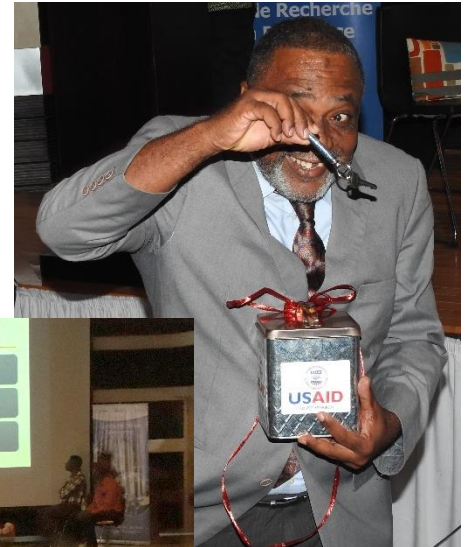


Water and Sanitation Project



Clockwise from the upper left: The President of the Campus (left) receives the water laboratory key from USAID. The President showing off the key. Samuel Mondestin from the USAID Water and Sanitation Project presenting at the conference.

LAUNCH OF THE WATER RESILIENCE CENTER

USAID funded a workshop last week at the Haiti State University, Henry Christophe Campus in Limonade to launch the new Center for Water Resilience in the Northeast Department. The event was organized by the Pan American Development Foundation with support from Auburn University and the USAID Water and Sanitation Project.

Haiti's Northeast Department has long struggled with drought. These problems are being exacerbated by climate change. DINEPA reports that as much as 1/3 of the springs in Haiti have dried up. While the impacts of the droughts are quite clear, there has been little available data to show how water resource availability has changed over the years.

To help the Northeast Department to better understand and manage its water resources, USAID has provided funding to create the Center for Water Resilience at the Haiti State University, Henry Christophe Campus in Limonade with the participation of the Ministries of Agriculture, Public Works, and Environment as well as from DINEPA.

Montés Charles from the Ministry of Agriculture explained that Haiti receives a total of 40 billion m³ of rainfall each year. 24

billion m³ is lost to evaporation, 12 billion m³ is runoff, and 4 billion m³ is absorbed into the ground. Brunet Georges from the Ministry of Public Works explained how the main rivers in the northeast divert water away from the large agricultural plain in the center of the department and that large infrastructure projects would be required to divert this water. Cynthia Figaro from USAID explained the region's vulnerability to disasters.

The speakers all agreed that the environment in Haiti has been severely damaged by harmful agricultural practices and that urgent actions are required to prevent further problems.

As part of the ceremonies, USAID presented the President of the campus with a key to the water laboratory funded through a grant from the USAID Water and Sanitation Project, further cementing the University's critical role in studying water resources.

Thanks to the support of USAID, the Haiti State University, Henry Christophe Campus in Limonade is well positioned to play an important role in protecting the Northeast Department from the worst impacts of the changing climate.