



## WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME HAITI

### LOCAL PURCHASES

#### Local purchases:

#### Supporting Haitian farmers

BON REPOS—Jean-Claude Bélizaire has been a dairy farmer since his teenage years. His farm is located in Bon Repos, just outside Port-au-Prince.

For years, he had trouble generating enough revenues from his cows to sustain his family. "I was selling my milk in the street", he said.

Many things have changed with the opening of a dairy in his municipality. Now, his morning routine includes bringing his milk to Lèt Agogo.

The dairy pasteurizes and sterilizes the milk and then sells it in the region.

Through WFP, the dairies now distribute milk to PNCS schools in the vicinity. This year, more than 28,000 school children in 72 schools of Haiti benefit from this project. For farmers like Bélizaire, this represents a significant improvement of their food and income security: "I now have a steady source of income, he explains, and I can take good care of my family".

The Ministry of Agriculture, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and its partners are developing strategic tools to increase the country's agricultural production with the aim to reduce food insecurity while improving access to markets for local farmers.

Increasing local food purchases is a priority for WFP in Haiti. Working in cooperation with the Ministries of Agriculture and Education, and the National School Meals Programme (PNCS), the agency is developing strong links between local purchases and the school meals programme aiming to create sustainable procurement systems for school meals programme and facilitate a gradual hand over of the programme.

At the institutional level, WFP works with the Ministry of Agriculture and partners to develop a national strategic framework to facilitate an increase in local purchases for institutional purposes (schools, health facilities, etc.)

At the same time, working closely with farmer groups, WFP has put measures in place to facilitate their access to WFP tenders. The most important amongst them are:

- The tender process was modified to allow small farmers association to bid only for the quantities of food they can produce;
- Local tenders give farmers more time to prepare their bids, and more time to deliver the food after the contract is signed;
- No performance bond or deposit is requested to the farmers as a precondition to participate to the tenders;
- The food is collected by WFP; directly in the farmer's warehouse;
- The bags are provided to the small farmers by WFP.

WFP also holds training sessions to help the farmers master every step of the tender process, from bidding to delivery, as well as to help them improve the quality of their produce through the use of better post-harvest handling techniques.

Thanks to these measures, and to the commitment of donors like Canada to support local production, WFP Haiti increased the quantity of food purchased locally from 566 metric tons (MT) in 2009 to nearly 3,400 MT in 2012. This includes rice, maize meal and milk, distributed to school children throughout the country.

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For additional information, please contact:  
Myrta Kaulard, WFP Haiti Representative, +509 3803 7052

[Myrta.kaulard@wfp.org](mailto:Myrta.kaulard@wfp.org)