

Twin Parish News

AUGUST 2026

A partnership between St. William and St. Joseph, Côtes-de-Fer, Haiti



Meet Brema Jean—Growing Hope in Côtes-de-Fer

Your Generosity Is Helping Him Build a Better Future

Brema Jean is one of 868 farmers participating in the Tree Currency Program in Côtes-de-Fer. His story offers a glimpse of the difference your generosity is making in the lives of farming families throughout the region.

Each morning, Brema Jean tends young tree seedlings that one day will help restore Haiti's mountains. As he cares for them, he is also building a more hopeful future for his family.

Brema, 45, lives in Côtes-de-Fer with his wife and children. Like most mountain farmers in Haiti, every harvest matters.

This year, a community tree nursery was relocated closer to his home because of water shortages, giving Brema the opportunity to join the Tree Currency Program. In return for tending the seedlings, he earns support for his family while helping restore the land he depends on.

Through the program, Brema received seeds, agricultural training, a goat, and the tools he needed to work his land.

His black bean harvest yielded 14 marmites—about 77 pounds—to help feed his family. His corn crop still depends on rain, but thanks to the Tree Currency Program—and generous friends like you—Brema is building a stronger future, one season at a time.



Brema cares for tree seedlings that will help restore Haiti's hillsides while strengthening his family's future.



The Tree Currency Program provides training, seeds, tools, and other resources that help farmers like Brema produce more food for their families.

Highlights of the Year

The Tree Currency Program by the Numbers

18,510 tree seedlings produced
(123% of annual goal)

7 forest gardens established
(140% of annual goal)

687 training participants
(115% of annual goal)

14 community kombits completed
(117% of annual goal)

6,732 lbs. seed available
(141% of annual goal)

868 farmers served
(217% of annual goal)

36 new livestock beneficiaries
(1,800% of annual goal)

Weather Challenges

Tree transplanting reached
70% of annual goal.

Formal workshops reached
67% of annual goal.

On-site training reached
29% of annual goal.

Seed bank contributions reached
53% of annual goal.

*The prolonged drought
slowed progress in these areas
despite the continued efforts
of farmers and staff.*

Building Knowledge, Building Hope



Men and women gather to learn sustainable farming practices that help provide for their families and restore Haiti's hillsides.

Editor's Note: After reviewing the Year 3 Tree Currency Program report, we asked the Smallholder Farmers Alliance (SFA) if one of its field agronomists would share the stories behind the statistics. We are grateful to Mackenson Wilcinot for these reflections from his work with the farmers of Côtes-de-Fer.

Because of your generosity...



...farmers are raising tree seedlings



...forest gardens are taking root



...neighbors are working together

From the Field -

*Reflections from Agronomist
Mackenson Wilcinot*



Why SFA Came to Côtes-de-Fer

The farmers of Côtes-de-Fer face significant challenges. These include the impacts of:

- climate change
- difficulties accessing quality seeds
- lack of government support for farmers
- access to water
- drought conditions
- lack of training.

What Has Changed

After a thorough assessment of the issues, SFA successfully implemented this agroforestry program, forging close collaborations with local farmers and achieving significant results.

Over the past three years, farmers have seen changes that reach far beyond the planting of trees. Many farmers expressed satisfaction after receiving training that enables them to:

- improve agricultural practices
- strengthen community organizations
- better manage their plots
- avoid planting incompatible crops.

Because of your generosity...



...farmers have earned needed tools



...farmers are sharing seeds



...farmers are passing along goats

The Agronomist's Perspective

"As the agronomist responsible for field monitoring, I can state with conviction that the implementation of the agroforestry program addressed a genuine, long-standing need expressed by the local population.

SFA is the first organization to launch an inclusive program in this area that mobilizes the entire community around beneficial activities—such as farmer training, planting trees to restore soil health and mitigate climate change, establishing community seed banks, and facilitating access to goat farming through a "gift-and-repayment" mechanism.

I receive many expressions of gratitude and satisfaction from the beneficiaries.

My hope is to see more people benefit from this program and to continue our efforts to meet the community's goals on an even greater scale."

Looking Ahead

"At every meeting between SFA and the farmers, the atmosphere is filled with joy and the hope of making further progress with SFA through a lasting and fruitful partnership.

In the locality of Morne-Blanc, farmers also continue to express their confidence in SFA and hope that the organization can assist them in acquiring a mill to facilitate the post-harvest processing of maize and millet.

Such an initiative would bring them great relief and contribute significantly to improving their living conditions."

Because of generous donors, the Tree Currency Program continues to help Haitian families build a more secure future.

The Need Continues... So Will Your Impact



Farmers planting seeds at the nursery

† Please Pray

Our brothers and sisters in Côtes-de-Fer have received little significant rain since March. Please pray that God will send the rain needed for this year's crops and strengthen the faith of the families who continue to hope.

Your generosity continues to change lives in Côtes-de-Fer.

Through the Tree Currency Program, families are growing food, restoring the land, and building a more secure future.

Even in this season of drought, hope continues because you continue to care.

Will you continue this journey with the people of St. Joseph Parish?

Because of you, hope continues in St. Joseph Parish.



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St. Joseph Parish**

**Donations may be made to
Helping Hugs Inc.,
P.O. Box 24477,
Saint Simons Island, GA 31522**

**or on our website:
www.helpinghugsinc.org**



Helping Hugs, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) public charity.
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