



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

SUCCESS STORY

PISA: Growing vanilla into a high value crop in Haiti

PISA Cacao and Vanilla project goal is to sustainably increase revenues in existing and new APROCANO-members cacao plantations through improved agricultural techniques, increased access to high-value export markets and the introduction of intercropped vanilla, while building demand for Haitian specialty cacao and vanilla in the international market.



PISA technical team member teaching cacao farmers how to tie up vanilla vine to cacao tree

PISA works with cacao farmers to increase their income by intercropping vanilla into their cacao production model.

Over the past few years, PISA has been experimenting with vanilla production and recently obtained positive and significant results in the vanilla post-harvest process by approaching producers, whose plots showed recurrent production of vanilla beans through natural pollination.

PISA seized this opportunity to support owners of plots where natural pollination of vanilla is occurring to harvest vines and produce cuttings for distribution to cacao farmers. PISA has produced and distributed 1,150 of these vanilla cuttings to 40 farmers in Makaty and Baryè Blanch in Acul du Nord so far. These cacao producers will receive on the ground technical support from the PISA team throughout the entire process to establish vanilla as a high-value crop in Haiti.

"In addition to distributing 25 to 50 cuttings of vanilla to each cacao farmer, based on their plot size, the PISA technical team will train cacao producers on vanilla cultivation, care, and harvest. Next summer, we will evaluate the condition of the planted vines and redistribute the same amount per cacao producers and continue to provide technical support such that they can produce vanilla cuttings on their own." Nocelyn Preval, junior agronomist.





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Dessources Jaqueson, cacao producer from Makaty planting a vanilla cutting

Dessources Jaqueson, cacao producer, remembers when PISA began purchasing wet cacao in the Makaty community in 2014. *“When PISA first arrived in our community, we were interested in the highest price offered. Eight years after, we know that PISA produces better cacao through good post-harvest processing. But most of all we are happy and grateful to be able to grow with PISA. We trust PISA to do the same with vanilla!”*

We project that cacao producers in Makaty and Baryè Blanch will produce quality vanilla beans by 2025. Then, PISA will launch a profitable vanilla market system that will benefit cacao producers and help them increase their incomes.

