



TV

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HAITI: DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURE

VIDEO

SYLFANE JEAN WALKS

TOWARDS MARKET

SYLFANE JEAN AT MARKET

SYLFANE JEAN BUYS RICE

SYLFANE JEAN ON CAMERA

AUDIO

NARRATION

Whenever Sylfane Jean has a little money, she comes to this market in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, to buy food. She has a job cleaning houses that pays her a couple dollars a day. It used to be enough to live on. But these days, it's barely enough to feed her family of four. In the past year, the price of rice alone has more than tripled, leaving many people hungry. (22")

Recent global gas hikes are pushing up the cost of living even more. Analysts warn that Haiti may become the epicenter of a regional food crisis affecting all of Latin America. For Sylfane, her biggest worry is getting through the week with her meager salary of 15 dollars. (16")

SYLFANE JEAN: (Creole) F

"Last year you could buy a lot with 15 dollars. Now you can only buy three tins of food. It's awful." (6.2")

NARRATION

MARKET

Haiti depends on imported rice as its staple food, leaving it especially vulnerable to market fluctuations. But the country may have a more home-grown solution to combat its food crisis. (10.5")

MAN FARMING

Agronomists say the country could grow enough food to feed everyone. But they need to move away from consuming so much rice, and start diversifying local agriculture. (8.2")

FARMERS IN FIELD

The Artibonite Valley was once the country's breadbasket, but it's under-producing. One of the big reasons is cheap, imported rice. It's made growing local staple crops like corn, potatoes, and plantains, unappealing to farmers. Agronomists with the Food and Agriculture Organization are working to reintroduce traditional staples. (19")

VARIOUS CROPS

SAMUEL DAYITI WITH FARMERS

Samuel Dayiti is a project manager for the FAO. He's visiting these farmers to see the progress they've made in their fields of potatoes. (7.25")

SAMUEL DAYITI ON CAMERA

SAMUEL DAYITI: (Creole) **M**

"This is a diversified zone. Now we have sweet potatoes, but if you came here two months ago, you'd see beans. During the year, farmers can plant three to four different crops." (10.3")

NARRATION

FARMER IN A FIELD

The farmers are learning new techniques to fertilize, and fight pests. Yields have increased

by 300 percent, from five to 15 tons of produce per hectare. Oreus Ognés has been participating in the project for the last six months. (13.5")

OREUS OGNES ON CAMERA

OREUS OGNES: (Creole) **M**

"There is a proverb that says, better than giving a man food is to teach him to fish. They've taught us to fish, now we can feed ourselves." (7.5")

SYLFANE WALKS HOME

NARRATION

But for the people struggling in the cities, like Sylfane, it will be a long time before they feel the effects of advances in local agriculture. The population is hungry, and weary of political instability. Improving local agriculture may help make Haiti more self-sufficient in food in the future. But finding enough to eat today is the biggest worry on everyone's minds. (21")

SYLFANE UNPACKS RICE
AT HOME AND PEELS
MANGO FOR HER SONS

SYLFANE JEAN: (Creole) **F**

SYLFANE JEAN ON CAMERA

"I put my hope in God, not people. The price of gas is going up, the food is going up, how can I put my faith in the government? I just pray to God." (7.75")

BOYS EAT MANGO / SACKS
OF RICE

NARRATION

Until the new crops are grown, Haitians will have to try to make do with imported rice. (5")

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Amelia Shaw and Blagoje Grujic for the United Nations.

