

THE *PROGRESS* REPORT

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Agroecology Takes Root on the SSA Farm

With guidance from the Konbit Vanyan Kapab Agroecology Project farmers of Deslandes, the Fondwa-based Sisters of St. Antoine (SSA) have started using agroecology techniques on their farm in Papaye, in the Central Department of Haiti. The first crops will be harvested in December and will provide food to the School of St. Antoine and Fatima House Orphanage nutrition programs.

This cross-community sharing of know-how is a strategy that Konbit Vanyan Kapab farmers have implemented to spread the use of agroecology techniques to other villages locally and nationally. In Deslandes, these techniques have raised farm production and income, helped to rebuild degraded soils, and advanced local reforestation efforts.

Maximizing production on the SSA Farm in Papaye is critical now because of the widespread loss of crops in Fondwa caused by Hurricane Matthew.

The Konbit Vanyan Kapab Agroecology Project aligns with the following 2015 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 1 - Zero Hunger, SDG5 – Gender Equality, SDG13 - Climate Action, SDG 15 - Life on Land.

Exciting News!

The Konbit Vanyan Kapab Agroecology Project has been selected as a Finalist for the Colsubsidio Social Inclusion Award -- Environment and Housing category. PIP will present the project at the Colsubsidio Conference in Bogata, Columbia on November 30th.

The Importance of Trees



In the past Haiti was a country with a prosperous environment. Our forests were strong and protected our water sources. Our children and elders lived very well without misery and hunger.

Now, most of our land is deforested. All the trees are used to make charcoal for cooking and selling at the market. Because our trees are gone our water sources are going dry. We are exposed to tropical storm and other natural disasters and our soil become poor because of trees cut. Our soil can't hold water anymore. Misery has invaded the population.

Through the Konbit Vanyan Kapab Agroecology project, we educate and encourage the people not to cut trees. We show them the importance of one tree in everyone's life. Every year, we plant thousands of trees to plant in our gardens and distribute in the community.

Now there are more trees in Deslandes. Our houses are protected from storms. Our soil is made stronger by the leaves that feed the soil and helps us grows more food. Our soil holds more water and protects our water source. This is the importance of trees.

-- By Claubert Versey

A Model Community Housing Solution

Construction of the first two homes of the pilot phase of the Building Home Project in Deslandes is now complete. Two additional homes will be constructed by the end of December. Camilla Moliere will own one of these homes. Camilla is an elder lost her home to tropical storms in 2008 and has been living in an open, dilapidated shack made of scraps of wood and palm branches.

In this pilot phase, four families are working together, alongside skilled earth block builders from the community, to build durable, healthy homes to live in. Homeowners pay what they can afford to pay. In exchange for their “sweat equity”, the remaining portion of their home loan is forgiven. Funds from repayment of loans will go into a special account that will be used to subsidize future home construction for the most needy in the community.



In January, PIP and École Communautaire Gamalièl de Deslandes will facilitate participant evaluation of the pilot phase and development of a plan for scaling up the project in 2017.



Maison des Enfants Handicapes Website Launch



As part of Maison des Enfants Handicapes (MEH) capacity building efforts, PIP assisted MEH with developing a new website. This is a first step in raising visibility of the important and inspirational work of MEH.

You can visit the website at: www.houseofspecialchildren.org.

MEH needs your help in order to provide basic care and critical educational and physical therapy services. Please consider making a donation. PIP is serving as the fiscal agent for MEH so your donation is tax deductible.

Thank you

Thank you for standing with the people of rural Haiti as they recovery from the devastation of Hurricane Matthew. Your contributions are providing vital food relief and will support rebuilding efforts in the community of Fondwa. A special thank you to Hearts for Haiti and other partners who helped get the word out about the need in Fondwa.

Asosyasyon Peyizan Fondwa, Dominican University, Duquesne University, Earth Block International, Ecole Communautaire Gamaliel Deslandes, Fatima House Orphanage, Friends of Anne, Jacsonville Planning Committee, Komite d'Planifikasyon Delandes, Maritech Engineering, Mt. St. Peters Church, Mullaney's Harp and Fiddle, Notre Dame Club of Pittsburgh, Ryan Family Foundation, Sacred Heart Church, Sisters of St. Antoine, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth KS, St. Antoine Professional School, St. James Church of Wilkinsburg, St. Margaret Mary Church, Twinning Parish, St. Sylvester's Church,



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