



Friends of
IFOSuD

International Farmers' Organization
for Sustainable Development

February 2024

Future Farmers of Haiti

SPIRITUAL IMPACT

As FFH moves into the last year of its pilot phase, it is good for us to look at the program and see what its impact has been. As we do that we see that enthusiasm for the program has grown, hands-on ag skills have developed, and spiritual enthusiasm has also increased!

First, the enthusiasm for the program is tremendous. Parents are very excited for their children to be in the FFH program. They encourage their children in the FFH activities and even learn from their children! In turn the kids are excited to share all they are learning.

Second, the development of hands-on skills has been very rewarding. Students with land have developed home gardens. Even students without land have developed home gardens using tires, pails, and other recyclable materials. The enthusiasm for the program spills over into the ready development of the skills. The attitude toward agriculture has changed drastically among the young people in the FFH program. They now see agriculture as a profitable venture.

And third, yet most importantly we see spiritual growth. Each week the FFH students meet for Awana along with other local children who come. They are eager for the games and the Scripture lesson. **“Gathering for the Awana club is the most exciting moment for the kids,”** reports the FFH instructor. An interesting survey at the beginning of the year, January 2023, showed that only 35% of the FFH students attended an evangelical church. In December the same children now report that **87% of them have developed the habit of attending church!** This is a tremendous sign of the true spiritual impact of FFH in the community.

FFH is experiencing difficulties due to the country situation. Attendance is not regular, as some parents choose the safety of staying home, and some students have moved out of the area altogether due to the country situation. *Given FFH's tremendous impact, we ask that you would pray for the country to stabilize and be a safe environment, so the children can be more regular in their attendance. Also pray that the Spirit will continue to move in the lives of our FFH students and their families.*



THE FRUIT OF DISCIPLESHIP

In IFOSuD, household discipleship visits are a key component to our ministry. It is necessary because the beneficiaries need to know Jesus personally. Jesus commanded His disciples to make disciples of all nations so that others could know Him. Household Discipleship is also necessary for the beneficiaries to grow into maturity and to transform into the person God has created them to be.

Even after graduation, IFOSuD continues to do home visits because the purpose is to reach the beneficiary and their family for Christ. In that manner, our approach includes not only studying God's Word but living a life of faith and walking in obedience to God.

We have a living example with one of our former graduates. We studied the Bible with her, Clermont Benite, 2 years ago. She has refused to give her life to Jesus for years. **But, because of our continuous household discipleship visits, she agreed to give her life to Jesus and got baptized!** She said to our field agent that, after comparing everything that human beings value in this world, Jesus is the best. She encouraged us to keep visiting people.



Join us in celebrating the eternal transformation that IFOSuD is seeing in the lives of individuals they have truly invested in!

LIVESTOCK

Jeremie and Léogâne Updates

Raising animals like goat and sheep remains one of the potential economic activities for the rural poor in Haiti to rise out of poverty mainly in the community where the dry season is longer. In Jeremie the farmers prefer to raise sheep, meanwhile in Léogâne they prefer to raise goats. At the end of 2023, 34 farmers in Jeremie were raising sheep. A total of 68 sheep were given as a loan and based on the field report we have already recorded the birth of 20 lambs with 30 sheep in the gestation phase. The Léogâne farmers, on the other hand, are about to complete the first step (Christian education) before being eligible for loans.

SMALL BUSINESS

The **small business** component is performing well and composed of ladies. In fact, for this quarter, 42 microloans were issued to the small business group in Jeremie. The reimbursement collected so far is 98% of the disbursed amount! For the period of the report any small business ladies who reimbursed on time were eligible for a second loan before their graduation. Again, the Léogâne small business ladies are about to complete the first step to be eligible for microloans.

AGRICULTURE

As we all know, **growing crops** is the riskiest economic activity on earth. 12 microloans were issued to the crop producers group in Jeremie. The reimbursement collected so far is 21% of the disbursed amount. There was a long period of drought that affected all the farmers in Jeremie. 95% of the farmers have lost their crops. We were obliged to support them in seeds so that they could stand again on their feet. The Léogâne farmers are about to complete the first step to be eligible for microloans.