

Feeding the Nation from Our Own Soil

Agriculture & food security

A farmer brings in a good harvest, only to watch a third of it rot before it ever reaches a market, for want of storage, transport, or a buyer willing to pay a fair price on the day it's ready.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Roughly four in five Sierra Leoneans cannot be sure of their next meal — in a country with the land, water and sunshine to feed itself many times over. The problem was never the land's capacity; it's been the systems around the farmer that turn a good harvest into a loss, and a national diet leaning almost entirely on rice that leaves both farms and families exposed whenever that one crop falters.

WHAT WE'RE PROMISING

Food that is more affordable, reliable and varied, grown increasingly on our own soil, and farming that lifts a family rather than merely keeping it alive.

FLAGSHIP — Farms That Feed Our Institutions

Two facts point to the same opportunity: our farmers are overwhelmingly women, and our unemployed are overwhelmingly young. Meanwhile, our schools, hospitals, prisons, police and army must be fed every single day, and too much of that food is still bought from abroad. We'll bring these together: youth- and women-led poultry, vegetable and legume farms in every district, feeding those same institutions directly, building on a school feeding programme that's already shifting toward local sourcing. One programme creates jobs for the young, income for women, better nutrition for children, a guaranteed market for farmers, and real savings on food imports — all at once, and we intend to start it in the first year.

HOW WE'LL MAKE IT REAL

- We'll work to roughly halve post-harvest losses and lift yields toward their real potential, through reliable improved seed systems, affordable fertiliser, targeted irrigation where it pays off most, and mechanisation to finally move beyond the hoe and cutlass.
- We'll rebuild agricultural knowledge as seriously as we rebuild seed and water. A national digital-extension framework — carrying advice, prices and weather warnings to farmers by mobile phone — was designed years ago and never scaled; we'll rebuild and sustain it, reaching far more farmers at far lower cost than extension officers alone ever could.
- We'll build genuine commercial industries out of livestock and forestry, both left at subsistence level for too long. Today we import most of the poultry, eggs and pork we eat; we'll organise livestock into a proper sector with real animal health, breeding, feed and security against the theft that makes farmers afraid to invest. And we'll grow a legitimate forestry industry on deliberately planted, improved timber processed into furniture and finished goods — while remaining firm against the deforestation that strips our natural forest cover, farming the timber we plant on purpose rather than cutting the forest that grows by nature.
- We'll actively diversify what Sierra Leone grows and eats beyond rice — cassava and other roots, vegetables, legumes, fruits, and the tree crops we've long underperformed in — both to protect nutrition and to make the country harder to starve when a single staple falters.
- We'll scale up farmer-agribusiness partnerships using the proven outgrower model — a company provides inputs, advice and a guaranteed buyer, the farmer provides land and labour — backed by real, competitive financing across the entire chain: inputs, production, storage, processing and market access, not just a loan at the farm gate.

- And instead of a dozen donor-funded projects pulling in different directions, we'll coordinate everyone — government and partners alike — around one government-owned sector plan, so the same feeder road doesn't get promised, funded, and abandoned by three different projects in a row.

“A country that cannot feed itself is never truly free. We should not import what our own land, water, and sunlight can grow for us.”