



Christian Aid/Amanda Farrant

‘We are committed to the dairy’ - Jean Anel

Milk chilling at one of Veterimed’s dairies

Let milk flow in Haiti

Dairy production in Haiti is small-scale and inefficient; most producers have just one or two cows, and may not even own them. Veterimed’s ‘Let Agogo’ (‘flowing milk’) project, supported by Christian Aid, helps farmers organise themselves and set up a local dairy, providing employment as well as a market for the farmers’ milk.

The ‘Let Agogo’ (‘flowing milk’) project helps farmers organise themselves to raise money for the building of a local dairy in which they are stakeholders. The dairy provides employment to the local community as well as a market for the farmers’ milk. Veterimed provides training, equipment, helps establish the milk-processing activities, transport to carry the processed dairy products to local markets, supermarkets, shops and restaurants. In the capital, home deliveries are also undertaken. Profits from the dairy are given back to the farmer stakeholders in the form of equipment to benefit the community – such as a water storage facility – or in cash, depending upon the needs of the farmers.

Local farmer Jean Anel says, ‘Sometimes once we have sold our milk to the dairy, people come to us and want to buy milk directly from us but we don’t have any to sell. Individuals are willing to pay much more [than we get from selling to the dairy]. But we are committed to the dairy.’

Rebuilding after the storms

In September 2008, hurricanes Gustav and Ike and tropical storms Fay and Hanna hit Haiti, leaving more than 600 dead and up to a million homeless.

Veterimed was able to deliver help quickly and safely because of its close ties to the community. It was able to identify the most vulnerable people, helping them before disease and hunger took more lives. Veterimed also organised the distribution of rice, beans, cooking oil, matches, dried fish and corn meal to more than 500 families. This assistance has meant families can now survive until they can grow their own food and rear their own livestock again.

Farmers lost crops, seeds and livestock, and getting supplies to the Bon Repos Dairy was very difficult because the cows’ grazing land was almost completely flooded. Some production was lost at the dairy for ten days but the dairy was up and running again after only two weeks. Veterimed is now looking at ways of improving drainage for farmland to maintain the value of the cultivated land.



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Despite the storms that battered the country last autumn, the Veterimed dairy was running again within only two weeks

