



Crops for Potential Expansion

Cashew—Major production areas are found in the northern region with seedlings distribution project nationwide. Total area under cultivation is approximately 9,000 acres, with a further 2,300 hectares planted.

Cassava—Grown throughout Sierra Leone for home consumption. Produced in the Northern Province for cassava starch production, and in the Southern Province for gari. A relatively small trade supplies Freetown with foofoo. Yields figures in 2007 were estimated at 9.9 - 12.9 MT/ha.

Cocoa—The most favourable areas for cocoa lie in a belt covering the Moa river drainage basin from the northeast of Kailahun District to the upper Chiefdoms of Pujehun District. Total productive area of approximately 39,000 ha, grown by small holders. Yield is approximately 225 kg/ha.

Coconut—Major production areas found in the Western Area and Southern and Eastern provinces. Small quantities of coconut oil are processed. Generally grown as backyard crop in mixed stands with other tree crops.

Koala nut—Grown as mixed crop in cocoa and coffee plantations in the Southern and Eastern Provinces.

Coffee—Mainly grown in Kono, Kenema, and Kailahun Districts. Total area under cultivation is approximately 70,000 hectares. Yield of approximately 225 kg/ha.

Ginger—Bulk of ginger is grown in parts of Moyamba, Bo, and Kenema Districts. A project implemented to resuscitated ginger production had an estimated initial harvest of 110 MT.

Maize—Major productive areas found in Moyamba, Tonkolili, Bombali, and Koinadugu Districts. Total area under cultivation is approximately 17,000 hectares. Total production is approximately 12,000 tons/annum with a yield of approximately 700 kg/ha. A large part of the crop is consumed as vegetable maize.

Oil Palm—Productive areas mostly in the southern and eastern regions. Annual palm kernel production is approximately 280,000 metric tons with estimated yields on non-indigenous commercial trees of approximately 5MT of FFB ("fresh fruit bunch")/ha, or 1 MT of palm oil.

Pissava—Is extracted from the Raphia palm, which

grows naturally in the riverine and swampy areas of the Southern Province. It is used in consuming countries in various types of heavy-duty brushes.

Rice—Productive areas throughout the country with the north being suitable for irrigation (bolilands) and the south and east for upland rice farming. Total area under cultivation is approximately 659,000 hectares. Annual production is approximately 638,000 metric tons with yields highly variable based on land ecology type (e.g., inland valley swamp, boliland, upland, etc.).

Sugar Cane—Sugar cane belts are in the Northern and Southern Provinces. Currently, there is only limited-scale production in Sierra Leone by Chinese-funded Magbass Sugar complex. About 1,000 hectares are under irrigation out of total cane production area of 1,280 hectares. Average yield of approximately 70 tons/ha of fresh cane, giving cane sugar production of about 6,000 tons/annum (approximately 20% of domestic demand). **Sweet potato**—Is grown all over the country, with Njala and Waima in the Southern Province being the major producing areas.

Yams— Limited production is confined to backyards and to rice farms nationwide.