

SURVEY BRIEF

Agricultural year 2024

LIBERIA



© FAO / Andrew Esiebo

Under the umbrella of the 50x2030 Initiative to Close the Agricultural Data Gap, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) collaborates with the World Bank to support Liberia's commitment to conduct one agricultural census and two annual agricultural surveys. The Liberia 2024 Annual Agriculture Survey (LAAS-2024) was conducted by the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and is the first of these regular agricultural surveys.

Through the Initiative, the country will strengthen its national statistics system, improve the use of survey data in policymaking and enhance the capacity of key data users to optimize evidence-based decisions.

Key features

This note provides key insights on agricultural holdings in the household sector in Liberia during the agricultural year 2024. It presents indicators on agricultural land and holding size, crop output and yields, livestock rearing, input and labour use. More detailed indicators are available in the [Liberia Annual Agriculture Survey 2024 Final Report \(LISGIS, 2025\)](#). A technical annex at the end of this document provides further details on the indicators presented, definitions, sources and assumptions used.

Key characteristics of agricultural holdings

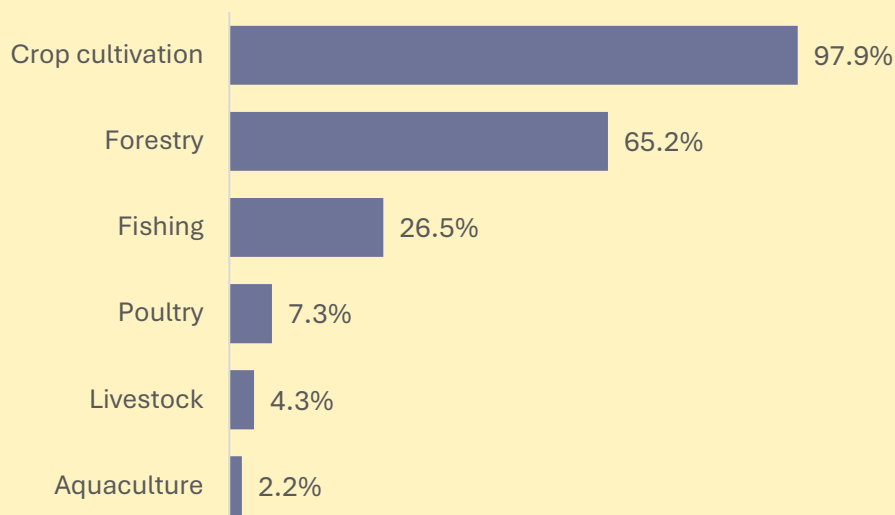
Liberia has approximately 348 000 agricultural holdings in the household sector, almost all of which (97.9 percent) engage in crop production. By contrast, livestock rearing and poultry keeping are much less common, practiced by 4.3 percent and 7.3 percent of holdings, respectively. Forestry and fishing activities are more widespread, involving 65.2 percent and 26.5 percent of holdings, respectively. Aquaculture remains limited, reported by only 2.2 percent of holdings. Liberia’s agriculture is predominantly smallholder-based, with nearly all the agricultural holdings being individual farms (96.4 percent) operated by civil persons. Nationwide, only 11.7 percent of holdings are registered, reflecting the deeply informal character of the sector.

348 000

agricultural
holdings



Distribution of agricultural households by activity type



11.7%

registered
farms

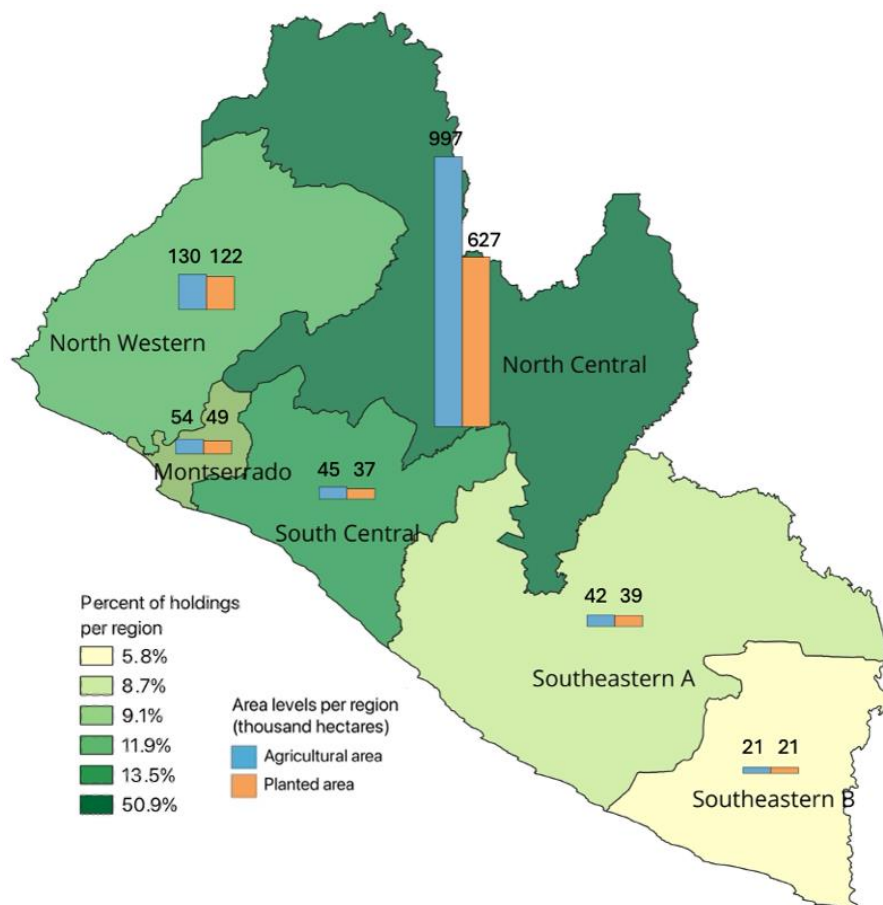
Average planted area

2.7 ha

per holding

Distribution of agricultural holdings, total agricultural area and planted area by region

Agricultural activity is concentrated in the North Central region, which accounts for 70.0 percent (or 627 394 hectares) of the total national planted area and hosts more than half of all agricultural holdings (50.9 percent), with an average farm size that exceeds the national average. Of the total 1.29 million hectares that qualify as agricultural area, around 896 393 hectares are planted, indicating that around 30 percent remains either fallow or underutilised. The rate of underutilisation is uneven across regions and relatively high in the North Central region.



Note: Refer to the disclaimer on page 10 for the names and boundaries used in this map.

Source: Author's own elaboration, based on LISGIS.

2025. *Liberia Annual Agriculture Survey 2024 Final Report*. Liberia.

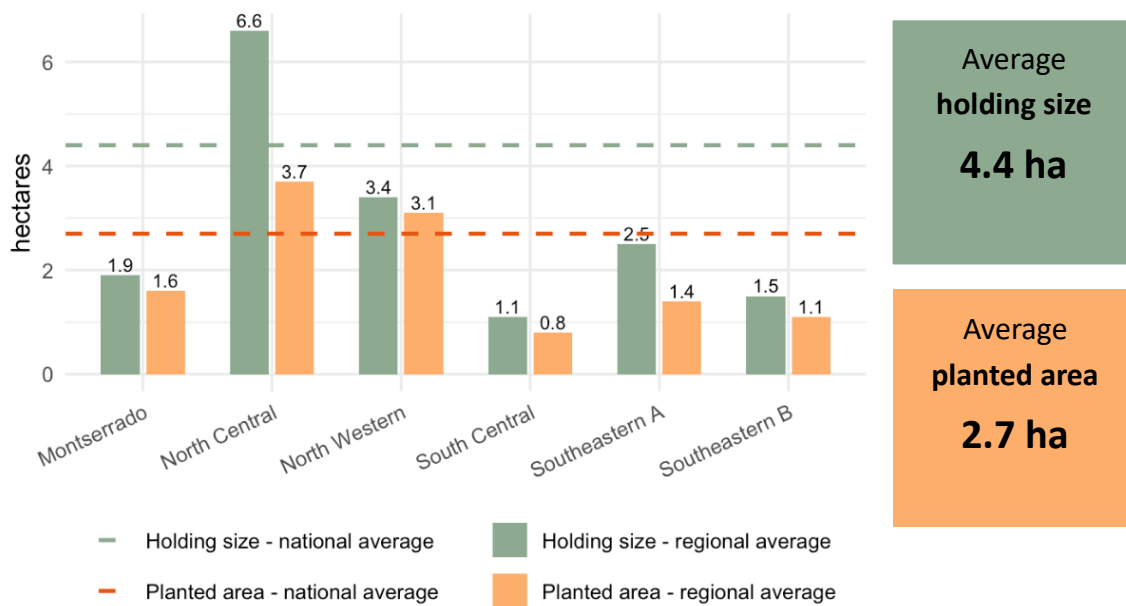
[https://lisgis.gov.lr/admin_area/surveys/pdf/202512223466300ILP_Report_12-17-](https://lisgis.gov.lr/admin_area/surveys/pdf/202512223466300ILP_Report_12-17-2025_cleaned_final.pdf)

[2025_cleaned_final.pdf](https://lisgis.gov.lr/admin_area/surveys/pdf/202512223466300ILP_Report_12-17-2025_cleaned_final.pdf)

Average holding size and planted area by region

The size of agricultural holdings varies considerably across regions, with larger averages in the northern regions – particularly North Central (6.6 ha) and North Western (3.4 ha) – while remaining between 1.1 and 2.5 ha in the rest of the country. The larger holdings observed in the northern regions bring the national average holding size to 4.4 ha, and the average planted area to 2.7 ha.

Average holding size and average planted area per holding



Crop output, harvested area and yields

Rice and cassava dominate agricultural production at the household level, playing a central role in food security. Rice records the highest yield among cereals (2.0 tonnes per ha), while cassava’s yield is relatively low for a root crop (1.0 tonne per ha). Other important crops include pepper, eggplant (bitterball) and corn, though their cultivation remains limited compared with rice and cassava. Cash crops also make up a significant share of agricultural household production, contributing to income stability: rubber, cocoa and palm oil are the most extensively cultivated.

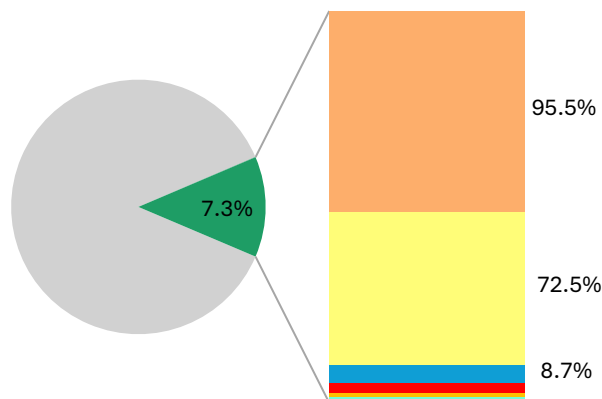
Crops	Harvested area Hectares	Output Tonnes	Yield Tonnes per hectare
Cereals, tubers and roots			
Rice	139 707	201 074	2.0
Cassava	20 192	14 591	1.0
Corn	3 438	2 937	1.5
Cash crops			
Rubber	62 306	14 004	0.6
Cocoa	33 457	2 013	0.1
Palm oil	10 260	8 017	1.5
Vegetable crops			
Pepper	5 104	1 731	0.4
Eggplant (bitterball)	3 918	1 248	0.5
Fruits			
Plantain	3 145	3 388	2.1

Note: Crops are sorted in descending order by harvest area within each crop type.

Livestock rearing

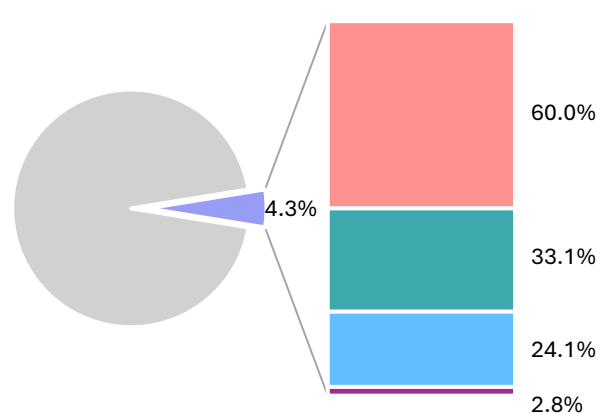
A minority of holdings engage in livestock and poultry farming: 4.3 percent of holdings rear livestock (excluding poultry) and 7.3 percent rear poultry. Despite low overall participation, holdings active in the sector tend to rear multiple species. Poultry is the most common category. Among poultry-rearing holdings, almost all keep indigenous chickens, while exotic breeds remain marginal (layers are kept by only 2.0 percent and broilers by 1.9 percent of the poultry-rearing holdings), indicating the limited development of commercial poultry systems. Goats, pigs and sheep are the most common reared livestock species, while cattle are kept by only a small minority of holdings.

Distribution of holdings by poultry species



- No poultry
- All poultry
- Indigenous chicken (hens)
- Indigenous chicken (rooster)
- Ducks
- Pullets/DOCs
- Exotic chicken (layers)
- Exotic chicken (broilers)

Distribution of holdings by livestock species

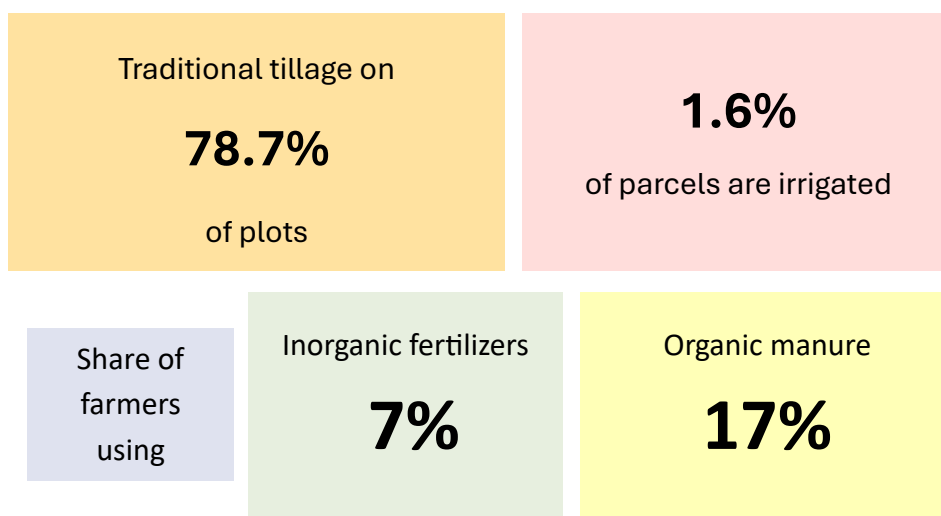


- No livestock
- All livestock
- Goats
- Pigs
- Sheep
- Cows

Note 1: Livestock does not include poultry. **Note 2:** Poultry includes indigenous chicken (hens and rooster), ducks, pullets/ day-old chicks (DOCs), exotic chicken (layers and broilers), guinea fowls and others.

Agricultural practices and input use

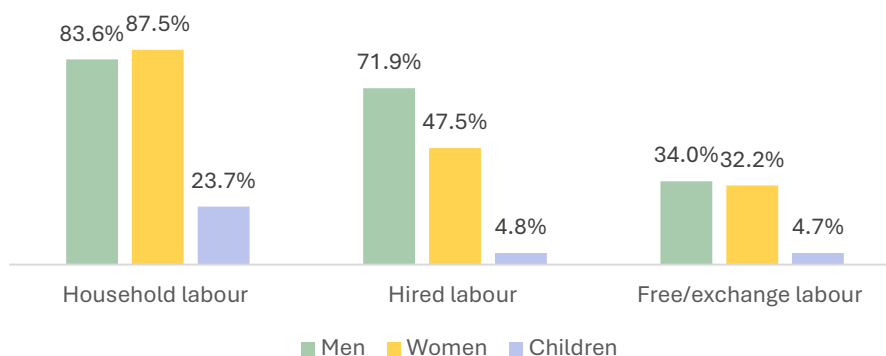
Farming remains predominantly traditional. Most plots are prepared using traditional tillage methods (78.7 percent), while mechanized practices remain rare (0.2 percent of plots), and around one-fifth of plots are prepared without any tillage (17.4 percent). Irrigation is practiced on only 1.6 percent of parcels, predominantly through manual watering, underscoring the sector's strong dependence on rain-fed agriculture. The use of agricultural inputs remains limited: just 7 percent of farmers apply inorganic fertilizers, while 17 percent use organic manure. Pesticide use is uncommon and mostly practiced by vegetable growers.



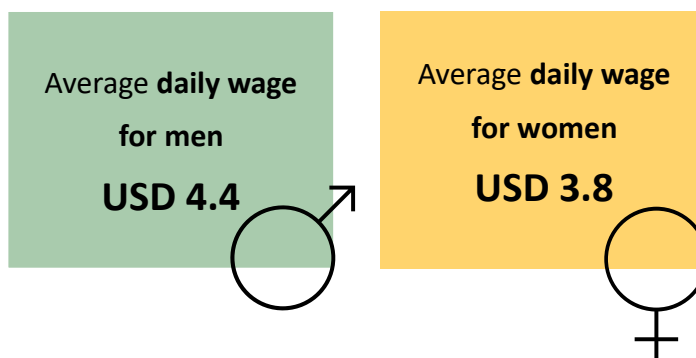
Labour Input

Labour provided by household members dominates agricultural production: 87.5 percent of holdings rely on female family members for farming activities, and 83.6 percent on male family members. Hired labour is also widely used, primarily involving men: 71.9 percent of holdings rely on male hired workers, compared to 47.5 percent involving female hired labour. Children (defined as individuals aged 15 or younger) also contribute to agricultural activities, mainly as part of the household labour force, with 23.7 percent of holdings relying on them.

Proportion of agricultural households employing different types of labour, by demographic group



Women are not only less commonly employed as hired workers, but also receive lower wages on average: female hired workers earn an average USD 3.8 per day (PPP-adjusted), compared to USD 4.4 for male workers.



Technical annex

Sources and scope

Data source:

- Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS). 2025. *Liberia Annual Agriculture Survey 2024 Final Report (LAAS-2024 Final Report)*. Monrovia.
https://lisgis.gov.lr/admin_area/surveys/pdf/202512223466300ILP_Report_12-17-2025_cleaned_final.pdf
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). 2010. *World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010*. Appendix 3. Rome.
https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/ess/documents/world_census_of_agriculture/appendix3_r7.pdf
- Geographical scope: Nationally representative survey.
- Product scope: crops and livestock.
- Cash and staple crops classification is based on LAAS-2024 Final Report (LISGIS, 2025).
- Crop classification follows the definitions adopted in the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (FAO, 2010).
- The conversion factor from LRD to USD reflects the:
 - World Bank's Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) based on GDP for the year 2024. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/PA.NUS.PPP>
 - International Monetary Fund Annual exchange rate 2024 LRD-USD. [https://data.imf.org/en/Data-Explorer?datasetUrn=IMF.STA:ER\(4.0.1\)](https://data.imf.org/en/Data-Explorer?datasetUrn=IMF.STA:ER(4.0.1))

Indicators

All the indicators produced in this brief can be considered as statistically representative at the geographical scale at which they are presented. Definitions below are provided by the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS). For full details, please refer to the LAAS-2024 Final Report (LISGIS, 2025).

- Yields: the ratio (in tonnes per ha) between harvested quantities and harvested area, by crop.
- Agricultural area includes area already used for farming, or that could be brought back into cultivation using the resources normally available on an agricultural holding.
- Agricultural holding: economic unit of agricultural production under single management comprising all livestock kept, and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form or size.
- Agricultural household (farming household): population unit referring to a household with members practicing own account agricultural activities.
- Plot: part or whole of a field on which a specific crop or crop mixture is cultivated.

- Parcel: any piece of land of one land tenure type, entirely surrounded by other land, water, road, forest or other features not forming part of the holding or forming part of the holding under a different land tenure type.
- Organic fertilizers include solid manure, liquid manure/slurry, vegetable material and compost, stabilized sewage sludge, bio stimulants, and other organic fertilizers.
- Inorganic (chemical) fertilizers include urea, other nitrogenous fertilizers, superphosphates (above 35 percent of P₂O₅), other phosphatic fertilizers, potassium chloride (MOP), other potassic fertilizers, NPK, diammonium phosphate (DAP), and other inorganic fertilizers
- Pesticides include insecticides, herbicides (solid), herbicides (liquid), fungicides, rodenticides and sex pheromones.
- Tillage: any physical loosening of the soil carried out in a range of cultivation operations, either by hand or mechanized.

The data presented in this brief are sourced from countries' surveys and may differ from data published on other FAO platforms.

FAO Survey Team/50x2030 Initiative
Statistics Division – Economic and Social Development
integrated-agricultural-surveys@fao.org
www.fao.org/in-action/agrisurvey
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Rome, Italy

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

© FAO and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank, 2026



Some rights reserved. This work is available under a [CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/) licence