

THE *PROGRESS* REPORT

SUMMER
2017



CHANGING AGRICULTURE THROUGH FARMER INNOVATION & COLLABORATION

In August, three sisters from the Sisters of St. Antoine (“SSA”) in Fondwa and six farmers from Papaye traveled to Deslandes for a two-day training in agroecology. Twelve farmers of the Konbit Vanyan Kapab Agroecology Project who have been trained as “Agroecology Educators” facilitated learning sessions. They performed theatre skits about the benefits of sustainable farming and then led training participants through hands-on demonstration of several agroecology techniques.



Said Ely, a training participant from Papaye: “This is a big moment for us. We need to go back to Papaye and make sure more farmers in our community know about agroecology.”

Training participants will return to Papaye to expand the use of agroecology techniques on the SSA farm, which supports nutrition programs in Fondwa. There are plans also to offer agroecology training for farmers in Fondwa.

This kind of cross-community collaboration is a transformative development model. Collaborative planning and action enable partner communities are able to create new knowledge and better development solutions, while making more efficient use of resources.

PIP and partners are grateful to the **Ryan Memorial Foundation, Roy A. Hunt Foundation, Hearts for Haiti, St. Sylvester Church** and our many individual donors for their generous support of this work.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you from
Sr. Claudette



“On behalf of the Tom Gato Community and the Sisters of St. Antoine, we would like to thank you for your generous support. Nature has a way of opening our eyes to the powers of our Lord. But it also opens hearts to the blessings he brings. You were one of those blessings. With our open hearts and open eyes, we have seen your blessings in the work of rebuilding the Sister’s Home in Tom Gato. Your support and blessings have made the home strong to withstand the rain and wind of a hurricane or the shaking of earth from an earthquake. As church is not build on sand but on the rock of the of the Lord so is our convent.

Thank you for your continue support and blessings as we continue our service to the Lord with the Tom Gato Community.”

Sincerely,

Sisters of St.Antoine

Good Homes For Rural Haiti, By Rural Haiti

Good homes are needed now more than ever in rural Haiti. Extreme poverty and lack of building standards mean that most rural Haitians are forced to live in ramshackle houses that are vulnerable to natural disaster. In Deslandes, 9 out of 10 houses are unsafe and unstable.



Phase II Planning

Based on lessons learned from the first phase of the Building Home Initiative, the objectives of Phase II are to: 1) reduce building costs, 2) establish local construction protocols to ensure the highest quality, and 3) develop a community home loan program. Four additional homes are planned as part of this phase.

The cost of Phase II is estimated to be \$70,000.

You can help transform housing in rural Haiti by making a donation. Your contribution to this effort creates lasting change for generations to come.

"The new house brings my family better health and security. Everyone who goes by our house says it is beautiful. We have more company now. I feel like I am part of society" -
- Lionel Clervoix



PIP Welcomes Beth Lewis

Beth Lewis joined PIP in April of this year as the Development Director. Beth has dedicated her career to non-profits that empower individuals and families to greater self-determination. As director of Family Service and Resources at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, Beth oversaw the temporary care and placement of a group of Haitian children who had been airlifted to Pittsburgh following the 2010 earthquake.

Beth is available to speak with groups or individuals interested in helping achieve the goals of PIP through community partnership and sustainable development. Contact her directly at elewis@piphaiti.org.



In 2017, the first graduating class celebrated completion of their training at the St Antoine Professional School in Fondwa. PIP helped support start-up of the school. The school will offer plumbing and electrical training programs this fall.

"I am very proud to be one of the graduates of the vocational school of the Sisters of Fondwa, because I use to stay at home doing nothing, I remember in October 2015 I heard the Sisters of St. Antoine will open a vocational school, I was very interested even though I did not have money to pay but the sisters allowed me to come. Now have I have a skill, I can take care of my 5 children.... I would like to thank the sisters and our partners for all they do to help me getting my autonomy. You can see me now making all kind of uniforms and other clothes to sell. Since I graduated in July, I made uniforms already for more [than] seven families and more keep coming in my house with their own. I can make clothes for them and they pay me. Now I can pay the tuition for my children and feed my family"

Mesi, mesi anpil.
--Chery Zilmie, graduate class of 2017

PIP is working to reduce our environmental footprint by transitioning to digital communications. You can help by signing up to receive newsletter electronically. It's easy. Just visit our website at www.piphaiti.org and send us your email.