

# Feed Salone Strategy

A Blueprint for Agricultural  
Transformation in Sierra Leone

2023 - 2028



Ministry of Agriculture  
& Food Security



**EXECUTIVE  
SUMMARY**

OCTOBER 2023

## Introduction

In 2018, the Government developed the National Agricultural Transformation Programme (NAT 2023), and implemented a private sector led approach dubbed 'The Agriculture Policy Shift'. This strategy laid the foundation for the prioritisation of agriculture – Feed Salone as one of the Big 5 Game Changers in the SLPP Manifesto.

This Strategy underscores the Government of Sierra Leone's steadfast dedication to agricultural transformation and the pursuit of food sovereignty. Recognizing the pivotal role that agriculture plays in the nation's economy, the Feed Salone Strategy aims to **boost agriculture productivity to fuel inclusive growth, increase access and availability of locally produced nutrient dense and safe food, reduce our dependence on food imports, reduce hunger, increase export earnings, create jobs, and build resilient food system.**

**The Feed Salone Strategy is championed by H.E. President Bio**, guided by the Presidential Council, and executed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.

The agriculture sector accounts for

**57%**

of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for approximately

**65%**

of households

The country boasts of a wealth of natural resources:

- Of the 5.4 million hectares of fertile land available, only 15% is currently under cultivation.
- The nation gets an impressive 3000mm of rainfall over half the year.
- The landscape is enriched by seven major rivers that traverse the country.

Sierra Leone boasts a youthful population, with an average age of

**19 years**

Women make up

**70%**

of the agricultural labour force and play a critical role in food production



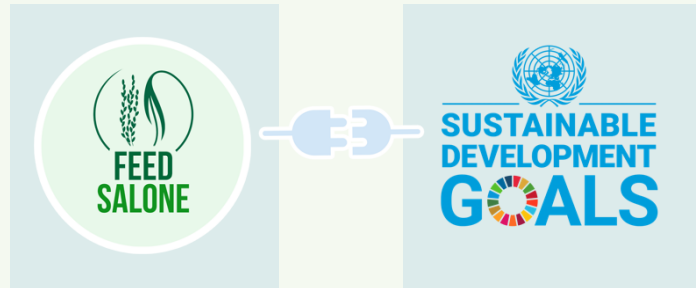
The Feed Salone Strategy draws from the learnings of the National Agricultural Transformation Programme and brings purpose to every step we take towards an agricultural transformation. But this document is more than just a strategy; it's a commitment. My government's commitment to the whole Agriculture sector, to our people – and especially – to our children, who deserve to inherit a nation devoid of hunger. Finally, it is a demonstration to the world of the resilience and determination of Sierra Leone in our pursuit of food security and national prosperity.

**His Excellency Brig. Rtd.  
Julius Maada Bio**

**PRESIDENT | REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE**



## FEED SALONE - Boosting agricultural productivity to ensure food security and inclusive economic growth.



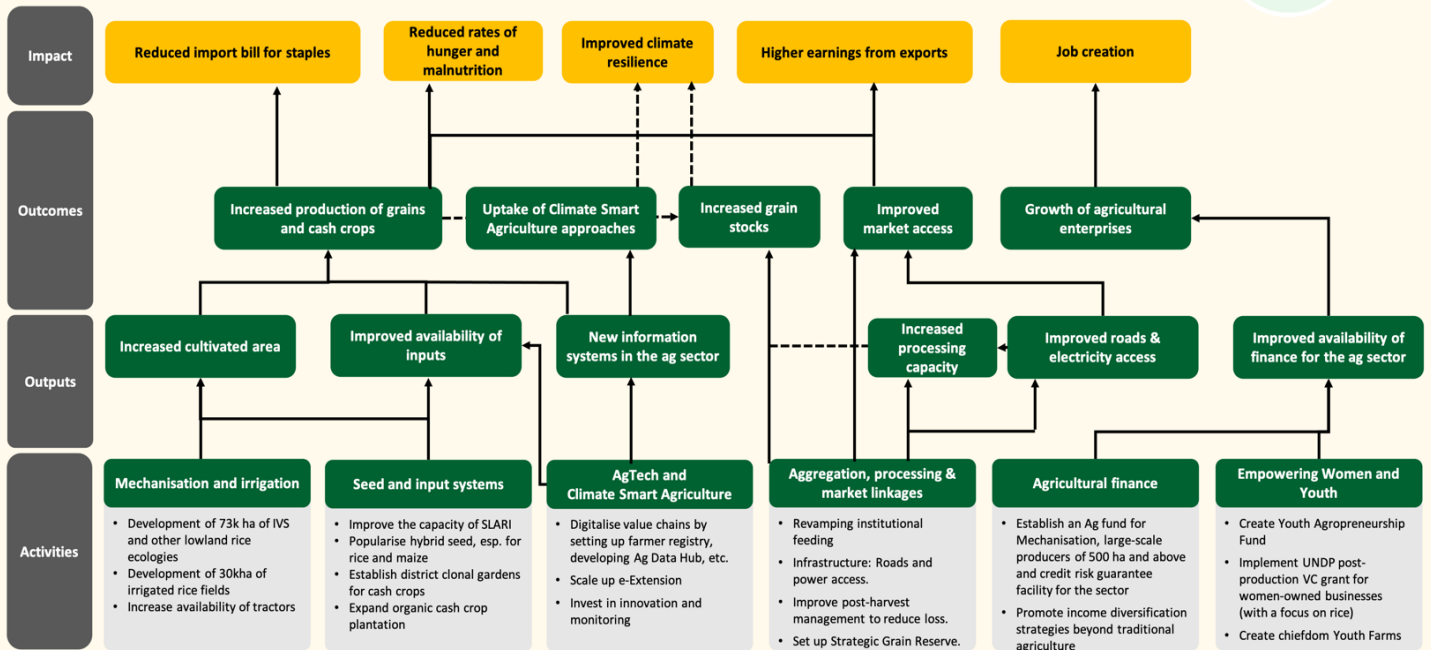
<p><b>FEED SALONE</b></p>  <p>Boosting agricultural productivity to ensure food security and inclusive economic growth</p>	<p><b>HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT</b></p>  <p>Nurturing skills for 21st Century</p>	<p><b>YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SCHEME (YES)</b></p>  <p>A Presidential Initiative to create 500,000 jobs for the youth in five years</p>	<p><b>REVAMPING THE PUBLIC SERVICE SECTOR</b></p>  <p>Delivery, Efficiency and Professionalism</p>	<p><b>TECH &amp; INFRASTRUCTURE</b></p>  <p>Pathways for sustained economic growth (TIPEG)</p>
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<p><b>01</b></p> <p>Expand the homegrown school feeding programmes, ensuring that children remain healthy and active in their education journey.</p>	<p><b>02</b></p> <p>Move the agriculture sector beyond traditional farming to one that will create opportunities for thousands of youths.</p>	<p><b>03</b></p> <p>Tap into the transformative power of technology and innovation to better inform our agricultural interventions and ensure the optimal use of resources.</p>	<p><b>04</b></p> <p>Through the creation of the Presidential Council, revamp the ministerial structures and build public service capacity and capabilities in key areas.</p>
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Through the synergies between Feed Salone and the other four Game Changers, we will accelerate economic growth in Sierra Leone and contribute to most of the SDGs.

<p><b>1 NO POVERTY</b></p> 	<p><b>2 ZERO HUNGER</b></p> 	<p><b>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b></p> 	<p><b>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</b></p> 	<p><b>5 GENDER EQUALITY</b></p> 	<p><b>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</b></p> 
<p><b>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b></p> 	<p><b>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</b></p> 	<p><b>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</b></p> 	<p><b>13 CLIMATE ACTION</b></p> 	<p><b>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</b></p> 	<p><b>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</b></p> 

## Theory of Change



## The Impact of Prioritising Agriculture

Feed Salone is poised to significantly boost GDP growth through agriculture. The past decades saw agricultural growth rates of 3-5%; our ambition is to accelerate this pace, targeting an annual growth rate of 10% for the agriculture sector within the next five years.



## Strategic Approach to Achieve Our Objectives

There are **Six Strategic Pillars** guiding the implementation of the President's vision. This selective approach focuses on **boosting production for specific crops, value chains and geographies**, strategic investments in **infrastructure** (e.g., feeder roads, bridges and electricity), targeted **policy interventions** to make local production more competitive across strategic value chains, and a **blended financing model**, where the government combines its own resources and that of the partners to attract private capital.

**The Strategy prioritizes private sector-driven growth.** It recognises the existing challenges to the sector, supports the expansion of existing businesses already participating in key value chains whilst also encouraging new players by fostering entrepreneurship through agri-business incubation. These platforms will offer training, seed capital, and financial tools for business readiness. The strategy also seeks to attract both local and foreign investments, with agro-industrial zones catering specifically to foreign direct investment for large-scale agriculture.

The Government will enact policies that will **incentivise participation of big private sector players**, including the **rice importers**. These chains include **rice, cocoa, coffee, cashew, aquaculture, small ruminants like sheep and goats, cassava products such as gari and flour, and horticultural items including fruits and vegetables.**



## The Five (5) Strategic Objectives for the Crafting of this Strategy

### Import Substitution of Key Staples: 01

Sierra Leone spends approximately \$500 million annually on food imports. Our target is a yearly reduction of 25% on food imports for key value chains over the next five years. The 2024 spotlight will be on promoting self-sustenance in **rice, poultry, onions and cassava flour (as replacement for wheat flour)**.

### Boosting Export Earnings from Agriculture: 02

The aim is for agriculture to substantially contribute to foreign exchange earnings; the focus will be on optimizing value chains like **cocoa, coffee, cashew and horticulture (fruits and pepper)** targeting a bold 50% yearly increase in the export of these commodities.

### Job Creation and Income Generation 03

Our objective is to create at least 35,000 formal job opportunities by 2028, with the potential for thousands more in the informal sector. This will be achieved through the development of agro-industrial zones dedicated to comprehensive production, processing, and marketing of key value chains. These chains include **rice, cocoa, coffee, cashew, small ruminants like sheep and goats, cassava products such as gari and flour, and horticultural items including fruits and vegetables**.

### Alleviating Hunger and Malnutrition: 04

In our stride towards food sovereignty, it is imperative that citizens have access to nutritious, locally produced food. We aim to increase the acceptable Food Consumption Score by 65%, cut chronic hunger by at least 50% and significantly reduce micronutrient deficiency among children by 2028. **Pulses, tubers (Orange Flesh Sweet Potatoes and cassava) and aquaculture** are the value chains that we will prioritise to achieve this.

### Significantly Improve Climate Resilience: 05

Adopting sustainable and climate-smart techniques is essential for a resilient food system. We will promote agriculture techniques that enrich soil fertility, improve water retention, diversify crop production, and encourage the cultivation of climate-resistant crop varieties. We also aim to increase the green cover with **cocoa and cashew**.

## The Six (6) Strategic Pillars

### 01 MECHANIZATION AND IRRIGATION

Expanding rice production areas, including Inland Valley Swamps and irrigated rice fields, augmented by tractor and other mechanised services.



### 02 SEED AND INPUT SYSTEMS

Using research to ensure high-quality inputs for optimal yields for key value chains.



### 03 AGGREGATION, PROCESSING & MARKET LINKAGES

Streamlining processes for maximized profitability.



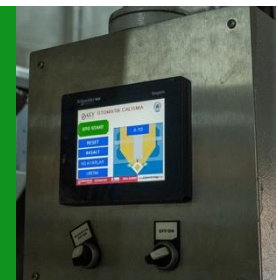
### 04 AGRICULTURAL FINANCE

Tailoring financial instruments and solutions for the sector's unique needs, especially for women and youth.



### 05 AG-TECH & CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

Leveraging technology, supporting agricultural research, promoting digitization and building robust data systems to inform decisions while safeguarding against climate change.



### 06 EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUTH

Ensuring their indispensable role in agricultural development is reflected and elevated across all Strategic Pillars.





## Geographical Value Chain Focus

To enhance productivity in targeted value chains swiftly and efficiently, this strategy will channel investments into districts with the highest potential for success and growth by **leveraging each district's comparative advantage**, while also introducing synergistic value chains. Agro-industrial zones will be set up to facilitate seamless production, processing, and marketing for these chains. This consolidated approach not only ensures efficiency through scale but also positions these district-value chain hubs as knowledge transfer and growth epicentres.

VALUE CHAINS	EAST			NORTH			NORTH WEST			SOUTH			WEST		
	Kailahun	Kenema	Kono	Bombali	Falaba	Koinadugu	Tonkolili	Kambia	Karene	Port Loko	Bo	Bonthe	Moyamba	Pujehun	Rural/Urban
Import Substitution	Rice - Irrigated														
	Rice - Inland Valley Swamps														
	Rice - Boli														
	Poultry Feed - Maize & Soy Bean														
	Onion														
Export Earnings	Cocoa														
	Coffee														
	Cashew														
Job creation	Horticulture - Pepper														
	Horticulture - Tomatoes														
	Livestock - Small Ruminants														
Hunger & Nutrition	Pulses														
	Orange Flesh Sweet Potato														
	Cassava & Cassava Flour														
	Agro - Forestry														
Climate Resilience	Cocoa														
	Cashew														

## Cross-Cutting Enablers

### POLITICAL WILL

**President Bio has demonstrated his commitment to prioritizing the sector as the engine of economic transformation by spotlighting Agriculture as the flagship for his second term in office.**

To this end the President and government commit to:

- Increasing the budget allocation to the sector from approximately 3% to 10% in line with the Malabo recommendations.
- Using the President's political capital, which includes advocacy to attract additional resources to the sector.
- With the Ministry of Finance, establishing a dedicated fund for Feed Salone and allocating a predetermined portion of monthly revenue collected to this fund. This arrangement ensures timely and predictable financial support for the sector.

### POLICY INTERVENTIONS

**We will implement policies that make local production more competitive and attract investment – for rice and other key value chains. To achieve this, we will:**

- Review our land laws to make them attractive for farming and even more amenable for investment, both locally and internationally, across value chains.
- Implement policies to encourage commodity importers to participate in local production of commodities.
- Together with Development Partners and International Financial Institutions, we will develop strategies to de-risk private investments with current and future funding. The COMPACT process with African Development Bank (AfDB) is an example of that approach.
- The National Investment Board will put investment in agriculture and food systems at the heart of their strategy and promotion efforts.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

**Infrastructure plays a key role in transforming agriculture and has direct impact on all strategic outcomes.**

The Government will therefore:

- Identify and create agro-industrial zones.
- Construct trunk and feeder roads, especially in targeted food cluster areas.
- Construct bridges, markets, and storage facilities to improve access and market linkages.
- Improve electricity access, especially to the agro-industrial zones.

## FINANCE

**Feed Salone will cost \$1.6 billion by 2028 and \$257.3 million in 2024. These costs are driven by the scale and scope of interventions in each value chain and aim to remove key constraints to attract more private investment.**

A blended financing approach, where the government combines its own resources and that of the development partners to attract private capital is the most promising and sustainable way to finance this plan. Every dollar of public financing should leverage between five to ten times more private capital. We will:

- Leverage development financing (over \$350 million in the past eight years allocated to the agriculture sector).
- De-risk and provide incentive for private investment in the sector.
- Create a culture of trust for investors and businesses.

## INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS & DELIVERY

**The strategy aims to revamp the current configuration of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) and associated agencies to boost the delivery of Feed Salone.**

**This strategy elevates the role of the private sector for their potential to efficiently deliver services, provide the core funding for most value chains and to act as conduits or agents of technology transfer and knowledge sharing.**

The delivery mechanisms for the implementation of Feed Salone will be through the following structures and systems:

- The Presidential Council guiding the delivery of the Feed Salone Strategy.
- Systems and processes that encompass active advisory services to farmers, collaboration with the private sector, robust data collection mechanisms and reporting systems that support delivery.
- The establishment of the Feed Salone Secretariat team within MAFS to boost the delivery of the programme and build public service capacity.

We will be deliberate about changing the attitudes of farmers and incentives created for them to undertake agriculture as a business. Being a farmer used to be perceived as an esteemed vocation in Sierra Leone. Sowing seeds and reaping the fruits of hard work used to evoke respect and gratitude. Feed Salone is a call to restore the dignity, pride and honour of farming our land.



Dr. Henry Musa Kpaka

Minister of Agriculture and Food Security

**Together, We Will  
Feed Salone**





**Ministry of Agriculture  
and Food Security**