

Sierra Leone, FAO and Viet Nam sign new agreement to develop rice sector in Africa

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Sierra Leone, FAO and Viet Nam signed a South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) agreement aimed at developing the rice sector in the African country. The new project has an estimated budget of \$5 million to be implemented through a Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF) from Sierra Leone.

The tripartite agreement was signed by Abu Bakarr Karim, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security of Sierra Leone, and by Saeed Abubakar Bantie, FAO Representative in Sierra Leone.

Abu Bakarr Karim, Minister commended Viet Nam for its commitment to providing technical assistance through FAO South-South Cooperation, emphasising the invaluable role it will play in Sierra Leone's agricultural landscape.

The new tripartite project will support diverse actors to increase the productivity and production of rice through increased access to improved technologies and upscaling of best practices along the rice value chain.

Over the course of a four-year project, Viet Nam will provide its expertise in rice-value-chain development to Sierra Leone.

Skilled experts and technicians specialised in rice production, irrigation, rice breeding, mechanisation, and post-harvest management will be deployed to various national sites, including research stations. Additionally, capacity-building initiatives such as study tours, field training, and training of trainers will be implemented to empower local stakeholders.

This new tripartite agreement is part of FAO's strong commitment to broaden its partnership base with diverse groups of countries through South-South and Triangular Cooperation and mobilisation. The countries in the Global South are increasingly recognising SSTC as one of the most efficient delivery modalities addressing their needs.