

## Agriculture Sustainability Activity

### Farmers' Association Improves Rice Post-Harvest Management and Storage

PROJECT LOCATION	Liberia
TIMEFRAME	2021-2022
COUNTRY PROJECT	Rice
HOST	Dezebah Farmers' Association

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) implemented Agriculture Sustainability Activity (ASA) uses the Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) model to provide technical assistance to agriculture organizations through volunteer trainings to increase the availability of domestically produced and processed rice and cassava. During implementation, the Activity shifted to a Paired Remote Volunteer (PRV) model – a local volunteer paired with a U.S.-based volunteer to allow program

Mrs. Smith, with remote support from Ms. Hopley, provided the training from October 11-22, 2021, to 37 participants (11 male and 26 female, 25 of whom were youth). The training sessions focused on rice post-harvest and storage practices and took place via field demonstrations; it was engaging and saw a lot of participation. “Farmers have an interest in practical knowledge more than theory. The reason is they feel at home being in the field during a demonstration, rather than sitting in a classroom during training sessions. They are always on their farms, so taking them there and demonstrating with them brings out their farming ideas.” explained Mrs. Smith.

“Through this training, Menyee/CRS team helped to create an incentive for the farmers to not only improve upon but preserve their farms,” said Ms. Hopley. “This training not only invested in the skills these farmers already have but really with the help of Menyee demonstrated how viable these farms are economically.”

Dezebah Farmers' Association's Chairman Tarnue K. Zayzay appreciated the volunteer support, “Thank God that USAID-CRS/ASA Project was able to add value to us, and our production. By the grace of God and ASA-Project we were able to significantly reduce our post-harvest loss. We also realized that life is better on the farms from the interactions with CRS-ASA Project.”

Upon completion of the training, Mrs. Smith and Ms. Hopley recommended the following five recommendations to Dezebah Farmers Association: agree to use the harvesting techniques learned for rice; follow appropriate post-harvest handling methods such as harvesting, packaging, cooling, storage, cleaning, sorting, and transportation; agree to the formation of a farmer-based cooperative, wherein they will draft by-laws and a constitution for governance; work on finding appropriate harvesting tools like tarpaulins, knives,