Fostering Community-Led Agro-Enterprise and Natural Resource Management

CRS has worked in Haiti since 1954 and currently builds the capacity of over 200 local partner organizations in Haiti to implement programs in health and nutrition services, education, water and sanitation, emergency response, HIV and AIDS, social safety net institutions, and agricultural development. CRS Haiti has offices in Port au Prince, Ouanaminthe, Port de Paix, Gonaives, Les Cayes, Jeremie, and Miragoane.

CRS supports integrated agricultural development, food security, and watershed management projects targeting 6,000 smallholder farmers. As part of this programming, CRS Haiti helps farmers profit from participation in key value chains, and actively builds linkages with researchers, extension workers, traders, processors and agribusiness companies to support the production and marketing of products. Producers are trained to optimize their productivity and increase incomes by sustainably managing their natural resource base. Projects help improve degraded land through building capacity on better management of natural resources, reforestation, and creating barriers against erosion.

Community Led: CRS’ capacity building efforts facilitate sustainable agro-enterprise and watershed management. CRS, alongside local Caritas partners, worked with community and local government leaders to form integrated watershed committees. Committees are composed of representatives from the local governments, farmer associations, educators, and others. The committees discuss the underlying problems in the watersheds and develop recommendations on how to improve watershed projects related to improved infrastructure, improved agriculture, and increased access to water resources. As a result, small projects were carried out, primarily in construction of contour ditches, gully-plugs, and live hedgerow planting. These watershed management projects improve yields and thus the prospects for agro-enterprise.

**Achievements:** The agro-enterprise and natural resource management program has increased food security and resiliency through demand-driven value chains and markets for the following crops:

- **Beans** - increased production by 230% above the baseline through training farmers on improved seed production techniques, seed storage, small business management and planning, principles of marketing, value chain analysis

- **Cassava** - increased yields from 10 t/ha to 30 t/ha through introduction of a new variety

- **Mango** - in the communes of Les Anglais and Chardonnieres, sales increased by 225% over the baseline through training youth groups, top-grafting 10,000 mango trees, improving harvest and post-harvest handling techniques, and linking with Association of Producers Fruit and Sellers in South (ASPVEFS)

- **Papaya and hot pepper** - improved livelihoods by linking 100 producers to a sustainable buyer, private partner BelSoley Foods

**Budget:** $5,335,921 (USAID, Title II funding) + $855,522 (CRS Private Funds)

**Life of Project:** 2008 - 2012

**Partners:** Organization for the Rehabilitation of the Environment, Caritas Diocesiane Sud, Federation des Associations pour le Developement di Les Anglais (FADA), International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), BelSoley Foods

June 2011