

# Haiti Livelihood Support for Small-Scale Coffee Producers

Funding Needed: £30,500

Project Proposal

## Summary

This project will improve the living conditions of 1,300 coffee producers who have been severely affected by the down turn in coffee prices. This ongoing project will benefit small-scale producers by helping them to improve coffee production, cultivate alternative crops and access new markets. Oxfam is working in partnership with RECOCARNO, a network of 8 coffee co-operatives in north and northeast Haiti, comprising over 4,500 members.

## Background

Haiti is the poorest country in the Americas with 80% of the population living below the poverty line. Nearly 5 million people depend solely on agriculture for their livelihoods. Coffee is mainly produced by small-scale farmers and is a vital source of export income for the whole country. However, small-scale farmers receive low prices for their produce and struggle to survive. Despite a marked period of political instability in Haiti and serious doubt about the recovery of the national economy, crops such as coffee still offer development opportunities. This is due to large national consumption and the expansion of international niche markets.

## Project Objectives

- To improve the quality of coffee produced by 1,300 cooperative members and to take advantage of new market niches for small producers.
- To train members of the cooperatives in management and business skills.
- To help 200 female members to diversify into alternative crops as a source of income. Women will receive training in growing fruit and vegetables and making jams and marmalades.

## Project Activities

- 150 women will receive training in business skills such as leadership, decision-making and marketing techniques
- Water systems for irrigating and washing coffee will be set up
- A micro-credit scheme to help 35 women to invest in their plantations will be established
- Support will be given to two co-operatives to produce and sell agricultural products (yams and citrus) in local and international markets. This will involve installing production facilities, training, developing a brand, setting up a distribution system, and marketing the produce

## Outcome

- 60 coffee producers will become managers within their cooperatives.



## Country Facts

- Population 7.6 million
- 53% literacy
- Life expectancy is 51 years
- 80% of population live below the poverty line
- 66% population work in agriculture

Source: World FactBook 2004

Oxfam has worked here since 1978.



▲ Sale of coffee and fruit juice at a local agricultural fair.

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- Two types of high quality coffee (Fair Trade & Organic Gourmet) will be produced.
- It is hoped that 15,000 lbs of roasted coffee will be sold in national and international markets (80% locally and 20% in the US) in the next year.
- 100,000 bottles of juice and 160,000 cans of marmalade will be produced and sold per year. 100 tons of yams and 100 tons of citrus crops will be sold in the next year in local, national and international markets (including the US).

## Impact

By strengthening RECOCARNO and participating co-operatives the project will increase the likelihood of producers successfully selling their goods in both national and international markets. This will lead to increased income for co-operative members, enabling them to raise their standard of living.

## Monitoring and Reporting

Oxfam field staff and partner organisation staff will share responsibility for monitoring and managing the project. Oxfam donors will receive progress reports on the project on a six-monthly basis.

## Budget

	£
Fruit Processing Units (x2)	8,500
Water Systems (x2)	11,000
Vegetable seed	2,500
Training	5,500
Micro Credit Scheme	3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,500</b>



▲ Women sorting the dried coffee beans for export at the Carice Co-operative.

*"I've been in the co-op for twenty years. Before the co-op was set up, we would have to take out loans at very high interest in order to send the children to school. Now with the co-op we're getting something back. Now the coffee is worth something. Before we didn't get anything, even after the harvest. I have nine children and all but the youngest are at school - if it hadn't been for the coffee and the co-op this would have not been possible."*

Julien Mistidor, a member of the Carice co-operative.

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