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Situation Report Haiti's Planting Seeds Requirements

Report Categories:

Planting Seeds

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Report Highlights:

Non-governmental organizations (NGO's), private businesses, Haiti's Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) are purchasing seeds from commercial Dominican and other country producers and distributors to sell and donate to farmers in Haiti. The DR's level of production, similar environmental conditions and proximity to Haiti makes the country a natural fit for supplying Haiti's seed needs for rice, beans, tubers, corn, potatoes, bananas and plantains. Nearly 80% of the seeds ordered by international organizations were delivered on time for the spring planting season.

Executive Summary:

Commercial production of seeds in the Dominican Republic (DR) has met demand this year in the Haiti relief effort to provide seeds and seedlings of rice, beans, tubers, corn, potatoes, bananas, and plantains to farmers. Similar environmental conditions and the Dominican Republic's (DR's) proximity to Haiti make the DR a natural fit for supplying Haiti's seed needs. Other seeds, such as vegetable and corn seeds were supplied by the United States, Brazil and other countries.

While USAID charged a reduced price for seeds in an attempt to set a trend of commercial sales of seeds replacing donations over time, other multi-nationals, such as the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN), Non Governmental Organizations (NGO's) and the Haitian Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) donated the seeds to the farmers. About 60-100 NGO's were involved in seed procurement and distribution, many of them distributing the seed procured by FAO and the UN. Post anticipates that the DR will continue to meet Haiti's demand for certain crops for the rest of the calendar year and beyond.

Even with all the infrastructure and political challenges in Haiti, at least 77% of the seeds ordered by international organizations were delivered on time for the spring planting season. Anecdotal information confirms that the vast majority of farmers who needed seed for the April planting season were able to obtain it.

In addition to seeds, FAO and NGO Floresta Ayiti distributed 24,000 tools, such as hoes, pruning knives, pick axes. FAO purchased 67% of the donated tools and Floresta Ayiti purchased 27%.

General Information:**Most Seeds Were Delivered in Time for the Spring Planting Season**

Donors tried to meet Haiti's seed needs before the main planting season in late April. Table 1 shows the delivery schedule of row crop seeds while table 2 shows the delivery schedule of seeds and seedlings for root crops, tubers and bananas.

Table 1 gives information from the largest players and shows that 5.3 million lbs of the 6.8 million lbs (77%) of row crop seeds requested for the spring planting season were delivered on time. This includes deliveries of 100 thousand pounds of rice, 2.4 million pounds of beans, 2.5 million pounds of corn, 258 thousand pounds of peas and 36 thousand pounds of vegetable seeds. The bulk part of the seeds delivered were corn and bean seeds, each at 46% of the total seeds delivered. The three largest seed purchasers were FAO (41% of seed all purchases), Taiwan (17%), and USAID (6%).

Please note that outside of the players listed below, roughly 60-100 smaller NGO's were involved in seed procurement and distribution. Some of them procured seed on their own and some distributed seed that MOA and FAO procured. Another \$5 million worth of row crop seeds, not noted in Table 1,

will be distributed by the end of June.

Organization abbreviations are spelled out in the index on page 8.

Table 1: Row Crop Seeds Procurement by Key Players

Type of seed	Origin	Quantity (thousand lbs)	Delivery Date	Purchaser
Vegetable seeds	International	4.2	March	FAO
Vegetable seeds	Unknown	0.1	March	ACDI/VOCA
Vegetable seeds	Unknown	4.4	March	VSF
Vegetable seeds	Unknown	8.2	March	USAID/WINNER
Vegetable seeds	Unknown	0.3	March	CARE
Vegetable seeds	Unknown	0.1	March	FHED,Inc
Vegetable seeds	Unknown	18.5	March	Project Prohuerta
Black beans	DR	220	March	FAO
Black beans	DR	704	March	FAO
Beans	Unknown	72.8	April	Oxfam
Beans	Unknown	165.3	April	Agro Action Germany
Beans	DR	881.8	April	Haiti Ministry of Agriculture (MARNDR)
Beans	Unknown	249.7	April	CRS Carita
Beans	Unknown	79.2	April	Floresta Ayiti
Beans	Unknown	39.7	April	Project Prohuerta
Peanuts	Unknown	33.6	April	CRS Caritas
Corn	Unknown	6.6	April	Agro Action Germany
Corn	Unknown	28.7	April	ACDI/VOCA
Corn	Unknown	37.5	April	CRS Caritas
Corn	Unknown	1.7	April	GVC
Corn	Unknown	8.8	April	VSF
Corn	Unknown	8.8	April	Diakonie
Corn	Unknown	101.4	April	Oxfam
Corn	Unknown	37.5	April	Project Huerta
Corn	United States	220.5	May	USAID/WINNER
Corn	Unknown	881.8	Not Delivered	MARNDR
Corn-Hybrid	United States	58.9	April	USAID/WINNER
Corn, Comayagua var.	DR	990	March	FAO
Corn, long French	DR	220	March	FAO
Corn, Hugo variety	DR	770	March	Taiwan
Rice, Prosequisa 4	DR	60	April	Taiwan
Rice, Prosequisa 4	DR	40	March	Taiwan
Rice	Unknown	187.4	Not Yet Purchased	MARNDR
Congo Peas	Unknown	75	April	Oxfam
Congo Peas	Unknown	24.7	April	CRS Caritas
Congo Peas	Unknown	0.6	April	GVC
Congo Peas	Unknown	4.4	April	ACDI/VOCA

Type of seed	Origin	Quantity (thousand lbs)	Delivery Date	Purchaser
Cowpeas	DR	110	To be confirmed	FAO
Pigeon peas	DR –IDIAF	14.7	½ April & ½ May	FAO
Pigeon peas	DR –IDIAF	9.5	To be confirmed	FAO
Pigeon peas	DR -IICA	50	To be confirmed	IICA-Haiti
Strain Peas	DR	22	April	Oxfam
Strain Peas	DR	66.1	April	CRS Caritas
Sorghum	United States	90.3	Not Yet Purchased	USAID / WINNER
Sorghum	Unknown	55.1	Not Yet Purchased	MARNDR
Sorghum	Unknown	4.4	Not Yet Purchased	ACDI/VOCA
Sorghum	Unknown	19.8	Not Yet Purchased	Diakonie
Sorghum	Unknown	123.5	Not Yet Purchased	Oxfam
Sorghum	Unknown	22	Not Yet Purchased	CRS Caritas
Total Row Crop Seeds Delivered	Percent Delivered On Time	Total Planned Purchases		
5.3 million lbs	77%	6.8 million lbs		

*Sources: FAO, IICA, IDIA, Haiti Ministry of Agriculture, and industry.
Organization abbreviations are spelled out in the index on page 6.*

Table 2 shows that 32,000 pounds of seeds of root crops, tubers and bananas were procured and delivered.

Table 2: Major Players in Root Crops, Tubers and Banana Seed and Seedling Procurement

Origin	Type of Seed or Seedling	Quantity (thousand lbs)	Delivery Date	Purchaser
Unknown	Yams	30	April	ACDI/VOCA
	Yams	0.1	April	Oxfam
	Yams	0	April	CRS/Caritas
Unknown	Cassava	1.9	April	Oxfam
DR	Sweet Potato 1/	5.5	April	Oxfam
DR	Sweet Potato 1/	4.4		ACDI/VOCA
Unknown	Sweet Potato 1/	5.5	Not Delivered	MARNDR
DR	Bananas, in vitro plants 1/	74	TBD next 90 days	FAO
DR	Bananas, in vitro plants 1/	100	TBD	IICA-Haiti
DR	Bananas, in vitro plants 1/	100	Delivered March 2010	FAO
Total Procurement	32,000 pounds of seeds and 274,000 seedlings			

Sources: FAO, IICA, IDIA, Haiti Ministry of Agriculture, and Industry.

Organization abbreviations are spelled out in the index on page 5.

1/ Indicates seedlings or in vitro plants.

List of Dominican Seed Distributors and Availability

The main Dominican seed and seedling suppliers are private sector producers and farmers associations who receive assistance from the Dominican Ministry of Agriculture. In addition, wholesalers either import seeds from the United States and/or purchase them from local producers. Dominican seeds and seedlings for fruits, vegetables, potato and tubers, such as cassava, sweet potato, yams, and dasheen are available.

Dominican rice seed production areas are scattered throughout the flatlands where water is readily available such as north of Santo Domingo towards Nagua, the Bonao and San Francisco Valley and the North West towards Santiago and Monte Christi. Please note that even though volumes of corn produced in the DR are normally low, some corn seed has been sent to Haiti. The DR's PROSEQUISA 4 rice variety has been widely used in Haiti because this variety produces a second crop simply by leaving the root stock of the first crop in the ground after harvest.

Table 3: DR Producers of Seeds and Seedlings and Product Availability

Distributor	Type	Variety	Quantity Available
Instituto Dominicano de Investigaciones Agropecuarias y Forestales (IDIAF) Rafael Perez Duvergé, Director 809-563-9620 pduverge@idiaf.org.do	Rice	Taichun	12 CWT
	Cassava	NA	Unknown
	Sweet Potato		
	Yams	NA	Unknown
	Dasheen	NA	Unknown
		NA	Unknown

Asoc. de Productores de San Juan de la Maguana Fertilizantes Químicos Dominicanos (FERQUIDO) 2/ Isabel Abreu 809-530-5598 labreu@gruponajri.com.do	Beans	Black PROSEQUISA	500 CWT
	Rice	4	4.000 CWT
Junta Agroempresarial Dominicana (JAD) 809-567-6178 Calle Euclides Morillo 51 Santo Domingo	Tubers	NA	Unknown
Instituto de Innovación en Biotecnología e Industria (IIBI) Contact: Alejandro Tabar; Phone 809-566-8121; alejandro.tabar@gmail.com	Dasheen 1/	NA	15,000 per month
	Yams 1/	NA	15,000 per month
	Sweet Potato1/	NA	100,000 per month (Available in July at the latest)
	Cassava	NA	
Abastecimiento del Caribe S.A. (ADCSA) 809-476-0945 GM Ricart 90 Santo Domingo National District	Yams	NA	Unknown
	Dasheen	NA	
	Potato	NA	Unknown

1/ Indicates cuttings and/or seedlings

2/ FERQUIDO had reserved 4,000 CWT of PROSEQUISA 4 rice variety, which has been widely used in Haiti, because this variety produces a first crop and a re-growth crop.

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Table 4: Dominican Wholesalers of Seeds

Seed Wholesalers PROCEDOSA Miguel Tineo 809-247-2525 prosedoca@codetel.net.do
AGROCENTRO Felipe Mejia 809-582-0025/330-9111 agrocentro@codetel.net.do
ADOSEMILLAS, Roberto Castillo 809-258-4638/532-3060 arcastillo@hotmail.com
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Index: List of Abbreviations:

- ACDI/VOCA - Agricultural Cooperative Development International and Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance
 - CARE – Care International Relief Organization
 - FHED, Inc – American Haitian Federation
 - GVC - Gruppo di Volontariato Civile, Italy
 - IICA – Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
 - MARNDR – Haiti Ministry of Agriculture
 - USAID – United States Agency for International Development
- VSF - Veterinaire Sans Frontiers; Belgium NGO