



New Forests Project

A Project of The International Center
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Establishing *Moringa oleifera* Tree Plots for Fodder Production in Haiti August 2012



This project was implemented in Port Margo, Northeast Haiti from September 2011 to April 2013 New Forests Project partner organization, Ayiti Konse Vet (AKV). AKV works in northern rural communities to improve the basic nutrition of Haiti's rural poor and help them restore their degraded landscape. AKV currently supports four primary schools and six school gardens, home gardens for family vegetable production, goat and rabbit breeding, aquaculture activities and literacy classes for adults and children.

This specific project had the following planned Activities

- Establish a nursery to grow *Moringa oleifera* trees
- Grow 2,000 seedlings of Moringa trees
- Train local farmers on the benefits and multiple uses of Moringa trees.
- Provide 40 local farmers with Moringa seedlings and Napier grass.
- Supervise the planting and caring of seedlings.

Project Background

AKV has worked in Port Margot since 2005. It has implemented two school gardens which have been very successful. School children are learning how to grow healthy food for home consumption and sell surpluses in local markets. Additionally, they began to teach their parents how to plant, care for and harvest vegetables and fruits. This evolved into a whole new program that is supporting the establishment of 30 home gardens in local households and the establishment of rabbit husbandry activities. Rabbits can feed on garden scraps and can provide very much needed protein and income. Their droppings can be used to fertilize the gardens. Additional fodder for the rabbits will be obtained from the Moringa leaves.

Project Description

The project trained local people on the multiple benefits of Moringa trees and established Moringa tree plots. *Moringa oleifera* is a multipurpose tree that, apart from fodder production, has many other potential uses including its leaves, pods, seeds, flowers and roots which are extremely nutritious and can be incorporated in local people's food; the seeds can be used to purify water and the trees can be used as live fences.

Project Implementation

Growing Moringa



Moringa nursery under construction in Port Margot



Moringa seedlings growing in nursery under shading

In September-October 2011, AKV purchased the fencing and shading materials needed to set up the Moringa nursery and constructed the nursery. Watering cans, tools and ten pounds of Moringa seedlings were also purchased. After some initial problems with seed germination, approximately 2000 healthy Moringa seedlings were growing in the nursery by February 2012.

Training

In January 2012, New Forests Project provided AKV with technical information on Moringa and training resources. AKV adapted this information to local needs and developed training materials for the training session on Moringa. The day-long training took place on February 20. A total of 42 local people participated. The training was very successful and generated much enthusiasm and positive feedback. The training was done by Wedly Deceus, AKV's field coordinator.



Wedly Deceus introducing the training to participants



Participants reviewing training materials

Distribution of seedlings and planting to establish Moringa stands intercropped with Napier

Once they were big enough, the 2000 Moringa seedlings were distributed to community members at the end of April on two separate days to a total of thirty people.



Distribution of Moringa seedlings

Follow-up activities

AKV will do follow up visits to monitor for tree survival and growth. After the training Wedly Deceus was approached by youth, women and Scout groups, as well as magistrates from surrounding communes to request he repeat the Moringa training. Many locals have heard about the benefits of

Moringa but are lacking the knowledge on how to grow it and benefit from it. NFP is now trying to raise the funds to implement two other Moringa projects in the region.

AKV also obtained 1,000 Napier grasses that were distributed to participants and that will be intercropped with the Moringa trees to provide erosion control and feed for the rabbits. AKV also performed a training for local people on rabbit rearing on June 7, 2012 and established rabbit hutches in and purchased rabbits in July.

AKV also plans to continue to grow Moringa tree seedlings for local distribution. Due to difficulty in finding local seeds and low-germination capacity of those that were purchased locally, New Forests Project sent five kilograms on Moringa seeds from India to AKV which were received in June.