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QUARTERLY REPORT

**APPUI À LA VALORISATION DU POTENTIEL AGRICOLE DU NORD,
POUR LA SÉCURITÉ ÉCONOMIQUE ET ENVIRONNEMENTALE**

(AVANSE)



AVANSE QUARTERLY REPORT - JANUARY-MARCH 2016

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Covering Q2 of FY2016 for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded AVANSE project, this twelfth quarterly report discusses project activities and accomplishments during the period January 1st 2016 to March 31, 2016. It consists of a summary of the key results achieved during Q2 FY 2016 followed by details of the various technical activities implemented. It concludes with an update on AVANSE's cross cutting activities and project management.

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Cover picture: Perches, Northeast Haiti. A *konbit* of local farmers terracing a hillside using improved techniques learned from Avanse NRM agronomists.

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AVANSE	Appui à la Valorisation du potentiel Agricole du Nord, pour la Sécurité Économique et environnementale
APS	Avant Projets Sommaires (Preliminary design summaries)
APD	Avant Projets Definitifs (Detailed design summaries)
AU	Auburn University
BAC	Bureaux Agricoles Communaux (local-level branches of the Ministry of Agriculture)
BNC	Banque Nationale de Crédit
CASEC	Conseil d'Administration des Sections Communales
CBO	Community Based Organization
CHCL	Campus Henri Christophe de Limonade
DDA	Directions Départementales Agricoles (regional-level branches of the Ministry of Agriculture)
DR	Dominican Republic
EOI	expression of interest
FFS	farmer field school
FOG	fixed-obligation grant
FY	fiscal year
Gds	(Haitian) gourdes
GIS	geographic information system
Ha	hectare
IMF	Institution de Microfinance (Micro-finance Institutions)
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IR	intermediate result
LEA Trading	Les Entreprises Antoine Trading
LTTA	long-term technical assistance
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MARNDR	Ministry of agriculture, natural resources and rural development (in French)
MIS	market information system
MT	metric ton
NGO	non-governmental organization
NRM	natural-resource management
PERSUAP	pesticide evaluation review and safe use action plan
PEA	programmatic environmental assessment
PIA	MARNDR agricultural intensification program
PIF	production intensive par fragmentation
PISA	Produit Isles de Antilles S.A.
PMDM	Programme de Mitigation des Désastres Naturels
PO	producer organization
PPP	public-private partnership
PTTA	Projet de Transfert de Technologies Appropriées
RESEPAG	Strengthening of Agricultural Public Services Project
RFP/RFA	request for proposals/request for applications
RFQ	request for quotation
SOW	scope of work
SECAL	<i>Appui a la Sécurité Alimentaire dans le Sud</i>
SRI	système rizicole intensive (intensive rice-planting system)
SRA	système rizicole amélioré ("improved" rice-planting system, an AVANSE adaptation of SRI)
STTA	short-term technical assistance
TOR	terms of reference

UTZ	Mayan word for good. UTZ Certified is the largest sustainability program in the world for coffee
UPBH	Union des Producteurs de Banane d’Haiti
URHC/UEHL	Université Roi Henri Christophe/Université d’État d’Haïti, Limonade
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	U.S. Dollars
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
WUA	water-users association

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During this quarter the full range of project activities continued, such as planning, procurement and implementing in the three value chains, rice, banana/plantain and cacao, and for the agro-forestry activities implemented through CBO's in the areas upstream from AVANSE's planned irrigation activities. The arrival of rain in March was welcomed. This quarter, 1,951 individuals were trained in rice, cacao and NRM, (1,331 male, 620 female) and 1,890 individuals (1,219 male and 671 female) received improved inputs, which should enable them to apply new or improved technologies to more than 2,500 ha of land. As of March 31st, an ongoing partial survey of beneficiary's plots found 729 ha under new technologies, with 2,020 farmers (1,361 male and 659 female) out of 2,764 total beneficiaries seen applying new/improved technologies.

IR 1: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION INCREASED

Rice: During this second quarter, the rice team distributed 4,311 kg of rice seed for the spring campaign nurseries to 1,314 beneficiaries (411 female, 903 male) of which 933 were new, and 381 continuing beneficiaries,. All their parcels have been geo-referenced, and entered into the AVANSE GIS system. Training in *Système Rizicole Intensive* (SRI), especially in preparing minimum water use nurseries, land preparation and climate change/water management was also given. The Farmer Field Schools (FFS) assisted 785 individuals, (601 male, 184 female).

Out of the total area under the rice program, a partial survey this quarter confirmed the application of new technologies on 195 ha (161 ha managed by males and 34 ha by females) out of a total of approximately 450 ha. Following the group trainings farmers were visited to give advice on nurseries, transplanting etc., and 332 people in 288 households, (262 male, 70 female) directly benefited.¹

Cacao: This quarter the cacao team focused on preparing for the upcoming harvest, expanding the grafting program of super trees to the clonal gardens and establishing 50 new community nurseries in 11 communes. This network of widely dispersed local nurseries will be producing seedlings from seed harvested from super-trees. The cacao team also provided formal training to 256 individuals (160 male, 96 female) this quarter; AVANSE's cacao agronomists worked with cacao farmers on layout, and maintenance of their new orchards, and 227 farmers received cacao seedlings in January for planting new cacao plantations. Measurement of cacao areas is underway, but complicated by the remote locations, the terrain and the variable spacing of the orchards. 26 ha were measured as being under new/improved technology this quarter, with 124 farmers (72 male and 52 female applying some or all of the AVANSE recommended practices.

Banana: The plantain team focused on setting up and establishing farmer field schools this quarter, measuring parcels and registering farmers for the new campaign. The main activity this quarter has been establishment of demonstration plots at each farmer field school location to serve as a training venue and place to demonstrate improved techniques and new technologies.

¹ The technical results reported in the quarterly reports come from M&E and are based on the monthly field reports from the extension agents. The distribution details are from M&E supervised distributions. Note that all the application areas reported here are less than the area in the program due to the time lag between activities starting and the application of the new technologies being measured and confirmed.

This quarter, 458 additional beneficiaries received suckers and manure. A partial survey showed 288 ha (199 ha male mgmt, 89 ha female mgmt.) applying new/improved technologies with 753 farmers (493 male and 260 female) benefiting. The project is also promoting project-assisted plowing services, and fertilizer use on banana, but to date uptake has been limited.

During this quarter, the Université d'État d'Haïti in Limonade (UEHL), assisted by staff members of AVANSE and Auburn University held a training session to prepare for the establishment of a soil testing laboratory at the university; the equipment will arrive and be installed 3rd quarter.

IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE & WATER USER GROUPS

The rehabilitation work on the Grison-Garde gravity irrigation system is now almost complete. Specifications for additional repair work have also been prepared. The request for bids for the Dubre repair and extension works have been issued and bids are due end of April. The bids for the feasibility studies for pump irrigation are due mid-April. The request for bids for a technical study to reprofile and improve the Reef Titoir drain in Bas-Limbe, the TOR for the Request for Proposals (RFP) to carry out the design studies for the improvement works on the Ferrier drainage canal and the contract terms for the supervisory engineering firm are being finalized.

IR 2: WATERSHED STABILITY ABOVE SELECTED PLAINS IMPROVED

Revegetation work continued on the existing AVANSE demonstration sites in Haut du Cap/Dubre, in Grison Garde/Robillard, in Jassa/Ferrier in Manzerose/Acul Samedi; (Foreste,Babin),and in Gens de Nantes/Acul des Pin; (Pins and Doge). The IR 2 team started implementation of new agroforestry activities working with the five CBO's --four in Jassa, one in Haut du Cap, who received grants from USAID for new hillside planting. In Grison Garde, the IR 2 team continued the conservation and agro-forestry activities on the slopes above the site.

IR 3: AGRICULTURAL MARKETS STRENGTHENED:

Rice: Discussions continued this quarter with rice buyers, processors and producers, but the uncertainty of the future rice production levels, given the current shortage of water for irrigated rice production, made finalizing any long term agreements for forward contracting difficult.

Cacao: Produit d'Isles S.A. (PISA) received a grant for development of additional fermentation facilities and a commercial nursery. Implementation will begin in 3rd Quarter FY2016. The AVANSE cacao sales groups formed an association, the first General Assembly was held in January and they have registered with UTZ for certification of the regions cacao farmers.

Banana: A grant supporting the Union des Producteurs de Banane d'Haïti (UPBH) was signed to implement a nucleus plantation of 50 hectares of banana in partnership with a local land owner, and Banamiel: (a banana producer and exporter in the Dominican Republic (DR)). The design of the farm has been completed, and land preparation and planting have started.

CROSS CUTTING ACTIVITIES

M&E: During this quarter, the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) unit continued to geo-reference all of AVANSE'S beneficiaries plots, focusing on the banana and rice parcels targeted in the current/upcoming campaigns and the parcels being improved by the NRM CBO's. Cacao areas

are the main target next quarter. This quarter, the M&E team carried out the field data collection for the third Post-Harvest Survey and analyzed the results, which will be presented next quarter.

Environment: The Environmental Compliance team conducted environmental due diligence / environmental review of prospective IPs and/or Grantees and assisted the AVANSE Grant/Subcontracts in integrating environmental compliance prerogatives into AVANSE grants and subcontracts. The EC Group is producing an Environmental Compliance Status Summary, detailed AVANSE Environmental Compliance Status Reports and Spot Check Observations.

PROJECT PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT:

During the period of January – March, 2016, the AVANSE grants, subcontracts and procurement (GSP) team signed two grants between AVANSE and the respective grantees; eight new grants and five grant modifications were submitted to USAID for approval. Three new subcontracts and 141 purchase orders were fully executed with the respective subcontractors and vendors. The total value of obligated funds during this period is \$1,765,746.

AVANSE submitted six new in-kind grants, for \$102,660 each, to USAID for approval for community based organizations (CBOs) to provide agro-forestry and soil conservation work. For the five existing CBO in-kind grants a request to increase the ceiling of those grants from approximately \$83,000 to \$102,660 in order to ensure that the area targets are met was made.

AVANSE also submitted an in-kind grant in the amount of \$241,193 to USAID for approval for the expansion of the Market Information System for agricultural products for the Ministry of Agriculture. On March 13th, USAID approved an in-kind grant of \$624,600 to USAID for the Union Des producteurs de banane D’Haïti (UPBH) to establish a 50 hectare demonstration plantation to enable the production and export of bananas through the Dominican Republic.

The subcontract for maintenance work on the canals at Grison Garde (\$36,121) was signed on January 13, 2016. The final studies from Geo Society (\$41,274) for the implementation of three land survey studies at Grison Garde, Dubre and Coicou were submitted end of March. Four RFPs were issued – for a supervision firm to monitor all irrigation activities, the studies for the pumped irrigation systems, rehabilitation work at Dubre, and extension of the existing canal at Dubre. The selection process was finalized for the engineering supervision firm.

AVANSE signed a subcontract on February 10, 2016 for \$105,384 with Auburn University to provide technical assistance to the University of Limonade. For the SIBA program, AVANSE signed seven new agreements with its partner firms. This includes Task Order 4 under the Indefinite Quantity Contract (IQC) with TRANSVERSAL for \$51,669 to provide voucher printing and hosting for the SIBA program. A BPA was signed with Le Levier on February 22, 2016 for approximately \$10,000 for the management of voucher fees. Agreements were signed with three new boutiques and renewed with the two existing boutiques.

This quarter, AVANSE signed 141 POs with a total obligated amount of \$1,281,942 (versus 50 with a total value of \$539,157 last quarter). The majority of these procurements were for agricultural inputs for the FFS’ such as fertilizer, banana suckers, cacao plants and tools. The AVANSE GSP team also finalized POs for tools and office materials for support to the 5 CBO grantee’s and finalized the procurement process and selected nine vendors to receive BPAs to provide planting materials/seeds under all 11 CBO in-kind grants. Distribution to the 5 CBOs started this quarter, while distribution for the 6 new CBOs will commence in the next quarter.

IR 1: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY INCREASED

The rains finally arrived towards the end of the quarter, so field activities were delayed or put on hold in February. The rains were intense, up to 2-3 inches in a short period, and when based on a frontal system and repeated, frequently caused flooding and erosion. During this quarter, the remaining distribution of seedlings for the spring cacao plantings and plantain suckers for immediate planting occurred. Organic manure was distributed to the plantain farmers and the cacao nursery, along with tools. The rice program focused on spring nursery establishment.

SUB-RESULT 1.1: KNOWLEDGE AND AVAILABILITY OF IMPROVED PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES AND SYSTEMS INCREASED

Only 933 new rice farmers have planted nurseries so far this campaign, as the drought in January/February caused a delay in land preparation, with draft animals in poor condition, working at lower rates and the bulk of the demand coming at the end of the quarter. Limited mechanized services are available locally. Trainings were given to 785 individual rice farmers this quarter, (601 men and 184 women), in nursery establishment, SRI and water management. Follow up visits were made by field extension agents to 332 rice farmers (262 men and 70 women) and to date, 33 ha were already confirmed as adopting improved practices. Another 4,331 kg of improved rice seed was distributed to 933 farmers to prepare for the spring season, making a total of 1,474 beneficiaries who have received 7,481 kg of seed for this campaign, sufficient to plant at least 1,200 ha.

For cacao, the last 227 beneficiaries received seedlings, while preparations were made for harvesting, expanding the clonal gardens and grafting high-yield stock. This quarter also saw the continuing establishment of a new network of widely dispersed local nurseries to ensure local access to quality seed and grafting stock from carefully selected super-trees. The federation of cacao sellers groups had its first general meeting and registered with UTZ.

The banana FFS's have all established demonstration plots where the application of improved technologies for density (1,600 plants/ha), inter row spacing (2.5 meters), sucker management, fertilizer and composting regimes, preparing old plants for the next harvest, trimming, leaf removal and deflowering will be demonstrated. Three broad training programs are planned, establishment of the plantation, plantation maintenance and harvest/post-harvest practices.

SUB-RESULT 1.2: STRENGTHENED EXTENSION OF AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES

RICE

Usually for rice cultivation, the month of January is the start of the new season in AVANSE's areas of operation. However, given the drought, we could not start preparing the nurseries for this campaign during the winter. With the arrival of rains at the end of January, we started field operations in early February. So once again the season was delayed, as producers waited to see whether irrigation water was available, and preparations only started seriously in March.

Despite the arrival of the rains, AVANSE's farmers continue to suffer from either limited access to sufficient irrigation water at the right time, or excess water. While the SRI cultivation system has demonstrated its productivity in the region, to achieve an expansion of the area under SRI and wider adoption in the North, improved drainage and irrigation is essential. AVANSE has plans for a number of irrigation rehabilitation projects, but achieving large new areas of rice and more efficient water management will only be possible through design of additional pump and surface schemes and collaboration with the MARNDR on its irrigation rehabilitation schemes.

Table 1: Results: second quarter FY 2016 – Beneficiaries and Areas - RICE

Indicator	Quarter 1	Male	Female	Total this Qtr.	Total year to date
Trained (# individuals)	329	601	184	785	1,114
Inputs (# beneficiaries)	541	611	322	933	1,474
Applying (# farmers)	855	262	70	332	1,187
Improved Area (Ha)	151	161	33	195	346

Training: Working through the thirty seven (37) farmer's field schools, extension training was carried out in a number of AVANSE project locations during this quarter; the training topics included SRI techniques, land preparation, reduced water use nurseries, and transplanting.

Application of technology: For the rice campaign in second quarter FY 2016, 332 beneficiaries on 195 planted ha applied new/improved technologies. This is just a sample of the total application rate, as to date observations have not been made on all the plots established.

Distribution: For the spring rice campaign in second quarter FY 2016, 1,342 beneficiaries with a total potential area of over 700 ha received 4,343 kg of rice seed. All of these farmers had their data collected, their parcels geo-referenced and the field areas measured. A short-term technical assistance (STTA) seed specialist is being recruited to work with farmers.



Figure 1:
A rice nursery in Jalendor, Ouanaminthe. AVANSE introduced the SRI method to Jalendor farmers in 2015, now 90% of Jalendor's farmers are using SRI. Taken 25-2-2016

CACAO

This quarter the cacao team continued its partnership with local farmers providing theoretical and practical training on orchard and nursery establishment. Site visits to cacao gardens for orchard maintenance did not occur during this quarter, but will restart in the third quarter. The cacao team also continued working on the existing clonal gardens, sourcing cacao super-trees with a view to supplying genetically superior grafting material and seeds for the new network of small local nurseries under development, as well as to the larger PISA nursery.

Cacao Nursery Development: During this period, sites for 50 new nurseries to be operated locally to produce approximately 10,000 seedlings per nursery have been selected, staff recruited and nurseries are being built. These locally managed nurseries are spread among 11 communes across all the AVANSE cocoa areas to ensure production of locally adapted cacao seedlings, close to the orchards with a particular focus on sites difficult to access in the rains. The M&E team is planning a special effort next quarter so that the orchards of all the producers that have their seedlings in these nurseries are geo-referenced and their parcel sizes measured

Support for new orchards:

AVANSE's field technicians work with beneficiaries to introduce new cacao orchards using AVANSE guidelines on cacao plot architecture. We concentrate new plantation assistance on a few areas to be developed—with particular attention given to old coffee areas to replace low-altitude coffee agroforestry systems by cacao agroforestry systems. This focuses new planting activities in the piedmont sections of the eastern part of the Northern corridor (Perches, Carice) and in the southern parts of the two cacao extension zones, (Borgne and Port Margot).

Existing plot maintenance: No activities during this quarter. Maintenance will restart around July. In the meantime, in the cacao areas the field agronomists are identifying selected individuals, to be trained in pruning and shade reduction techniques, using improved tools.

Table 2: Results: second quarter FY 2016 – Beneficiaries and Areas - CACAO

Indicator	Quarter 1	Male	Female	Total this Qtr.	Total year to date
Trained (# individuals)	4,022	160	96	256	4,278
Inputs (# beneficiaries)	3,830	138	89	227	4,057
Applying (# farmers)	1,595	124	72	52	1,647
Improved Area (Ha)	N/A	26	14	12	26

Training: In eleven communes: (Borgne, Port-Margot, Limbe, Plaisance, Plaine du Nord, Garde-Rivière du Nord, Bahon, Limonade, Trou du Nord, Perches, Acul Samedi), a total of 256 cacao farmers, (160 male and 96 female) were trained in six or seven events in new cacao orchard establishment (layout, spacing and staking) and orchard maintenance this quarter.

During the period 311 cacao drying tables were distributed to farmers bringing the total to date to 749 households ready for the harvest season. Before the October 2016 season other options

with lower costs will be explored and these options will be directed at the farmers who show the best quantity and quality results according to the marketing sales groups' records.

Expand processing (fermentation): The grant request from Produit d'Isles S.A. (PISA) for additional fermentation facilities and a commercial nursery was approved in January. PISA will begin construction in the third quarter FY2016 in time for the fall harvest.

Certification: AVANSE has organized approximately 5,000 cacao farmers in groups to sell their members' dry, unfermented cacao directly to the exporter Novella². This approach, which cuts out middlemen and establishes clear quality standards and accountability, has proven to be very effective in raising the prices farmers receive. The cacao sales group farmers have formed an association, with the various producers groups sending one representative to the general assembly in January 2016, followed by registration of the Union des Producteurs de cacao du Nord with UTZ, to be followed by the certification of the production of these cacao farmers.

Market Information System (MIS): AVANSE is working with MARNDR on the improved collection and diffusion of price information in the north and north-east. The grant has been submitted for approval by USAID and implementation will start 3rd Qtr.

Summary: The main planting season for cacao is from September to December, with a smaller season March to May. The project is targeting the transplanted of 1,620,000 cacao seedlings, sufficient to cover 1,985 hectares; this does not include the central PISA nursery which will produce 300,000 seedlings. We plan to improve 3,000 ha of old cacao. The main season for orchard improvements is after the harvest, and this will start up next quarter in June. Table 3 summarizes the progress to date: October 2015 to March 2016, 519,840 seedlings distributed, sufficient for 594 hectares, while the total area improved was 291 hectares.

Table 3: Summary of progress first and second quarter FY 2016 - CACAO

Activity	Sources	Period	# of seedlings	Area (ha)	Estimated # beneficiaries
Planting new orchards	Local markets	October 2015 to January 2016	491,586	547.63	N.A.
	Local nurseries	February and March 2016	28,254	46.74	153
	Total 1		519,840	594.37	153
Maintenance	Total 2	July 2015 to October 2015		291.3	738
Total				885.67	

² Approximately 40 percent of all cacao farmers in the project zone.

Figure 2: Trou du Nord, North Haiti. Cacao farmers mix earth and AVANSE distributed compost to fill sacs and root trainers in preparation to planting. AVANSE’s agronomists are training beneficiaries in the project target zones to create and maintain community owned nurseries.



PLANTAIN/BANANA

This quarter and last the AVANSE plantain team worked on establishing FFS demonstration plots in the new plantain expansion areas of Bois de Lance (Limonade), Trou du Nord, and Haut and Bas Maribahoux (Ft. Liberté and Ouanaminthe), and encouraging new plantain plantings with plants and compost. This campaign included GPS measurement of the surface areas for all registered plots. The registration campaign also included promotion of project-assisted tractor plowing, a new service and subsidized mineral fertilizer through SIBA vouchers. No formal training occurred in this quarter, 37 follow-up site visits occurred to 26.5 ha planted in the previous campaigns, and 458 new producers received 280, 447 suckers, technical advice and other inputs. A total of 935,254 plantain suckers have been distribute the last two quarters, enough material to plant 584 complete new ha.

Georeferencing beneficiary plots and measuring uptake of technologies. A total of 1,546 plots were identified and georeferenced, and 753 farmers (493 male, 260 female) have already been observed applying new technologies on an area of 288 ha³, (199 ha male, 89 ha female).

Organization of Farmers Field schools: A total of 64 FFS's incorporating more than 1,500 producers were set up in the production areas: Bas-Limbe, Limbe, Acul de Nord, Plaine de

³ Farmers typically have multiple parcels, and do not apply new/improved technologies to their total area.

Nord, Milot, Limonade- Quartier Morin, Trou du Nord, Bas and Haut Maribaroux. Each field agent is responsible for training/extension support to 4-5 FFS's; approximately 100-125 farmers.

Table 4: Results: second quarter FY 2016 – Beneficiaries and Areas - PLANTAIN

Indicator	Quarter 1	Male	Female	Total this Qtr.	Total year to date
Trained (# individuals)	1,360	0	0	0	1,360
Inputs (# beneficiaries)	863	348	243	458	1,321
Applying (# farmers)	34	493	260	753	787
Improved Area (Ha)	26	199	80	288	314

Training of FFS participants in the application of improved technologies: This quarter no training sessions occurred.

Distribution of compost to the FFS's: This winter campaign AVANSE has distributed 846,050 kg of organic fertilizer (16,921 bags of 50kg each).

Distribution of plantain suckers: A target of 1,177,616 suckers, sufficient to plant 736 ha, was set initially for the winter campaign, but the dry conditions have limited planting progress. As of

Other activities this quarter: The program to establish a 50 hectare area of banana with local and international entrepreneurs is well underway, using the partner's resources. Now the grant has been approved, the pace will accelerate. Other activities this quarter included:

- Visit by the American Ambassador to established Bord du Mer plantain farmers.
- Preparing a Creole leaflet for distribution to farmers with best practices.
- Plantain farmers near existing water points have been provided with 50 pumps.
- Planning for the Production Intensive par Fragmentation (PIF) centers.

STRENGTHENING HAITIAN UNIVERSITIES IN THE NORTH

A fixed value grant for \$79,000 was signed on February 2nd with the Campus Henri Christophe, Limonade (CHCL) for the acquisition of soil laboratory equipment and its installation. A separate sub-contract for technical support to CHCL was signed with Auburn University (AU) on 10 February, to assist in the selection and installation of this equipment, and technical training at Auburn for officials of the laboratory. A first preparatory mission by AU took place in March.

Auburn University has already carried out a series of trainings to professors and students in soil testing and analysis at the Campus in Limonade. These trainings support previous efforts to create a soil testing facility at the university that would make soil testing services available to farmers and agricultural institutions in the northern region. The training also supports ongoing efforts to prepare a soil fertility map for the region. Staff from the University at Limonade will visit Auburn in the third quarter of FY 2016 to observe the operation of AU's soil testing laboratory.

Auburn is also providing technical assistance to CHCL to help them develop a program of outreach activities with agricultural stakeholders in order to advertise the existence of the laboratory and the services offered. As part of these activities, a willingness-to-pay survey of potential customers (farmers, companies, cooperatives, associations) is planned. The interviewer training and testing of the survey was done by the mission in March. The survey is planned for May, when the equipment will have arrived and installation and testing started.

Training at Auburn University's soil science laboratories is planned for the technicians from the lab in May/June. The process of acquiring the appropriate visas for these travelers has begun.

SUSTAINABILITY OF AVANSE INITIATIVES THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MARNDR

This quarter AVANSE and the Ministry of Agriculture finalized and submitted a grant for Market Information Services. AVANSE plans to follow up and work together with the Ministry staff next quarter on a number of activities in the North and North-Eastern regions, particularly irrigation development, market information systems and a national protocol for subsidies.

SUB-RESULT 1.3: ACCESS TO INPUTS INCREASED

AVANSE is accomplishing this sub-result by generating demand through demonstrations of improved technologies, input distributions and working with importers and input suppliers through its partial-subsidy program for agricultural inputs, known by its French acronym 'SIBA'.⁴

Work on harmonization of the voucher programs in Haiti:

This quarter, AVANSE seconded a consultant, onto a team to interview different actors in the fertilizer chain, (DDA, BAC, distributors, suppliers, farmers, the *Projet de Transfert de Technologies Appropriées* (PTTA) and its operating agencies, AVANSE, the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development (MARNDR) and the *Banque Nationale de Credit* (BNC)) in the North and North East and Port au Prince. The team made a SWOT analysis of the different subsidy systems, and examined ways to harmonize the approach to input subsidies nationally. On January 29th, the AVANSE consultant spoke on voucher systems used in the MARNDR (PTTA), the Strengthening of Agricultural Public Services Project (RESEFAG), Programme de Mitigation des Désastres Naturels (PMDN), *Appui a la Sécurité Alimentaire dans le Sud* (SECAL) and AVANSE at the MARNDR.

Agreement made with the MARNDR to create a fertilizer price monitoring "unit »:

In February, the Director General of MARNDR (i/c fertilizer subsidies) confirmed that using the MARNDR staff trained by AVANSE they will monitor and analyze the markets; with AVANSE technical support; and post a monthly letter on international fertilizer prices on their website.

Launching of the 2016 Rice winter campaign (March- June 2016)

A total of 3,600 fertilizer vouchers (for 20-20-10, DAP and Urea) for 1,200 beneficiaries were distributed to the affiliated financial institutions by TRANSVERSAL. From March 5th to March 31st, 892 vouchers (25%) had been redeemed at the financial institutions by 229 producers.

⁴ Système d'incitation via les bons d'achat.

SIBA VOUCHER PROGRAM

Improving the cost efficiency of the voucher system:

The “e-voucher” system developed by TRANSVERSAL has been upgraded to provide more flexibility: farmers now can identify themselves at Microfinance Institutions (IMFs) and input stores by inputting their ID number directly into the smartphone, which validates or not the transaction; at this step, the vouchers become nominative, in other words linked to that particular producer into the database. This will provide more flexibility to adjust planning during a campaign if needed and maximize the voucher redemption rate by producers as the name of the producers no longer needs to be printed in advance on the voucher anymore.

The process of voucher reimbursement has also been simplified using the “e-voucher” system; affiliated partners do not need to bring back paper receipts for each transaction or create paper reports to justify the commercial transactions as all the data is available online;

These simplifications improve the cost efficiency of the overall voucher program and enabled the service fees charged by IMFs to be renegotiated downward in January 2016;

Provision of Mechanical plowing service to producers:

AVANSE provided a 65% subsidy for mechanical plowing services through its voucher program and 97% of the 153 producers who bought vouchers received these services during December 2015 and January 2016⁵. A total of 75 ha were plowed and harrowed during this initial campaign. The main lessons learned were a) that more effort is needed to ensure that the land is both suited and ready for plowing before requesting the services to reduce delays and avoid problems caused by poorly cleared land, b) professional rental services for agricultural equipment are very limited in the Northern region and c) the availability of services needs to be timely and well advertised.

This quarter, the SIBA team worked with HAYTRAC to develop a rental service for agricultural equipment in the North and North-East. In March, HAYTRAC made a financial proposition to the affiliated plowing entrepreneurs. Three out of the five firms committed to rent a tractor and its equipment from HAYTRAC for the next season (Summer 2016). SIBA continues to work with the banana value chain (VC) and tractor firms on around 50ha planned for April-May 2016.

Strengthening the capacity of input stores

Three new boutiques have been affiliated; and their EC upgrading is planned. On March 16th and 17th, SIBA trained six input stores in the voucher program training in financial accounting and stock management at the Chamber of Commerce.

Cacao Nursery Development

Given the costs of direct procurement, sustainability issues, logistics and transport problems and the erratic localized rains (which makes determining where plants should be sent on any particular day complicated), going forward a decision was made to switch from direct procurement of cacao seedlings to establishment of a network of small (10,000 seedling)

⁵ The total cost was 2,800 HTG and the farmer paid 1,000 of this. The 3% not plowed had access or other issues.

nurseries, located in the production areas. The encouragement of seedling production in the production zones, near the farms, and under the control of the producers allows them to better use the rain when it arrives, for planting out to establish their new orchards. Four new field technicians have been hired to help community based nurseries be established; the goal is sufficient nurseries to produce 1.3 million plus seedlings by the end of the project

Banana planting material:

The project is finalizing the planning for five “Production Intensive par Fragmentation (PIF)” centers; small enterprises that apply fragmentation techniques to speed the natural replication of banana suckers under hygienic conditions. Banana value chain staff will coach and support these centers — two near to Cap-Haitien, one at Quartier de Morin, one at Barnabas and one at Plaisance to allow the plants produced to be adapted to their production area. PIF is a simple propagation technique that speeds the production of new growing points and thus increases the availability for planting of healthy suckers of improved varieties (disease tolerant, higher yielding, better flavor, wind tolerant etc.). The goal is to use these centers for FY 2017.

The project has also been working on a request for grant funding to the Campus Henri Christophe de Limonade (CHCL)/ Université d’État d’Haïti, Limonade (UEHL). This facility is to provide suitable growing conditions to allow the maturation of delicate tissue culture plantlets into plantable suckers. This grant is on hold while further discussions are held to be sure that the related investments are available and the overall efforts will result in a sustainable system.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure continued working on preparing the irrigation and drainage documents. The RFP’s for the irrigation work at Dubre and the pump study were issued, plus a firm has been selected for supervision and construction services and contract negotiation is underway.

Sub-result 1.4: Irrigation rehabilitation/construction

Gravity Irrigation: Grison Garde System

DAUDAS Construction won the tender for the partial system rehabilitation and maintenance repairs of the Grison Garde system, which irrigates approximately 220 hectares. The activity was officially launched on 21st January, by representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture; the Director and Engineer from the District Department of Agriculture (DDA) North and the agronomist responsible for the Bureau Agricole Communal (BAC), along with staff from the local authority, the Conseil d’Administration des Sections Communales, (CASEC) plus other local dignitaries. The repair work finished at the end of April.



Figure 3: Bas Limbe, North Haiti. Launching the Grison Garde irrigation system repair program.

The activities in this small rehabilitation and maintenance project included:

- Excavating sand, silt and pebbles that have been transported by the Mornet river and had accumulated upstream of the dam. One hundred and sixty linear meters was excavated and this has increased the volume of water arriving at the intake.
- About five thousand (5,000 linear meters) of masonry channels were cleaned.
- Thirty (30) control gates (90 x 50cm) were strengthened and repaired with sheets of 1/16' steel, to improve the controlled distribution of available water around the perimeter.



<p>Figure 4a: Grison Garde, North Haiti. AVANSE rice beneficiaries have suffered from a lack of available irrigation water in the system during dry periods. This upstream view shows the sediment in the sluice area prior to improving the flow to the main irrigation intake, on left.</p>	<p>Figure 4b: Grison Garde, North Haiti. Irrigation sluice area after deepening and widening the approach to the main irrigation intake, on left, on March 16, 2016. The result is increased water flowing to the intake and more water available to Avanse rice beneficiaries.</p>
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AVANSE held several coordination meetings this quarter with the DDA North staff and the local community. At these meetings, it was made clear that these minor repair works will not be sufficient to make the system fully functional; and additional rehabilitation works are needed.

The initial planning in 2014/15 for Grison Garde looked at a complete rehabilitation and an extension of the irrigated area, which had an estimated cost of over \$3 million. Following the change in the terms of reference of AVANSE in June 2015, this project was modified to cover just improvements to the area upstream of the intake and repairs to the main canals. A revised estimate of \$450,000 has been made for additional repair work, without any system extension.

The DDA has agreed to collaborate in these additional repair works, but is short of budget resources and is confirming which portion of the additional work it can handle immediately⁶.

⁶ On the 13th April, the DDA North wrote a letter to AVANSE confirming the activities they will fund at Grison Garde
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The technical documents (reports, specifications, bill of quantities) and budgets for Dubré, have been prepared for repairs to the existing system and a system extension. The requests for bids were issued. An extension to April 29th, allowed a site visit to answer questions from offerors.

Pumped irrigation

The request for bids for the technical and financial studies of the potential of small pumps for gravity irrigation in the Northern plain, the available ground water and potential interventions. was issued. Responses were due April 14th. Only one response was received.

Drainage

Bas Limbé. Two major ravines discharge into the Limbé floodplain: Ravine Corail Titoir and Ravine Rivot, with estimated drainage areas of 7.7 km² and 4.0 km² respectively. Two hundred and fifty hectares of plantain production can be improved by cleaning and rehabilitating the Coral/Titoir drain (4,500 linear meters), creating a direct outlet to the sea, (without affecting the fringing mangrove), and cleaning and rehabilitating the Rivot drain (3,200 linear meters).

The specifications for the technical and financial study of improving the Ravine Corail drain is ready and an RFP will be issued. This water control project impacts a large number of plantain producers, who are frequently inundated and have their crop damaged by floods.

Ferrier. The design study of the technical and environmental specifications for cleaning and widening a by-pass drain to improve access to water during the dry season as well as adequate drainage during the wet season in Ferrier is now ready. The DDA North East has been involved and provided his input. The area is a fertile plain that suffers from both droughts and floods. It is potentially a major rice producer, once the water management infrastructure is improved.

Sub-result 1.4.4: Management capacity of water user associations increased

Dubre, Grison-Garde et Coicou: Three studies were conducted by GEO-Society, mapping parcels for Dubre and Grison-Garde and for Coicou (requested by the DDA North). These maps will assist in the development of the management and operational plans for the perimeters. The departmental and local agriculture staff are helping prepare terms of reference for these plans.

Establishment of the Financial Management of the Irrigation Systems: water user fees are critical to successful system operations; WUAs have to plan for and monitor system expenses to ensure smooth operations; supervise timely expenditures and organize maintenance/repairs.

Pumped Systems : Management committees will be organized after the technical studies.

Drainage Systems : Management committees will start after the selection of contractors.

IR 2: WATERSHED STABILITY ABOVE SELECTED PLAINS IMPROVED

Hillside stabilization in Haiti has a long sad history of efforts that for a variety of reasons failed. Resource poor farmers have neither the time nor the money to invest in soil conservation, as their short term priorities of producing incomes or food for their family take their time, effort and resources. Hillside farms in the north and north-east are small and usually fragmented so for the farms on the hillslopes to be treated in a coherent manner, all the farmers working on that slope need to coordinate and work together. In 2014-2015 AVANSE established 562 parcels covering 651 ha in 18 blocks. These old demonstration blocks now serve as sources of planting materials for neighboring farmers and help show them that agroforestry-based systems can be effective.

SUB-RESULT 2.3: CRITICAL SLOPES STABILIZED THROUGH FARMER-LEVEL INVESTMENT

During the period January- March 2016 the activities IR2 / NRM were concentrated on two main activities: revegetation of the demonstration blocks with live hedges, and fruit and forest trees, and working with the 5 CBO's approved by USAID; the latter included:

- Finalizing the administrative procedures for financing *konbit* activities and the payments to consultants engaged by the CBO's for managing the grant activities;
- Planning for and the launch of *konbit* activities with the CBO's on two Watersheds; Supervision and adjustment of the ongoing field activities;
- Interaction with grantees and beneficiaries;
- Planning for the grant activities, and a
- Review of the lessons learned during the launch of these first 5 Grants.

These five agro-forestry grants are for grassroots community organizations for the establishment of agroforestry activities and association formation in areas immediately adjoining the existing IR 2 conservation blocks in the Jassa watershed including Acul Samedi, Perches, Acul des Pins and Gens de Nantes, and also in the Haut du Cap watershed (Grison Garde). Each CBO grant is targeting an area of 135 hectares for agroforestry plantings, using a mix of fruit trees, crops, forest species and grasses.⁷

The initial parcel measurements on the registered participants for the CBO grants revealed an underestimate in the total area required for improvement under each grant (initial areas identified averaged around 50% of the 135 Hectares planned per grant). A second registration

⁷ These agroforestry plantings include pineapple, plantain, mango, citrus, avocado and grasses, also woody species such as *chenn* (*Catalpa longissima*), mahaut bleu, (*Hibiscus elatus*), cedar, cashew and pigeon peas.

of participants was launched to find the additional participants with plots in the target areas to allow us to attain the total planned area. In the Jassa basin, AVANSE is currently registering at least 800 additional participants in the *kombits*⁸ to engage in agro-forestry activities.

Demonstration blocks: These allow local farmers to observe the impact of the improved agroforestry practices. They are located in Haut du Cap/Dubre, Grison Garde/Robillard, Jassa /Ferrier, Manzerose/Acul Samedi; Foreste, Babin,Gens de Nantes/Acul des Pin; Pins and Doge.

The new areas to be protected are above the two targeted irrigation systems, (Ferrier, Grison Garde), the geo-referencing is underway for all parcels to be protected under the first five CBO grants. Working with the communities and CBO's AVANSE is planning for the next six

- Verifying and geo-referencing all the participants parcels in each block,
- Meetings to plan and provide information for the CBO's and the producers,
- Defining with each CBO's, their block level / zone level target areas,
- Collecting participant data for all geo-referencing activities, « fiches signalétique »,
- Coordination of geo-referencing activities within the field with the M&E team, and
- Locating enough participants to achieve the target area for each CBO grant (135 ha).

This quarter, 910 individuals were trained in NRM techniques, 570 males and 340 females. A total of 272 individuals received inputs for onward distribution within the konbits, 180 males and 92 females. A total of 279 georeferenced hectares had new/improved technologies applied by 899 beneficiaries, 598 male and 301 female. The drought continued this quarter delaying activities. The mechanical structures, contour ditches, are being prepared across the slopes, but rain is required to add the living hedges and finish and make permanent the protection.



Figure 5a: Grison Garde, Section Papillon, North Haiti. AVANSE is providing grants and training to local CBOs who, with local farmers, are using soil conservation techniques to improve the land and protect watersheds. **Before intervention.**



Figure 5b: Grison Garde, Section Papillon, North Haiti. AVANSE is providing grants and training to local CBOs who, with local farmers, are using soil conservation techniques to improve their land and protect watersheds. **After initial interventions.**

⁸ Traditional work parties, where owners of the plots of land across a slope work together on the whole slope.

IR 3: AGRICULTURAL MARKETS STRENGTHENED -POST HARVEST AND PROCESSING

This quarter's milestones include the establishment of a federation of cacao sales group sales with Novella; the signing of a grant with PISA for additional fermentation facilities, the establishment of a network of community based nurseries; continued distribution of drying tables to members of producer sales groups; and the startup of a nucleus banana plantation aimed at export production, and incorporating an out-grower association.

SUB-RESULT 3.1: IMPROVED ACCESS TO STORAGE AND PROCESSING FACILITIES

During the period 311 additional cacao drying tables were distributed to individual farmers bringing the total to date to 749, (1.82 m x 0.92 m = 1.70 m² per drying table).⁹ Farmers receiving these tables are members of the producer sales groups organized by AVANSE. The drying tables were available in time for the upcoming main harvest season and help to ensure better quality cacao, as well as serve as a source of more accurate harvest data and can serve as storage space during the drying process. The tables were manufactured locally by the Foundation Vincent. More tables will be distributed before the next season (October). The tables have been well accepted and appreciated, but going forward we are looking at options for larger drying areas and reduced unit costs, plus a farmer contribution, if at all possible. Next quarter, rice processing activities are being planned and expanded local cacao processing in Perches.

SUB-RESULT 3.2: IMPROVED MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEMS

A market information system (MIS) grant agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture (MARNDR) has been submitted to USAID for approval. The challenge is finding a way to create sustainability, which needs a long term mechanism for covering the operating costs of the staff, with AVANSE funding the short term cost of facility upgrading and providing the operating equipment needed. USDA is in the process of negotiating a final budget for continuing support to the Sous-Structure Statistique Agricole et Informatique (SSSAI) in the Ministry. This budget includes both support for the SIMA and for the agricultural survey that is done by the SSSAI. The EU is considering committing support to the agricultural survey, which would provide staff funding for the same people who manage the SIMA. Currently the total number of national markets covered is 37, but the markets in the North and North East are under-represented, especially cacao collection markets. The proposed grant includes institutional support (staff, computers, training) to the DDAs for institutional development. Currently USDA only intervenes at the Ministerial level in Damien. Once approved, we will coordinate with USDA's and other programs as we begin implementation of the SIMA grant.

⁹ Each table can dry 25-34 kg of cacao at a time, i.e., 15-20 kg/m². Drying this amount takes about five days.

SUB-RESULT 3.3: RELATIONSHIPS IN TARGETED VALUE CHAINS STRENGTHENED

Rice: The drought has caused uncertainty about the quality and quantity of the local production and delayed a potential three way agreement between a local rice producers association (MAPLAM), Lea Trading, currently an importer of rice, and the AVANSE rice team. Along with examining the best way to improve the quality and capacity of the local rice mills, we are also looking at organizing production in Ferrier around the irrigation/drainage improvements there.

Cacao: Expansion of sales group: Over 6,200 cacao farmers have been organized into 314 commercial sales groups, in January they formed themselves into an Association, the Union des Producteurs de Cacao du Nord (UPCN). In March, UPCN registered in UTZ's cacao program, (UTZ_CO1000006436). The next steps are for the members farmers to become certified. UTZ works with international companies like Mars and UTZ certified producers have to comply with a series of requirements, which are monitored by independent third parties. These requirements include Good Agricultural Practices and farming management, safe and healthy working conditions, abolition of child labor and protection of the environment. Once the members are conforming to the Code of Conduct, they are audited by an approved certifier. We are building a database of cacao farmers that will enable us capture the production and sales data necessary to obtain the certifications we are targeting (organic and UTZ). Negotiations will start between the exporter and the association regarding the annual inspection fees. Both entities should generate enough additional value from certification to cover these UTZ fees.

Expand processing (fermentation): A grant request from Produit d'Isles S.A. (PISA) for development of additional fermentation facilities and a commercial nursery was approved.

Banana/Plantain An in-kind grant of \$624,200 for equipment/materials and services was approved in March for the Union of Producers of Bananas, Haiti (UPBH), to assist them to establish and demonstrate a modern commercial banana plantation on 50 hectares at Bord du Mer, Limonade, and the establishment of an integrated banana production and supply chain involving a large private entrepreneur and the small farmers in UPBH in collaboration with other major players in bananas from the Dominican Republic and Europe.

There are two main activities: organizing, training and equipping members of the UPBH, to collaborate with others to collectively generate fresh bananas of export quality for export and sale all year, and the establishment of a commercially operated demonstration "nucleus" plantation of 50 hectares which will provide up to 2,000 cases of export quality bananas per hectare/year during the first production year, with a value of approximately \$640,000 US dollars, and around 100 permanent jobs per year.

The nucleus planting will require infrastructure and proper equipment for handling bananas; including a system for mechanized transport after harvesting, cleaning, sorting, grading, storage, and packaging, with a cold line, linked into a logistics systems to transport the products across the border and to the export ports. The grant funds a portion of this physical infrastructure and also provides technological and capacity building support to small producers of bananas organized as part of a larger commercial operating company, which will produce

export quality bananas on a sustainable and profitable basis . The grant will also introduce a new high-yielding variety "Williams" that is resistant to pests and diseases and has good operating characteristics in terms of size, shape and flavor.

Within the UBPH, currently 30 farmers farm about 33 hectares, and most UPBH farmers are beneficiaries of Avanse (past and present. These small producers will be organized, trained and provided access to equipment and services that will enable them to transform their status as small producers of bananas and plantains (currently mostly subsistence, but with sales in Haiti) into shareholders in a profitable business and competent technicians in the production of modern commercial bananas.

Typically, according to the informal system found in Haiti, many farmers currently do not own or lease land formally - but rather use it an informal manner, without any protection or written agreements. The current owner of much of the land used by the UPBH, is also a member of the UPBH - Mr. Reynold Bonnefil, who owns 160 hectares of land in the area. Mr. Bonnefil has agreed to collaborate with the Avanse project to establish this 50 hectare demonstration farm, and to formalize and guarantee use rights on his land currently used by the UPBH farmers. He will be working with AVANSE lawyers on the land title, the ownership structure and medium to long term lease contracts with UPBH members to ensure the long term viability of the grant investment in the event of any changes. By design, the overall management of the farm will be independent of individual farmers, with farmers acting as shareholders and receiving financial benefits in proportion to their plot size. Professional farm managers will manage all the activities of production, harvesting and packaging according to harvesting and marketing seasons and quality requirements.

In the months ahead as this nucleus 50 ha farm is established, AVANSE will devote particular attention to strengthening the operational capabilities of the UPBH organization.

CROSS CUTTING

GENDER INTEGRATION

The project reports gender disaggregation of beneficiaries and benefits (see Table XX which summarizes these results below). The participation varies by value chain with cacao and banana averaging the most participation and rice the least. For example, among the 4,022 individual cacao farmers who received training this period, 34% were women, and from the 3,830 beneficiaries applying the improved cacao technologies 33% were women. For rice, out of 329 people trained only 19% were women, and out of the 855 applying improved rice technologies, 22% were women. Overall, recipients of goods and services were 32% female.

Table 5: Women’s participation in selected activities, 1st Quarter FY 2016 (Percentage).

Input or Activity	Beneficiaries or Participants	Percent women	Last Quarter
Rice farmers trained	785	23%	18%
Rice seed distributed	933	35%	16%
Cacao inputs distributed	227	39%	33%
Cacao farmers trained	256	37%	34%
NRM farmers trained	910	37%	38%
Plantain suckers/compost	458	37%	32%

Monitoring and Evaluation

The primary responsibility for reporting project activities lies with the field enumerators, and their supervisors, and monitoring the distribution of inputs is with the procurement section, but both the enumerator’s monthly activity reports submitted by the value chain leads and the field distributions are monitored and cross checked by M&E team before data is entered in the IPTT..

Post-Harvest Survey: This quarter the M&E team collected data for rice, plantains, cacao and agro-forestry for the third Post-Harvest Survey, focusing on the period September 2015 to date. The results have been compiled and analyzed and these results will be presented in quarter 3.

During this quarter, the data quality unit continued to implement its new data quality assessment plan, which while focused on the new data, included assisting the field teams with data collection, cleaning and reporting while updating prior period files. Filing and cross-checking of all distribution data this quarter, along with the support documents, continues. All the hard copy data arriving from the field, is entered into the AVANSE database and checked.

During this quarter the M&E field team also conducted spot checks, observing and verifying input distributions in the field including for cacao drying tables, plantain suckers, cacao seedlings, compost for plantains, and distribution of seed for rice farmers.

A 1st Quarter survey compared actual areas versus farmer estimated areas for over 200 farmers across the project sites and value chains, and found significant variations between farmer estimates of area and actual areas as measured. The GPS-based field measurement of all AVANSE farm plots continued at a greater pace this quarter, a major logistical and technical challenge.

Cacao, given the scattered nature of the plots, the problems of varying tree densities and the remote locations of the beneficiaries is behind rice and plantain and geo-referencing will be accelerated in the 3rd Quarter of FY16.

The GIS unit has built a variety of tools to improve this process of spatial data collection and to allow the parcel areas and shape files associated with a particular beneficiary to be incorporated in the AVANSE database. This geographic information system allows the project for the first time to combine the results data in the AVANSE beneficiary database directly with spatial data, thus geo-referencing project activities. The new spatial data is verified for accuracy prior to uploading. This quarter all of the geo-spatial data reported have been through this data verification process, uploaded and linked to the associated project beneficiaries. It is important to note that there is time lag between the start of a campaign and the concurrent establishment of the parcel area of a beneficiary and the subsequent measurement of the area impacted.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Personnel. The Environmental compliance (EC) team currently consists of the senior environmental officer and an assistant. A third environmental officer is being recruited.

Environmental Assessment: M&E and DQA Mechanisms

Following the formal approval by the USAID of the AVANSE PEA on January 7th, 2016, the environmental compliance teams primary focus this quarter was on establishing the AVANSE Environmental Monitoring & Management Framework including specific directives and guidelines for carrying out the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and associated Data Quality Assessment (DQA) mechanisms of the various EMMPs being finalized by EC and implemented by the Value Chains and Groups - conforming to the AVANSE Approved PEA. The overall Status of the AVANSE PEA implementation is continuously assessed through the AVANSE environmental compliance status summaries & reports.

Good Agricultural practices (GAP) & Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Strategy

In line with the specific directives of the approved PEA - AVANSE to produce various good agricultural practices sheets / media aimed at addressing all agro-related production issues respectively associated to : (1) AVANSE focus crops; (2) Nurseries and seeds (& in vitro) multiplication; (3) Irrigated rice and banana/plantain production, and (4) Fertilizer use – as linked to AVANSE’s overall soil fertility management strategy , a SOW was submitted to USAID for approval. The STTA includes: technical assistance with AVANSE’s focus crops IPM guidelines - the production of training materials aimed at supporting the implementation of AVANSE’s IPM Strategy & Implementation Plan, and elaborating the main guidelines and implementation mechanisms for the implementation of the AVANSE safer pesticides access initiative; and institutional & technical capacity building assistance for local government - through mapping out the necessary pre-requisites for establishing Haiti’s National Registry of Pesticides and its subsequent harmonization with the National Registry of Dominican Republic (DR).

Environmental Compliance and Ongoing Screening of AVANSE’s activities

As per the PEA directed environmental management guidelines, the EC team generated the specific EMMPs for AVANSE’s ongoing and planned activities – as derived from their associated approved generic EMMPs. Considering that AVANSE’s activities are mostly site specific in nature – besides Value Chain production (non-infrastructure and/or non-grant) related activities, this implies generating and/or updating EMMPs for practically all of AVANSE’s activities – conforming to the AVANSE approved environmental management guidelines.

COMMUNICATIONS

During this quarter, AVANSE finalized four films, coordinated two small public events and installed additional USAID branding signs, plus reported weekly on project activities and produced a monthly Newsletter and Success Story.. Progress was made on preparing for the launch of an AVANSE Radio Program next quarter and the illustrations and text prepared for 3 Value-Chain technical booklets in Creole, which will be finalized and published next quarter.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Launch of Irrigation Works: A small ceremony was held on Thursday, 21 January, to launch the rehabilitation of the irrigation canals in Grison Garde. Present were representatives of the

Ministry of Agriculture, leaders of the Water-Users Associations, beneficiary farmers and DAUDAS, the company implementing the work. The work includes cleaning and rehabilitation of the main dam as well as water-way control gates and repairs to up to 5,000 linear meters of canal. The rehabilitated scheme will improve irrigation on approximately 220 hectares.

Formation of Cacao Association: On Thursday, 28 January, the cacao associations' delegates met at the Chamber of Commerce in Cap Haitian where they created a new federation of northern cacao farmers' seller group associations. In the presence of Novella's director as well as the head of AVANSE's Agri-business section, the delegates elected their new board of directors. AVANSE has helped over 3,000 cacao farmers organize themselves into 314 cacao seller group associations who trade directly with Haiti's biggest cacao exporter Novella. These groups have now formed a federation - Union des Producteurs de Cacao Nord (UPCN).

Films of Project Activities: Four films on AVANSE activities were delivered this quarter. The four films, which are about 3 minutes in length, cover the AVANSE rice, cacao, and plantain and natural resources programs. These films, which have already been approved by USAID, will be used to promote the work that the project is doing on national as well as international broadcast platforms. The films are in Creole/French with English subtitles.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

AVANSE Newsletters and Success Stories: The monthly AVANSE Newsletter and Success Story continue to provide information about the project and the program activities. They are distributed to a USAID-approved list of more than 250 people – including partner projects and Ministry of Agriculture officials. Some stories are picked up by USAID and DAI HQ social media.

AVANSE Radio Program: This quarter, a Radio Communications Officer has been selected who will begin working early in the next quarter. In the meantime, the process to establish a contract with radio stations to broadcast a 30-minute weekly AVANSE radio show has begun and prepare programs has begun. The AVANSE Radio Show will begin broadcasting in June.

BRANDING

A total of 217 additional AVANSE project work sites signs were received this quarter and are being installed. The complete installation of these signs will be completed next quarter. . There have been 143 signs that have already been installed.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Senior management this quarter focused on acceleration of implementation of the field activities, finalization of the remaining grants, and working with the technical field teams to improve the efficiencies of the M&E and environmental reporting systems. Following the meeting with the USAID M&E team this quarter, the responsibility for collecting and reporting field data has been shifted more to the technical staff. The M&E team is responsible for confirming, spot checking, verifying and analyzing this data. The various paperwork and procedures for the environmental compliance system is in hand and coming along well.

The restructuring and staffing to achieve the revised scope of work continues. This period saw no significant changes in the team; with total staff standing at 164 people. Active recruitment

has been underway for some time for additional staff, including Engineers, an Environmental Officer, and a Radio Communication Officer, but finding qualified personnel who wish to live in Cap Haitian is a challenge. A formal request has been made to USAID to increase staff salaries by more than the current annual 2% to counter the impact of inflation and living cost increases.

AVANSE's new LOP targets are 16,208 hectares and 20,000 farm households; mainly in the cacao, rice, and banana value chains. From October 2015 the project needs to bring at least 2,268 hectares of rice, 3,885 hectares of plantain/banana, and 7,521 hectares of cacao, (old and new plantations) under improved technologies or management practices, For the same period Oct 2015-July 2017 we plan to partner with 4,482 rice households (hh), 3,592 cacao hh and 1,083 plantain hh to achieve these improved area goals.

The NRM target is at least 1,500 hectares of upland agroforestry designed to protect downstream irrigation rehabilitation works, and 487 hh applying improved technologies. Due to the preparation needed to start up these activities, the areas being improved by the CBO's are well short of these targets, with only 24.1 ha improved to date, but the increase in the funding available to the grantees and the approval of the other six CBO's put us back on track to achieve this target. The irrigation target for the remainder of the project is at least 3,000 ha rehabilitated. This area will require the identification, review and design of additional activities over and above those in the work plan. Achieving the life of project targets, in the limited time left available will continue to require significant efforts in implementation, and in measuring impact.

During this quarter, the project PEA was finally approved on January 7th, 2016. The systems for environmental monitoring and reporting against all activities are being put into place. An annual external audit of AVANSE's Environmental Mitigation Plan (EMP) will be carried out in FY 2016.

The DCOP continued to this quarter to rebuild AVANSE's links with the MANDR, with field trips to irrigation, rice and plantain sites, discussions re tractor hire and collaboration on developing a grant to assist in the expansion of their market information system.

During the period of January – March, 2016, the AVANSE grants, subcontracts and procurement (GSP) team moved forward on a number of activities. See Annex C

Indicator #	Indicator Title	Unit of measure	Disaggregation	Data Source	Baseline Year	Baseline value	Accomplishment FY14 (Oct 2013- Sept 2014)	Accomplishment FY15 (Oct 2014- Sept 2015)	Accomplishment Q1 FY16 (Oct - Dec 2015)	Accomplishment Q2 FY16 (Jan - March 2016)	Accomplishment Q3 FY16 (April - June 2016)	Accomplishment Q4 FY16 (July - Sept 2016)	FY16 actual (Q1+Q2+Q3 +Q4)	FY 16 target	% accomplishment compared with target (FY16 results/FY16 targets)	Accomplishment up to FY16 (FY14 total+ FY15 total+FY16 Total)	Target for life of the project	% accomplishment compared with life of project (up to FY16 results/LOP targets)	Remarks for this quarter (Give an overview of the source of the data reported for the specific period)
(1.2) 4.5.2-23 FTF	Value of incremental sales (collected at farm-level) attributed to FTF implementation (RiA)	Value (USD)	Total	Post harvest survey of beneficiary producers	2013	2,540,102 (# Ben: 4516)	96401	\$ (1,830,846)	N/A	N/A			0	7,371,623.25	0%	(1,734,444.72)	19,546,375	-9%	Annual report. PH3 completed and preliminary results will be reported next quarter.
			Rice			267736 (# Ben:351)	98410	\$ (416,025)			0	1,684,535.00	0%	(317,615.08)	3,426,680	-9%			
			Plantain			1,337,456 (# Ben:421)	87925	\$ (1,135,856)			0	3,978,762.25	0%	(1,047,931.43)	11,936,287	-9%			
			Cacao			491180 (# Ben:2277)	292921	\$ 106,140			0	1,708,326.00	0%	399,060.98	3,597,507	11%			
Custom (1.3 a)	Number of rural households who apply improved technologies or management practices		Total						2284	1834			4118	4,454	92%	4,118	21,500	19%	Numbers estimated based on the ratio of 0.87/1 (Household /farmer).
			Rice						744	289		1033	1,018	101%	1,033				
			Plantain/Banana						30	655		685	722	95%	685				
			Cacao						1388	108		1496	2,390	63%	1,496				
			NRM						123	782		905	325	278%	905				
4.5.2.5 FTF	Number of farmers and others who have applied improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (RiA) (WOG)		Total			0	7,013	13,703	2,607	2,108			4,715	5,120	92%	25,431	24,295	105%	The result includes numbers for NRM, Rice, Plantain and cocoa value chain
			Total Sex			7,013	13,703	2,607	2,108			4,715	5,120	92%	25,431	17,007	150%		
			Male			5,302	9,717	1,203	1,425			2,628	3,584	73%	17,647	7,289	242%		
			Female			1,711	3,986	449	683			1,132	1,536	74%	6,829				
			Producers/			7,007	13,703	2,607	2,108										
			Others			6	0	0	0										
			Technology Type																
			SRI			400	3,027	855	160								5,152		
			SRA					-	182										
			Utilisation de fertilisants a dose minimale, Introduction du DAP					855	100										
			Gestion de l'eau: utilisation minimale				3,027	855	277										
			Utilisation de Rouleau Marqueteur					855	297										
			Utilisation de sarceuse Conique						2										
			Improved certified Rice Variety (Seed)			400	3,027	855	335				1,170				5,152		
			New Banane					34	753										
			Plantation Techniques																
			IPM on Plantain (Sigatoka)			500	2,102		30								830	1,245	
			New cacao Plantation Techniques			2,500	6,333	1,595	124								2,747	4,129	
			Biomechanical Structures			650	502	123	899								373		
			Hedgerows			650	124	123									373		
Introduction of Agroforestry cropping	650	502	123									373	560						
Contiguous Demonstration Blocks	650	502	123									373							
			Total	Project records	2013	0	3,942	3,928	201.2	788.34			990	8,535	12%	8,859.54	20,674	43%	
			Cultural Practices													6,346			
			Improved certified Rice Variety (Seed)			125	1,534	151	194.82			346	1,512	23%	2,004.82	3,927	51%		
			New Cacao Plantation Techniques			675	1,300	N/A	25.78			26	4,834	1%	2,000.78	9,226	22%		
			Technology Total																
			pest management																
			disease management																
IPM on Plantain (Sigatoka)	400	970	26.11	9.15								2,257	4,755						

Indicator #	Indicator Title	Unit of measure	Disaggregation	Data Source	Baseline Year	Baseline value	Accomplishment FY14 (Oct 2013- Sept 2014)	Accomplishment FY15 (Oct 2014- Sept 2015)	Accomplishment Q1 FY16 (Oct - Dec 2015)	Accomplishment Q2 FY16 (Jan - March 2016)	Accomplishment Q3 FY16 (April - June 2016)	Accomplishment Q4 FY16 (July - Sept 2016)	FY16 actual (Q1+Q2+Q3 +Q4)	FY 16 target	% accomplishment compared with target (FY16 results/FY16 targets)	Accomplishment up to FY16 (FY14 total+ FY15 total+FY16 Total)	Target for life of the project	% accomplishment compared with life of project (up to FY16 results/LOP targets)	Remarks for this quarter (Give an overview of the source of the data reported for the specific period)		
			Male and Female Adult (M&F)				4,192	12,410	4,980	2233				8,550			28,810		to thousands using the ratio of 0.87/1.		
			Child no Adult (CAN)				0	0	0	0				0							
(1.2.1) 4.5.2-7 FTF	Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training (RiA) (WOG)	#	Grand Total	Training attendance	2013	0	10,508	8,516	5,812	1,951			7,763	3,821	203%	26,787.00	22,627	118%	NEW Individuals who received trainings through FFS for the three value chains and via the demonstration blocks for NRM activities.		
			Total Sex				10,508	8,516	5,812	1,951				3,821			22627				
			Male						7,425	6,399	3,882	1,331						16355			
			Female						3,083	2,117	1,930	620						6272			
			Type of individuals							0											
			producers						9,108	8,051	5,812	1,951									
			People in government						0	0	0	0									
			People in private sector						35	88	0	0									
	People in civil society (NGOs, CBOs, CSOs, research and academic organizations)						1365	177	0	0											
(1.3.1) custom	Number of farmers who have access to improved agricultural inputs due to USG assistance	#	Sex total	Project record, SIBA agricultural inputs	2013	0	5,446	15,775	5,287	1,890			7,177	5,000	144%	28,398.00	27,721	102%	Data from distribution lists of total beneficiaries receiving inputs through SIBA or other distributions		
			Male				4,045	11,013	3,637	1,219											
			Female				1,401	4,762	1,650	671											
(1.4.1) 5.1-28 FIF	Hectares under new or improved/rehabilitated irrigation and drainage services as a result of USG assistance (RiA) (WOG)	Ha	None	Project record, maps	2013	0	0	0	0	N/A			0	1,414	0%	-	3,000	0%	The PEA was approved Jan 7th, major execution in the field will be stated next quarter - Hectares will be tracked and reported end of FY 2016 (Annual reporting)		
(1.4.2.) custom	Number of kilometers of irrigation systems repaired due to USG assistance	Kms	None	Project record			0	0	0	N/A			0	17.4	0%	-	27	0%	The PEA was approved Jan 7th, major execution in the field will be started next quarter - Hectares will be tracked and reported end of FY 2016 (Annual reporting)		
(1.4.1.1) Custom	Number of water management associations strengthened and functioning well	#	None	Project record					0	0			0	3	0%	-	6	0%	Studies are done. So, the management plan of the perimeter including the strengthening capacity of the WUA's will start next quarter		
(2.1) 4.8.1-26	Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance	Ha		Project record, maps	2013	0	863.25	178	24.1	279.28			303.38	1,250	24%	1,344.63	1,500	90%	Data from the 5 grant activities that started end of February. The GIS database has been used to report these areas		

Indicator #	Indicator Title	Unit of measure	Disaggregation	Data Source	Baseline Year	Baseline value	Accomplishment FY14 (Oct 2013- Sept 2014)	Accomplishment FY15 (Oct 2014- Sept 2015)	Accomplishment Q1 FY16 (Oct - Dec 2015)	Accomplishment Q2 FY16 (Jan - March 2016)	Accomplishment Q3 FY16 (April - June 2016)	Accomplishment Q4 FY16 (July - Sept 2016)	FY16 actual (Q1+Q2+Q3 +Q4)	FY 16 target	% accomplishment compared with target (FY16 results/FY16 targets)	Accomplishment up to FY16 (FY14 total+ FY15 total+FY16 Total)	Target for life of the project	% accomplishment compared with life of project (up to FY16 results/LOP targets)	Remarks for this quarter (Give an overview of the source of the data reported for the specific period)	
(2.3) F 4.8.1-1	Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources showing improved physical conditions as a result of USG assistance	Ha	N/A	GIS Map, Qualitative observations on site	2013	0	863.25	133.5	18.08	209.46			227.54	938	24%	1,224.29	1,126	109%	We estimate 75% of the total area under improved natural resource management will show improved physical conditions. This will be measured after the growing period	
(2.3.1) custom	Survival rates of USG assisted tree planting	%	None	Plot site tree counts, sample	2013	0	45% (N: 27,249 D: 60,117)	Not Available	Not Available	N/A				50.00%				55%	Ongoing data collection: (Annual reporting)	
(2.1.2) Custom	Number of trees planted with USG assistance	#	None	Plot site tree counts, sample	2013	0	60,117	116,833	63,942	3403			67,345	100,000	67%	244,295.00	240,000	102%	Trees were planted during this period due to launch of activities under the 5 grants	
(2.4.1) 4.8.2-26 F	Number of stakeholders with increased capacity to adapt to the impacts of climate variability and change as a result of USG assistance	#	Total	Project record	2013	0	1690	2823	978	1231			2209	1,650	134%	6,722.00	6,513	103%	Results for this indicator come from NRM (agroforestry activities) and rice activities particularly SRI (899 from NRM and 332 from rice)	
			Implementing risk-reducing practices or actions to improve resilience to climate change				1690	2823	978	1231			1500							
			Using climate information in decision making				0	0	0			150								
(2.4.2) 4.8.1-6 F	Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resource management and conservation as a result of USG assistance	#	Total	Project record, IR2 conservation enrollment and attendance form	2013	0	3250	2510	N/A	N/A			0	1,000	0%	5,760.00	7,000	82%	Ongoing data collection; - (Annual reporting)	
			Male				2275	1353				730								
			Female				975	1157				270								
(2.4.3) custom	Number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and /or biodiversity conservation	#	Total	Project record, attendance form	2013	0	2751	502	101	910			1011	2,000	51%	4,264.00	5,000	85%	Individuals trained through CBO activities.	
			Male				2089	397	70	570			1,400							
			female				662	105	31	340			600							
(3.1) 4.5.2-38 FTF	Value of new private sector investments in the agricultural sector and food chain leveraged by FTF implementation (RiA)	USD	None	Enterprises, Record Survey	2013	0	0	0	N/A	0			\$ 1,000,000			\$ 1,544,000			Contingent on grant activities underway and planned. Data due end Q4 2016.	
(3.2) custom	Value of agribusiness sales due to USG assistance	USD	Total	Project record.	2013		5,460,000	24,828	44,000	N/A	0			\$ 2,457,693			\$ 3,870,063			Ongoing data collection - Annual reporting - Data due end Q4 2016.
			Small &Medium				260,000	24,828				225,000								
			Novella				5,200,000					2,232,693								
			Corn				30,000	24,828												
			Rice				63,000	0				50,000								
			Beans				0	0												
			Plantain				63,000	0				75,000								
			Cacao				5,304,000	0	44,000			2,232,693								
			Producers				60,000	0	44,000			100,000								
			Traders/assembles				5,400,000.00	0				2,330,000								

Indicator #	Indicator Title	Unit of measure	Disaggregation	Data Source	Baseline Year	Baseline value	Accomplishment FY14 (Oct 2013- Sept 2014)	Accomplishment FY15 (Oct 2014- Sept 2015)	Accomplishment Q1 FY16 (Oct - Dec 2015)	Accomplishment Q2 FY16 (Jan - March 2016)	Accomplishment Q3 FY16 (April - June 2016)	Accomplishment Q4 FY16 (July - Sept 2016)	FY16 actual (Q1+Q2+Q3 +Q4)	FY 16 target	% accomplishment compared with target (FY16 results/FY16 targets)	Accomplishment up to FY16 (FY14 total+ FY15 total+FY16 Total)	Target for life of the project	% accomplishment compared with life of project (up to FY16 results/LOP targets)	Remarks for this quarter (Give an overview of the source of the data reported for the specific period)
(3.2.2) custom	Number of processing facilities established or improved due to USG assistance	#	Total	Project record	2013	0	0	0	N/A	0			0	3	0%	-	4	0%	1 cacao and 2 rice processing facilities planned through grant activities.
			Corn-processing facilities				0					0							
			Rice-processing facilities				0					2							
			Cacao-processing facilities				0					1							
(3.4.1) Custom	Number of farmers accessing market information due to USG assistance	#	Total	Project record, Phone list	2013	0	0	0	N/A	0			0	12,000	0%	-	20,000	0%	A grant for MIS activities is in progress. We will have activities with Novella for share cocoa prices with the cocoa producers and also with MANDR for other information for the value chains
			Male				0					8,400							
			Female				0					3,600							
(3.5.1) 4.5.2-12 FtF -F	Number of public-private partnerships formed as a result of FTF assistance (S)	#	Total	Project record	2013	0	2	0	0	1			1	3	33%	3	7	43%	Collaboration memo signed with UPBH for Banana activities
			Agricultural production				2					1							
			Agricultural post-harvest transformation				0					2							
			Nutrition				0					0							
			Other areas				0					0							
			Multi-focus				0					0							
(3.5.2) 4.5-2 FTF	Number of jobs attributed to FTF implementation (RiA)	#	Total	Project record, agribusiness survey	2013	0	0	0	0	25				75			100		Jobs created by the CBO's that have an NRM grant.
			Urban				0												
			Rural				0					25							
			New				0					25							
			Continuing				0					0							
			Male				0						20						
			Female				0						5						
(4.1) 4.5.2-11 FTF	Number of food security private enterprises, producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance (RiA) (WOG)	#	Total	Project record	2013	0	780	368	0	8			8	18	44%	1,156.00	1,170	99%	We have 3 Boutiques that are affiliated to SIBA for the vouchers program and 5 CBO's with a NRM grant.
			total New/Continuing				0	780	368				18						
			New				0	780	30	8			15						
			Continuing				0	0	338	0			3						
			Type or organizations																
			Private enterprises				0	9	16	3			4						
			Producers organizations				0	0	0	0			2						
			Water user associations				0	0	7	0			3						
			Women's groups				0	0	0	0			0						
			Trade and business associations				0	34	7	0			0						
Community based organizations	0	737	338	5			11												
(4.2.1) 4.5.2-42 FtF	Number of private enterprises, producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) that applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG	#	Total	Project record, Organization survey	2013	0	6	0	0				0	26	0%	6	36	17%	Annual summary report
			total New/Continuing				6	0											
			New				6						20						
			Continuing				0						3						
			Type of enterprises																
			Private enterprises				6						4						
			Producers organizations				0						2						
			Water user associations				0						3						
Women's groups	0						0												

Indicator #	Indicator Title	Unit of measure	Disaggregation	Data Source	Baseline Year	Baseline value	Accomplishment FY14 (Oct 2013- Sept 2014)	Accomplishment FY15 (Oct 2014- Sept 2015)	Accomplishment Q1 FY16 (Oct - Dec 2015)	Accomplishment Q2 FY16 (Jan - March 2016)	Accomplishment Q3 FY16 (April - June 2016)	Accomplishment Q4 FY16 (July - Sept 2016)	FY16 actual (Q1+Q2+Q3 +Q4)	FY 16 target	% accomplishment compared with target (FY16 results/FY16 targets)	Accomplishment up to FY16 (FY14 total+FY15 total+FY16 Total)	Target for life of the project	% accomplishment compared with life of project (up to FY16 results/LOP targets)	Remarks for this quarter (Give an overview of the source of the data reported for the specific period)
	assistance (R/A) (WOG)		Trade and business associations				0							0					
			Community based organizations				0						11						

ANNEX A: Additional details on Irrigation activities.

The specifications for the additional work at Grison Garde include:

- Dam protection works;
- Containment works on the Mornet River above the dam;
- Consolidation of the left side lock wall;
- Gabion protection for the intake channel just after the silt trap;
- Improvement of the bypass;
- Repair of the downstream area of the dam;
- Protection wall for the main channel;
- Rehabilitation of the intake;
- Extension of the silt trap;
- Replacement of the sluice and intake valves;
- Repair to the distribution system;
- Repairs to the base and walls of the main intake, and primary/secondary channels;
- Replacement of additional control gates.

The pumped irrigation study includes:

- An inventory of the current condition and location of wells and other water points;
- The location of the existing wells in relation to potentially irrigable areas;
- Determination of the physical condition of the wells;
- Determination of the hydraulic conditions of these wells (depth to water and water level in the well, potential water volumes) and their current uses;
- Determination of water available and individual well performance by pumping tests, to lower the water in the wells and measure the current recharge rates;
- Impact of the draw down pumping on any adjacent wells already in use;
- Determination of the quality of water, its salinity and sand content (max. 50 g / m³);
- An action plan for the unused wells, with details of the repairs and equipment required)
- The potential of using small booster pump systems from the Grande-Rivière du Nord:
 - Determination of site suitability in relation to the potentially irrigable areas;
 - Whether electric power is available at the site;
 - Determination of the flood risks at the potential pump site based on historical flows;
 - Feasibility of the construction of small pumping stations at each potential site;
 - Design of any potential pump station;
 - Preparation of a preliminary design (Avant Projets Sommaires, APS) and detailed designs (Avant Projets Definitifs, APD) for the well and pump station activities.

The plans for the water user associations include the following activities:

- Strengthening organizational management of these irrigation systems;
- Improving the operating procedures of the water user associations; including the election of management, and monitoring the various committee's;
- Legal registration of new Water Users Associations (WUAs): at Coicou and Dubre;
- Formulation of conflict management strategies;
- Encouraging more female leadership in the management of these perimeters;

The plans for financial management of the water user associations include these activities:

- Estimates of operating, maintenance and repair costs of each system
- Recording actual operating costs and maintenance/repair costs of each system
- Tariff policy based on actual costs; setting and collecting user fees, and adjusting tariffs;
- Strategies for distribution/regulation of water to ensure efficient use of water on the perimeter.

ANNEX B: Environment

The EC team produced EMMPs, which are at various level of completion, and carried out spot checks for the following Value Chain and/or Group activities:

- Five (5) EMMPs for SIBA's 5 existing affiliated boutiques - associated M&E spot checks;
- One (1) EMMP for SIBA's plowing services access Voucher activity – Finalized;
- Five (5) EMMPs for Natural Resources/ Hillside Soil Conservation Grants - almost completed and associated M&E Spot checks initiated;
- One (1) Non Site Specific Value Chain (cacao, banana, rice) production *Umbrella EMMP* (non-infrastructure et non-grant) implemented and M&E spot check initiated;
- One (1) EMMP for Agro-processing's PISA Cacao Fermentation Grant – finalized and associated M&E spot checks initiated;
- One (1) EMMP for the Grison-Garde Irrigation System Rehabilitation – finalized and associated M&E spot checks initiated;
- One (1) EMMP for IR1/ Value Chains MARND/SIMA Grant – categorical exclusion ruling;
- One (1) EMMP for the IR1/ Banana Value Chain UEdH a Limonade Soil and In-vitro Facilities Grant – Finalized and spot checks not yet initiated; and
- One (1) EMMP for Banana Value Chain UPBH/Banamiel Grant – almost finalized and spot check not yet initiated;

A total of 17 site specific EMMPs have been produced – at various level of completion. See latest AVANSE Environmental Compliance Status – SUMMARY and AVANSE Environmental Compliance Status - REPORT as of March 31st, 2016 for details.

Parallel to the production of specific EMMPs above mentioned, the drafting of various specific EMMPs were also initiated during the quarter under review in order to support the environmental compliance screening needs of upcoming grants and value chain activities:

- Six (5) specific EMMPs for the 5 Hillside Soil Stabilization Grants to OCB by the Natural Resources Management Group;
- Three (3) specific EMMPs for the SIBA's 3 newly identified Boutiques to affiliate – along with the Three (3) specific Grant's EMMP provided for their structural upgrade – as per USAID/LAC regulations

It is expected that some of the grants awarded by AVANSE in the coming months will be site specific and not generically covered by the umbrella EMMP in the approved AVANSE PEA. In that regard, there are more site specific EMMPs to be generated within the context of effectively and efficiently conducting the ongoing screening of AVANSE activities for compliance with 22-CFR-216 and the AVANSE approved PEA.

Other activities carried by the EC team within the context of environmental compliance screening of AVANSE primarily consisted in conducting environmental compliance trainings for field technicians and Value Chain and Group chiefs Those training aimed at explaining the fundamentals of the EMMP's Table III : Table III C. Environmental Monitoring and Evaluation Tracking Table (Table 3) / (EMMP M&E Table) associated with the Environmental compliance M&E of their respective activities, and stressing to them EC's expectations as to continuously maintaining the stated activities in particular, and AVANSE , in compliance with 22-CFR-216 and its immediate corollaries – AVANSE PEA and USAID Current PERSUAP.

AVANSE Environmental Compliance Status: Summaries & Reports

In order to continuously assessed the overall environmental status of AVANSE, the EC Group produces three (3) types of environmental compliance reports

1. AVANSE Environmental Compliance Status Summary -a table showing the overall status of all AVANSE EMMPs using various progress indicators such as “ Not Stated”, “Initiated”, “In progress” and “Done” – organized by Value Chains, IRs and Groups;
2. AVANSE Environmental Compliance Status Report – the detailed environmental compliance status of each EMMP.
3. Spot Check Observation Notes – outlining the main observations made during spot check visits on the specific environmental compliance status of IRs and/or Groups activities - as visited, made available to the IRs and/Groups chiefs to highlight potential shortcomings and adjustments necessary in order to the effectively implement their environmental compliance prerogatives.

Environmental monitoring: an example..

In March, as part of their monitoring of project activities, EC visited three SIBA affiliated boutiques: (1) Dieu le Sait at Grison Garde, (2) Jaden Lakay at Quartier Morin, and (3) Jaden Lakay at Bas Limbe – During September to December 2015, fertilizer was delivered for onward sale to AVANSE plantain farmers, but in Haiti there is not a tradition of fertilizing plantain, particularly with mineral fertilizers, and this combined with the drought, has meant that the uptake of the 20:10:20 to date has been limited, and some of the fertilizer has remained in the store. A problem was observed of some leakage from the sacks of 20-10-20, while the 20:20:10, the urea and the DAP remained in reasonably good condition. The retention basin and concrete floor that had been installed in the depot meant that any leakage that occurred was contained.

This particular batch of fertilizer 20:10:20 contains a large amount (c 40%) of KCl; a hygroscopic salt. It has a low critical relative humidity (CRH) of 70-80% and this CRH decreases further when used in mixtures with N and P. The physical structure and integrity of the granule along with the particle surface area and its porosity also impact the amount of deliquescence. Potassium chloride/Muriate of Potash (KCl) is cheaper and more available than the less deliquescent potassium nitrate (KNO₃).

The 20:10:20 stock in Bas Limbe was in the worst condition and Grison Garde also showed signs of leaking, while Quartier Morin was in reasonably good condition. As this stock was all manufactured at the same time, the differences in leakages are almost certainly due to the recent increased humidity in Bas Limbe and Grison Garde. stock of 20-20-10. For the last two

years the urea and DAP stored for use on rice have maintained by these stores in good condition;- the NPK 20-10-20 was a new formula that we trialed this campaign on banana.

During March, the following action plan to address the leakage was launched
A second application with 128 sacks of NPK 20-10-20 was made on the 12 demonstration gardens established in December. This will empty Dieu Le Sait Boutique/Grison Garde and Jaden Lakay/Bas Limbe of 20 :10 :20, while the stock in Quartier Morin is being aggressively promoted by the Plantain encadreurs.
For the boutiques in Bas Limbe and Grison Garde, a combination of absorption by sawdust followed by washing, then more sawdust, more washing was used to remove any leakage.

ANNEX C: Grants, subcontracts and procurement.

A total of two grants were signed between AVANSE and the respective grantees; eight new grants were submitted to USAID for approval and five grant modifications were submitted to USAID for approval. Three new subcontracts and 141 purchase orders were fully executed with the respective subcontractors and vendors. The total value of obligated funds during this period is \$1,765,746.

AVANSE executed a standard grant on January 20, 2016 in the amount of \$201,600 to Produits des Isles S.A. (PISA) for a grafted cacao nursery and fermentation facilities to increase the volume and value of cacao exports. AVANSE also executed a fixed-amount award in the amount of \$79,000 on February 2, 2016 to the Campus Henri Christophe de Limonade /Universite d'Etat d'Haiti (CHCL/UEH) for the purchase of equipment to establish a soil laboratory, and to improve soil diagnostic services for AVANSE.

AVANSE submitted six new in-kind grants, worth approximately \$102,660 each; to USAID for approval for community based organizations (CBOs) to provide agro-forestry and soil conservation work above the proposed AVANSE irrigation rehabilitation sites. For the five existing CBO in-kind grants that were executed during the previous quarter, AVANSE submitted a request for approval to USAID to increase the ceiling of those grants from approximately \$83,000 to \$102,660 in order to ensure that the area targets are met.

AVANSE also submitted an in-kind grant in the amount of \$241,193 to USAID for approval for the expansion of the Market Information System for agricultural products for the Ministry of Agriculture. Finally, AVANSE submitted an in-kind grant in the amount of \$624,600 to USAID for approval for Union Des producteurs de banane D'Haïti (UPBH) to establish a 50 hectare demonstration banana plantation to enable the production and export of bananas through the Dominican Republic which was approved March 13th.

During the next quarter, AVANSE anticipates submitting potential in-kind grants for rice milling and cacao processing. The collaborative in-kind grant to provide the protected growing facilities needed to harden off plantain/banana meristems that will be produced under a French Government grant with CHCL/UEH has been put on hold pending clarifications of the long term sustainability of this initiative.

AVANSE finalized and moved forward with the procurement process for numerous subcontracts during the period. In terms of irrigation-specific activities, one subcontract was signed for maintenance work on the canals at Grison Garde. This subcontract is valued at \$36,121 and was signed on January 13, 2016. The AVANSE team continued monitoring a subcontract that signed during the previous quarter in the amount of \$41,274 for the implementation of three land survey studies at Grison Garde, Dubre and Coicou. The final studies were submitted by the firm at the end of March. The AVANSE GSP team also launched four RFPs – including for the identification of a supervision firm to monitor all irrigation activities, the studies for the pumped irrigation systems for bananas, rehabilitation work at Dubre, and extension of the existing canal at Dubre. The selection process was finalized for the supervision firm and AVANSE anticipates submitting a subcontract for USAID approval in the upcoming quarter. Next quarter, AVANSE also anticipates finalizing the selection and subcontracting process for the other three RFPs, and anticipates issuing new RFPs for irrigation activities at Ferrier and Bas Limbe.

For other non-irrigation related activities, AVANSE signed a subcontract on February 10, 2016 in the amount of \$105,384 with Auburn University to provide technical assistance to the University of Limonade. For the SIBA program, AVANSE signed seven new agreements with its partner firms. This includes the execution of Task Order 4 under the Indefinite Quantity Contract (IQC) with TRANSVERSAL in the amount of \$51,669. Task Order 4 was signed on March 31, 2016 to provide voucher printing and hosting for the SIBA program. A BPA was signed with Le Levier on February 22, 2016 for approximately \$10,000 for the management of voucher fees. Affiliation agreements were signed with three new boutiques and renewed with two existing boutiques.

For direct distributions, AVANSE signed 141 POs with a total obligated amount of \$1,281,942. The majority of these procurements were for agricultural materials for the FFS' such as fertilizer, banana suckers, cacao plants and tools. The AVANSE GSP team also finalized POs for tools and office materials for support to the 5 CBO grantee's and finalized the procurement process and selected nine vendors to receive BPAs to provide seeds under all 11 CBO in-kind grants. Distribution of some of those items for the 5 CBOs started during this quarter, while distribution for the 6 other CBOs will commence in the next quarter.

This quarter, for the banana value chain, AVANSE distributed 846,050 kg of organic fertilizer (16,921 bags of 50kg each), 280,447 banana plants and 126 tools. For SIBA, AVANSE distributed 116 bags of fertilizer (100lbs per bag). For the cacao value chain, AVANSE distributed 13,770 cacao plants, 2,047 tools and 22,400kg of organic fertilizer (448 bags of 50kg each). For IR3, AVANSE distributed 311 drying tables and 96 sets of tools for nurseries. For the rice value chain, AVANSE distributed 4,966kg of rice seed. Finally, for IR2, AVANSE distributed 315,243 seeds/agricultural materials for distribution by the 5 CBO grantees to communities.

Back Cover captions	All photos taken by AVANSE staff
<p>AVANSE offices, Cap Haitien, Haiti. AVANSE staff distributing some of the 175,000 root trainers destined to 39 nursery vendors who work with the AVANSE project. March, 2016</p>	<p>Port Margot, North Haiti. AVANSE Field Technician Tovar Michel Rodolphe and an AVANSE cacao farmer in Port Margot's Clonal Garden. Already seedlings planted a year and a half ago are bearing fruit. 'Super trees' have improved characteristics and resilience, including consistently producing higher yields and superior cacao. Each super tree can provide numerous cuttings over time from the new shoots that emerge about six months after pruning. February, 2016.</p>
<p>Cap Haitien, Haiti. Nursery owner Nicolas Désir preparing and sowing the AVANSE distributed root trainers. He says the root trainers will make his nursery more efficient and be more environmentally friendly. The trays are reusable root trainers, just a fraction of the 175,500 root trainers distributed by AVANSE to 39 nurseries to replace the plastic bags being used to hold seedlings. In addition to being more environmentally friendly, the root trainers improve nursery efficiency by taking up less space and offer seedlings better aeration. March 2016.</p>	<p>Ouanaminthe, Section Jalendor, Northeast Haiti. AVANSE Rice Beneficiary Adrien Pichin made four times as much income than in the past by applying the improved SRI rice planting method taught to farmers in the AVANSE Farmer Field Schools. February, 2016</p>
<p>Gens des Nantes, Northeast Haiti. AVANSE has provided grants and training to local CBOs who, with local farmers, are initiating soil conservation techniques to improve their land and protect the watersheds. Photo shows a parcel after the 1st stage of intervention.</p>	<p>Acul du Nord, North Haiti. A cacao farmer drying cacao beans in the open air on an improved, AVANSE designed drying table. AVANSE has distributed 749 cacao drying tables to farmers who have completed training in AVANSE Farmer Field Schools.</p>

