



EARTH INTERWOVEN

SHARED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SPRING 2026

FORMERLY PARTNERS IN PROGRESS



(Left) Agroecology Educator, Ansló Faustin, demonstrates use of an A-frame to find contour. (Above) Workshop participants gather materials for agroecology demonstrations.

Farmer-led Agroecology Movement in Haiti Expands

This March, farmers from Bourouk, Layaye, and Zabriko in the Centre Department of Haiti participated in the first in-person agroecology workshop in nearly two years. These workshops are the crucial first step for farmers making the transition to agroecology through the Konbit Vanyan Kapab Agroecology for Food Sovereignty Initiative (FAFSI).

Farmer-to-farmer sharing of knowledge and resources is central to FAFSI's community-led approach. However, in 2024 in collaboration with farmers and local partner organizations, the decision was made to pause in-person workshops. Increasing gang control across the Artibonite and other rural areas has made main routes of travel too dangerous.

Determined, Resourceful Partners Find a Way

Over the last two years, Earth Interwoven (E.I.) and our community-based partners have implemented strategies to address some of the challenges caused by the crisis in Haiti. For example, we began using virtual meetings for some workshop sessions and other FAFSI activities. Sharing over the internet has limitations compared with in-person. Virtual, hands-on learning activities are valuable but not as effective. In-person workshops also facilitate relationship building between farmers and communities more effectively compared to virtual experiences.

Because travel to the Centre is still unsafe by highway, more secure routes of travel—longer and more arduous—are now a necessity. The determination and commitment of farmers and partner staff to rebuilding local food systems in rural Haiti, despite hardships, is truly inspiring.

The Agroecology Workshop included hands-on demonstrations of agroecology practices, including agroforestry, cover crops, ramp vivan, konuko, forest gap, polyculture, compost and compost tea, and syntropic. Farmers shared knowledge

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UGANDA

Consumption and Demand for Healthy Alur Food Grows

Earlier this year, Oyera Rural Inclusion and Well-Being (ORIW) delivered a clear message: Alur farmers are seeking greater access to healthy, organic foods.

As a key partner of Earth Interwoven, ORIW is working to advance health, strengthen livelihoods, and restore ecosystems through agroecology.

Through the Konbit Vanyan Kapab Agroecology for Food Sovereignty Initiative (FAFSI) consumption and demand for healthy, traditional Alur foods is growing.

Agroecology Increases Yield and Diversity of Food Crops

Recent survey results showed that **74% of farmers starting their second year in the FAFSI in Uganda increased production by forty-percent or greater**, with some even doubling their production. Amazing results!

This means increased availability of healthy Alur foods and less dependence on high-carb, nutrition-

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Consumers flock to the farmers' newly constructed market stand in community of Ith.

HAITI

Interns, Farmers, and the Soil People

This spring, young Haitian interns trained in biodiversity monitoring partnered with farmers to study the teeming life in the soil and how agroecology is helping it thrive. Farmers of the Konbit Vanyan Kapab Agroecology for Food Sovereignty Initiative (FAFSI) call this living community beneath their feet “the soil people.” The soil people are essential for building healthy soil and increased production of diverse and traditional healthy food crops.

An initial group of 26 interns living in Layaye and several surrounding communities are part of the Environment and Traditional Foods Internship (ETFI). The initiative provides training and work experience for young adults in the fields of environment and traditional food systems. Half of these determined changemakers are displaced, having been forced to leave their homes because of violence. This is commitment of the highest order. Interns had the option of three paid internship positions: 1) Agroecology Field Associate, 2) Biodiversity Monitoring Technician, or 3) Tree Nursery and Reforestation Specialist.

Working side-by-side, FAFSI farmers and Biodiversity Monitoring Technician interns will collect and study soil data that deepens local knowledge about the connection between agroecology, soil health, and food sovereignty. In doing so, they are also revitalizing traditions of working together to care for the earth. What they discover and successfully implement will be beneficial now and for generations to come.



Biodiversity Monitoring interns analyzing soil data.



My friend, to grow more food, you have to make a good home for the Soil People.

Dieuseul St. Jean, Farmer,
Agroecology Educator



Using MicroBiometer field test kits, interns and farmers will compare agroecology and control plots for total soil microbial biomass and the ratio of fungi to bacteria—two important signals of a biologically diverse, healthy soil ecosystem. They will also measure soil pH and electrical conductivity (EC), which helps farmers understand nutrient availability. These insights provide farmers with practical information they can use to learn which agroecology strategies are working and where adjustments and innovations are possible.

Measurable Results and Change Requires Partners Like You!

Earth Interwoven is blessed to have caring volunteers, supporters, and donors who have made the odds-defying change and progress you just read about possible. Because there are great needs and suffering in the world, we are indebted more than you know for your continuing belief in our work in Haiti and Uganda. **Please consider a donation so the farmer-led agroecology movement and job experiences giving young adults knowledge and opportunities to transform their communities can continue and grow. Mèsi Anpil! Thank you!**

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of traditional foods and medicines and even learned helpful meditation and muscle relaxation techniques. Workshop participants also began designing and budgeting for the agroecology farm trials they will begin planting this month.

Anso Faustine, a farmer and FAFSI Agroecology Educator from Deslandes, was one of the workshop facilitators. Several months ago, his community was attacked by gangs, and yet he was determined to share his agroecology knowledge with other farmers at the workshop. When asked why he made the difficult journey to Layaye, **Anso said that the knowledge he has gained “was not meant to stay home, but to share with other people...in my heart I feel overflowing joy.”**

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poor foods, much of which are imported and/or GMO crops heavily dependent on chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.

Market Stands Help Make Healthy Foods More Accessible

Following the very first growing season of FAFSI, farmers and ORIW staff began exploring ways to ensure greater access to the diverse food crops farmers were growing with agroecology. Their solution was to construct market stands in locations convenient for farmers and customers across Nebbi District.

Market stands have been constructed in the communities of Ith, Erussi, and Rada and are open seven days a week. ORIW estimates that **each day an average of 70 farmers sell their produce to 300 shoppers!** More markets are planned.

ORIW reports that demand and consumption of these healthy organic Alur food crops has soared in FAFSI communities. Being able to grow healthier foods—and having markets accessible for more people—leads to long-term positive health outcomes, especially for children.

