



SUCCESS STORY

USAID/Haiti invests in environmentally sound rural enterprises

Local organizations promote innovative approaches to natural resource management and agricultural production



Photo: DAI

Members of AJTAPP improve and expand apiculture for the commercial production of honey. 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.



Photo: DAI

DEED visits fish culture site managed by partner producer group CODEP in Ti-Bwa in the Montrouis watershed. DEED and producer group APWOLEM are now replicating this approach in Marmelade, in the Limbé watershed.

USAID/Haiti's Economic Development for a Sustainable Environment (DEED) project implements a grant fund to promote innovative approaches to enterprise development based in environmentally sustainable production. DEED works in two of Haiti's watersheds – Limbé in the North, and Montrouis in the West – to reverse environmental degradation while improving livelihoods among watershed inhabitants. Through the competitive fund, DEED invests in producer groups that present environmentally sound approaches to enterprise development.

Three of the first grants involve sustainable, high-value vegetable production. A grant to producer group KOREPA finances a combined yam production and reforestation activity whereby, instead of using dead materials to support yam plants, producer groups plant live trees on which yam plants grow. Another producer group grantee, CUPEC, is using new approaches to commercial production of high-value market vegetable crops - including supplying coastal hotels in the area. This activity will serve as a best practice model of high value sustainable agriculture aimed at supplying local markets. One producer group, APWOLEM, presents a combined strategy and is developing both fish culture and market gardens as alternative income generating activities in an area that is severely environmentally degraded due to erosive agricultural practices.

Two other new grants invest in honey and dairy production. With DEED funding, producer group AJTAPP is improving and expanding its bee-keeping and honey production activities. Bee-keeping and the commercial production of honey can lead to more secure livelihoods and the protection of habitat essential for bees to produce honey. DEED's investment in dairy production is through a partnership among producer group, OPD8, Haitian NGO, Veterimed, and international non-governmental organization, Heifer Project International. This grant provides support for enclosed livestock raising and the commercial production of milk. DEED will continue to invest in such innovative approaches to environmentally sound enterprise development promoting economic growth.