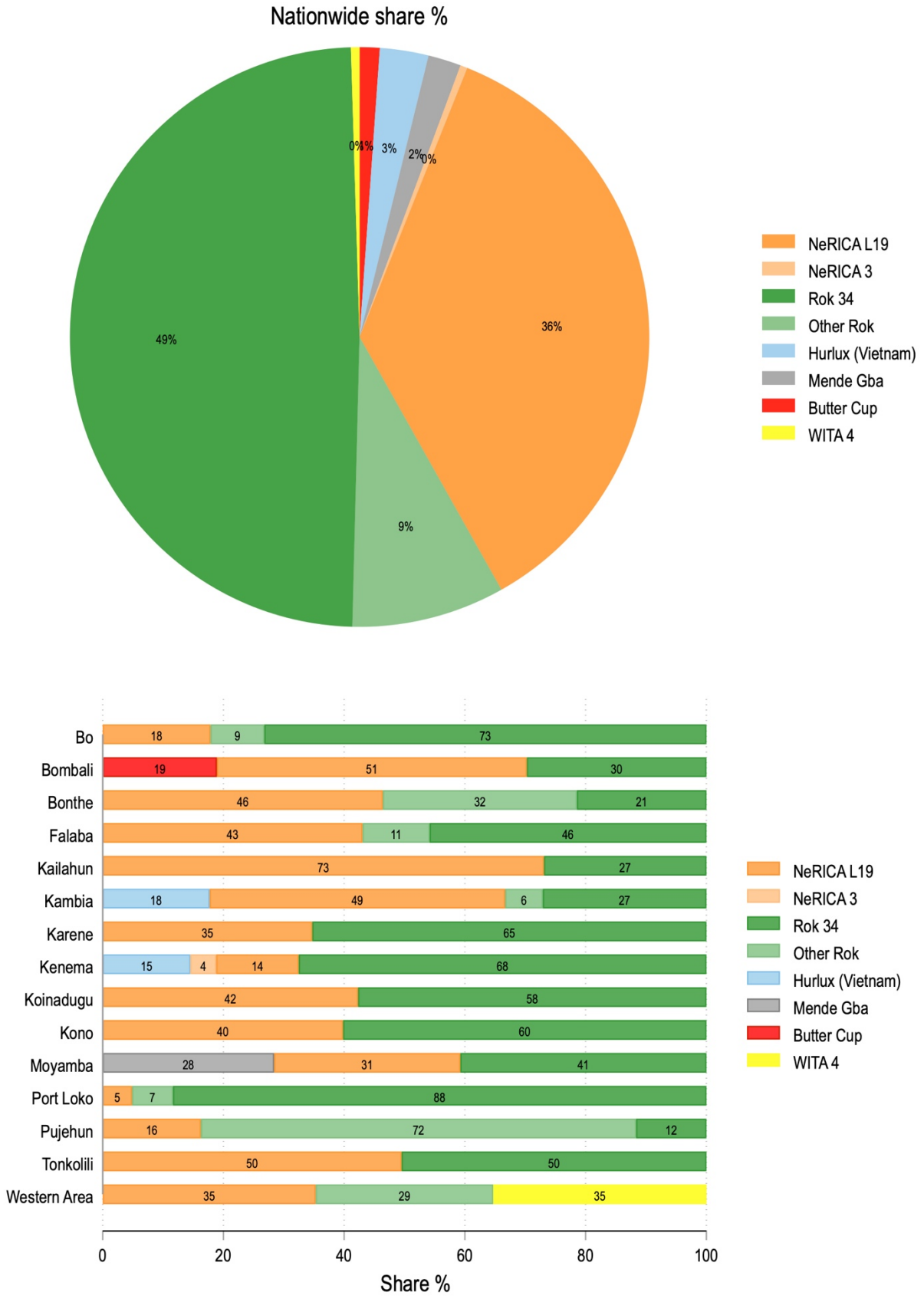

Figure 1: Share of cultivated rice varieties

Table 7. Share and average yield of varieties by rice ecologies.

Upland Rice			IVS Rice		
Variety	**Share**	**Yield (Mt/Ha)**	**Variety**	**Share**	**Yield (Mt/Ha)**
Rok 34	81.8%	1.86	NeRICA L19	73.8%	2.53
Rok 22	9.7%	1.39	Rok 34	12.5%	2.44
Mende Gba	4.9%	1.39	Hurlux (Vietnam)	6.8%	2.69
WITA 4	1.8%	2.09	Butter Cup	2.8%	2.29
NeRICA 3	1.5%	1.65	Rok 24	2.4%	2.85
NeRICA L19	0.3%	2.16	Rok 5	1.6%	2.53
Total	**100%**	**1.79**	**Total**	**100%**	**2.53**

Mangrove Rice			Riverine Rice			Boli Rice		
Variety	**Share**	**Yield (Mt/Ha)**	**Variety**	**Share**	**Yield (Mt/Ha)**	**Variety**	**Share**	**Yield (Mt/Ha)**
Rok 34	56.1%	2.54	Rok 22	54.1%	2.61	Rok 34	79.9%	2.01
Rok 5	21.1%	2.77	NeRICA L19	21.3%	2.77	NeRICA L19	17.9%	1.91
NeRICA L19	21.1%	2.46	Rok 10	14.8%	2.41	Mende Gba	2.3%	1.63
Rok 10	1.8%	2.36						
Total	**100%**	**2.57**	**Total**	**100%**	**2.60**	**Total**	**100%**	**1.98**

OTHER CROPS

Cassava: Cassava was grown on 124,048 Ha in 2024 with an average yield of 14.62 and total production of about 1.90 million metric tons. At the district level, there is considerable variation in yield. For example, districts such as Bombali and Moyamba are achieving yields well above the national average, while Falaba, Koinadugu, and Western Area register lower yields. The production volumes in districts like Bonthe (300,271 MT) and Bombali (258,885 MT) reflect both favorable yields and substantial cultivation areas, highlighting that these are areas where cassava production is particularly robust. Over the period from 2022 to 2024, cassava production experienced a notable increase in overall output. While the area under cultivation rose slightly from 2022 to 2023 before declining in 2024, the yield per hectare improved substantially, which resulted in higher total production by 2024.

Table 8: 2024 cassava, sweet potato, groundnut, maize and cocoa production by district

District	Cassava			Sweet Potato			Groundnut		
	Area (Ha)	Yield Mt/Ha	Production (Mt)	Area (Ha)	Yield Mt/Ha	Production (Mt)	Area (Ha)	Yield Mt/Ha	Production (Mt)
Bo	14,926	15.56	232,249	3,245	20.86	67,691	1,968	1.8	3,542
Bombali	14,701	17.61	258,885	2,667	7.02	18,722	1,283	1.9	2,438
Bonthe	21,743	13.81	300,271	864	8.04	6,947	736	2.2	1,619
Falaba	3,308	9.87	32,650	1,246	7.15	8,909	502	1.8	904
Kailahun	4,528	12.95	58,638	614	8.51	5,225	1,166	1.66	1,936
Kambia	1,675	13.8	23,115	4,344	7.22	31,364	3,922	2.3	9,021
Karene	872	16.59	14,466	634	8.02	5,085	5,311	1.6	8,498
Kenema	8,723	16.65	145,238	772	12.31	9,503	3,972	2.9	11,519
Koinadugu	4,983	10.51	52,371	830	8.82	7,321	2,489	2.4	5,974
Kono	6,242	14.43	90,072	461	6.34	2,923	2,171	1.9	4,125
Moyamba	9,501	18.19	172,823	4,369	9.02	39,408	5,429	2.6	14,115
Port Loko	8,971	15.99	143,446	2,204	5.83	12,849	1,200	1.7	2,040
Pujehun	10,880	14.84	161,459	1,270	5.84	7,417	2,495	1.9	4,741
Tonkolili	10,435	17.62	183,865	3,961	8.2	32,480	4,130	1.7	7,021
Western Area	2,560	10.87	27,827	1,743	4.37	7,617	3,817	2.6	9,924
National	**124,048**	**14.62**	**1,897,375**	**29,224**	**8.50**	**263,460**	**40,591**	**2.1**	**87,415**

District	Maize			Cocoa		
	Area Cultivated (Ha)	Yield (Mt/Ha)	Production (Mt)	Area Cultivated (Ha)	Yield (Mt/Ha)	Production (Mt)
Bo	1,968	2.70	5,314	589	1.39	819
Bombali	1,283	2.14	2,746			
Bonthe	736	2.23	1,641			
Kailahun	1,166	2.67	3,113	5,324	1.35	7,187
Kambia	3,922	2.34	9,177			
Kenema	3,972	2.64	10,486	3,875	1.35	5,231
Kono	2,171	2.20	4,776	3,170	1.36	4,311
Moyamba	5,429	2.64	14,333			
Port Loko	1,200	2.17	2,604			
Pujehun	2,495	2.66	6,637			
Tonkolili	4,130	2.11	8,714			
Western Area	3,817	2.71	10,344			
National	**32,289**	**2.43**	**79,885**	**12,958**	**1.36**	**17,549**

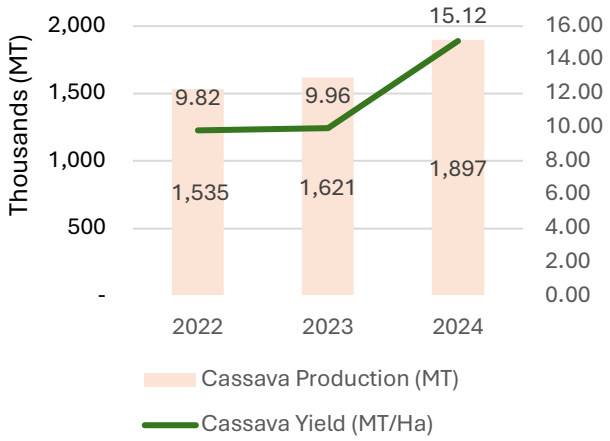

Figure 2: Trend of cassava yield and production

Sweet Potato: Sweet potato production covered 29,224 hectares nationwide in 2024, with an average yield of 8.50 and a total production of 263,460 metric tons. There is notable variability in performance by district. Bo district, for instance, exhibits an exceptionally high yield of 20.86 and produces 67,691 metric tons despite a relatively modest area, suggesting highly efficient production practices. The cultivated area showed a modest increase in 2023 relative to 2022 and then a small decline in 2024. However, an improvement in yield was observed over the period, leading to a steady rise in production, with the most marked yield increase occurring in 2024.

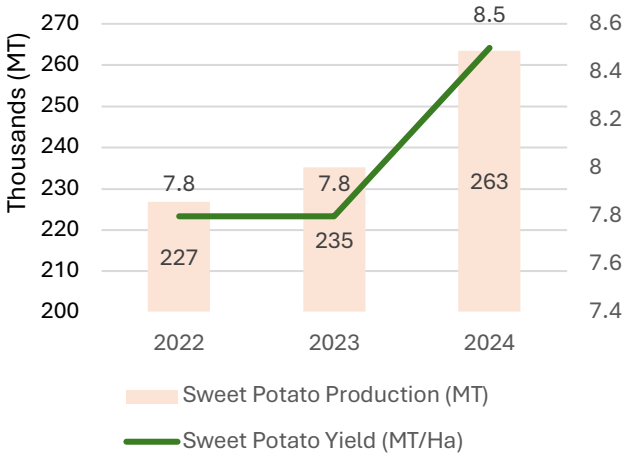

Figure 3: Trend of sweet potato yield and production

Groundnut: Groundnut was cultivated on 40,591 hectares in 2024, with an average yield of 2.10 and overall production of 87,415 metric tons. The district-level data reveals a range in yield—from a low of 1.6 in Karene to highs of 2.9 in Kenema and 2.6 in Moyamba and Western Area. These differences result in varied production levels; districts like Moyamba, Kenema, and Western Area are notable contributors to the national output. The data suggests that improving yield consistency could boost production further in lower- performing districts. Groundnut production trends reveal

that the cultivation area remained relatively stable across the three years, with only a slight decrease in 2024. Despite this, yield improvements in 2024 drove a considerable increase in total production.

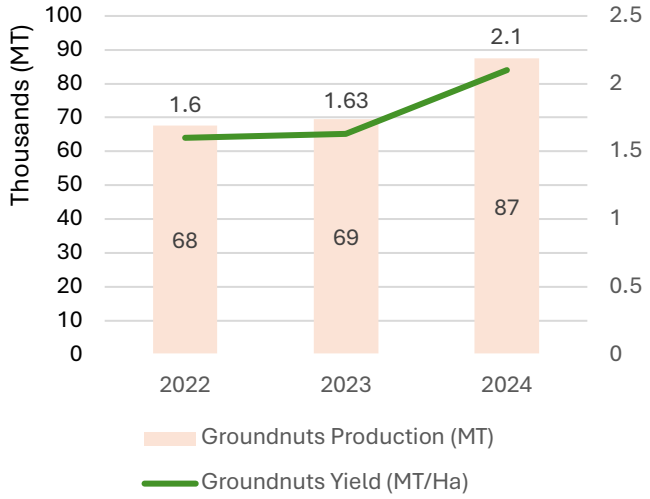

Figure 4: Trend of groundnuts yield and production

Maize: Maize is grown on 32,289 hectares across the nation, achieving an average yield of 2.43 and total production of 79,885 metric tons. The yield figures across districts tend to be relatively consistent, generally falling within a narrow band from 2.14 to 2.71. This uniformity suggests that maize cultivation practices are fairly standardized.

Cocoa: Nationally, cocoa is cultivated on 12,958 hectares, with an average yield of 1.36 and a total production of 17,549 metric tons. The district figures are quite uniform, with yields ranging from about 1.35 to 1.39. The consistency in yield across the cocoa-producing districts suggests that cultivation practices and environmental factors are relatively stable within this sector.

5. Conclusion and way forward

The 2024 Crop Production Survey has reaffirmed the potential for sustained agricultural growth in Sierra Leone. Particularly, rice production continues to move steadily toward self-sufficiency. Other crops such as cassava, sweet potato, and groundnuts also show promising yield improvements, validating the effectiveness of ongoing government and partner-supported interventions.

However, the survey highlighted persistent challenges in its implementation including: (1) lack of disaggregated census data on rice ecology and limited personnel to reach the targeted sample. These challenges need to be overcome with establishment of the sample frame for each rice ecology and improved planning and coordination between farmers and the district agriculture office to ensure the presence of the enumerators at the time of the harvesting.

IVS Rice field

Riverine Rice field