“the government [of Sierra Leone] has singled out cannabis cultivation as an emergent threat [to food security].”

Source:
http://www.africareview.com/Special+Reports/Cannabis+cultivation+threatens+food+security-in+Sierra+Leone/979182/1369326/-/af46fede.htr
Marijuana has a long history in Africa, entwined with the history and geography of labor.

“Smoking the fatal liamba”, Angola, 1880s
Literature on *Cannabis* diffusion in and from Africa suffers from overgeneralization and poor research.

“Black slaves [in the U.S.] knew of it from their experience of *dagga* back in Africa”.  

“we have found no evidence of cannabis in West Africa before the Second World War, despite the attractive possibilities […] for diffusion from the eastern side of the continent”  
Um pouco da história da maconha

do Sul pelos colonizadores e as primeiras plantações foram feitas no Chile, pelos espanhóis. No Brasil, chegou no século XVI, trazida pelos escravos africanos que a utilizavam em rituais de Candomblé. Foi então incorporada a algumas tribos indígenas, em seus rituais. No final do século XIX, a maconha era considerada um medicamento e era utilizada por muitos laboratórios farmacêuticos americanos para produzir analgésicos, evitar convulsões.
Documents show cultural diffusion, biological diffusion, or both.

**Suggestive:**
“tobacco of poisonous-smelling qualities”
– An English Lady (1849)
*A Residence at Sierra Leone.*

**Circumstantial:**
“There is a certain narcotic root [in St. Helena], called by the negroes ‘diamba’”
– M’Henry (1845) *Simmond’s Colonial Magazine.*

**Direct, without introduction story:**
“This mangy people [in Lagos] appeared to me a merry race of pagans […] smoking Diamba”
– Burton (1863) *Wanderings in West Africa.*

**Direct, with introduction story:**
“Its seed was brought to Sierra Leone by Congoes captured by one of our cruisers”
– Clarke (1851) *Journal of Botany.*


**diamba/liamba/riamba**

singular for ‘Cannabis indica’, KiMbundu and related languages

**mariamba**

plural for ‘Cannabis indica’

**marijuana**

Central American Spanish, late 1800s

**Recaptive – Caribbean – Central American pathway**

**jamba**

Sierra Leone Krio

**Recaptive – Sierra Leone pathway**

Image: [http://www.nossoskimbos.net/Etnografia/Povos/images/LundaQuioco%20mulher%20fumando%20pela%20mutona.jpg](http://www.nossoskimbos.net/Etnografia/Povos/images/LundaQuioco%20mulher%20fumando%20pela%20mutona.jpg)

Angola, 1920s
Mutopa water pipe, Angola, early 1900s

Bong, U.S., 2010s

“The [...] common [marijuana] pipe [...] made and available anywhere in Lower Guinea [...] consisting of a hollowed gourd, [with] the open end of the handle [...] as a mouthpiece”.
– Büttikofer (1883) Reisebilder aus Liberia.

Right: http://edca.typepad.com/.a/6a011278de342f28a40120a90a40d3970b-320wi
Website: http://www.420magazine.com/forums/general
South Asians and Europeans also disseminated *Cannabis* in the Atlantic World.

“Twenty of my [tetanus] patients were treated by different means […including] Indian hemp” – St. Louis, Senegal: Chazarain (1870) *Union Médicale*.

“It is well known to the Portuguese along this coast” – Upper Guinea: Clarke (1851) *Journal of Botany*.
We smoke it and it reminds us of different things/
We remember the miracles of the world/
We remember those far and near/
We remember

– Basuto *Cannabis* smoking song, from Bourhill (1913) *The smoking of dagga* [...] *in South Africa.*

“*African*” strain medical marijuana, New Mexico, 2012