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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT (DEED) NEWSLETTER

MARCH 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.



DEED improves livelihoods and natural resource management in areas like this pictured hillside in the Montrouis watershed.

NEW GRANTS TO PRODUCER GROUPS

DEED recently signed a grant agreement with one of its producer group partners, *Association des Jeunes Techniciens en Apiculture de Pierre Payen*, (AJTAPP), to improve and expand AJTAPP’s bee-keeping and honey production activities in the Matheux region of the Montrouis watershed. In this region, agriculture and livestock are the main economic activities. However, pressure on the environment has increased, the habitat is increasingly degraded, and inhabitants’ revenues are decreasing. Bee-keeping and the commercial production of honey can be successfully developed to lead to more secure livelihoods, increased incomes, and the

protection of habitat essential for bees to produce honey. This activity stimulates economic development that is in harmony with environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources. Increased revenue from the commercial production of honey increases household revenues, while bee-keeping requires habitat protection - fostering the improved management of natural resources.

DEED signed a second grant agreement with *Cooperative l'Union Paysan Ca-Louis*, (CUPEC), for the introduction of new approaches to commercial production of high-value market vegetable crops – also in the Matheux region of the Montrouis watershed. The activity will introduce best practice into the sustainable production of high value vegetable crops for local markets - including supplying coastal hotels in the area, serving as a model of high value sustainable agriculture aimed at supplying local markets.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICE PROVIDER PARTNERS JOIN DEED

Two new local partners are joining DEED this month to provide institutional training services to its targeted producer groups and enterprises. Both CFET – *Centre de Formation et Encadrement Technique* – and the consortium CAFEM/GUIDEE were selected for their recognized expertise and, most importantly, their presence out in DEED’s rural watersheds. The two organizations have developed a series of training modules for local associations and are now completing a diagnostic survey of early participants in order to propose a training program to lead to their graduation as competently managed and legal entities. One of DEED’s objectives is to foster enterprise and association development in its regions leading to greater employment and increased production.

DEED PARTNERS WITH CENTER FOR GEO-SPACIAL INFORMATION

Haiti's “Centre National de l'Information Géo-Spatiale”, (CNIGS), is a public agency within the

Haitian Ministry of Planning. CNIGS is Haiti’s most important provider of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology and services and serves as Haiti’s repository for geo-spatial data. DEED has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CNIGS whereby both parties will share geo-spatial data, produce new geo-spatial data, and collaborate in data treatment and analysis. DEED will also provide technical assistance to CNIGS in its development and design of a prototype for its national topographic mapping initiative. Finally, DEED will support CNIGS’ emerging online mapping capacity that will make geospatial data available to other government agencies in Haiti.



This Google Earth© image of the Montrouis watershed is an example of what DEED and CNIGS are doing to map geospatial information for the improved management of natural resources in the Limbé and Montrouis watersheds. Orange areas represent community-mapped territory; blue and green areas represent priority conservation sites – marine and terrestrial – that have been identified by DEED, yellow dots represent both informal and formal enterprises identified by DEED, pink and yellow and light green areas towards Pierre Payen represent irrigated perimeters, and green boxes represent markets.

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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