



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT (DEED) NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2009

DEED or “Développement Economique pour un Environnement Durable” in French, is a three year, (Jan 2008 – Jan 2011), USAID funded 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 development in the two 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 a 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.

MONTROUIS IRRIGATION SYSTEM REPAIRS TO BEGIN SOON

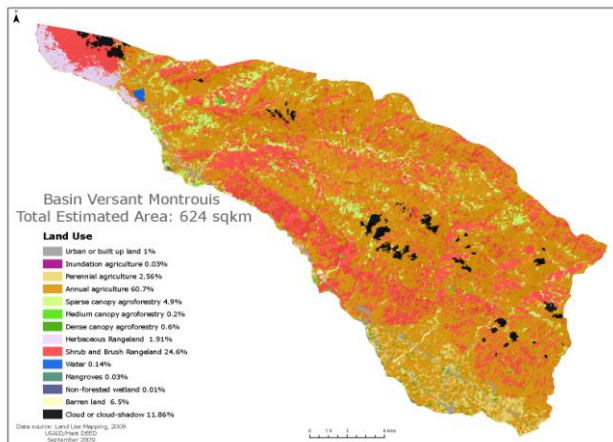


Photo: DAI

Min. of Agriculture, Joanes Gue (in the back), and DEED’s Chief of Party, Mike Godfrey (on the left), at the signing of the public-private partnership agreement in MARDR offices in Port-au-Prince.

In a brief ceremony on August 31st, DEED’s Chief of Party and the Haitian Minister of Agriculture signed the financing agreement for the anticipated rehabilitation of Montrouis’ irrigation system. Repairs - which will start soon under the supervision of Haitian engineering firm LGL - are scheduled to last eighteen months and will improve productivity of 695 hectares of land spread between Dupin, Delugé, Bois Neuf and Pierre Payen, bettering the lives of an estimated 1,760 farmers and their families.

FINALIZATION OF THE GIS LAND USE MAPS



Above, detailed land-use map of the Montrouis watershed

Detailed land-use maps were completed for the Limbé and Montrouis watersheds, after a series of ground-trotting exercises by DEED technicians to over 300 data collection points. These points were compiled and processed by GIS (Geographic Information System) expert C.J. Hendrix into two maps identifying 13 different land use categories.

The maps will be used by the watershed sub-committees to make informed decisions regarding the resources in their respective areas.

DEED CONTINUES TO INVEST IN VARIOUS CONSULTANCIES IN SEARCH OF CREATIVE ANSWERS TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- Disaster planning specialist Charles Kelly was commissioned to evaluate the status of disaster planning and local government capacity for the same in DEED project communities, and to articulate a plan for DEED to best achieve its participatory disaster preparedness planning commitments. Kelly's report revealed that local interest in disaster preparedness is strong but inadequate resources, management capacities and information on risks pose challenges. On the other hand, DEED's

land use mapping expertise is a significant resource for community-based disaster risk management.

His key suggestions to DEED include developing site-specific hazard management plans for hazard locations identified through community maps.

- Vanilla/cacao production expert David Gardella carried out a ten day assessment of the potential for vanilla production in the Limbé watershed. Mr. Gardella concluded that the environment is optimal for vanilla production and that existing cacao production areas are well suited for the addition of vanilla as a revenue source for subsistence farmers. As a result, two detailed proposals are being drafted for a dairy farm and vanilla export company to work with 500 cacao producers in the vicinities of Limbé.

REACHING OUT TO HAITIAN DIASPORA FOR SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT EFFORTS IN THE TWO WATERSHEDS

Following USAID's new global approach to engaging Diaspora communities in its development projects, DEED is working to channel Diaspora funds and expertise to support enterprise development and conservation activities in the two watersheds. DAI specialist Natalie Domond completed a feasibility study outlining the expected challenges, sharing comprehensive recommendations for a DEED-appropriate strategy, as well as helping to identify Diaspora groups in the US with the most potential for collaboration. Simultaneously, a Memorandum Of Understanding was signed with FAVACA (Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas) for the recruitment and management of volunteer experts in various agro-related sectors.

Over the next year, DEED will continue to nurture relationships with Diaspora organizations to build trust and explore intellectual and financial investment opportunities in the two watersheds.

TRAINERS TRANSMIT SKILLS TO FARMERS IN THE NORTH FOR INCREASED CACAO PRODUCTION



Photo: DAI

Recently trained agronomist sharing his acquired knowledge with some of the farmers from his cacao field school.

Following the *Training of Trainers* last month, phase two of the Cacao Farmer Field School program has now begun in the North. Twenty four agronomists and a master trainer returned from a week of intensive training to establish 96 cacao schools in Grande Rivière du Nord, Acul du Nord, Port Margot, Petit Bourg de Borgne, Limbé, Milot, where over the next eleven months, they will work relentlessly at improving the skills of 2,400 cacao farmers.

The Cacao Farmer Field School's intent is to provide technical support to producers for increased production of cacao and improved quality training and technology transfer. It is the result of a public private agreement (PPA) between DEED, NOVELLA (cacao buyer and exporter) and FECCANO (*Fédération des Cooperatives Cacaoyères du Nord*).

TALKS UNDERWAY FOR COLLABORATION WITH STATE OWNED ELECTRIC COMPANY IN DELUGÉ/LANZAC

The supply system feeding water from the springs in Piatre and Duperrier to the hydro-electric plant in Délugé/Lanzac is increasingly vulnerable to landslides and siltation. In order to protect its infrastructure and also the extensive irrigation systems in the watershed, Electricité d'Haiti (EDH) – the state-owned electric company – has asked DEED to urgently focus efforts on reforesting hillside areas above the springs. Meanwhile, EDH will fix the hydro-electric plant in Délugé damaged by the series of hurricanes that ravaged Haiti in 2008, and extend the reach of the electric system in Piatre. This initiative opens up the possibility of developing small agri-businesses in the area using electrical power to process locally grown products.

DEED will provide a grant to FPPP - "Fédération des Paysans Planteurs de Piatre" - to reforest the upper slopes above the springs with high value forest species such as Moringa and fruit trees to reduce erosion, conserve the soil, and increase revenues for local planters. DEED will simultaneously coordinate efforts at the community level for the establishment of a watershed management committee prioritizing the protection of the springs and the irrigation infrastructure.

FORUM ON WATERSHED MANAGEMENT POLICY WITH MINISTRIES

On August 26th, a forum was held at the Hotel Xaragua to discuss national policy options related to watershed management. Representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment made presentations, supporting DEED on the basic principles of local watershed management. DEED is now preparing a report that will

recommend revisions to government policy on watershed management.

The USAID sister projects, LOKAL (Limyè ak Oganizasyon pou Kolektivite yo Ale Lwen) and WINNER (Watershed Initiative for National Environmental Resources) were also represented.

CASTOR BEAN CULTURE TAKES ROOT IN ARCAHAIE

Two grants have been approved for the culture and transformation of castor beans in the Arcahaie commune, through organizations APKA (Asosyasyon Plantè Komin Akayè) and KAK (Kooperativ pou Avansman Kounol).

As an alternative to traditional crops that put pressure on the fragile lands along the coast, the castor bean is a sustainable crop with many by-products in demand. For example, the castor oil is frequently used in Haiti for hair and beauty products as well as for medicinal purposes. Projected benefits in a year include the reforestation of approximately 600 hectares of eroded hills, increased revenues for farmers and castor oil marketers in the area, as well as the creation of 390 permanent jobs.

GRANTEE HIGHLIGHTS IN LIMBÉ

- Through a competitive bid process, KOREPA has selected an agricultural services provider to establish a nursery and seed production facility in the Limbé-Camp Coq area. A nursery of 7,000 citrus seedlings has already been established and has begun the preparatory work for the improvement of yam production through the use of mini-set techniques.
- The producer group ODES has begun its nursery in La Soufriere, aiming to plant 50,000 pineapple plants as anti-erosion structures in Morne Kewou.



Photo: DAI

At program launch, ODES members prepare to work with DEED on a pineapple hedgerow soil conservation initiative.

- APKBA has begun preparation in 2e Section Marmelade for the planting of pineapple and forage grass as soil conservation methods. The area is known for its dairy production and improved forage will help increase milk production, while intercropped pineapples will provide an additional source of income.

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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