



ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2018

FOR TOMORROW

THE REALITY

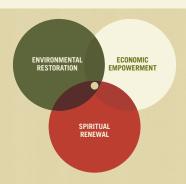
Four of every five people living in poverty around the world live in rural areas. These families rely on the land for food and income, making them vulnerable to environmental changes such as erratic rain patterns, loss of soil fertility, and natural disasters. The results of environmental degradation and resource scarcity can be devastating, but hope is stronger.

THE RESPONSE

For over 30 years, Plant With Purpose has addressed the root causes of rural poverty. Local Plant With Purpose teams are working hand-in-hand with farming families around the world to innovate, test, and then scale up sustainable solutions. Through constant learning, we have become more efficient and effective year after year.

THE PLANT WITH PURPOSE MISSION

Plant With Purpose, a Christian nonprofit organization, reverses deforestation and poverty around the world by transforming the lives of the rural poor.



Plant With Purpose families cut their level of poverty by two-thirds.

Entire watersheds are undergoing restoration, and families are gaining hope as they recognize their God-given abilities and grow in faith.

CORE VALUES

FAITH

Honor Christ, always

INNOVATION

Learn and improve

EMPOWERMENT

Build capacity and stength

STEWARDSHIP

Maximize resources for good

COLLABORATION

Work together in partnership

SUSTAINABILITY

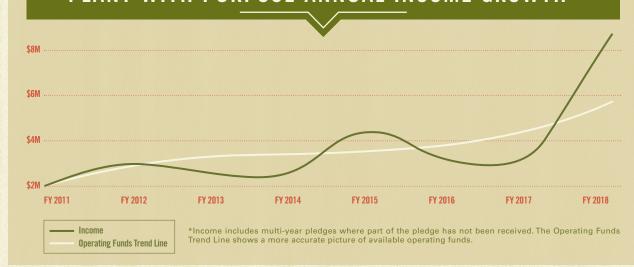
Foster long-term health

WORLDWIDE IMPACT

WHERE PLANT WITH PURPOSE IS TAKING ROOT



PLANT WITH PURPOSE ANNUAL INCOME GROWTH*



INCOME GROWTH

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

GLOBAL PROGRAM GROWTH

VISION 2020

Our Vision 2020 strategic plan sets a vision for growth to meet rising demand. Plant With Purpose seeks to gain national influence across the United States as a leading voice on faith and the environment. The goal is to serve 330,000 individuals across nine countries with an annual budget of \$8 million. At this scale, we envision planting 40 million trees and restoring 1.5 million acres of public and private lands by the year 2020.

EFFECTIVE AND INNOVATIVE

Plant With Purpose has 34 years of experience innovating, testing, and learning what works. Each year, we become more effective and efficient. Effectiveness is measured through impact evaluations. Efficiency is represented by cost per family. At the end of fiscal year 2018, the average cost per family was one-third of what it was in 2010.





Through years of practice and continued learning, Plant With Purpose has developed a unique program for families that integrates land restoration, agricultural improvement, and financial empowerment, rooted in faith. Collectively, Plant With Purpose

partnering families cut their pov-

erty level by two-thirds.

Trees are vital to life and key to environmental restoration. They heal the land by anchoring topsoil, increasing organic matter, and helping the soil absorb water. Farms which were once unproductive are restored to health, providing families with food, income, and hope.

munities in all aspects of Plant With Purpose's program. Groups consistently meet to save their income, access loans, and build long-term financial stability. Training in agroecology, environmental renewal, and creation care further empowers groups to transform their communities. Although assistance is open to people of all faith backgrounds, Plant With Purpose integrates prayer and discipleship into our work and helps group members understand their identity in Christ.

GROWING OUT OF POVERTY

Plant With Purpose families cut their level of poverty by two-thirds.

At Plant With Purpose, we strive to ensure that our holistic method of poverty alleviation works, and that partnering farming families are, in fact, gaining the tools and agency needed to grow out of poverty. To measure our impact, we conduct an extensive triennial impact evaluation, the latest of which took place in the fall of 2017.

Rural poverty can be crippling. It has the potential to damage individuals' health, educational opportunities, nutrition, emotional wellbeing, and so much more. Plant With Purpose uses a multidimensional poverty index to better understand the depth and breadth of poverty faced by rural families around the world. With this information, we can address the root causes of poverty. Our holistic model of com-



munity development allows farming families to eat better, send their daughters and sons to school, and ultimately live out their dreams.







HOW IT WORKS AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

For over 30 years, Plant With Purpose has facilitated holistic transformation by providing solutions to the root causes of poverty. Our three-part approach of environmental restoration, economic empowerment, and spiritual renewal heals both lives and land in some of the world's poorest places.

Sustainable Development Groups are the mechanism for this transformation as they engage communities in all aspects of Plant With Purpose's program. Groups consistently meet to save their income and access loans. Training in agroecology further empowers these groups. In addition to ministering directly with group members, Plant With Purpose actively assists local churches in their efforts to be an effective and compassionate witness in their communities.



Plant With Purpose equips the local church to spread God's love and to support farming families. We realize that true, lasting hope is found through faith.

Partnering families are growing in their faith as they invest in a growing relationship with God and their community. Partnering families report helping a neighbor 20 percent more frequently than comparison groups. Additionally, these families are 38 percent more likely to say that the work they do is a good use of their talents.



As families gain more hope and learn how to improve their farms, they also build a habit of careful financial management. Each Sustainable Development Group incorporates a savings program that enables families to build financial security, access loans, and learn financial stewardship. Families save profits from their farms and invest in their dreams.

Plant With Purpose partnering families are 2.3 times more likely to save and are 55 percent more likely to send their daughters to secondary school. Plant With Purpose families have saved over four million dollars in total member equity.



Agroecology and reforestation are the main components of the Plant With Purpose model. Each country program employs a set of carefully selected restoration techniques, helping families address their unique challenges in a way that leads to increased farm yields and sustainable community transformation.

Reforestation is a key tool in environmental restoration. Plant With Purpose communities plant 5.7 times as many trees as comparison communities. Additionally, they are 58 percent more likely to plant native species, which improves soil quality and ecosystem health.



BURUNDI

Led by Noé Nizigama • Director: Floresta Burundi • Year Founded: 2008

This year, our partners in Burundi celebrate their 10th year of promoting sustainable development throughout their communities. This milestone serves as a reminder of the light exuded by the Burundi program in the midst of a deep history of conflict and insecurity. Their dedication to improving their situation is evident. Partnering families are applying 41 percent more sustainable farming techniques compared to non-partnering families. They continue to seek partnerships with organizations and research institutes that offer additional resources, ultimately equipping them to demonstrate innovative farming techniques to new partners.

FELICITE'S STORY

BURUNDIANS KEEP MOVING FORWARD

It was only a year ago that Burundi was named the most food insecure country in the world. Burundi continues to be a difficult place to live. Political instability threatens the ability of Burundians to improve their lives, as poverty and deforestation persist.

In spite of this situation, Plant With Purpose has witnessed partnering individuals thrive and leave behind once-desperate circumstances.

In the watershed of Nyakazu, Felicite and her husband Ciza used to live in constant uncertainty. Ciza, a former police officer, found it difficult to earn an income by farming infertile lands. Felicite had many ideas for ways she could improve their land, but all required investing money that she did not have, since rural areas like Nyakazu often lack banks.

"We were in extreme poverty and we were hopeless when it came to finding a loan," she says.

Felicite and Ciza joined a group started by Plant With Purpose in their community.

Felicite's group membership allowed her to begin the process of saving mon-



ey and taking out loans. Once she saved enough, she borrowed money to invest in two goats and a solar panel for her home.

"AS SOON AS I JOINED THE GROUP, EVERYTHING CHANGED [...]"

"As soon as I joined the group, everything changed," she tells. "My house has light and I charge my phone without any problem. The goats have already given birth, so I have five goats in all. We pray for peace in our country so that we can continue these activities unhindered."

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Led by Durbel Lora • Director: Floresta Incorporada • Year Founded: 1984

In fiscal year 2018, 11 communities in the Dominican Republic graduated from our program. While the border region between the Dominican Republic and Haiti still has one of the highest poverty rates in Hispaniola, Plant With Purpose communities are experiencing transformation, and many are now equipped and empowered to thrive on their own. Partnering families have 2.4 times as much cash reserves as non-partnering families and are 88 percent more likely to send their daughters to secondary school. Additionally, these families experience 62 percent higher crop yields on average than non-partnering families. These mature communities now promote Plant With Purpose activities and methodologies to neighboring communities. As families in the Dominican Republic recognize their own ability to succeed, they turn to help those who are less fortunate.

LUCAS'S STORY

GOD IS ALIVE AND ABOUT LIFE!

The community of Maizal sits an hour away from the nearest major road. There, you won't find any banks, grocery stores, or commercial areas. You'll instead be greeted by colorful houses and small, family-operated kiosks.

It's not uncommon for people in villages like these in the Dominican Republic to feel forgotten.

The people of Maizal rely on farming for their survival. Cocoa and coffee crops are the main sources of income. Without trees, however, local water sources become unreliable, making life difficult for the farmers.

This was the case for Lucas Frías de Los Santos. Making a life for his wife and children was an unbelievable struggle, and his farm did not produce enough to feed his family.

Through partnership with Plant With Purpose, God appeared to Lucas in the form of tangible resources like seeds and access to loans. Though most farmers in Maizal don't make much money, they are seeing their resources multiply through wise stewardship. As Lucas



received training in sustainable agriculture, he recognized the importance of environmental care. "I learned to value the environment, which is part of God's creation."

"I LEARNED TO VALUE THE ENVIRONMENT [...]"

Lucas shares that, "Plant With Purpose has helped me understand the immense love that God has for me. I have grown in faith and acknowledge that there is life only in God. He is far from dead."





Led by Birori Dieudonne Gaparani • Project Manager: Eben Ezer Minitries Int'l. • Year Founded: 2015

Fiscal year 2018 was another exciting year for Plant With Purpose Democratic Republic of the Congo. Rounding out just three years of partnership, the team is encouraged by increasingly positive results in the Kakumba watershed. Families are now eating more meals per day on average than they were in 2015, and have 2.5 months of emergency cash savings set aside. Ninety-five percent of Kakumba families reported being able to sell some of their crops and 65 percent of families were able to start a side business in addition to farming their land. More importantly, 91 percent of Kakumba families said that members of their community work together to solve problems. Enthusiasm for our program is growing and Plant With Purpose is now beginning work in the neighboring watershed, Kambekulu.

DISPLACED FAMILIES

THE FUTURE IS MORE SECURE

The Kakumba watershed is a challenging place to live. Many of its farming families have been affected by the recent history of conflict, and poverty is still harsh. In spite of that, partnering families have made amazing progress.

After partnering with Plant With Purpose, families in Kakumba were able to reduce poverty in their watershed by 60 percent. Many were able to go from eating one meal per day to two. The entire watershed experienced improvement through implementing the new farming techniques and financial practices they learned.

60% POVERTY REDUCTION

The environmental and financial change in Kakumba is already good news, but even more incredible is the spiritual transformation taking place. This transformation is evident in the way the people of Kakumba have responded to neighboring communities.

When hundreds of refugees fleeing conflict in a neighboring region arrived



in Kakumba this summer, local pastors and community members took responsibility for housing them in the local school and providing food and other needs, until they could return home. People saw this as a natural outgrowth of what they had learned through their collaboration with Plant With Purpose.

While the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains a country full of uncertainty, the people of Kakumba stand out as bright lights in the midst of hardship. Their examples of leadership and service are changing norms in an area where conflict was once a way of life. The men and women of the community now work together to keep younger members away from armed groups, showing them how there is much more meaningful work to be done.



Led by Guy Paraison • Director: Floresta Ayiti • Year Founded: 1997

Reports of hardship and national challenges in Haiti often make the news. While most are aware of the hurdles Haitians face, many are unaware of the subtle victories and progress that families are also experiencing. Plant With Purpose partners with communities in four regions of Haiti. There, partnering families have experienced 50 percent higher crop yields on average, and are 2.6 times as likely to be saving cash as non-partners. To date, our partners have planted over three million trees and continue to turn the tide of deforestation in their country. Efforts go beyond the immediate needs of their families as they lead the way in local conservation efforts. Community members are shifting the way they use their land, to improve their own quality of life while also protecting vulnerable habitats. These undertakings inspire neighbors to act and provide an example to our international family.

GERNITA'S STORY

THIS IS A DIFFICULT PLACE, BUT THINGS HAVE CHANGED

Haitians are no strangers to hardship. Damaged soil, political instability, and the lack of infrastructure have made it difficult for Haiti's rural farming population to earn a decent living.

"Before, I felt that when I worked, I couldn't reap what I sowed," explains Gernita. "I was living in a country where everything was in disorder. This is just how life worked. It was difficult to prepare the land. Sometimes you would work and the dry season would arrive and kill everything. Other times the rains would come in too strong and they would kill everything."

Gernita received an invitation from Plant With Purpose's Haitian leaders to join a Sustainable Development Group.

"We never had an organization like this," she says. Gernita learned how to care for the environment, how to grow more crops, and how to save and invest her money for the future. "Plant With Purpose worked differently. They showed us how to save our money. Before you could be in a difficult position with no help. With Plant With Purpose, you can borrow the



money when you need it, use it, and pay it back."

With the money she borrows, Gernita invests in her own business. In the front of her house, she runs a small convenience store, selling nuts and other snacks. "With the profits, I buy seeds," she says. "I can sell these things and pay off any debts."

Her farmlands are also seeing improvements. "Plant With Purpose trained us to use compost, to build barriers, and to graft fruit trees. My land used to get washed away by rain, but now I can protect the soil so that doesn't happen. I can easily plant the seeds."





MEXICO

Led by Luis Alberto Castellanos • Director: Misión Integral • Year Founded: 1996

With over 20 years of program experience, PlantWith Purpose Mexico spreads knowledge and awareness at every level of development. This year, our team hosted the 16th Annual Chiapas Network of Educational Gardens. Twelve of our promoters presented and facilitated workshops at the conference, sharing about best practices and ideas for continual improvement. Plant With Purpose families in Mexico have nearly three times the amount of savings as non-partnering families, and are 77 percent more likely to send their daughters to secondary school. Plant With Purpose families are applying 146 percent more sustainable farming techniques than non-partners, and their farms are 47 percent more diverse.

ESPERANZA'S STORY

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WHAT GRATITUDE LOOKS LIKE

In El Capijul, Mexico, farmers are thriving. That hasn't always been the case. For years, tree loss and water insecurity made life difficult for the people living there. Farming is the main source of income for many families. If the soil loses its fertility, people lose opportunities.

When the demand for wood and charcoal increased, many farmers in the area began to harvest trees. The trees provided immediate financial benefit, but deforestation resulted in long-term financial hardship. Unemployment began to grow, as did hunger.

Esperanza and Aureliano were able to build a greenhouse with the help of Plant With Purpose's Mexican team. They also started raising goats and chickens and added an ecological latrine and fuel-efficient stove.

"THIS GREENHOUSE IS A BLESSING TO MY FAMILY."

When showing her greenhouse, Esperanza regularly stops and reminds visitors to give praise to God for what these changes have done for her family. "This greenhouse is a blessing to



my family," she told a team of visitors, with tears quickly filling her and her husband's eyes. "I am so excited today because we never thought we'd have a greenhouse. But now we can eat the tomatoes and sell them for income. It is a blessing!"

The new stove and latrine also went a long way toward improving their family's health. "Now I don't suffer from the heat or inhaling smoke. We also use less wood and don't have to spend money," says Esperanza.

The family exudes gratitude, and part of the way they express this joy is by extending generosity to their neighbors. When their goats gave birth, they decided to give the adults to their neighbors and keep the baby goats.

THAILAND

Led by Bunsak Thongdi • Director: Upland Holistic Dev. Project (UHDP) • Year Founded: 2006

The Plant With Purpose Thailand team has played a key role as an advocate for ethnic minority groups in the northern region of the country. Much of this work is done by organizing networks where ethnic minorities living in Thailand can gather together and have a voice. United, there are more opportunities for vulnerable families to protect their resources, seek education, and gain citizenship. Community land management has transformed the way that families view farming and protecting the land. Partnering farmers apply three times the number of sustainable farming techniques, and plant five times as many trees as non-partners.

BOK CHEE'S STORY

SUSTAINABILITY WILL HELP US HELP OTHERS

Like many in his community, Bok Chee once lived a very difficult life. He moved to Northern Thailand as a refugee from Myanmar, where his family had gotten caught up in conflict. Now he has found a new life and a number of ways to help his neighbors.

"When we moved here, it was hard, because I didn't have an education," he says. While Thailand was safer than Myanmar, it still had its challenges. Bok Chee's neighbors had always relied on the forest's resources for a living, but when they arrived, they did not have direct rights to their new land.

"When Plant With Purpose arrived in our village, I got involved with them to help with community forest management," says Bok Chee. "I just started my own agroforestry plot because I felt that it could help people." He began to learn and share how planting trees amongst food crops could ultimately enrich the soil and protect the nearby river. Eventually, the forestry department began to notice the changes that were happening in the community and increased their access to land.

"I made a decision to start agroforestry years ago, because I thought it would help us help people," explains Bok Chee. "First, it would allow us to



have a better life. Second, the techniques that it involved were so attractive, we wanted to learn. My third reason for wanting to join was to share with others."

"I JUST STARTED MY OWN
AGROFORESTRY PLOT BECAUSE I
FELT THAT IT COULD HELP PEOPLE."

Bok Chee's goal has always been to help his community, to lift up his neighbors, and to pass on a better life to future generations.

"I want my granddaughter to become educated. Her parents and her grandparents are not, but in the future, she could have the opportunity to work anywhere."



9.917 PARTNER FAMILIES 1,410,323 TREES PLANTED IN FY 2018 393 SUSTAINABLE **DEVELOPMENT GROUPS** CHURCH **PARTNERSHIPS**

TANZANIA

Led by Richard Mhina • Director: Floresta Tanzania • Year Founded: 2004

In fiscal year 2018, Plant With Purpose Tanzania established 37 new Sustainable Development Groups, making a total of 393 groups that are promoting a culture of savings among nearly 10,000 families. Groups are 70 percent female and empower women to support their families. In Tanzania, partnering families have 2.7 times the amount of savings as non-partnering families and are 63 percent more likely to send their daughters to secondary school. Additionally, Plant With Purpose families are planting over 10 times the number of trees that non-partnering families plant, and benefit from 38 percent higher crop yields. This past year, the Tanzania team received a certificate of recognition on World Environmental Day as an organization contributing to environmental restoration.

MADONNA'S STORY

THINGS REALLY HAVE CHANGED FOR THE BETTER

When Madonna's husband passed away, she was left with the challenge of providing for two children. Through discipleship, saving money, and restoring her land, Madonna lifted her family out of desperation, even sending both daughters to school.

She joined a Plant With Purpose group where she learned how to practice sustainable agriculture by planting trees amongst her crops, making compost, and growing more diverse crops.

"AN ANNUAL GROUP COMPETITION INCREASED OUR DETERMINATION TO PRACTICE THESE THINGS [...]"

"An annual group competition increased our determination to practice these things," she explains. "It helped get everybody involved. When it came to agriculture and caring for the environment, we felt equipped, and we were ready to take the work seriously. At the end of the year, that is why we saw positive results."

Madonna's group understood the val-



ue of cooperation. They produced a calendar to help them plan how to educate other community members. She also began saving money with her group to help make better use of the new income they were beginning to see, thanks to their healthy crops.

"Through this group, I was able to borrow money. Now I'm expecting to build a house as a way to invest my money."

The days of wondering how she would provide for her daughters are now just a memory for Madonna. A spirit of togetherness is what helped her group thrive. Plant With Purpose believes that environmental restoration and community development are part of restoring relationships among all of creation. As these relationships improve, communities become stronger.

UNITED STATES

Plant With Purpose was Founded: 1984

Plant With Purpose USA serves two major roles: to support and promote continued program improvement for our international partners, and to be a leading voice on faith, poverty, and the environment across the United States.

To promote program improvement, we conducted an extensive impact evaluation in the fall of 2017 and found that Plant With Purpose families have cut their level of poverty by two-thirds. Fiscal year 2018 also marked the completion of our pilot project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The evaluation of the pilot project showed that families in Kakumba have achieved in two years what we have seen take five to six years elsewhere. Success in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has set the groundwork to launch our newest project in Ethiopia in fiscal year 2019.

Plant With Purpose has also greatly expanded its efforts across the United States to become a leading voice on how Christians are called to steward the environment. Furthermore, we have begun developing a greater library of educational resources to be widely accessible online.

U.S. PARTNERS

KELLOGG GARDEN PRODUCTS

One of the ways that Plant With Purpose's mission spreads is through our U.S. partners. Kellogg Garden Products is one of our longest and strongest corporate partners. Kellogg's Corporate Social Responsibility is built around Genesis 2:15: "God took the man and put him into the garden to work and take care of it."

"KELLOGG AND PLANT WITH PURPOSE ARE KINDRED SPIRIT ORGANIZATIONS."

Kellogg does business with independent nurseries and garden centers. They often help transfer ideas and suggestions from one nursery to another and check up on those partnering nurseries to share in the customers' successes. "In this way, Kellogg and Plant With Purpose are kindred spirit organizations," says Kathy Kellogg (Co-Owner and Director of Sustainability).



The purchases of Eden Valley line of garden soils and the Paradise fertilizers all contribute \$1 per bag to Plant With Purpose. Kathy says: "I hope that recognition for Plant With Purpose's good work grows, and that it motivates purchases!"



FINANCIALS

2018		2017
	TOTAL	TOTAL
REVENUES AND SUPPORT		
Contributions and Grants	8,210,941	3,814,193
Interest and Dividend Income	2,886	8,405
TOTAL REVENUES	8,213,827	3,822,598
EXPENSES		
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES		
Africa	1,094,579	1,037,214
Latin America and Caribbean	1,523,206	1,691,743
Asia	176,292	187,676
US Awareness & Education	696,582	657,370
TOTAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES	3,490,659	3,574,003
SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES	812,704	809,006
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,303,363	4,383,009
NET ASSETS		
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$357,193	\$917,604
Change in Net Assets	3,910,464	(560,411)
Net Assets, End of Year	\$4,267,657	\$357,193

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

STATEMENT OF

	2018 TOTAL	2017 TOTAL
ASSETS		
Unreserved Cash & Cash Equivalents	92,092	79,867
Operating Reserves	916,684	173,134
TOTAL CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS	1,008,776	253,001
Unconditional Promises to Give	3,057,964	30,000
Prepaid Expenses	173,767	47,276
Other Assets	119,869	122,424
TOTAL ASSETS	4,360,376	452,701

	2018 TOTAL	2017 TOTAL
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	92,719	95,508
TOTAL LIABILITIES	92,719	95,508
Unrestricted Net Assets	918,841	(228,595)
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	3,292,266	529,238
Permanently Restricted Net Assts	56,550	56,550
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	4,360,376	452,701

FUNDING SOURCES 4% 1% 5% CHURCHES CORPS. SNOUTHOUGH

WHERE WE WORK



SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES: 19%



^{*} In FY2017 Haiti expenses included one-time relief funds for Hurricane Matthew.

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PARTNER ENDORSEMENT

Several years ago, Dieula began participating in our program in Fonds-Verrettes, Haiti. Since then, she has amazed us with her spirit of generosity and strength. As her life has changed, she has been deliberate about passing her blessings forward to others in her community.

This summer, our team was able to pay a visit to Dieula's farm. We asked her what she has to say to those who have supported the program.

■ To those of you who help Plant With Purpose move forward,

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ! Thank you for your support of Plant With Purpose. Your generosity has greatly benefited my community. I ask you to remain courageous and continue to support us. We will work hard to put your contributions to good use.

My community is doing well. Praise Jesus! Why are we so much happier now? Before, we did not have a secure source of water. Thanks to Plant With Purpose, we now have better access to water. I even have a cistern to store water, and I share

that water with others. For years we prayed for help, and God sent us Plant With Purpose.

Before, my hair was going gray from worrying and unsuccessfully seeking help. I had no business and my farm was failing. Thanks to Plant With Purpose, life looks different for myself and my family.

If my neighbors want to join and help, I am happy to show them the benefits of planting trees. I want them to understand that when you don't plant trees, the water comes and washes away the land.

I feel very blessed. Plant With Purpose helped me to understand things that I didn't understand before. They send good people to meet with us and train us in new techniques. As we begin to understand, we share that knowledge with others who still struggle.

Now, I want Plant With Purpose to continue work in Haiti. I have benefited from being a part of it. I hope others who are not will give it a try. This is my greatest hope.

-Dieula

Fonds-Verrettes, Haiti Partnering Farmer

DONOR ENDORSEMENT



Dr. Terry Townsend,

Agricultural economist and former executive director of the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC)

"I've seen hundreds of development projects, visiting more than 30 countries in Africa, South America, and South Asia, and none of them have approached the degree of effectiveness of Plant With Purpose. Development projects are always time-limited and are usually measured in terms of the money spent.

Projects end when the money is finished, whether lasting change has been achieved or not. When the money is gone, that's it. But Plant With Purpose uses a completely different mechanism of community empowerment that results in lasting change."



DEAR PARTNERS,

Plant With Purpose works upstream to bring life downstream. We organize our work around watersheds partly because what happens at the top of the watershed impacts everyone who lives below.

For example, if water is contaminated upstream, it is those who live downhill who suffer from waterborne illness. If a spring dries up due to deforestation, those downstream go thirsty.

Our upstream activities—environmental restoration, economic empowerment, and spiritual renewal—have other downstream impacts, too. As the land improves and people prosper, families achieve better nutrition, health, and housing. They send their children to school. They develop self-confidence. Women are empowered. Reconciliation takes place within and between communities, and faith becomes vibrant and relevant.

To make sure our activities actually accomplish this, we strive to regularly measure these impacts and adjust accordingly. This fall, we completed our triennial impact evaluation. We were gratified to see that partnering families have been able to reduce their level of poverty by an average of two-thirds. Meanwhile, target watersheds are becoming greener, counter to trends elsewhere. If you'd like to learn more, I am happy to send you a copy of our full impact evaluation report.

Lately I have been excited by outcomes that are even further downstream, as partners pay forward what they have received. For example, many Sustainable Development Groups have chosen to tithe group profits to their churches or poorer neighbors. Other groups are becoming centers for solving community problems. In Haiti, Sustainable Development Groups initiated and coordinated post-hurricane recovery efforts, often working in collaboration with each other. In the Dominican Republic, new groups have sprung up spontaneously, equipped with training and materials paid for by neighbors who were already partners. In Mexico, partners have formed a dynamic volunteer group to help churches with environmental stewardship. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, local churches make a habit of collaborating, and this summer worked together to care for 87 refugee families

who made their way into the watershed. In Tanzania, groups continue to voluntarily undertake watershed restoration projects, often seeing their stewardship as a visible demonstration of their faith.

Many of the more mature groups no longer need our support. They have completed our Sustainable Development Group training. They have accumulated capital to invest in their farms, communities, and businesses. They have finished our entire environment and agriculture curriculum, and learned how to test their own agricultural innovations without our assistance. Their churches are active in their communities and meeting the needs they see. Finally, members are growing in their faith as they put their talents to use for God's kingdom. This year, 146 groups formally graduated, and another 109 are scheduled to graduate in the coming year.

In 2015, we took a leap of faith when we launched the Plant for Tomorrow campaign with the goal of raising money to double the number of people we served while launching two new country programs. However, after a surplus in fiscal year 2015, when most of the campaign pledges came in, we had substantial deficits in 2016 and 2017. During that time we hired regionally-based fundraisers to sustain the new work when campaign funds ran out. Several times we described the interval between the time they were hired and the time they became productive as a trust fall. Happily, the strategy has proven itself. For the first time since 2015, we finished the year with a surplus. The new fundraising hubs are growing, and we expect to raise enough money to sustain and grow our new work for the long-term.

Looking ahead to fiscal year 2019, it is already time to begin work on a new strategic plan, which will take us to 2025. I look forward to convening our international leaders in the spring to begin this process. I am more excited than I have ever been to see where God leads us this year and beyond. It is an incredible privilege to participate in this work, and I am extremely grateful for your support.

Sincerely,

Scott C. Sabin Executive Director



YOUR GIFTS ARE CHANGING LIVES.

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