Haiti’s rural farming communities have been historically marginalized and disenfranchised, without appropriate support from the State for rural development. In this context, peasant farmers must resort to self-organization to develop and spread sustainable farming innovations. Similarly, in order to sustainably grow local economies, they need to reduce dependence on intermediaries and address the growing consumption of cheap, imported, processed foods.

**Description of the Innovation**

Since 2009, Partenariat pour le Developpement Local (PDL), as a member of the Groundswell International network, has supported smallholder farmers through a process of reflection and action, to form self-led solidarity groups of 8 to 15 members called gwoupman. By forming coordination structures within and across communities, 16 peasant associations with some 20,000 members have been established. They lead activities including farmer experimentation and farmer-to-farmer extension of agroecology, complemented by savings and credit cooperatives, seed banks and grain banks. Since 2016, gwoupman have established 13 micro-enterprises to process their agricultural produce for sale to local consumers.

**Benefit for Family Farmers and Food and Nutrition Security**

Organized smallholder farmers are owners of all steps, from production to processing to marketing. Food and nutrition security of farmers as well local consumers is enhanced.

**Social, Economic and Environmental Impacts**

Approximately 10,000 farmers have established agroecological ‘model’ farms, regenerating over 1,000 hectares of degraded land. Thirteen micro-enterprises are allowing some of them to increase income from processing and sale of their products. Peasant associations, which lead holistic local development processes, are strengthened. They are fostering a circular economy based on agroecology, social solidarity and local food culture.