

KONBIT VANYAN KAPAB FARMERS STEP UP, PERSEVERE IN COMMUNITY-LED EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

In September, farmers of the *Konbit Vanyan Kapab* Farmer-to-Farmer initiative played a crucial role in a community-led effort to deliver food and other aid to four earthquake affected communities. In the face of a worsening and unpredictable security conditions, the village-to-village response distributed 26,600 pounds of corn, beans, peanuts (processed into peanut butter) and rice to families in need. Food was purchased from 52 *Konbit Vanyan Kapab* farmers. Farmers also helped with organizing food purchases, processing peanuts for peanut butter, and staging and packaging 700 food kits for transportation. Each food kit included a small amount of cash, along with hygiene supplies (from Unlocking Communities (unlockingcommunities.org)).

Heavy duty tarps were also distributed. First aid medical backpacks donated by Global Links (globallinks.org) were delivered to local health clinics. Vita Mamba, a fortified peanut butter used to prevent malnutrition, was provided to families with toddlers. Jack Bean and Velvet Bean cover crop seeds have been distributed to farmers in one community to assist with erosion control and improving soil fertility. Coordination of the response was a joint effort of farmers from eight communities, Ecole Gamaliel Communautaire de Deslandes (EGD), PIP and two organizations working in the earthquake area, HaitiH2O (haitih2o.org) and Youthaiti.org (youthaiti.org).

The impact of this community-led response goes beyond the aid provided. Through collaboration across communities and organizations, farmers and local partner organizations are strengthening capacity not only for crisis response, but also for development planning and action. Pride and confidence in their ability to create change is also growing among farmers. Sylvio Sanan, a *Konbit Vanyan Kapab* Agroecology Educator, said: "It makes me feel happy to be able to help. I didn't think I could do something like this." It is not only the farmers providing aid that feel this sense of pride, but those receiving it as well. One aid recipient said: "It makes me feel good to know that this is helping farmers in another part of my country."



Vita mamba, a fortified peanut butter, being distributed in Duchity (left). Truck being loaded with food and other supplies for transport to earthquake-hit areas.



Two of the earthquake response teams, (Hinche (above) and Vye Kay) that provided food and assistance.



KARL LAURIN REMEMBERED, HIS GENEROSITY LIVES ON



As 2021 comes to an end, we want to acknowledge the kindness and compassion of PIP friend and donor Karl Laurin, of White Oak, PA. Upon his passing in August 2020, Karl left PIP a significant gift which, in a period of COVID and multiple crises, helped us to expand the Farmer-to-Farmer project, assist with humanitarian aid, and begin build capacity for expanding food sovereignty and building home initiatives. To honor him, we chose to share one of his poems. It reminds us of one of the impacts of regenerative agroecology in Deslandes — the increase in number and diversity of birds in the local ecosystem.

The Birds at Wilmerding Bridge

*Like a net cast toward the sunset
Their silhouette speckles the sky.
Then pull it down, wings whoosh thru air.
As one the starlings fly.*

*Their silent celebration, it's about to end.
The evening train from New York City,
the Pennsylvanian rounds the bend.*

*Coasting now and moving slower,
on its way down to Pittsburgh,
a ghost passing into history
slips under their bridge quietly.*

*Then its all clear to roots up there,
but first loud loud jibber jabber
to tell the bad luck or the near miss
that starlings have a knack for.*

Karl Laurin – 2015



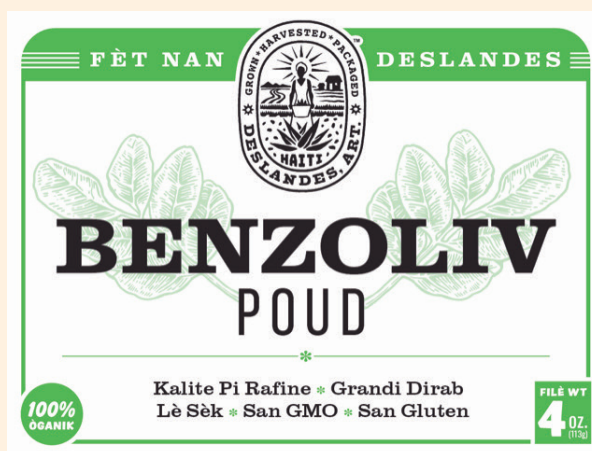
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DESLANDES FARMERS TO BEGIN PRODUCTION OF MORINGA POWDER THIS WINTER

Deslandes farmers will start production and marketing of moringa powder this winter. Moringa olifeira, (benzoliv in kreyol), is a tree that grows well in Haiti and is being used extensively in agroecology systems by farmers participating in the Farmer-to-Farmer initiative. In other parts of Haiti, moringa is used as shade for coffee.

The leaves of the moringa tree are high in calcium, potassium, and iron as well as vitamins A, B, C, D, and E. The leaves are used whole or in powder form and added to soups and other dishes. In other parts of the world moringa is used to combat child malnutrition.

Moringa powder will be the second product sold under the “Made In Deslandes” label. Earlier this year, Made In Deslandes launched the sale of Jack Bean and Velvet Bean cover crop seeds.



Moringa (Benzoliv) Powder

SALE: COVER CROP SEEDS

Grown, processed, packaged, and marketed by *Konbit Vanyan Kapab* Agroecology farmers, cover crop seeds are now for sale! They increase available soil nutrients for crops, reduce weed pressure, rebuild organic soil matter, and improve health of the soil microbiome. Some cover crops, like Sunn Hemp and Velvet Bean, are also valuable forage for farm animals.

Velvet Bean 5lb bag \$6.00

Macuna pruriens

Jack Bean 5lb bag \$6.00

Canavalia ensiformis

To order, contact:

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Made In Deslandes

*Growing Healthy Soil, Healthy Food,
and Farmer Livelihoods*

**A portion of sales support
Farmer-to-Farmer Agroecology**