



# GREENHOUSE

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## “The Honey Story-Sustainable livelihood for all”

On May 24, 2013, the In-Country Equator Award ceremony was held in the Jordan Ryan Conference Room, Bryant Building-UNDP. As national ownership and sustainability of projects have begun to manifest itself in a more positive way, the Small Grants Programme (SGP) through the West Africa Initiative of Liberia (WAIL), a local NGO in partnership with Universal Outreach Foundation have embarked on honey bee farming and production in Nimba and Margibi Counties.

At the Opening ceremony, Mr. Dominic Sam; UNDP’s Country Director, stressed that if Liberia must be successful in its developmental agenda, Liberia must always be peaceful in order to enhance progress at the communities, counties and regional levels. He reiterated the call for Climate change and energy management which are vital to Liberia’s development should be mainstreamed so that it could be more sustainable.

The West Africa Initiative of Liberia (WAIOL), a Local Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) working in the area of nature conservation and sustainable livelihood activities was among twenty five NGOs in 2012 that won the Equator Prize which recognizes outstanding local initiatives working to advance sustainable development solutions for people. The Equator initiative is a UNDP-led partnership dedicated to recognizing and advancing local sustainable development solutions for nature and resilient communities. The prize is awarded biennially to deserving NGOs.

Mr. Ezekiel Freeman laureate for the Equator prize expressed his heartfelt thanks and appreciation to UNDP for the Equator Award and assured his colleagues that West Africa Initiative will re-double its efforts to carry out massive production for the good of the Liberia people.

The honey bees Farmer’s Association comprises of Local bee farmers in Hindi-Bong Mines; Margibi and Ganta-Nimba Counties.



**24.05.2013: Equator prize- Group at the In-Country Award ceremony**  
The honey bee is good for the ecosystem while bees are agents of pollination.



**Liberia Pure Honey on display in a super market: Courtesy-WAIOL**

Mr. Thomas Hocker, Technical Manager for the Bee Farming Association lauded the support of SGP that has sustained and brought value added to their project. ‘We can now produce and sell Pure Liberia honey on the local market which has reduced the high dependency syndrome of the past’ he opined

“These community efforts are heroic and inspiring,” said Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme. “And that is what the Equator Prize is all about – shining a spotlight on the women and men on the front lines of sustainable development. At UNDP, we are deeply proud of leading this partnership initiative that provides a voice for communities.”

The journey from harvesting to distributing honey is multifaceted and it is an act on the theater. From beehive to supermarket and finally reaching the table, the harvesting of honey is a compelling drama.

The In-Country Equator Prize Award ceremony was attended by Messrs Dominic Sam; Country Director UNDP Liberia, Cleophas Torori, Deputy Resident Representative/ programme UNDP, Liberia; Hon. Sei Gyan, Assistant Minister-Ministry of Commerce, 25 NGO/CBOs. The Liberia Pure Honey farmers’ products is produced and marketed in Liberia.



For details contact: John Walker; Assistant Resident Representative-Pro Poor, Robert Dorliae; Programme Analyst- Moses Massah-Programme Specialist, Kumeh Assaf- Climate Change Advisor; Energy & Environment Programme and Samuel Boakai, National Coordinator-Small Grants Programme

For more information contact: 0886 512.948, 088 6 48-95-90, 0886 558,574, 0886 381,644;