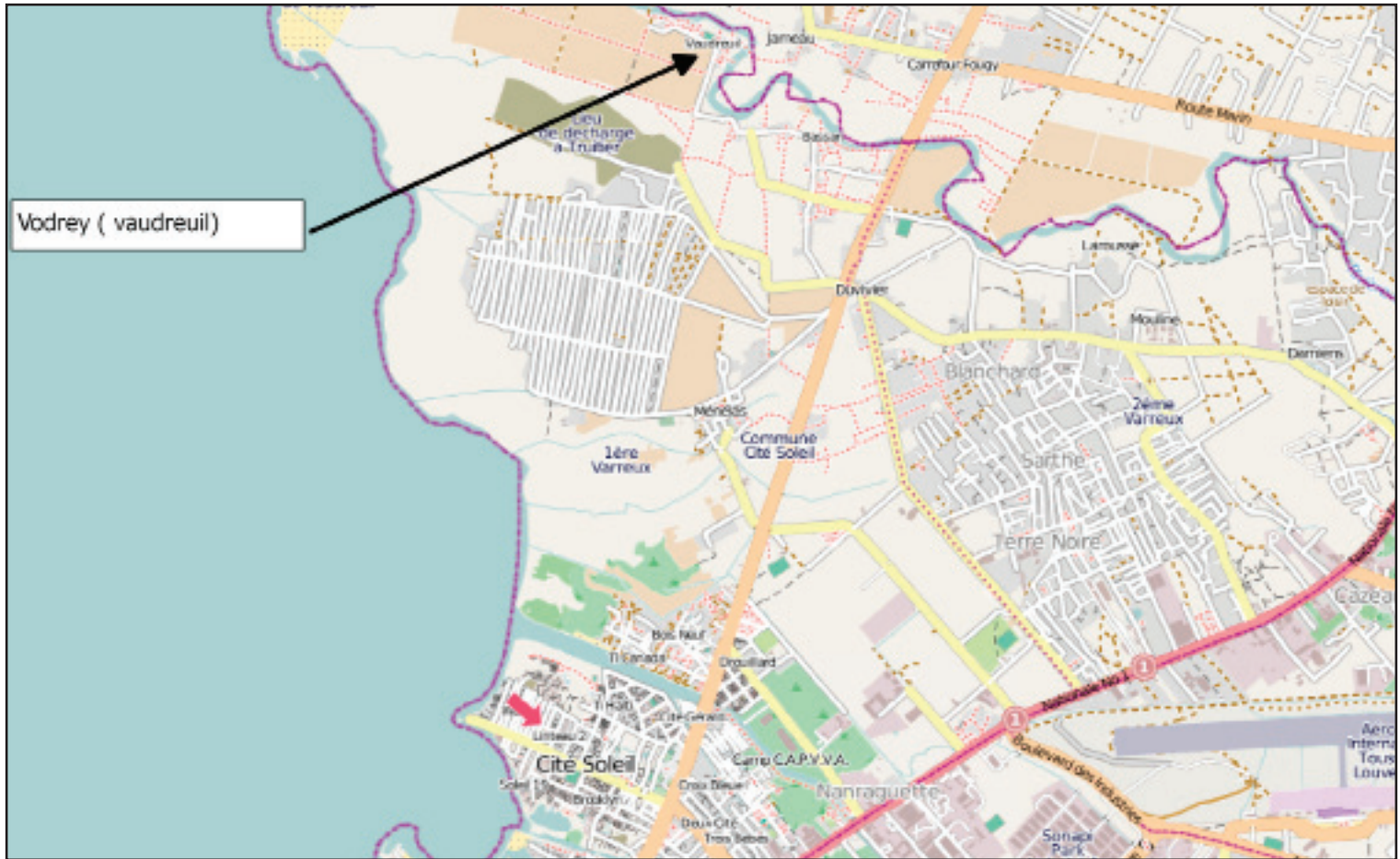


Vodrey is a community of organic farming in the commune of Cite Soleil. Since 2004 it has developed a system of solidarity lending encompassing almost the entire community.



What can other communities learn from Vodrey?

- * Techniques for organic farming
- * Solidarity lending mechanisms



History of the community:

Vodrey is a rural community in Cite Soleil. It served as a settlement for HASCO (Haitian American Sugar Company) up until 1990s, when political instability began affecting the country. After the fall of HASCO in 1994, the people began raising livestock and planting on the abandoned land. Vodrey now has a population of 1000 people, 98% of which live off of agriculture.

The Grise River is one of the community's biggest resources (it supplies them with water for their crops almost all year long). However, the river also poses a great threat to the community. The Grise River is not managed properly by the state, thus, after heavy rains, the river often overflows, flooding the community of Vodrey. Another big problem for Vodrey is Truitier, the nearby waste dumping facility. After cholera hit the area, the community truly sensed that they were at high risk and there was no effort made by the government to protect the people of Vodrey.

APFBBVM (Organic Banana Planter's Association of Vodrey Moleya)

The main crop that is cultivated in Vodrey is plantains and bananas. They don't use any chemical additives in their banana production and they have used konbit (a traditional volunteer labor force) from the very beginning. They have partnered up with an agronomist by the name of Paul Durette and with the World Lutheran Federation, who have helped the farmers get training in organic agriculture from the Dominican Republic. As a result of these trainings, the community created the Organic Banana Planter's Association of Moleya, Vodrey.

Since then, the Association has provided trainings on organic agriculture with the rest of the community. It has also built a community tree nursery, a greenhouse, a vermiculture workshop, a drip irrigation system and a bamboo nursery (to plant by the river for soil conservation).





REMUSOV (Solidarity Lending Regroupment of Vodrey)

Like a lot of communities in Haiti, the farmers of Vodrey lacked access to agricultural credit to plant their fields. With the help of the agronomist Paul Durette, the community was trained in solidarity lending microfinance.

They started with only one mutual solidarity group in 2004. This group proved to be so successful in helping its members advance, almost every person in the community wanted to participate in the mutual system. Today, there are more than a dozen mutuals in Vodrey, which account for the majority of adults in the community. A few of them act for specific economic ventures (one for farmers, one for small-scale merchants, one for animal husbandry, etc) and several are mixed. The mutual groups in Vodrey decided to regroup themselves, so they established REMUSOV (Mutual Solidarity Regroupment of Vodrey), an organization that helps the groups come together to implement various community activities and

initiatives. It was REMUSOV, along with the contributions from the mutual groups, which enabled the community to buy electrical posts and cables to bring electricity to the community of Vodrey. REMUSOV helps to mobilize the solidarity lending groups around larger community projects, such as the planter's association.

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