



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

HAITI

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR) began working in Haiti in 1997 to promote rural development through projects that improve food security, gender equality, and the strength of smallholder farmers' organizational capacity. More recently, LWR has responded to both the short- and long-term impacts of the major 2010 earthquake through its partners in the ACT Alliance emergency response network as well as through local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and farmers' organizations.

Currently, by working alongside various NGOs, producer associations and government agencies, LWR's Haiti program improves farmers' livelihoods in northern Haiti by increasing smallholder participation in value chains, improving food security and promoting crop diversification. Additionally, LWR works to strengthen business models of various farmers' cooperatives and federations by linking them to external stakeholders making them more competitive in national and international markets.

AGRICULTURE VALUE CHAINS: COCOA

Haiti smallholder cocoa farmers' ability to capitalize on growing international demand for quality cocoa is hampered by low productivity and inadequate post-harvest processing both of which lower bean quality and quantity, as well as limit the capacity of farmer cooperatives to offer high-value marketplace linkages for members. Although most of Haiti's smallholder cocoa farmers live at or below the poverty line, the potential to be lifted out of poverty by supplying the global cocoa market is ever increasing.

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Visit lwr.org/contact for contact information
for LWR's Haiti country office.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Lutheran World Relief works to improve the lives of millions of smallholder farmers and people experiencing poverty in Africa, Asia and Latin America, both in times of emergencies and for the long term. LWR builds and maximizes community assets to develop strong local economies and resilient communities, toward our mission of an end to poverty, injustice and human suffering.



Allison Shelley for LWR

Charles Sylvain, a member of the St. Helene de Carice coffee cooperative, says he has experienced a big loss in his coffee crops and income due to leaf rust. LWR and our local partner, RECOCARNO, are helping farmers like Charles to diversify crops and grow disease resistant coffee varieties.

Using additional funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), LWR is improving access to technical training, new technologies, credit, markets, and key networks for cocoa farmers in Northern Haiti. LWR is working to train these farmers in modernized agroforestry practices to sustainably increase and manage cocoa yields at many levels, including: farming techniques, fermentation processes, storage, packaging and transport. LWR works alongside various stakeholders such as Root Capital which increases a cooperative's capacity to manage small internal credit systems for members. In conjunction with the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) LWR helps establish sustainable cocoa agroforestry systems for long-term growth. These efforts subsequently strengthen farmers' connection to markets as well as assist producers in acquiring Fair Trade certifications.

CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

Ensuring stable and resilient agricultural production and ecologically-sound natural resource management in the Northern corridor of Haiti is critical to mitigating and adapting to the effects of changing climates. LWR is promoting adaptation techniques necessary for a strong agricultural value chain that include local weather monitoring stations, adaptation training for farmers, and diversification of food crops to meet household consumption.

To improve coffee farmer resilience to climate change and battle coffee leaf rust, LWR is introducing new resistant and resilient coffee plant varieties to smallholder coffee farmers as well as assisting them to diversify their farm production. Participating farmers directly benefit from regeneration activities such as improving their farm's resiliency and being offered the opportunity to create diversified sources of income through the promotion of new marketable crops.

LWR is facilitating access to markets and capital by strengthening cooperative governance and improving their capacity for advocating on behalf of smallholder coffee farmers to initiate favorable policy changes. These efforts improve infrastructure in cooperatives' internal governance and strengthen financial management and internal controls systems of producer organizations. These efforts benefit household and community members of these organizations by creating efficiency and higher return of both cash and services to members.



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