



PPAF Insider

Donate

March 16, 2020

Public Private Alliance Foundation

Dear Friends,

The work of PPAF and its partners in promoting, educating about and providing clean cookstoves to Haitian families directly impacts health, economics and well-being. Solar and biogas cooking make a dynamic pair, saving trees and money and reducing toxic emissions. The effluent from biodigesters makes great fertilizer. Combined, these features help protect the environment and combat climate change.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) recently reported the extent to which deteriorating economic conditions in Haiti in 2019, caused by political instability and shortfalls of rain, have had impact on the humanitarian situation of the people. OCHA predicts that in 2020, 4.6 million Haitians, about 40% of the total population, should need urgent humanitarian assistance.

Now, with the coronavirus COVID-19 a threat in most countries worldwide, we are concerned at what this will mean for a population and health system like that in Haiti. We are in touch with Father Herald, Vice-Rector at the university center in Hinche, and we will be watching this closely.

[Donate here.](#)

What can YOU do? Donate to ensure that more partnerships are formed and more solar cookers and biodigesters can be purchased. Educate those around you on the present situation in Haiti so all can be aware of what is occurring and can consider supporting our programs.

Warm regards,

David

David Stillman, PhD

Executive Director

Crisis and Coping

Very much on our minds in recent months has been the political and humanitarian crisis in Haiti, with the country locked down by huge demonstrations and blockades. Only by the end of the year did tensions ease enough for roads, schools and businesses to reopen, and insecurity still persists. Food and fuel have been hard to get and their prices have skyrocketed. Now a new threat is coming in the form of COVID-19. We believe that if solar and biogas cooking and garden fertilizer were more widely available, people would be more independent and less crushed in such conditions.

Programs and Accomplishments

In January was the 10th anniversary of Haiti's terrible earthquake, which had led to PPAF's involvement there. As part of the remembrance and looking forward, friends in the Smallholder Farmers Alliance issued a publication entitled "Voices of Hope for Haiti's Future." It highlights the recent work and accomplishments of 46 organizations or projects, including PPAF and our collaborators.

At the University Notre Dame d'Haiti-Hinche, the second group of university students is now active. They are learning in class and in practice the benefits of solar cookers, biodigesters and biogas and how to fertilize and maintain the new tree nursery on campus. The Vice-Rector has appointed an additional instructor and sharpened the job descriptions for both of them. PPAF has provided a new round of funding for the semester, which is being matched by the university. Our collaborating experts have prepared updated and expanded teaching materials, including revisions to manuals and lesson plans and new PowerPoints. The biogas expert put these materials on a flash drive and the solar cooking expert handed these over during a monitoring visit in January.



At the Art Creation Foundation for Children in Jacmel a second group of students has taken up a new round of classes too, with PPAF support. The cooking and sewing instructors and students are doing their best, despite shortages of electricity and other elements of instability. The cooking class has undertaken the first efforts at assembly of and experimentation with solar cookers.



In Port-au-Prince and nationwide the “My Space” clubs of the Haiti Adolescent Girls Network help build self-confidence and life skills. The program has benefitted from PPAF inputs toward financial literacy and income generation. We were also able to bring a senior staff member to speak in a festival program on Haiti at Purchase College of the State University of New York and to meet with several PPAF board members and senior fellows.



Special Recognition

We are delighted to report on good work and recognition of it for two of our expert colleagues, Rose Bazile and Kathy Puffer.

Rose has been elected as a member of the Global Advisory Council of Solar Cookers International. Members of that body are recognized regional experts in solar cooking advocacy, usage and programmatic outreach. They regularly consult with SCI board and staff members, and provide insights and leverage that further the global implementation of the solar cooking sector. Rose has written, “It is my pleasure to teach others usage and benefits of solar cooking.”

Kathy has been elected as a member of the U.S. Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to the International Organization for Standardization/Technical Committee 285 “Clean cookstoves and clean cooking solutions” (ISO/TC 285). The American National Standards Institute is the TAG administrator, with technical and financial support from the Clean Cooking Alliance. Kathy will be able to add to this her expertise in biogas.



“Sunshine is Free” Interview

Voices of Leaders (VoL), a Spanish interactive E-magazine focused on environmental issues, recently published an interview with Caitlyn Hughes, Executive Director of Solar Cookers International (SCI) and Alan Bigelow, PhD, its Science Director. The interview highlighted SCI’s work around the world for advocacy, capacity-building and research, including recent support to teaching in Kenya, India, and Haiti.

In a part of the magazine article, they discussed the “first-ever in Haiti” course on solar and biogas cooking at the University Notre Dame d’Haiti at Hinche, where PPAF, Solar CITIES Global Biogas Education, KDCK, Solar Education Project/GDS, Solar Household Energy and SCI are all involved. Alan mentioned the synergy between solar and biogas, and Caitlyn noted the many benefits of solar cooking at the individual, community and global levels. We would like to thank them and SCI for their great involvement and support. See pages 10 - 16 for the whole interview!

See: <https://vol.media/magazines/vkalk67u5e3d9768387d32.40597996/>

CONSOLFOOD 2020

Jennifer Gasser and Mary Buchenic, of Solar Education Project/GDS, attended CONSOLFOOD 2020, the 3rd International Conference on Solar Food Processing and Solar Cooking, held at the University of Algarve in Portugal. They made a presentation on networking to advance solar cookers as an educational tool, had a display about their work and highlighted the collaboration with PPAF and others in Haiti. Mary wrote: “It’s a real thrill to be hearing about solar food processing work from activists and researchers around the world.”



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HOW YOU CAN WORK WITH THE FOUNDATION

Your gift is your way to be a part of our work. Your contributions make it possible for the Foundation to continue our work in bringing organizations and people together for sustainable development and clean energy. “Like” us on [Facebook](#), view our videos on YouTube, join us on [LinkedIn](#) and receive our [Twitter](#) feeds.

(1) **Donate Directly.** It's quick, safe and easy to give online. Go to www.pfafoundation.org and click on the donation button you prefer. Please consider a monthly gift. You can also mail a check directly to Dr. David Stillman, PPAF, 166 Edgars Lane, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706, USA. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Its EIN is **71-1016293**.

(2) **Become a Corporate Sponsor.** You'll be listed on our website and in our newsletter as a corporation that supports important work in agribusiness, clean energy, and broad assistance to people in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Madagascar. Contact David Stillman at ppafoundation@gmail.com

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