

## President Koroma's Special Advisers Take the "Agenda For Prosperity" to SLARI



**Prof. Monty Jones Addressing SLARI Scientists**

"Our beloved country Sierra Leone is endowed with huge agricultural resources and therefore unforgivable for it to be spending huge needed foreign exchange to import rice and other food items into the country", Professor Monty Jones, Special Adviser to President Koroma and Ambassador at Large has told

Scientists of the Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI) at the Rokupr and Njala Agricultural Research Centres.

He disclosed that the President's "Agenda for prosperity" for all Sierra Leoneans cannot be farfetched if only the greater portion of the country's population who are farmers are provided with the enabling environment to do their best by tapping into the huge agricultural resources of the country. He revealed that the purpose of their visit (President Koroma's Special Advisers) including Alhaji Ibrahim B.Kargbo and Ambassador Dauda Kamara was to assess what SLARI was doing and to see how its activities and programmes could be aligned with the Agenda for Prosperity.

The programmes and activities of the two centres were made through power point presentations to the Presidential Advisers including their respective crop improvement, resources and crop management, outreach

and socio-economic; farm mechanization and nutrition programmes. In order to make available to farmers pure, weed-free and quality foundation seeds of upland and lowland rice varieties, breeder seeds were produced, suitable soils characterized for different rice growing ecologies among others.

Research and development activities at the centres were also highlighted including cowpea productivity and income for sustainable livelihood for resource poor farmers, putting nitrogen fixation to work for small holder farmers in Africa, Sierra Leone; development and dissemination of high yielding cassava genotypes for increased adoption and productivity. T

The three Special Presidential Advisers commended the efforts of the centres especially in the face of scarce resources and suggested ways SLARI activities and programmes can be aligned with the Agenda for Prosperity. These among many others included: generation and widespread dissemination of technologies in line with the felt needs of our farmers and



**Advisers discussing and Assessing activities on the ground**

other actors, not to stand alone but to use multi sectoral and collaborative approach so as to effectively and efficiently tap into the services of other related sectors, provide services that will help develop and promote the Agricultural Product Value Chain, develop packages that will encourage intensification for a reasonable period of time without significant depletion or damage to the soil. They also suggested the effective use of the

Agricultural Business Centres (ABCs) as Platforms for the dissemination of research technologies for adoption as well as the need to organize workshops for journalists and parliamentarians for better understanding of research programmes and activities for support and goodwill.

The three man presidential Advisory Team and SLARI research staff visited opinion leaders of the two districts including heads of the District Councils, Paramount Chiefs, District Agricultural Officers, and the Principal of the Njala University apprising them of the purpose of the visit and soliciting their support.

Earlier, SLARI Acting Director General Professor Alpha K. Lakoh welcomed the Presidential Advisers and told them of the efforts his institution is making to boost food security and poverty reduction. He disclosed that he



**SLARI Scientists paying keen attention**

appreciates the need for occasional guidelines and adjustments in line with emerging policy issues. He explained the challenges of the institute including funding to meet the increasing and complex demands of its clients adding that with the support of the government, the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme (WAAPP) and other programme, his Institute is striving to achieve its mandates.