

AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTER

OUR APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY IN HAITI

OUR GOAL: Provide long-term sustainable solutions for food security and nutrition for Haitian families.

The Challenge

Practices that led to deforestation caused massive soil erosion, which makes fruits and vegetables hard to grow. Rainfall is scarce, so irrigation is required, and the soil quantity and quality is often very poor, requiring rebuilding and re-nourishing. **Haiti is in need of simple agricultural reform.**

The Opportunity

Changing the future of Haiti requires changing the way people think about the present.

Dramatic progress in agricultural reform can be made if meaningful education, small-scale technologies, and continued mentorship is provided for families. Furthermore, promoting the manufacturing of small-scale technologies and alternative fuels will help ensure solutions are developed that will be sustainable and have the most immediate impact.

Our Strategy

Through donor support, the Agricultural Training Center (ATC) develops long-term sustainability that increases food security for Haitian families. Our Haitian agronomist teaches classes and runs the demonstration gardens to show better methods in sustainable farming practices.

Love A Child staff actively works with local Haitian families identifying basic agricultural needs, and seeking immediate solutions that are affordable and save time.

We promote new behavior through repeated demonstration and teaching. Together, we validate and share our expertise for farming advancement.

Areas of Focus

The heart of our efforts at the ATC are: proper seed selection and distribution; education on easy, effective farming methods; appropriate irrigation, soil improvement and appropriate technology demonstrations as well as sustainable fuel source production.





Education and Demonstration

Our ATC is now in its second season of demonstrating reliable, bountiful harvests using our methods of production, even when surrounding traditional gardens have nothing. We use methods such as raised beds, heavy mulches, drip irrigation, "home-made fertilizers" from composting and worm farming to produce these large beautiful harvests, season after season.

Demonstrating Ideas that Work

One of the first structures Love A Child built on the Agricultural Training Center property is a home modeled after the 500 homes built in Miracle Village for earthquake medical refugees. **The model home is a training site used to promote the use of appropriate technologies, such as how to capture rainwater with a rainwater catchment system to provide running water for drinking, cooking and showers.** It will feature cooking stoves that run off of renewable fuel sources, and also a composting toilet to show how this simple technology can help solve sanitation problems and save time. These simple, affordable technologies will immediately and affordably improve health and the quality of life for many Haitian families.



Appropriate Technology

Keeping inventive ideas simple and affordable is key to improving hygiene and sanitation, as well as saving time with daily chores. The goal of introducing sanitation measures to the Haitian people is to show the huge impact these simple additions will make in their health and human dignity. And, once people see how much time can be saved by their use, they will quickly accept these small-scale technologies into their new way of life.



Sustainable Fuel Sources in Haiti

Since charcoal production has caused prevalent environmental damage in Haiti, an important goal of the Agricultural Training Center is to introduce the Haitian population to alternative fuels and improved cooking stoves, which it is hoped will eventually replace the traditional "three-rock" cooking method. Among the benefits of these improved cooking stoves are that they are much faster, efficient and economical. Using newly improved cooking stoves is much healthier for families, with less smoke and fumes. Manufacturing these stoves and fuels will create many new jobs and provide renewable energy sources for a sustainable future in Haiti.



The sustainable and renewable fuel sources use available organic matter and trash, converting them into organic fuel briquettes.

All of our time-saving, cost-saving improvements mentioned are being demonstrated and taught at our Agricultural Training Center Pavilion. As a central teaching facility, the pavilion helps locals in the community learn about "best practices" for improved gardening and living.

Please consider helping support the Agricultural Training Center. With your support, we can demonstrate how families and communities can grow their own food, with excess to sell in the Marketplace.

CONTACT

Rad Hazelip
Assistant Executive Director
rad@lachaiti.org
(239) 210-6107

