

# UNIVERSAL FARMERS ASSOCIATION



1ST EDITION

Website: <http://www.universalfarmersassociation.org>

## THE FARMERS VOICE



**“Our Believe: No farmers, No food, No food, No Life”**





# ABOUT UFA



**Universal Farmers Association (UFA) was founded on August 24, 2011, as a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering farmers in Liberia. Our mission is to enhance food security and promote sustainable livelihoods by transitioning rural farmers from subsistence to sustainable, mechanized, and commercial farming. Through the development of cooperative and corporate farming concepts, we aim to foster self-reliance, resilience, and wealth creation among farmers while protecting natural resources and biodiversity.**

## OUR PARTNERS



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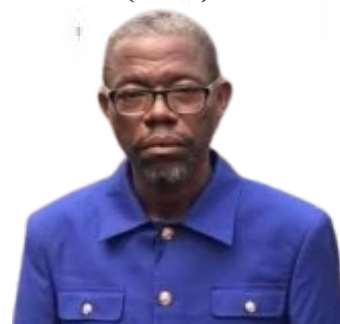
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# EDITORIAL

## Sowing Resilience, Reaping Hope

**The rhythm of the seasons**, the feel of the earth, the promise of the harvest – farming is not a vocation; it is the foundation of our communities and the foundation of our common future. This foundation is under siege as never before: climate uncertainty, market volatility, and the continued threat to food security. At Universal Farmers Association (UFA), we don't merely believe the way forward of planting seeds – it's building sustainability, forging resilience, and empowering our farmers with knowledge and opportunities they require to prosper. This magazine is testament to that mission – a forum to exchange information, celebrate successes, and chart our course to a more stable and prosperous agricultural future.

**Distinguishing ourselves from extractive farming practices**, we advocate for methods that nurture the land for generations to come. This entails promoting climate-resilient practices like conservation tillage, integration of agroforestry, improved water management, and the thoughtful use of organic inputs. Healthy soils and biodiverse ecosystems are not ideas; they are requirements for sustained productivity.

**Ensuring quality and sufficient food is accessible to all the families is our key concern.** We give importance to diversification of crops, storage and processing facilities, local food systems and local resilience to shocks. Local food security begins at the beginning with empowered farmers feeding their communities.

**Economic sustainability is what actual sustainability requires.** Farmers must not only grow food, but also have successful businesses. This is where our innovative strategies

come into play.

**There is no area where our holistic strategy is more visibly in action than in our trailblazing efforts in River Gee County.** Here, we are implementing key strategies with the goal of creating long-term change:

**The Mini-Bank Revolution: Seeds of Financial Freedom: Equitable access to credit is typically the missing link for smallholder farmers.** They are typically out of reach for conventional banks. UFA's Mini-Bank System is turning the page. These community-controlled and owned financial outlets are a source of promise. Farmers are able to obtain small, convenient loans for seeds, instruments, or processing equipment without being taken advantage of by moneylenders. Savings are encouraged and shielded, developing personal and collective capital. The "goodness" in the mini-bank is that it is simple, locally owned, and has a direct impact:

**Spurred on by the awareness of the need for diversified incomes and caring for the planet**, UFA is at the forefront of honey bee keeping in River Gee and beyond. The business is a sweet spot for sustainability.

**Bees are valuable pollinators, boosting yields for an array of crops, enhancing biodiversity.**

**Honey, beeswax, propolis, and royal jelly are desirable products of high value.** UFA-facilitated processing centers allow farmers to process locally at higher profit.

**Beekeeping takes relatively less initial investment and land**, thus within reach of most, including women and youth.

**Honey production tends to be less vulnerable to the same climatic**

**shocks that occur with annual crops.**

**We train in innovative, ecologically sustainable hive management**, honey harvesting techniques, and basic processing and packaging. Our vision is to establish a successful, market-oriented apiculture industry that complements subsistence agriculture.

Mini-bank loans and diversified activities like beekeeping and cassava cultivation are putting more money directly into farmers' pockets.

Diversified farming and sustainable agriculture lead to more reliable harvests and more varieties of food. Financial savings, diversified income, and sustainable agriculture make families more resilient to shocks.

**Our work is never done.** We keep learning, changing, and striving for improvement. Scaling up successful mini-bank model and apiculture activities to greater numbers of villages.

**The UFA Magazine Farmers Voice-Your Go-to Guide.** Success stories and lessons learned directly from River Gee's farms and beyond.

**We invite you to read widely**, share widely, and engage actively. Let this magazine be your guide, your inspiration, and your connection to the vibrant community of UFA farmers building a more sustainable, secure, and better world.

**With empowered farmers**, with sustainable practices, and innovative systems like our mini-banks and productive apiaries, together we are not simply planting crops; we are creating resilience, harvesting hope, and securing the future of agriculture for all.

# MEET OUR STAFF



**Mr. Semeh Roberts**  
Executive Director



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**Mr. Jerry B. Wakie**  
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**Mr. Garoteh M. Jah**  
Warehouse Supervisor



# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear UFA Family,

Greetings to you all, our farmers, partners, supporters, and change makers!

As we sow seeds for the next season, both literally and figuratively, I want to take a moment to reflect on our shared journey, and the extraordinary momentum we are building together here at the Universal Farmers Association (UFA). Our mission to empower farmers, especially Single mothers, uplift communities, and cultivate sustainable agricultural practices is not just a slogan, it's a movement, and *you* are at the heart of it.

This year, we've seen incredible resilience in the face of challenges, from climate shifts to market fluctuations. Yet, what continues to inspire me is the unwavering spirit of all of you, farmers. Whether working the land under the hot sun or innovating with climate-smart technologies, UFA members are redefining what it means to be farmers in the 21st century. You are not just producers, you are

stewards of the earth, drivers of food security, and champions of change.

At UFA, we are planting more than crops, we're planting knowledge, unity, and hope. Our recent training programs on honey bee farming and Soap Production have reached over 700 farmers in just three days. That's not just progress; that's transformation.

We've also launched new partnerships that are opening up access to better markets, financial tools, and cutting-edge farming techniques. And for the first time, we're integrating CALF- the Central Agriculture Loan Facility to help farmers access agriculture loans to engage all at their fingertips to engage the soil for sustainable growth. The future of farming is smart, and we're proud to be paving the way.

But none of this is possible without **you**. Every seed planted, every harvest reaped, every innovation shared, each act contributes to a larger needlepoint of growth and possibility. We are a network of farmers, but more importantly, we are a family. And in this family, we rise together.

I want to particularly recognize the caring support from the WHH, the BMZ and the Medicor Foundation that enables our beloved organization to reach with services that are of significant to rural women, especially the single mothers and the youth farmers who are breaking barriers and redefining leadership in agriculture.

Your energy, creativity, and courage give us hope for generations to come. You remind us that farming is not just a way of life, it is a force of empowerment.

As we move forward, our focus remains clear: building stronger cooperatives, improving food systems, protecting our environment, and ensuring that farming remains a dignified, rewarding, and sustainable path for all.

So, as you turn the pages of this newsletter and read stories from across our network, remember, these stories are *your* stories. They are proof that when farmers unite, nothing is impossible.

On behalf of the entire UFA team, thank you for your commitment, your courage, and your trust. Together, we are not just growing food, we are growing futures. Remember, without farmers, there will be no food and without food, there will be no life. That's why UFA's first step is to train the community dwellers to ensure that they acquire the requisite farming knowledge to farm and produce more food to feed their family, feed the communities in which they live, the districts in which they live, the county in which they live, the country in which they live and the world as the whole World. With deep respect and solidarity,  
**Mr. Semeh Gebelee Roberts**  
Executive Director,  
Universal Farmers Association (UFA),  
[www.universalfarmersassociation.org](http://www.universalfarmersassociation.org)



COMING SOON



## UFA HOLDS THREE DAYS HONEY BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP MATCH IN PICTURES IN JAYPROKEN-RIVER GEE COUNTY





## UFA THREE DAYS HONEY BEEKEEPING TRAINING IN PICTURES IN JAYPROKEN-RIVER GEE COUNTY





# UFA EMBACKS ON NEW MICRO FINANCE LOAN BUILDING FOR SMALL FARM HOLDERS IN SWEAKEN, RIVER GEE COUNTY





# UFA PRACTICAL BEEHIVES DISPLAY IN JAYPROKEN-RIVER GEE COUNTY





# UFA Empowers Farmers Groups in Soap Making Sweaken River Gee County



Swaken, River Gee County, Liberia: In a major step toward improving food security and economic resiliency, the



Universal Farmers Association (UFA) has recently put a final stamp on a highly transformational Soup Making Training program at Swaken Farm stall facility, River Gee County, Liberia. The program involved 60 farmers' groups, consisting of hundreds of smallholder farmers, profiting them with skills in processing locally grown crops into nutritious soups for income generation and community nutrition.

The two days long training, in collaboration with various local

agricultural cooperatives and nutrition experts, taught farmers to transform their staple crops such as cassava, sweet potatoes, leafy greens, and protein-rich legumes into shelf-stable and market-ready soups. Processes were taught on how to efficiently handle production, preservation, packaging, and food safety so that all considered health legal

standards, while low-cost approaches were emphasized so that these techniques can be adopted by rural communities. "This program is about turning abundance into opportunity," said UFA Project Coordinator Victor S. Kaie. "Many farmers here grow nutritious crops but face post-harvest losses or limited markets. By adding value through soup production, we're tackling food waste, improving diets, and creating pathways to economic independence."





# UFA SOAP MAKING TRAINING IN PICTURES SWEAKEN-RIVER GEE COUNTY





# UFA SOAP MAKING TRAINING PRACTICAL IN PICTURES SWEAKEN-RIVER GEE COUNTY





## ED MR. SEMEH ROBERTS MEETS MR. SHERIFF TWEH OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (MoA)



ED Mr. Semeh Roberts of UFA and Mr. Sherif Weah of Agriculture Ministry River Gee County

UFA and Ministry of Agriculture Team Up to Boost Farming in River Gee County

River Gee County, Liberia – In an exciting move to promote agricultural growth, Mr. Semeh Roberts, the Executive Director of the Universal Farmers Association (UFA) Liberia, recently sat down with Mr. Sherif B. Weah, the County Agriculture Coordinator for Liberia's Ministry of Agriculture, right here in River Gee County on [insert date]. Their important conversation focused on building a partnership to tackle urgent challenges and create new opportunities for local farmers.

Agriculture is the heart of Liberia's economy, providing jobs for over 60% of the population and contributing around 26% to the national GDP. Yet, farmers in rural areas like River Gee County often face obstacles like limited access to modern farming

techniques, quality supplies, and market connections. Aware of these challenges, UFA—a non-profit committed to supporting smallholder farmers—and the Ministry of Agriculture came together to explore ways to foster sustainable growth.

During their meeting, Mr. Roberts shared UFA's grassroots efforts, which include training programs for farmers, seed distribution initiatives, and advocacy for climate-smart practices. “Our goal is to empower farmers with the skills and resources they need to succeed,” he said. “Working

alongside the Ministry will help us make a bigger difference, ensuring that every farmer has a chance to thrive.”

Mr. Weah agreed, highlighting the government's dedication to aligning local initiatives with national agricultural strategies. “The fertile lands of River Gee are full of potential. By collaborating with UFA,

we can fill the gaps in resources, technology, and infrastructure,” he noted.

Their discussion pinpointed several key focus areas:

**Capacity Building:** Joint workshops aimed at training farmers in sustainable practices, pest management, and post-harvest techniques **INCLUDING** Honey beekeeping.

**Resource Access:** Improving the distribution of high-yield seeds, fertilizers, and other essential inputs to enhance productivity.





# WHH PARTNERS MONITORIG TEAM VISTS UFA RIVERGEE PROJECT SITE IN RIVER GEE COUNTY IN PICTURES







**CALF**  
**CENTRAL AGRICULTURE**  
**LOAN FACILITY**

**COMING SOON**



**UFA, INC.**  
**UNIVERSAL FARMERS ASSOCIATION**

(AN APEX OF FARMERS AND FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT: [WWW.UFA-INC.COM](http://WWW.UFA-INC.COM) OR CONTACT US AT: [info@ufa-inc.com](mailto:info@ufa-inc.com)

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**NOTIO: "ENGAGING THE SOIL FOR SUSTAINABLE LIFE!"**  
**OUR BELIEF: "NO FARMER, NO FOOD! NO FOOD, NO LIFE!"**