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Winrock International

Haiti Farmer-to-Farmer Program

Final Report

Sub-agreement with PADF

under

Georges Reconstruction Program (HGRP)
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Contents

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Final Report

Number of Volunteers and Assignments

The Farmer-to-Farmer (FtF) Program in support of the HGRP was originally slated to provide 15 volunteers to Haiti. Over the course of the program, 20 volunteers were fielded exceeding program expectations. These assignments directly benefited **1,888** women and men and working with 10 organizations and 6 private enterprises.

Table 1. Beneficiaries

Total Number of direct beneficiaries of volunteer technical assistance	**1,888**
Male	1,281
Female	607

Table 2. VTA Host Assignments Cumulative Summary

Total number of Hosts	**16**
Host with a single VTA assignment	11
Hosts with multiple VTA assignments	5

Table 3. Number of Host Types

Host Categories	
Private Enterprises	6
Organizations	6
NGOs	4

Program Results and Analysis

Approximately 75% of the FtF assignments worked with farmers in conjunction with local newly emerging organizations. In the majority of assignments, the volunteer worked directly with the host organization member to mentor a staff member thus leaving some consulting capacity with the organization for follow-up.

Examples of Tangible Impacts

During the last quarter of implementation, 10 follow-up impact surveys were completed. Since this impact gathering occurred before the usual one-year interval after the volunteer assignment, this information is viewed as preliminary indications. The remaining assignments occurred in the final two months of the program, therefore too early for impact assessment.

Most of the successes are the result of host organizations learning simple things that would be common knowledge with U.S. agribusiness sectors, but result in tremendous savings and increased production for FtF hosts. This simplicity is the essence of FtF's success. It changes individuals and businesses one at a time. Simple solutions, like sifting corn before adding it to the hopper of a mill mixer, results in an improved product at a great savings.

Table 4. Hosts with Improved Business Operations as a Result of Volunteer Assistance

FTF Hosts	Hosts Assessed	Hosts Impacted	% of Hosts Impacted
A. Number of hosts providing new or improved products and/or services	10	10	100%
B. Number of hosts with production Increases over pre-assignment levels	13	12	92%
C. Number of hosts with increased business efficiency or resource conservation	14	13	93%
D. Number of hosts receiving increased revenue/resources through increased sales receipts as a result of volunteer intervention	14	6	43%
E. Number of hosts with increased profits	14	5	36%
F. Number of hosts with improved use of the environment and conservation of natural resources	13	13	100%
G. Number of hosts with increased membership	9	9	100%

In the United States, such simple practices can be obvious, but to many farmers and agribusiness people around the world, isolation prohibits the exchange of basic knowledge.

There are several contributing factors to the successes listed below – scopes of work are detailed, outlining a problem, ensuring the recruiters are able to find the best candidate. Second, the volunteers are sensitive to the situation, and recommend changes that the host is able to adopt. They understand the limitations and make recommendations that fit the situation. Third, and possibly most important, FtF field staff have an important role in orienting the volunteers to the local context before and during the assignments. Field staff have also learned to identify hosts that are committed and have a long-term plan.

1. Rabbit Production Re-established

When Dr. James McNitt climbed two hours into the mountain village of Cajun to find no rabbits, it must have been discouraging. Dr. McNitt is a rabbit production specialist and a volunteer for Winrock International's Volunteer Technical Assistance Program in Haiti. The people of Cajun had attempted raising rabbits before, but always failed due to

disease, parasites, and other problems they couldn't diagnose. Frustration was setting in. After spending a short time with the farmers, Dr. McNitt was able to assess their problems and provide the appropriate training to not only give them the knowledge they needed, but lift their confidence in their own abilities. He focused on proper cage construction and placement, and disease and parasite control. Within two months the people of Cajun have collectively bought 14 rabbits, and developed a plan to make certain that the 58 people who pitched in receive a breeding pair. From there, they will create a village-wide breeding, selling, and butchering strategy.

Winrock staff worked closely with two fledgling farmer organizations in the area, Conservationiste D' Haiti (CODHA) and Inite Peyisan Developman (IPDG), to help farmers implement the volunteer's recommendations. Winrock also provided USAID funds for supplies and a follow-up workshop to build new cages and reinforce what was learned from the volunteer's visit. This money was supplemented by funds donated from two other local villages that are preparing to raise rabbits themselves. Currently there is a serious discussion between farmers in both groups to create a co-op to buy materials and build cages together to decrease costs. If this occurs as planned, the cost of the cages will drop from $20 per cage to a little less than $10 per cage. If the co-op is successful, they plan on expanding it further to supply vaccinations and other medications.

Dr. McNitt also worked one-on-one with a member of IPDG who previously had some technical vetinary experience. This allowed for more in-depth training and problem solving. Dr. McNitt introduced members of IPDG to a Haitian rabbit farmer that he had worked with previously; he helped with the cage-building workshop. Both Haitians are now capable of providing in-country technical assistance when needed.

Families in this region earn an average of less than $300 a year. Rabbits are an important source of food and income in remote places like Cajun. They are easy to manage and require little space, breed prolifically, and are a good source of protein. With the help of Winrock volunteer James McNitt, the people of Cajun are now confident in their abilities, achieving results and improving their quality of life.

Within three months of Dr. McNitt's visit to Haiti, the members of IPDG in Cajun have spent $300 of their own money on cage material and rabbits. The number of rabbits has increased from 14 to 23. With no signs of disease, parasites, or any of the previous problems, Verrier Lafond, president of IDPG, expressed confidence and pride in the success of Dr. McNitt's hike to Cajun.

2. Beekeeping Association Formed

Honey production is a promising business for low-income farmers in the area of Grand-Anse, at the tip of western Haiti. However, with their traditional methods, a dozen farmers were investing a lot of effort to produce a small amount of honey. Consequently, honey production was slowly disappearing. Societe de Developpment des Gommiers (SODECOM) asked Winrock International to help this dying trade. SODECOM's

president, Jean-Marie Pamphile, felt they could handle the shipping and marketing but they had no way of helping the farmers increase production.

Currently, honey can be sold locally for approximately $8 per gallon, but compared to the maintenance cost, labor and relatively small amounts of honey produced, the profit is small. In Port-au-Prince, a much lower quality honey is sold for $15 per gallon. Before the local farmers could reach the markets of the capital, they had to increase production. With volunteer Ann Harman's help, the local beekeepers realized the importance of uniformity in the construction of modern beehives, and that it was time to abandon the use of traditional tree cross-sections. She also held training sessions on proper extraction methods, hive placement, new hive construction, parasite control, and how to avoid invasion of African bees, which would cause the abandonment of beekeeping in the area. Some modern hives were being constructed, but the dimensions were unsuitable for the available extracting equipment. Harman helped created a standard model hive for local carpenters to use to alleviate this problem. The new hives are being purchased from the local carpenters for $40. Mr. Pamphile is an experienced beekeeper, so he was trained to provide follow-up with other beekeepers in the department.

Harman emphasized the need to conserve and plant flowering plants and trees. This is a new idea for most Haitians, but after her visit, the beekeepers now carefully consider flowering plants. Some are beginning to plant different varieties to increase the quality of their honey.

On average the beehives are now producing six to eight times more honey than the traditional tree-trunk hives, due to better management and extraction techniques. The newly constructed hives are producing ten to twelve times more honey than the previous average.

This large increase has flooded the local market with honey. Anticipating this, Harman instructed SODECOM on the basics of creating an apiary association for group marketing, shipping and selling. **From this information, Mr. Pamphile and other local beekeepers have formed the Federation of Beekeepers of Grand-Anse.** The association is researching the honey market in Port-au-Prince and registering to become a formal organization recognized by the Haitian government. The federation's membership has been growing steadily since its creation and eleven new members have been added since Harman's visit in April 2001. This revival of beekeeping and continued progress that has been made highlights only a fraction of the potential of growth in Haiti.

3. Non-profit Organization Utilizes Technical Assistance

Working with smaller non-profit organizations who are already established in country has proven to be an effective way of accomplishing mutual goals for volunteer technical assistance. Organisation pour la Rehibilitation de l'Environment (ORE) is one such group located at Camp-Perrin in Southern Haiti. Over the past two years with funding from USAID, Winrock International has sent five volunteers to assist ORE with problems ranging from irrigation, to fruit and vegetable processing. This arrangement is favorable

for Winrock due to the fact that our volunteer-experts work with experienced technicians. These technicians can provide better feedback and allow the volunteer to tailor his advice. Also, the volunteer can provide more in-depth assistance without spending time going over basic principles. As of August 2001, ORE had saved almost $10,000 based on recommendations of Winrock volunteers. They are currently investing in a more efficient irrigation system with the money that was saved. They are also in the process of modernizing their banana plantation, designing a small-scale fruit and vegetable processing facility, and implementing several other suggestions set forth by the volunteers. As an added bonus to Winrock's work with smaller organizations, we have become a linkage between small non-profits within the country. For example, ORE had expressed the need for a large-scale corn mill. Within a few days, Jim Miller from the Foundation Americano-Haitienne expressed his desire to donate their industrial corn mill to anyone who might need it. These two organizations had absolutely no knowledge of one another, much less of the potential benefit they could gain through working together.

4. Goat Production Increased

Goats are a primary source of income for most rural Haitians. Unfortunately, Hurricane Georges had an adverse impact on the goat population. During the hurricane numerous goats (especially kids) were drowned or washed away. The same floodwaters destroyed grazing habitats of individual goat owners. The hurricane caused indirect loss of goats in that hurricane losses had to be financed by some means and those with goats sold them to replace such things as a roof on their house, food and their clothes, which were lost in the storm. Since prices have stayed high, individuals that have sold goats do not have the necessary capital to buy a replacement goat and get back into the goat business.

Realizing all of this, several farmers groups in the area of Cayes-Jacmel on the southern coast of Haiti requested assistance from Winrock International's Volunteer Technical Assistance Program. In June 2001, Winrock sent doctor's Bruce and Donya Olcott to the area to provide the needed assistance. Along with seven seminars presented to approximately 250 goat farmers, they vaccinated and dewormed 300 goats with over $450 in medicines and vaccines donated by pharmaceutical companies. By August 2001 the average slaughter weight had increased by 55% and there had been no reappearance of the diseases present before the Olcott's visit. Jean Jaques a small farmer near Cayes-Jacmel said that each of his nine goats would be used to send his children back to school in September with better supplies. According to the Olcott's, the Caye Jacmel environment is capable of sustaining roughly double the current goat population without harming vegetation. Long-term impacts of the seminars and one-on-one instruction should help to improve the overall health and quality of the goats in the area including an increase in production.

HAI010 – Irrigation System in Camp-Perrin	Organisation pour la Réhabilitation de l'Environnement (ORE) P.O.Box 2314, Port-au-Prince, Haiti Camp-Perrin, Cayes/ Haiti 509-286-0251 emagloire@bigfoot.com	
HAI011 – Beekeeping Expert	Société de Développement des Gommiers (SODECOM) Département de la Grande-Anse Commune de Jérémie Roseaux Gommiers 509-246-0841 509-246-3286 fax Jean-Marie Pamphile, President	
HAI012 – Cooperative Development	Cooperative Agricole pour le Développement de Fond Déron (Beaumont) KADEFB Département de la Grande-Anse Beaumont (509) 284-6722 Wilson Nazaire, Délégué	
HAI013 – Banana Production in the Area of Camp-Perrin	Organisation pour la Réhabilitation de l'Environnement (ORE) P.O.Box 2314, Port-au-Prince, Haiti Camp-Perrin, Cayes/ Haiti 509-286-0251 emagloire@bigfoot.com	
HAI014 – Processing Corn Grit Expert	Organisation pour la Réhabilitation de l'Environnement (ORE) P.O.Box 2314, Port-au-Prince, Haiti Camp-Perrin, Cayes/ Haiti 509-286-0251 emagloire@bigfoot.com	
HAI015 – Processing Fruits Expert	Organisation pour la Réhabilitation de l'Environnement (ORE) P.O.Box 2314, Port-au-Prince, Haiti Camp-Perrin, Cayes/ Haiti 509-286-0251 emagloire@bigfoot.com	
HAI016 – Coffee Expert	Development Associates, Inc. 11 bis, rue Lechaud Bourdon Port-au-Prince 509-245-2181 (fax and voice on same line) Tim Aston, Chief of Party	

Appendix -- Haiti Host Information

Assignment	Host 1	Host 2
HAI001 - Integrated Farming Systems For Small Landholders	Groupement Paysan de Cotin Despuzeau, Ganthier Haiti Delmas 31, No. 27 Port-au-Prince, Haiti 509-246-0841 509-246-3286 fax	
HAI002 - Aquaculture Production, Distribution, & Marketing	Inite Peyisan Devlopman Gaya (IDPG) Cayes-Jacmel	
HAI003 – Rabbit Breeding & Disease Control	Inite Peyisan Devlopman Gaya (IDPG) Cayes-Jacmel	
HAI004 – Breeding of Goats	Conservationiste D'Haïti (CODHA) Cayes-Jacmel 509-246-0841 / 509-246-9459	
HAI005 – Garlic Expert	Groupement Paysan de Cotin Despuzeau, Ganthier Haiti Delmas 31, No. 27 Port-au-Prince, Haiti 509-246-0841 509-246-3286 fax	
HAI006 – Assistance in Marketing and Accounting	CRS – COREM COREM (Comité Relèvement Economique de Musac) Musac, La Vallée de Jacmel c/o Delmas 81, No. 1 Port-au-Prince, Haïti 509-246-7381/249-0308/510-4586 509-246-4084 fax jacklinguerrier@hotmail.com	
HAI007 – Vegetables Crop Production in Palmiste-Avin	Association Groupement Paysan Palmiste-Avin (AGPG) Léogâne 509-246-7381/249-0308/510-4586 509-246-4084 fax	
HAI008 – Banana Production in the Area of Cayes-Jacmel	Inite Peyisan Devlopman Gaya (IDPG) Cayes-Jacmel	Conservationiste D'Haïti (CODHA) Cayes-Jacmel 509-246-0841 / 509-246-9459
HAI009 – Coffee Production	Inite Peyisan Devlopman Gaya (IDPG) Cayes-Jacmel	Conservationiste D'Haïti (CODHA) Cayes-Jacmel 509-246-0841 / 509-246-9459