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HAITI RESILIENCE AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR ADVANCEMENT ACTIVITY

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Local actors working together to identify problems, align interests and incentives, build trust, and co-develop solutions is essential for sustainable and inclusive agricultural development.

BACKGROUND

Haiti is facing many challenges. Recurrent climate-related and natural shocks and stresses have devastated wide swathes of the country. Socio-political crises including disruptive civil and political protests, rapid currency depreciation, fuel shortages, and unprecedented gang violence have destabilized the nation. Decades of limited public and private sector investment in the agriculture sector have compounded an already precarious economic and food security situation. This has left households and communities with limited ability to escape poverty and chronic vulnerability. Almost 60 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line of \$2.41 per day, and most of the country is in a state of acute food insecurity. Recent reports cite one in two Haitians is food insecure.

GOALS

USAID's Feed the Future Haiti Resilience and Agriculture Sector Advancement (HRASA) Activity seeks to transform agricultural market systems to be more competitive, inclusive, and resilient. Stronger markets can help lift smallholder farmers out of poverty and meaningfully include youth and women in viable agriculture activities. HRASA pursues three integrated objectives: increased agricultural market system efficiency; expanded private sector investment and engagement across market systems; and enhanced household and community ability to recover from shocks and stresses.

HRASA creates incentives for private sector actors to deliver the services, build the relationships, and mobilize the capital necessary to increase productivity and profitability for all system actors—especially the often excluded and marginalized farmers, women, and youth groups. HRASA also works with households and communities at risk of becoming extremely poor if unable to withstand and recover from recurrent climatic, socio-political, and economic shocks and stresses. It does so by helping people accumulate and protect their assets, and improve their access to credit, saving, and information needed to plan for and respond to shocks and stresses.

HRASA seeks to understand the root causes of exclusion and dysfunction in Haiti's agricultural market systems. It works with local actors, especially the private sector, to co-identify problems and co-create solutions. HRASA strengthens actor-to-actor relationships and aligns actors' commercial incentives with the project's poverty reduction goals. Further, HRASA works to facilitate behavior changes that lead to improved efficiency, investment, and more remunerative participation of poor and marginalized groups in agricultural market opportunities. The project also works with other partners to complement and align diverse approaches and combine efforts to maximize impact. HRASA works in 33 communes across the North, Northeast, Central Plateau, and the South departments in four priority market systems: cereals (rice), roots and tubers (cassava), livestock (poultry), and vegetables (onions and peppers).

Partners: DAI Global, LLC, Agridev, SA., Papyrus, and Quisqueya University

Other Key Local Stakeholders: Ministry of Agriculture, agribusinesses, universities, research and development organizations, regional chambers of commerce, and more

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Established Foundation for Local Ownership: Stakeholder engagement events held with actors across the agricultural sector, especially with the Ministry of Agriculture, helped foster buy-in of HRASA's approach, activities, and results. Almost 500 local actors submitted ideas on how HRASA can support their journey to promote pro-poor, agriculture-led economic growth.

Deepened Understanding of Haiti's Complex Market System: Four analyses provided greater clarity on underperformance and identified where HRASA's investment will facilitate lasting impact.

Improved Cooperation Among System Actors: HRASA facilitates linkages between well-resourced agribusinesses and farmer associations. Under an inclusive business model, the private sector actors agreed to provide farmer associations with training, tools, and a ready market to improve production and sales.

USAID works to build a stable and viable Haiti, and provides life-saving humanitarian assistance to Haiti's most vulnerable and hard-to-reach people. <https://www.usaid.gov/haiti> and follow @USAID/Haiti on [X](#) and [Facebook](#).