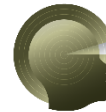


# Report for the GPN 2022 Farmer's Empowerment Workshops



## ICKL and UWI through the SALISES



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**Creating Alternative Modes Of Development Cooperation For Food Sovereignty And Reparatory Justice, Especially For Afro-Descendant Farmers**

**Jamaica, Haiti and Ghana**

**June 23, 2022 and September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**January 3, 2023**

## Background and Motivation

For countries in the Global South development cooperation remains rooted in what has been labeled as a 'coloniality of power' (Quijano, 2000). This multidimensional phenomenon of coloniality extends the negative impacts of colonialism even after the independence for Southern countries. Thus, despite several decades of development aid and cooperation, largely shaped by neoliberal structural adjustment policies for finance in debt constrained States, the vast majority of these countries remain confined to the role of producers of raw materials for the large industries of the countries of the North, sources of cheap labor for relocated multinationals, or importers of consumer goods. These dependent economies are primarily oriented towards satisfying the needs of international markets to the detriment of local needs. Under these conditions, the people of the South, especially the working classes, are unable to satisfy their primary needs, including those related to their *right to food*.

In the Caribbean, and most visibly in Haiti, these states of unequal and dependent development, -rooted in histories of European and North American imperialism, slavery, colonialism, racial capitalism and plantation systems - have caused high levels of political, social, economic and, environmental vulnerability and relatedly, extreme food vulnerability. Moreover, climate change and other global drivers of socio-environmental, socio-economic and political change are accelerating and deepening these vulnerabilities.

Despite being faced with such development challenges, current patterns of North South development cooperation and aid policy, as led, for example, by the World Bank and European Union, do not take into consideration the impact of colonial and racial legacies in the present. However, the health crisis of COVID-19, which pushed millions more into hunger and food insecurity, revealed that the vulnerabilities experienced have been most severely felt by racialized bodies, spaces and States. In particular, Afro-descendant rural communities and indigenous peoples in the Caribbean region and Global South have experienced the greater negative brunt of these global crises, including increases in the level of hunger and food insecurity. This situation has led to a renewed interest in, and need for, initiatives to build food sovereignty in these countries, create alternative modes of development cooperation and advance the cause of reparatory justice.

## Methodology

In response to these aforementioned challenges and issues, the Karl Lévêque Cultural Institute (ICKL) and the University of West Indies, through the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies, (SALISES), co-organized two Global Partnership Network farmers' empowerment events hosted on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and September 29<sup>th</sup> 2022, under the theme "Creating Alternative Development Cooperation for Food Sovereignty and Reparatory Justice, especially for Afro-descendant Farmers." Our collaboration with the Ghana Permaculture Institute (GPI)- a partner in the GPN- was also important for the realization of these international workshops and their empowerment objectives. The exchanges took place in the form of invited panel discussions and presentations from the GPI, the State University of Haiti, The University of the West Indies, The Agriculture Alliance of the Caribbean, The State of the African Diaspora and the Universal Negro Improvement Association. This was complemented by small closed group reflections by farmers and advocacy organization members and open plenary discussions. There were 71

persons registered for the first workshop, with 52 in final attendance. The closed farmers group discussions, with male and female farmers from Haiti, Ghana and Jamaica, took place during the first hybrid workshop event. For the second event, the session was fully virtual and 90 persons registered, with a final attendance rate of 52 persons. Overall, 104 persons, representing Farmers, Farmers Organisation and other stake holder institutions, students of agriculture and other interested parties were in attendance for both events.

## Aims

These workshops- hosted in hybrid and virtual formats- offered an opportunity for us first, to study the consequences of colonial, neoliberal and extractive models of development cooperation on the project of food sovereignty in the South, particularly in the context of Haiti, Jamaica and Ghana, and second, to explore alternative options for development cooperation based on the principle of reparatory justice in favor of the peasants and peoples of the South. Our goals were to support:

1. Enhanced Understanding and Information to Analyze the challenges of development cooperation for the project of food sovereignty in the countries of the South,
2. Reflection on the socio-economic barriers for the viability of food sovereignty initiatives in a macro-economic context in the South characterized fundamentally by foreign direct investments,
3. Enhanced awareness and knowledge of alternative South-South development cooperation options: what could work best, and how this could be mobilized.
4. Enhanced awareness of alternative financing and how this could be mobilized from the exchange of ideas
5. Constructing own proposals on alternative financing principles and mechanisms for the construction of a food sovereignty project in the South,
6. Identification of the principles of and vital components for reparatory justice in reshaping modes of development cooperation for food sovereignty.

**These goals were achieved based on the knowledge shared in both events, critical ideas and proposal advanced from the farmers' closed session, and given the final set of recommendations and principles advanced in the final position statement shared.**

In our first workshop we addressed the impact of neoliberal models of development on specific agro-industries, rice and sugar and we contrasted and reviewed the development models that are used by organizations catering to the needs of Afrodescendant peoples in the Caribbean and Africa.

**This first workshop** focused on the following questions:

- **What types of development cooperation and aid policy orientations** have been used and are being promoted by development cooperation agents, with special reference to food; why/ for what end?
- **What are the contradictions, silences and limitations in development experiences based on such mainstream development agendas?** How are they negatively affecting or undermining the project of food sovereignty in countries of the South-Haiti, Jamaica/Caribbean, Africa?
- **What kind of South –South development cooperation can we create based on our experiences of what works and what does not?**

**In our second workshop** we examined the question of debt and reparatory justice and explored reparation principles and approaches which emanate from the priorities of Global South partners in Africa and from the African Diaspora in the Caribbean. Our core questions were:

- **What is the debt owing** to former enslaved and colonized peoples in the Caribbean and Global South? How must the terms for development cooperation be changed *to end dispossession given the principles of reparatory justice?*
- **How could reparatory justice claims contribute** to alternative asset mobilization for *transformational food systems given Afrodescendant people's own priorities for reparation?*
- **What alternative reparation mechanisms can be created**, or have been created, *for advancing the food sovereignty project in the South-Caribbean and Africa given Afro-descendent people's rights to reparatory justice?*

Out of these workshops a final position paper was developed and circulated to all the participants, and can be found in the a appendix.

Based on these two interventions, we committed to the following 10 principles:

1. Create local seed banks, local knowledge banks and data bases for protecting our biodiversity, sharing innovative technology around food sovereignty and supporting philosophical principles and visions supporting ecosystems such as permaculture;
2. Fight for agricultural policies that are adapted to the needs of local communities, protective of the environment and promote agriculture as a viable profession;
3. Continue our struggle for the implementation of public policies (agricultural, commercial, infrastructural, and fiscal) protecting peasants and family farming by inscribing our actions in the 2018 UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other peoples working in rural areas; and in a perspective of *reconquering the political sovereignty of our peoples in the South;*
4. Promoting knowledge exchange programmes between farmers and between communities of the Global South to rebuild the capacity of social and popular movements engaged in the project of food sovereignty;
5. Promote the marketing of our food ourselves, especially through local networks, new Pan-African agriculture trade and business exchange mechanisms and South-South cooperation;
6. Fight for the return of our germplasm extracted under colonial and neocolonial relations, and for equitable relationships in agricultural value chains.

7. Constitute a work team to elaborate well documented files on the *total debt* of the former colonizing countries towards the former colonies, notably in the Caribbean;
8. Join existing initiatives on the issue of reparatory justice for Afro-descendant and African peoples;
9. Address the issue of reparation both within the framework of international solidarity and by taking into account the specific realities of each country concerned, for example through hosting citizen or popular courts on reparation;
10. Organize awareness-raising initiatives among social and popular movements in Western countries on the need for reparation for slavery and the neo-colonial mechanisms of resource plundering in the South.