

## PRESS RELEASE

# USAID HAITI LAUNCHES NEW AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO BOOST PRODUCTION AND EXPAND MARKETS

## Three US Universities to Cooperate with Haitian Partners

May 12, 2016 Damien, Haiti

Under the U.S. Feed the Future initiative to address food security and support the agricultural sector in Haiti, USAID launched "*Appui à la Recherche et au Développement Agricole*" at the Damien campus in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development.

The five year project (2015-2020) will promote research, technological innovation and extension services that address the needs of farmer organizations and women in farming and rural development activities. The University of Florida, Louisiana State University and University of Illinois will collaborate with teams at the Faculté d'Agronomie et de Médecine Vétérinaire, Quisqueya University, Centres Rurales pour le Développement Durable, and the Directorate of Innovation at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.



Working with the public and private sector in Haiti, the new project will promote agricultural modernization, and provide research-based information and recommendations for farmers to improve food security in Haiti. "We believe that the knowledge and experience of the *Appui à la Recherche et au Développement Agricole* project team will help the Haitian agricultural sector develop long-term solutions to challenges related to production or climate change and contribute to increased incomes, food security and household nutrition in Haiti", said Jene Thomas.

*Appui à la Recherche et au Développement Agricole* will also help to build a new generation of experts for Haitian agriculture by providing up to as many as 20 international graduate school scholarships, and organizing in Haiti, student internships, professional undergraduate and graduate certificate programs, and awarding small grants and technical assistance for promising innovations.

Feed the Future is the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative. With a focus on smallholder farmers, and particularly women who play a vital role in food production and household nutrition, Feed the Future supports partner countries in developing their agriculture sectors to spur economic growth and trade that increase incomes and reduce hunger, poverty and under nutrition. For more information, visit [www.feedthefuture.gov](http://www.feedthefuture.gov).