



### **BON ANE! (Happy New Year!)**

It has been a year now that we implemented the LEAP program, there are many accomplishments that we want to share but there are also criticisms from many sectors that the recovery of Haiti after the devastating earthquake is too slow.

Haiti is mostly mountains, and these mountains have no more forest cover. Continuous erosion of top soil is one of the difficulties the farmers need to address. The challenge is too huge and it will take years to rehabilitate yet CRWRC/ZOA in partnership with 15 farmer associations in Leogane is doing something to address this concern, one hill at a time.

#### **On this issue:**

- ⇒ 2011 The Year That Was - 2
- ⇒ Useful and Thankful - 3
- ⇒ To Dream and To Live - 4
- ⇒ LAT, our volunteers, Corner - 5



# 2011 - The Year That Was!

*We have experienced many challenges and difficulties but we were able to create some changes, small as they may be, to the lives of those who were affected by earthquake..*

## Micro-enterprise Development:

There are 446 micro-entrepreneurs (135 males and 311 females) who received loans and this helped them expand their businesses. Ninety seven percent (97%) of them are involve in small trading while the rest are tailors, bakers and restaurant owners. From these 446 clients, 105 of them already received second cycle loans, a little bigger than the initial loan amount. Eighteen percent (18%) of all clients who received loans started to open their personal saving account. There are also 54 new “informal” jobs created through this program.



## Business Development:

Twenty (20) Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) were identified and had completed the 12-sessions business training course. The business training course is a pre-requisite for any financial assistance. These graduates also received continuous coaching both from local and expat mentors. Initial results showed that these SME proprietors are now able to make and study their profit and loss statements. They are now keeping records of their income and expenses and make necessary adjustments to ensure better income yield.

## Sustainable Agriculture:

- More than 2,000 farmers received different assistance last year, this replaced their lost assets from the earthquake and helped them start again cultivating their lands with new hope.
- Farm tools such as hoes, machetes, and knives to 1,324 farmers, each farmer received 3-4 farming tools depending on their needs
- Different beans were given for planting and not to be eaten, black beans to 281 families where each farmer received 10-20 kgs, lima beans to 1,375 families where each farmer received 2-3 kgs, corn to 98 families, 2-3 kgs per farmer.
- Banana seedlings to 1,882 families, each farmer received 36 seedlings
- Vegetables seeds such as eggplant, leek and mung beans to 205 families
- Distributed 1,591 female goats plus almost 50 male goats to 12 communities benefitting 531 groups with three members each
- Six communities constructed seed banks
- Thirteen communities built their tree nurseries and seeds like oranges, coffee, lemon were planted
- 30 local farmer-leaders were trained in basic veterinary care
- Constructed 101,185 linear meters of contour canal that will prevent soil erosion





## Useful and Thankful

*"I feel I am very useful now to our community,"* proudly shared by Louise Blanchard, a 38-year old single mother from a mountain community of Morin, Leogane. Blanchard lost her house from the earthquake and still living in a tent near her mother's house.

*"Before CRWRC/ZOA came to our community, our animals just got sick and died without receiving proper medication. Our mountains have less trees and this worries me and other farmers. CRWRC/ZOA trained us on basic veterinary care and gave us medicines to treat the common sickness of our animals. They also taught us how to conserve our soil, gave us some money so we can construct canals on the hills and this prevented more erosion,"* narrated Blanchard as we walk towards their community nursery.

She showed to us the nursery that the farmers constructed with newly germinated lemon, coffee and orange. They are all excited to plant these seedlings comes August . Also in the nursery are some vegetables seeds that also germinated i.e. cabbage, sweet pepper and carrots.



*Blanchard in front of her tent house*



*Giving some injections (vitamins) to a goat*

*"CRWRC/ZOA gave us 111 goats and many of them have their own kids now, we are very thankful because we do not only have assistance for the present but the seedlings we will plant in the future will help our children and will make our community green again, mesi mesi anpil,"* Blanchard said.

Blanchard is one of the current local agricultural technicians (LAT) that assists CRWRC/ZOA in implementing sustainable agriculture in 15 communities of Leogane and assisting more than 2,000 farmers.

There are already 13 communities who finished constructing their nurseries and almost all seeds started to germinate. CRWRC/ZOA provided the plastic bags, seeds and water containers for farmers to store water. The rest are Community counterparts.



*The nursery in Morin*



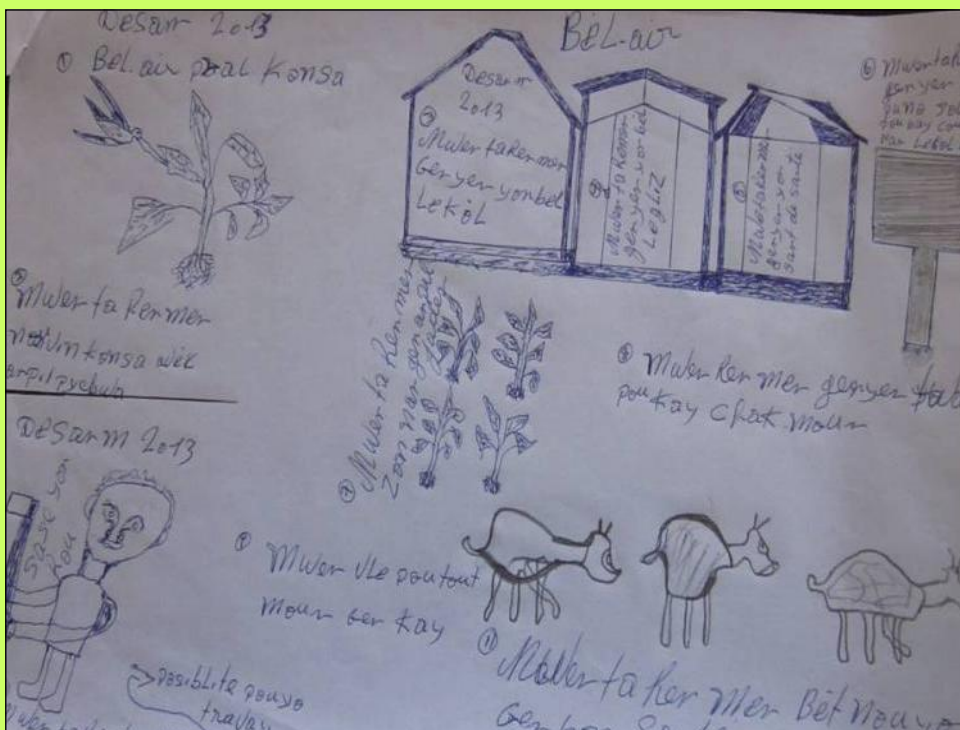
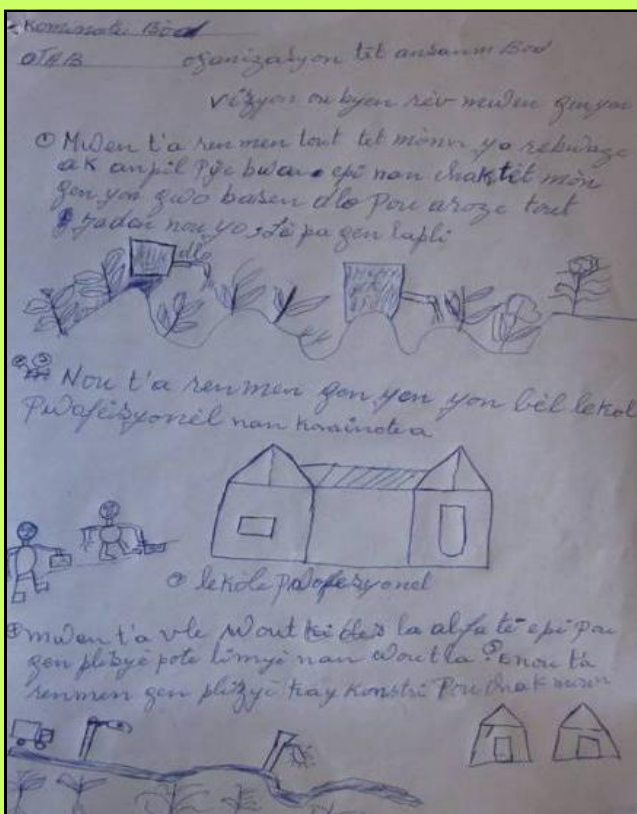
## To Dream and To Live

Ask a common Haitian who lives in Port au Prince “how do they see themselves in the future?” and you will hear almost all of them dreaming to be in America or Canada. Who will not think of leaving a country that suffers all sorts of disasters? But not the farmers in the mountains of Leogane. They know that there is hope to make their community better again. For them the mountains are their source of income and the future of their children. We encouraged some farmer-leaders to draw their dreams of their community and we were amazed how they articulated what they want to see in their community in the future.

“To see our mountains green again with trees and the dry river to have flowing water again are part of my dreams. Also that every farmer has small animals as savings for emergencies, each house will have solar power light so children can study at night, that each family will have a sturdy house with latrine, to have a community school and health center. I also look forward that women will be involved in business,” shared **Joseph Jean Dieuseul**, the LAT of Polite community as he shown to us his drawing. (his drawing is on the left side while the drawings on the bottom were from Bel-air and Bod communities)

Of course we cannot answer all their long wish-list but what encourages us are these farmer-leaders do not ask for assistance because they were victims of earthquake but they are asking assistance because they have dreams. Dreams that even before we arrived on their community they have already started doing something to reach those dreams.

Dreams are free and for the poor these dreams encourage them to live each day with hope and to work despite of life’s challenges and difficulties. CRWRC/ZOA is there to assist them reach their dreams, one dream at a time.





**Local Agriculture Technician (LAT) Corner**  
**What inspires you in your work as a volunteer?**



*"CRWRC/ZOA always keeps its words to us when we made a request. That allows the members of the community to have trust on us and CRWRC/ZOA has invested much on us so as we can have more knowledge in soil conservation, animal health care and crop production."* **Forestal Willy, Bel Air community.**



*"Through CRWRC/ZOA, I am now an agriculture technician and a veterinary agent. It enables me to work better with farmers, to talk to them, to teach them how to protect the environment and take care of their animals."* **Verdieu Jean Michael, Boudachita community.**



*Even though this work is very complicated and I got tired sometime, I am happy because I always get the supports of our members to fulfill my works.* **Adnis Jadeline, Towo community.**



*The appreciation that I received from farmers who always look for me when their animals are sick. Also, my association, due to CRWRC/ZOA, becomes stronger and stronger each day and this makes me proud and satisfied on my work.* **Juillet Wonel, Gerard community.**



*"Aside from the trainings I got, CRWRC allows me to meet new friends and to know other communities that I do not know before. The small honorarium monthly is also a big encouragement."* **Délices Samuel, Borde community.**



*"Farmers consider me as their "savior" because I was able to give health care to their animals which they consider as their bank account."* **Joseph Jean Dieuseul, Polite community.**