

**THE PERCEPTIONS OF HAITIAN FARMERS TOWARDS
INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID: A CASE STUDY**

By

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The Perceptions of Haitian Farmers towards International Food Aid: A Case Study

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ABSTRACT

Haiti has been suffering a multitude of disasters within recent years. In response, multiple countries have decided to support Haiti through financial, medical, and nutritional services. This, coupled with Haiti's history of environmental and political destabilization, has resulted in a dependency on non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and foreign support. As a part of this aid, food has been provided as a means of emergency support. Throughout recent years, this food aid has continued even when the country was no longer in an emergency state. Since the 1980's, exports have significantly dropped along with agricultural production, and imports increased. One of the main commodities that are imported into the country as a form of foreign assistance is rice.

The focus of this study is to understand the perceptions of international food aid on the part of Haitian rice farmers. In an effort to better understand the problems inflicted upon farmers by the culture of dependency on foreign aid, farmers were interviewed. The interview consisted of a specific set of questions designed to shed insight on opinions and beliefs of farmers that resided within the Artibonite Valley. Ten farmers were interviewed, and the answers were then transcribed to assess trends and similarities.

The Grounded Theory Approach was used to analyze the data. Results showed that there are three areas in which farmer's state can improve production and facilitate

change. These include better access to water, affordable fertilizer to aid in plant growth, and governmental support either with subsidies or microloans. More research is needed to accurately represent all rice farmers within Haiti.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER

I.	INTRODUCTION	1
	Problem Statement	5
	Significance.....	6
	Limitations.....	9
	Delimitations.....	10
	Terminology.....	11
II.	REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE	13
	History of Haiti	13
	History of International Aid.....	16
	International food Aid from a United States Perspective	18
	Consequences of Food Aid	20
	Implications on Economy	20
	Implications on Nutrition and Health	22
	Implications on Environment.....	24
	Implications on Food Sovereignty	26
	How to Create Change within the Agricultural Environment in Haiti.....	27
III.	METHODOLOGY	30
	Participants.....	30
	Procedures.....	32
	Analytic Methods.....	34

IV.	RESULTS	36
V.	DISCUSSION	41
VI.	CONCLUSION.....	46
	References.....	48

FIGURES

FIGURE

1. The Capital Rubble Post Earthquake	1
2. Rural and Urban Population: 1990-2015	8
3. Rainfall in the Artibonite Valley	11
4. Haiti: Gross Domestic Product.....	16
5. Working in the Farms	31
6. The Tap-taps of Haiti	34
7. Minor themes mentioned in the interviews.....	40

TABLES

TABLES

1.	Farmer participants	32
2.	Foods participants grew up eating compared to foods they are currently eating	37
3.	Themes and subthemes identified during the interviews.....	38

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Haiti has been suffering a multitude of natural disasters within recent years. In response, multiple countries have decided to support Haiti through financial, medical, and nutritional services. This support was needed during the years of hardship, especially after the earthquake that damaged infrastructures, communities, families, and people in January 2010.



Figure 1. The Capital Rubble Post Earthquake

However, in recent years, this continued aid has been debated as to whether it is causing more harm than good (Kligerman, Walmer, & Merrell, 2015; Zanotti, 2010). International food aid, though meant to provide external support, appears to have

impacted local food economies and decreased overall Haitian rice production. Since 1990, Haiti has had a negative percentage in food production per capita, averaging 1.7%, and steadily remaining. In turn, a result was also the significant drop in rice farmers within the country (Furche, 2013; Zanotti, 2010). This impact has gradually deteriorated the ability of Haiti to support itself, particularly with respect to food production. The local farmers cannot compete with the influx of imports, which, in turn, diminishes the current rice economy in Haiti. This creates a culture of dependency that continues to grow.

Within Haitian imports, the rice tariff is set at 2.9%, which is the lowest tariff percentage in the Caribbean (Ng F, Aksoy M, 2008). This has remained unchanged since 1995 when it dropped from 50% to 2.9% (Furche, 2013). Tariffs are taxes that are implemented on imported goods and services and differ within each individual country. For Haiti, tariff reduction allows for international rice to enter the country at minimal costs, and then penetrate the local rice market for almost no costs to the consumer (Conceição & Mendoza, 2009). Throughout recent history within Haiti, tariffs have been minimized to an all-time low on multiple imported items, so much so that it is now considered an open-market to import commodities shipped into the country. American legislation played an important role in this tariff reduction due to trade liberalization movements that occurred within the mid-1980s and again in the mid-1990's (Arias, Brearley, & Damais, 2006). This act was initially intended as a method to fight hunger but has only created a growing dependency on American agriculture.

As a consequence of this economic and import dependency, Haitians have lost a strong food culture and food sovereignty. According to La Via Campesina, the definition

of food sovereignty is “... the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems” (“DECLARATION OF NYÉLÉNI,” 2007; Patel, Balakrishnan, & Narayan, 2017). By this definition, food sovereignty is an opposition to the current agricultural and human rights sector amongst Haiti. There is a severe lack of infrastructure within the state department of Haiti, which does not allow for agricultural support. Food Sovereignty is a call for change within the structural support that comes from the government to the peasant farmers of rural Haiti. Non-governmental organizations and external agricultural sectors of the United States and other countries that hold influence within Haiti have made this change difficult within recent history (Zanotti, 2010). The number of Haitian farmers has decreased within the past 10 years and this decline is projected to continue if rice importation does not change (Schuller, 2016). If the focus can be changed from exploiting to supporting the local food economy and farmers in Haiti, job creation and economic stability should follow.

Haiti has a prevalence of undernourishment among the total population and malnourishment amongst children less than five years of age (Dörnemann & Kelly, 2013; Iannotti et al., 2015). Child and maternal malnutrition are still one of the leading causes of mortality and disabilities within Haiti (Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation [IHME], 2015). Protein energy malnutrition, anemia, and vitamin A deficiencies are the most common within the population, and are can possibly be tied to the inability to afford more nutrient-dense foods (Arias, et al., 2006; Lesorogol, Jean-Louis, Green, & Iannotti, 2015; new.paho.org, 2010). American imported rice is cheap and lacking in nutrition,

and therefore is decreasing the odds that those calories could be providing any sort of support to improve the overall Haitian diet.

With the increase of importation since the 1980's, rice has become a household staple rather than a food item for special occasions. The predominant rice that is imported into the country is a white rice variety from the U.S (Furche, 2013). This has taken the place of food items such as sweet potatoes and sorghum within the Haitian diet, as the price of rice has dropped within the market, and the cost of food items, such as sweet potatoes and sorghum, has gone up. Rice now dominates the food market, resulting in a cultural dietary change, with possible health implications. The processing of white rice means that the cereal itself is stripped of most nutritional value that comes naturally to a grain or cereal (Nam, Choi, Kang, Koh, Kozukue, & Friedman, 2006). Encouraged support for polycultural farming is essential to providing a country with adequate sources of nutrition at a price that is reasonable and competitive within the current food market (Furche, 2013). This includes the support of consumptions of traditional rice grown currently within Haiti. The most common form of rice grown in the country has a hue to it that is visually distinctive and recognizable. Evidence supports tinted grains and pigmented cereals act as an antioxidant within the body as compared to the general white rice varieties (Nam et al., 2006). With the prevalence of nutritional deficiencies in Haiti, the support for Haitian rice varieties should be encouraged. This would not only aid in nutritional support but also in providing jobs, allowing for more of the population to adequately support their families.

Throughout the history of Haiti, there have been significant environmental changes to the island that have caused agricultural difficulties. One of the main

difficulties is the lack of tree coverage within the country. Historically, Haiti was once covered in trees, but due to the combination of clearance for plantations during French rule, as well as the exploitation of wood products post-revolution, most of the trees have been lost. Consequently, there have been record floods in recent history that have washed away fertile topsoil and resulted in decreased fertility of the land (Arias et al., 2006). There is an estimation among researchers that Haiti loses 10,000-15,000 hectares of fertile land per year due to erosion (Arias et al., 2006). Unemployment rates have resulted in charcoal production as a means to make a living within the impoverished, and this has contributed to the uprooting of trees. This is a continuous cycle that continues to exist to this day and creates a problem for food production on the island. The ability of farmers to grow crops has since been increasingly dependent on fertilizers. The purpose of this study is to investigate the perceptions of local rice farmers in Haiti on international food aid and whether they have noticed changes that have occurred within the economy throughout farming history.

Problem Statement

In the past decade, the country of Haiti has encountered many difficulties. There have been multiple floods, an earthquake that rattled the country in January of 2010, breaking down Haiti's foundation. These disasters coupled with multiple diseases that resulted in a death toll in the hundreds-of-thousands by the turn of the 21st century. The country has felt the toll of these disasters economically, politically, and environmentally. In the case of the 2010 earthquake, estimates of life lost are around 230,000, with exact totals still unknown (Millner, 2010; Schuller, 2016). Considering that the country itself has a total population averaging 10 million, this loss is high; as much as 2.5%. High

mortality rates from natural disasters such as an earthquake, brings international aid in the form of medicine and medical care, food and nutritional aid, and financial and structural aid.

International aid has become a major part of Haitian economic and social systems in recent years. The amount of aid coming into the country from external sources has grown infinitely larger since the early 1980's and has caused Haiti to become the capital of Non-governmental organizations (NGOs). NGOs are defined as organizations that provide international aid and health care to developing countries with the intention to allow for a more industrialized and competitive market within the world economy (Lentz, Passarelli, & Barrett, 2013). One of the largest forms of international aid within Haiti is in the form of imported food. This study focuses on Haitian rice farmer's perceptions of international food aid that is provided to Haiti through external governments and NGOs.

Research Question:

What are the perceptions of international food aid on the part of Haitian rice farmers?

Significance

The earthquake of 2010 forced millions of Haitians from their homes. Most fled to refugee camps and tent cities where many still reside today. The recovery effort moved slowly and farmers in rural areas could not get food to urban areas such as Port Au Prince because of extensive road damage. The Haitian government asked for international help, which came from various governmental and NGOs providing medical attention, finances for reconstruction, and food.

One of the most common imports into Haiti from other countries is rice, which has been, and remains one of the most commonly grown crops among small-plot farmers

within the Artibonite Valley (Furche, 2013). To date, around eighty percent of total rice consumed continues to be imported from the United States (Furche, 2013). This forces rice farmers to compete with a market that has become saturated with subsidized rice grown in other countries, and sold at a much lower price, or given away at no cost. Farmers are the most affected by this because the economics of competing with free food are insurmountable, causing hardship. This financial difficulty manifests itself as the peoples' inability to afford the food that their own farmers grow. This has led to an overall decrease in the number of farmers within Haiti (Furche, 2013).

The consequence has already been seen in the Haitian food economy, which is why farmers are the primary source of information and insight into this problem. In fact, all aspects of this country's economy are affected by this shift in food production and distribution, with a trickle-down effect on every single Haitian citizen. When a country is able to produce food, job creation follows, as well as exportation, which in turn has an effect on the entire country and well-being of the nation. The majority of the Haitian population lives in rural areas (FAOSTAT, 2017). Supporting of the agricultural sector within Haiti will allow the small, rural farmers to achieve a higher yield. This will also allow the country to provide for the increased population as well as the increased demand that has developed over time as a result of rice being supplied from the U.S at extremely low rates on the market. One result of the establishment of food security is job creation due to the increased needs that the country has as the importation of rice gradually decreases. The government will become stronger internally, as it will no longer be dependent on so much imported food. With this, Haitian rice will be competitive within the global market. This is the best model for Haitian food sovereignty.

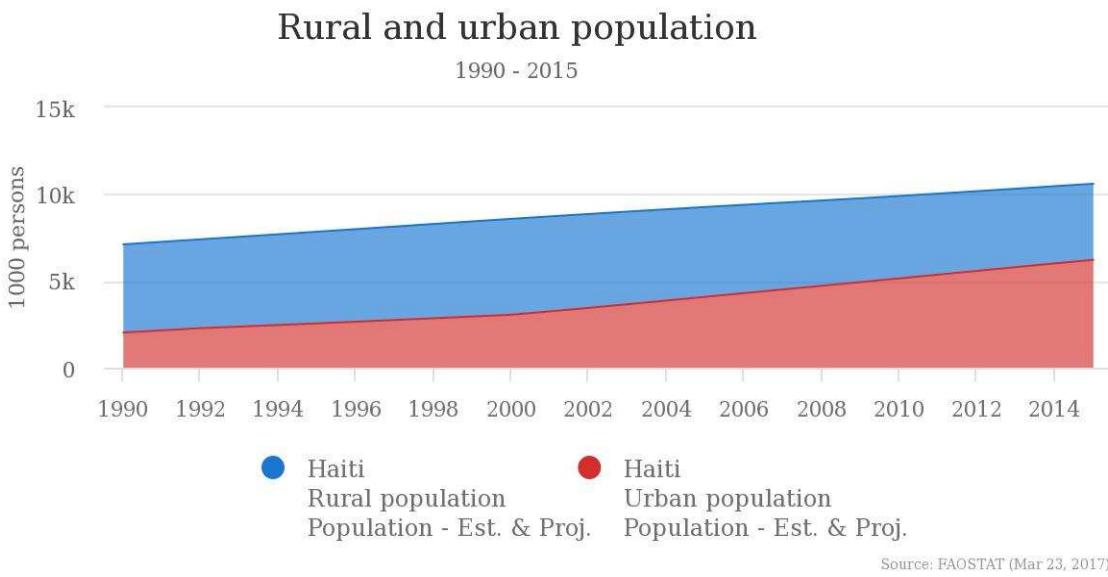


Figure 2. Rural and Urban Population: 1990-2015

The expansion of food production may bring increased production of local agriculture and a decrease in nutritional deficiencies within the country, due to the increased consumption of higher nutrient-dense foods that are consistent with the traditional Haitian diet. The possible outcome would be to create jobs, decrease unemployment, and provide a stable food economy that allows for more people to afford local, healthy food options to provide to their families.

With this study, the importance of understanding the effects of food aid currently within the local economy of rural farmers holds high value in leading to change. Understanding farmers' perceptions of international food aid will be beneficial in trying to understand the potentially detrimental effects that food aid may have on a local food economy and food culture.

Limitations

One limitation of this study is the nature in which data were collected. The environment was unpredictable and constantly changing. The setting was geographically large; it would take some time to find a sample that represents the area well. The researcher was unable to interpret the Haitian language, which left a barrier that may have resulted in misinterpretation when utilizing a translator, thus, threatening both validity and reliability. The researcher also had a significant bias on the expectations of the answers that could come from the interviews. The researcher had been to Haiti previously and had formed opinions about the culture before this research study.

There was limited ability to control sample bias due to the lack of population selection covering all areas of the Artibonite Valley. The sample was chosen as a convenience sample and the sample was limited to the farming communities of which the researcher was able to access through transportation. This small sampling does not allow for this research to be generalized. A call for future research is needed with a larger sample population that is selected purely at random and spans all agricultural sectors within Haiti.

Among the interviews, there might have been a lack of privacy and direct exposure to family and workers of the farmers themselves, which could have influenced responses. Often times friends and family members could have answered questions for the particular farmer being interviewed. This possibly created bias in answers and could have influenced the overall data collected. Obtaining privacy was difficult during the interview, and most of the time impossible. Most interviews took place out on the fields

among other farmers, many of whom also were interviewed at their consent. Haitians are known to work with their families; family members were consistently present.

Delimitations

The nature of this study was to focus particularly on Haitian food culture. The chosen population represents only a fraction of the local population, and therefore, can only have represented the Artibonite Valley farmers. Within this culture, farming is a male-dominated profession, which is why all interviews were male. The selected group of farmers was sampled at random over the course of a month; therefore, it is assumed that the sample accurately represented the farmers in the area, although further research with a larger sample would be beneficial in this subject area. Focusing on the predominant farming areas within the Artibonite valley and interviewing the same number of farmers in each of these areas systematically controlled the environment. After consent and before the interviews began, the farmers were asked if they would be able to talk in a private place. This controlled for the influence of responses and allowed for each farmer's opinions to be their own. Before the interviews began, the researcher went over the expectation of the interpreter and informed him that the interpretation of each research question must be the exact same for each farmer. The researcher discussed the importance of explanation and also went over that the questions were designed for more in-depth answers. Allowing the interviewee to talk was the most important thing. The researcher also discussed the importance of accurate interpretation to assist in the elimination of bias that may arise with a language barrier.

Terminology

Artibonite Valley: The valley on the northwest portion of the island that contains the majority of the agriculture within the country.

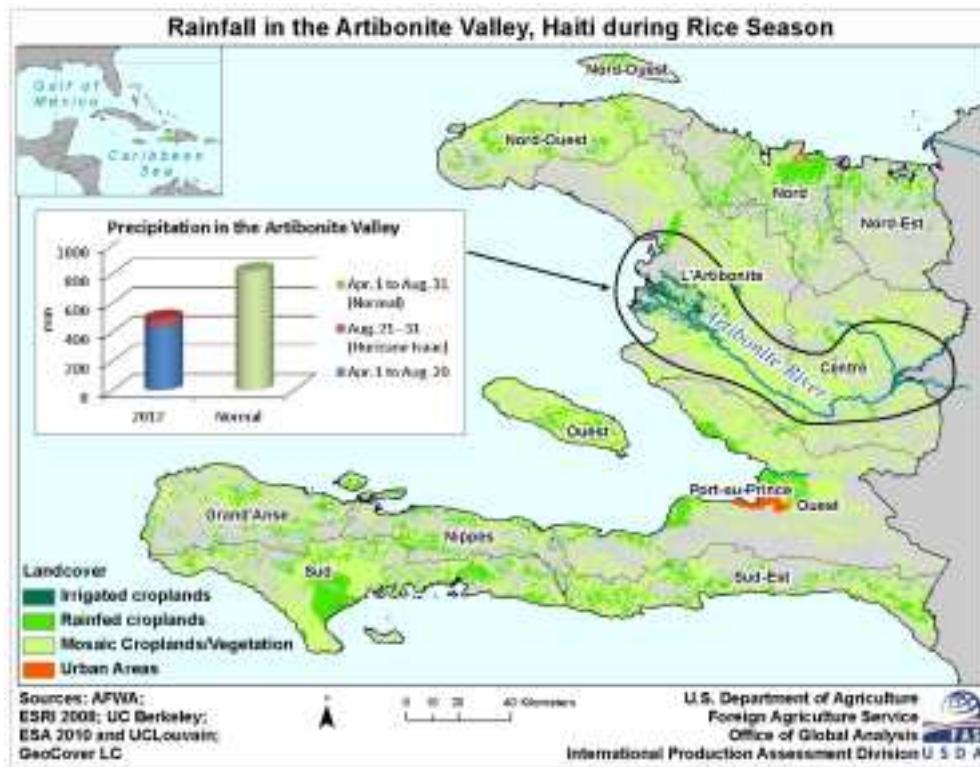


Figure 3. Rainfall in the Artibonite Valley

International Food Aid: international sourcing of concessional resources tied to the provision of food, whether by a donor or to a recipient (Barrett, 2004)

International Monetary Fund (IMF): an organization with 189 countries working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the globe.

NGO- (Non-governmental Organization): Such as non-profits

Neoliberalism: (neo-liberalism) is a policy model of social studies and economics that transfers control of economic factors to the private sector from the public sector.

Usually, these policies aim for a laissez-faire approach to economic development (Schuller, 2016).

OXFAM: (Oxford Committee for Famine Relief) founded in 1942, is an international confederation of 17 organizations dedicated to eliminating poverty.

Tent Cities: a large collection of tents that are a result from homelessness and usually occur in areas with a large number of refugees and homeless individuals

UN: United Nations

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

History of Haiti

For over 200 years, Haiti's political and social unrest has been well documented. Since the revolution over the French Colonies that began in 1791, there have been dictators, disasters, and financial implications that have brought the country to where it is today (Schuller, 2016). Prior to the 17th-century slave revolution, the island was governed by the French and contained French colonies that had occupied the land to use for plantations. During this time, there was land transition that focused on large agriculture plantations that lead to a high amount of deforestation within the landscape.

The Haitian revolution is also known as the Saint-Domingue Revolution that occurred from 1791-1804. At this time, it was the only revolution where slaves rose up and overthrew an existing government (Dupuy, 2014). The revolution ended in Haiti's independence in 1804 under the leadership of Jean-Jacques Dassalines. In 1820, under the leadership of Jean-Pierre Boyer, indemnity was offered to France that was estimated to be, at that time, upwards of 90 million dollars. The intention was to improve trade relations with Haiti and Europe, with the request that France acknowledges Haiti's independence. Boyer was a mulatto leader who was considered among the wealthy of that time; there is an argument that this move was for the elite population to solidify land claims against the military-based lower class (Dupuy, 2014). This political move has brought a debt upon Haiti that the island was unable to repay, which was pardoned in 1947 with the help of the United States. Haiti ended up paying up to 80 percent of its public revenue to this debt (Schuller, 2016).

With this revolution came dissension between the remaining ex-enslaved population, with the militia based north, and the “mulatto” based trade-focused South. Opposing views existed between the two populations and these views have been displayed throughout politics and economics since the revolution. Henri Christophe was one of the last rulers that came from the ex-slave, military based North (Dupuy, 2014). Christophe fought for education and social structure but was unable to instill a solid plan before his death in 1820. After 1820, the rulers who followed Henri Christophe had a trend of being oppressive dictators. This period of time is known as “kleptocracy” or a “predatory” republic (Fatton Jr., 2002). Within this phase of history, the wealthy became an ever-smaller population that existed to support the “kreyol,” or mulatto population, and further continued to oppress the poor. This type of rule is known as neoliberalism and still exists within Haiti today.

A lack of stability with elected government officials plays a large role in the economic decline. Recent agricultural decline within the country is pinpointed back to the early 1980’s with the dictator known as “Baby Doc” or Jean-Claude Duvalier. During his time in office, many political and humanitarian atrocities occurred, including embezzlement and mass killings against anyone who stood up to that existing government. Agriculturally, Duvalier’s reign was the beginning of the decline in exportation and GDP profit. Duvalier was in good standing with the United States government, which influenced his economic trade decisions to favor the U.S. economy. To encourage a friendly investment climate for the U.S. and other large agricultural production countries, the president suppressed minimum wage levels and labor unions (Steckley & Weis, 2016). This encouragement of external countries manufacturing to

move to Haiti did not work, however. Overall, targeted countries, including the U.S., decided against the move, and therefore these changes within the Haitian economic environment began the snowball effect of overall decreased production and exportation within the agricultural sector that still exists today (Steckley & Weis, 2016). The trade deficit began to grow drastically during Duvalier's rule, from US \$50 million in 1970 to US \$300 million in the early 1980's.

After the overthrow of the Duvalier family in 1985, the country elected Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1985. Aristide had a campaign based on a promise to change the current economic environment to favor the poor and to provide a government that was not influenced by the economic elite within Haiti (Arias et al., 2006). To this day, there is speculation that the military coup that occurred in 1990 that successfully overthrew the Aristide government was organized by the United States due to the threatening stance that Aristide took on decreasing trade tariffs and trade liberalization within Haiti. The Haitian military-led this coup, which resulted in a trade embargo from the international community. This led to a significant drop in the economy at the time, and also caused a collapse of the implemented tax-control systems that the government had implemented. The government of Haiti never fully recovered from this drastic move within the trade community (Arias et al., 2006). Due to this embargo, social infrastructure within Haiti collapsed and has yet to be reestablished to its former state.

Throughout recent history, Haiti has had difficulties maintaining political stability. This instability has had a serious effect on the country's economic health and has caused a rapid decline in the GDP since the 1980's. From 1980 to 2003, the GDP declined yearly at a rate of -0.82 percent (Arias et al., 2006). According to the World

Bank statistics, the current GDP has improved from 2003 but is still below the average when compared to countries surrounding Haiti that have similar geographical environments. In 2013, Haiti had a GDP of \$8.459 billion USD, which shows significant improvement, but is still below Jamaica's GDP of 14.6 billion USD (FIGURE 3).

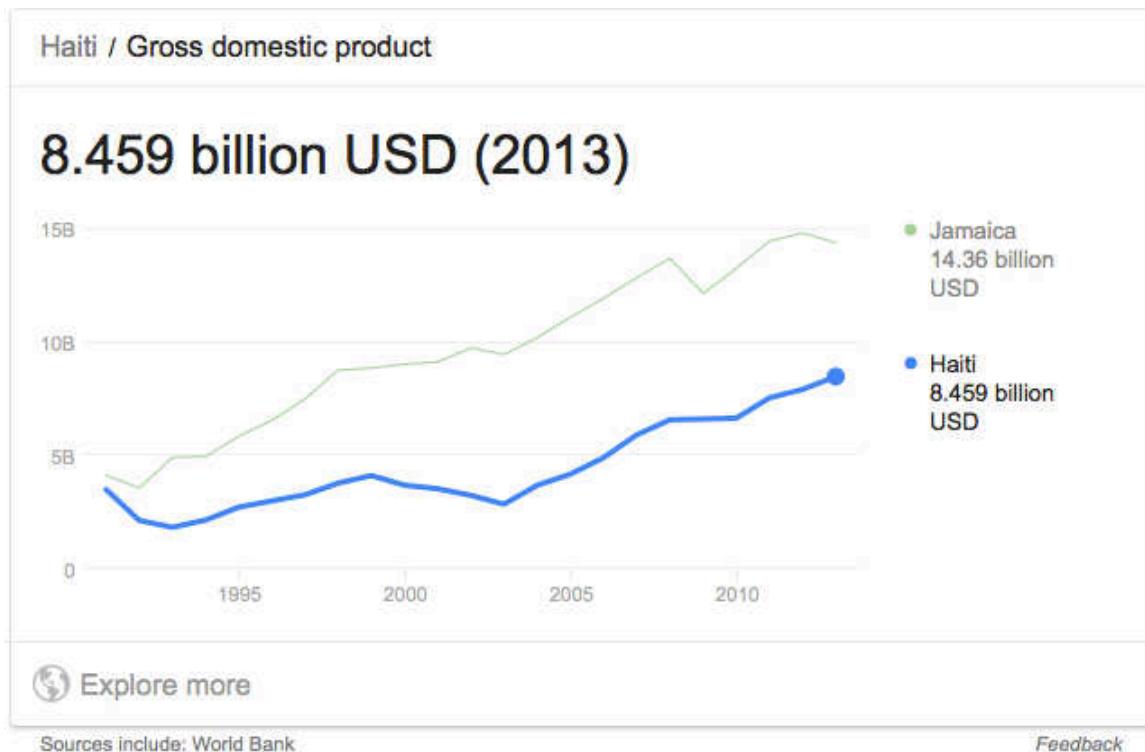


Figure 4. Haiti: Gross Domestic Product (“Haiti: Country at a Glance,” 2014)

History of International Aid:

International Aid currently exists in multiple forms. There are aid agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), governments, corporations, religious-based non-profits, philanthrocapitalists and individual donors. The concept of foreign aid initially began within the 19th century, mainly within Europe. Countries began to financially assist other nations with the

objective to increase economic output. U.S. aid began in 1812 with the Venezuelan earthquake. It increased after World War I, but held no steady frequency and existed in smaller amounts comparatively to the assistance donated today. These donations to other nations were not through specific programs and did not exist long-term. International Aid became a term after World War II to help those countries that had been the most devastated. This is when the development of Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (OXFAM), the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) occurred to create an internationally based foundation for aid (Jachertz & Nützenadel, 2011).

Currently, international aid includes foreign policy initiatives, aid focused on emergency relief, and overall developmental aid focused specifically towards developing countries. This aid falls under two broad categories, humanitarian aid, and developmental aid. Humanitarian relief includes immediate assistance with things like food, clothing, and medical assistance. Developmental relief is more long term, with contracts usually in place to help with infrastructure, economic growth and other longer financial-focused assistance programs (Schuller, 2016).

Just recently, NGOs effectiveness in Haiti was called into question after 100 million dollars that were raised for post-earthquake humanitarian efforts went unaccounted for within the Red Cross. There is an ongoing investigation into where that money went, but the issue brought about questions regarding the allocation of donated dollars, and if they really get to the intended recipients (Schuller, 2016). This issue brought to light the topic of international assistance, and it's ability to ensure it reaches those for whom it was intended. This is a prevalent topic that is continuously being researched (Kligerman et al., 2015).

Among the negative consequences of aid, there are also positives. A recent qualitative study assessed the overall attitudes towards international aid amongst the medical community in Haiti. The study showed that there were positive as well as negative trends that occurred throughout the interviews, with the majority of the healthcare community positively reacting towards acute emergency relief, long-term improved healthcare access, and the ability to access low-income patients (Kligerman et al., 2015). International aid continues throughout hundreds of countries around the world, and this aid has been successful when implemented correctly and providing community-focused support.

International Food Aid from a United States Perspective

The History of international food aid originates far before the turn of the century. However, within the United States and Europe, the prevalence and financial support for international food aid changed drastically following World War II (Rietkerk, 2016). After the war, there were countries that had severe food shortages, which resulted in hundreds-of-thousands going hungry within areas of Europe. Additionally, the United States and Argentina had a surplus of production, and this created a highly politicized focus of world trade. Suddenly food trade was a debatable topic, and the elimination of hunger around the world became a focus of humanitarian efforts and development aid (Jachertz & Nützenadel, 2011).

After the war and into the recovery period, the United Nations (UN) developed the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with the intent to alleviate hunger. These organizations recognized the ability to utilize excess food and agricultural production in donor countries and used it to provide aid to

developing countries. The FAO was initially developed to oversee global agricultural production to help allocate resources where they were the most needed, but has changed over time. In 1943, allies met at the UN Conference on Food and Agriculture and created a declaration of the conference that they had felt defined a unified stance against long-term hunger:

The first cause of malnutrition and hunger is poverty. It is useless to produce more food unless men and nations provide the markets to absorb it. There must be an expansion of the whole world economy to provide the purchasing power sufficient to maintain an adequate diet for all. With full employment in all countries, enlarged industrial production, the absence of exploitation, an increasing flow of trade within and between countries, an orderly management of domestic and international investment and currencies, and sustained internal and international equilibrium, the food which is produced can be made available to all people.” (Jachertz & Nützenadel, 2017, p. 9)

In 1946, the FAO and the UN worked together to try and organize a platform that allowed for a shared goal between the donor and recipient nations that were involved with food aid at that time (Rietkerk, 2016). The desire was to create an organization that had control over global food distribution and would oversee all foreign food aid. The target was to identify one goal to be the focus of all food aid, instead of individualized goals among separate nations, and in so doing decrease individual nations’ interests and create a unified front. However, due to the opposition from the U.S and Britain, this platform never came to fruition. This failure led the FAO to take on a more limited, broad vision that focused on a stance of increased agricultural production and continued to stress that poverty and hunger still existed because of lack of food production (Rietkerk, 2016). The FAO became a platform from which hunger could be protested around the world, all while encouraging the agricultural sectors to over-produce with the intention to reallocate this excess where it was needed the most.

Under the Agriculture Trade Development and Assistance Act, or Public Law 480 (PL 480), the United States was able to secure that farmers would financially be supported if a surplus of food were produced. Passed in 1954, this law was disguised as a “goodwill” act that would help to contribute to developing countries around the world (Rietkerk, 2016). Title II of the PL 480 act was created to simultaneously dispose of agricultural surpluses without farmers losing funds. The solution to this problem was creating an environment where the government would support farmers by creating subsidies for surplus agriculture, while also using this food to alleviate hunger amongst other countries of need. This was the foundation of U.S. laws to support humanitarian efforts that still exist today. The U.S. benefitted greatly from this program, and are still the primary benefactor to exporting food aid (Jachertz & Nützenadel, 2011; Rietkerk, 2016).

Agricultural science and overproduction of crops became a staple in American culture since this time and has contributed to our “need” to assist other countries nutritionally throughout legislative acts (Jachertz & Nützenadel, 2011). This legislation has since created an environment where international food aid actually supports overall American Agriculture, while unnecessarily inhibiting production of food on a local level within the supported country.

Consequences of Food Aid in Haiti

Implications for Economy

After the January 2010 earthquake, over 2 million Haitian people lost homes. There are still over half a million homeless within the vicinity of Port Au Prince increasing economic instability of the area. Food insecurity and a high unemployment

rate all can also be associated with hunger. The current total population is estimated at 10.4 million and has increased within the past ten years with a population growth rate of 1.71% in 2016 (CIA, 2016). Haiti is ranked high in poverty levels and is considered one of the poorest countries in the Western hemisphere (new.paho.org, 2010). Among the most recent published information on Haiti, just under 59% of families live in poverty (“Haiti: Country at a Glance,” 2014). The standard for poverty in Haiti is living on or below US\$ 2.42 per day (“Haiti: Country at a Glance,” 2014; new.paho.org, 2010). Currently, 24% of the total population lives under the national extreme poverty line, which is surviving on US\$ 1.23 or less per day. Economic growth continues to decline at a rate of 1.7%, which is a slower decline than that of 2015, which was estimated at 2.8% for the overall year (“Haiti: Country at a Glance,” 2014). Contributing factors to the economic climate are related to an unstable political culture as well as a continued decline in exports within the country. With a GDP per capita of USD 846 in 2014, Haiti is ranked as one of the poorest countries in the world. It is also one of the most unequal countries, with the gap of wealth being extremely large. The Gini Index for Haiti is currently residing at 0.61, meaning Haiti currently holds one of the highest income inequalities in the world (“Haiti: Country at a Glance,” 2014). A Gini index is a measurement of income distribution that ranges between 0-1, with 1 representing perfect inequality and 0 being perfect equality (Conceição & Mendoza, 2009).

The Food and Agriculture Association of the United Nations found that over 3 million people in Haiti experience hunger (FAOSTAT, 2017). Most of these people who are hungry are living in rural areas where the food, supplied by donors, such as governmental agencies and non-profit organizations, cannot reach. Haiti has been

receiving United States assistance with food and medical aid since the 1980's (Furche, 2013). In addition, the UN frequents Haiti to try and strengthen the political infrastructure to support overall economic and agricultural stability. This assistance is imperative following natural disasters but often continues in the years following the disaster. With these attempts of providing a basis for democracy, Haiti has developed a dependency on imported food, and the Haitian exports have drastically decreased (new.paho.org, 2010). Over 20% of the government's annual budget comes from foreign aid or direct budget support (CIA, 2016).

Haiti is a free market economy, with very low trade tariffs that create an unstable agricultural economy for exportation. Haiti is unable to compete with world trade with such low tariffs (CIA, 2016; Steckley & Weis, 2016). It is estimated that 40% of the population earns a living that is associated with the agricultural sector, which means that a high percentage of employment is created through agriculture and food production. The focus of economic support needs to shift towards agricultural support within the country to allow for growth within this population through job creation and a projected overall increase in national GDP.

Implications in Nutrition and Health

The prevalence of hunger within the country has been researched more frequently in the past ten years because of multiple disasters that have occurred on the island. A statistically high rate of low birth weights among infants is common, which is associated with malnutrition of the mother as well as a lack of medical expertise (IHME, 2015). The current percentage of children under five years of age that are underweight is 11.6% (CIA, 2016). The children under five years of age have a mortality rate of 76 out of

1000, which is three-times higher than the mortality rates of the under-five population in Latin America (Dörnemann & Kelly, 2013). Twelve percent of Haitian women are recorded to be malnourished according to the Food and Agriculture Association (new.paho.org, 2010). Mainly, there is a lack of access to nutritionally dense foods, especially in the population living in poverty. This contributes to nutritional deficiencies, and a high prevalence of protein-energy malnutrition and anemia (Iannotti et al., 2015). Multiple studies conducted with Haitian school children show stunted growth and low dietary diversity in the diets of children ages 11-19 (Iannotti et al., 2015; Lesorogol et al., 2015). Malnourishment has become more common among the population since the earthquake (January 2010) and recent the floods between 2008 and 2016.

Along with chronic malnutrition being prevalent among the population, a national survey conducted in 2008-2009 showed that 32% of the under-5 child population was deficient in vitamin A (new.paho.org, 2010). Anemia has also shown to be prevalent in the majority of this age group.

One of the largest movements in history to eradicate hunger among developing countries and worldwide was promoted through the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Founded in 1990 by the UN (United Nations, 2013), this work focused on eight goals to accomplish by 2015. The first category is to Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty between the years of 1990 to 2015. Haiti was recognized as a country that should be targeted due to high malnutrition and poverty rates. One of the task forces implemented after these goals were set was the Hunger Task Force, which was established by the United Nations in 2002 (Sanchez & Swaminathan, 2005). It was comprised of over 200 advisors that are experts in the field, which included researchers,

doctors, policy makers, or any other individual with an extensive background in one or more topics covered in the Millennium Development Goals.

Although progress was made in Haiti toward MDG goals by the year 2015, it did not meet them by the date intended. When referring to a governmental tracking tool that allows for progress to be tracked by a specific country, Haiti had only made advances in two of the areas (United Nations Development Program, 2007). These two categories were to achieve universal primary education and to promote gender equality through the empowerment of women. Haiti's overall malnutrition percentage has been dropping, as there has been a large concerted effort through the government and NGOs to reduce hunger and increase access to food. With this effort, emphasis on supporting internal food production will better allow Haitians to access nutritionally dense foods that are culturally appropriate in traditional diets. This includes the increase in availability of traditional Haitian rice, and the extrapolation of increased nutritional content that comes with rice varieties that have a tinted hue when compared to those that do not, such as the exported white rice variety, which is an export from Arkansas (Furche, 2013; Nam et al., 2006).

Implications in Environment

Changes in the environment and geography within the country have also drastically had an effect on agricultural output. The agricultural economy has declined more rapidly than the overall economic GDP since the 1990s (Furche, 2013). In 1984, the contribution of agriculture to the overall GDP averaged 40 percent. This number has fallen to 26.9 percent of the GDP in 2004 (Arias et al., 2006). Production within the agricultural sector has declined 17% in a decade. The decline is related to an increase in

the division of farming land into smaller plots. Fragmentation and sub-division makes it difficult for farmers to advance technologies to improve the soil and production. With this division came a larger population of farmers, who, over time overused the soil and depleted nutrients, which decreased overall yields (Steckley & Weis, 2016). This has contributed to the increased need for fertilizers within the farming community (Arias et al., 2006; Furche, 2013). When compared to other developing countries, costs of fertilizers, seeds and other necessities for soil composition often outweigh the profit made on the food that is being sold within local markets.

Significant deforestation has also occurred within the past and more recent history and is visibly represented when looking at the aerial view of the Haitian border compared to the Dominican Republic border. The country is now left with only two percent of the surface area considered forests. The lack of tree coverage is thought to be due to a few factors. Primarily, a significant amount of land had been cleared during the French occupation of the island for sugar and coffee plantations. Another factor that contributed greatly was the commercial exploitation of wood during the post-revolution era. Lastly, charcoal is the main source of fuel for cooking among the majority of the population, which contributes to the continuous deforestation still occurring to this day (Arias et al., 2006). The change in topography has lead to significant floods and soil erosion. Arable land for farmers to expand into has been exhausted and therefore leaves the need for excessive fertilizer use to replenish nutrients within the soil (Arias et al., 2006). All of these factors played a role into the need for importation of food aid within Haiti.

Agriculture production within a developing country allows for the cost of living to go down because of the reduction in costly imports that a country obtains when the

country is not self-sufficient in food production. Haiti has the ability to grow food well, so the education piece is not missing, but a solution could lie in support of ownership of land and fertilizer and irrigation methods to make sure that droughts do not affect what is growing. *The focus needs to be shifted to allow for the implementation of agriculture to support the soil and create more jobs. Increasing Haiti's domestic farming program also helps the island to focus on local food production to promote internal food security but may also support an export business, eventually increasing overall income for the country.*

Implications in Food Sovereignty

There is a movement occurring all over the world among small-plot farmers and peasants that call for change. This movement is known as the fight for food sovereignty. In 2007, an organization called La Via Campesina produced one of the first ever declarations of food sovereignty. This declaration, called the “Declaration of Nyeleni.” described the rights that peasant farmers had to control their own agricultural environment.

“Most of us are food producers and are ready, able, and willing to feed all the world’s peoples. Our heritage as food producers is critical to the future of humanity. This is specially so in the case of women and indigenous peoples who are historical creators of knowledge about food and agriculture and are devalued. But this heritage and our capacities to produce healthy, good, and abundant food are being threatened and undermined by neo-liberalism and global capitalism. Food sovereignty gives us the hope and power to preserve, recover, and build on our food producing knowledge and capacity”. (“DECLARATION OF NYÉLÉNI,” 2007)

This declaration was written on behalf of 500 representatives within 80 countries, and was the first true declaration on what food sovereignty was and is to this day. A true definition of food sovereignty was also stated within that declaration.

Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations. (“DECLARATION OF NYÉLÉNI,” 2007).

La Via Campesina was the first organization modeled to fight for food sovereignty. This organization originated in the beginning of the 1990’s and has since advanced this social movement to become a common term among researchers and scholars alike (Patel et al., 2017). From the beginning, La Via Campesina sought to give a voice to peasant farmers and provide a unified platform to fight a neoliberal approach to agriculture and trade. Food Sovereignty is a fight for countries and individual farmers to make a living providing the food of their nation, all while supporting the infrastructure of the local economy. There is a common misconception that the call for food sovereignty is a defiant act against social structure and government. This is simply not true (Patel et al., 2017; Shattuck, Schiavoni, & VanGelder, 2015). A food-sovereign nation is able to work directly with its own government to create an environment that supports change within its own borders. Food sovereignty cannot exist without government and state lawmakers (Shattuck et al., 2015). In relation to Haitian farmers, “neoliberal agriculture” has been dominating the food market for the last few decades and has had a crippling effect on the ability for the country to produce its own food. A call for food sovereignty within the region can create change, in the form of jobs, easier access to food, and economic growth.

How to Create Change for the Agricultural Environment in Haiti

Among the available resources to eradicate hunger, most include a plan that can bring overall stability to a country’s infrastructure and allow for a more stable population.

One of these recommendations includes emphasis on agriculture within developing countries. Through a Briefing Paper released from the Bread of the World Institute, the need is discussed for an increase in agriculture and decrease in foreign aid in the form of food (Millner, 2010). Multiple studies have shown that food aid, whether provided by governments or NGOs, have a crippling effect on the sustainability of the local agriculture. Flooding the market with any kind of crop does not allow for adequate prices that reflect the current economy. This will draw prices lower, and not allow for farmers to earn income from what they produce. The prevalence of subsidized rice from the United States over the years has undermined the central problem of Haitian farmers, who cannot sell rice within Haiti. These farmers cannot compete with the reduced pricing of imported rice, and thus, will eliminate jobs and monetary flow within the country (Zanotti, 2010).

Farmers that are producing in Haiti struggle to sell the crops they are growing due to the low or no cost of imported rice. Haitian rice in particular has declined in production, as white rice from the U.S was the number one food import into the country after the 2010 earthquake due to the positive response of emergency food aid and the continuation of importation after the need had been met. (Furche, 2013) Haiti has continued into a decline governmentally and economically since then, and along with the lowered value of the Haitian Gourde, there has been no growth within the Haitian economy. The amount of exports has decreased significantly from the late 1980's and the dependency on foreign rather than domestic food has increased, with the agricultural production experiencing a rapid decline at an average rate of 1.2% per year, according to the World Health Organization's report on Haiti in 2010 (new.paho.org, 2010). If this

dependency on international food continues, the agricultural economy will continue to decline and eliminate jobs in the process.

The donation of funds through NGOs has been shown to benefit the donor country more than the receiving country (Zanotti, 2010). Taking USAID for example, 84% of every dollar spent in Haiti goes back to the U.S., which in turn supports the U.S. more than it does Haiti. With this knowledge, change will only happen when the financial support flows through the government rather than NGOs and donor states. The Haitian government remains hesitant to provide the needed support to farmers due to political instability, but with a proper election that is implemented and encouraged by foreign allies, the possibility exists that this may improve. Import investments and terms of trade improvement will greatly benefit the agricultural sector within Haiti and create change to allow for the country to be competitive within global markets (Conceição & Mendoza, 2009). Rural areas within Haiti will then become more economically stable, and allow for significant job creation with the ability to produce and supply more food through smallholder farmers.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

The focus of this research was based in the Artibonite Valley agricultural region. This region is known for producing the majority of Haitian crops, which mainly focuses on rice. This valley spreads from the Northwest to the center of the island, and contains many towns and a few cities.

Participants

This region was chosen because it most accurately represents the region where farming is a common trade, and therefore was assumed to be the region most populated by rice farmers. Throughout the analysis, multiple trends presented themselves. Among the interviewees, 13 farmers had been asked to participate, 10 agreed. All farmers were men between the ages of 20-70 years, and all had been born and raised in Haiti within or around the Artibonite Valley. Farmers were chosen through convenience sampling within the valley and were identified with the help of the translator, local Haitians, and by randomly passing farms throughout travels within the Artibonite Valley (Marshall, 1996). There were no exclusions, the only requirement being that the participants were rice farmers and rice had to be the majority of their crop production. All farmers who were interviewed were growing other types of crops as well, with the most common being bananas, potatoes, spinach, and lalo, which is a type of bitter, dark-green leafy vegetable that grows well in Haiti. This study focused on 10 different farmers, who were all male. The level of farming experience ranged from farmers who were just beginning to those who have been working in the fields for over 30 years. Different farming communities were targeted, and rice farmers were the focus of each of these interviews. Consent of

participation was addressed, and participants were asked to sign a consent form, approved by the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs Review Board (#IRB: 15-081), which was verbally recited in Haitian Creole and written in French. Perceptions of farmers were taken through interviews, observational assessment, and field journals when visiting farm sites. Each interview was recorded and an interpreter was present and aided in translating the interviews into Haitian Creole. At times, more dialogue was necessary if the farmer continued to discuss, which was only recorded with their consent.



Figure 5. Working in the Farms

Table 1. Farmer participants

IDs	Sampling	Ages (yrs)	Farm owner or farm worker	Education levels	Area contacted
1	Convenience	76	Farm owner	Secondary	L'Estere
2	Convenience	Unknown (Estimated above 60)	Farm owner	Secondary	L'Estere
3	Convenience	38	Farm owner	Secondary	L'Estere
4	Convenience	Unknown (estimated above 40)	Farmworker	Primary	Artibonite valley outside of L'Estere
5	Convenience	43	Farm owner	Unknown	Artibonite valley countryside
6	Convenience	42	Farm owner	College educated	Artibonite valley countryside
7	Convenience	32	Farm owner	Secondary	Gonaives
8	Convenience	48	Farm owner	Secondary	Gonaives
9	Convenience	Unknown	Farmworkers	Primary	Jubilee, Haiti
10	Convenience	Unknown	Farmworkers	Primary	Jubilee, Haiti

Procedures

A semi-structured script was used during the interviews of each farmer to allow for a continued dialogue of open-ended questions. The researcher had been previously trained in the subject of qualitative interviewing and wanted the answers to be focused primarily on each individual farmer's experiences. Interview scripts were designed with predetermined questions. A translator was used throughout the entire interview process

and selected through a network of translators that have been used by the researcher in the past. Within Gonaives, an English trade school currently teaches English as a second language to Haitians who want to learn. This school has everything from beginning courses to advanced courses for individuals who are translators by trade. This school helped to decipher the best translator for the interviews, taking into consideration the individuals ties to the community and their awareness of the topic at hand. With all of this consideration, the researcher was able to decide upon a translator who was currently employed by the UN and had local ties to the Gonaives area. The researcher was able to work with this translator before and knew of the excellence of his work.

Public transportation was utilized the entire time, and the interviews were collected in a 3-month timeframe in the spring farming season of 2015. Most of the transportation occurred by using “moto” taxis, which is where a motorcycle will drive to specific locations for 100 Gourde (about \$1.50USD). This is the most common form of transportation for those who utilize taxis. “Tap-taps” were also used as a transportation form within the city of Gonaives, which is where a truck with a topper that is cut open in the back picks up people along a set route. Tap-taps will stop anytime for someone who flags them down along their routes, but will not deviate away from the roads usually driven. A trip in a tap-tap is 5 Gourdes in town and about 15-25 Gourdes outside of town.



Figure 6. The Tap-taps of Haiti

The interviews were done sporadically throughout the three months, while also learning about each farmer's technique and style of farming.

The interviews were held at the farmers' place of residence or farms in the Artibonite Valley. Each farmer was asked the same 17 questions to eliminate bias and establish congruency within each interview. The interviews were transcribed a few months post-data collection in the United States. The researcher was able to do this by listening to the interviews in detail, and transcribing what was heard with extreme scrutiny. Each interview was labeled for each farmer with full discretion being taken to make sure that privacy of the data was upheld. The data were categorized based on answers into common themes and then analyzed using the social exchange theory (Ekeh, 1974; Turner, 1974). The researcher established trends and then assessed whether there was a common opinion amongst Haitian rice farmers on international food aid.

Analytic Methods

The data were coded and assessed based on the Grounded Theory Approach (Fereday & Muir-Cochrane, 2006). A codebook was developed to identify common

trends among similar questions, and then assessed those trends when compared to the same questions in other interviews. A line-by-line data review was completed, with the common trends and underlying themes brought to light and then further compared to other interviews within the entire data collection. Three main foci of coding were analyzed. The three foci were:

- (1) Positive trends of International food aid within Haiti
- (2) Negative trends of International food aid within Haiti
- (3) Overall outlook on how aid could improve to help the food economy within Haiti

The data were assessed using the codebook with these three categories in mind. Once the data were assessed, sub-categories were created.

Cross-case analysis was used to interpret the data from the interviews to identify differences. The data were divided by question into multiple different categories, and these categories were then cross-examined with each other. In this way, patterns emerged within each question as it was compared to other interviews of the same question. Each type of question was then compared to other category types of other questions to analyze for patterns or areas of conflict. The cross-case analysis was able to allow for comparisons of positive and negative beliefs among rice farmers within Haiti.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

Through the analysis of the interviews, many trends were identified. One significant one was that being a farmer provides these individuals and their families with adequate, nutritionally dense diets mainly from what they grow. Since all of the farmers grew other things besides rice, the intake of a variety of vegetables and fruits were prevalent. The most common foods stated, other than rice, were sweet potato, peppers, plantains, bananas, tomatoes, lalo, and eggplant. All of the farmers stated that they ate a variety of foods on a daily basis that are nutrient-rich and considered healthy, and all of the farmers reported eating rice on a daily basis. Seven out of ten farmers stated that they ate rice growing up. Among the interviews, 90% of the individuals interviewed had a positive outlook on their role as farmers in Haiti. The answers to the question “What does it mean to you to be a Haitian farmer?” were positive within these nine interviews, with tone being supportive of this career. Most farmers stated that this was because this farming career supported their families and allowed their children to go to school. Overall, 80% stated that they take pride in farming when being able to send their kids to school. Throughout the interview, sending children to school was a sign of pride and prosperity, supporting these men’s career choice.

Table 2. Foods participants grew up eating compared to foods they are currently eating

Haitian Foods	Currently eating	Used to eat
Rice	100%	70%
Corn	40%	20%
Sweet Potato	20%	30%
Potato	40%	0%
Bananas	40%	10%
Lalo	10%	10%
Beans	0%	30%
Yam	30%	10%
Juice	20%	0%
Meat	30%	10%
Okra	20%	10%
Cornmeal	10%	10%
Wheat	10%	10%
Seeds	0%	10%
Spinach	10%	0%

Table 3. Themes and subthemes identified during the interviews

Themes	Subthemes	n	%	Quotes
Difficulty Accessing Water	Lack of canals and proper irrigation	8	80%	"We need to find water, or we can't work" -Farmer 4
Fertilizers	Increase costs and higher need.	10	100%	"We used to buy fertilizers for 15 to 30 [Haitian] dollars, but now it is 350." -Farmer 1
Lack of Support	Specifically governmental support	3	30%	"The government does not provide ditches to water the land." "I can be hungry sometimes, but you can't resolve the food problem... [until] you have to encourage me to produce food. So the help does not come as encouragement. If you want to change the system, if you want to see change, so the international helpers have to change their ways of thinking."
Negative Opinion of International Food Aid	Creates competition for rice prices	7	70%	
Positive Opinion of International Food Aid	Stated that his people need help	1	10%	"So if the help is coming I can't prevent that you know, so it would be better for everybody to have."

The farmers in the interviews had stated the importance of aid for emergency relief. Two in particular, after being asked how they felt about aid, stated that the country would have been in trouble after the floods if it weren't for the support of international food aid. When the question arose: "What effect did that [2010 earthquake] have on your farm?" all of the farmers responded that the earthquake did not affect farms in the

Artibonite valley. Three farmers followed this response with the fact that the floods had done more damage to their crop compared to the earthquake.

Based on the question "What is your interpretation of International Food Aid?" 60% of the interviewees responded with a negative tone. The farmers suggestions varied by responses on change, but all had to do with financial support, providing fertilizers or providing equipment. All of the farmers interviewed were aware that United States rice is reducing their ability to sell rice at a higher price. Five out of ten farmers interviewed had suggested that American rice was reducing or eliminating their ability to sell in their own markets or larger ones outside of the Artibonite valley. Two farmers followed this statement by saying that Haitian rice "is better" and therefore can be sold at a higher price because of the difference in quality.

Within the participants, a farmer was interviewed who happened to be a former governmental official. A quote taken from his interview reflects his knowledge:

...after 1986 so the agriculture in Haiti starts to decrease. The big countries, like north America and south America, especially the U.S, they come with a free market. So it is like the U.S is producing rice for Haiti. So back in the states, the farmers were finding help from the government. They have insurance too. But in Haiti we don't have those things. Not only are we not insured, we don't have intervention from the government. So uh, now you can see that the farmers are going backward with their farming. So you see those countries like those big countries, uh, let immigrants go to their countries. So uh they cant really do anything, so they think that in those big countries, life is there. Like things come from the heaven and fall to the ground. So that's why I think that we need security, and people shouldn't travel there. We need to do that if ever they were thinking about the farmers here, so they wouldn't need to do the free markets so that it would be better for Haiti to have a separate market for Haiti. And from the help that they are providing, if that help was like talking to the farmers in Haiti to say this is exactly what we want, then we wouldn't have those Haitian people going to the D.R or the U.S or Canada. -(Farmer 6)

Besides this interview, all of the other farmers did not seem to know details on government participation through food aid. They all knew the rice was sent from the United States, and three farmers even knew that it came from Arkansas.

When it came to inhibiting farm growth and production, 80% of farmers stated that water was the biggest issue. Access to water still remains difficult, especially with droughts that have recently been occurring. The trend that was recognized within the data analysis was that farmers were aware of the U.S subsidies that exist to support American farmers, and there is a call to action from Haitian farmers towards their own government to do the same. Whether it is through microloans, farmers insurance, or governmental subsidies, Haitian rice farmers believe that this will increase a number of growers within the country, and the overall amount of food production.

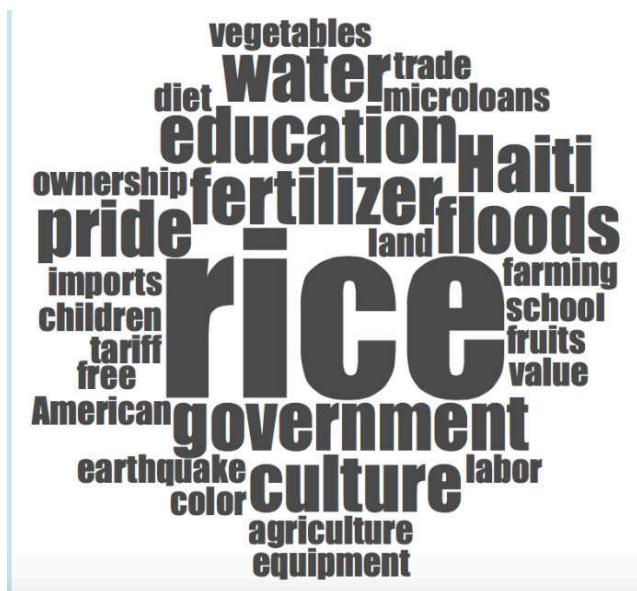


Figure 7. Minor themes mentioned in the interviews

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION

K: "Okay, um, and then what is his interpretation of international aid?"
F5: "So it is not good for us because this is what we do. We grow the rice. When we grow rice, we buy the sacks of fertilizer for a lot of money, so when the international rice comes, so we can't even make the money that we bought the fertilizer for. It would be better for them to give us help with uh, the fertilizers." –Farmer interview #5

The history of Haiti has influence over the current economy, and researchers and politicians should take note on what has not worked to allow change towards what will. Due to the fact that the majority of the finances flow through NGOs instead of the national government, there is a huge hurdle in Haiti's ability as a country to bounce back. It is impossible to create a structured governmental system when the country itself cannot exist without the crutch of NGOs (Millner, 2010; Schuller, 2016; Zanotti, 2010). Currently, there is very little external support towards the Haitian government, and this must change if there is any way that the government can stand on its own. NGOs have not yet had success when partnering with the Haitian government, and some researchers argue that they have been more harmful than beneficial (Zanotti, 2010). There are NGOs that have had individual success within Haiti, and this is most likely due to the fact that they are community focused and Haitian-based. These NGOs can provide the best possible example of what it takes to turn this economy around. Since the presence of NGOs increased in the 1980's, there has not been an improvement in the financial status of Haiti, and with the steady increase in NGOs financial control within the country, the economy of Haiti has been on the decline. There needs to be a transition of financial flow of resources to be funneled through the government rather than external

organizations. Governmental assistance could then be created to support the economy and agricultural sector within Haiti. This would be the first step towards change.

You don't sell your rice because of the other rice. They find it for free, so you can't sell yours." (Farmer interview #4)

When looking back throughout history, the idea of a free market trade system has not worked for Haiti (Furche, 2013; Millner, 2010; Steckley & Weis, 2016; Zanotti, 2010). The decreases in rice tariffs have created a system that does not allow for Haiti to compete in the global market. With the current tariff system supporting U.S agriculture and the donation of aid from the U.S. government to Haiti, there is a contradiction in intent to help with the desire to increase U.S agricultural profits (Millner, 2010). The Bread of the World Institute summarized this concept well:

For lasting results, U.S. policies that affect Haiti must not undercut each other. The dominance of cheap subsidized rice imported from the United States, much of it given as food aid, epitomizes the clash of U.S agriculture trade policies and poverty-focused development assistance. (Millner, 2010, p. 5)

Renegotiating tariffs and the structure of agricultural trade for Haiti should be the next step taken to create change. Economically, this will support farmers of all types, will allow a stronger food economy to be established, and will contribute to an overall Haitian led recovery that should be focused on governmental structure.

When I was born, the culture was good. A lot of vegetables. We grow a lot of vegetables when I was little. We had a lot of fishes, Listire was very big at that time, we had a lot of water. We had crabs, fish. It was good food. --Farmer interview #1

Along with the financial implications that will occur with economic and political changes, nutritionally there could be an increase in the availability of food that would occur with increased production. If farmers are able to sell more rice at a more

competitive price, there could be a decrease in overall cost of food and an increase in the availability of food. Farming would become a desired profession again, and the market would allow for an increase in individuals seeking out this profession and create jobs. Nutritionally speaking, the creation of jobs would theoretically allow for more people to afford food. A more stable economy includes a decrease in the unemployment rate, and agricultural support from the government will contribute to decreasing this number. Haitians will be able to afford the rice that is traditionally grown there, as the disparity between costs of white American rice and Haitian rice would decrease. Nutritionally this could be a decrease in the amount of malnourished and hungry individuals. Culturally, this could reestablish traditional eating habits and allow for locally produced foods to be consumed in higher quantities. The support could then turn towards traditional farming and allow for a greater consumption of diet diversity.

You know, we grow rice, but the kind of rice they give is not good quality. -Farmer interview #2

This is the perception amongst the population, and thus, with the increased availability of traditional rice, there will be a cultural respect that comes with eating of local foods and supporting the local economy.

Reestablishing forests should also be a future focus and will help to decrease the risk of floods and aid in the creation of topsoil. The farmers stated that there is difficulty in growing food without fertilizer, which may be contributed by the lack topsoil that has been washed away due to extreme flooding within the past decade. Trees have been shown to decrease soil erosion and flooding (Arias et al., 2006; Steckley & Weis, 2016). With the establishment of a strong government, there should be an emphasis on the re-introduction of trees into severely deforested areas. Education on the value of trees for

the economic growth of the country should be made, and forest conservation initiatives should be put into place.

Governmental support for organic fertilizers should also be a focus to contribute to the soil as well as assisting farmers with production and financing. Education that is focused on recycled fertilizer would also be valuable to alleviate costs for farmers. From the interviews, farmers stated how difficult the funding of fertilizer is, and how it is almost not worth the cost of growing food.

So back in days, we used to buy fertilizers for 15 to 30 [Haitian] dollars, but now it is 350. –Farmer interview #1

And uh, things are changing. And back in days, you did not need fertilizers and now you need fertilizers. – Farmer interview #4

Decreasing these costs for farmers would aid in the health of the agricultural system. Clean energy should also be addressed, and ideally, with the decrease of NGOs within the country and an increase in governmental control, local jobs would be created.

The farmers in these interviews discussed the difficulty of accessing water. Along with a focus on reestablishing forestland, water-harvesting techniques should also be explored. Easily accessed water pumps will allow farmers to increase production, and are a quick and simple solution. These can either be subsidized through the government or purchased through microloans that could be provided to qualifying farmers.

Microloans and/or credit options are also a solution for accessing water and fertilizer.

So uh what can help is like a shop where we can get the fertilizer and those things, and you can buy things with credit, and when you finish you can pay it back. -Farmer interview #3

Farmer insurance can also be something that can be explored because drought can happen anywhere. This will allow farmers to be able to recover from severe seasonal weather patterns and be able to produce the next season.

Farmers' ability to compete in the local and world economy will begin to reestablish food sovereignty within the country. An increase in farmers will create jobs, but also allow for an increase in production, and ideally a decrease in importation. This will create a market established on the production of Haitian food, rather than what is imported from other countries. Currently, the rice prices within Haiti are dictated mainly by imported American rice since it makes up over 80% of total rice consumed within the country (Furche, 2013). The movement towards Haiti becoming a food sovereign nation will start with more control in the agricultural market.

The agricultural environment in Haiti will not improve unless these steps are followed. Rice farmers, as the ones interviewed here, know what is necessary to improve their country.

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION

This study calls into question the influence of international food aid on a country, such a Haiti, and whether it is helpful or hurtful. Whether international food aid has helped Haiti continued to be debatable to this day and remains a topic that should be further researched. One of the missing links to any impact of international food aid seems the voice of the “locals”—the actual growers and producers living in the beneficiary country which receives this aid. As a farmer had stated so eloquently:

...for example, me and you here. You are a doctor and I am sick. I come to see you. The first thing that you have to ask me is ‘what do you feel? What is sick? What is hurting?’ So now you will diagnose me and you will see my problem. The help is supposed to be like that. So you come to see the people in need and you say ‘what do you want exactly?’ And in what condition do you need it? -Farmer interview # 6

This brings about the point that humanitarian aid is accepted and almost necessary when disaster is involved. Food would not have been available from local producers after the floods, which goes to show that support from other countries in this situation may be necessary to support recovery and health of a nation.

Throughout these interviews, the perception of farmers were in focus. Such an approach should be further explored as it may have the greatest chance to lead to a systematic change in the way that humanitarian aid is approached. The approach of international aid should focus on the countries’ actual needs rather than to predict them. Within the case of international food aid, this will stimulate food sovereignty and local a food economy while also creating jobs and economic flow. There is a need to see and understand these perspectives for donor nations to grow and become the support that is truly desired. The call to action throughout these interviews was to aid Haitian rice

farmers through agricultural support rather than the support of providing the food itself. This is the only way to truly allow for Haiti to find agricultural independence. Haitian farmers understand the importance of their careers, but they also understand that this profession is disappearing because of the crippling effect of foreign food aid. Further research is necessary to elaborate on the opinions of these farmers and others within separate developing nations. The United States humanitarian efforts are beneficial and received with thankful hearts. It is the position of long-term developmental aid that needs reform in the agricultural sector. Instead of hindering the farmers of donor nations, foreign food aid needs to be transformed into governmental support of agricultural projects and assistance.

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APPENDIX A

IRB Approval Date: 2/26/2015

Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Protection of Human Subjects IRB Review

IRB PROTOCOL NO.:15-081

Protocol Title: The perceptions of Haitian farmers towards international food aid: A case study
Principal Investigator: Kimberly Williams

Faculty Advisor if Applicable: Nanna Meyer

Application: New Application

Type of Review: Expedited 7

Risk Level: No more than Minimal Risk

Renewal Review Level (If changed from original approval) if Applicable: N/A No Change

This Protocol involves a Vulnerable Population: N/A (No Vulnerable Population)

Expires: 25 February 2016

*Note, if exempt: If there are no major changes in the research, the protocol does not require review on a continuing basis by the IRB. In addition, the protocol may match more than one review category not listed.

Externally funded: No Yes

OSP #: Sponsor:

Thank you for submitting your Request for IRB Review. The protocol identified above has been reviewed according to the policies of this institution and the provisions of applicable federal regulations. The review category is noted above, along with the expiration date, if applicable.

Once human participant research has been approved, it is the Principal Investigator's (PI) responsibility to report any changes in research activity related to the project:

• The PI must provide the IRB with all protocol and consent form amendments and revisions. The IRB must approve these changes prior to implementation.

- All advertisements recruiting study subjects must also receive prior approval by the IRB.
- The PI must promptly inform the IRB of all unanticipated serious adverse (within 24 hours). All unanticipated adverse events

must be reported to the IRB within 1 week (see [45CFR46.103\(b\)\(5\)](#)). Failure to comply with these federally mandated

responsibilities may result in suspension or termination of the project.

- Renew study with the IRB prior to expiration.
- Notify the IRB when the study is complete

If you have any questions, please contact Research Compliance Specialist in the Office of Sponsored Programs at 719- 255-3903 or irb@uccs.edu

Thank you for your concern about human subject protection issues, and good luck with your research. Sincerely yours,

Michele Okun, Ph.D. IRB Reviewer

APPENDIX B

Interview Questions

1. Hi my name is Kim, what is yours?
2. How long have you been a farmer?
3. What types of things do you grow?
4. What do you typically eat on a daily basis?
5. What did you grow up eating?
6. Was this profession passed down within your family?
7. What does it mean to you to be a Haitian farmer?
8. If you were not a farmer, what would that be like?
9. Can you tell me what it is like being a farmer? What is a typical day like for you?
10. What makes this farm work well?
11. What stops this farm from working well?
12. Can you tell me about the earthquake?
13. What effect did that disaster have on your farm?
14. How has farming changed in the past 10 years?
15. What is your interpretation of international aid?
16. What about international food aid?
17. What do you hope to see for the future of Haiti?

APPENDIX C

Interview Transcripts

Rice farmer 1:

[Discussing the contract and what it means]

K: How long have you been a farmer?

F1: I started when I was 14

K: Like so how many years?

F1: He is 76 today, so he started when he was 14

F1: He was born in 1939

K; Wow, that's awesome

K: What types of things do you grow?

F1: Rice

K: What do you typically eat on a daily basis?

F1: Leafy vegetable, Sasbwen', juice, and meat

K: What did you grow up eating?

F1: When I was born, the culture was good. A lot of vegetables. We grow a lot of vegetables when I was little. We had a lot of fishes, Listire was very big at that time, we had a lot of water. We had crabs, fish. It was good food.

K: Was this profession passed down within your family?

F1: Yes, I am just following my parents order. [So it's like passing through the parents]

K: What does it mean to you to be a Haitian farmer?

F1: You have the land, so you get some money from somewhere, people borrow you money, so you work to grow things. And after that you sell stuff so that you can pay back. This is what we do.

K: If you were not a farmer, what would that be like?

F1: If I was not a farmer, maybe I would do something else.

K: That makes sense, what would he do? What would you do [speaking to the farmer]

F1: Like commerce, commercial stuff. Some other things we can sell.

K: Can you tell me what it would be like to be a farmer? What is a typical day like for you?

F1: I have to pay people to mash the soil, and pay other people to sow and that's how we do it.

K: Okay, so what is a day-to-day like for him, like morning to evening?

F1: According to weather, you just start from 7 to 11 or 10am.

K: What makes your farm work well?

F1: So the fertilizer. So you just fertilize the soil, and after that you just sow the rice, and after, so 15 to 22 days, you come back and you fertilize it again.

K: What stops your farm from working well?

F1: If we don't have water. If we have water, you just fertilize normally and you get paid.

K: Tell me about the earthquake.

F1: So the thing is about the earthquake is that we have less injured here, so the more injured people were in Port [au Prince].

K: What effect did that disaster have on your farm?

F1: So the thing is, the earthquake, uh the land actually shake, so what can negatively affect your farm is the wind.

K: How has farming changed in the last ten years?

F1: So back in days, we used to buy fertilizers for 15 to 30 [Haitian] dollars, but now it is 350.

K: That's expensive

K: What is his interpretation of international aid?

F1: We as farmers, we don't find any international aid

K: They don't find any?

Translator: They don't get any from people

K: Um, I am just trying to ask how has international food aid..

Translator: Affect their..

K: the like, the demand of their product.

F1: So you have, so you have kids to grow, to send them to school and stuff. So you have things to sell, so when the international has, like they give you the rice, so that convince our products, so that cause a problem to our products, so you cant sell it, now you don't have money.

K: What do you hope to see for the future of Haiti?

F1: I need change for Haiti. I am 76. So now I want my kids like the other kids to have a bit of life. So I just have my farm right now.

K: That makes sense. [To the translator] Tell him thank you and that's all I have, that's all of the questions that I have.

F1: So what I want now is to, for you to think about it, sometimes people ask for information, so I want some more follow ups to do.

K: Okay. Well this is, um, I am taking this back to the United States to show Americans what farmers think.

F1: So the things is, some other people came, like some other people came and do the same thing some years ago, they had me sign and so okay yeah, and say we coming, and we going to talk and we going to discuss about it. So they never come back

K:I, I don't know if um, cause I am trying to show, like what kind of follow up is he looking for because I am trying to show Americans that what they are doing is detrimental to their country.

F1: I already accept that, you know its like something you have to do. Actually I accept that. I could have my kids doing the same thing, so I accept it.

K: [to the translator] And that's what he said? And what kind of follow up does he want? Is he looking for I guess?

F1: So what I want, after farming we have things, we have to be able to sell our products, so this is what I want. The opportunity to sell my stuff.

K: Which is a good thing. And that's what I am trying to fight, is I am trying to fight...

F1: So that is courageous sometime, you know, they get the information's, so they should know that you know, we have to do stuff, so we need something.

K: [to the translator] Okay. Does he, does he want, are you saying that he wants to get paid?

Translator: No

K: He wants like follow through in a sense that...

Translator: The follow through is that they have to know that we have things to sell. If they come with their rice and our have rice already, that will prevent us from getting money.

K: Right. And so, yeah, I am trying to...I don't know if I am going to be able to come back here, but what I want to do is I want to take this to the United States and fight my own country where I am from because of what they are doing to your country.

F1: So the thing is, with the rice, also as farmers, we don't find the rice when they send it to Haiti. So what can be best is to definitely work with things that can help the products to grow in Haiti. Like they can work on the fertilizers, and that would give us opportunity to buy it, like for less money so that we can sell our rice.

K: Like cheaper?

Translator: Yes

F1: So there specification for me in this, you know sometimes, you know they say they will dig a well or a drain to get some water, we don't have that water. So then they decide you don't need water, but you need rice, so I will give you rice. So that's not good.

F1 Friend: Equipments that we are using, they are regimentaries, they are hard, so we have that thing. So maybe if we have some other thing that can do it faster, because the land is large so you need something that can go faster so you can grow more. If we could have intensive agricultures, so maybe we can able to move toward extensive, if you understand?

K: [to the translator] Like toward more advanced things? Is that what you are saying?

Translator: Yeah, if you use machete for example, if you have some other thing that can cut the trees faster, that's an example, it would be better.

K: Okay. That makes sense. So that is what he kind of wants to see more than getting American rice out of here, it would be more advancements for him to use to compete with American rice.

Translator: Yes, to compete with American rice.

Rice Farmer 2:

F2: The Chinese people back in his day, they used to provide fertilizer. They were Chinese. So I went to place called Dami (?) they had a board there. So they teach us how to actually work. So we don't have those things anymore, we don't have them anymore. So it is good to have help with farming. So if it is good, I use all of the techniques that they give me. So we had the Chinese by our side to teach us, like even the small animals. So the ladies for us, so you can help me whenever you can.

K: How long have you been a farmer?

F2: Since I was young, I used to help my mother farming. So the farm is actually the master of the country. We started working very well, I started with my mother.

K: What types of things do you grow?

F2: I actually grow rice, but there is a certain time that you don't want the land to get water, so you plant vegetable. The Chinese people actually teach you to combine two rices, so after that they will give it a name and they say okay, you can call that rice that name. Sometimes three. And they will give more money... So actually they teach you how to combine like three rices together, like if your, you know, when the rice is good they blend the rice.

K: What do you usually eat on a daily basis?

F2: Every day I eat several things. I eat rice, sweet potato, so we grow potatoes too, corn. What you have to do is you have the rice in the middle, the corn on the edge and the sweet potatoes there too.

K: For what he grows, and then he also eats that?

Translator: Yeah

K: Okay, um, what did you grow up eating?

F2: Rice, corn, sweet potatoes. So the rice is the master, is the first.

K: Okay, Was this profession, well he already answered that question so, um, what does it mean to you to be a Haitian farmer?

F2: So the farmer is the key for the country.

Translator: So I have to tell you that too. What he said first is that the farmer is the key for the country. So what he does with the farming, he has almost all of his kids in the foreign countries, he has only one here, so with what he is growing, he sends all of his kids to somewhere, to another country.

K: That's interesting. If you were not a farmer what would that be like?

F2: So I am always ready to learn, such as, you have that land and you can't do anything. So you find techniques so now you know what to do with it.

K: Um, Can you tell me what it is like to be a farmer? What is a typical day like for you?

F2: So uh, what I actually do is, I get some coworkers, I got people to work for me and I actually tell them what I want them to do. Like if you want the rice to be on line, or you want it to be more thresher, things like that.

K: What makes his farm work well?

F2: So what you have to fight is the bugs, is the thing, you actually have to kill them. If you don't, they will eat the seed, they will eat the things, but the word he uses is products.

K: Products?

Translator: Yeah

K: Okay, um, what stops his farm from working well, besides the bugs, I guess.

F2: So you can't work without those products. If you work without them, bugs will eat them. So I am about to go to my garden right now, because I've got my wife over there too. So it's been two days since I don't see my garden so I will see my garden today

K: Okay, and you said that he calls it "products"?

Translator: Products, yes

K: And that's like..

Translator: Like chemicals
K: Oh okay, so like fertilizer and stuff?
Translator: Fertilizer
K: Okay so he is fighting the bugs with that. Awesome. Okay, and then, can you tell me about the earthquake?
F2: Even further away, you know, the earthquake caused a lot of accidents.
K: On his land in particular?
F2: I lost all of what I sold, uh during the earthquake.
K: Really? Oh the stuff that he was selling you mean? Or the actual land?
F2: So it just like destroyed the country. So uh, you know when you have the land and it is like a piece of, concrete fell.
K: Okay.
F2: So they always keep helping us with, Chinese help. So I always praise with that, thanks them for helping us. So it's like, somebody help me to do something like that.
K: I guess that this is kind of the same question, but what effect did that disaster have on his farm in particular, the earthquake, that earthquake have on his farm?
F2: So, I only did garden stuff, but I did like raising animals, like I had pigs, and uh, they actually, I received classes on how to grow them in the right way. Specific food to feed them.
K: Okay. Um, how has farming changed in the past ten years?
F2: So, uh, now we don't have uh products, so now uh bugs just eat our stuff. You know, we don't have things to fight that for us.
K: What is your interpretation of international aid?
F2: So our old heroes, talking about our ancestors, they used to fight them. So the kind of rice they give us wasn't good. You know, we grow rice, but the kind of rice they give is not good quality.
K: [to the translator] Um, is he talking about the rice that we send or the rice that he has growing or...
F2: So the rice they send to our country, you know, they don't have the same taste.
K: Okay
F2: If you are used to your rice, you will say your rice is better. So uh, now we have TCS, TCS is a type of rice. Back in the days we had libole (type of rice). So now the true rice that we have here is TCS, libole is not good now.
K: What does he hope to see for the future of Haiti?
F2: I want Haiti to change. So uh, how I want it to change is to, you know we as fathers, we can distribute our products, so that you know we can verify our techniques as good.
K: Okay. So products as in, like chemicals and fertilizers? You said distribute our products?
Translator: Okay now he is using "products" in two different ways. First, he use it as chemicals, and now he is using like, what he gets from his farm.
K: Okay so he just wants to distribute it to more areas?
Translator: yeah
K: Okay cool well that's it then.
Translator: [explaining the end of the interview]

Rice Farmer 3

K: How long have you been a farmer?

F3: So, uh, since I was born. I saw my father and my mother farming, so since then I have wanted to farm.

K: Okay.

F3: So I am 38 years old. Now I know that I have 38 years working on a farm.

K: That makes sense. What types of things do you grow?

F3: Rice, vegetables.

K: What types of vegetables?

F3: Eggplant, okra, lalo, spinach, sometimes corn.

K: What do you typically eat on a daily basis?

F3: Rice, corn, bananas, so everything and different things

K: Okay. What did you grow up eating?

F3: More rice.

K: More rice? Okay. Was this...well that answers that question. Um, who in his family were farmers, was it both his dad and his mom?

F3: My father, my mother, all my brother, my uncles, all of my family.

K: Okay. What does it mean to you to be a Haitian farmer?

F3: There is a lot of importance for me. Uh it raised his kids and it raised me and I send my kids to school.

K: Okay. Can you tell me what it is like to be a farmer? What is a typical day like for you?

F3: So you know, sometimes we have a good harvest. Like if it is raining much, we have water that will affect our things. And uh, when its dry, also that effects our things.

K: Like the growth , and ..

F3: So when its dry, the land is dry, so you have less things, like products. So the government doesn't provide like ditches to water the land. Sometimes, so whenever you get to your garden you have something to do. So sometimes you have to build like ditches, sometimes you have to mow the grass, and sometimes you have to pick up the grass.

K: Okay. Um, what is a typical day like for him? Like from morning to night?

F3: The farm is not too far, it's just right there. I wake up sometimes at 5 or 6, or 7. I usually come back, and you go back to the farm at 2 o'clock.

K: Okay. What makes his farm work well?

F3: So to have a, so for your farm to work better, you have to have the tools. Uh, the machine to work. You have good seed, you have fertilizers and time, and then you have good harvest.

K: Okay. What makes his farm not work well?

F3: Economically if you don't have uh things to, you know money to get things from times, you know like money, the fertilizer, there is no seed so you wont be able to get a good harvest.

K: Okay, uh, can you tell me about the earthquake?

F3: The earthquake did not effect our farm.

K: Did not?

Translator: No

F3: It was just the houses. So what effected our farm was the cyclone, the flood.

K: Okay. Um, And then how has farming changed in the past ten years?

F3: So uh, now we were blessed. You can see a part of the farm is like working people that are resting, the other part they cant. The drain is not deep in the main canals are not full, so now we have a water problem.

K: Hmm, and so that is why there is less farming?

F3: Yes. So uh what can help is like a shop where we can get the fertilizer and those things, and you can buy things with credit, and when you finish you can pay it back.

K: That makes sense. What is his interpretation of international aid?

F3: So uh, fertilizers expensive. So uh, now you have to buy fertilizers from like from 300-400 dollars, and international aid doesn't get to us. So there is an organization called Moti Veya (?) and if moti veya received things, they would actually be dispensable to the farmers.

K: Okay, so he is talking about like farmer aid, like the actual fertilizer getting to him rather than the food, rice?

Translator: Exactly

F3: So uh, the thing is the help to be able to work. So we produce the things, so instead of sending to us, you help us, you assist us in what we are doing. So we can find uh, machines, and stuff like that.

K: And, uh, what does he think of the rice and the food that is coming in?

F3: So they sent rice, like chaco is a type of rice that they send, so uh what it does is diminish the importance of our rice. So what they could have done is to actually take our rice and sell it.

K: Instead of? Yeah, instead of..

F3: So we have like a company called t-malice, those guys actually take the Haitian rice and put it in sacks and dry it and they sell it to the market.

K: Yeah.

F3: So we buy the fertilizers and the seeds, you know very expensive, so uh when we go and sell the rice now, we sell it in a low price.

K: Okay. What does he hope to see for the future of Haiti?

F3: So uh, what I see a lot in Haiti, uh what I want is to assist the farmers because when we have food, you know, we have everything. You know give opportunity to work, get some food, and the culture would get the flop.

K: Okay, and that's it!

Translator: [explaining the end of the interview]

Rice Farmer 4:

[missed the recording of the first question]

K: What types of things do you grow?

F4: I plant everything, I plant rice and corn.

K: Corn...is this all of his right here?

F4: This one is for somebody else, and this one right here, this one is for me.

K: Okay, um, what do you eat on a daily basis?

F4: I eat rice, this is what I grow.
K: Just rice?
F4: This is what I grow.
K: Okay, does he eat any meat or anything?
F4: Yeah
K: Okay, cool.
F4: Herring, meat, whatever I find.
K: Okay. And what did you grow up eating?
F4: My mother give me rice, lalo, and okra.
K: And then, what does it mean to you to be a Haitian farmer?
Uh, you know, this is what I have to do. With that I can send my kids to school.
K: Okay, um...
F4: I could really call you, you give me some money to help.
K: Oh, go out there and help do it? Um, tell him, like ask him if he was not a farmer, what would that be like?
F4: So now I am in delay, you know the faster I do these things I can be doing other things.
K: Can you tell me what its like to be a farmer, what is a typical day like for him?
F4: So I wake up at 4, you know 5 o'clock until I am done.
K: And then, um, what makes this farm work well?
F4: When I have fertilizers so I can fertilize my rice. And the rice is form and now you have a bunch of crops.
K: Okay, um, what makes it not work well?
F4: Water
K: Water makes it not work well?
F4: We need to find water. Or we cant work.
K: Oh, uh, just the lack of water?
Translator: yeah. The lack of water.
K: Okay, uh and can you tell me about the earthquake?
F4: So a lot of people die in Port. You know, here we just shake, but it was worse in Port.
K: Oh, okay. Did it affect his land?
F4: You know, uh, we lost the rice. It's become burnt, like fire.
K: Uh, and then how has farming changed in the last ten years?
F4: Okay, um, so back in days, you know, you just sold the rice, you don't need fertilizers and you get rice. Now adays, if you don't fertilize the land, you don't find anything.
K: Is it because of the type of rice that they are growing now, or?
F4: The land it shake you know. And uh, things are changing. And back in days you did not need fertilizers and now you need fertilizers.
K: And he doesn't know why?
Translator: He doesn't know why, just that things is moving.
K: Will you ask him what his theory is? I just need to know what he thinks, even if it is not valid.
F4: So when my father and my mother was there, they just sold the rice they did not need fertilizer. Because if you don't fertilize it, you don't find anything.

K: When did he start fertilizing it?

F4: Long time ago.

K: Okay. What does he think about international food aid?

F4: You don't sell your rice because of the other rice. They find it for free, so you can't sell yours.

K: So did he notice a difference after the earthquake? Or was it always like this?

F4: It was like that for a long time.

K: Okay. And what does he hope to see for the future of Haiti?

F4: So uh I want Haiti to be like, you know just how you see me working and I come to you, if it was at night I wouldn't come to you.

K: Safer?

Translator: Safer, yes

F4: You know there was a guy over there that got killed by somebody. You know wherever I work, I want to have the opportunity to make money. If I have no harvest, my kids won't be able to go to school. So I have to go harvest so that I can pay, uh, the teachers. Otherwise they would send my kids back home.

K: Okay. Tell him thank you.

Rice Farmer 5:

K: How long have you been a farmer?

F5: So I am 43 right now, I started when I was 16.

K: Okay, um and then what types of things do you grow?

F5: Rice, eggplant, hot pepper, and onion. Potato.

K: Okay. And um, okay what do you typically eat?

F5: We use rice and we typically eat rice.

K: Okay, and just everything that you grow you eat with rice?

F5: Yeah, potato, we eat potato. So these are from my garden. You see those we have a lot of. We grow things that I have from my yard and my garden.

K: That's so pretty. What did you grow up eating?

F5: Since I was a little boy, we grow these things, but we eat rice more. So we are right in the middle of a rice field, so we have small amount of land where we can grow these things.

K: Okay. And was this profession passed down through your family?

F5: Our family taught us how to do it, so that's how I know how to do it.

K: Okay. What does it mean to you to be a Haitian farmer?

F5: So what it was for us, you know this is what we had to do to eat, to live on, and to pay for school for our kids. Its what we have to do.

K: Okay. And if you were not a farmer, what would that be like?

F5: Not very good. Because our parents did not teach us another thing, they just teach us how to work. And then we go to school so we still did the same work, and then we go to school.

K: Okay. Can you tell me what it is like to be a farmer? What is a typical day like for you?

F5: Sometime we don't have machines, so we use our hands to work. I will pay some other workers, you know I will pay them to help us work. Give them food, so that they can work for us. So when we can, we go to work, and when we cant, we rest.

K: Okay. Um and then what makes your farm work well?

F5: So fertilizers and machines. And drains, to uh drain the canals, drains to get water. So we when we pick the water in the garden, so we have to have another path like drain to drain the water. And we need fertilizers and machines.

K: Okay. And then what makes it not work well?

F5: So when we don't have good canals, and so when we don't have good fertilizer. Sometimes it is very expensive. Sometime we work, we sold the rice, but we don't have enough fertilizer.

K: Oh, Okay. Um, and then, on that note, does he remember a time when fertilizer wasn't used?

F5: We don't have that type of rice.

K: Oh okay.

F5: We had different rice and the soil was so rich that we didn't need fertilizer.

K: Oh, and then can you tell me about the earthquake?

F5: We feel bad a lot. So everyday another thing was broken. I had a house here, it was here, its broken because of the earthquake. So now I am starting to build it. You know, since we are not rich people we cant build big, big houses you know.

K: That makes sense, um

Translator: Do you see how it used to be?

K: Yeah, I see where it was.

F5: So the other thing that affected us is the flood. Big water just come and just rip up our garden. So when it is floating we have to take our kids to a safe place.

K: Okay. Um, and then how did the earthquake effect your farm, did it effect it at all?

F5: So uh it affects the land that we were about to sow, we were sowing so after the earthquake the thing we harvested was dead.

K: Okay. And was that similar with the flood?

F5: So you know sometimes the rice is about to, to be good to harvest. When the water comes, you just sleep on the farm and the rice just gets the water.

K: Okay, and how has farming changed within the past 10 years?

F5: It depends on your ability to work. Some people get ability to uh, work, and to circle the amount of land, and enough fertilizer, enough people to work. So sometimes the season is like good, and then you did good working, the rice is just like, you find a shell.

K: And that is different from like 10 years ago?

F5: So back in the days we didn't need all of those equipments to grow rice.

K: Okay, um, and then what is his interpretation of international aid?

F5: So it is not good for us because this is what we do. We grow the rice. When we grow rice, we buy the sacks of fertilizer for a lot of money, so when the international rice comes, so we cant even make the money that we bought the fertilizer for. It would be better for them to give us help with uh, the fertilizers. And equipments to clean the canals. Those would be better for us. But uh, you know we need this. We need those things, we need cement. But rice, we can grow rice. See we have equipments to fix the canals, we have fertilizer, we can make rice.

K: Okay and um, what do you hope to see for the future of Haiti?

F5: As for me, I want Haiti to be better, to be a better Haiti. So what I want to do is to help my garden, canals and stuff. So we are country-siders, so we don't have understanding of politics, so we can't say something about the government

K: Oh and I don't need him to say something about the government.

F5: So I want to see everybody's harvest to work well and to harvest good.

K: Okay, to harvest good. Okay. And that's all that I have. Merci.

Rice Farmer 6

K: Um, okay so how long have you been a farmer?

F6: So since I have knowledge, I started working with my father in the garden. I go to school, and after that I come back to the garden. But my father told me I could have two careers. To have an education, and working the land is another one. So that if my school doesn't do anything for me, I can farm. So I chose to stay with my farm.

K: Um, okay so what kind of things do you grow?

F6: Rice

K: Um, okay what kinds of things do you eat?

F6: So uh generally in the artibonite, so you eat rice, and sometimes you eat something else with that.

K: Okay, um what did you grow up eating?

F6: Cornmeal, corn, flour, rice, sometimes in the market you find other things. Beans, banana, but 95% I eat rice.

K: Okay and then, he answered that question so what does it mean to him to be a Haitian farmer?

F6: So economically the agriculture helped me to live. I can take out my family, I can send my kids to school. I can do everything.

K: Um, and then, if you were not a farmer what would that be like?

F6: If I had another career, otherwise I can take both.

K: Okay, um can you tell me what it is like to be a farmer? What is a typical day like for you?

F6: So you on the land but you have the people working for you. So of this sector in Haiti, agriculture, it creates more jobs. The government can't create jobs, you don't have enough industries. And the private sector is too provide jobs. So the farmer now gives jobs to people. It is a permanent job in that here you have three harvests. So from the farm to there where you prepare the rice to get to the market you are creating jobs until you send it to the market you are creating jobs.

K: Okay that's good to know. Um, and then what makes your farm work well?

F6: There are three extremely important elements. So you have insecticide, you have fertilizers, we call that intensive, and the irrigation, the water, and the credit to get the money. From those three elements, where you can get more money, like the culture can get more money, after 1986 so the agriculture in Haiti starts to decrease. The big countries, like north America and south America, especially the U.S, they come with a free market. So it is like the U.S is producing rice for Haiti. So back in

the states, the farmers were finding help from the government. They have insurance too. But in Haiti we don't have those things. Not only are we not insured, we don't have intervention from the government. So uh, now you can see that the farmers are going backward with their farming. So you see those countries like those big countries, uh, let immigrants go to their countries. So uh they cant really do anything, so they think that in those big countries, life is there. Like things come from the heaven and fall to the ground. So that's why I think that we need security, and people shouldn't travel there. We need to do that if ever they were thinking about the farmers here, so they wouldn't need to do the free markets, so that it would be better for Haiti to have a separate market for Haiti. And from the help that they are providing, if that help was like talking to the farmers in Haiti to say this is exactly what we want, then we wouldn't have those Haitian people going to the D.R or the U.S or Canada. So the investors in the U.S or Canada, so they have their hands in the power of what the decisions of those countries. So here, a country like Haiti, we don't have the money to call a system for agriculture. So this is the condition, so why the farmers like me wants to leave their farms. So it is a lost investment. SO you go to the bank, you have the money and you invest it in the land, so not only the government does not provide security, like uh food security. So these people that are helping these countries, instead of being loaned 50,000 dollars, especially in the U.S, so they give you rice. Instead of giving you 50,000 dollars to work, they give you rice instead. So they give you the rice to sell in the market while you have the rice here. It just enraged the farmers and everybody has become poor. SO that is why those countries always wants their, the president of those countries always wants theirs from them. They don't want the government, so they work with the people here to overthrow. So those countries like U.s, like Canada, like France, they don't put those countries in security. If the government is not under interest, even if the government is helping those people, they overthrow him to establish their own power. That is why the world is up and down. So in the world we have enough money, we have enough ways for other people to live. Somewhere people are dying, craving food and have malnutrition, so where other people are craving food just one weapon is like a million dollars. I don't know how you see the world but as farmer, I go to Louisiana, I visited some farms. I go to Taiwan and we see that the farmers have a special assistance, and it is like a food security within their county, it is like a good security. So food doesn't come just like that in their country, so the farmers right now have guaranteed that the foods from the international will knowingly do their projects. You know, those past four years, so you see the government here conditioning in later. So you see in the artibonite now, the production is like very decreased. Because the government doesn't invest in the agriculturals prediction. So they get food like rice from Vietnam, Canada, france and even the U.S. So you see the result, so you see all of the Haitian people now going to D.R, Dominical Republic. So you see them going to the D.R, so you see the Haitian people are leaving to go to the D.R. and 85% of them, they just go to work in the agricultural section. That is why we could do better here.

Interpreter: Do you have more questions?

K: Uh, yes. Um and then, uh can you tell me about the earthquake?

F6: So now, I can tell you the last thing about the production in Haiti. The international help, so they told us that they would help us rebuild the country. But don't forget, they have great happen in only one department. It was in port au prince. The majority of people in port are from the other district the other part. They are from all different departments. So what we always ask the helpers, the people that are giving the help, start with the provincial, the other departments. Because, uh, during the earthquake, after the earthquake, everyone in port you know they were leaving port to go back to their house in the other provinces. You move there if you wanted to help those people, you would go to their house to help them. So you use the abrasive conditions so that they could live to try the questions to try find answers to the agricultural questions, so now you will keep them in their hometown so now they don't do that. So the other government agencies that are helping, they start giving tents, they put them on a line to start giving food, so in 6 months, everybody that left port to go to their hometown they get back to port. So they are more people than the population that we have. Ill give you an example, so a guy was working with me, he was working on my farm, he had a son in port, so his son called him and said that people are giving out houses, and he takes his wife with three kids, and he live in a tent in port. So he went to port to get food, and he completely forget about garden. So the help is not from that question of how do you want me to help you? And since you are the one with the money, I decide to help you that way even if you don't need the help. So you see they are giving thousands and thousands of dollars for people to stay in that country, they don't stay in that country. They go back to where they are from, because it is just the organization from the country where the money come from that is one of those things.

K: How did the earthquake affect his farm?

F6: Just like I said, it was not shaking here. It did not effect here. It affected the houses, but the land, the actual farm, it did not effect it. Right before we had the earthquake, it did not affect our farm, you know because before the international helps come, we just sent stuff back to Port. People would come, they would leave the capital, so when they would come they would come to the providences. So what they found to eat is what we are producing here.

K: Um, how has farming changed in the past ten years?

F6: So uh, there is a lot of technical help, a lot of technical helps, and uh equipment's like fertilizers for the farmers to work. Because there is neglect towards the Haitian farmers, the Haitian government. They neglect the question, the production. So if you go to the market, a sack of fertilizer is very expensive. So like the 100lbs. So in 2009 after the earthquake, 2010, it used to be 400gds. Now from 2010 to 2015, so now it is raised up to 325 to 310 [Haitian] dollars. Sometimes it goes up to 400 dollars. So I believe that if that situation stays like that, all the farmers will give up.

K: In the future? That's sad. Okay um, He kind of already answered this, but I am going to ask it again, what about, what is his interpretation on international food aid?

F6: Ill take an example, for example me and you here. You are a doctor, and I am sick. I come to see you. The first thing that you have to ask me is what do you feel? What is sick? What is hurting? So now you will diagnose me and you will see my problem. The help is supposed to be like that. So you come to see the people that

are in need. And you say, what do you want exactly? And in what condition do you need it? So you see that's a house, and you say okay I will give you that help. So maybe it is not what I need, in terms of help. That's why those helps goes in contrary of the condition of those people receiving. IT destroyed that population. Mentally and economically. They don't do good.

K: Um, what do you hope to see for the future of Haiti.

F6: For all of the countries in the worldwide, especially in Haiti, is to know what the population needs in as help. This is what you do. So you come to see the farmers right? You come to see the life of the farmer. So now I tell you, my biggest problem in the production, is the chemical products, such as fertilizers and irrigation. So I don't have to have rice. I suppose that's the, you know that's how the help is supposed to come. I can be hungry sometimes, but you cant resolve the food problem, but you have to encourage me to produce food. So the help does not come as encouragement. So they give you cooked food. So the Haitian doesn't like it. If you want to change the system, if you want to see change, so the international helpers have to change their ways of thinking.

K: Will you ask him is he thinks that it is because of the earthquake the reason that fertilizer prices went up?

F6: No.

K: What does he think it was?

F6: After the earthquake it was 400gds. So now the government, they uh, they don't see the agriculture in Haiti. So instead of getting paid, they buy things from overseas, they get things from overseas. Because uh, the government used to subsidize the fertilizer, so now the actually government doesn't subsidize the fertilizer. So that's why the situation is getting like that.

K: I think that's all I have.

Rice Farmer 7:

K: How long have you been a farmer?

F7: I was raised in a family where they started, I started helping my father. When there times of school, I would go to school, but when there was no school I was still working with my dad.

K: Okay, uh what types of things do you grow?

F7: Rice, lalo, sweet potato, potato, manon, hot pepper, eggplant, beans, spinach.

K: And then, what do you typically eat on a regular basis?

F7: Rice, on Saturdays I drink like a juice. I go to my gardens, and whatever I find I just take it to the house to cook.

K: Okay, um, and then what did you grow up eating?

F7: I was raised in the countryside. Like a field of rice and sweet potatoes.

K: Okay, and then what does it mean to you to be a Haitian farmer?

F7: I was grown in it and I realized that it is good and I decided to do it.

K: Okay, that's cool. Um, if you were not a farmer what would that be like?

F7: So maybe I would have another thing to do, but I do it because I like it. And that's the only place I could do it.

K: Can you tell me what its like to be a farmer? What does a typical day look like for you?

F7: So uh, okay uh, I wake up like at 4 in the morning and you just come because of what you grow or what you have to do, like you can come and weed like take off the uh, the bed grass that will prevent the plant to grow, and sometime we come and we water the garden.

K: And what makes this farm work well?

F7: Uh if you take of it, because I take care of it. I am like a slave of it, I have to watch it all of the time.

K: Hm, uh, what makes it not work well?

F7: If you don't have water and if you don't have fertilizers then it will die.

K: And uh, where does he get his water from?

F7: Its from up there [Southwest direction] and get to those canals.

K: Okay hmmm.

F7: See sometimes we have to go overnight otherwise you cannot water your garden

K: Okay. Um, can you tell me about the earthquake?

F7: So the earthquake happened in Port.

K: Um did it affect your farm at all?

F7: Nope not here

K: Okay, um and then how has farming changed in the past ten years?

F7: So there is no way people used to get water, you know the land is like uh, it has like [unclear] a lot of land stays in the work, people don't work it.

K: Okay, what is your interpretation of international aid?

F7: So uh, during the floods you know this help was like during our liberation, this could be good during the floods. You know when the floods time was over we don't need it anymore. So uh in a way it is helpful for me. So uh during the floods you know sometime people don't have, you know, food because we don't produce during the flood. You know people if they have money they can go buy some, you know.

K: Yeah. Um so, that is pretty much his interpretation in food aid? Not just aid, but food aid?

F7: You know I am working, the thing is I need equipment to work, so that I will get the other nations in trouble. Not to annoy them.

K: Like what does he mean by that? Getting it "in trouble"?

F7: To be able to work so that I can stay in my country.

K: Oh got it. What is his hope to see for the future of Haiti?

F7: So a lot of things to be done in Haiti. Haiti is like a broken country.

K: Ask him for some examples.

F7: So it is like a bad thing. You wake up in the morning you cant even drink your coffee. So you want to work but you cant.

K: So like, he is just saying that he doesn't have the money for coffee but he wants to work?

F7: Yes exactly, that is what I told you. We have the women, the children. So the Haitian government has professional schools but they are very expensive.

K: Hmmm, okay I see

F7: You want to work so that your country could reap the profit. You know if I find some help, you know, in order to be able to work. Today I can be one, but tomorrow I can be two. So you know uh, like I am working hard, but if your country does not produce Lalo I can go there and sell.

K: That is true. Okay, that is all that I have.

F7: So what do you think about my answers? Are you satisfied?

K: Um-hm, yeah. I am just trying to get his opinions on things, I just want to know how he thinks.

Rice Farmer 8

K: How long have you been a farmer?

F8: Yeah I was working with the old people on the countryside when I was this guys age, so I could be like 11 now.

K: Okay, um, what types of things do you grow?

F8: Corn, beans, colored beans, bird seed, sweat potatoes, rice.

K: Um, and then what do you typically eat?

F8: You know that most is the rice right now. It is easier.

K: That makes since. What did you grow up eating?

F8: Seed, corn meal, beans, colored beans, these things.

K: Okay, um, was this profession passed down with your family?

F8: Yes, I was growing up seeing my father working, you know, since I was this boys age, and you know this is what they used to do. So I followed them doing it.

K: Okay what does it mean to you to be a Haitian farmer?

F8: So uh actually we are working to get something to eat. The problem is when you are working sometimes, when you are working you don't find help like uh, so you cant find assistance. In some other countries, they find assistance. In Haiti, here you don't have any uh, assistance, you know the government does not see us. So the amount of money we want to get to get some food, we cant find it.

K: Yeah. Makes sense. And then, um, what is a typical day like for you?

F8: So you know wake up at 5 and cut some lalo, harvest the lalo, and sent the lalo to the market. And then come back to the garden to uh, to water my garden again.

K: Okay uh, what makes your farm work well?

F8: So you have to take care of the garden, you have to water the garden. Take off the bad grasses. Take off the bad grasses. So nothing works without fertilizer. You just give them a certain amount of fertilizer so that you could harvest a little thing to eat.

K: Will you ask him if he ever didn't use fertilizer, like was there ever a point where he didn't need it?

F8: You know like back in days, so when we were working in the countryside we didn't need fertilizers. So the land is finished now, so you have to work with fertilizer. And actually you cant fertilize all plants like the corn will not like fertilizer. So lalo, the rice, these things when you are growing them you have to use fertilizer more.

K: Okay, and then um, can you tell me about the earthquake?

F8: So the earthquake caused a lot of death. So people get under the land. So in Port au Prince the world was destroyed. A lot of people die.

K: Did the earthquake effect his farm?

F8: It hurt Port au Prince more. But here it was not that worse. But it was just shaking the earth.

K: How has farming changed in the past 10 years?

F8: There was a little change but it is not big. You know your kids eat from what you grow. But its not big. You get satisfaction from what you find.

K: That's good. I like that. Um, what is your interpretation of international aid?

F8: As for me, I don't find anything. I don't know why they come. So my treasure is what I am doing right now.

K: Okay. Um, so the food aid, he hasn't been effected by it, as of farming is concerned?

F8: Our rice is more expensive. So the rice from the international is 20gds (gourdes), so it does not really effect us, our rice.

K: So the sales haven't been effected because the rice is more expensive?

F8: So I have possibility to sell mine. Sometimes you work, but you don't have enough to sell. So you get only to eat with your family, with your kids.

K: Okay, I see. Um, what do you hope to see for the future of Haiti?

F8: I want Haiti to be beautiful. I want Haiti to change in everything. Haiti is like a blocked country. You want the country to change for me. We want everything to change in Haiti, even for our president. And our activities to change in Haiti too.

K: Okay tell him that's all I have.

Rice Farmer 9

K: How long have you been a farmer?

F9: I started working in rice since I was 13.

K: So 13 to 64. Um, what kind of things do you grow?

F9: Rice, beans, corn, some potatoes, tomatoes, onions, eggplants, carrots, hot peppers and citron, spicy stuff, seasoning.

K: What do you typically eat on a daily basis?

F9: So the rice is now popular. Yam, bananas, fig, and some other foods. We eat fruits, cornmeal, rice, wheat and sometimes what they don't like, we eat it. So we eat all of those things.

K: Okay, what did he grow up eating?

F9: So we know that rice is more popular, so I was raised when it was not popular, so we ate all of the other foods.

K: Okay. So um this [farm] was passed down from his family then?

F9: Yes.

K: Okay, what does it mean to you to be a Haitian farmer?

F9: It is a profession like a career. Like a farmer. It is just a profession.

K: Yeah, um if you were not a farmer, what would that be like?

F9: I could have learned some other things. See I can keep the culture so I just keep it [the land].

K: Can you tell me what it is like to be a farmer? What is a typical day like for you?

F9: I am doing the cleaning, if I do the watering I just do it, I water the garden. If I come to harvest like okras, I just take them and go home. If I don't find anything, I just don't do it.

K: Don't do anything? Okay. Um, what makes this farm work well?

F9: You have to leave rice to rest in your garden, like after two days you fertilize it. After 8 to 15 days you take people to work to clean, like to weed your garden, so that way you harvest more. Even if you don't have grass, you just have to do something so that the garden will give you more food.

K: Hmm, okay. What stops this garden from working well?

F9: When you don't have water, its too dry. If you have a well, with a well you can have anything on it uh, if we had a well we would have water to water our garden. It would be better.

K: Okay, um, can you tell me about the earthquake?

F9: It was national. A lot of people were shaken by that because a lot of families die. It was a sadness for everybody.

K: Did it affect your farm at all?

F9: Not the garden.

K: Not the garden, but the people?

F9: Yes

K: How has farming changed within the past ten years?

F9: For me, you know back in days the land used to give more. You know you have to work harder, but even though you don't realize anything. Like you know the garden, you go buy fertilizers. You know 3 sacks of fertilizers, you buy it for 900 [Haitian] dollars, you know its like a waste.

K: Um-hm. Is he, did he ever not have to use fertilizer?

F9: Yes, so you like in the past you just sow it and come back until its ready. SO you did not need fertilizer.

K: When did, ask him if he can remember when that changed.

F9: 1971-1972 it changed. 1971 I didn't have to use it. So I was young then, but at that point the country had a lot of people to feed.

K: Huh, okay. What is your interpretation of international aid?

F9: You know, sometimes the help is good, you know you live in a small country. The biggest country wants to help you, because they think it is the way, it is that way they can help, and it is good. But you see, so if we could help ourselves we wouldn't need the help from somewhere else, so uh, we just have to take it.

K: That makes sense. What about food aid in particular?

F9: So in Haiti we have more miserable people, than people that can help themselves. My example, I have this now. But there are other people that cant really find them. So if the help is coming you know I cant prevent that you know, so it would be better for everybody to have.

K: Just to have food to eat, that makes sense. Um, what does he hope to see for the future of Haiti?

F9: I want Haiti to change, like to be a model. Like friends Canada or the U.S.

K: Okay, and that's all I have. That's all of the questions

Rice Farmer 10

K: How long have you been a farmer?

F10: I started working in gardens in 1960

K: Okay, um, what types of things do you grow?

F10, Bananas, yam, potatoes, beans, corn rice, okra, lalo. If I can grow some rice I will grow rice.

K: Okay, um what do you typically eat on a daily basis.

F10: The same things I grow. Like we have the rice. They cook it at the house and then sent me some, some sweet potatoes and they send it out to me.

K: That's nice. Um, what did you grow up eating?

F10: So my mother feed me with what she used to do, like what she do. Yam, rice sweet potoes, all of those things.

K: Um, was this profession passed down within your family?

F10: Yes. I have seen them doing it, and I just started doing it too.

K: Okay, if you were not a farmer, what would that be like?

F10: You know if I wasn't doing the garden I would have to bother people to get something to do.

K: Okay, um what does it, or I'm sorry. Uh, what does it mean to you to be a Haitian farmer?

F10: When you are working you have hope, and when you plant something you have hope that your time will do good. If it is lost, you have lost everything. Like that rice is not good, you know we lost everything.

K: Hm, uh can you tell me what it is like to be a farmer? What is a typical day like for you?

F10: We prepare the garden, this is what you are doing in the garden.

K: Just all day?

F10: Sometimes this is what I do all day

K: Okay, um what makes your farm work well?

F10: If we could find water. If water comes good, we have a lot of strength too.

K: Um, what stops this farm from working well?

F10: Because there is no water, nothing. You just come over and waste your time.

K: Is it because they are not getting rain, or because they don't have canals?

F10: We don't have a good canal, and we don't have rain, it stopped raining.

K: Okay, um can you tell me about the earthquake?

F10: It destroy a lot of our families in Port. Families that could have helped us, but they are lost we have zero right now.

K: Um, did it have an effect on your farm?

F10: So it just effect my garden sometime, you know the pile just destroy its like broken.

K: Hmm, how has farming changed in the past ten years?

F10: Its like ten days no change, we still have difficulties to find water.

K: So it's the same?

F10: Same thing, no water. We don't have help to protect us. We need to find help.

K: Okay, um what is your interpretation of international aid?

F10: We don't understand anything, the country still stayed the same.

K: Yeah. Uh, what about international food aid particularly rice?

F10: So you hear from them, but they give their friends food, so you don't see any of it.

K: So you don't see any of it?

F10: No. You hear that they are giving out food in town, but you don't see it.

K: They don't see it? Um, what do you hope to see for the future of Haiti?

F10: I hope that Haiti will change, like to, they open their eyes to us. So they send it to people in town.

K: Open their eyes as in, just uh..?

F10: You know sometime they have to see the workers to give them some kind of help.

K: Hmm that makes sense. Like what kind of help are they looking for?

F10: The first thing they have to do is to get us some water, and get a well in a zone in a circle of area and we have a bank where we can borrow money. So sometime you want to buy the fertilizers but you don't have money. So sometimes you go and get the money from somebody but you cant really pay back.

K: Okay um, do they think that the government should do this, or who do they think should do this?

F10: So the government could do that, but some other countries could do that too.

Hmmm, okay. And that's all of the questions that I have.