



## SUCCESS STORY

### USAID ENCOURAGES HAITIAN FARMERS TO EXCHANGE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE, IN ORDER TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND INCREASE REVENUES



Photo: DAI

*Wynne Farm owner - Jane Wynne (sitting and talking in the middle), who is a competent technician and trainer helped guide the discussions and ensure the accuracy of the information exchanged among program attendees.*



Photo: DAI

*In Fond Baptiste (above), CUPEC members lay the ground for their first vegetable nursery. One month later, the methods and lessons learned at Wynne Farm were put to use by participating farmers who practiced - while demonstrating to ten planters - how to level flower beds on curves.*

USAID's DEED project (Economic Development for a Sustainable Environment) aims to protect two major watershed areas in Haiti – the Limbé watershed in the north, and the Montrouis watershed in the west. Within the scope of an ongoing farmer exchange program, a first field school visit to the Wynne Farm in Kenskoff was organized for twelve farmer members of CUPEC, AJTAPP, and OPD8 from Montrouis, and APWOLEM from Limbé. The training was over a 3-day period and included topics such as soil conservation, improved vegetable production in the highlands, composting, terracing, and making briquettes.

DEED's "farmer-to-farmer" program is based on the premise that farmer led training is an effective and cost-efficient method to introduce new agricultural and natural resource management practices. The program allows individuals and producer groups to make more informed decisions, while fostering innovation and empowering participants. It also embraces proven participatory extension methods, and creates a framework for long-term demand-driven technical assistance.

The Wynne Farm has been in operation for over 50 years, growing 100% organic loquat, macadamia, bamboo, jatropha, and vegetables. They are also involved in handicrafts and produce cooking briquettes made with paper and binder. In accordance with the program's essential elements, the majority of the training was field-based, with multiple hands-on exercises led by host farmers. Guest farmers said they were delighted to adopt new techniques after learning from their peers and seeing the potential of new practices firsthand.

Other than the Wynne Farm, three other locations have been selected for future training sites, and eight others identified as potentials. As a complementary program, DEED will start a cacao farmer field school for 2,400 producers in the North, in collaboration with the USAID MarChé project for an additional 1,800 producers in the south. The program will aim to increase cacao production through training in planting, grafting, and improved maintenance techniques. Overall, these farmer training programs form the foundation of a strong Farmer Field School which has the potential to benefit the Montrouis and Limbé watersheds for years to come.