



Public Private Alliance Foundation

PPAF Insider

December 30, 2021

Happy New Year!

By David Stillman - PPAF Executive Director

I am writing to thank all of you who have contributed to PPAF's work in the past year or who continue to place our programs and people in your thoughts and prayers. Please join us in whatever way you can.

As we look toward 2022 we mourn the loss of lives and property in Haiti over the past year. The rule of law has diminished and Haitians endured several terrible shocks the assassination of the president, an earthquake devastating parts of the southwest, and hurricane flooding on the southern coast. The government, the economy, the humanitarian situation, and criminal activities of gangs are all problematic. Fortunately, our collaborators are located well outside the capital city where these problems are most severe. They have mostly been able to continue their work in Hinche, Jacmel and Cotes de Fer.

Both Madagascar and Haiti have experienced widespread food shortages. PPAF has made some contributions for funds related to COVID and recently to education in Madagascar. However, PPAF works in development and does not have meaningful resources to act as a relief agency.

At the university in Hinche the solar and bio course included frequent off-campus events during the first semester, which ended in May, and more of a focus on classroom work in the second semester, which ended in August. A new academic season began in November. The campus biodigester is nourishing the tree nursery and garden.

At the training center for low-income youth in Jacmel, our support continues for weekly classes on solar cooking and on sewing. We receive photos of the progress being made, and the kids take home a solar cooker at the end of the 10-week session.

In Hinche a recent graduate of the university often takes his solar cooker for demonstrations around town, and he posts the results on social media. This has sparked interest by leaders of a community organization that is devoted to local improvements and aims to promote solar cooking. University - community collaborations are being discussed.

At the community center in Cotes de Fer, which is off-grid and designed for resource independence and sustainability, the biodigester we provided and the solar cookers provided by others are put to use for cooking gas, garden fertilizer, and a cooking class

for persons aiming toward food service jobs. PPAF will support travel to Haiti in January by the Center's founder, Rose Bazile.

Since July a colleague and his neighbor in Jacmel have been sending us regular reports and photos of solar cooking. Together we designed a data sheet that captures the basics. Two devoted and capable "Volunteer New York" volunteers are analyzing the data and creating montages that will be used in publications and displays.

Soupe Joumou - Haiti's gift to the world

Haiti has a special Holiday soup. Soupe Joumou, made from turban squash many other ingredients. It was originally cooked by enslaved African people for their owners in Haiti. Since Haiti gained independence in 1804, the soup has become a national celebratory dish. Just this month UNESCO has included the soup on its prestigious list of intangible cultural heritage. You can see an article about this [here](#). In the latest round of tests from Jacmel, Soeurette & Fedno produced a batch of this soup on their solar cooker. It is a proud achievement. Here are some photos.







Photos by Fedno Lubin

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