



Research Into Use

sharing lessons to enable innovation in agriculture

Baseline assessment of registered members of the Partnership for Agricultural Innovation and Development (PAID) - Sierra Leone

Commissioned by

Research Into Use Sierra Leone

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1. Background

The Partnership in Agricultural Innovation for Development in Sierra Leone (PAID-SL) was established in July 2008 in Freetown. Actors in the national agricultural innovation system came together at a partnership governance framework workshop facilitated by Research Into Use (RIU) Sierra Leone, which is funded by the UK Department for International Development. PAID-SL has been incorporated as Company Limited by Guaranty (such a Company has members rather than shareholders, and has no share capital).

The key benefit of the partnership is that it enables members to jointly generate innovations that boost the contribution of agriculture and natural resources to economic growth and improved livelihoods in Sierra Leone.

The PAID-SL is an all-inclusive partnership, embracing a wide range of actors in the agricultural innovation system—farmers' organizations, the private sector of all description (producers, buyers, processors, transporters, knowledge brokers, information and communication media, etc), NGOs, government ministries and other public sector bodies, universities, research institutions, financial institutions, parastatals, and so on.

The PAID-SL is an innovation platform. It will deliver the institutional development that will drive the rest of the programme through emerging specialist platforms within three key thematic areas—markets access, youth and use of research.

2. The Strategic Orientation of PAID-SL

Purpose

Partners adopt new ways of working, individually and with each other, to pursue activities that lead to use of new knowledge and technologies for pro-poor innovation in the agriculture and natural resources sectors.

Mission

The PAID-SL exists to enhance capacity and performance of organizations that are working together to generate innovations that boosts the contribution of agriculture and natural resources to economic growth and improved livelihoods in Sierra Leone.

Vision

A formidable partnership of service-providers, operating with mutual trust and understanding, innovatively using research information and knowledge, efficiently and effectively using resources to address their common interests, in order that markets are more competitive, communities are able to adapt and livelihoods are improved.

3. Objective of the Baseline Assessment

The purpose of the assignment was to undertake a baseline assessment of all registered PAID members in the terms of organizational overview, level of capacity and information needs and linkages. The detailed Terms of Reference of the assessment is appended as Annex.....

4. Geographic coverage

PAID has a country-wide coverage with members in all administrative regions of the country. To facilitate a comprehensive baseline survey, therefore, the exercise embraced all four regions of the country – namely, the Western, Northern, Southern and Eastern regions.

5. Timing of Baseline Assessment

The survey was conducted from the 24 March to 14 April 2010. Data analysis and report writing were completed in April/May 2010.

MAIN FINDINGS

6.1 Types of Organizations

The majority of PAID partners are community based organizations (CBOs), followed by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and farmer based organizations (FBOs). The percentages of PAID members falling within the different organizational categories are presented in Figure 1. Figure 1(a) reveals that in the Western Area the majority of PAID partners (57%) are community based organizations, while 28.7% and 14.3% are private and community based organizations, respectively. In the Northern Province (Figure 1b), the overwhelming majority of partners (73.2%) are CBOs followed by FBOs (16.1%) and NGOs (10.7%). As in other regions, the majority of partners in the Southern Province (56.25%) are CBOs but, unlike other regions, NGOs (with 37.5%) account for a significant percentage of partners. In the Eastern Province, CBOs and FBOs each account for 44.44% of partners. The high percentage of FBOs reflects the predominance of agriculture as the main economic activity in that region.

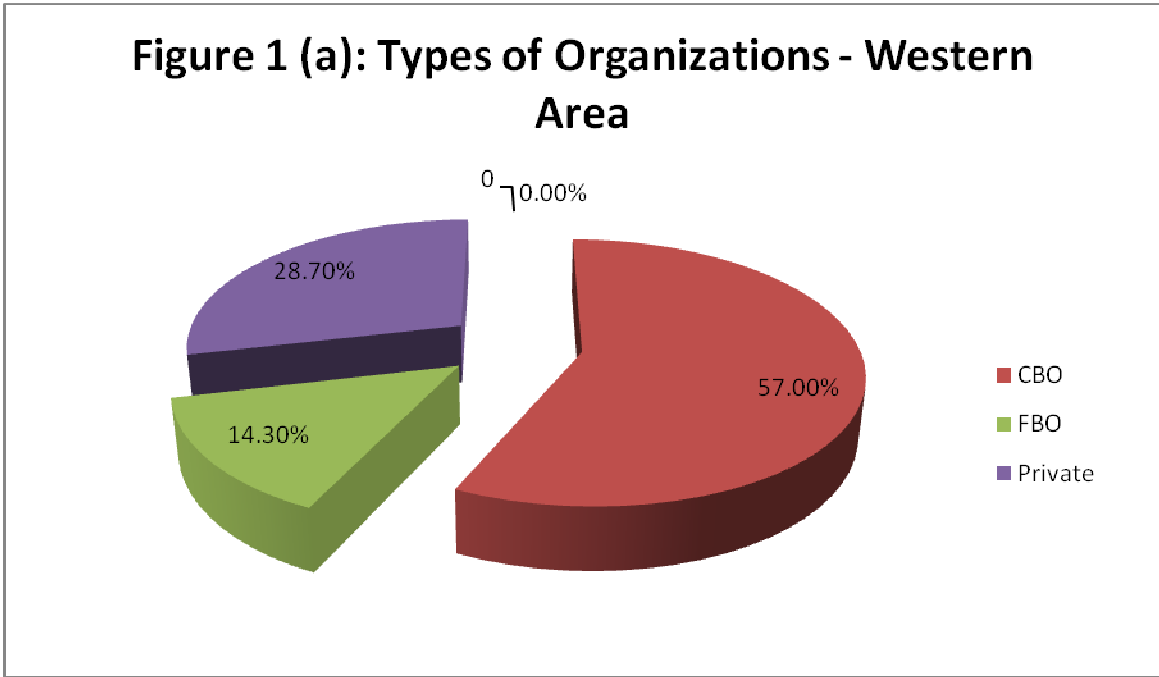


Figure 1(b): Types of Organizations - Northern Province

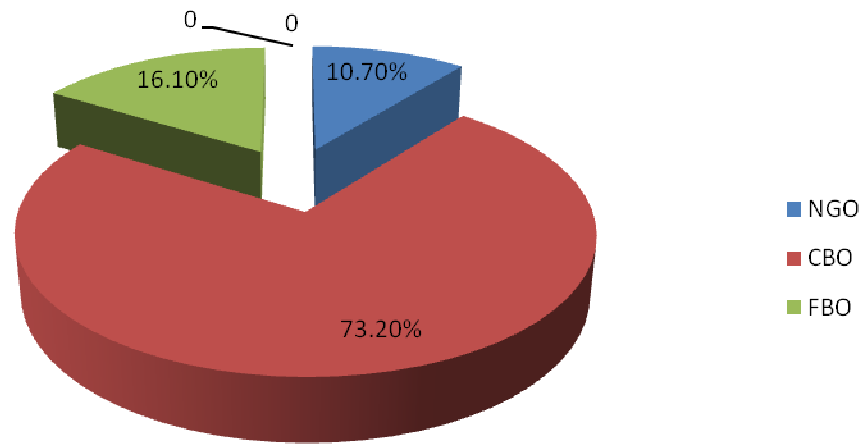
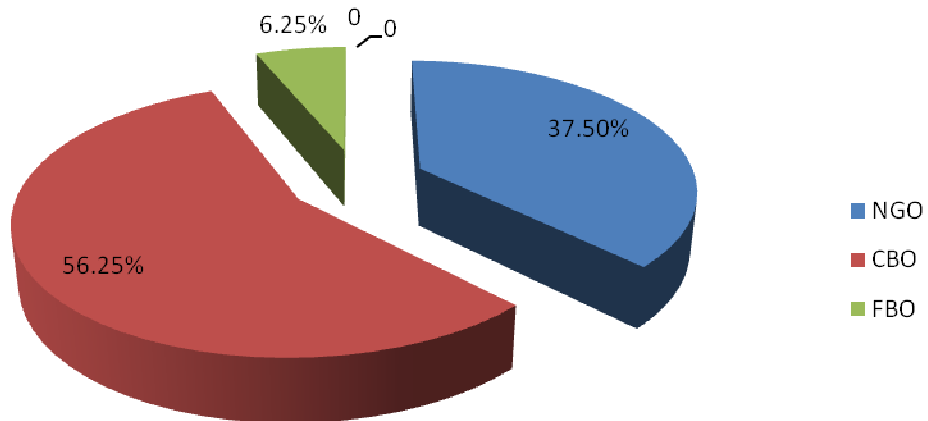
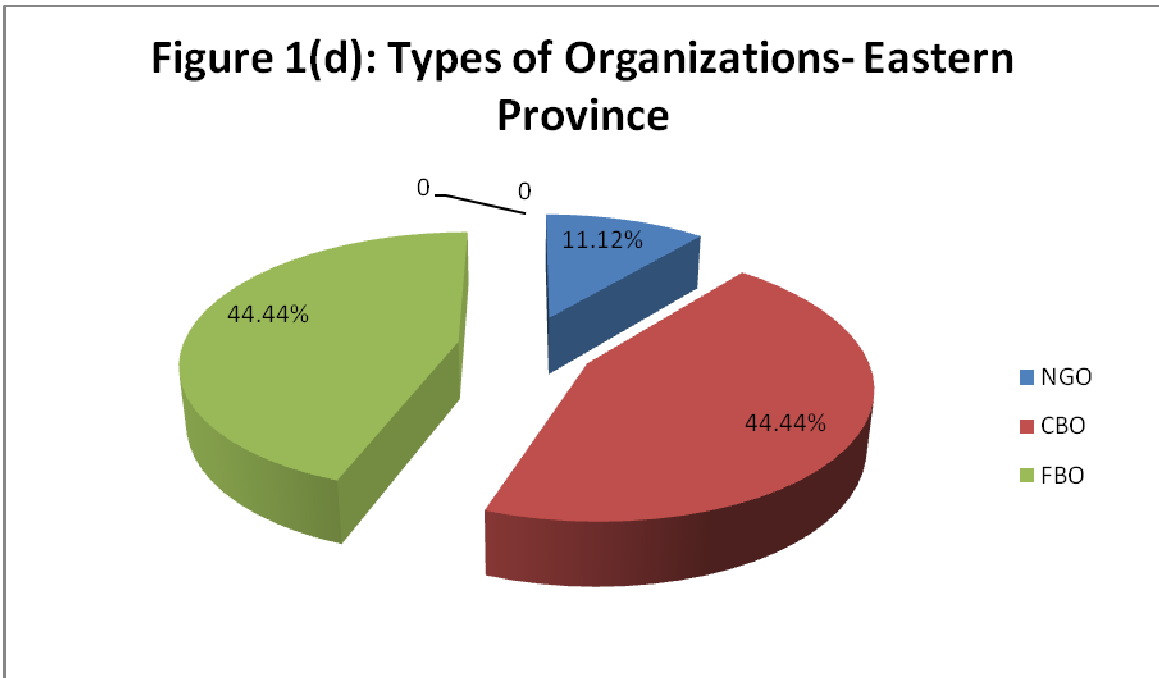


Figure 1(c): Types of Organizations - Southern Province





6.2 Operational Areas

Figure 2 (a-d) presents the operational areas of PAID partners in the four regions of the country. It can be discerned from the figure that in each of the regions, there is a high concentration of partners in the district where the provincial headquarter is located. Thus, 42 out of 54 partners (or 78%) in the Northern Province, are located in Bombali district; 10 out of 22 (45.5%) in the Southern Province are located in the Bo District; and 38 out of 49 (78%) in the Eastern Province are located in Kenema District. Generally, partners get fewer the farther one moves away from the regional headquarter.

Figure 2(a): Operational Areas - Northern Province

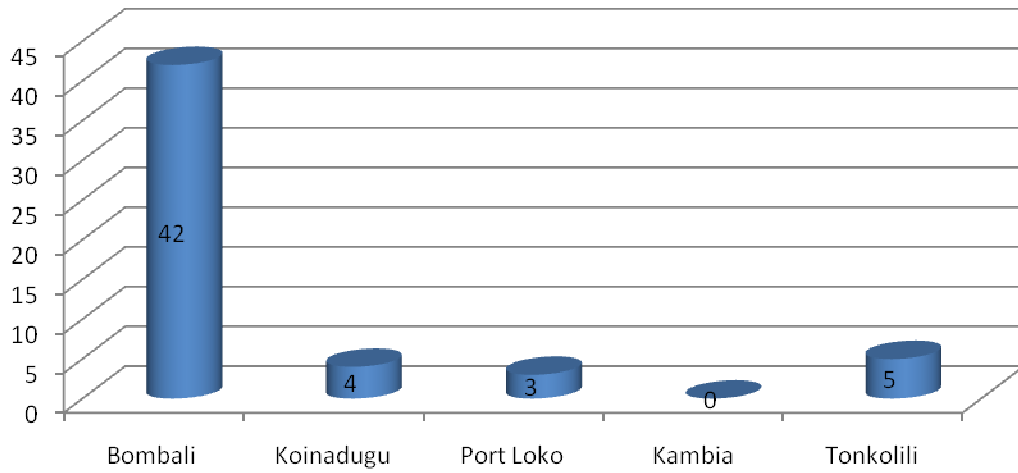
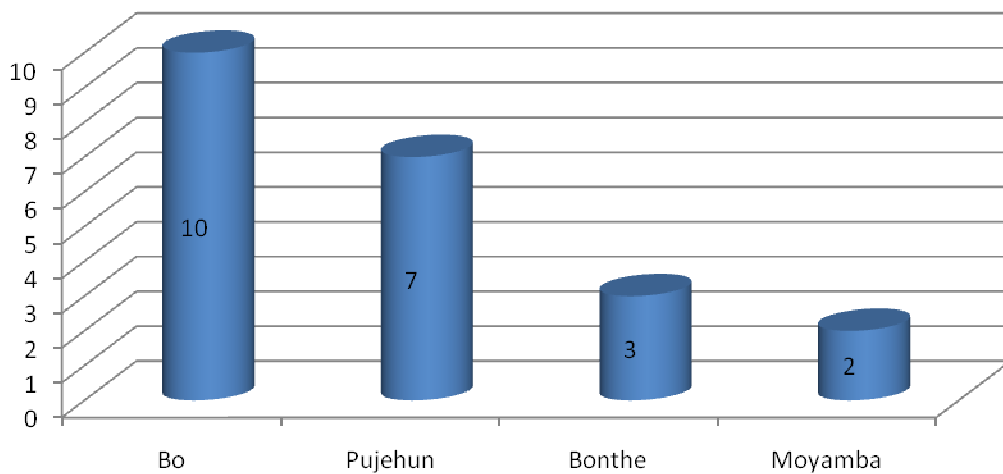
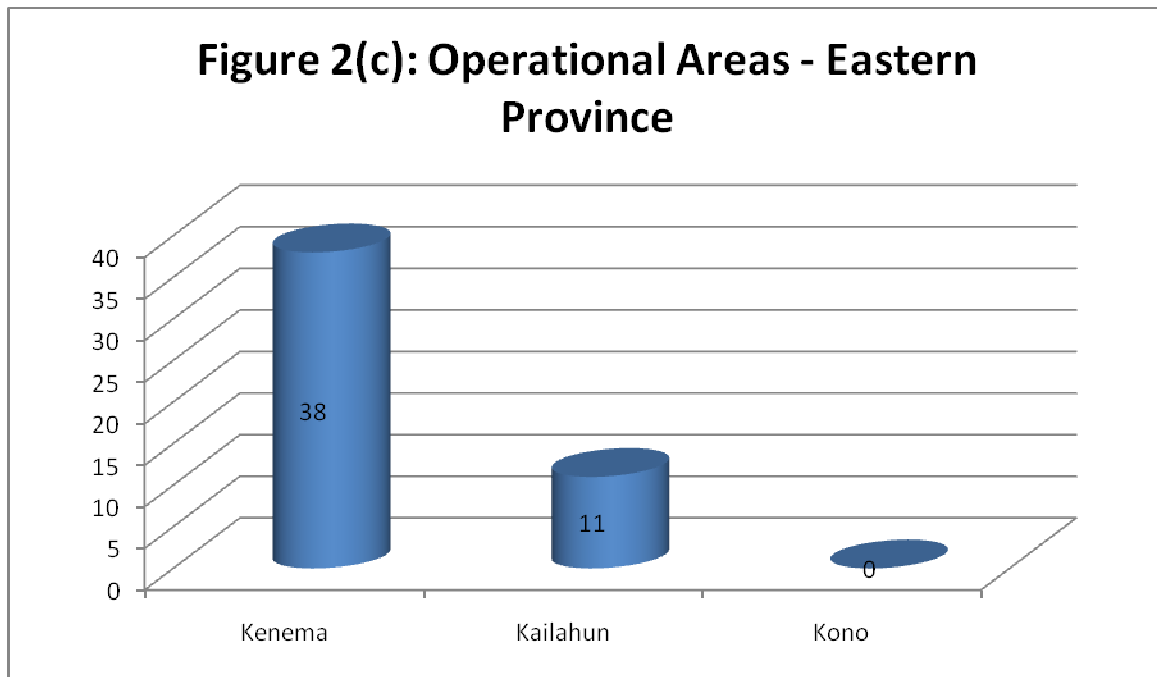


Figure 2(b): Operational Areas - Southern Province





6.3 Main Interventions

Table 1(a-d) summarizes the interventions of partners in the various regions. It is evident from the tables that in all regions the predominant intervention is Crop production. There are regional variations in the importance placed on other interventions. Thus, the second, third and fourth most important interventions in the various regions, are as follows:

- Northern Province: poultry/livestock; skills training; and food processing.
- Southern Province: skills training; health/WATSAN; human rights advocacy.
- Eastern Province: skills training; food processing; and poultry/livestock.
- Western Area: health/WATSAN; food processing; poultry/livestock and skills training.

Table 1 Main Interventions of partners
A. Northern Province

District	Crop Production	Livestock/ Poultry	Crop Processing	Literacy/Skills Training	Health/ WATSAN	Human Rights	Feeder Roads/ Infrastructure
Bombali	22	13	5	8	5	3	2
Koinadugu	4	0	0	2	0	2	2
Port Loko	2	3	3	0	0	0	0
Kambia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tonkolili	5	1	2	4	1	1	0
Northern Province	33	17	10	14	6	6	4

B. Southern Province

District	Crop Production	Livestock/ Poultry	Crop Processing	Literacy/Skills Training	Health/ WATSAN	Human Rights	Feeder Roads/ Infrastructure
Bo	10	2	1	7	7	5	1
Pujehun	6	1	1	5	6	2	0
Bonthe	3	1	0	5	3	1	0
Moyamba	2	0	0	3	2	1	0
Southern Province	21	4	2	20	18	9	1

C. Eastern Province

District	Crop Production	Livestock/ Poultry	Crop Processing	Literacy/Skills Training	Health/ WATSAN	Human Rights	Feeder Roads/ Infrastructure
Kenema	25	6	1	6	3	1	1
Kailahun	11	0	8	8	0	1	3
Kono	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Province	36	6	9	14	3	2	4

D. Western Area

District	Crop Production	Livestock/ Poultry	Crop Processing	Literacy/Skills Training	Health/ WATSAN	Human Rights	Feeder Roads/ Infrastructure
Western Area	6	1	2	1	3	0	0

6.4 Skills availability

The study investigated the availability of various skills among the partners. Table 2 presents an overview of the findings. It can be discerned from the table that in all regions, agricultural extension is the most available skill. It should be pointed out, however, that hardly any partner has its own extension service. Availability of the skill, therefore, refers to access to the extension services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security.

There appears however, to be a regional variation in the availability of the other skills. After agricultural extension, the second, third and fourth most important skills, in the various regions, are as follows:

- Northern Province: participatory rural appraisal; credit management; and IT/communications.
- Southern Province: participatory rural appraisal; IT/communications; and credit management.
- Easter Province: participatory rural appraisal; IT/communications; and credit management.
- Western Area: participatory rural appraisal; food processing; and IT/communications.

Table 2 Available Skills

A. Northern Province

District	Agric Extension(1)	Participatory Rural Appraisal	Credit Management	IT/Communication	Others
Bombali	17	7	4	1	1(2)
Koinadugu	1	1	1	1	0
Port Loko	3	0	1	0	0
Kambia	0	0	0	0	0
Tonkolili	3	2	3	4	0
Northern Province	24	10	9	6	1

- 1) Hardly any organization has its own extension services. Availability of the skill, therefore, refers to access to the extension services of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security.
- 2) Monitoring and Evaluation

B. Southern Province

District	Agric Extension	Participatory Rural Appraisal	Credit Management	IT/Communication	Others(1)
Bo	10	11	4	6	3
Pujehun	6	5	2	3	3
Bonthe	3	2	2	2	0
Moyamba	2	2	1	0	2
Southern Province	21	20	9	11	8

1) WATSAN expertise

C. Eastern Province

District	Agric Extension	Participatory Rural Appraisal	Credit Management	IT/Communication	Others
Kenema	14	6	1	4	0
Kailahun	0	0	0	0	0
Kono	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Province	14	6	1	4	0

D. Western Area

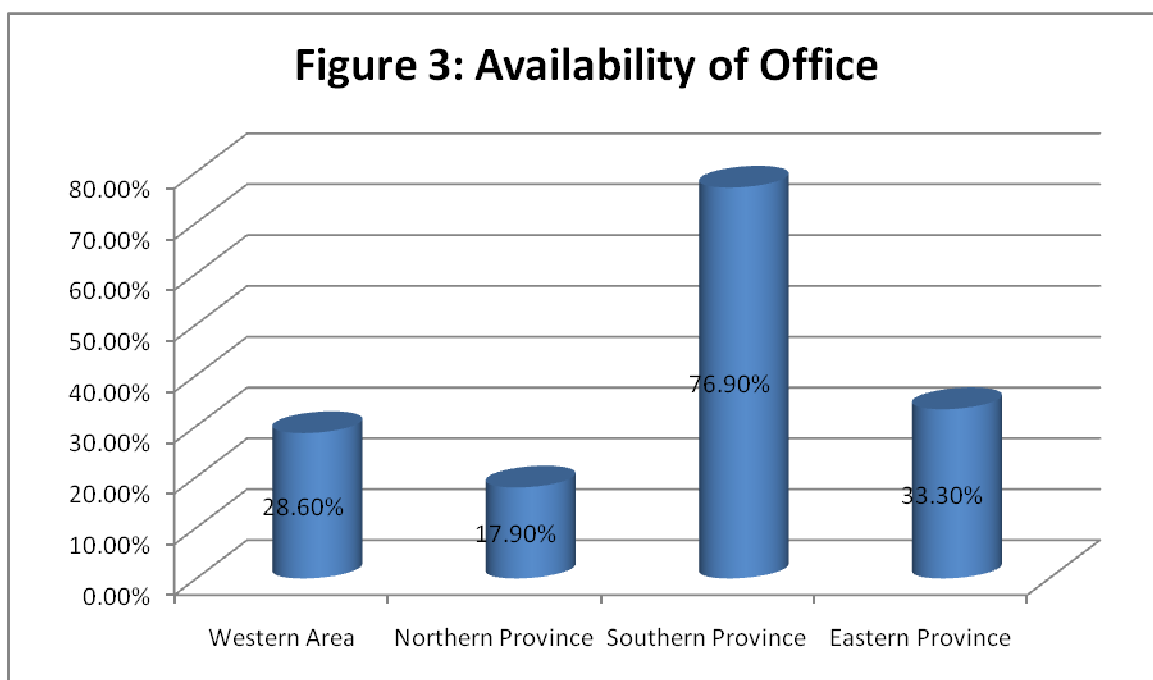
District	Agric Extension	Participatory Rural Appraisal	Credit Management	IT/Communication	Food Processing
Western Area	5	4	0	1	2(1)

1) Food processing

6.5 Office Accommodation and Equipment

Ownership of office accommodation by PAID partners is presented in Figure 3. It can be discerned from the figure that with the notable exception of the Southern Province, where 76.9% of partners have established and functioning offices, the majority of partners in the other three regions do not have offices. Office ownership is 33.3% for the Eastern Province, 28.6% for the Western Area, and only 17.9% or the Northern Province.

Typically, partners contact addresses are the home addresses of the heads of the respective organizations. In the case of Makeni, which is the headquarters of the majority of partners in the Northern Province, the offices of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security are used as the contact address of the almost all PAID partners.



Ownership of office equipment is closely bound to the availability of an established and organized office. Table 3 reveals that very few offices have office equipment. These tend to be confined to the districts that have the regional headquarters. Thus, the availability of office equipment is confined to Bombali, Bo and Kenema Districts in the Northern, Southern and Eastern Provinces, respectively. Even PAID partners in the Western Area do not have much access to office equipment.

Table 3 Ownership of Office Equipment
A. Northern Province

District	Motor Vehicle	Motorcycle	Bicycle	Generator	Computer	Internet	Photo-copier
Bombali	4	9	9	8	6	5	6
Koinadugu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Loko	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Kambia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tonkolili	0	2	2	3	4	1	1
Northern Province	4	11	13	12	10	6	7

N=54

B. Southern Province

District	Motor Vehicle	Motorcycle	Bicycle	Generator	Computer	Internet	Photo-copier
Bo	5	7	5	9	11	4	5
Pujehun	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bonthe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moyamba	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern Province	5	7	5	9	11	4	5

N=22

C. Eastern Province

District	Motor Vehicle	Motorcycle	Bicycle	Generator	Computer	Internet	Photo-copier
Kenema	2	6	5	6	7	0	5
Kailahun	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kono	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Province	2	6	5	6	7	0	5

N=49

D. Western Area

District	Motor Vehicle	Motorcycle	Bicycle	Generator	Computer	Internet	Photo-copier
Western Area	3	3	1	3	3	1	2

N=10

6.6 Ownership of Farm Equipment

The earlier discussion has amply demonstrated that the predominant intervention of the vast majority of PAID partners is food crop production. It would appear that a major constraint to the endeavour is the very limited availability of farm equipment in all regions.

In the Northern Province (Table 4a), only PAID partners in Bombali District have access to a limited number of farm equipment – 5 tractors, power tillers, 4 cassava processors and 3 rice mills.

The Southern and Eastern Provinces (see Table 4 band c) have virtually no farm equipment. In the South, access to farm machinery is limited to Bo District with 1 hatchery, 3 cassava processors and 1 rice mill; while in the East the only reported equipment is 1 cassava processor in Kenema District.

The Western Area also has poor access to farm machinery. PAID partners in the region reported only 1 tractor and 2 cassava processors.

Table 4 Ownership of Farm Equipment

A. Northern Province

District	Tractor	Power Tiller	Hatchery	Cassava Processor	Rice Mill	Thresher
Bombali	5	9	0	4	3	0
Koinadugu	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Loko	1	1	0	0	0	0
Kambia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tonkolili	0	0	0	0	0	1
Northern Province	6	10	0	4	3	1

B. Southern Province

District	Tractor	Power Tiller	Hatchery	Cassava Processor	Rice Mill	Thresher
Bo	0	0	1	3	1	0
Pujehun	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bonthe	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moyamba	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern Province	0	0	1	3	1	0

C. Eastern Province

District	Tractor	Power Tiller	Hatchery	Cassava Processor	Rice Mill	Thresher
Kenema	0	0	0	1	0	0
Kailahun	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kono	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern Province	0	0	0	1	0	0

D. Western Area

District	Tractor	Power Tiller	Hatchery	Cassava Processor	Rice Mill	Thresher
Western Area	1	0	0	2	0	0

6.7 Desired Areas of Partnership

PAID partners were requested to indicate which of three areas of partnership – namely, a) market access, b) youth empowerment, and c) use of research – they desired. They were allowed to indicate more than one area, if they so desired. The number of times each area of partnership was sited is presented in Figure 4.

It can be discerned from Figure (a, b and c) that in the Northern, Southern and Eastern Provinces, *youth empowerment* was the number one priority, followed by *market access* and *use of research*, in that order.

In the Western Area, on the other hand, the first priority is *market access*, followed by *youth empowerment* and *use of research*, in that order.

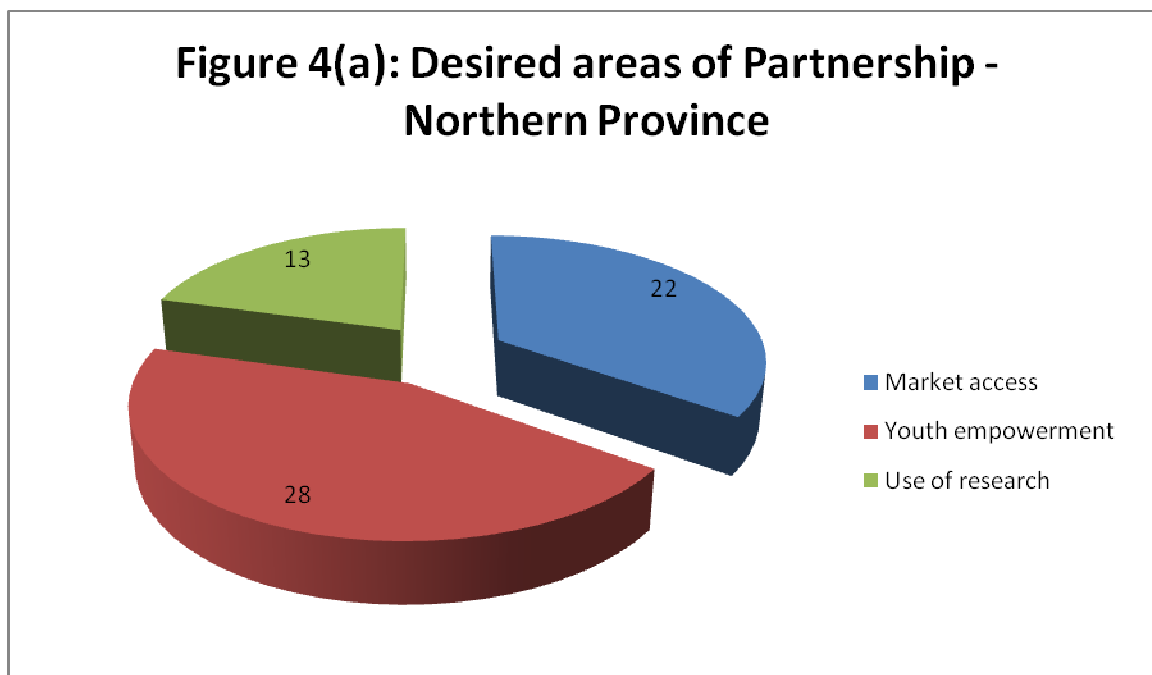


Figure 4(b): Desired areas of Partnership - Southern Province

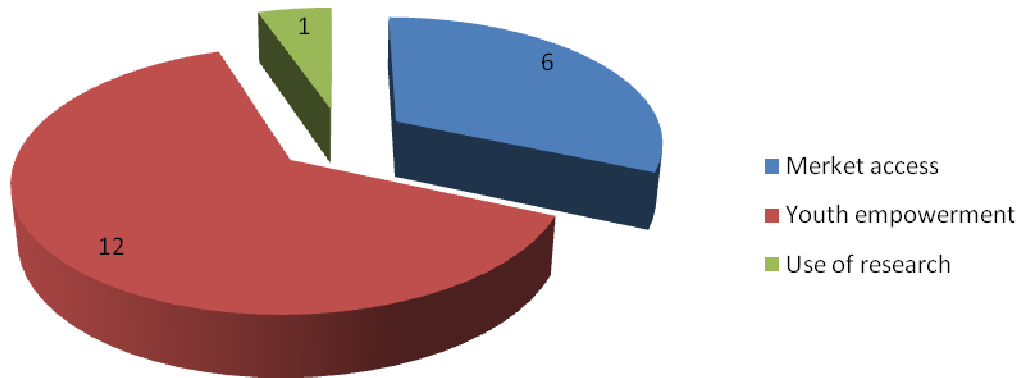
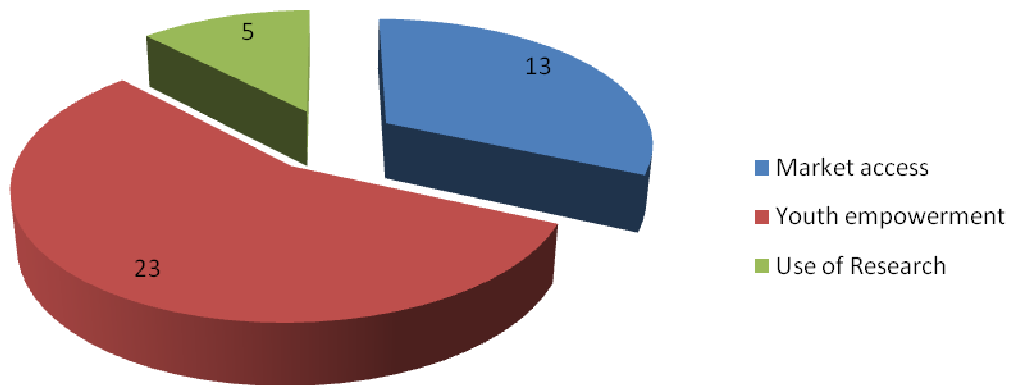
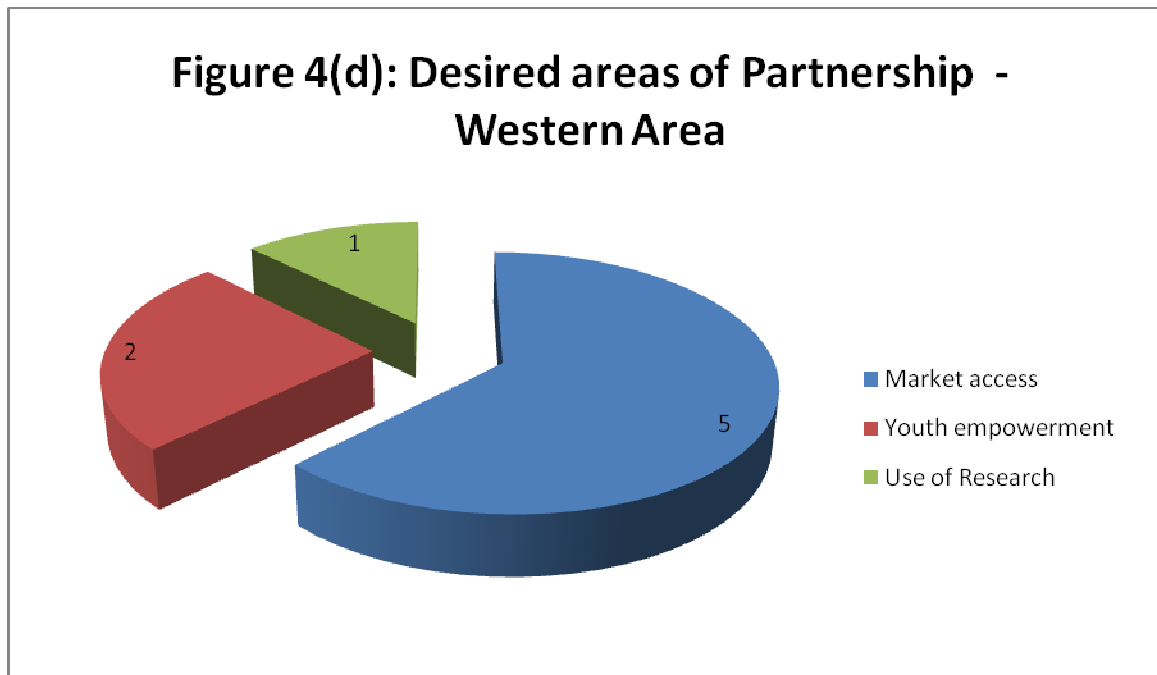


Figure 4(c): Desired areas of Partnership - Eastern Province





6.8 Capacity Gaps

Partners’ perceptions of their key capacity gaps were investigated. Specifically, each partner was required to indicate “*three priority areas for support*”. The analyses of their responses are presented in Figure 5 (a, b, c and d).

Figure 5 reveals that the “priority areas for support” for the different regions – *listed in order of importance* – are as follows:

- Northern Province: farm inputs, trained personnel and transportation.
- Southern Province: Trained personnel, transportation and agricultural infrastructure (especially stores, drying floors, milling/processing facilities, etc).
- Eastern Province: farm inputs, trained personnel and agricultural infrastructure.

Figure 5(a): Capacity Gaps - Northern Province

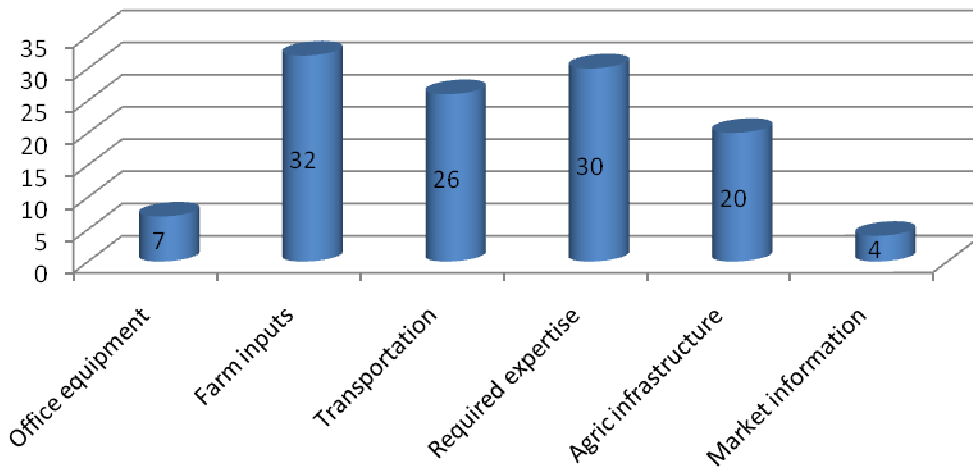
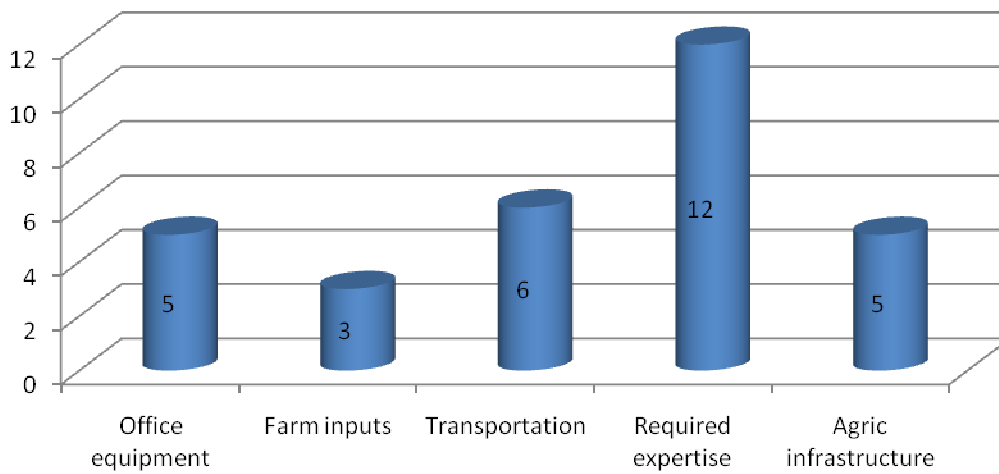
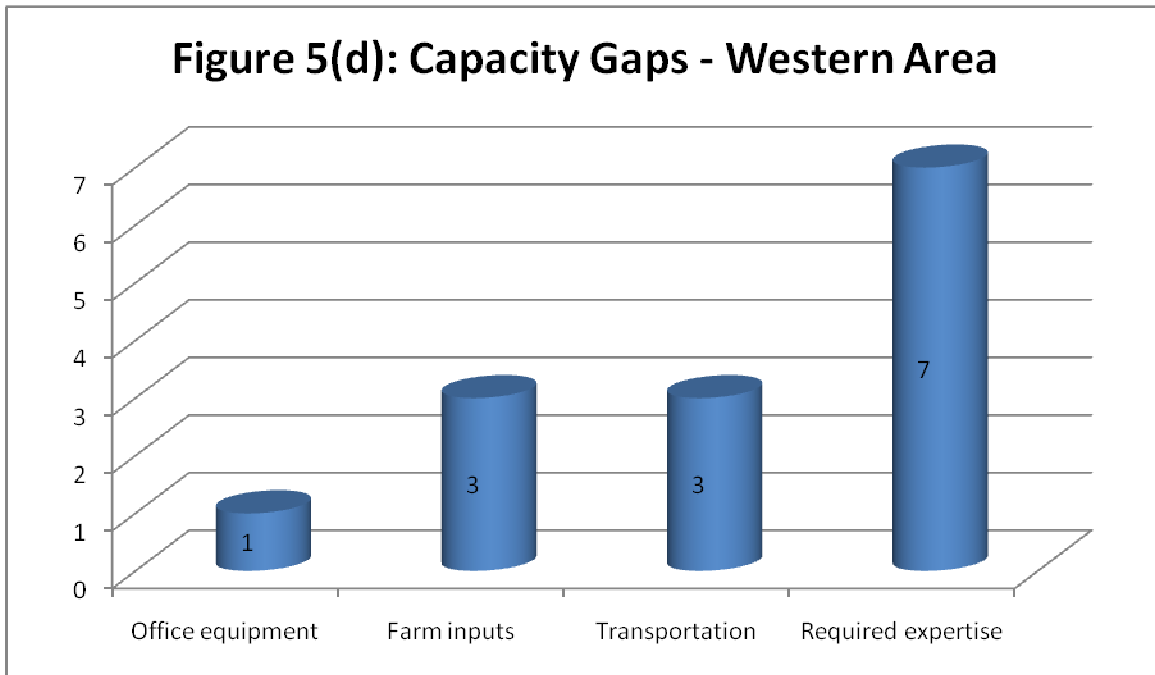
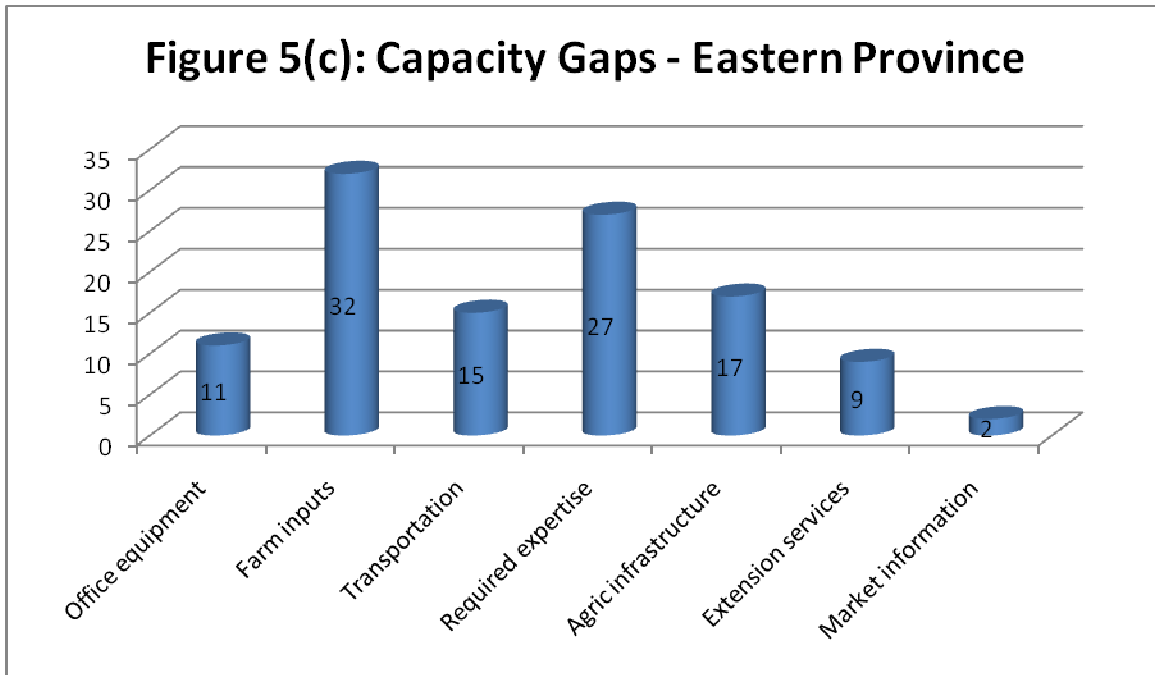


Figure 5(b): Capacity Gaps - Southern Province





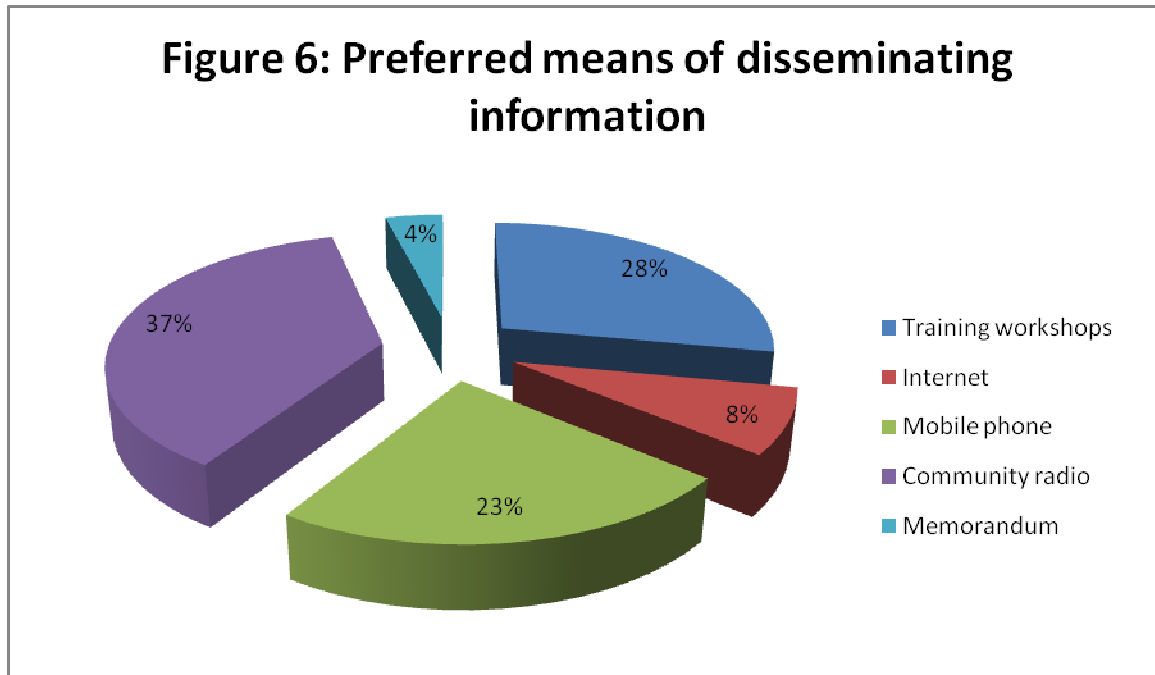
6.9 Types of Information Required

PAID partners were required to indicate the “types of information your institution /organization requires”. The vast majority expressed interest in information on the following:

- Sources of funding for community/rural/agricultural development programmes
- Improved/high yielding crops varieties
- Improved farming practices
- Produce markets and pricing
- Empowerment of youth, women and other marginalized groups

6.10 Preferred Means of Receiving Information

PAID partners' preferred means of receiving required information are presented in Figure 6.



The following facts are evident from Figure 6:

- The most preferred means of disseminating information is *community radio* (37%). Against the backdrop of the recent proliferation of community radio stations in the country, this is not surprising. Today, virtually every community in Sierra Leone is served by at least one community radio station. Their potential for the disseminating development messages, therefore, is immense.
- Training workshops are ranked (by 28% of respondents) as the second most preferred means of transmitting information. Respondents explained that the popularity of training workshops is owed to the fact that several stakeholder receive the information at the same time and it affords the opportunity to ask for and receive clarifications.
- Mobile phones (23%) are ranked as the third preferred means of receiving information. Their relative importance is due to the fact in the last decade different networks have expanded to cover over 90% of the country. They are, therefore, an expedient means of communication.
- The *internet* (8%) and (hard copy) *memoranda* (4%) rank as poor fourth and fifth preferences. This is because internet access is very scanty country-wide, while hard copy communication is almost obsolete.

Annex I

TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONSULTANCY ON BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF REGISTERED PAID MEMBERS

The Partnership in Agricultural Innovation for Development in Sierra Leone (PAID-SL) was established in July 2008 in Freetown. Actors in the national agricultural innovation system came together at a partnership governance framework workshop facilitated by the Sierra Leone Research Into Use (RIU) Programme, which is funded by the UK Department for International Development. PAID-SL has been incorporated as Company Limited by Guaranty (such a Company has members rather than shareholders, and has no share capital).

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The PAID-SL is an innovation platform. It will deliver the institutional development that will drive the rest of the programme through emerging specialist platforms within three key thematic areas—markets access, youth and use of research.

The Strategic Orientation of PAID-SL

Purpose

Partners adopt new ways of working, individually and with each other, to pursue activities that lead to use of new knowledge and technologies for pro-poor innovation in the agriculture and natural resources sectors.

Mission

The PAID-SL exists to enhance capacity and performance of organizations that are working together to generate innovations that boosts the contribution of agriculture and natural resources to economic growth and improved livelihoods in Sierra Leone.

Vision

A formidable partnership of service-providers, operating with mutual trust and understanding, innovatively using research information and knowledge, efficiently and effectively using resources to address their common interests, in order that markets are more competitive, communities are able to adapt and livelihoods are improved.

Generic Outputs

1. Resources mobilized
2. High quality services delivered
3. Approaches developed and adopted for working in innovative ways
4. Enhanced ability to acquire and use information and knowledge
5. Lessons learned for continuous improvement

Objective of the Assignment

The purpose of the assignment is to undertake a baseline assessment of all registered PAID members in the terms of organizational overview, level of capacity and information need and linkages.

Tasks

1. Hold preliminary consultations with the relevant secretariat staff especially the national coordinator for PAID
2. Develop and adapt survey instrument – 3 page questionnaire
3. Discuss and agree on the content of the questionnaire with the SLRIU Coordinator
4. Hold a planning meeting with the team members prior to commencement of the survey
5. Carry out the survey exercise interviewing 200 Registered PAID members Sierra Leone
6. Collate and control the questionnaire
7. Design a data entry program consistent with the questionnaire. The data entry program can be written in any usual software (SPSS)
8. Proceed with data entry and edit the data after data entry
9. Prepare a format that would be used to develop a directory of PAID membership organizations/association

Consultant

The Consultant should have the following expertise:

- Previous experience in undertaking baseline surveys
- Knowledgeable in agricultural and natural resources
- Broad knowledge of research and rural development in Sierra Leone
- Strong writing and reporting skills.

Output and reporting

The consultant shall submit: A detailed work plan a day after signing the contract; this will be mutually agreed on with SL-RIU Coordinator before the start of work. The consultant is responsible for submitting preliminary findings at the end of 3 weeks. Prepare a directory of PAID membership organizations/associations which is a document that will give a profile of each organization/association registered with PAID.

Time Frame

The consultant shall undertake the work in the shortest timeframe possible that does not compromise the quality of the research. It is expected within 21 days in the period between 25 March 2010 and 14 April 2010).

Further information

- sierraleone@researchintouse.com
- info@researchintouse.com
- www.researchintouse.com

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