SIERRA LEONE

AgriConnect Compact

National Compact to Grow Food and Create Jobs through Agricultural Value-Chain Development

Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security



October, 2026

FEED SALONE

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AfDB	African Development Bank
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
ASWG	Agricultural Sector Working Group
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CCAS	Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
CH	Cadre Harmonisé
CSA	Climate-smart agriculture
DPs	Development partners
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAOSTAT	Food and Agriculture Organization Corporate Statistical Database
FNS	Food and nutrition security
FSRP	Food Systems Resilience Program
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHI	Global Hunger Index
GIEWS	Global Information and Early Warning System (FAO)
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GoSL	Government of Sierra Leone
HQCF	High-quality cassava flour
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IP	Intellectual property
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
IVR	Interactive voice response
LLDP	Livestock and Livelihoods Development Project
MAFS	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
MRV	Measurement, reporting, and verification
MT	Metric tonnes
MTNDP	Medium-Term National Development Plan
NFSS	National Food Security Strategy
NLDP	National Livestock Development Plan
NLe	New Leone
ODTI	Other deposit-taking institution
OFID	OPEC Fund for International Development
PEMSD	Planning, Evaluation, Monitoring and Statistics Division
PFSCU	Presidential Food Security Coordination Unit
SAVIG	Sustainable Agricultural Value Chain Intensification Project
SLARI	Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute
SL-RAIC	Sierra Leone Rice Agro-Industrial Cluster Project
SLERAZ	Sierra Leone Rice Agro-Industrial Zone
SMS	Short Message Service
UNFSS	United Nations Food Systems Summit
WBG	World Bank Group
WFP	World Food Programme
WRS	Warehouse receipt system
WTO	World Trade Organization

Acknowledgements

The Sierra Leone AgriConnect Compact was developed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) under the leadership of the Minister, Dr. Henry Musa Kpaka. During the preparation of the Compact, technical expertise and guidance were provided by the team of Directors, headed by Prof. Abdulai Jalloh, the Chief Agriculture Officer, and Umaru Mohamed Sankoh, Director of Planning Evaluation Monitoring and Statistics Division of MAFS, supported by the Agriculture Transformation Office (ATO).

The MAFS extends its appreciation to the African Development Bank (AfDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank Group (WBG) for supporting the Government in preparing the Compact.

The AfDB team included Fomba Wai, (Senior Agriculture and Rural Development Officer). The IFAD team included Marcelin Norvilus (Country Director), Pascaline Barankeba, (Ex-Country Director), and Jalloh Abu Mamburu, (Country Programme Coordinator at IFAD, Sierra Leone). The IsDB team included Omar Davis, P.E. (Country Operations Manager at Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)).

The WBG team comprised Adetunji Oredipe (Senior Agricultural Economist), Giima Mabel Lavaly (Country Officer, IFC), Vinay Kumar Vutukuru (Lead Agricultural Economist), William Conteh (Operations Officer, IFC), Derek Hung Chiat Chen (Senior Economist), Michael Saffa (Senior Economist), Sarmad Ahmed Shaikh (Senior Financial Sector Specialist), Philippe Olivier Kaul Meledje (Investment Officer), Ismael O. Fanny (Investment Officer, IFC), Seynabou Thiaw Seye (Operation Officer), Margarete Biallas (Senior Operations Officer), and Fatmata Suma (Team Assistant).

1. Preamble

The Sierra Leone AgriConnect Compact is a national framework for accelerating agricultural transformation over the period 2026–2030. It is aligned with the Medium-Term National Development Plan 2024-2030, and the Feed Salone Strategy 2023–2028. The Compact serves as a roadmap to enhance the country's agriculture sector, create employment opportunities, boost income growth, accelerate food and nutrition security, and position Sierra Leone as a leading regional food producer to increase income for its farmers.

→ Sierra Leone, a West African country of approximately 8.7 million people, has substantial potential to use agriculture as a driver of economic transformation. Agriculture contributes an estimated 25–30 percent of GDP and supports the livelihoods of between one-half and two-thirds of the population. The country has about 5.4 million hectares of arable land, of which only 15 percent is cultivated. Abundant rainfall and seven major river systems provide additional opportunities to expand production and irrigation.

→ Despite these advantages, agriculture remains predominantly rain-fed, subsistence-oriented, and weakly integrated with markets. Productivity is constrained by limited infrastructure, inadequate access to improved technologies and inputs, weak extension services, low processing capacity, and exposure to climate-related shocks.

→ The AgriConnect Compact provides a coordinated framework for transforming priority agricultural value chains and supporting farmers' transition from subsistence production to commercially viable agriculture. By 2030, the Compact aims to:

- improve food and nutrition security for one million people;
- strengthen farmers' participation in structured value chains and markets; and
- create approximately 120,000 jobs through increased production, processing, and agribusiness development.

→ Achieving these outcomes will require an estimated US$1 billion between 2026 and 2030, or about US$200 million annually, to finance inputs, irrigation, aggregation, and value-chain development that raise farmer productivity and incomes. The Compact will complement existing programmes by promoting technology, irrigation, and climate-smart practices; improving policies and markets to attract private investment; and expanding affordable finance and risk-management services. Interventions will prioritize **rice, maize, cassava, cocoa, oil palm, and poultry** because of their potential to improve food security, farmer incomes, and value-chain performance.



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2. Statement of the Government's Commitment

→ The Government of Sierra Leone is committed to a private-sector-led and government-enabled agricultural transformation. The overarching vision is to build a resilient, modern, and inclusive agricultural sector that supports food security, employment, and economic diversification. The GoSL recognizes that investments averaging US$200 million annually over the medium term are required to realize sectoral transformation. These resources will be mobilized from public sector allocations, private investments, and development partner support.

→ Working with development partners and the private sector, the Government will:

1. strengthen smallholder productivity and resilience through improved technologies, quality inputs, irrigation, digital services, and climate-smart practices;

2. improve the agribusiness environment through land, input-market, regulatory, and institutional reforms; and

3. expand access to affordable finance, insurance, risk-sharing instruments, and digital financial services.

2.1 Key Solutions in line with the Mission AgriConnect Framework

To achieve these objectives, the Government will implement the Compact through three mutually reinforcing pillars:

A. Strengthening Productivity, Resilience, and Market Integration:

→ Promoting locally adapted climate-smart technologies by expanding access to resilient seed varieties, sustainable soil-fertility practices, integrated pest management, digital advisory services, and affordable post-harvest technologies.

→ Enhancing Access to Irrigation and Sustainable Land Management Measures. Expand small-scale irrigation and efficient water-use technologies to reduce dependence on rainfall and exposure to climate risks. Complement these investments with soil testing, organic soil

amendments, conservation agriculture, sustainable land development, and private-sector machinery-leasing services suited to smallholder production

→ Leveraging Digital Technologies: Develop an integrated digital agriculture system comprising a national farmer and farm registry, updated soil and weather databases, and secure data-sharing protocols. User-oriented platforms will provide farmers and agribusinesses with weather alerts, agronomic advice, market information, extension messages, and traceability services through SMS, interactive voice response, WhatsApp, radio, and other accessible channels.

→ Strengthening Farmer Organizations to De-risk Private Sector Partnerships: Strengthen cooperatives and producer organizations to reduce transaction costs, improve bargaining power, and attract private investment. Support will focus on governance, accountability, business planning, professional management, record-keeping, and the adoption of organizational models suited to Sierra Leone's context.

→ Connecting Farmers to Structured Value Chains: Connect farmers to structured markets through productive alliances with off-takers and processors, locally appropriate out-grower and contract-farming arrangements, aggregation infrastructure, advisory services, and targeted co-investment support.

→ Promoting Value Addition and Private Sector Participation: Expand value addition by investing in processing facilities for rice, cassava, cocoa, onion, and other priority commodities; improving access to reliable and renewable energy; facilitating finance for processors and agribusinesses that source from smallholders; and supporting women and young people in agro-processing and enterprise development.

B. Improve the Policy and Regulatory Environment for Agribusiness.

The Government will improve the enabling environment for private investment through the following reforms:

→ strengthen land rights and simplify registration procedures;

→ improve seed and fertilizer regulations, approval processes, and quality assurance;

→ align food-safety and sustainability standards with international good practices;

→ concentrate the Government's role on creating an enabling policy and regulatory environment while actively promoting private-sector participation in service delivery and investment; and

→ implement the National Agricultural Finance Policy, approved by Cabinet in October 2026, and issue the associated regulatory framework for rural and agricultural finance.

C. Expand Agricultural Finance and Mobilize Private Capital.

Priority actions will include strengthening and digitalizing community banks and financial services associations; capitalizing revolving credit facilities; expanding agricultural insurance; facilitating access to climate finance; establishing warehouse receipt systems; and using matching grants, guarantees, blended finance, and partnerships with financial institutions and investors to finance priority value chains.

2.2 Key Outcomes and Financing Requirements

A. Key outcomes: By 2030, the Compact aims to improve food and nutrition security for one million people, support one million farmers with productivity and market-access services and create approximately 120,000 jobs. Table 1 presents the annual and cumulative outcome targets. Jobs are counted as total direct employment across the priority value chains, a broader measure than the Feed Salone Strategy target of at least 35,000 formal agricultural jobs by 2028. The indicator definitions and farmer-counting methodology follow immediately after the table, followed by the financing need, financing sources, and residual funding gap.

Table 1: Key outcome targets up to 2030[1]

Key outcomes	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Cumulative
# of farmers benefitting from activities that improve technologies	100,000	200,000	300,000	250,000	150,000	1,000,000
# of people with improved FNS	100,000	200,000	300,000	250,000	150,000	1,000,000
# of jobs created	20,000	20,000	25,000	30,000	25,000	120,000
Intermediate outcomes						
# of farmers accessing high-quality inputs (seeds and fertilizer)	75,000	150,000	225,000	187,500	112,500	750,000
Area equipped with irrigation infrastructure (ha)	3,000	6,000	9,000	7,500	4,500	30,000
Number of farmers adopting climate smart technologies	75,000	150,000	225,000	187,500	112,500	750,000
Land Area under Sustainable Landscape Management (ha)	5,000	10,000	15,000	12,500	7,500	50,000
Length of rural feeder roads constructed or rehabilitated (km)	1,000	2000	3,000	2,500	1,500	10,000
Improvement in yield (% of baseline) Baseline (2025)						
Rice (mt/ha, paddy): 2.37	10%	15%	20%	30%	40%	40%
Maize (mt/ha): 2.8	10%	15%	20%	30%	40%	40%
Onion(mt/ha): 2.5	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	25%
Cassava (mt/ha): 12.5	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	25%
Cocoa (mt/ha): 1.5	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	25%
Private sector capital mobilized (US$ million) per year	15	20	15	15	10	75

Sources: World Bank and DPs current and pipeline projects; average livestock production rates from FAOSTAT and private sector investment based on current portfolio of IFC investees in Sierra Leone

1 Based on aggregation of target outcomes in existing and pipeline projects.

B. Financing need and sources: Achieving the Compact's outcomes will require an estimated US$1 billion during 2026–2030. Table 2 identifies US$900 million in committed and expected financing, comprising US$53 million from the Government, US$267 million from the World Bank, US$430 million from AfDB, IFAD, IsDB, and OFID combined, US$75 million from other development partners, and US$75 million from the private sector. The residual gap against this financing scenario is US$100 million. Availability and commitment status remain subject to reconciliation with the project-level financing schedule.

C. Private sector financing and funding gap: Private sector investment in Sierra Leone's agriculture sector is projected at US$75 million over 2026–2030. Combined identified financing is therefore US$900 million, leaving a residual funding gap of US$100 million. As shown in Table 2, the annual gap varies across the period and is highest in 2030. Closing this gap will require closer collaboration among government, development partners, and the private sector to accelerate implementation of ongoing projects and develop complementary initiatives aligned with the Compact's priorities. The financing schedule will distinguish approved commitments from pipeline and prospective investments and identify the amounts available for Compact activities during 2026–2030.

Table 2: Financing needs up to 2030 (US$ million)[2]

Estimated Financing Needs (US$ million)	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
	200	200	200	200	200	1000
Sources (including already committed and expected)						
GOVT Public Funds only (Total)	12	12	14	10	5	53
GOVT with DPs						
World Bank	60	43	50	56	58	267
AfDB	30	32	36	35	27	160
IFAD	30	30	35	30	25	150
IsDB	10	22	15	10	3	60
OFID	15	20	10	10	5	60
Other DPs	15	10	20	15	15	75
Private Sector	15	20	15	15	10	75
Total All Funding Sources	187	189	195	181	148	900
Funding Gap	13	11	5	19	52	100

2 Based on aggregation of committed funding in existing (less disbursement) and pipeline projects.

2.3 Implementation Arrangements, Monitoring, and Evaluation

MAFS will lead the implementation of the Compact in collaboration with the Agricultural Sector Working Group (ASWG), with participation from relevant government institutions, development partners, the private sector, civil society, research organizations, farmer groups, and local councils. MAFS will define institutional responsibilities, coordinate resource mobilization, convene annual joint reviews, and maintain a results-monitoring system to identify implementation constraints and support timely decisions. The ASWG will also coordinate resource mobilization and align partner investments with Compact priorities. Before implementation, MAFS will approve a costed delivery and results matrix specifying accountable institutions, annual milestones, indicator definitions, baseline sources, reporting frequency and verification arrangements. Annual reviews will publish progress, financing status and corrective actions.



Credit: magnific.com

3. Brief Overview of Sierra Leone's Agriculture Sector

3.1 Sector Context and Challenges

Agriculture forms the backbone of Sierra Leone's economy, accounting for approximately 25–30% of GDP and providing livelihoods for almost two-thirds of its population. The sector is dominated by smallholder farmers focusing on staple crops such as rice, cassava, maize, ground nuts, and sweet potatoes. It also includes the production of cash crops such as cocoa, coffee, and oil palm. However, export expansion remains constrained by systemic issues, including low productivity and restricted market access. Livestock operations are modest, largely informal, and contribute a relatively small share of agricultural output.

→ The sector's performance is constrained by low productivity due to limited access to quality inputs and modern technologies; inadequate roads, irrigation, energy, storage, and market infrastructure; weak research, extension, and technology-transfer systems; fragmented value chains and limited agro-processing capacity; insecure land tenure and burdensome regulatory processes; high exposure to climate shocks, pests, and diseases; and limited access to affordable agricultural finance.

→ Addressing the sector's structural constraints is essential to building a resilient and commercially viable agriculture sector. Despite these constraints, the sector offers substantial opportunities to create jobs and enhance food and nutrition security in Sierra Leone. Significant employment opportunities exist beyond primary production, particularly in processing, input supply, logistics, marketing, and food services. Sierra Leone currently lags regional peers in the share of off-farm agribusiness jobs, highlighting considerable room for growth as the sector evolves. Stronger linkages between farmers and agribusinesses can increase productivity, improve job quality, expand opportunities for young people, and strengthen food and nutrition security.

3.2 National and Regional Strategy Linkages

→ The Compact is anchored in the Feed Salone Strategy, the Government's flagship programme for increasing food production, reducing import dependence, and creating jobs. Feed Salone applies a whole-of-government approach that links agriculture with infrastructure, energy, finance, trade, and technology. It also promotes private investment, structured value chains, climate resilience, and greater participation by women and young people. The Compact covers six of the Feed Salone key value chains; coffee, cashew, aquaculture and small ruminants are addressed through other instruments.

→ Feed Salone promotes private-sector-led value chains, smallholder integration, opportunities for women and youth, climate resilience, and improved access to finance and extension services, supported by the National Food Security

Strategy, National Livestock Development Plan, and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. Sierra Leone also advances regional food stability through ECOWAS and aligns its agricultural transformation with the Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation, United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action.

3.3 Priority Value Chains and Their Contribution to Key Outcomes

The Compact prioritizes commodities with strong potential to improve food security, create jobs, increase exports, and support agro-processing. Selection criteria include:



Staple crops: rice, cassava, and maize (high potential for food security and rural employment).



Cash crops: cocoa, oil palm (export earnings and agro-processing jobs).



Livestock: poultry (protein supply, job creation, and livelihoods).

Several key agricultural corridors have been identified to anchor these value chains and streamline investment. Notable examples include the Port Loko–Western Area Market Corridor for rice, maize and cassava; the Eastern Cocoa Corridor for organic cocoa, and both the Maize and Cocoa Aggregation Corridors (Kenema – Kono – Kailahun – Tonkolili), which leverage shared infrastructure and favorable environmental conditions for production. These corridors are designed to facilitate targeted development and investment, supporting the aggregation, storage, and logistics necessary for successful agribusiness operations.

4. Outcomes from Priority Value Chains

4.1 Aggregate Outcomes

By 2030, the Compact aims to improve food and nutrition security for one million people, support one million farmers with productivity and market-access services and create approximately 120,000 jobs across priority value chains. Further details of the outcomes, including the targets by 2030, are provided in Table 1 in section 2.2.

4.2 Expected outcomes from each of the priority value chains

The expected contributions from the priority value chains are as follows:

+ 50,000 jobs

Rice: Increase average paddy yield from 2.37 to about 3.3 MT/ha, strengthen aggregation and milling, support about 300,000 farmers, contribute to 80 percent self-sufficiency and create 50,000 jobs.

+ 25,000 jobs

Maize: Increase yield from 2.8 to about 3.9 MT/ha, maintain full local processing, benefit 150,000 people, and create 25,000 jobs.

+ 25,000 jobs

Cassava: Increase yield from 12.5 to 15.63 MT/ha, expand processing for gari, flour, and industrial products, reduce post-harvest losses to 15 percent, and create 25,000 jobs.

+ 10,000 jobs

Cocoa: Increase yield from 1.5 to 1.875 MT/ha, expand exports to 60,000 MT, and create 10,000 jobs.

+ 10,000 jobs

Livestock: Increase production and reproductive performance, improve access to animal-source foods, and create approximately 10,000 jobs.

The detailed estimated outcomes from each of the selected value chains are provided in Annex 1. Furthermore, a detailed Financing Plan for the compact is provided in Annex 2.

5. Action Plan for Implementation

5.1 Detailed Action Plan

The Sierra Leone AgriConnect Compact Action Plan will implement the interventions below to achieve the Compact's outcomes by 2030.

Intervention	Baseline (2025)	Target/Actions by 2030
Pillar I: Strengthening the foundations for productive and resilient agriculture		
Smallholder Farmers Registration.	150,000 registered farmers.	Register 300,000 farmers on the Digital Registry platform; Form/strengthen 300 cooperatives.
Increase productivity.	Average paddy yield of 2.37 MT/ha; Maize 2.8 MT/ha, and Cassava 12.5 MT/ha (2025 National Crop Production Survey).	Increase yield by 40% via technology transfer and input access.
Access to quality inputs.	Improved seed use: 64% of rice farmers (2025 National Crop Production Survey); seed coverage for other crops 40%; fertilizer use 10 kg/ha	Raise use of improved seed to 80%; fertilizer use to 25 kg/ha through regulatory reform and private sector engagement.
Adoption of climate-smart technologies.	CSA adoption 18%	Scale CSA to 40% of farmers via farmer field schools, digital extension, and demonstration plots
Mechanization services.	Mechanization rate 0.15 hp/ha.	Increase to 0.5 hp/ha by 2030 through equipment leasing and digital access platforms.
Irrigation development.	24,210 of 807,000 ha irrigation potential.	Add 30,000 ha of newly equipped irrigation (to about 54,200 ha irrigated); rehabilitate and maintain infrastructure.
Digital farmer registry	Pilot registry launched	Full national digital registry operational with regular updates and farm-level data
Soil mapping	Outdated soil maps.	Implement regular soil sampling/testing to update digital maps and guide fertilizer recommendations.
Rural access infrastructure	60,000 km rural roads, 70% poor condition	Rehabilitate 10,000 km; establish local maintenance committees
Post-harvest processing/value addition	Post-harvest losses In Rice 30%; Rice processing rate 20%.	Reduce losses to 15%; increase processing rate to 50% through training, grants, and storage infrastructure
Extension and research	Extension worker to farmer ratio 1:4,000	Double extension-worker coverage to one worker per 2,000 farmers; scale digital extension and strengthen research–extension linkages.
Food safety standards	Limited capacity for enforcement	Upgrade certification systems and launch food safety campaigns for producers and consumers.
Food safety standards	Limited capacity for enforcement	Upgrade certification systems and launch food safety campaigns for producers and consumers.

Intervention	Baseline (2025)	Target/Actions by 2030
Pillar II: Policy and Regulatory Reform		
Seed and fertilizer quality	Weak enforcement	Adopt/enforce quality standards; scale digital traceability systems
Seed supply	Limited private sector participation	Liberalize supply chain; strengthen IP rights; incentivize private investment
Land tenure security	15% parcels of arable (farm) land registered	Increase to 40%; close gender gap in land ownership; implement digitization of records, legal operationalization of the 2015 National Land Policy, and administrative simplification of registration procedures.
Rural and agricultural finance policy	Generic guidelines for Other Deposit Taking Institutions (ODTIs); no dedicated agricultural finance policy	National Agricultural Finance Policy approved by Cabinet (October 2026); implementing regulations issued by 2027 and implementation by 2030
Pillar III: Financial Ecosystem Development		
De-risking instruments	Agriculture receives 3.48% of bank credit (Bank of Sierra Leone, December 2025)	Operationalize the Agricultural Insurance Policy (validated September 2026); expand risk-mitigation tools and blended finance, including the NLe 230m Agricultural Credit Facility
Climate finance	Low access/utilization	Establish institutional/legal framework and MRV system
Warehouse receipts	No formal system	Establish robust digital WRS for storage, trading, and financing
Matching grants	5% of farmers access commercial finance; FSRP matching grants of US$5.8m to 62 firms	Increase to 20% through commercial financing unlocked by matching grants, co-investments and private sector linkages
Local bank networks	Rural exclusion from banking	Expand digital and local banking with state banks including Community Banks, Financial Services Associations and other microfinance institutions

5.2 Strengthening Partnerships

→ **Effective implementation will require coordinated action by government, development partners, private investors, research institutions, and farmer organizations**. Through the ASWG, MAFS will align programmes with Compact priorities, monitor policy and financing commitments, identify co-financing opportunities, and promote joint planning and knowledge sharing. MAFS will oversee joint program planning and annual sector reviews, ensuring that all partners and agencies meet their investment and policy commitments outlined in the Compact. MAFS will also guide the following partners in harmonizing their support and maximizing synergies within existing portfolios to achieve Compact's objectives:

→ **World Bank Group**: The World Bank Group (WBG) will support Sierra Leone in mobilizing financial and technical resources for the AgriConnect Compact. WBG will coordinate ongoing projects—such as the Smallholder Commercialization Program, Resilient Urban Sierra Leone Project, and other agriculture-focused initiatives—which

collectively contribute significant annual funding towards related activities. Moving forward, WBG will align these projects more closely to advance Compact's objectives. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) will continue to provide direct investment and advisory services to encourage private sector engagement, with a focus on the agribusiness sector. This approach builds on IFC's current portfolio of loans and risk-sharing facilities. IFC will support the Compact by mobilizing advisory resources and leveraging long-term investments in agribusiness through equity, debt, and risk-sharing mechanisms, including first-loss guarantees and structured blended finance. These initiatives are designed to benefit thousands of smallholder farmers and rural agro-SMEs.

→ Through the Africa Agriculture Accelerator Program, IFC will consider investments in AgTech innovations aimed at digitizing value chains, improving transparency and efficiency in agricultural subsidies, and expanding access to advisory services like weather information and digital tools to strengthen farmers' decision-making abilities. IFC will also explore opportunities to expand programs focused on developing and professionalizing farmers' cooperatives, with emphasis on governance, recordkeeping, traceability, and financial discipline, ultimately improving supply chain reliability and creating a pool of investment-ready cooperatives and SMEs. The WBG will deploy Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) sovereign risk guarantees to support international agribusinesses operating in Sierra Leone and facilitate the purchase of agricultural inputs through revolving trade guarantees. Proposed financing and guarantee instruments are subject to the relevant institutions' appraisal, eligibility requirements and approvals; only documented commitments will be classified as secured financing.

→ **African Development Bank (AfDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID)**: The AgriConnect Compact will leverage the strong presence of AfDB, IFAD, IsDB, and OFID in Sierra Leone. These organizations have co-financed major agricultural projects, including agro-processing zones and value-chain development initiatives. Continued collaboration and support, as well as expansion of these projects, will help achieve Compact's goals. The WBG will coordinate with these institutions to align project efforts and assist the GoSL with policy reforms that support AgriConnect outcomes.

→ **Research and Development Institutions**: MAFS will strengthen collaboration among research institutions, such as the Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI), Africa Rice, and other national research bodies, to advance and disseminate relevant technologies to farmers. Think-tanks and academic organizations, including universities, will play a key role in knowledge creation and policy development throughout the implementation of Compact.

→ **Private sector**: To systematically catalyze private sector participation, the Compact will adopt a three-tiered de-risking approach: (i) Blended finance facilities—using public funds (government and development partners) to absorb first-loss risks, thereby incentivizing commercial banks and agribusinesses to lend to and contract with smallholder groups; (ii) Matching grant schemes—co-investing with agro-processors, input suppliers, and off-takers to upgrade facilities, establish out-grower networks, and adopt digital traceability; and (iii) Technical assistance programmes—building the business management, financial literacy, and governance capacity of farmer

cooperatives and rural SMEs, creating a pipeline of investment-ready partners. A dedicated private sector advisory group will be formed to guide implementation.

- **Implementation/Delivery Mechanism, Monitoring Progress, Results and Impacts**: The AgriConnect Compact will be led by the government through MAFS, coordinating ministries, district councils, development partners, and the private sector to achieve core outcomes. The Agricultural Sector Working Group (ASWG), co-chaired by the Minister of Agriculture and IFAD's Country Director, will facilitate coordination, joint project reviews, co-financing/parallel financing, and knowledge sharing among stakeholders. To enhance district-level involvement, the ASWG will include the Presidential Food Security Coordination Unit (PFSCU) under the Office of the President and the Sierra Leone Local Councils Association, ensuring district-level interventions are aligned with sector development goals and the expected outcomes of the Compact. The ASWG will also include agribusinesses and farmer organizations/cooperatives. Real-time implementation monitoring and joint performance reviews will be central to the AgriConnect Compact, ensuring a sustained focus on results.



Annex 1.

Estimated outcomes from selected key commodity value-chains

Commodity	Reference (2025)	Target by 2030	Source / Rationale for 2030 Target
Maize average productivity (MT/ha)	2.8	3.9	Feed Salone productivity targets; gov't support for inputs/ mechanization; 40% gain on 2025 survey baseline
Production (MT)	91,666	179,400	Target yield (3.9 MT/ha) multiplied by target area (0.046 million ha)
Area under cultivation (million ha)	0.033	0.046	2025 National Crop Production Survey (area derived from production and yield).
Local processing (%)	100	100	Based on agro-processing center development targets
# of people with improved FNS	-	150,000	Based on WFP CSP 2026-2030 food security targets
Direct jobs, entire value-chain	-	25,000	MTNDP goal of 500,000 youth jobs across all sectors by 2030
Rice average productivity (MT / ha), paddy	2.37	3.3	40% gain on 2025 survey baseline; improved seeds, irrigation, lowland development
Production (MT), paddy	1,441,015	2,395,800	2025 National Crop Production Survey)
Area under cultivation (million ha)	0.66	0.726	2025 National Crop Production Survey (661,016 ha); expansion of inland valley swamps and irrigation systems
Self-sufficiency (%)	73	80	Feed Salone flagship goal, rebased on 2025 survey
Local processing (%)	100	100	Development of milling and parboiling facilities to meet increased production level.
# of people with improved FNS	-	500,000	Based on acute food insecurity reduction targets
Direct jobs, entire value-chain	-	50,000	MTNDP 2024-2030 youth employment scheme
Cassava average productivity (MT/ha)	12.5	15.63	2025 National Crop Production Survey baseline
Production (million MT)	1.65	3.19	Industrial processing demand (HQCF, starch, gari)
Area under cultivation (million ha)	0.13	0.204	2025 National Crop Production Survey (area derived from production and yield).
Local processing (%)	10	35	Agro-processing center development targets
# of people with improved FNS	-	350,000	Cassava as food security safety net during lean seasons
Direct jobs, entire value-chain	-	25,000	Youth employment in processing and marketing

Source: Projects data supplemented by FAOSTAT; MTNDP 2024-2030; Feed Salone Strategy; WFP CSP 2026-2030; 2025 National Crop Production Survey (PEMSD, MAFS, April 2026); # of people with improved FNS is based on the consumption requirement for an adult equivalent from the additional output and number of jobs is based on direct jobs created per ton of processed product from the additional output.

Methodology Notes

How the Targets Were Derived:

→ Productivity Targets: Based on the Feed Salone Strategy (2023-2028) and the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) 2024-2030, which aims to increase yields through improved inputs, irrigation, and mechanization. Baselines for rice, maize, cassava and cocoa are taken from the 2025 National Crop Production Survey.

→ Production Targets: Calculated as target yield multiplied by target area, using the 2025 National Crop Production Survey as baseline. Aligned with the national goal for food self-sufficiency.

→ Self-Sufficiency (%): Derived from Feed Salone's flagship objective to reduce import dependency, particularly for rice, maize, and livestock products.

→ Employment Figures: Based on the MTNDP 2024-2030 target of creating 500,000 jobs for youth by 2030. Jobs are distributed across value chains proportional to their expected growth.

→ Food Security (of people with improved FNS): Based on WFP Country Strategic Plan 2026-2030 targets for reducing acute food insecurity and improving nutrition. The current estimate of 1.2 million acutely food insecure people provides the baseline for the target of one million people with improved FNS.

→ Livestock Targets: Directly sourced from the IFAD, IsDB, and OFID - funded Livestock and Livelihoods Development Project (LLDP), which aims to benefit 373,500 individuals with a total project cost of $105.5 million.

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Annex 2.
Compact Financing Plan (2026–2030, US$ million)

Source	US$ million	% of total
Government	53	5.3
World Bank Group	267	26.7
AfDB	160	16
IFAD	150	15
IsDB	60	6
OFID	60	6
Other partners	75	7.5
Private Sector	75	7.5
Funding gap	100	10
Total	1,000	100

Note: US$1 = NLe 24 (indicative exchange rate)

Annex 3.
Development Partner Projects Aligned to AgriConnect

Partner	Program	Amount (US$ million)	Duration	Status
World Bank	Food Systems Resilience Program	153.34	2022–2028	Implementation ongoing
	Sustainable Agricultural Value Chain Intensification Project	40	2026–2031	Approved
	Sierra Leone Connectivity and Agricultural Market Infrastructure Project	74	2024–2029	Approved
AfDB	Sierra Leone Rice Agro-Industrial Zone (SLERAZ) / Rice Agro-Industrial Cluster Project (SL-RAIC) (AfDB and OFID)	75	2021–2027	Approved
	Agribusiness and Rice Value Chain Support Project (SLARiS)	28		Approved
IFAD	Rural Finance and Community Empowerment Project	46.32	2026–2031	Approved
	Agricultural Value Chain Development Project	52.16	2013–2027	Approved
	Livestock and Livelihoods Development Project	30	2024–2032	Approved
IsDB	Livestock Development Initiative	40	2027–2032	Planned
IsDB	Cassava Industrialization Programme	40	2026–2029	Approved
FAO	Climate-Smart Agriculture Program	30	2026–2030	Ongoing
GIZ	Value Chain Development Support	25	2026–2029	Ongoing
AGRA	Seed System Strengthening	15	2026–2028	Planned
Gates Foundation	Digital Agriculture Innovation	10	2026–2028	Planned
UNCDF	Salone Access to Finance	13.6	2023–2028	Ongoing

Note: Amounts are total project commitments. Amounts counted toward Compact financing (Table 2) are net of disbursements to date and limited to components aligned with Compact priorities. Only documented commitments are classified as secured financing.



