

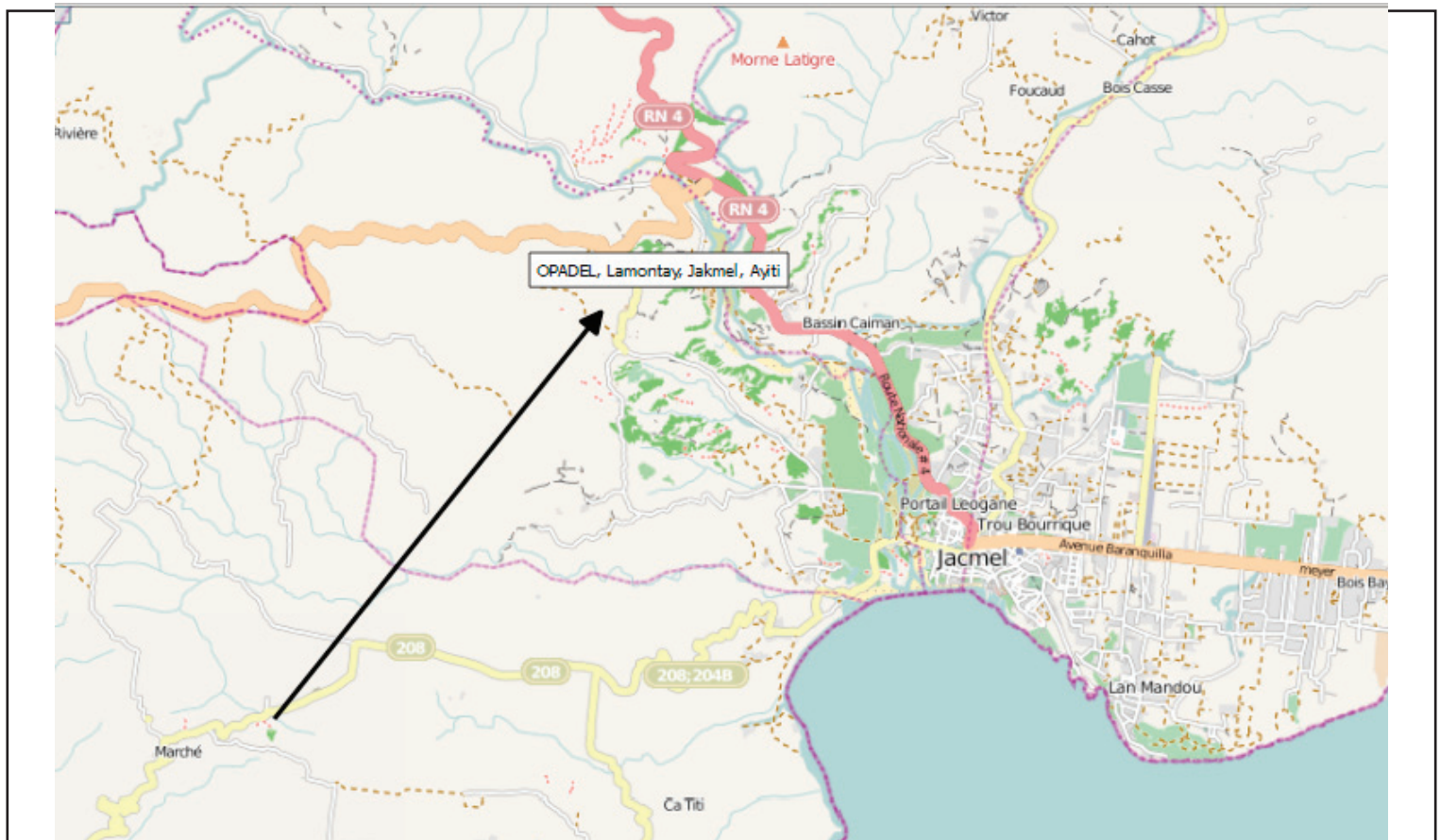


The Organization of Peasants of La Montagne (OPADEL) is an umbrella organizations for a series of local groups promoting the development of the community through a range of activities. These include: farmers network, womens cooperative, a cooperative for the promotion of early education, and a sustainable housing initiative.



## What can other communities learn from OPADEL?

- \* Improved mountain-side agricultural practices
- \* Anti-seismic building, gabion-construction



## History of the organization

La Montagne is a community at the top of one of the mountains surrounding Jacmel. Like most mountainous communities, its population lives mostly of subsistence agriculture. Many of the youth of La Montagne left the community to study in Jacmel, Port au Prince, or abroad. In 2004, a group of youth who had left La Montagne for the bigger cities decided to return and start giving back to the community. They formed an organization called OPADEL (Organization of the Peasants of La Montagne), which has established a large network of activities helping to the development of the community.

## Summary of the work

OPADEL has multiple organizations in its network, and counts with over 950 members:

Peyi-OPA is a network of farmers in La Montagne. It offers training, seeds, plants, and have re-introduced the traditional practice of konbit among the farmers. It has been particularly successful promoting the production of vegetables and coffee.

Famn-OPA is a women's cooperative within OPADEL, through which the women participate in konbits and in agricultural activities, and organizes community micro-lending cooperative for women to access small loans for their businesses.

Ti-OPA is a children's cooperative, where the children participate in school gardens and use the benefits of the garden to pay for their school. The children are also educated in environmental protection, and artisan craftsmanship by using local materials like vetiver grass and wood. OPADEL also manages the community preschool.

OPADEL also has a youth group that is involved in agricultural training and runs a computer training and repair school where people can learn how to become computer literate.

Its largest initiative at the moment is a sustainable housing initiative. After the area was shook by the 2010 earthquake, OPADEL sought training on anti-seismic and partnered with Planet Urgence, an NGO that is an expert in gabion-construction, to start a sustainable, local material building initiative.

OPADEL also runs a program called "Conje Solidarite", where people from anywhere can come to spend a vacation with the community in exchange for training them in their area of expertise



## What can other communities learn from OPADEL?

OPADEL very much sees itself as a model for other rural organizations across Haiti. Beyond their experience in organizing and managing such a large and effective network of organizations, they have learned and developed many practical skills:

OPADEL has become an expert in tree nurseries, especially in grafting. They have experience in reforestation, and improved mountain-side agricultural practices. They would be happy to offer training to other communities on anti-seismic building, gabion-construction, and stabilized-earth construction. They also have a model kindergarten and a methodology to share about more interactive education.

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