AREA-USAID Haiti Project and IFAS International Programs

FOR THE #GATORGGOOD

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UF/IFAS GLOBAL

Serving Florida through GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT
IFAS Global assists faculty, staff and students at the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) through activities that focus on international education, research and extension.
Our Priorities

LEARN
Creating avenues for dynamic cultural exchanges in the classroom and beyond

DISCOVER
Creating innovative solutions that improve livelihoods while protecting the earth

ENGAGE
Creating opportunities with partners to address global challenges through collective action
How IFAS Global Meets these Priorities:

• **Matching International graduate students to faculty** – USAID funded programs- Borlaug Higher Education Agriculture, Research and Development (BHEARD); other competitive awards, Fulbright, and others

• **Competitive Awards** –
  • Integrating Gender and Nutrition into Agricultural Extension Systems (INGENAES); Support to Agricultural Research and Development in Haiti (SARD or AREA); Livestock Systems Innovation Lab (LSIL), Horticultural Innovation Lab

• **Country Initiated Opportunities: Colombia initiative**

• **Faculty and Student Support** – through assistance with proposal development, international networking opportunities

• **Assisting with Cooperative Agreements**
Support Services provided by IFAS Global

- Identifying international funding opportunities and matching faculty based on area of expertise
- Providing guidance based on granting agency and their rules and regulations
- Assisting with proposal development
  - Identifying partners with expertise
  - Identifying key personnel
  - Providing content for the proposal
  - Assisting with budget development
- Guidance on implementation
Appui à la Recherche et au Développement Agricole (AREA) Project

• Support to Agricultural Research and Development

• 5 Year USAID funded project; $13.7 million
AREA

AREA seeks to...

- Improve agricultural production and food security
- Enhance infrastructure and institutional capacity
- Modernize agribusiness and promote economic growth
Key Principles

• Provide opportunities for Haitians of all classes to improve their lives. Support training, innovation, well-implemented programs, and inclusive communication that will create ways to serve the needs of Haitian farmers.

• Mentor agents of change in governmental and nongovernmental institutions and organizations. The goal is to expand the number and effectiveness of change agents in the agricultural sector.

• Build and support stronger, more equitable farmer organizations and agribusinesses.

• Foster a culture of evaluation, self-assessment and accountability. Research and effective information and technology delivery require credible information and equitable delivery methods.

• Inspire educated and trained Haitians to fuel the growth of the agriculture sector through innovative research and extension. Enabling educated and trained individuals to contribute to and help rebuild Haitian agriculture will catalyze agricultural productivity.
Agriculture Extension

• We use a research based approach to improve the capacity of Haitian agricultural professionals to develop and implement effective extension programs
Agricultural Value Chain

• We use a research based approach to assess key value chains in Haiti to identify bottlenecks and formulate interventions designed to improve access and food security.
Climate Smart Solutions

• We develop science-based tools and applications to enable farmers to use weather data to plan and make decisions to reduce climate related risks associated with agriculture production
Crop Improvement

- We are increasing farmers access to improved cultivars and seeds designed to increase agricultural productivity and food security in Haiti
Plant Diseases and Pests

• We strengthen the capacity of the public and private sector to perform disease diagnosis to farmers and formulate recommendations to reduce losses caused by plant pathogens in Haiti.
• AREA researchers are working to introduce new postharvest technologies and practices to reduce crop loss and improve the marketability of food products
Soil and Water Management

- We provide science based recommendations to farmers regarding the sustainable management of soil and water resources in Haiti to help increase agricultural productivity and food security.
 AREA researchers are working with seven agriculture institutions in Haiti to modernize the curricula to ensure it is responsive to the needs of the agricultural sector.
Support for 20 Graduate Students and Interns

• 18 students are enrolled in MS degree programs at UF and 2 students are enrolled at LSU. Each year the program supports approximately 15 interns in Haiti.
Three Mini-grant programs

• Acquisition of supplies and other nonexpendable items (4,000)

• Individual research grants (8,000)

• Collaborative research grants (20,000)
Challenges associated with managing large international projects

• Need excellent, trustworthy and reliable in country staff
• Need to fund support positions in fiscal and project management
• Procurement specialist
• Logistics take considerable time
• Project needs to legally operate within country
• Management and technical duties need to be separate
• Reporting and deliverables on time are key
Other considerations

- Communications (branding and marketing)
- Environmental compliance
- Restricted commodities
- J1 visa requirements
- Monitoring and Evaluation of activities
- Oversight and meetings with funding agencies on a regular basis