

# Thank you ESMC for your partnership in supporting agro-forestry in Haiti

2021



Reforestation has been a central part of MCC's work in Haiti's Artibonite region since 1982. Many communities in this region are largely deforested and experience high rates of erosion and low soil fertility.

Pictured is one of the community tree nurseries that your gift helps make possible. The nurseries produce both fruit and forest trees. Community members work to grow and maintain

the trees and can purchase seedlings at a very low cost.

Your donation contributed to a five-year project (2019-2024) that works toward environmental change in Artibonite. The project is administered through MCC's local partner organization Konbit Peyizan, and it also receives funding from Canadian Foodgrains Bank. In addition to the tree nurseries, the project teaches farmers to establish productive agroforestry gardens. They receive inputs like starter seeds and tree seedlings from the local nurseries, build soil conservation structures, participate in group trainings and receive one-on-one agricultural support and advice. Konbit Peyizan also engages farmers in group savings and income generating activities like weaving handicrafts out of palm, raising livestock, home gardens and microbusiness.

## Results over the past year:

- 180 farmers were trained in conservation agriculture techniques.
- 180 new agroforestry gardens were established.
- 1,108 farmers trained in organizational management, conflict resolution, microsavings and seed storage programs.
- 196,244 forest trees were produced.
- 52,052 fruit trees were planted.

Thank you for being a part of this important effort in Haiti!



Farming steep mountainsides can be a struggle due to heavy rain washing away soil. To combat this problem, farmers learn effective and affordable techniques to keep the soil in place. These techniques include building horizontal terraces out of stone, planting trees with deep roots and leaving agricultural debris to decompose and enrich the soil.

For farmers with steep mountainside gardens, like Aline Bernard's (pictured), bare or deforested land is a big problem; rain and erosion can destroy entire crops. As hurricanes and tropical storms become bigger, slower, and create more rainfall, soil erosion is becoming a bigger threat in Haiti, which lies directly in the Atlantic hurricane path.

Farmers in Haiti face many challenges including climate change, plant diseases, political and socioeconomic crises and the spread of COVID-19. Your gift provided hope during an unstable and unpredictable time. In order to keep activities running, MCC adapted to the changes of COVID-19 by practicing social distancing, avoiding large gatherings, using face masks and setting up handwashing stations in central community locations in Haiti. With your help, we provided the necessary resources needed to keep staff members and farmers safe.



Community members fill sachets with compost and then add seedlings, many of them from local trees, to be grown in a nursery. For farmers and their communities, these tiny seedlings are small signs of hope taking root.

**Thank you for partnering with MCC to share compassion and love.**