

## ENHANCING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Agriculture is central to the Haitian economy. It employs more than 60% of the population and generates 25% of the GDP. Since the 2010 earthquake, the agricultural sector has played an important role in the country's economic recovery. However, the agricultural sector faces significant challenges: stagnant yields as a result of limited access to inputs and information, minimal and poorly maintained infrastructure, limited value added processing, a lack of market access and the uncertainty of a changing climate.

Through the U.S. Feed the Future Initiative and USAID, the United States Government is committed to working with the Haitian people to address these challenges and improve agricultural productivity and food security in

Haiti.

### Approach and expected impacts

As part of this initiative, the *Appui à la Recherche et au Développement Agricole (AREA)* project (2015-2020) will build the capacity of Haitian institutions and the private sector to improve the availability of and the access to agricultural innovations to improve production and market access. Through research and extension activities, AREA is building on and improving existing Haitian approaches to increase the availability of efficient production technologies in Haiti. Project activities will focus on the Feed the Future West region of Haiti encompassing the Port-au-Prince/Cul-de-Sac and St. Marc corridors. Agricultural projects in this region focus mainly on increasing the productivity of maize, rice, beans, plantains and vegetables.



*Des femmes emploient la méthode du Système d'Intensification de la Riziculture (SRI) pour augmenter la production. Photo Credit: David Rockkind/Feed the Future Haiti*



*Directeur de Recherche, Dr. Lemâne Delva et des membres de son équipe visitent le CRDD de Bas Boen. Photo Credit: Indra Soria/Feed the Future Haiti*

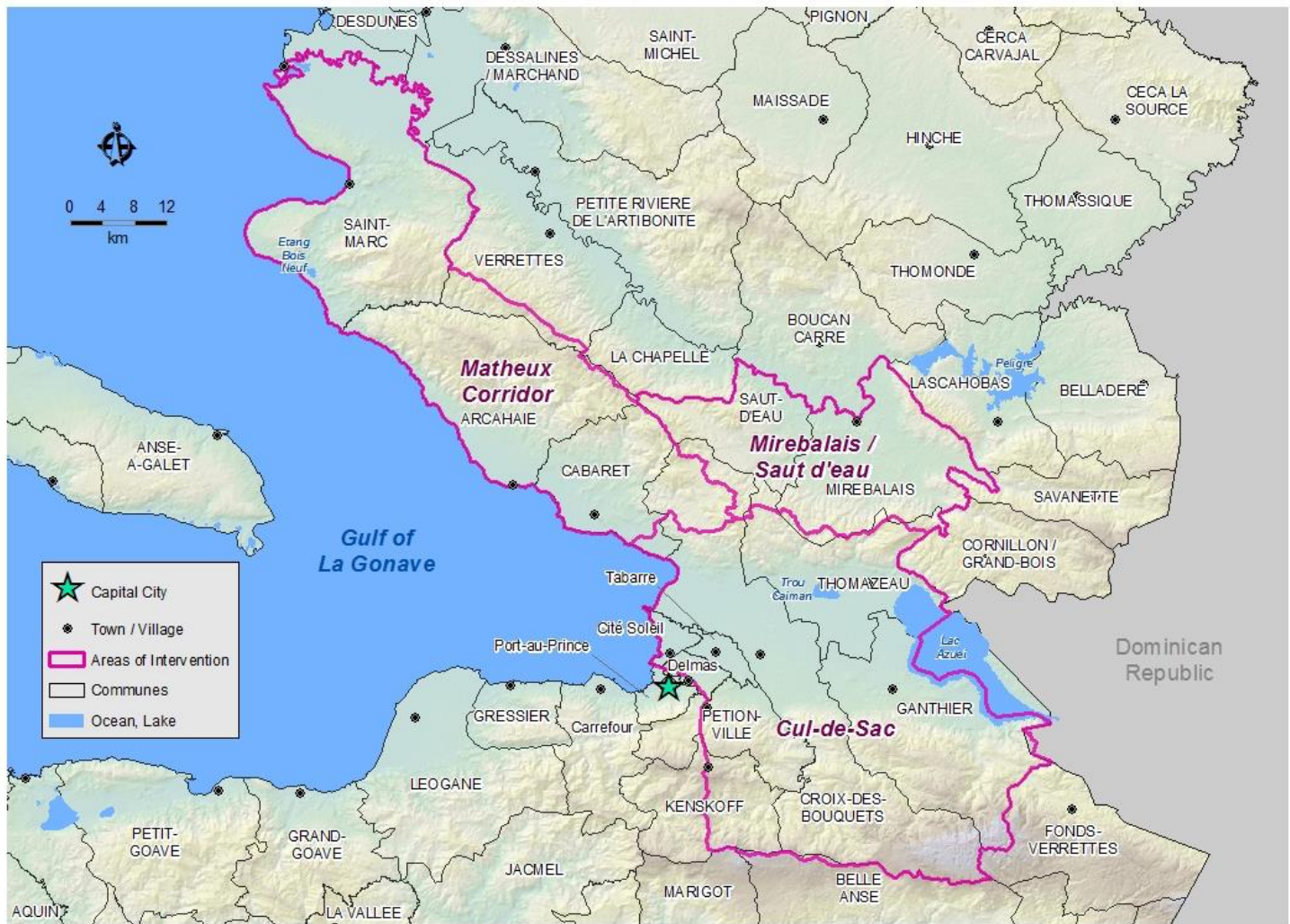
The project draws on the expertise of three public U.S. land grant institutions, the University of Florida, Louisiana State University and University of Illinois who will collaborate with the Faculté d'Agronomie de Médecine Vétérinaire, Quisqueya University, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's Directorate for Innovation, and the Centres Rurales de Développement Durable in Bas Boen, Montrouis, and Kenscoff.

AREA will mentor and support agents of change within the public and private sector who identify and promote innovations that will improve agricultural production systems. Project activities focus on the role that women play in the agricultural sector and identify ways to improve their livelihoods. The project also promotes climate smart solutions as part of an overall strategy to address the impacts of a changing climate.

## Professional development opportunities and system change

*Appui à la Recherche et au Développement Agricole* engages a broad group of stakeholders through opportunities for professional development and support, such as graduate school scholarships for up to 20 Haitian students, student internships in Haiti, undergraduate and graduate level certificate programs, competitive mini-grants and technical assistance. The project fosters institutional change through modernizing education - based approaches, developing effective extension models for technology transfer, and by strengthening linkages between actors in targeted value chains.

### Zones of Intervention



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