



OAS in the Field to Evaluate Progress

An inter-American mission recently traveled to Haiti, visiting the country from 3 to 6 September. The delegation from the inter-American system visited several projects, notably in Gonaïves, Jacmel, and Cité Soleil, to assess the impact of programs supported by the international community to foster Haitian development.

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 Galerie de photos

On Saturday, 5 September, the delegation, comprised of 22 high officials of the inter-American system, visited the departments of Artibonite and Sud-Est, viewing agricultural and infrastructure projects.

In Gonaïves, it visited Jubilé Blanc, an impoverished neighborhood in that city, to view the Pro-Huerta urban agriculture project, a horizontal cooperation program between the Governments of Argentina, Canada, and Haiti and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), to improve the nutritional status and diversify the diet of beneficiary families.

The delegation also visited a vegetable garden grown in the yard of a city resident, a yard that had been ravaged up the year before by the hurricanes that have wreaked havoc on Haiti. In this little domestic garden she was growing spinach, cabbage, beets, tomatoes, peppers, and other vegetables.

Pro-Huerta is a project for community production of fresh food, funded in part by IICA, a partner of the OAS. The 1,024 beneficiary families in Gonaïves work parcels of land on their community grounds to grow marketable products for immediate consumption or later, three months after planting.

“Thanks to the food grown here, I can feed my family better, share with my neighbors, and considerably lower the cost of purchasing vegetables, exulted Angelle Anestal, a beneficiary of the project.

At the end of the visit to the project, the head of the delegation, Albert Ramdin, showed great enthusiasm, saying that he hoped to see these gardens help people improve their diet.

The delegation then flew to the department of Sud-Est, more specifically, Jacmel. The delegation was welcomed at the Jacmel airport by town Mayor, Edwin Zenny, the Vice Delegate of Sud-Est, Zidor Fednel, the head of the Regional Office of MINUSTAH, Nharebat Nancaia Intchassa, and representatives of the Ministry of Tourism to Jacmel, Machaëlle Craan and Johanne Raton, as well as the Director of Public Works, Guillaume Innocent.

On that occasion, Michael de Landsheer, Executive Secretary of the Technical Executing Unit of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, gave an overview of the project to restore the basic economic infrastructure, financed by the IDB and the Canadian government.

“At Jacmel airport, the project plans to construct a modern, two-story building with all the amenities necessary to receive passengers and offer them comfort and security, including an access road and parking lot. The total cost of this project will be around US\$1 million,” said Mr. de Landsheer.

Mrs. Landsheer also described the urban roadworks project implemented by the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation, and Communication (MTPTC) between 2006 and 2009, with funding from the IDB. This project involves the construction of some six kilometers of streets in the city of Jacmel. The work includes construction of the drainage and water system. The total cost of the project is US\$ 5,687,647. Several studies on protecting Jacmel from floods and the construction of a site for the treatment and disposal of waste were also part of the program.

The delegation then proceeded to the Jacmel air terminal, which was under construction, before visiting the town center (the historic city) for a walking tour of the repairs to the Avenue de la Liberté, the business district where the work is almost completed.

“We are very satisfied with the projects’ progress, the job creation, and the coherence and synergy with the other investments programmed. We would like to thank the Mayor for his efforts to keep Jacmel clean and secure,” said Albert Ramdin, underscoring “Jacmel’s considerable potential for tourism.”

In addition to these projects in the region, the inter-American delegation visited the programs of the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) in Cité Soleil, located in Haiti’s capital, especially the hen houses. On Friday, 4 September, it visited a free-care project of the Pan American Health Organization in the maternity ward of the Isaïe Jeanty Hospital, as well as the National Identification Office (ONI).

During its time in Haiti, the delegation was also received by the President of the Republic, René Prével. This was the occasion for the official deposit of the instruments ratifying the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.

The delegation was comprised of officials from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), and representatives of the Member States and senior officials of the OAS.

This mission was undertaken pursuant in follow-up to the mandates issued by the 5th Summit of the Americas and Resolution 2487 of the OAS General Assembly to support the socioeconomic development and political stability of Haiti in particular. This resolution urges Haiti's international partners to continue coordinating their initiatives with the Haitian government with a view to maximizing outcomes in the field.

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