

# Supporting Female Farmers as they Battle with Climate Change

A Highlight of CIPLCOs Member Joannah

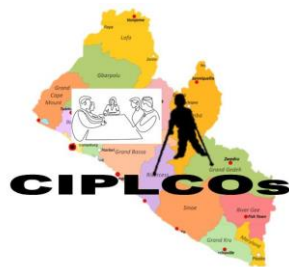
## About CIPLCOs

We are a consortium of indigenous peoples and local community organizations (CIPLCOs) across Liberia.

Indigenous and rural communities are among the most vulnerable to economic and climate changes, yet they are often excluded from the decision-making processes related to these changes. These communities often lack the resources or education to impact their situation.

CIPLCOs was initiated in the spring of 2023 to provide a voice for these communities, while coordinating the financial and logistic support that they need to move forward.

*Write to us and support this mission by helping one of the most impacted groups of people in our world today.*



**Joannah** is one of the first to have joined CIPLCOs since its inception this spring. At the young age of 33, Joannah has already become an inspiration for those around her. Currently, Joannah shares her passion by offering workshops and educational sessions on agriculture, gender equality, and environmental protection. Like many of the leaders around the country, Joannah has become intimately familiar with the challenges that face women in rural Liberia. The promise that these leaders pursue and which CIPLCOs plans to bring is a united effort to overcome these challenges as one.

Agriculture was never a central part of Joannah's life growing up, as neither of her parents worked on a farm. Rather, the interest was spurred by cherished moments spent harvesting crops as a family during visits to her grandparents' home. During her years in high school, Joannah was elected cultural minister, granting the opportunity to learn about the lifestyles and challenges of the surrounding communities. These experiences together formed the interest in agriculture and the belief that it could be a tool to help not only communities, but all of Liberia.

CIPLCOs Liberia

[libindigenousconsortium@gmail.com](mailto:libindigenousconsortium@gmail.com)

After continuing to study general forestry at the university of Liberia, Joannah started a career helping women to adapt to the challenges faced by rural farmers today, the largest of which being climate change. Though Liberia has always been one of West Africa's rainiest countries, the rainy season has at least been consistent. In recent years, Joannah and the women she works with report battling increasingly long and unpredictable rain patterns. The traditional planting schemes that are based on six months of dry season simply do not apply any more. "There just isn't enough sun for many of our traditional crops to fully mature," Joannah explains.



The solution that Joannah teaches is "climate smart farming," a strategy which utilizes different crops that are better adapted to the changing climate. In her work teaching climate smart farming, Joannah has seen success, though only to a certain extent. The reality is that there are simply too many challenges that can be faced alone. Degraded roads, market saturation, deforestation, and land rights disputes all number top difficulties that keep rural women in a cycle of subsistence farming.

Joannah's wish is simply that the rest of the world may develop an interest in the rural women of Liberia. She is not alone in this wish. Across the country, one may find passionate and dedicated individuals who are making big moves to support their communities. CIPLCOs was founded to bring awareness and support to local communities across Liberia, uniting the voices of leaders like Joannah.

**We invite you to support CIPCOs' cause by following for additional content, sharing your own story, or supporting financially if you are able. While we are a young organization, the future is bright for the Indigenous Peoples and Local Community Organizations across Liberia.**