

## Project Update: January 2015

The delay in submitting my final report for the project stem from the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease that claimed lots of lives across the length and breadth of Liberia. This situation resulted to restriction on traveling and large gathering imposed by the Government of Liberia in an attempt to stop the spread of the disease. This also brought set back in some aspect of our project. For example, the development of a legal document by the project communities with the involvement of the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) to guarantee community ownership of wood lots when matured for harvesting is still outstanding. This aspect requires the gathering of district and clan leadership including other relevant stakeholders to review, make inputs and come out with the final document. Unfortunately, this could not be done in the face of the Ebola disease due to restriction.

Now that the disease is subsiding, I have been on the field for the past couple of weeks finding the possibility to gather relevant stakeholders for development of the document aforementioned. The process has started at the community level by drafting the document to be reviewed by the district and clan authorities before submitting to FDA for final review and signature. This may take about a week or two.

In the main time, I attach photos of young *Cassia fikifiki* seedlings growing in the Cassia garden along with some timber tree species (*Heriteria utilis*) planted in the woodlot in Zanway, one of the project communities.

