



Dear Friends,

We have been hearing of your concern and prayers – and we thank you! - for our team and our partner communities during this heartbreaking time in Haiti. As you know, gangs now control 80 percent of Port au Prince. Government institutions have been overrun, and seaports and roads have been overtaken making transportation of food and medical supplies nearly impossible. Most U.S. personnel have been called home. An estimated 362,000 Haitians have been displaced by violence and are migrating to rural areas.

Your past and continued support is the reason these rural communities have been able to provide safe haven for those displaced by violence while at the same time ensuring no one goes hungry, providing basic services, and expanding vital development initiatives like the movement to rebuild food sovereignty.

Our team and those of our community-based partners have remained safe and working diligently to help their beleaguered country. In Deslandes, Fondwa, Layaye, Papaye, and Savanette Cabral, our team, partners, and farmers of *Konbit Vanyan Kapab* Farmer-to-Farmer Agroecology for Food Sovereignty Initiative (FAFSI), are providing urgently needed food relief to refugees from chaos and violence. So far, 610 families (3,530 individuals) have benefitted from this



FAFSI Farmers with food kits for distribution

aid which includes traditional foods grown by FAFSI and other local farmers and cash for purchasing basic necessities. **Sourcing food locally helps support rural economies ensures displaced families have access to nutritionally dense foods. It also reduces the risk of food aid being intercepted by gangs.**

In addition to responding to this staggering humanitarian crisis, our team and partners continue providing education and other services, and advancing agroecology innovations for revitalizing local food systems across three departments in Haiti as the key strategy for creating lasting change. **We passionately believe the ability to provide healthy food -- in a way that is good for people and the earth -- is the foundation for building biodiversity, health, prosperity, resilience, and peace.**

**Now more than ever, FAFSI farmers need your help to keep the vital work to rebuild food sovereignty moving forward.** The costs of sharing knowledge with



FAFSI farmer Vanacile Joseph on her farm.

new FAFSI farmers through training and technical assistance, and providing support for expansion and start-up of community tree nurseries and farm-to-school farms has increased exponentially. The price of gas, as just one example, has risen to four times the normal cost, impacting all aspects of our programs.

This growing season FAFSI farmers will:

- Provide design and other assistance for **three existing and one new Farm-to-School Child Nutrition farms**. These farms provide healthy traditional foods used for school and community meals.
- Increase the scope of **community tree nurseries across nine communities, with focus on native species** to promote biodiversity.
- Continue leading **innovation in agroecology, conservation of cover crop seeds, and value-added product development** (e.g., moringa power and turmeric powder).
- Expand FAFSI to the Nord Department of Haiti so that **cacao and other specialty crop growers have opportunities and resources to begin testing regenerative agroecology**.



Agroecology Workshop participants play soil life game

There are few places on earth in so much need. Even before this dire and deteriorating situation, half of Haiti's 11 million residents were already experiencing acute hunger. I hope you will continue to stand with our community-based partners, FAFSI farmers, and other community members, to help them care for the thousands displaced by violence while continuing their vital work to ensure a better future for all.

A few weeks ago, Odette Etsy and three other moms who were recent beneficiaries of food relief, walked seven kilometers for the sole purpose of personally thanking our partners who were distributing food kits. We hope you are also moved by the compassion and determination of our team, community-based partners and FAFSI farmers. Please consider making a donation to emergency food relief and development initiatives that are creating lasting change.

Mèsi anpil!

Michael Neumann  
Executive Director  
651-260-9787

**Regenerating Healthy, Equitable and Thriving Rural Communities**

PO Box 11278 | Pittsburgh, PA 15238 | 651-260-9787 | [www.piphiti.org](http://www.piphiti.org)

Offices in EGAN, MN and PITTSBURGH, PA