



LA GONÂVE
HAITI
PARTNERS

Sowing Seeds

Monthly Newsletter June 2025



Mangoes for sale in May at the market in Palma

The first rainy season on La Gonâve, which runs from April to June, was strong this year. Hopefully, this will produce a fruitful harvest for farmers. A second rainy season runs from August to October. Despite there being two rainy seasons, the island is generally dry. Farmers have to navigate drought and limited resources to provide for the island.

La Gonâve is dependent on the ability of goods to securely cross the gulf between the mainland and the island. The journey is rife with pirates, the sea is dangerous, and gas is expensive. To create a more resilient La Gonâve, the island must decrease its reliance on the mainland.

Kids at St. Francis Elementary School had a fruits day this month to learn about nutrition and agriculture. Students ate the fresh produce for lunch later that day. Everything was either purchased from local markets, which supports the island's economy, or grown in one of the parish's gardens. Under the leadership of St. Barnabas University-trained agronomist Mr. Jean Thony Joseph, the parish runs two gardens that support three communities and supplement school lunches.



Kindergarten students pose with fruit!



A representative of Starfysh talks to 8th and 9th graders from St. Francis about farming

Parish middle schoolers study environmental science as a part of their curriculum. The students pictured above went on a field trip to Starfysh, an NGO, which has a garden project in Anse-a-Galets. The students learned how the organization cultivates plants appropriate for the ecosystem. Jean Thony finds that transporting plants from the gardens in Nouvelle Cite and Platon Balais to other communities is not successful. It is important to not duplicate efforts; Starfysh is satisfying an agricultural need in Anse-a-Galets, while LGHP's gardens do so in three rural communities.



Jean Thony facilitating a mobile vet clinic

Livestock care is an area of great need to the communities. Jean Thony trains staff to function as community agriculture and veterinary agents. They provide unique care and support. The team holds mobile vet clinics that provide vaccines and medicine, helping famers have healthy livestock. They teach responsible and economical farming, as well as providing the tools necessary to succeed. Jean Thony and his team empower farmers to build a more adaptable food system, and in turn, hopefully a more stable economy.

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