



Smallholder Farmer Platform – North and Northeast Haiti

We plant today so we can feed ourselves tomorrow

SUMMARY

This platform reflects the shared priorities of smallholder farmer organizations in North and Northeast Haiti. It is addressed to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MARNDR) as they design a new \$44 million agricultural program for the region.

A recent survey of 1,100 farmers in 74 communities confirms they face consistent challenges—lack of water, seeds, credit, tools, and market access—but have had little influence over how resources are allocated, or programs are designed. This platform calls for a different approach.

OUR GOALS

- 1 Make locally-led agriculture an engine for food security and economic development
- 2 Empower youth and women to see a future in agriculture
- 3 Enable farmers to capture more of the value they produce
- 4 Build capacity of Haitian government and civic institutions to help farmers overcome the structural barriers to local production and adapt to drought and climate change.

OUR PRIORITIES

1. **Consultation:** IDB and MARNDR must hold listening sessions in every commune before finalizing project design. Farmers are agents of change, and must have their voices heard.
2. **Water Management:** The region needs a comprehensive water management plan that protects the Plaine du Nord–Massacre Aquifer and prioritizes smallholder access.
3. **Irrigation:** More than 90% of farmers rely entirely on rainfall. Immediate investment in solar pumps, irrigation channels, and water storage is essential.
4. **Seed Banks:** Establish permanent community seed banks and a network of local seed multipliers in each Department to build a locally controlled, sustainable seed system.
5. **Education and Training:** Deploy locally trained agronomists in every farming commune and establish training facilities to support generational renewal.
6. **Agroecology and Soil Health:** Invest in soil restoration, agroforestry, and reforestation.
7. **Cooperative Farming:** Support farmer associations and cooperatives to pool land, labor, and resources. Replace individual vouchers with community-based models.
8. **Tool Banks:** Invest in shared tool banks managed by cooperatives.
9. **Access to Credit:** Support community-managed credit funds with low-interest loans tied to production cycles.
10. **Fencing, Livestock, and Land Tenure:** Fund community fencing to protect crops, integrate livestock into smallholder production systems, and support efforts to resolve land tenure.
11. **Risk Insurance:** Develop accessible crop insurance and early warning systems.
12. **Roads:** Rehabilitate feeder roads to connect farming areas to markets.
13. **Food Processing:** Invest in community-based storage and processing facilities to retain more value within communities.