FEED SALONE

Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security

2025 Sierra Leone National Crop Production Survey Report

April 2026

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

Table of Contents

MINISTER'S FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to present the 2025 National Crop Production Survey Report, which provides the latest evidence on agricultural production performance across Sierra Leone during the 2025/26 cropping season. As we advance implementation of the Feed Salone Strategy, this report serves as an important instrument for measuring progress, informing policy decisions, and strengthening accountability across the agricultural sector.

Agriculture remains central to Sierra Leone's economic transformation, food security, and rural livelihoods agenda. Reliable agricultural statistics are therefore essential for guiding investments, monitoring performance, and ensuring that interventions are responsive to the needs of farmers and communities across the country. This survey contributes to that objective by providing nationally representative estimates of production, yield, and cultivated area across major crops and production systems.

Importantly, the survey highlights that productivity improvements, rather than expansion in cultivated area alone, are increasingly contributing to agricultural growth. The findings also reveal significant differences in performance across districts and production systems, reinforcing the need for targeted investments in irrigation, land development, improved seed systems, mechanization, and others.

This year's survey also introduced important methodological improvements, including strengthened sampling approaches, ecology-specific rice sampling frameworks, expanded digital data collection systems, and rigorous quality assurance processes. These improvements enhance confidence in the reliability of the findings and strengthen their value for planning and policy formulation.

The successful completion of this survey reflects the efforts of the Planning, Evaluation, Monitoring and Statistics Division (PEMSD), district field teams, technical partners, farming communities, and the support provided by ATO Sierra Leone through AGRA, all of whom contributed to data collection, validation, and the successful implementation of the survey across the country.

As we continue delivering on the Feed Salone objectives, these findings provide both encouragement and direction.

DR. HENRY MUSA KPAKA
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

1. INTRODUCTION

The Sierra Leonean economy remains predominantly agrarian. The agriculture sector contributes over 25 percent of GDP and employs nearly 45 percent of the active workforce. It is the backbone of Sierra Leone's food systems transformation agenda, Feed Salone, and a critical pathway for poverty reduction, food security, youth employment, and inclusive growth.

The agriculture sector is heavily dominated by rain-fed production of staple crops, including rice, cassava, sweet potato, and maize. Cash crops such as cocoa, coffee, palm oil, cashew and others are major sources of the households' agricultural income and the country's exports. 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 and financing. As a result, the country still relies on imports of staple foods and protein sources, leaving households vulnerable to macroeconomic shocks. For example, smallholder rice paddy yields in Sierra Leone still ranges between 1.5-2.5 ton/ha compared to west Africa regional average up to 5 tons/ha. The country imports about 360,000 MT of rice valued at around $160 million.

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) in collaboration with its partners embark into a compendium of interventions to cushion the adverse effect of the numerous challenges highlighted above. One leading intervention is the 'Feed Salone Strategy' focusing on supporting farmers to mechanize and irrigate their crop fields, improve seeds and inputs system, provide better access to finance to boost national production and productivity. The timely and widely available crop production statistics are necessary to evaluate the progress of the national agriculture transformation agenda and better plan policy and business actions.

The Planning, Evaluation, Monitoring, and Statistics Division (PEMSD) of the MAFS implement National Crop Production Survey every year to produce production statistics of the country. The 2025 crop production survey aims to provide accurate and timely data on harvest and yields for six major crops, including rice, cassava, maize, cocoa, sweat potato, groundnuts, and onion, across all 15 districts. During the process, the Technical Working Gorup (TWG) consists of key stakeholders including Statistics Sierra Leone (Stats SL), Sierra Leone Agriculture Research Institute (SLARI), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), World Bank (WB), and Agricultural Transformation Office (ATO) provided technical advise for the methodologies and evaluation of the results. This report presents the survey results and production statistics of the 2025/26 season.

2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The 2025/26 National Crop Production Survey was conducted by the MAFS, through the PEMSD, in collaboration with key partners. The survey aimed to estimate national agricultural production through scientifically measured crop yields and cultivated areas. The study covered major staple and cash crops, including rice, cassava, sweet potato, groundnut, maize, and cocoa. Crop yields were estimated using **the crop-cutting method**, while cultivated areas were measured using **Global Positioning System (GPS) devices**. National production estimates were derived by combining yield and area measurements from randomly selected agricultural plots across the country.

Sample Design and Selection

The sampling design for the 2025/26 survey was based on a strengthened and expanded sampling framework to improve statistical precision and representativeness. The primary sampling frame was derived from the 2023 Sierra Leone Agricultural Listing Survey (SLALS), conducted under the 50x2030 Initiative. This listing exercise identified approximately 1.26 million agricultural households nationwide by listing all households in 520 Enumeration Areas (EAs). These EAs were randomly selected from the 12,865 EAs nationwide in the 2015 Population and Housing Census. The SLALS sample frame provide distribution of agricultural households per each key crops across districts. However, it lacks distribution of rice ecologies in which rice farmers under cultivation.

A key methodological innovation in the 2025/26 survey

A key methodological innovation in the 2025/26 survey was the development of a rice ecology-specific sampling frame. Based on recommendations from the Technical Working Group, a dedicated listing survey was conducted to identify rice-producing households across districts and rice ecologies. **This exercise enumerated 41,368 rice farmers across the 520 EAs and enabled the construction of a stratified sample frame by district and rice ecology.**

Sampling procedures differed slightly between rice and other crops to reflect differences in production systems and data requirements:

Rice: A proportional stratified random sampling approach was applied using district and rice ecology strata. Sample sizes were calculated at the district level using a 95 percent confidence level and a 5 percent margin of error, resulting in a target sample size of approximately 6,300 rice-producing households nationwide. Within each district, sample allocations were distributed proportionally across rice ecologies, and households were randomly selected from the listing survey database.

Other Crops: For **cassava, maize, cocoa, groundnut, and sweet potato**, the sampling frame from the SLALS agricultural household listing was used. Stratified random sampling was applied at the district level using the same statistical parameters (95 percent confidence level and 5 percent margin of error). Households producing the respective crops were randomly selected from the sampling

frame. For onion production, data were collected through targeted phone surveys of major private producers due to the concentration of production among commercial farmers.

This sampling strategy ensured robust national coverage while maintaining statistical rigor and comparability across districts and crop systems.

Crop-Cutting Methodology

The crop-cutting method remained the standard approach for estimating crop yields. Yield plots were established within selected farmer fields, with one plot designated per crop. Standard plot sizes of 25 square meters (m²) or 50 square meters (m²) were demarcated depending on crop type and field conditions. Enumerators ensured that plots were representative of the field and avoided areas with unusually high or low crop performance.

Monitoring activities were conducted throughout the growing season and included regular field visits, consultations with farmers, and GPS referencing to ensure accurate tracking of sample plots. Enumerators monitored crop growth until physiological maturity.

Upon maturity, all produce within the sample plots was harvested and weighed using standardized procedures. For rice, harvested grains were sun-dried to a standardized moisture content of 14 percent to ensure consistency and comparability of yield estimates across districts and ecologies.

FIGURE 1

Measurement of rice weight at the field

Harvested paddy weighed with a hanging scale during the crop-cutting exercise.

Source: PEMSD, MAFS

Data Collection and Sample Size

Data collection was conducted using structured electronic questionnaires programmed in Open Data Kit (ODK). The digital data collection system enabled real-time data capture, validation, and monitoring of field activities. The survey instrument collected information on:

- Household demographic and socio-economic characteristics
- Crop production and agronomic practices
- Use of agricultural inputs and technologies
- Plot size measured using GPS devices
- Crop yields measured through crop cutting

Field data collection and crop-cutting activities were implemented nationwide during the harvest season (October – February), covering the full crop growth cycle from planting to harvest.

Table 1 and 2 present sample size for each crop and each district. The sample size obtained during the survey was within 10% from the targeted sample size based on the sampling frame for all the stratums.

TABLE 1

Sample Distribution for Rice per District and Ecology

District	All ecologies	Upland	Boli	IVS	Mangrove	Riverine
Bo	488	289	24	175	0	0
Bombali	461	143	175	143	0	0
Bonthe	380	40	147	61	0	132
Falaba	207	80	38	89	0	0
Kailahun	508	169	14	325	0	0
Kambia	504	104	35	217	90	58
Karene	393	135	40	218	0	0
Kenema	435	201	0	234	0	0
Koinadugu	234	70	20	144	0	0
Kono	389	154	0	223	0	12
Moyamba	515	284	11	201	0	19
Port Loko	589	192	59	260	59	19
Pujehun	569	185	79	44	0	261
Tonkolili	517	179	99	239	0	0
Western Rural	151	32	2	117	0	0
Total	**6,340**	**2,257**	**743**	**2,690**	**149**	**501**

Source: 2025 National Crop Production Survey · PEMSD, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

TABLE 1B

Rice-farming ecology mix by district

Composition of the 6,340-household rice sample, ordered by Inland Valley Swamp (IVS) share. Shares are proportional to the listing frame.

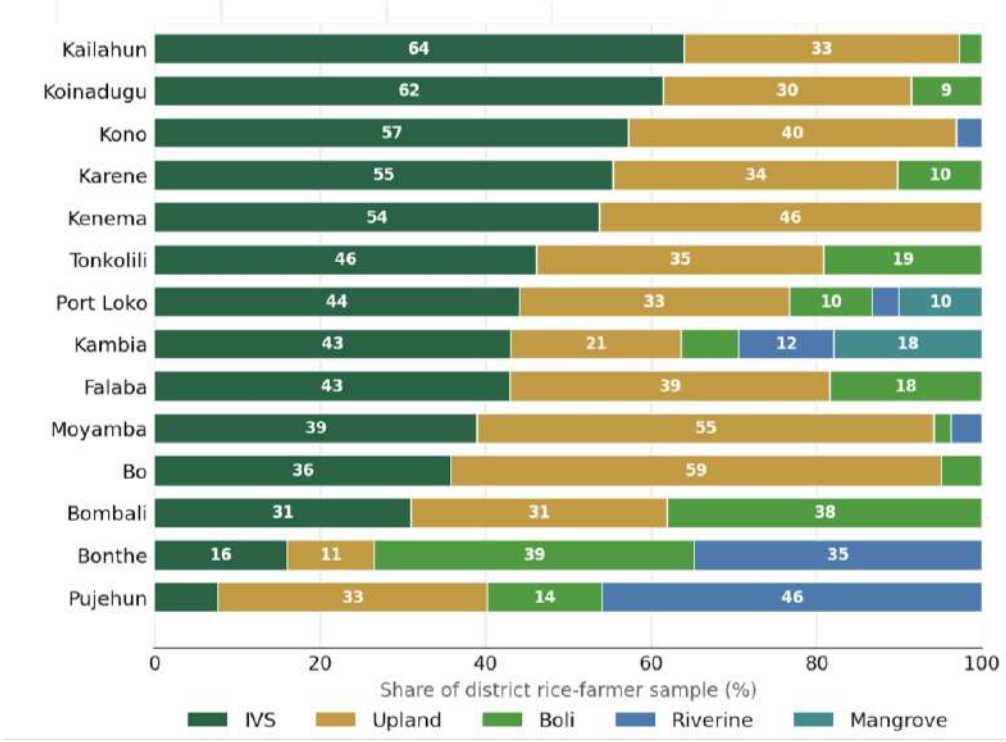


TABLE 2

Sample Distribution for Other Crops per District

District	Cassava	Maize	Cocoa	Groundnuts	Sweet potato
Bo	94	61	20	50	27
Bombali	46	48	–	60	26
Bonthe	63	40	–	21	26
Falaba	13	–	–	15	19
Kailahun	43	27	106	33	16
Kambia	46	17	–	63	18
Karene	36	–	–	37	23
Kenema	80	57	92	32	18
Koinadugu	50	–	–	44	32
Kono	70	57	91	48	21
Moyamba	66	54	–	65	24
Port Loko	63	34	–	57	20
Pujehun	74	22	–	32	24
Tonkolili	44	74	–	58	35
Western Rural	27	21	–	24	21
Total	**815**	**512**	**309**	**639**	**350**

Source: 2025 National Crop Production Survey · PEMSD, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

Data Processing and Analysis

Collected data were subjected to systematic cleaning, validation, and quality assurance procedures prior to analysis. Data consistency checks were conducted to identify missing values, outliers, and logical inconsistencies.

Crop production estimates were calculated by combining measured yields from crop-cutting plots with GPS-based area measurements. Based on the sampling frame, each household were weighted to compute these key outcomes. Aggregated results were generated at district and national levels to support evidence-based agricultural planning and policy decision-making.

FIGURE 2

Enumeration of rice farmers during the survey

Field data collection during the 2025/26 National Crop Production Survey.

Source: PEMSD, MAFS

3. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Key findings

The 2025 National Crop Production Survey confirms continued growth in agricultural production across Sierra Leone, particularly in rice production, driven by both expansion in cultivated area and improvements in yield. The findings indicate steady progress toward national food security objectives under the Feed Salone Strategy, while also highlighting important productivity gaps across crops and districts.

Total national paddy rice production reached **1,441,015 metric tons in 2025, cultivated on 661,016 hectares, representing a 4.21 percent increase in production compared to the previous year**.

The national average rice yield increased significantly to **2.37 metric tons per hectare, reflecting a 9 percent improvement in productivity, the strongest yield growth recorded over the past three years.** As a result, **the national rice self-sufficiency ratio increased to 73 percent**, continuing the upward trajectory observed in recent years.

Production of other major crops also remained strong. Cassava continues to be the largest contributor to national food production in volume terms, with total production estimated at approximately 1.65 million metric tons, supported by improved yields in several districts. Groundnut and maize production recorded stable yields across most districts, while cocoa production remained consistent, reflecting relatively uniform production conditions in the main cocoa-growing regions.

Overall, the results demonstrate that productivity gains, rather than expansion alone, are increasingly contributing to growth in agricultural output. However, substantial variation in yields across districts and production systems indicates continued opportunities for targeted investments in irrigation, land development, improved seeds, and extension services.

3.1. RICE

National Rice Production

Rice production in Sierra Leone continued its steady upward trend in 2025, supported by increases in both cultivated area and productivity. **The total cultivated area expanded from 636,473 hectares in 2024 to 661,016 hectares in 2025**, **representing a 3.86 percent increase**. At the same time, national average yield increased from 2.18 to 2.37 metric tons per hectare, resulting in a total paddy production increase from 1,382,854 metric tons to 1,441,015 metric tons.

These improvements reflect growing adoption of improved production practices, expansion of cultivated land, and ongoing government and partner interventions under the Feed Salone Strategy. The continued rise in productivity suggests that investments in improved seeds, land development, and farmer support services are beginning to generate measurable results. Despite this progress, the current national yield remains below the potential productivity levels observed in comparable agro-ecological zones in West Africa, indicating that further productivity gains are achievable through targeted intensification strategies.

TABLE 3

Rice Production Trend 2023 – 2025

	2023	2024	2025
Area cultivated (Ha)	610,494	636,473	661,016 ▲ 3.86%
Yield (Mt/Ha)	2.13	2.18	2.37 ▲ 9%
Paddy production (Mt)	1,315,368	1,382,854	1,441,015 ▲ 4.21%
Self-sufficiency	68%	72%	73% ▲ +1 pt

Source: 2025 National Crop Production Survey · PEMSD, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

Rice Production by District and Ecology

Rice production varies significantly across districts, reflecting differences in cultivated area, production systems, and agro-ecological conditions. Port Loko and Kambia districts remain the leading contributors to national rice production, driven primarily by large cultivated areas. Port Loko recorded the highest production level at approximately 184,916 metric tons, followed by Kambia with 210,375 metric tons, reflecting both substantial land under cultivation and

strong yield performance. Several districts demonstrated particularly strong productivity performance. For example:

- Kambia recorded the highest average yield at 2.89 Mt/Ha, indicating highly productive rice systems
- Kono achieved a yield of 2.61 Mt/Ha, among the highest nationally
- Kailahun and Kenema also recorded above-average yields, suggesting strong production potential.
- Moyamba district recorded the lowest average yield at 1.53 Mt/Ha, indicating significant productivity constraints linked to soil fertility, input use, etc.

TABLE 4

Rice Production by District and Ecology

District / Ecology	Area (Ha)	Yield (Mt/Ha)	Production (Mt)
Rice production by district			
Bo	49,556	1.98	97,959
Bombali	45,240	2.41	109,151
Bonthe	44,454	2.03	90,439
Falaba	30,994	2.23	69,087
Kailahun	31,841	2.55	81,277
Kambia	72,672	2.89	210,375
Karene	48,764	2.29	111,778
Kenema	36,383	2.46	89,541
Koinadugu	39,785	2.39	94,966
Kono	43,616	2.61	114,037
Moyamba	39,343	1.53	60,221
Port Loko	77,753	2.38	184,916
Pujehun	55,684	2.03	112,939
Tonkolili	40,231	2.43	97,958
Western Area	4,699	2.80	13,147
Rice production by ecology			
Boli	58,776	2.26	132,834
IVS	307,117	2.97	912,137
Mangrove	7,435	2.41	17,918
Riverine	26,910	2.58	69,428
Upland	260,778	1.64	427,676

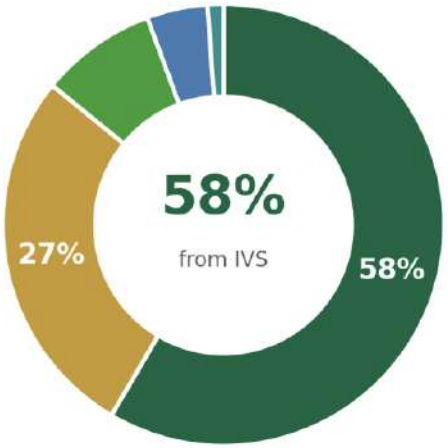
Source: 2025 National Crop Production Survey · PEMSD, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

Rice production performance differs significantly across ecological systems. The survey results confirm that **Inland Valley Swamp (IVS) rice remains the most productive and dominant rice production system in the country**, accounting for the largest share of national output. **IVS recorded an average yield of approximately 2.97 Mt/Ha, and contributed the largest volume of national production.**

RICE 2025

Estimated rice production by ecology

Share of national output. Inland Valley Swamp (IVS) produces more than all other ecologies combined.



Ecology	Production	Share
IVS	912,137 Mt	58%
Upland	427,676 Mt	27%
Boli	132,834 Mt	9%
Riverine	69,428 Mt	4%
Mangrove	17,918 Mt	1%
All ecologies	1,559,993 Mt	100%

By comparison, upland rice, while covering the largest cultivated area, recorded the lowest average yield at approximately 1.64 Mt/Ha. Riverine and mangrove systems recorded moderate yields. Boli systems demonstrated steady performance with moderate productivity.

These results reinforce the strategic importance of expanding and rehabilitating IVS systems as a key pathway for increasing national rice production.

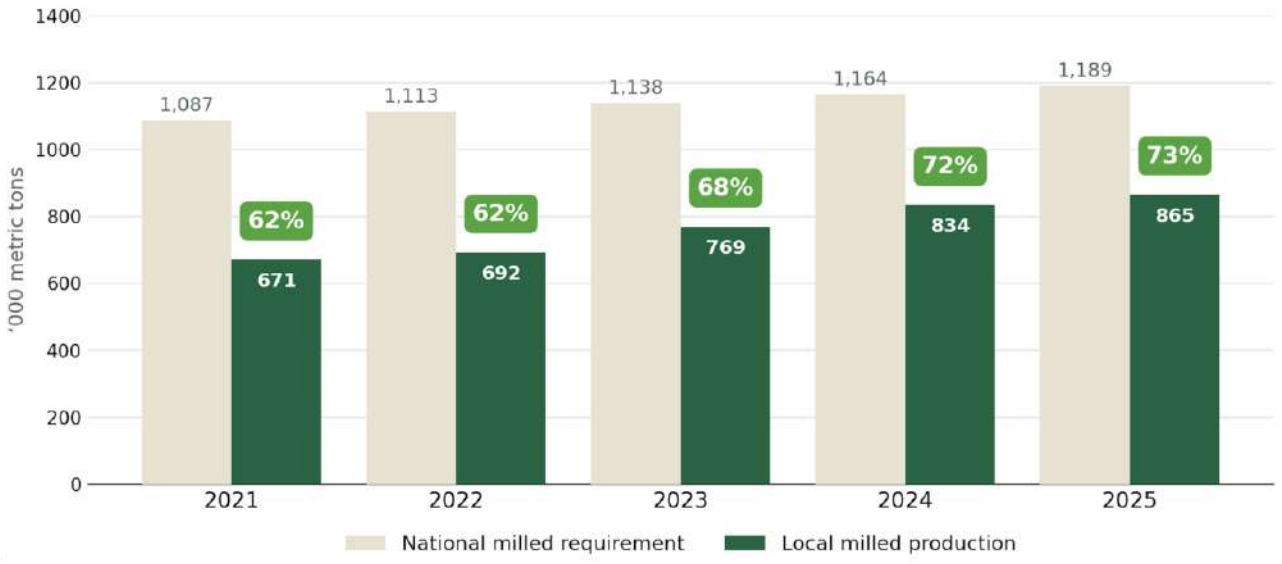
Towards rice self-sufficiency

National progress toward rice self-sufficiency continued in 2025, with the self-sufficiency ratio increasing **from 72 percent in 2024 to 73 percent in 2025**. This improvement reflects sustained growth in domestic production relative to national consumption requirements. Although progress remains steady, achieving full self-sufficiency will require continued increases in productivity, particularly in upland systems, as well as further expansion of irrigated and rehabilitated lowland rice areas.

FIGURE 3

National milled rice: requirement vs. production

Local milled production against national requirement, 2021–2025 · self-sufficiency ratio in green.



Production Environments and Practices

Nearly half of rice farmers (48 percent) cultivate rice in Inland Valley Swamps (IVS), which are natural gravity-fed irrigation systems. Among upland farmers (37 percent of all rice farmers), about 19 percent use irrigation in their cultivation practices. In IVS, a large share of lands remains undeveloped or not rehabilitated. According to the survey, only about 28 percent of IVS farmers report that their cultivated land has been rehabilitated.

The use of chemical inputs in rice production remains limited. Less than 5 percent of farmers apply chemical fertilizers, while 1.7 percent report using pesticides.

FIGURE 4

Land development and chemical inputs at a glance

Share of rice farmers, by practice.

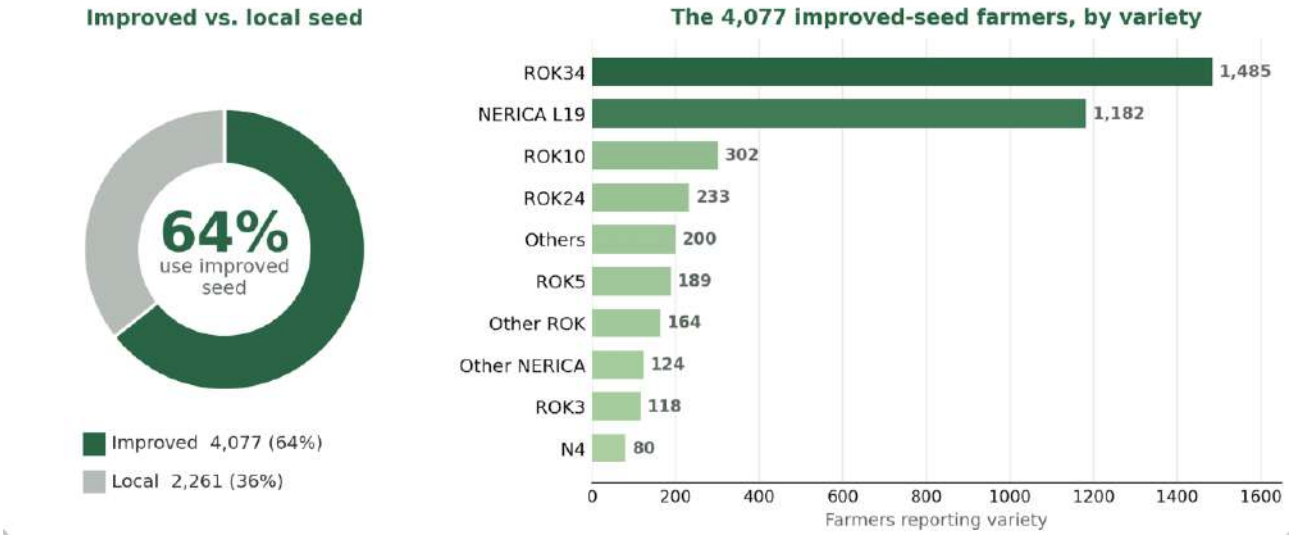
Source: 2025 National Crop Production Survey · PEMSD, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

The survey also confirms widespread adoption of improved variety of rice seeds. **Approximately two-thirds of farmers reported using improved varieties, with ROK34 and NERICA L19 varieties being the most cultivated across the country.** This trend is consistent with national efforts to promote improved seed systems and strengthen agricultural productivity.

FIGURE 5

Type of rice seed variety

ROK34 and NERICA L19 dominate adoption among improved-seed users.



3.2. OTHER CROPS

Cassava: Cassava remains one of the most important staple crops in Sierra Leone in terms of production volume and food security. In 2025, total cassava production reached approximately 1,654,516 metric tons, supported by a national average yield of 12.54 Mt/Ha. District-level performance varies considerably. Tonkolili, Moyamba, and Pujehun districts recorded the highest production volumes, reflecting both large, cultivated areas and relatively high productivity levels. Tonkolili alone produced more than 200,000 metric tons, making it one of the country's leading cassava-producing districts.

Sweet Potato: Sweet potato production remains an important component of household food security in Sierra Leone. In 2025, the crop was cultivated across several districts with notable variation in productivity levels. Districts such as Bo, Tonkolili, and Moyamba recorded relatively strong production performance, reflecting favorable growing conditions and effective farming practices. Overall, the results indicate that sweet potato production remains stable, with potential for further yield improvements using improved planting materials, better soil fertility management, and strengthened extension support.

Groundnut: Groundnut production remained stable in 2025, with total national production estimated at approximately 95,873 metric tons and an average yield of 2.33 Mt/Ha. District-level yield performance shows moderate variation. Kenema district recorded the highest yield at approximately 3.1 Mt/Ha, followed by Moyamba and Western Area, indicating strong production potential in these areas. In contrast, lower yields were observed in Karene and Bonthe districts.

TABLE 5

Cassava, Groundnut and Maize Production by District

District	Cassava		Groundnut		Maize	
	Yield (Mt/Ha)	Prod. (Mt)	Yield (Mt/Ha)	Prod. (Mt)	Yield (Mt/Ha)	Prod. (Mt)
Bo	9.32	140,480	2.86	4,720	2.84	5,113
Bombali	7.56	99,523	2.53	6,847	2.86	4,057
Bonthe	13.05	288,684	1.55	1,283	2.90	2,462
Falaba	10.37	37,213	2.25	1,582	–	–
Kailahun	11.61	68,351	2.55	3,199	2.76	3,284
Kambia	9.81	37,823	2.22	8,728	2.61	8,680
Karene	13.23	12,091	1.74	9,860	–	–
Kenema	10.08	90,716	3.10	7,131	2.80	8,895
Koinadugu	14.43	86,033	2.11	4,544	–	–
Kono	13.14	76,559	2.07	4,734	2.74	5,784
Moyamba	17.90	183,419	2.78	12,257	2.90	18,225
Port Loko	15.66	150,888	1.80	5,193	2.62	3,651
Pujehun	14.12	168,735	2.17	4,888	2.92	7,216
Tonkolili	16.90	200,726	2.33	10,163	2.75	15,611
Western Area	10.87	31,193	2.84	10,872	2.96	8,825
National	12.54	1,654,516	2.33	95,873	2.80	91,666

Source: 2025 National Crop Production Survey - PEMSD, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

Maize: Maize production in 2025 reached approximately 91,666 metric tons, with a national average yield of 2.8 Mt/Ha. Yield performance across districts remains relatively consistent, generally falling within a narrow range. This pattern suggests that maize production practices are broadly standardized across the country. Moyamba and Tonkolili districts recorded the highest production volumes, reflecting favorable production conditions and relatively large cultivation areas.

Cocoa: Cocoa production remains an important source of income and export revenue for Sierra Leone. In 2025, total national cocoa production reached approximately 19,642 metric tons, with an average yield of 1.5 Mt/Ha. Yield performance across cocoa-producing districts is relatively consistent, suggesting stable production systems and similar agronomic practices across regions. Kailahun district remains the leading cocoa-producing area, reflecting favorable agro-ecological conditions and established production systems. Nevertheless, its yield remains significantly lower

than other West African countries (e.g., Ghana and Ivory Coast).3–6 Mt/Ha in Ghana and Ivory Coast), suggesting the necessities of intensification.

TABLE 5B

Cocoa Production by District

Reported for the four main cocoa-growing districts.

District	Yield (Mt/Ha)	Production (Mt)
Bo	1.79	1,121
Kailahun	1.67	8,922
Kenema	1.04	4,037
Kono	1.49	4,855
National	1.50	19,642

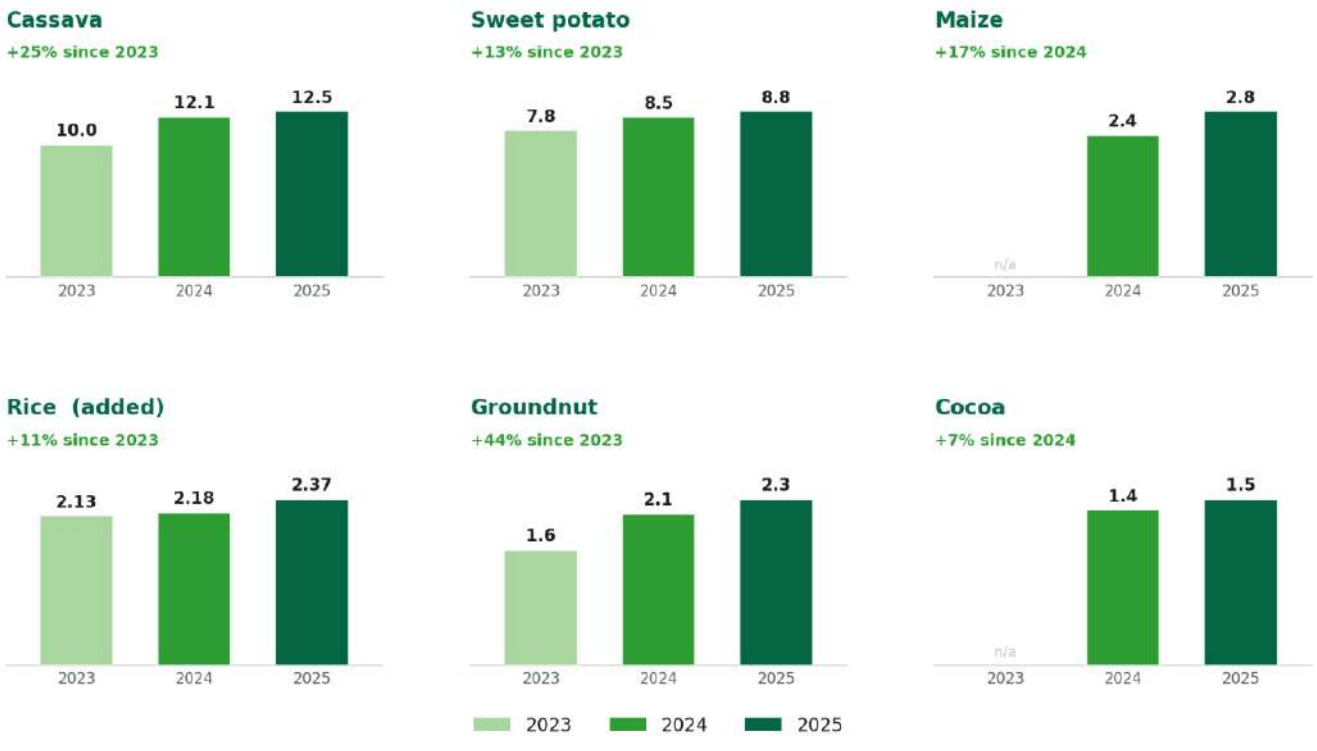
Source: 2025 National Crop Production Survey · PEMSD, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

Yield Trends

FIGURE 6

Crop yield trends, 2023–2025

Each crop on its own scale · yield in Mt/Ha.

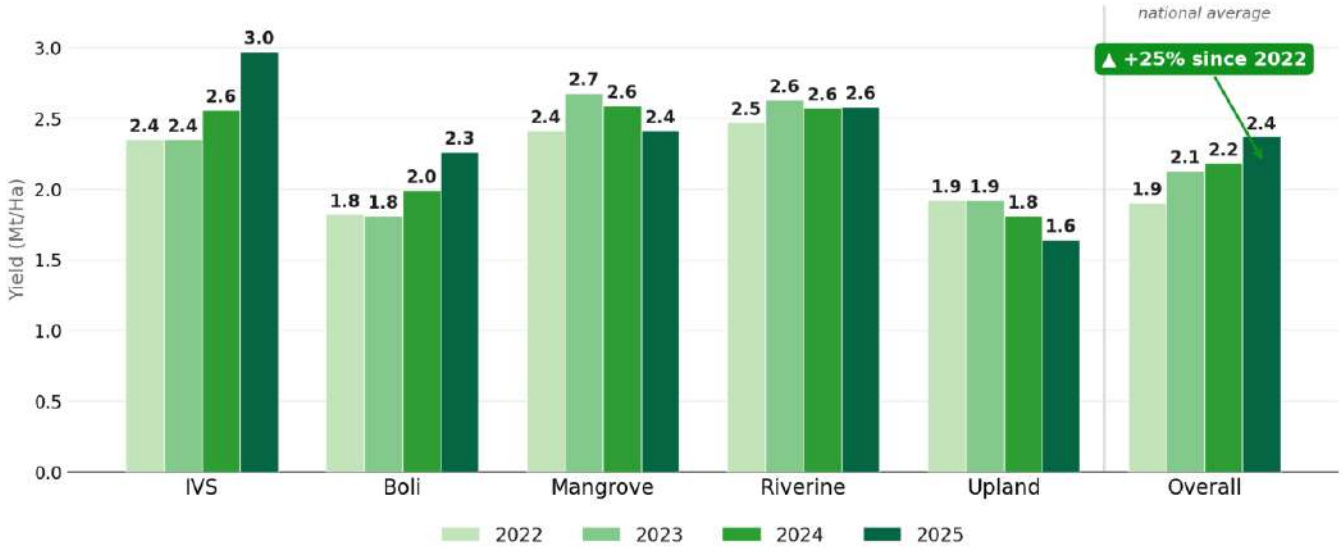


The survey results indicate a general improvement in crop productivity over the past three years. Rice recorded the most significant gains, reflecting strong policy focus and investment under Feed Salone. Cassava and maize also demonstrated steady yield performance, while cocoa yields remained stable. These trends suggest that continued investments in improved inputs, irrigation, and farmer support services will be critical to sustaining growth in national agricultural production.

FIGURE 6b

Rice yield trend by ecology

Yield in Mt/Ha, 2022–2025. IVS rises steadily to the highest yield; upland is the only ecology in decline.



4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The report highlights major challenges affecting crop production, including input constraints, climate variability, inadequate infrastructure, post-harvest losses, and limited access to mechanization services. To address these challenges and improve agricultural productivity, resilience, and food security, the following recommendations are proposed:

4.1 Strengthen Access to Quality Agricultural Inputs

Improve the availability and affordability of critical agricultural inputs through targeted interventions to increase productivity and efficiency.

Priority actions:

1. Strengthen agro-dealer networks at district and chiefdom levels to improve farmers' access to quality inputs.

2. Promote locally adapted and climate-resilient crop varieties suited to different agroecological zones.
3. Expand access to improved seeds, fertilizers, and crop protection products through targeted subsidy and distribution programs.

4.2 Expand Irrigation and Water Management Systems

Enhance agricultural resilience through increased investment in irrigation infrastructure and sustainable water management practices.

Priority actions:

1. Develop and rehabilitate inland valley swamps (IVSs) and small-scale irrigation systems.
2. Promote community-based water harvesting and drainage systems to reduce climate-related production risks.
3. Strengthen sustainable land and water management practices to improve long-term productivity.

4.3 Enhance Agricultural Extension and Farmer Training

Strengthen knowledge transfer and capacity building to improve adoption of improved farming practices.

Priority actions:

1. Recruit and deploy more extension officers at district and chiefdom levels.
2. Expand Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and demonstration plots to improve technology adoption.
3. Increase farmer training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), climate-smart agriculture, and modern farm management techniques.

4.4 Promote Agricultural Mechanization and Service Delivery

Improve access to mechanization services to increase efficiency and reduce labor constraints.

Priority actions:

1. Expand access to tractors, power tillers, and harvest equipment through financing and leasing schemes.
2. Establish Agricultural Mechanization Service Centers in major production clusters.
3. Encourage private sector participation in mechanization service provision.

4.5 Improve Rural Infrastructure and Market Access

Strengthen market systems and infrastructure to reduce transaction costs and improve value chain performance.

Priority actions:

1. Rehabilitate feeder roads to improve access to markets and production areas.
2. Expand storage and aggregation facilities to reduce post-harvest losses.
3. Improve access to market information systems and digital agricultural services.
4. Strengthen linkages between farmers, aggregators, processors, and agribusinesses.

4.6 Strengthen Post-Harvest Management Systems

Reduce losses and increase value addition through improved post-harvest handling and processing.

Priority actions:

1. Promote improved drying, storage, and processing technologies.
2. Expand access to community-based storage facilities and warehouses.
3. Support small-scale agro-processing enterprises to increase value addition and market opportunities.

4.7 Strengthen Climate Resilience and Risk Management

Build resilience against climate-related shocks and production risks.

Priority actions:

1. Promote climate-smart agricultural technologies and practices.
2. Strengthen early warning systems and weather information services for farmers.
3. Encourage diversified production systems and risk mitigation strategies.

FIGURE 7

Sample collection

Enumerators locating and marking a crop-cutting plot during field sampling.

Source: PEMSD, MAFS

5. CONCLUSIONS

The 2025 National Crop Production Survey confirms that agriculture remains central to Sierra Leone's economic transformation, food security, and rural livelihoods agenda. The survey findings demonstrate encouraging progress in crop production and agricultural productivity across major crop categories, reflecting the positive impact of government interventions, farmer resilience, and increased investments in the agricultural sector. These gains align with the objectives of the Feed Salone Strategy and reinforce the importance of sustained commitment to agricultural development.

Despite these achievements, the findings also highlight persistent structural constraints that continue to affect agricultural productivity and resilience. Key challenges include limited access to improved agricultural inputs, inadequate irrigation infrastructure, restricted mechanization services, post-harvest losses, land development constraints, and increasing vulnerability to climate-related shocks. Addressing these bottlenecks remains essential for sustaining productivity growth and accelerating progress toward national food security objectives.

Methodologically, the successful implementation of the 2025 survey demonstrates the effectiveness of a coordinated and technically robust data collection system. The extensive field verification process, supported by rigorous quality assurance mechanisms and technical oversight, enhanced the reliability and credibility of the findings. Consequently, the survey provides a strong evidence base for agricultural planning, resource allocation, and policy formulation.

Looking ahead, timely and coordinated interventions will be essential to sustain momentum and achieve the objectives of the Feed Salone Strategy. Strengthened partnerships among government

institutions, development partners, the private sector, and farming communities will be critical for improving service delivery, expanding investment opportunities, and increasing agricultural productivity nationwide.

Overall, the 2025 survey findings reaffirm the continued importance of agriculture as a cornerstone of Sierra Leone's socio-economic development. Continued investment in productivity-enhancing interventions, climate resilience, mechanization, and market systems will be essential for transforming the sector, improving rural livelihoods, and advancing national aspirations for food security and inclusive economic growth.

FEED SALONE

Ministry of Agriculture
and Food Security