



GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE

E-news of the Global Food Initiative

www.brethren.org/gfi

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Etienne Nsanzimana

Rwanda: Pig Farm Update

In 2019 and 2020, the Global Food Initiative (GFI) provided grants for a total of \$30,000 to the Church of the Brethren in Rwanda for the establishment of a pig farm. The 95 adult pigs (breeding sows and boars) are healthy and numerous litters of piglets are growing nicely, reports pastor Etienne Nsanzimana, a leader in the church. The next phase of the project will begin in the second half of 2021 when pigs are shared with individual families from the Batwa tribe. Families will be given materials to build shelters for the pigs and

receive training in proper care for the animals. COVID-related border closings in the region have restricted the importation of commercial pig feed from Uganda (the source of economical pig feed) and the exportation of pigs to the Democratic Republic of Congo (the major market for pork). The project hopes to soon procure its own grain mill to produce its own feed and reduce costs.

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Haiti: Reforestation Update

Beginning in 2013, the GFI began a partnership with Eglise des Freres d'Haiti (the Church of the Brethren in Haiti) to increase food production and household incomes in communities where the church has a presence. Early efforts focused on crop production, soil conservation, value-added product transformation, and animal health. More recently the initiative was joined by Growing Hope Globally and the Haiti Medical Project to enhance the scope of the community development work to include aquaculture, clean drinking water, and latrines. The culmination of the agricultural intervention in nearly two dozen communities is a reforestation project that will begin distributing seedlings of fruit and lumber trees in 2022. A central tree nursery that will serve the entire denomination is nearing completion in the community of St. Raphael in Haiti's Central Plateau region.



Jean Bily Telfort



Honduras: Greenhouse Update

Two catastrophic hurricanes passed through Honduras in late 2020. Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG – Project Global Village) reports major damage to homes, roads, and bridges across western Honduras where most of PAG's ministry is centered. PAG is currently involved with home construction and village water system restoration. Thankfully, PAG's vegetable seedling production greenhouse in Celaque survived the storms. GFI

grants in 2018 and 2019 contributed to the construction of this greenhouse and its subsequent repair when a wind event caused significant damage. PAG reports that despite (or maybe because of) economic hardships across the country induced by COVID-19, demand for its vegetable seedlings is at an all-time high with the greenhouse producing over 2,000,000 plants in 2020.

Video Review: *Kiss the Ground*

The connection between the environment and agriculture often is spoken about in negative terms because agricultural practices can lead to deforestation through land-clearing, soil erosion, and water pollution. Only recently have scientists and environmental activists begun to herald the immense potential for conservation agriculture or regenerative agriculture to become a great ally in combating the most talked about environmental crisis today – climate change. *Kiss the Ground* is the title of a video production released in 2020 that offers a hopeful vision of the future in which farmers, ranchers, and urban gardeners are at the forefront of the existential struggle to not only reduce carbon emissions but reverse decades of carbon build-up in the atmosphere. Directors Rebecca Harrell Tickell and Josh Tickell interview farmers and gardeners from across the globe to share inspiring stories from unexpected places. This film is free for educational uses or may be accessed through a Netflix subscription or by setting up an online account through Vimeo (rental cost is \$1).



GFI Year-End Summary

One constant in a world of great change is that people need to eat, and for people to eat, farmers need to plant. Locally produced food became even more important in 2020 as the transport of food across long distances was hampered by border closings and travel restrictions, leading to rising food prices. In 2020, the activities of the Global Food Initiative Fund centered on supporting churches and organizations dedicated to growing food and serving neighbors in need. In 2020, the total income to the fund was \$205,877 and the sum of allocations for both international and domestic partners was \$145,890.

International grants supported agricultural development work in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nigeria, Rwanda, Spain, and Venezuela. Projects included animal raising, tree planting, soil conservation, water harvesting, appropriately scaled mechanization, and crop production. International allocations totaled \$107,159.

Grants connected to church-based community gardens assisted congregations in Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Ohio, and Virginia. Total allocations of domestic grants equaled \$21,989. The GFI also supports advocacy work on food sovereignty through yearly contributions to Bread for the World, Growing Hope Globally, and the National Farm Worker Ministry, with contributions tallying \$16,742.



Yakubu Bakwashi

