Rice Value Chain Investment Opportunity

Scaling mechanisation, milling, storage and market linkages to reduce import dependence and improve domestic supply.



Government priority | FAO pre-screened | Structuring required

INVESTMENT PROPOSITION

A nationally prioritised investment platform combining private mechanisation services, modern milling and storage, and cluster-level aggregation and finance. The opportunity aims to raise farm productivity, improve grain quality and convert existing demand for imported rice into a scalable domestic market.

US$191.0m	US$20.6m	32.1%	38,200
INDICATIVE INVESTMENT	NET PRESENT VALUE	INDICATIVE IRR	DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

INVESTMENT PACKAGE

Mechanisation service centres	Private	US$100.0m
Post-harvest and processing	Private / PPP	US$49.2m
Aggregation, storage and financing	PPP	US$41.8m

MARKET AND BANKABILITY

- Imports meet about one-third of national rice demand, around 350,000 to 450,000 tonnes a year, valued at US$150m to US$200m.
- Average yields are about 2.0 to 2.4 tonnes per hectare against demonstrated potential of about 8 tonnes per hectare.
- FAO reports that Sierra Leone's 2024 cereal output reached about 1.6 million tonnes, around 16% above the previous five-year average.
- Feed Salone is expanding mechanisation and lowland and irrigated rice systems, strengthening the investment pipeline.

INVESTMENT ASK

Seeking commercial operators, equipment financiers, millers, storage developers, lenders and PPP partners to structure and finance bankable subprojects across priority rice clusters.

2028 target: halve rice imports, double yields to 4 t/ha, raise milling utilisation to 80%, and reduce post-harvest losses below 10%.

Sources: FAO Hand-in-Hand Initiative 2026, FAO GIEWS Sierra Leone, Feed Salone implementation work. Indicative portfolio case. Individual assets require site validation, sponsor selection, technical due diligence, procurement and financing documentation.