

AGRI-BUSINESS SECTOR IN HAITI

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR RESEARCH ON THE AGRIBUSINESSES SECTOR IN HAITI

Introduction and background

After the 2010 earthquake, the Haitian State, under the leadership of Michel Martelly, adopted a development approach that prioritized foreign investment, aptly dubbed “Haiti is Open for Business.” The government issued a policy document outlining its approach to recovery which included: (1) development of commercial processing zones for export; (2) agro-industry for export; (3) extractives and (4) tourism.

The 4 approaches have been used by private corporations as a method to increasingly control farmland or communal land for megaprojects (REF). In the agribusiness sector, the control of farmlands by private, transnational corporations has been used to produce cash crops, not for local communities, but for export into other markets. Many of these types of large scale or ‘mega’ projects necessitate land grabbing and displacement (REF). Land grabbing has been occurring for centuries from the brutal expulsion of indigenous peoples in the ‘discovery’ of the island of Quisqueya by Columbus to colonialists taking over territories. There has been a lot of discussion around land grabs by transnational companies, its impacts on smallholder farmers (family farming), food sovereignty, political economy, and climate change (REF).

The goal of the proposed research is to examine the historical and current agribusiness sector (operationalized below), detect the scope of the agribusiness in Haiti, and recommend potential strategies to effect related policies in Haiti, the U.S., and internationally. Findings from the research will be used to inform and mobilize local communities and civil society groups (with special attention to peasant organizations) where the State and private investors are seeking to potentially implement agribusiness projects. This research will also be used to help shape inform global discourse around the realities of agribusiness within the ‘development’ framework and community.

AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD SERVICE

American Jewish World Service (AJWS) is the leading Jewish organization working to promote human rights and end poverty in the developing world. AJWS defends civil and political rights; advances sexual health and rights; promotes land rights and climate justice; and aids communities in the aftermath of disasters. AJWS pursues lasting change by supporting grassroots and global human rights organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and by advocating for U.S. and international policies for justice and equality worldwide

PAPDA

Haitian Advocacy Platform for an Alternative Development is a national network working to strengthen the social and popular movement to fight for better public policies that could address the real demands of the people. Since his foundation, PAPDA work with peasant movement and many grassroots organizations in Haiti to promote a better agricultural policy that can reinforce the role of the peasant and familiar agriculture in the national economy, so that people could reach the goal of food sovereignty.

PAPDA is a member of a lot of international movement (WSF, Jubilee South, COMPAS, APC...) and has developed partnership with large movement aboard, like Via Campesina, MST-Bresil, etc.

Agribusiness Sector

Haiti has a long history of agribusiness, and there has been renewed interest in agriculture from both the public and private sector with the increasing globalization of the world's food systems. The Agribusiness sector includes the actors which link producers of commodities, both marketed cash and subsistence crops, to consumers and includes commodity buyers, processors and retailers. The commodities, of some which date back to the times of colonization and slavery, include cotton, coffee, vetiver, sugar, sisal, indigo, cocoa, and bananas. Long-standing tensions have existed between those driving the production of cash crops on large plots of land versus smallholder farmers known commonly in the Haitian context as peasants, whose primary activity is family farming.

In the post-quake setting, the Center for the Facilitation of Investment (CFI), has been seeking investors for 10,000 hectares of productive land and promoting cash crops including cocoa, dried orange peels (Grand Marnier), organic vegetables, avocados, mangoes, sisal, cashews and scotch bonnet peppers¹. Additionally, there is the first visible agricultural free-trade zone called Agritrans SA (designed and implemented in 2014 by Jovenel Moise in accordance with a public-private partnership with the Government of Haiti). It exports bananas to European markets.

Purpose of this consultancy

Based on the above, PAPDA would like to engage a consultant who would gather information on the agribusiness sector, currently and historically; identify the major impacts of the agribusiness, with a focus on land grabs; and suggest important advocacy targets on issues related to agribusiness. This work would include an analysis of the:

1. History and contexts of agribusiness and land grabs in Haiti and globally.
2. Current state of the Haitian agribusiness sector, including current actors, current and potential projects, which would include an analysis of power structures, vulnerable populations, etc.
3. Impact related to agribusiness and lands grabs. Impact is understood to be both positive and negative and to range from local to global—small scale, peasant, farmers (e.g. food sovereignty and livelihoods), agricultural works (e.g. socioeconomic

¹From CFI's Agribusiness Brochure

conditions and health), communities (e.g. local economy and culture), and the environment (e.g. climate change).

4. Policy and laws in Haiti, U.S. and internationally that will shape opportunities for smallholder farmers (family farming).

Team Composition

The team will be lead by two specialized in agribusiness sector one Haitian specialist and a foreign specialist.

Key learning questions to be used to guide this inquiry:

General:

1. What is the standard definition of agribusiness?
2. What are agricultural free-trade zones in Haiti?
3. What is the history of agribusiness in Haiti and globally?
4. What role has agribusiness played in the transformation of food systems in Haiti and globally?
5. What type of investments have been made into agribusiness in Haiti and internationally?
6. What role does the private sector and the State play in agribusiness in Haiti and in similar countries?
7. Who are the main agribusiness actors in Haiti and globally? What is driving agribusiness interests? What is the role of transnational companies?
8. What is the relationship between agribusiness and development in Haiti?
9. What is the power structure? What are the power dynamics of each stage of the supply chain? Who provides the labor?
10. What are the main technologies of agribusiness (ex. Pesticides, fertilizer, monocropping, seeds, etc)

Agribusiness Projects in Haiti:

1. What have been some of the past agribusinesses in Haiti?
2. What are the current agribusinesses in Haiti?
3. What are the possible or planned agribusiness projects in Haiti?
4. Who are the key actors in these projects?
5. Who are the (potential) investors in these projects?
6. Are there particular regions in Haiti that are more suitable / advantageous to

agribusiness projects?

7. Who is implicated in the promotion of and investment in agribusiness in Haiti? State Institutions? Private sector actors? International actors?

What are potential impacts regarding: (This should be based on both a Haitian and global context and look at specific examples of past, existing and potential future projects and the technologies they employ)

1. Resources (Food, water, land & soil, etc)
2. Migration/displacement (Reparations)
3. Climate change & the environment
4. Labor & Wages – relationship to impoverishment/poverty
5. Market Access/ Value Chain/ Profit (Political Economy)
6. Rural Economy
7. Development
8. Community & Culture
9. Gender (specifically woman)
10. Children
11. Individual & Community/collective rights
12. Food Sovereignty
13. Land Ownership & Relationship to Land
14. Sustainable agriculture

Policy & Law: (including human rights, economic, social & cultural rights, labor, environmental, resources, corporate responsibility, agriculture production, tariffs, trade agreements, free-trade incentives, etc.)

1. What are relevant laws that govern agribusiness & its actors? Locally? Internationally
2. What are the institutional policies that affect agribusiness & its actors? Locally? Internationally?

Methods:

Timeline for Completion:

Activity	Number of Days	Completion Date
Initial Scan		
Assessment trip to Haiti		
Communication with XXX		
Industry research, organizing and networking		
Final report		
Presentation and Review of Report/Next Steps Meeting		

Deliverables by the Team Leader

Report giving an overall assessment of the agribusiness sector in Haiti with a focus on information necessary to create awareness in local communities which have or may be affected by agribusiness projects.

Participate in disseminating the contents of the reports to necessary actors, but with a focus on communities potentially affected by agribusiness projects.

Total Consultants Cost and Manner of Payment

DEPOSIT APPLICATION

Interested persons and / or entities must meet the following criteria:

- [Being a social sciences professional with at least a Master's degree in one or other of the fields.
- [Have a good acknowledge of the national and/or international economic context, particularly in the field of public policies
- [Have a good knowledge of the rural environment, the agricultural sector.
- [Have already participated or carried out research work in a sector related to the field of research

- [Submit a copy of the work already done on the subject
- [Being able to work in a multidisciplinary international team
- [Present a page of understanding of the agricultural policy in Haiti and the ways of salvation for the peasantry

Interested parties must submit or send their complete file, no later than March 09, 2018, with mention "ETUDE AGROBUSINESS" at the following address:

20, Rue Jean-Baptiste, Canapé-Vert, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

or by Email to: jeanpierreri@yahoo.fr