



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT (DEED) NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2009

“Economic Development for a Sustainable Environment” or “Développement Economique pour un Environnement Durable” in French, (DEED), is a three year, (Jan 2008 – Jan 2011), USAID project that works in two Haitian watersheds—90,000 hectares around Montrouis in Haiti’s Western Department and Limbé in the North. DAI is implementing DEED in partnership with subcontractor Winrock International.

Environmental degradation in Haiti is the worst in the Western Hemisphere – a cause and result in Haiti’s economic decline. DEED focuses on environmentally sustainable economic development in the Limbé and Montrouis watersheds through commercial agriculture, alternative livelihood development, natural resource management and environmental recovery. The project aims to find alternative approaches to erosive agriculture practiced on the steeply-sloped land in the upper areas of the watersheds, and to protect biodiversity.

DEED links the management of natural resources to sound conservation while generating alternative livelihood options - providing the essential stimulus for sustainable watershed management. With one small office in Port-au-Prince, the majority of programming occurs via DEED’s two field offices; one in Montrouis, the other in Morne Rouge, near the town of Limbé.

### SUSTAINABLE YAM PRODUCTION IN LIMBE WATERSHED

In March, 2009, DEED’s Limbé office hosted a delegation of visitors from DAI headquarters and other Haiti project-based staff. Highlights included a visit to partner producer group *Konbit pou Relansman Prodiksyon Agrikol* (KOREPA)’s sustainable yam production model, and a yam-tasting hosted by yam farmers from the Limbé watershed.



Through a grant to KOREPA, DEED is implementing a combined yam production and reforestation activity in Camp Coq - in the Limbé watershed. In this sustainable, permaculture model, (pictured here), farmers plant live trees on which yam vines grow, (instead of using dead materials to support yam plants in common approach to yam farming).



Wilcher Maximen, "Ti-Pay", Secretary of KOREPA, opens yam tasting event by describing different yam varieties.

## LARGE LANDOWNERS TO PARTNER WITH RURAL PRODUCERS IN SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION

DEED achieved an encouraging milestone by engaging important landowners in plans to bring land along the coastal plain of the Montrouis watershed's Arcadins coast into sustainable, productive use. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, DEED brought together 23 private individuals who own plots of idle land along the Arcadins coast with representatives of rural producer groups in the area. Often, the rural producers exploit these vacant plots of privately-owned land (for lack of access to other land) or engage in unsustainable farming practices on the steep slopes. DEED seeks to engage the landowners in developing land-use plans that are environmentally sustainable, that improve farmers' livelihoods, and bring revenue to the land-owners.

Depending on location, soil quality, access/proximity to water, these plots of land may be used for high value market vegetable production, sustainable charcoal production, fish farming, fruit tree, Benzolive (*Moringa oleifera*) or Jatropha production. Both Benzolive and Jatropha produce valuable oils that can be transformed into biodiesel. Through one of its funding mechanisms, DEED will co-invest with landowners in infrastructure, inputs and other requirements to bring their land into productive, sustainable agricultural use. Out of 23 private

landowners involved in the discussions, seven have already agreed to co-invest in using their land in productive, environmentally sustainable ways - providing improved livelihoods to rural producers, and increasing landowners' revenues.

## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION ASSOCIATIONS PARTNER WITH DEED TO REHABILITATE IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Another promising milestone in bringing land along Haiti's Arcadins coast into more productive and sustainable use is a newly established collaboration between DEED, the Ministry of Agriculture, and irrigation associations in the area to repair storm-damaged irrigation structures and extend the area of land under irrigation. Together, they will rehabilitate five irrigation systems in the Montrouis zone including the irrigation infrastructures at Deluge, Lanzac, Pierre Payen, Dupin, and Bois Neuf. With funding from the *Agence Française de Développement* and the European Union, the Ministry of Agriculture will rehabilitate the primary and secondary canals, while DEED will assist the irrigation associations with the repair and rehabilitation of the tertiary canal systems, while working with community groups to develop natural resource management plans that will ensure the protection of the infrastructure. Repairing irrigation infrastructure and extending the area of irrigable land will dramatically increase the rural farmers' livelihoods and reduce hillside erosion by increasing opportunities for sustainable, irrigated agriculture along the plains.

## PRIVATE SECTOR TO CO-INVEST WITH DEED

In the Montrouis area, DEED is developing Public-Private Alliances (PPAs) with Agro Forest Regional Nurseries (ARN), and Haiti Solidarity S.A. (HSSA), both of which include employment opportunities for hillside farmers. DEED is also working with Hotel Moulin sur Mer and Wahoo Beach Hotel to bring hotel-owned land into production - providing alternative employment for hillside farmers.

## **DEED DRAFTS MARINE PARK LEGISLATION FOR MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**

The Montrouis and Limbé watersheds include coastal zones that are under threat from overfishing, coral mining, mangrove cutting (trees and shrubs that line coastal zones and protect against erosion and hurricanes), and human debris, including fuel and oil. The Limbé watershed has a siltation problem due to deforestation and resulting sediment that chokes plant life. Both watersheds are home to endangered species, such as manatees and marine turtles – all of which are impacted by these pressures. There are economic repercussions from this environmental degradation. Due to overfishing, fishermen's livelihoods are increasingly at risk. However, there remains great potential for historic and eco-tourism on both coasts. DEED addresses the unsustainable use of fishery and mangrove resources, so that Haiti does not lose these valuable environmental and economic assets.

DEED assessed the Montrouis and Limbé marine and coastal zones and is designing various interventions for their stabilization. DEED is supporting the Haitian government in establishing coastal and marine protected areas (CMPAs), and engaging local stakeholders in their protection through education, capacity building, and the introduction of alternative income generating activities including those that involve the protection of these resources, (i.e. replanting/reforestation, installing artificial reefs, serving as park rangers, or working on cleanup teams). With proper education, risk mitigation, stakeholder buy-in, and the introduction of alternative livelihoods, these valuable zones can be conserved and better used for Haiti's development.

DEED has prepared and submitted draft legislation for the establishment of a marine protected area along the Arcadins coast to the Haitian Ministry of Environment. After the establishment of this Marine Protected Area, DEED and the Ministry of the Environment will formulate a long-term management plan - in collaboration with all the main stakeholders, which will include measures aimed at generating

sufficient income to enable the sustainable management of the zone.

## **TWELVE ADDITIONAL PARTNER PRODUCER GROUPS IDENTIFIED**

DEED works in direct partnership with local producer groups that are already established and active in the two watersheds. By engaging local stakeholders as implementation partners, DEED is best-positioned to create successful and sustainable economic growth and environmental regeneration in the watersheds. In year 1, DEED identified an initial 12 partner producer groups, and has recently established partnerships with 12 more.

In the Limbé watershed, the 6 new partner producer groups include:

- Union pour le Développement de Limbé (UDEL)
- Organisation des Paysans pour le Développement de la 8ème section de Limbé (OPD8L)
- Organizasyon group Fanm Lomba (OGFL)
- Jeunes Progressistes Camp coq (JEPROC)
- Mouvement femme Catherine Flon (MFKF)
- Organisation des Paysans de Bas Limbé (OPBL)

In the Montrouis watershed, the six new partner producer groups include:

- Asosyasyon Pwodidikte Mango Plenn Akaye ak Kabare (APWOMOPA)
- Asosyasyon Plante Komin Akaye (APKA)
- Koperativ Avansman Kounol (KAK)
- Asosyasyon Tet Ansanm Irgan Bwa Neuf (ATAIB)
- Asosyasyon Pwogresis Chatelas (APC)
- Fédération des Paysans Planteurs de Piatre (FPPP)

## **TWO-DAY WORKSHOP ON WATERSHED MANAGEMENT**

DEED participated in a two-day workshop on watershed management policy in late March, 2009. Convened by the Prime Minister's office, both the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Environment attended. The workshop recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture

update its 1999 policy document that outlined a watershed management policy for Haiti.

## FARMER-TO-FARMER TRAINING AND EXCHANGE VISITS

In March, 2009, an exchange visit was held between DEED partner producer group OPD8 and a livestock raising enterprise in Pierre Payen (DUJO farm). Six OPD8 stockbreeders visited a sustainable model of fodder production and conservation.

## DEED WORKS TO DEVELOP FISH CULTURE AS ALTERNATIVE TO HILLSIDE FARMING

One of DEED's partner producer groups in the Limbé watershed, APWOLEM, is developing fish culture as a non-farm income generating activity. In March, APWOLEM built 11 fish ponds, in addition to the establishment of two sustainable contract vegetable production sites. Fish culture expert, Dr. Valentin Abe, provided training in fish culture methods including pond construction, water management and fish feeding. Dr. Abe reviewed an existing fish farming manual written in Creole which will be used by fish farmers in the area as a management guide.

## CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING WITH PARTNER PRODUCER GROUPS

DEED Limbé staff provided basic training to producer group management staff. KOREPA, UFOK, APG (Camp Coq) and APWOLEM, APKBA, MFKF (Marmelade) staff received training in basic accounting and financial management.

DEED Limbé production staff also provided training in soil conservation methods using permaculture for producer groups KOREPA, UFOK and APG in Camp Coq as well as organic vegetable production methods for APWOLEM, APKBA, and MFKF in Marmelade.

## DEED ATTENDS DAI CONFERENCE

DAI, the firm implementing the DEED project, held the "2009 DAI Staff Conference - Strengthening our Core: Connecting our People

and Projects" from February 23 – 27<sup>th</sup> in Bethesda, MD – just outside of Washington, DC. Members of the DEED team attended the conference as it is a valuable knowledge sharing opportunity – allowing home office and global project staff to exchange their perspectives and experience on global development challenges. Among topics discussed were: "Getting Value from Value Chains", "Using our Projects to Mitigate Climate Change", "Innovative New Media for Development", and "Beyond Gender Mainstreaming: Achieving Deeper Impact".

Each DAI project was invited to set up a project display booth at the conference – with prizes to be awarded to the most creative and the most informative. The DEED project display featured samples of Haitian honey produced by partner producer group APWOLEM, (a big hit among conference attendees), and bamboo baskets produced by partner producer group APWOLEM.



DEED's booth at the DAI staff conference featured honey sampling from partner producer group AJTAPP in the Montrouis watershed, as well as handmade bamboo baskets from partner producer group APWOLEM in the Limbé watershed.

**Economic Development for a Sustainable Environment (DEED)** is a USAID/Haiti-funded project implemented by DAI. For further information, please contact:

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