



THE LAMBI

Newsletter

Supporting economic justice, democracy and sustainable development in Haiti

Thank you For Your Support!



Letter from our Executive Director Marie Marthe Saint Cyr

As we embrace 2018, we want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation of you: Thank you

Thank you: You made a financial contribution

Thank you: You made a difference with your gift of engagement, commitment and time

Thank you: for colleagues, partners and brothers and sisters

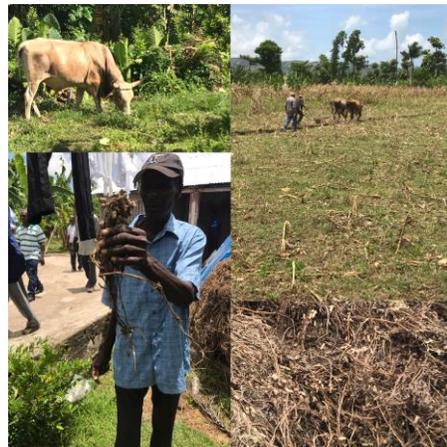
Thank you: for the voices expressing the need to change the equation

Thank you: for the inspiring voices of emerging leaders

We close a year and enter into a new one because of you we enter a new year with renewed commitment in our quest for equity and justice, and to improve services provided to our partners.

As we assess our capacities and work on our limitations we admit:

We have a long way to go



From hand tilling to Ox-plowing, partners Peasant Cooperative for the Development of Tobeck (COPADET) are now able to plant more fields



Asosyasyon Fanm pou Transformasyon Agrikol, Women Association for Agricultural Transformation (AFTA) transforms their harvest into edible goods, jam, peanut, flour adding to food production and security

Our Continued Impact

By Lourdes Eliacin Mars- Deputy Director

For 24 years, the Lambi Fund has helped strengthened civil society in Haiti as a necessary foundation for democracy and development. This mission has translated into providing life-giving water to communities via cisterns, sustainable livelihoods to partners through community projects, and ensuring lush fertile land for future generations by way of environmental projects. Our partners are the catalyst to the long-term building in Haiti. From the launching to the evaluation portion of each two-year project, partner organizations participate in every aspect.

We are fortunate to have had long term relationship with rural farming organizations.

2017 marked another productive and successful year to improve lives. That year, in terms of projects was spent on continuing to rehabilitate the programs loss due to Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. The other aspect was focus on sustainable development with partners in both the South and Artibonite departments. Our overall 2017 portfolio comprised of 28 projects. The portfolio includes 21 projects that must be

We must advance the struggle and keep on fighting

Thank you for a step forward to reach our goals for 2018.

Regional Conference

Reflections of a newcomer

Written by Lourdes Eliacin Mars



South Department Conference Participants

Every year, our partners are invited to participate in a week-long conference. As a first-time attendee, I was excited and frankly nervous about this experience. Although born in Haiti, I left at the age of 10 and at that time was out of practice with my Haitian Creole (I've improved since then). I had many emotions but the one I felt the most was the excitement of the unknown.

My colleagues had given me the rundown about the conference and I was pretty versed in the way in which it worked. Prior to that week, I would recite everything that my colleagues told me, almost like a parrot, but now after experiencing it for myself, I can now explain in my own words this experience. When thinking about the conference, one word comes to mind and is repeated constantly in my mind: **TOGETHERNESS.**

I joined the South Department Regional Conference from December 3-10, with 6 partners in attendance, 28 members total (14 men and 14 women). For a week we learned about many topics

rehabilitated due to Hurricane Matthew's destruction. Currently 16 of the 21 have been launched. Aside from those projects being rehabilitated, Lambi launched and is monitoring 12 other projects for 2017. In the Artibonite region, Lambi has 2 community micro-credit projects, 1 goat breeding project, and 4 environmental projects consisting of planting fruit and forest trees, establishing a mill for rice transformation, and production of plantains. In the South, Lambi has 4 community micro-credit projects and 1 environmental project comprised of planting trees. Every project includes trainings for partners.



Farmers (man and woman) working together planting in the south

Reflections from the Field in Rural Haiti

*A Letter from our Haiti Director
Josette Perard*

2017 began with many difficulties for rural farmers in Haiti. The agricultural calendar has altered so drastically due to global warming and climate change. In the past, farmers could rely on the regularity of the seasons: "In old times we knew exactly when to plant and when we will harvest. Then we can till the soil and prepare for the next season. We had regular seasons." With this recent drought we have a chain reaction. If the farmer does not plant, there is no harvest there is no food in that area, no mills for corn and millet, rice and sugar cane, thus no food production.

Food insecurity grows as people are unable to buy and produce food locally.

The work of the Lambi Fund becomes more important- yet more difficult.

Faced with the situation Lambi made a decision to take action that will result in helping bring water to the soil, so the land can be fertile and produce food. The Lambi Fund facilitate the acquisition of mobile pumps, to pump water from rivers still running. There is no system for irrigation in these areas because the state is not responsible to create an infrastructure of support for farmers. Lambi in partnership with local Haitian farmers set up credit funds and reinforced those struggling to survive to help them buy seeds, agricultural tools, the things that are needed to bring their value to the open.

Peasant women have a great role to play in the fight for a better life. They are the pillars. They have the tact, the savoir faire to overcome. They become the "Madam Sara," the go-getters. They seek and move goods where it is most needed to care for their communities. They travel

including the new topic on Climate Change.

Each day was dedicated on different themes such as civic education and gender equity. We would share every meal together, eating in the same area and cracking jokes with one another. Every morning the trainers, who have decades of experience, led us in the singing of the Haiti's national anthem. This was a special treat for me since I had forgotten the anthem in Haitian Creole.

By the end of the day before having some time for ourselves, we would come together after dinner to discuss the day and possible things that need improvement for the next day. Most of the issues was people unable to hear one another because they were talking at the same time. Partners decided to implement a rule of raising hands and waiting on the trainers to call on them, so that everyone would get a turn.

I participated in all aspect of the training from learning about each topic to joining a small group and even going on a field trip to see an asphalt factory. We all arrived Sunday evening and by Tuesday everyone knew each other by name and were comfortable around each other like a small community. I learned a lot about the Lambi Fund's approach and experiencing it first-hand has made it even easier to explain to supporters how much our projects make a difference to individuals.

After the Anthem, we would begin on the topic and for that day, we would learn about the topic, breakout in small groups to discuss it, come back together again and review the topic once more. This repetition is a method to help members with different education and literacy levels remember the topic.

Furthermore, while in small groups, we would share our own experiences on the topic of the day. In the case of Climate Change, which was the first topic to be

to areas less affected by the drought to buy grains to keep the mills working. They bring food and other basic goods to keep the population alive, to feed the children, and the elderly. The Lambi Fund help organizations establish credit funds to help women get loans at low interest to increase their capacity to establish their businesses. Food insecurity, exacerbated by the horrible drought put the whole country in a state of insecurity. Life, for farmers in Haiti is difficult and complicated. The Lambi Fund has partnered with rural farmers and this collaboration has yielded positive success. And we thank you for making our working partnership possible.



It's a community and family affair when planting. Women, Men, and children work together to have a successful harvest

2018 Goals

As in previous years, we are committed to provide partner organizations with the tools to thrive in their communities. Our current 2018 portfolio includes 39 projects where we work with 33 organizations in Artibonite and the South Departments.

We continue to seek funding to ensure that we provide all partners the opportunity to care for their families and communities through livelihood creation.

Here are the goals we are asking you to support:

- A. Food production through milling rice, millet, corn through construction of new mill at ODRO, TKTPLA, OSCED
- B. Construction of grain storage at UPLADEP
- C. Production of Coffee and Mango at KOKAP and OPDGJC respectively.
- D. Ox plowing services at OPADESH, UPLADEP, MFM, OPBK, OPB, KOPADET, TKLRMEYO, ACHLAP and MPL to increase land tilling and seeding.

We count on your help to achieve these 15 activities for the development of food gardens increasing the production of food for the local community.

discussed during the conference, participants brought many testimonials about their experience with the issue. The day-long climate change training involved members learning about what climate change is, the impact it has on their daily lives, and individual/community solutions to improve their environment.

As in all of our trainings we used a combination of classroom instructions, group work, songs and theater to explain the issues of climate change.

Throughout the day, I learned from some members how the lack of rain was causing crops to die out and how other members were inundated with rain drowning the plants. It was incredible to listen to the different experiences and speaking about the issues first in the small groups and then in the larger group. It brought context to this issue to everyone.

By the end of that day, aside from speaking about the problem, some came up with solutions such as: 1) spreading the information they had learned to other members; 2) decreasing their carbon footprint by properly disposing plastic bottles; and 3) the biggest solution was not to burn the soil before or after planting.

This type of learning brought this cross-cutting issue to all participants and illustrated that everyone, one way or another, was dealing with this problem and together they came up with solutions.

On the last day of the conference, a group of participants put on a play about climate change that involved the solutions such as not burning plastic, not burning trees to make charcoal, and the need to educate their neighbors.

The overall response from partners was one of understanding and appreciation about learning the subject. Each participant (4 delegates per



Production

WHY I GIVE?

A Letter from EVELY LASER SHLENSKY- Lambi Fund Supporter

Some years back, I had the opportunity to visit Haiti to see the life-altering work that The Lambi Fund helps make possible. I was on the board of an organization that had for years made grants to support that work.

We met with some of the fine Lambi staff in Port au Prince to better understand the challenges with which Lambi is dealing in Haiti. We then set out to visit a couple of the projects facilitated by Lambi.

The first project was a grain mill, developed by a women's cooperative. The women wanted to be able to mill their grain close to where they lived rather than carrying it to a distant mill. The women were justifiably proud of the mill that they worked to bring into existence, with technical support from Lambi. The ease of milling in a facility they operated where they lived made a tremendous difference in their lives.

Our second visit was to an irrigation project, again organized with the assistance of Lambi. Adequate irrigation is, of course, a preface to an adequate standard of living.

I remember still how impressed I was with the determination of these rural people of Haiti, trying to extract an existence from a country so deeply impoverished.

When the grant making organization that arranged our visit to Haiti changed its priorities to focus on domestic hunger, I continued, as an individual donor, to contribute to the Lambi Fund's work. Having seen how lives in a desperately poor country can be turned by determined residents and a critical organization, I knew that this was a place where my charitable dollars truly mattered.

organization) was given printed information and tasked to share with their other members.

I personally believe that this training is a needed tool for our partners that are at the front lines of the unpredictable weather. I hope to see this training expanded and incorporated as part of the organizational training that each partner receives once they begin a new project. It should not only be given during the regional conference. It's just too important.



Group work during the conferences

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Welcome Lourdes Eliacin Mars- Deputy Director**

Lourdes joined the Lambi Fund in June. She brings in her experience in social media and fundraising. She is vigorously and enthusiastically embracing fundraising for the farming community. As a passionate Haitian, she looks forward to helping partners improve their livelihoods and increase food production as they are the pillar of feeding our people.

- On January 30th, funding from W.K. Kellogg Foundation launched 9 various projects with smallholder farmers in Kavayon, Manich, and Okay to create income generating opportunities.

[Click here to read PRESS RELEASE](#)

- We received funding for General Support from the Argosy Foundation and Vanderbilt Family Foundation
- On February 9th, we launched our first appeal of the year “Give a gift of Love” to coincide with Valentine’s Day. This appeal is for General Support and will help us continue to support the 34 projects already on our portfolio.

[Click here to view CAMPAIGN](#)

- **Join the Lambi fund of Haiti 2018 Delegation**

For an unforgettable journey to rural Haiti where you will spend time with women, farmers Families and community dwellers who take Charge and create change in living conditions in their communities.

Experience the grassroots mobilization in communities Where our partners define the strategies and identify Solution driven projects for their future!

For more information please call 202-772-2372 or email lourdes@lambifund.org.

- **Welcome New Executive Committee and new Chair Freud Jean**

We’d like to welcome and thank the new Executive Committee for their willingness to take added responsibilities to lead our board. Thank you, Freud Jean, new Chair for providing the leadership.

We’d love to hear from you please contact us at info@lambifund.org for any questions or comments.