



HAITI: Rebuilding Rural Communities – Rebuilding the Future

Haiti's future must be built on a foundation of strong, productive and healthy rural communities. Organized rural communities can grow enough food for the country, allow all citizens to participate in decentralized development, generate employment for Haiti's majority that depends on agriculture, and restore the environment while building resilience to disasters.

Groundswell International and our Haitian partner *Partenariat pour le Développement Local* (PDL) strengthen the capacity of communities and farmers organizations to achieve these goals. Our support improves agroecological farming, local food production, community health, and mobilizes savings-led microfinance.

Groundswell and PDL strengthen local farmers' organizations to be the lead actors in improving their own lives – not to depend on external projects that come and go. We are currently strengthening nine farmers' organizations, representing over 148,000 people, and will expand this to 11 more farmers' organizations and another 120,000 people by 2016.



Groundswell International is a growing partnership of local NGOs in Latin America, Africa and Asia. We strengthen the capacity of rural people to transform their communities and overcome poverty through community-led development, agro-ecological farming and healthy local food systems.

Our approach:

- Strengthen farmers' organizations through a practical "learning by doing" approach.
- Form hundreds of solidarity groups of 8-15 villagers, creating a wide base of local leadership.
- Group members contribute savings and grain, and learn to manage and multiply these resources.
- Groups establish committees to democratically manage farmers' organizations across 20-30 villages.
- Groundswell provides training and supports sustainable farming practices to increase and diversify production.
- Successful practices are spread "farmer to farmer".
- Increased production and incomes are reinvested in local economies and savings & credit coops.
- Groundswell provides training to health committees to prevent disease and improve nutrition.

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