



New Forests Project

A Project of The International Center
www.newforestsproject.org

Haiti's Country Program

Haiti is the poorest country in the Americas and the one that has suffered the most from widespread tree loss. Forests currently cover only three percent of the land. Deforestation and unsustainable land use practices have led to massive soil degradation and agricultural stagnation. Natural disasters such as hurricanes and the devastating earthquake that hit the country on January 12, 2010 have only worsened the country's dire economic situation.

At the New Forests Project (NFP) we believe that long-term recovery of Haiti will have to focus not only on urban areas but also on rebuilding the countryside in order to promote economic development, food security and rural prosperity among the growing Haitian population.



Planting a cacao tree

In the past few years, NFP has increased its support to local non-profit organizations working in northern Haiti's countryside to reverse land degradation and promote local food production. Our seed shipments have significantly increased through our new decentralized system and funds have been provided to support the planting of agroforestry trees and fruit trees.

Following is a description of our most recent efforts in the country:

Reforestation in Terrier-Rouge

In 2009, NFP provided financial resources to a local non-profit, IDDH (Initiative pour le Developpement Durable d'Haiti- Initiative for the Sustainable Development of Haiti), in Terrier-Rouge, North-East province. IDDH produced and planted approximately 5,000 fruit and agroforestry trees, purchased 420 grafted citrus and mango trees, and provided training to local farmers on tree-planting and tree-caring techniques. A total of 11 hectares were reforested through this effort.

In 2011, NFP is funding a larger project through IDDH that will reforest watershed areas, promote agroforestry and generate alternative sources of food and income. The project will involve 200 children in tree growing activities, plant 14,000 trees, and establish 3 fish ponds and 30 family gardens.



Farmers receiving training in Terrier-Rouge

Seed Distribution in northern Haiti

During the past two years, NFP has provided close to one million seeds to AKV (AyitiKonseVet-Haiti Conservation Green) that works in northern Haiti to promote food self-sufficiency and restore farming as a way of life. AKV has been distributing New Forests Projects tree seeds to many small groups in the area working on home gardens and reforestation.



Chokogou

In 2011 NFP funded a first “Chokogou” (or Maya Nut) pilot project. This agroforestry tree produces a nut that is extremely nutritious and tasty. Local communities can greatly benefit from the nutritious qualities of the seeds and their products, and increase their income through the commercialization of seeds, seedlings, fodder and flour. NFP has partnered with the Maya Nut Institute to launch this project and provided funds to IDDH to purchase seeds and carry out a workshop that will train 40 women on the benefits of harvesting and using the nut, ways to cook it and commercialize it, and how to implement a nursery to grow the trees.

**If you have any further questions you can contact Pia Iolster (Program Director)
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