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HAITI AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

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BACKGROUND

Agricultural research is key to agricultural productivity and food security. Building institutional and human capacity in Haiti's agriculture sector is key for economic growth and resilience to climate change. In partnership with Kansas State University, six Haitian universities are collaborating to create sustainable teaching, research, and extension programs in agricultural technology.

Haiti has excellent universities that can train students in agricultural production systems, and work with farmers. Many of these universities (University of Quisqueya, Université Chrétienne du Nord, American University of the Caribbean, Faculté d'Agronomie et de Médecine Vétérinaire, University of Notre Dame, and Campus Henry Christophe de Limonade) have partnerships with NGOs, local agricultural cooperatives, and area farmers. All have programs in agriculture, and will work together to create Bachelor and Master degree programs for Haitian students. Additionally, there will be educational certificates and other short term educational opportunities for farmers and others, all designed to meet agricultural economy and workforce needs.

The intent of the five-year Haiti Agricultural University Partnership (HAUP) is to cultivate these relationships while increasing the capacity of these six partner universities to conduct research and train students for careers in the agricultural sector. A cadre of professionals, in the West, North and South departments from

the field to the laboratories, is critical for an agricultural production system to withstand the shocks and stresses, and create revenue-generating production.

Collaboration between university students and staff, farmers, extension professionals, and others will help to produce agricultural systems that are climate resilient, productive, and provide revenue for the Haitian people. First steps will be the creation of virtual classrooms, allowing delivery of courses via asynchronous teaching. This education will be meshed with agricultural technology parks (ATP), where climate-smart and new agricultural technologies will be showcased. These partnerships will create a sustainable and revenue generating consortium of ATPs and educational offerings that will create long-term employment and growth opportunities for Haitians.

GOALS

The overall goal of HAUP is to build the institutional and human capacity in the agriculture sector to advance agriculture-led inclusive economic growth. Specially, the project will:

GOAL ONE

Increase institutional and human capacity and social capital of local universities to better meet the demands of the agricultural economy and workforce needs. This includes curriculum development, training for young Haitian professionals, and capacity-building for Haitian faculty.

GOAL TWO

Strengthen the capacity of local universities to provide research and extension services to farmers and the private sector that have the potential to generate revenue.

GOAL THREE

Cultivate linkages between universities, research centers, and producers to ensure that smallholder farmers can access technologies to increase food security in a changing climate.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS

Despite continual fuel issues, and nationwide unrest, program implementation has begun. With improved internet at each university for virtual education, asynchronous learning with virtual courses will be shared amongst all six universities, and enrollment of Bachelor and Master degree students began in October 2022 and 2023 respectively.

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