



## SUCCESS STORY

### Twelve rural producer groups engage in environmentally sustainable economic development

**Partnerships with local stakeholders to build sustainable economic development and natural resource management in Haiti's Montrouis and Limbé watersheds.**



Photo: DAI

DEED meets with CODEP producer group members in the Matheux basin within the Montrouis watershed.

DEED's 12 partner producer groups include:

- CODEP, (Coordination of Development and Environmental Groups of Petit-Bois);
- COLUC, (Chinchiron Light Cooperative);
- CUPEC, (Peasants Cooperative Union of CaLouis);
- OPD8, (Peasants Organization for the Development of Arcahaie's 8's Section);
- AJTAPP, (Association of Young Beekeeping Technicians of Pierre Payan);
- APDDL, (Planters Association for the Development of Delugé/Lanzac);
- APWOLEM, (Milk Producers' Association of Marmelade);
- APKBA, (Marmelade Basin Coffee Planters' Association);
- KOREPA, (Fight for the Revival of Agricultural Production);
- UFOC, (Organized Forces Union of Camp Coq);
- APG, (Grave Peasants Association);
- CML, (Mackandal Cooperative of Limbé).

To name a few activities with the producer groups, DEED is designing a combined yam production and reforestation activity with KOREPA, UFOC and APG. Instead of using dead materials to support yam plants, producer groups plant trees on which yam plant vines grow. DEED is also working with CML to design a Public Private Alliance with Novella to expand sustainable cacao production. DEED and OPD8 will implement a low environmental impact livestock and dairy activity where cattle owners enclose livestock in a shared, fenced space. DEED is also translating partner groups' by-laws into Haitian Creole.

USAID/Haiti's DEED project, (Economic Development for a Sustainable Environment), works in two watersheds—90,000 hectares around Montrouis and Limbé—focusing on environmentally economic development through commercial agriculture, alternative livelihood development, natural resource management and environmental recovery. 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.

Haiti's rural people are entrepreneurial and organized, resulting in a large number of rural associations and producer groups. The DEED project conducted an assessment of producer groups in the two targeted watersheds, finding a total of 241 groups in the Montrouis watershed and 161 in the Limbé watershed. To select the initial 12 partner producer groups, DEED first met with all 402 identified producer groups to complete a questionnaire covering criteria such as group activities, size, financial and institutional capacity, geographic location, gender balance, and accessibility. From here, DEED generated a shortlist of 25 groups in Montrouis and 37 in Limbé. After scoring the shortlisted groups, DEED selected the 12 with the highest scores, (6 in Montrouis and 6 in Limbé), and signed partnership agreements with all of them. DEED will add 12 additional groups with each project year. The selected groups are strategically located in areas of environmental significance, work with potentially high value crops, (such as coffee, mango, cacao, bananas, and yams), are highly organized, and are able and willing to contribute to activity implementation costs.

DEED works with the partner producer groups in several ways including the provision of technical assistance, joint activity implementation, and direct funding through DEED's grant fund. All of the groups are participating in DEED's community mapping activity whereby communities' territories are mapped and participatory land-use plans are developed.