

THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF FARMER COMPASSION FOR EARTH AND EACH OTHER

You may recall from a recent email, a photo of Gerthà Laine selling an array of beautiful vegetables at a market in Layaye, Haiti. Gerthà is one of the hundreds of farmers—in Haiti and Uganda—who made the transition to agroecology in the past year's Konbit Vanyan Kapab Farmer-to-Farmer Agroecology for Food Sovereignty Initiative (FAFSI).

SCHOOL FEES & HEALTHY FOOD

Gerthà's success was made possible due to technical and material assistance shared by Pauléus Acinthe, Gara Jacquelin, and Eliana Joseph, three farmers who completed their second year of the FAFSI in 2024.

Gerthà's shared that because she was able to grow a wider variety of crops than in years past, she was able to pay school fees for her children this year. The village of Salmory, where Gerthà lives, has benefitted as well, from the increased availability of healthy foods.

HEALING THE LAND & GIVING BACK

Thokuro Yassin is from the Ith community in Uganda. Several years ago, Thokuro's uncle gave him 1.5 acres of land that had historically been unproductive. In 2023, Thokuro began farming the land using agroecology. John Baptiste, director of partner

organization, Oyera Rural Inclusion and Well-being, says that Thokuro "religiously put agroecology knowledge into practice and within one year, the land changed—becoming green and productive."

Passersby took notice and asked Thokuro for help. In the last year, he has helped 48 additional farmers transition to agroecology! He shared technical assistance for starting a community tree nursery and helped farmers with techniques for integrating trees on their farms.

SHARING A COMMON GOAL

Whether in Haiti or Uganda, FAFSI farmers share a common goal: to "revitalize traditions of working together to care for the land and to rebuild food sovereignty and healthy communities." Local ecosystems are being transformed through agroecology. Farmers report greater diversity of birds and pollinators. A healthier ecosystem enables farmers to grow more and healthier food.

As a result, farmers are able to take care of their families and feed their community. They are able to respond to crises with life-saving results. From July 2023 to December 2024, FAFSI farmers in Haiti provided food relief to 10,200 individuals displaced by violence.



(Top) Gerthà Laine selling vegetables at market in Layaye.



(Bottom) Thokuro Yassin receiving goat in year 2 of FAFSI from Agroecology Educators.

INSIDE HAITI'S HUMANITARIAN CRISIS: A UN EXPERT'S PERSPECTIVE PRESENTATION AND TALK WITH WILLIAM O'NEILL

In a May 18 talk sponsored by Haiti H2O and Partners In Progress, the UN's William O'Neill will share insights about the scope and toll of the violence in Haiti and how the illicit flow of arms—a majority of which comes from the U.S.—is fueling this humanitarian tragedy. In 2023, O'Neill was designated the UN Expert on Human Rights in Haiti. Learn more about him at: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/person/william-g-oneill>



To join the talk, scan the QR code or use this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89357454272?pwd=04BTVZ8aJbS9Mt6Gx9HqPaqrmn7b0e.1>

Zoom Meeting ID: 893 5745 4272

Passcode: 382977

SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY
MAY 18, 2025
3:00 PM EDT
(2:00 PM CDT)



William O'Neill with Haitian Ministry of Justice, Pelissier Bill.

“WE WILL ALL LIVE AND BE HAPPY!”

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF “THE COVER CROP MASTER” AND LEADER IN THE FARMER-TO-FARMER MOVEMENT

We were saddened by the sudden passing of Dieuseul St. Jean, a remarkable farmer and leader, on February 7. He was one of the most creative, hard-working, and respected farmers in Deslandes—a quiet, humble leader, who cared deeply about community and the environment.

Dieuseul was one of the creators of the original Konbit Vanyan Kapab Agroecology Project over a decade ago. He led the Konbit Divot farm, one of three initial cooperative innovation farms that launched the project.

Located on one of the main paths to the Artibonite River, the Konbit Divot Farm was a daily landmark for residents of Deslandes. As people passing by saw the success of this demonstration farm, they began asking how they, too, could receive assistance in transforming their farms. This led to the creation of FAFSI.

An early and influential Agroecology Educator, he facilitated workshops and provided technical assistance for those eager to make the shift to agroecology. With an infectious grin, Dieuseul was

known to say: “My friend, to grow more food you have to create a good home for the soil people.”

The highest compliment, fellow Agroecology Educators called him “Mèt Kouvèti Vèjetal” (Kreyol for “Cover Crop Master”).

The knowledge and passion shared by Dieuseul, and those he inspired, has led to greater access to healthy foods, and increased income for farm families. Farmers who transitioned to agroecology have spearheaded food relief efforts across Haiti in response to multiple crises in recent years.

Dieuseul helped us understand our interconnectedness with all life—even the smallest beings on earth. He helped revitalize Haitian traditions of caring, sharing, and working together in rural communities across Haiti.

We will miss him deeply. We will strive to honor him by carrying on this work and developing future leaders to advance the movement born of the heart and soul of farmers like him.

Rest in peace, Dieuseul.



Dieuseul St. Jean teaching a session on cover crops.

“Just like us,” Dieuseul would say, “the soil people need water, food, and shade. When you create a beautiful garden, this brings joy to the soil people—and we all will live and be happy.”

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS IS CHANGING ITS NAME

After completing a comprehensive process, we’re pleased to let you know that a new name for our organization has been chosen – and will soon be shared.

WHY IS THIS CHANGE BEING MADE?

The decision to rebrand was made for a number of reasons. Here are a few:

- We’ve experienced difficulty distinguishing ourselves from many other organizations named Partners In Progress. A quick Google search for “Partners in Progress” will reveal the challenges of standing out (we don’t) in today’s digital world.
- The long length of our official legal name has administrative and other limitations including grant-writing.
- To better communicate the type of work we do and our impact. While the current name has served us well, the organization has evolved in some wonderful ways. Our name needs to reflect that evolution.

Nearly a decade ago, a strategic planning process identified the importance of inclusion and understanding the interconnectedness of all life as core values which are central to our approach to development.

We know that transformational change in community health, well-being, and resilience has resulted. We’ve seen farmers, elders, and youth bring diverse voices in their communities together to share in the responsibility for creating a better future.

Our branding team is finalizing the new identity that we believe will better align with our successful, inclusive, community-led approach. You’ll receive additional updates over the next few months prior to when the new brand is revealed.

THANK YOU! YOUR PARTNERSHIP IS MORE VITAL THAN EVER

At a time when international funding and resources are being eliminated, community-led approaches to development are more vital than ever.

We are grateful for your support and hope that you will continue to stand with us, our partners, and the communities they serve as we navigate this evolving landscape.

