

**FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY  
TALLHASSEE, FLORIDA**

***FINAL MILESTONE REPORT***



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## **1. Work plan status**

The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) Center for International Agricultural Trade, Development Research and Training (CIATDRT) began the implementation of a one year (April 18, 2014 – April 17, 2015) John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) Program in Haiti through a \$100,000 sub-grant with Volunteers for Economic Growth Alliance to implement an innovative niche project to contribute to the Farmer-to-Farmer SPSP goals. FAMU utilized its eight volunteer assignments to achieve following objectives:

- Empower local women small farmers, heads of households and youth in post-secondary to primary schools to be more effective producers of food, disseminators of sustainable agricultural practices and stewards of the natural resource base.
- Increase the supply of fresh vegetables and legumes in the diets of the local beneficiaries and others directly assisted.
- Increase beneficiary capacity for income generation.

This Final milestone Report will concentrate on providing the sponsor with information relative to the program activities (April 18, 2014 – April 17, 2015).

### **A. Key Impacts and Accomplishments**

FAMU's overall target for LOP is to send eight agricultural professionals to Haiti, working with its beneficiaries made up of the agriculture students and faculty from University Caraibe (UC), College Universitaire Caraibe (CUC), CIFAM secondary school and local Farmers in the Montrouis community . During the LOP FAMU has recruited seven minority volunteers, achieving 175% of the LOP target of four minority volunteers. FAMU's eight volunteers have completed 101 volunteer days, based on the LOP target of 96 (105% of target); 65 Innovations/technologies were recommended based on LOP target of twenty-four (24) achieving 271% of LOP target; trained 660 direct beneficiaries (400 males and 260 females involved in direct training), based on a target of 257 achieving 257% of the LOP training target. FAMU was able to help its beneficiaries to generate \$5392 in net income over the baseline of \$1211, achieving 445% increase over LOP.

**Key accomplishments:**

<b>Performance and Impact Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>% of Target achieved</b>
<i>No of Volunteers</i>	8	8	100%
<i>Number of Minority Volunteers</i>	4	7	175%
<i>Innovations or Technologies Recommended by Volunteers</i>	24	65	271%
<i>Volunteer Recommended Innovations/Technologies Adopted</i>	16	30	186%
<i>Number of Hosts Adopting Volunteer Recommendations</i>	17	30	176%
<i>No of Volunteer Days</i>	96	101	105%
<i>No of Direct Participating Beneficiaries</i>	257	660	257%
<i>No of Direct Beneficiaries</i>	1827	3216	176%
<i>Average percent increase in Beneficiary family/group net income over LOP</i>	20	445%	2226%

<i>Number of Volunteers fielded</i>	<i>Number of host institutions strengthened</i>	<i>Number of People Trained</i>						<i>Number of farm family Beneficiaries</i>
		Direct Beneficiaries			Indirect Beneficiaries			
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
8	4	400	260	660	2004	1212	3216	1,980

## 2. Activities by country

FAMU fielded following 8 assignments over the life of project (LOP):

	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Name of Volunteer</b>	<b>Assignment Start Date</b>
<b>1</b>	Vegetable Gardening, Assessment and Planning	Trevor Hylton	8/17/2014 - 8/29/2014
<b>2</b>	Soil Irrigation and Fertilizer management.	Djanan Nemours	8/17/2014 - 8/29/2014
<b>3</b>	Developing Sustainable Agriculture Practices	Oghenekome Onokpise	10/15/2014- 10/26/2014
<b>4</b>	Group Formation- Achieving Economies of Scale	Nichole Fowler	10/16/2014 - 10/26/2014
<b>5</b>	Financial Management	Chester Bunker	11/17/2014 - 11/30/2014
<b>6</b>	Group Enterprise Development	Roman Bunker	11/17/2014 - 11/30/2014
<b>7</b>	Food Safety and Post-Harvest Management for Vegetable crops	Kamal Hyder	11/30/2014 - 12/11/2014
<b>8</b>	Market Assessment, Market Plan Development, Entrepreneurship	Christopher Laughton	11/30/2014 – 12/11/2014

The summary of activities carried out by 8 volunteers in four groups is as follows:

### Group 1:

**Volunteers:** Ms. Djanan Nemours (Soil Irrigation and Fertilizer management)  
Mr. Trevor Hylton (Vegetable Gardening, Assessment and Planning)

**Dates:** 8/17/2014 - 8/29/2014

**Summary:** The first two volunteers were Ms. Djanan Nemours (Soil Irrigation and Fertilizer management) and Mr. Trevor Hylton (Vegetable Gardening, Assessment and Planning). The topics covered during the two week period included vegetable gardening and soil irrigation. These first two assignments took place during the University of Caraiibe's summer break. In an effort to include the maximum participation of many students, University Caraiibe decided to have a two week on campus summer session. The university students received training from the F2F volunteers during the first week. During the second, the university students with the assistance of the volunteers, provided training to the farmers and school aged children, who returned during the summer break for a two day agricultural summer camp.

**Impact:** The students and farmers are better equipped to understand the different aspects of soil irrigation and vegetable gardening. The students and farmers have been able to evaluate their soil better and have also used soil kits that were left with them during the training. As result of first two assignment students successfully planted the school vegetable garden.



**Figure 1 UC students and primary school students participating in summer youth camp carried out by FAMU volunteers Trevor Hylton and Djanan Nemours.**

## **Group 2:**

**Volunteers:** Dr. Oghenekome Onokpise (Developing Sustainable Agriculture Practices)  
Ms. Nicole Fowler (Group Formation- Achieving Economies of Scale)

**Dates:** 10/15/2014- 10/26/2014

**Summary:** Second group of volunteers Dr. Oghenekome Onokpise and Ms. Nicole Fowler carried out Developing Sustainable Agriculture Practices and Group Formation- Achieving Economies of Scale assignments. The F2F volunteers provided a two day seminar for agricultural students on UC's Delmas, Port-au-Prince campus. Following this two day seminar, the volunteers went to Montrouis to provide training to the Montrouis students. Upon the completion of the training, as done previously, the university students then conducted training workshops for the school aged children and the participating local farmers. Topics included:

- Understanding the concept and importance of group formation
- Form groups: cooperative and youth group
- Understand the importance of sustainable agricultural practices
- Provide technical assistance in developing sustainable agriculture practices
- Utilizing ecological resources to effectively plant and grow nutritious foods

Upon completion of the training the volunteers helped with the formation of three groups. University student mentors group, Farmers group and Primary School children's group. Names

and officers were chosen for each group as they began making plans for planting, harvesting and eventual sales of harvested products. The volunteers held meetings with the local resort hotel to discuss collection of waste from the hotel for compost.

**Impact:** As a result of the training on sustainable agricultural practices and group formation, the students and farmers alike have taken great strides in taking heed to what was learned. Three groups have officially been formed during the duration of this project. The university students have formed a student club, UC Club of Research in Agriculture (UCCRA). The school aged children have formed their school club and the farmers have formed their group, Organisation des Planteurs pour une Vie Meilleure (OMPV) as well. These groups have put together and were able to sell their products as a whole instead of individually which has helped with better rate for the produce and more income for each member. The groups are also participating in other agricultural activities such as the farmers' group planting as a group instead of individually, the school group participating in clean-up efforts on the farm and the university student group using their earned income to purchase chicks (poultry) to grow and sell. All groups are also practicing agricultural techniques that were taught, including composting, to make for a more sustainable way of farming.



**Figure 2: FAMU Volunteer Dr. Onokpise demonstrating Compost pit preparation to UC mentors and farmers.**

### **Group 3:**

**Volunteers:** Mr. Chester Bunker (Financial Management)  
Mr. Roman Bunker (Group Enterprise Development)

**Dates:** 11/17/2014 - 11/30/2014

**Summary:** The emphasis of initial training was focused on the areas of farming technique and economies of scale for the university students, after the completion of that training, the university students conducted workshops with the school aged children as well as the farmers. In addition to the training and the workshops, the volunteers assisted the students with the planting on the University's model farm. The activities during the two week period with group three volunteers was very hands on, which resulted in the much of the products that are being harvested currently on the University model farm as well as on the farmers' individual farms. The volunteers conducted meetings with the manager of Moulin-Sur-Mer, a resort hotel in Haiti, along with the student group, to develop new market linkages for selling vegetables to the resort hotel.

**Impact:** One of the most important aspects of the Group 3 volunteer activities that took place in the latter part of November was the planting. The students and farmers received extensive hands on approaches and techniques in planting vegetables. The F2F volunteers worked hand in hand with the beneficiaries to make this a success. The result of this planting is still ongoing. Some of the produce have been harvested and some are near harvest. The students and farmers were able to successfully plant vegetables and fruits that were or will be sold for a higher profit than anticipated if sold at the local market due to development of new market linkages with the resort hotels. New methods and new tools (e.g. tractor, field layouts and compost application methods) were utilized and this has led beneficiaries to plant with more confidence and to plant different items as well as the staple crops that they had been planting.



**Figure 3: FAMU volunteers Mr. Chester Bunker and Mr. Roman Bunker rented a tractor from USAID Haiti mission to plough UC demonstration farm.**

#### **Group 4:**

**Volunteers:** Mr. Christopher Laughton: Market Assessment, Market Plan Development, And Entrepreneurship

Dr. Kamal Hyder (Food Safety and Post-Harvest Management for Vegetable crops)

**Dates:** November 30 – December 11

**Summary:** The final group of volunteer assignments was completed in December. The topics covered included good agricultural practices and the principles of food safety as well as developing marketing plans. The volunteers conducted training workshops for the UC Agriculture student trainers in those areas and assisted the UC agriculture student trainers in farmer and primary and secondary school students training. The volunteers also assisted the UC agriculture student trainers in finalizing the sales aspect for Moulin-Sur-Mer and providing the students with helpful tips on how to prepare and present the vegetables for sales.

**Impact:** The last Group of volunteer assignments touched on the final steps after harvesting which included food safety and marketing. The students (school aged as well as post-secondary) and farmers continue to utilize the tools that they learned from the volunteers as they harvested, cleaned, prepared and properly presented their goods for sale. As a result of this, all group formations were able to sell products that they had planted at a higher price than anticipated and to a more stable market. The students and famers are now aware of the importance of this final step of new market linkages development and how this can greatly impacts your product and sales.



**Figure 4:** Mr. Chris Laughton and Dr. Kamal Hyder facilitated the meeting for new market linkage development between UC youth group, farmers and Mr. Lucas Muller of Moulin Sur Mer resort.

### 3. Public Outreach

1. **Mr. Jean Verdieu Nelson** (Dean, Faculty of Agronomy, Universite Caraibe, Port-au-Prince, Haiti) was interviewed on local radio station “Melodie” on radio program “Le Disque de l’Auditeur” by Ruth Ocean on September 24, 2014 about USAID FAMU Farmer-to-Farmer program activities in Montorious Haiti (25,000 listenership)
2. **Dr. Oghenekome Onokpise and Ms. Nichole Fowler** had meeting with College of agriculture and Food Sciences faculty (15 faculties present)
3. **Dr. Oghenekome Onokpise and Ms. Nichole Fowler** had meeting with Haiti outreach committee (6 members present)
4. **Mr. Chester Bunker** has scheduled presentations for his church group in December (15 members present).
5. **Dr. Kamal Hyder and Mr. Chris Laughton** were published on FAMU Farmer-to-Farmer Facebook page (198 Members reached)
6. **Dr. Kamal Hyder and Mr. Chris Laughton** had meeting with Haiti outreach committee (6 members present)
7. **Mr. Roman Bunker** was published on FAMU Farmer-to-Farmer Facebook page (227 Members reached)
8. **Mr. Roman Bunker** had meeting with Haiti outreach committee (6 members present)
9. FAMU F2F staff **Ms. Harriett Paul and Mr. Nandkumar Divate** participated in FAMU CAFS Research Forum poster presentation on USAID FAMU Haiti Farmer-to-Farmer Program (400 participants reached).
10. FAMU F2F staff **Ms. Harriett Paul and Mr. Nandkumar Divate** participated on FAMU TV 20 "Research Fundamentals" program with Mr. Trevor Hylton (F2F volunteer) for discussion on USAID FAMU Haiti Farmer-to-Farmer Program (87000 household viewership)
11. FAMU F2F program activities were published in FAMU College of Agriculture and Food Sciences monthly newsletter (15000 subscribers).

#### 4. Case study:

##### a. Challenge

Most of the rural Haitian population depends on agricultural activities for their livelihoods; however 60% of the population lives in poverty. Farmers need to increase the productivity of their farming enterprises in a manner that allows for improved household diet and a more steady income stream. However, agricultural development faces serious constraints such as: lack of access to knowledge, information and advisory services; limited access to new technologies and inputs; limited access to tools; limited access to land; crop loss due to disease or poor storage; limited succession planning for agriculture. As a result, subsistence and small scale producers are faced with household food insecurity, low crop productivity, and low income. These are the problems this project proposes to address

##### b. Initiative

FAMU's 8 volunteer assignment carried out following activities in order to address the challenge.

- i. ***Established a new pool of "Haitian Volunteer Trainers in Agriculture" in the Montrouis community.*** The UC Faculty of Agriculture (12 members) and 27 of its first to fifth year agricultural students are supporting this program, as result of F2F training UC students became a new pool of agricultural trainers prepared to mentor local community producers involved in this program and others ("*Volunteers for the Development of Haitian Agriculture and the Environment*")
- ii. ***A select group of youth from the CUC and CIFAM primary to secondary grade schools are identified and organized into "Agriculture for a Better Life" primary and secondary age learning groups.*** The objectives achieved in the first year are: (a) develop a curriculum in sustainable agriculture and vegetable gardening at the primary (5th grade) and secondary (10th & 11th grade) levels; (b) teach the youth the content, and (c) engage the youth in planting, maintaining, harvesting, distributing (through donations and sales) the produce from their garden.
- iii. ***The women subsistence and other small-holder farmers who participated in this project have been selected from the roster of parents of the participating grade schools.*** During the F2F assignments, site assessment of beneficiaries' farm/growing area were made to identify and address the constraints to increasd production and develop strategies to improve growing conditions and strengthen income generating opportunities.
- iv. ***Develop Curriculum.*** Through the eight F2F technical assignments, a curriculum was developed to teach sustainable and environmentally safe vegetable production practices for delivery at the post-secondary, secondary, primary and non-reader levels in collaboration with UC.
- v. ***Demonstration Farm for Hands-on Applications.*** The UC Montrouis Campus farm is used as a training and demonstration site for participants in this program to learn the most effective sustainable agriculture and environmental protection production methods using new technologies.

### c. Results

Florida A&M University successfully carried out 8 volunteer assignments achieving following results:

- **Sustainability through better agricultural practices:** As a result of F2F volunteer training the beneficiaries have developed better agricultural practices through workshops and training that has enabled them to perform farming activities all while protecting natural resources and supporting long term ecological balance.
- **Promotion of gender equality:** The project has promoted gender equality by identifying local small holder women farmers as well as encouraging female student participation and interest in the field of agriculture. The women play an integral part in the farmer group just as they play an integral role in the day to day agricultural realities of Haiti.
- **Economic growth:** The F2F intervention has allowed the beneficiaries to extend their economic capabilities. Through the project and mentor program, new market linkages have been formed with local businesses. These new business ventures have allowed the participating farmers to generate more income.
- **Formation of an organized mentor service for the community led by university students**