

Konbit Vanyan Kapab

Kreyol for “Strong Konbits can.” A “Konbit” is a traditional work group in which people work together to accomplish a common goal or project.

Dear Friend,

I would be remiss if I let this challenging year come to a close without saying THANK YOU! On behalf of PIP and our partners, I want to convey how grateful and energized we are by your compassion and generosity. The COVID-19 pandemic, social justice struggles and record natural disasters of this past year have confirmed just how interconnected we all are with each other and mother earth. You make a difference!

I know many of you have had a difficult year, yet you stepped forward. Your concern for others has helped create a better world! Despite challenges here and in Haiti, you helped PIP and our partner communities meet urgent humanitarian needs and still achieve key development objectives. **We need help now more than ever in order to build upon these accomplishments so we can continue to assist with crisis response and to expand opportunities for inclusive community-led sustainable development.**

Farmers of the *Konbit Vanyan Kapab* Agroecology Project have an intimate understanding of how connected and interdependent all life is through their commitment to agroecology. Agroecology is an integrated approach to agriculture focused on the health of both people and the land. These farmers recognize the importance of reciprocity and their responsibility for improving the health and wellbeing in their communities and across borders.

We are awed at what took place this year as a result of this shared sense of concern and responsibility you and the partner communities we work with have demonstrated!

■ **Cross-community relationships were strengthened through the Farmer-to-Farmer initiative, enabling our partner organizations to be early responders to the COVID-19 pandemic.** Farmers and teachers were trained, then educated others how to protect their families. They helped our partner organizations rapidly deploy hygiene supplies and get emergency food relief to families in need. Nearly 6,000 children and adults from 16 villages in six communal districts benefited. When asked if there was a need for outside food relief, Konbit Vanyan Kapab farmers from Deslandes responded, “No, we will take care of it.”

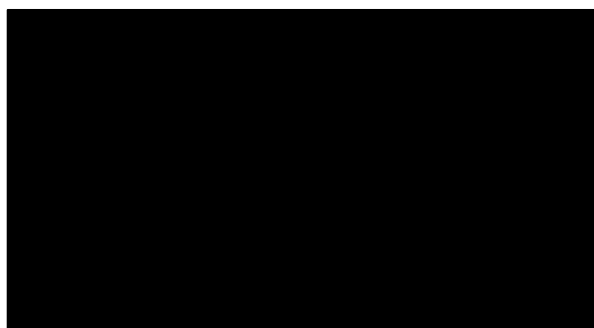


■ **Your support provided opportunities for farmers to build skills and confidence in their power to affect change.** This confidence, combined with their commitment to community, is driving innovation in agriculture and sustainable development. Farmer-to-Farmer knowledge sharing led to increased yield and crop diversity on individual and collective farms, and is helping regenerate local ecosystems. One participant farmer said, “When we give back to the life that is in the soil through agroecology, we can grow traditional healthy fruits, vegetables, and medicines that prevent cardiovascular and other diseases.”

■ **Two farms supporting farm-to-school nutrition, the Sisters of St. Antoine Farm and St. Yves Farm, will grow vegetables in the winter months for the first time!** A recent analysis of soil on SSA Farm, conducted by the University of Fondwa, found that levels of nitrogen and phosphorous (key soil nutrients) were two times higher in the agroecology plot as compared to the control plot. This improvement in soil health has helped diversify the type of crops that can be grown and has now expanded the growing season.

■ **Konbit Vanyan Kapab farmers launched their first value chain product — two varieties of cover crop seeds.** Nearly 1,000 pounds of seed was purchased from Farmer-to-Farmer participants and packaged by a women's sewing group in Deslandes, which made the bags. Seeds will be available for purchase this winter by individuals and NGO's.

■ **A literacy pilot project, centered on nutrition, agriculture, and the environment, was designed this year.** Farmers from Deslandes, teachers of École Communautaire Gamaliël de Deslandes and PIP worked together on the pilot modules. The project will start next spring.



■ **Farmers and builders from Savanette Cabral and Deslandes just completed construction of the beautiful new Paroisse St. Yves School. The school is made of stabilized compressed earth block, a green building material.** Understanding the generational impact that a good home can have on family and community, farmers are now working together on strategies for using this green building technology to provide housing for homeless families.

I hope you found this recap of some the accomplishments of 2020 inspiring. **Please consider making a year-end donation using the enclosed envelop or by visiting www.piphaiti.org and clicking on the donate button.**

To all of you, and especially to those who have suffered a loss, experienced undue hardship, or a personal setback in 2020, we wish you a brighter, happier, and safe new year.

Mesi Anpil!

Michael Neumann
Executive Director, 651-260-9787

P.S. As a valued partner, we care about how *you're* doing as well as your thoughts on the work *we're* doing. We'll always respond to your comments and questions! Email us at info@piphaiti.org, or contact me directly at 651-260-9787.