



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION IN
AGRICULTURE (IICA)

CENTER FOR KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND
HORIZONTAL COOPERATION

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2021

NUTRITION SMART AGRICULTURE IN HAITI

Development of the Nutrition Smart Agriculture Country Profile in Haiti



CHALLENGE ADDRESSED

Malnutrition is an underlying cause of death of up to 33% of children under five years old in Haiti. Chronic malnutrition is present throughout the country, affecting nearly 22% of children under five nationally. Chronic malnutrition is more prevalent in rural areas than in the urban setting. It is estimated that deficiencies in Vitamin A, iron, folic acid, iodine and zinc are the most prevalent micronutrient deficiencies affecting Haitians, particularly children, and pregnant and lactating women.

The agriculture sector plays a significant role in the Haitian economy, accounting for about 20% of the GDP and providing 50% of employment. While the sector is an important source of food for the population, it is unable to satisfy the increasing demand, forcing the country to turn to imports to feed itself. Today, Haiti is a net food importer.

The EAT-Lancet Commission's planetary health plate was used as a reference, when identifying the major food groups that are produced and that contribute to the nutrient intake in Haiti. The results reveal that consumption of all major food groups, except for starchy vegetables, grains and red meat, falls below the recommended EAT-Lancet Commission's planetary health thresholds.

Due to the varying climate and environmental conditions in each department in Haiti, it is important to determine the nutrition and food consumption/production needs in each of these areas, to facilitate the accessibility of nutritious food.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Project name:
Nutrition Smart Agriculture Profile in Haiti

Countries involved:
Haiti

Supported by: World Bank

Implementing entities:

The Haiti Delegation, in collaboration with the Panama Delegation of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

Status: Completed.

Period: 20 February to 30 June 2020

IICA'S PROGRAMS

Bio-economy and Production Development / Agricultural Health, Safety and Food Quality

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL TARGET(S):



TOWARDS A SOLUTION

Nutrition Smart Agriculture (NSmartAg) aims to simultaneously improve agriculture incomes and nutrition outcomes, through agricultural interventions. NSmartAg practices and technologies contribute to addressing local nutrition issues, while increasing farm and/or agribusiness productivity and income. It is a building block of food systems that promotes healthy people, a healthy planet, and healthy economies. The methodology has been developed by the World Bank in other countries.

The main stages in the development of the approach were the following:

- Description of the agricultural and nutritional context and identification of nutrition problems in Haiti (bibliographic research).
- Analysis of the adequacy of the nutrients consumed by the population.
- Identification of categories or groups of food and products.
- Surveys of agri-entrepreneurs/ service providers (transportation), according to the following steps: i. Identification of agribusinesses/ service providers involved in the processing and handling of food represented in the various groups previously identified, ii. Selection of regions and companies to be surveyed, iii. Data gathering: An online questionnaire provided by the sponsor has been used to collect information, iv. Food environment analysis and v. Online Country Profile validation.

The World Bank (WB) provided the Methodology for Developing the Nutrition Smart Agriculture (NSmartAg) Country Profile. In addition, it provided the necessary inputs and tools, such as an online open-source database to upload the results of the surveys and the necessary training for its use. The World Bank collaborated with IICA in every step of the development of the profile. Periodic meetings and check-in calls were organized between both institutions until the conclusion of the process. NSmartAg technologies and practices offer opportunities to contribute to achieving a dual objective: improving the nutrition of the local population, while also increasing farm and/or agribusiness productivity or revenue. In combination, these are the drivers for agribusiness investments. NSmartAg technologies and practices are those focused on primary production and/or agri-food processing and distribution, with farmers and agribusinesses making decisions on what and how to produce. NSmartAg supports the overall Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture agenda for all food. Existing NSmartAg technologies and practices are available to farmers and agribusiness in Haiti, but their adoption has been limited. Thus, there is an opportunity for these NSmartAg technologies and/or practices to be supported by agricultural public policies and programs, with a view to expanding their adoption.

NSmartAg can be integrated in agricultural public policies and programs in Haiti. The integration of NSmartAg into programs, particularly for post-harvest and processing investments, will require strong political will, as well as a coherent global vision shared by all Haitian stakeholders, leading to the implementation and enforcement of food safety standards. In addition, NSmartAg opportunities can be identified in agricultural research and development, such as in fortification, value addition to traditional plants with high nutritional potential, as well as training for agricultural advisory and extension services. This integration must be achieved, by way of financial instruments that are capable of promoting NSmartAg practices and providing technical and financial support to agribusinesses that adopt/enhance these practices.

MATERIAL PRODUCED



RELATED RESOURCES

Resource	Title	Year	URL
Publication	Publication in French and English: Nutrition Smart Agriculture in Haiti Vol.1	2020	Link
	Nutrition Smart Agriculture in Haiti Supplemental materials	2020	Link