A Conservation Agriculture Production System Program
For The Central Plateau Of Haiti - LTRA-06

1. What we propose to do
- Assess the adaptability of existing agricultural production and livelihood systems for transformation to CAPS.
- Increase agricultural production through development of CAPS.
- Increase the capacity of smallholders to adapt and improve CAPS.
- Coordination and Training: Strengthen the human and institutional research and extension capacity for CAPS.

2. How we will do it
- Building Capacity to conduct research with local agronomists and farmers.
- Work with partners to conduct centralized CA components, including cover crops, cultivars, rotations, reduced tillage, and weed management.
- Work on-farm to test potentially successful components.

3. Accomplishments to date
- Completed design of household survey
- Experiments begun at 3 Research Centers
- Experiments conducted in 3 farmer fields
- Building capacity with cultvar trials
- Identified key soil constraints as P and Zn

4. Where we hope to be in 5 years
- Using CAPS on farm to reduce soil erosion, improve soil quality, and increase yields.
- Enabling farmer organization to conduct their own research.
- Working with UEH and collaborating agronomists to test improved CAPS.
- Demonstrating innovative CA farming practices on station and on-farm.

5. Anticipated Products
- Extension publications on conservation agriculture.
- Farmer field school publications.
- Research publications on household constraints.
- Research publications on soil properties and constraints of the Central Plateau.
- Development of a Master Farmer network based on Coumbite leaders in communities.

6. Impediments
- Earthquake
- Cholera
- Election violence
- Significant skepticism that crops can be effectively grown without tillage and/or herbicides
- Lack of connections between research and extension education.

"This publication/presentation was made possible by the United States Agency for International Development and the generous support of the American People for the Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Management Collaborative Research Support Program under terms of Cooperative Agreement No. EPP-A-00-04-00013-00 to the Office of International Research and Development at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University."