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Deputy SRSG and Liberia's Vice-President visit key Central Agriculture Research Institute in central Liberia

Gbarnga, Liberia – The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Recovery and Governance, Mr. Jordan Ryan, together with the Vice President of Liberia Hon. Joseph Boakai have just undertaken a trip to Suakoko, in Bong County, to visit some newly-initiated agricultural projects at the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI).



Deputy SRSG and Vice-President Boakai meet with government officials and UN representatives in CARI

Speaking at the re-launching ceremony, on Saturday, Mr. Ryan stressed the importance of agriculture in Liberia's reconstruction and recovery, "Many years ago, CARI was central in making sure Liberia was successful in its agricultural approach. And now, with the new government in place, real emphasis is on trying to get agriculture back in place. Agriculture plays a fundamental role in the future of Liberia, and the United Nations looks forward to supporting CARI to make sure that agriculture is a driver of change and the source of greater prosperity for all Liberians."

DSRSG Ryan urged the Liberians to take greater responsibility and start working together to achieve a brighter future for Liberia. "This government is committed to do more, and we are seeing the step by step progress being made. The work of the United Nations Mission in Liberia since it began three years ago is widely recognized as a success, but we do need to do more together to make sure the future gets better and better," he said.

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Thanking donors, NGOs and the Louisiana State University, Vice-President Joseph Boakai said continuous international assistance would still be needed, "We are very happy today to re-launch CARI again. Liberia has come a very long way. We had very high-quality trained manpower in CARI before. To re-build the manpower and capacity development here, we need continuous support from our donors again."

CARI was first established in 1980 and remained the only national research outfit in Liberia before the war. Its revitalization of the agricultural institution is deemed to be critical to the development of the Liberian agricultural sector.

Deputy SRSG Ryan and Vice-President Boakai were accompanied by the Minister of Agriculture, Chris Toe, the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Dr. Walter Gwenigale, the Minister of Transport, Jeremiah Sulunteh, the Country Director of USAID in Liberia, Wilbur Thomas, and the Vice-President of the Cuttington University for Academic Affairs, James Mock. Representatives of the Food and Agricultural Organization and the World Food Programme and the Chinese Embassy also attended.
