

## THE GROWING FARMER MOVEMENT TO REBUILD FOOD SOVEREIGNTY



**R**eclaiming control over local food systems is central to our efforts to improve health, livelihoods, and the environment—while building resilience to the impacts of climate change and conflict—in rural Haiti and Uganda.

At a recent Agroecology Workshop for farmers entering the Konbit Vanyan Kapab Farmer-to-Farmer Agroecology for Food Sovereignty Initiative (FAFSI), St. Geste Charles, Director of Ecole Communautaire Gamaliel Deslandes (EGD), said: “We are now producing more traditional food, and supplying it to other regions of the country. This is how we do not go hungry even with the trouble in Haiti. This is the future. This is how we are building food sovereignty—with farmer training in agroecology and the environment, healthier soil, tree nurseries, and cover crops.”

He offered an example of how farmers who are revitalizing traditional agroecology

**(Left to right) Participants of Agroecology Workshop learn how to prepare a ramp vivan. Students of Paroisse Notre Dame d’Altigrace Layaille (PNDL) plant ramp vivan.**

are also improving the environment. “Our tree-planting projects result in more fruits, a perfect ecosystem, a healthy environment, and a more diverse population of birds in the region,” he said. “Many different kinds of birds, like songbirds and hummingbirds, have returned to Deslandes after a long absence—one of the many examples of how the ecosystem is improving.”

Through FAFSI, farmers are able to increase yield and grow more diverse traditional food crops. This is key to helping farmers meet their own food needs as well as neighboring communities during the current crisis.

Here’s a glimpse of the recent work:

**Food Sovereignty** *continued on back*

## COMMUNITY-LED EFFORT FIGHTING SEVERE HUNGER IN FONDWA

Since March, the Sisters of St. Antoine (SSA) has provided emergency food relief to 950 vulnerable families (well over 4,500 people) in the Fondwa area who are experiencing severe hunger caused by the security and political crisis in Haiti. Fondwa has seen an influx of families displaced by the violence in the capital. Food relief was made possible through funding provided by Hearts for Haiti and Partners In Progress. All food is sourced locally, which helps support local farmers and the economy. In addition, the SSA introduced agroecology practices at Fatima House Orphanage garden, which will provide its children with food.

**Fatima House youth help Sr. Claudette and Sr. Simone with corn harvest.**



## AGROECOLOGY EDUCATORS PLAY KEY ROLE IN REBUILDING FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

**F**armers who are in their second year of FAFSI can get training to become an Agroecology Educator. Agroecology Educators:

- Teach farmers how to start and care for community tree nurseries
- Help farmers design and test agroecology on their own farms and expand sales of healthy traditional foods
- Work with schools to develop their own Farm-to-School farms that provide healthy foods for nutritious school lunches
- Create seed conservation enterprises and value-added products such as moringa powder



**(Left to right) Participant of Agroecology Workshop in Abindu, Uganda describes her vision for strengthening relationship with the environment. New Agroecology Educator, Hellen Mandhawun, introduces farmers to farm design process.**

## ERUSSI, UGANDA MARKET STAND: COOPERATION RESULTS IN REGIONAL SERVICE



The new market stand in Erussi, Uganda has opened. The project, coordinated by PIP partner, ORIW, FAFSI farmers, and local Erussi leaders, was truly a cooperative effort. PIP and ORIW provided funding for the materials and some of the labor. A local private citizen donated the land, and a local engineer donated his services in designing the market. Local masons donated a portion of their labor and children carried bricks for the structure. FAFSI farmers and other community members provided meals for workers and carried water to the site.

The market provides a place for FAFSI farmers to sell healthy, traditional food crops as well as cooked meals. Using various forms of public transportation, people from communities as far away as 35 kilometers have been traveling to shop at the market. The market also has been visited by many shoppers from the Democratic Republic of Congo—many walking—as Erussi is about five kilometers from the DRC border.



Erussi market stand opens, providing a place for FAFSI farmers to sell healthy food crops and cooked meals.

## AFOYO! MÈSI! THANK YOU!

Thank you to those whose support this year made the work of our amazing partners in Haiti and Uganda possible. With your help, communities have been able to respond to multiple crises driven by climate change, conflict, and political instability; while continuing the work of remaking healthy and thriving rural communities for future generations.

Help is always needed! Please consider an end-of-summer gift and join our partners in their work to rebuild food sovereignty; improve rural economies and the environment; and increase access to housing, education, and children's services. Donate at <https://www.piphaiti.org/>



Young Kizito and friends learning how to plant trees in Ukongo.

Food Sovereignty *continued from front*

### In Haiti

#### New FAFSI Farmers

Sixty-six farmers from 11 communities, including 30 new FAFSI farmers, worked with Agroecology Educators to design and begin farm trials to test a range of agroecology techniques. Seven community tree nurseries are now operating and they've already provided 47,000 trees for agroecology systems and reforestation efforts. Farmers are already seeing results. Wilfrid Louise, from Savanette Cabral has reported a 200% increase in peanut production! He planted jack beans as a cover crop late last fall. Cover crops provided additional organic matter and nitrogen for summer crops to thrive.

#### Farm-to-School

The past growing season started slow; one farm reported only five days of rain in two months. Despite two months of severe drought, all three Farm-to-School farms had strong production. These farms incorporate key agroecology techniques such as cover crops, ramp vivans, and mulching which help conserve moisture and create a cooler, microclimate for the soil people (soil life).

### In Uganda

#### New Agroecology Educators Trained

In June, seven FAFSI farmers were trained as Agroecology Educators and immediately went to work by co-facilitating two Agroecology Workshops for new FAFSI farmers.

#### New FAFSI Farmers

Thirty-four farmers—including a cooperative group of 11 single moms—from four communities in Uganda began FAFSI this summer. Nine community tree nurseries are now in operation, providing 68,000 trees for agroecology and reforestation efforts.

### Stay Tuned!

#### Partners In Progress to Change Organization Name in 2024

Partners In Progress is excited to unveil a new name in early 2024. A multi-faceted process has been ongoing to develop a new name, logo, and brand identity that better reflects the inclusive, participatory way in which we work and the change we, along with our partners in Haiti, Uganda and the U.S., are creating in the communities where we work. We hope to update you further, and share the new name, in our next newsletter.