



PROTECT
THE
PEOPLE

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Protect the People (PTP)

Overview Report April – June 2015

1. Summary of Key Achievements During the Reporting Period:

Thanks to the continued outreach of PTP and successful trip of several employers to Haiti facilitated by IOM, the project has secured 77 job orders for Haitian workers starting this September through the end of 2015. These workers will be located with large fruit and vegetable growers in Washington state, at an expanding greenhouse facility in Alabama, and with a specialized mushroom grower in Massachusetts. With the original job order of 30 workers requested by a farm in upstate New York, this brings the project total to 107 jobs. PTP continues to work with the U.S. Government agencies involved in the H-2A program to approve of the job order related to a dairy farm.

1.1. Summary of main achievements

- Conducted extensive, broad phone and email outreach campaign to 150 new and established H-2A farms in the targeted regions of 1) Washington and California 2) Georgia and North Carolina, and 3) New York and New Jersey
 - Goal: To introduce the Haiti H-2A program to employers and to find farms that have a labor shortage that could be filled by Haitian labor
- Identified challenges and barriers to the hiring of Haitian workers such as language, culture, and cost compared to Mexican or Jamaican workers
- Visited promising farms in Georgia, North Carolina, Washington state, Alabama, Maryland, and Massachusetts to discuss the program and to evaluate the ethical practices of the employers
- Invited over 100 employers to an H-2A Orientation and Training in Atlanta with an H-2A expert speaker
 - Held the training with over 50 attendees, many of which were Haitian-American business owners living in the Atlanta community
- Invited over 40 promising agricultural employers to Haiti
 - Took 8 individuals representing 4 agribusinesses to Haiti to meet with agricultural cooperatives in Port-au-Prince and Cap Haïtien, so they could meet the 200 workers pre-selected by IOM
 - Obtained Letters of Intent from each employer outlining their commitment to take 77 workers; Submitted Job Orders for 77 Haitian workers
- Connected employers to agents to process H-2A visa application paperwork and provided support to new H-2A employers
- Continued to support NY dairy request for 30 Haitian workers for calving and animal care, including meetings with a law firm specializing in H-2A, Congress and Administrative officials about establishing a pilot H-2A program for dairy through the Haiti H-2A initiative with IOM

PTP carried out the following activities:

- **Organized state-specific outreach:**
 - In April, Managing Director of PTP traveled to Georgia to visit several farms and to attend the Georgia Grown Symposium with the Haitian Consulate in Atlanta, an event sponsored by the Georgia Department of Agriculture that brought together Georgia farms and agribusiness leaders. PTP also visited Mount Olive, NC with the Haitian Consulate of Atlanta to meet with the mayor of the town and local employers of Haitian workers.
 - In May, PTP contracted a PTP network member to visit the Washington State Department of Agriculture and specific farms in Washington state to encourage the hiring of Haitian workers.
 - In late May, PTP accompanied the Haitian Consulate of Atlanta to Mount Olive, NC to meet with community leaders, including the Chief of Police and the President of the Chamber of Commerce, to talk about Haitian cultural needs and habits, as there is a large Haitian-American community present in Mount Olive.
 - In June, PTP coordinated an H-2A Orientation and Training in Atlanta for employers new to the H-2A program including Greenway Plants in Alabama and Harrison Poultry in Georgia and to engage leaders within the Haitian-American business community. The agenda included how to become H-2A certified, how to become a farm labor contractor, and how Haitian-Americans can sponsor or support Haitian workers upon their arrival in the U.S. More than 50 people attended the training on a Saturday morning. The forum was engaging and resulted in a number of Haitian community leaders wanting to do more to sponsor workers and/or support workers upon their arrival.
- **Brought 8 employers to Haiti to meet with IOM and the agricultural cooperatives sending workers:**
 - Employers were briefed by the IOM Haiti team about the benefits of participating in this program for the 2015 season
 - Employers visited SOHADERK cooperation in Kenscoff, where they witnessed Haitian farming practices and had a Q & A with SOHADERK members
 - Employers traveled to the north of Haiti in Cap Haïtien to meet with FECCANO, another agricultural cooperation of cocoa growers; they witnessed planting of plantain trees and the drying and fermenting process of cocoa beans
 - At the end of the trip, employers met with IOM and PTP to discuss next steps in filling their job orders with Haitians; Letters of Intent were distributed and signed, totaling a demand for 77 workers.