



Camp Coq is home to an array of active and collaborative local organizations working for the environmental and economic improvement of the area. Their activities include reforestation, cash crop development, and hand-made artisan products.



What can other communities learn from Camp Coq?

- * Reforestation and soil conservation techniques
- * Bamboo artisanry



History of the community

Camp Coq is one of the sections of the commune of Limbe, approximately an hour and a half west of Cap Haitian along Rt National #1. It lies along a major river, in a mountainous area where there are active goldmines. According to a local legend, the village was named by Jean Jacques Dessalines on his travels in the north before the Haitian revolution when he marched upon it at dawn as the roosters were crowing, dubbing it “Champs de Coq”, which has since been changed to “Camp Coq”.

It is an agricultural community, known primarily for producing yams and black beans.

Summary of the work

Camp Coq is home to an array of active, collaborative local organizations.

In the 1980s, the state of deforestation in the community was taking a toll on the lives and livelihoods of the population. In 1989 an organization called KOREPA was formed in order work on the reforestation of the mountains surrounding the community. It also promoted the growing of yams and other key crops, teaching the population how to make them more productive and providing starter plants. Since then, they have been scaling up their activities, and have recently partnered with USAID to complete some large-scale soil conservation, tree nursery, and riverbank protection projects.

Another one of those organizations is ODCC (Organisation for the Development of Camp Coq), which is relatively young (only established 2 years ago). It was founded on a system of community bean planting, where members would volunteer their land for a season to plant a common crop of beans, which would be used as seed for other community members and the excess sold to send local children to school or other support other social projects. The president is a young artist who is currently training other youth how to make artisan pieces out of bamboo, such as pens and picture frames. The organization has hopes to protect the environment by promoting bamboo cultivation in the mountains as well as basic civic actions such as volunteer street cleaning.

There are other community organizations in Camp Coq that have mobilized to build Camp Coq its own police station and cathedral.

All of these organizations collaborate tightly and fluidly around a series of community priorities, such as reforestation, agricultural production, and the overall development of Camp Coq.



What can other communities learn from Camp Coq?

The people of Camp Coq have developed a great deal of experience in reforestation and soil conservation, including how to manage difficult rivers. They are considered as local experts in yam cultivation.

The youth of Camp Coq are also becoming experts how to make artisan work out of bamboo, and are constantly developing new ideas and products.

Camp Coq has much to teach others about the nature of collaboration within communities, and how to use formal and informal partnerships to divide up community responsibilities and priorities.

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