



KAMI FOUNDATION FOR HAITI

AUGUST 2010

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

HAITI in 2010 by Michel Jobin



Michel Jobin with leaders of a local women's cooperative group.

The catastrophe of January 12, 2010 has reminded us of the extreme fragility of a country which is laboring hard to rise up from past decades of hardships. The disaster of January has come to destabilize Haiti; Haitians have been struggling through one disaster into another for decades. This latest setback, the earthquake of 2010 has divided Haitians from Port-au-Prince, which was the main commercial centre and the seat of government. This has left Haitians more vulnerable, while facing difficulties which were already extremely real before this most recent event.

The human drama, which took place within one hour, the consequences of frightful structure damage, caused by the earthquake in Port-au-Prince, resulted in a mass urban exodus; this displacement pushed city dwellers to

the countryside.

This has created serious pressure to the rural families. They now have more people to feed, as relatives from the city arrive without means to sustain themselves, while the cost of bare essentials is on the rise. Just as an example, in Terrier Rouge, the cost of a cupful of rice had risen to \$1.00 U.S when I left in May. Many children have been pulled out of school, because parents cannot afford proper clothing and uniforms. Even though the earthquake's epicenter was in the capital city, the damage of this tragedy has and still is affecting everyone, everywhere in the country.

The effects of the devastation will be felt for years to come, help is greatly needed to assist Haitians recover from yet another set back.

S.H.A.R.E.

AGRICULTURAL FOUNDATION

*We'd like to extend a special commendation to S.H.A.R.E. Agricultural Foundation, for the substantial donation to **KAMI**. This grant has allowed us to meet the goals that we hoped to accomplish this year. Thank you*

S.H.A.R.E.

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Spring Trip Report *by Michel Jobin*

During April and May of this year, I returned to the village of Terrier-Rouge, where KAMI has its National Office. In spite of the difficulties I am always happy to return. Reciprocally, the villagers show feelings of joy for my return. The presence of KAMI in the village represents hope for potential economic growth in the future.

I arrived in Terrier-Rouge, as usual, via the Dominican Republic; it is quicker, more economical and especially much safer. In my 3 suitcases, along with my personal effects, I carried 30 sets of essential components to build our KAMI stoves.

During most of the seven weeks, I was preoccupied with renovations to our building. When finished, the upper floor of the building will consist of living quarters for our expected guests and myself, while the main floor is divided into the KAMI office, a meeting room, an office for our Agent and a room for night watch. Basic furniture and beds were built locally. A nine month contract was signed with an Agent and a night watch, who are now full time KAMI employees in Haiti.

A series of 3 meetings were held with five potential stove manufacturers, to arrive at an accord of standard for quality, size and cost of frames. At this time there are two of the five potential stove manufacturers who show serious commitment to build stoves according to specifications in

the accord. Frames, which meet the standard are sold by manufacturers to buyers at a price of \$25 U.S per stove. KAMI supplies components, consisting of a burner, regulator, fuel tank and vinyl tubing. The estimated cost of a stove to KAMI is \$85 U.S KAMI also provides a 30 minute safety information course, installs the unit at the client's home and inspects the cooking setup during the first three months. All of the 30 units had been delivered to clients within two weeks after I left Haiti. The demand for the KAMI stove is increasing slowly but surely. As we are now out of component parts, some activities have slowed, but Jocelyn, our Agent states that he receives people requesting information on this new technology on a daily basis. A priority list of people who have purchased frames is being kept until more components can be supplied.

In spite of several attempts, we have not found a better, safer and more reasonable means to ship these vital parts to Haiti.

A meeting was also arranged with members of our Evaluation Team. The team consists of nine women who had been using KAMI stoves since January of this year. The outcome of the session was very positive. None of these villagers had problems with their stoves, and none had gone back to using charcoal. *"Every woman should own one of these stoves",* they said. They added *"our daily cooking chores went from 6-7 hours to an average of 2.5 hours because of the KAMI stove."* In conclusion, they all agree that now, they have more time with their children and other activities such as gardening etc.

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A happy family now cooks inside with the KAMI stove.

Homage to Ann Lay:



Who is Ann Lay? She is almost everything that you can think of. She is a reflexologist, a hospital chaplain, a great supporter to a recent refugee family in our area, a soprano in our parish choir, a talented artist and she also sponsors two children in Haiti. Among many more things, she is a friend to so many people. Once I overheard someone ask her; “Ann, is there anyone you don’t know?”

Ann above all, is a very generous and loving person.

Last January, when our Board of Directors (she is also a Director of KAMI Foundation) finished the exercise of making our One Year Plan for 2010, and put down our ambitious dreams for the year, we realized we only had \$162.55 in our bank account. Ann then said, “*Leave this with me, one thing I am good at is raising money.*” Ann got on her telephone and organized a **Morning Coffee Event.**

To the surprise of all, over 50 individuals attended the event at her beautiful Caledon residence. She then convinced her good friend from the Beaches, May Maskow, to repeat a similar experience with her own circle of friends from the Queen’s City. Both of these events prove to be a booming success and resulted in meeting many of our financial goals for 2010.

By the time this issue is published, Ann will have hosted another fund raiser, a walk in her beautiful garden and the fields behind her home, directed by three Master Herbalists.

Ann, we feel that you deserve this recognition and homage as a valuable member of KAMI Foundation for Haiti. Many thanks to you and we look forward to your much appreciated efforts in the future.

Michel Jobin

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The Town Crier

Pictured with his bicycle and sound equipment, the Terrier-Rouge Town Crier, ZinZin could be heard all over the small communities, announcing the opening of the **KAMI** office.

This announcement was a welcome sound for the townspeople, who hope for progress and prosperity in the future.



Ugly Duckling (in a forestry sense)
An article by Doug Skeates

It is unusual that a weed turns out to be of promising value to mankind. A little known tropical tree is a potential multipurpose answer to many of mankind's ills. In a very poor country, food supply is a primary concern. *Jatropha curcas*, a tree species, can be used for protection for garden plots, hence an aid for food production. It characteristically produces nuts with a high concentration of oil, a good source of cooking fuel, and one which could replace a high proportion of charcoal, the commonest source of energy used in the home.

Globally the species is being seen as a source of biodiesel oil. An article in the Feb. 19, 2007 issue of Newsweek International (The Cinderella Plant) Karen Palmer quoted a South African scientist as seeing the potential for this renewable natural source of oil as possibly being the Saudi Arabia of the tropics. The article noted that major oil companies in Norway, India and Britain "...are racing to buy up or lease enormous swaths of African land for *Jatropha* plantations." Numbers recorded included 20,000 ha in Malawi, 15,000 ha in Zambia, 40,000 ha in Nigeria and 150,000 ha in Swaziland, Mozambique and South Africa for planting of the species.

From an ecological perspective *Jatropha* is almost of equal promise in its ability to grow on poor quality land unsuitable for agricultural purposes. There are vast areas world-wide which are considered to be of marginal productivity. It has been suggested that the species has potential for reclamation of considerable desert land. Keeping in mind that just the Sahara Desert exceeds the size of the United States, even just a proportion of the world's deserts could go a long way to solving the expected European shortfall in energy supply.

The greatest social problem, particularly in the third world has always been poverty. Lack of adequate finances has resulted in starvation for millions. Without the money to buy anti-retroviral drugs many millions in Africa have died from HIV/Aids. Without access to clean water, child mortality figures have been staggering, with children being especially vulnerable to death from water-borne diseases. Lack of food and potable water has been the basis for many wars resulting in the deaths of so many people.

With the use of inexpensive locally produced energy, families have greater opportunities to pay school fees and provide uniforms for their children. For many this ensures access to education, meaning a rise in future standards of living as well as greater prosperity for the nation as a whole.

Despite the enormous potential which *Jatropha* trees have in the fields of energy self sufficiency, land reclamation and conservation of forest cover, I see the greatest value of the species being in the back yard of rural land-owners. KAMI has placed its highest priority on farm produced energy, the growing consumption of cooking fuel. Not only does *Jatropha* hedge discourage free-roaming animals from eating crops, but it also provides a natural source of home grown energy, while residues after extraction of oil, provides a good fertilizer for production of food crops.

Traditionally, most cooking in rural areas is conducted outdoors with the use of charcoal, a basis for mass deforestation. Trees are cut to provide an accessible energy source. Conversion of firewood to charcoal is about 30% efficient, a most inefficient use of a valuable ecological resource. The loss of forest cover has left Haiti with about 1% the land base in forest cover. Use of *Jatropha* as a farm crop provides oil for families to cook indoors in recently designed kerosene stoves in about half the time to provide meals.

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The primary value of trees is normally seen as being in wood products. In this regard *Jatropha* gets a failing grade as wood quality of the trees is minimal. Instead this 'weed species' shows every potential for being much greater value contributing more important products.

Beyond the commercial value of reduced importation of costly energy, protection of food production and conservation of forests contributes to enhanced agricultural potential and prosperity for the people of this, the Western World's poorest nation.

Traditional means of cooking consists of three stones and a wood or charcoal fire.



Doug Skeates

Doug Skeates, who has a weekly column in the Orangeville Citizen and lives near Hockley Village, has had an international career as an arborist and forester. He and his wife Anne, have lived in many parts of the world and have a wealth of experience in the problems of developing nations. He has accepted our offer to act as an advisor to KAMI Foundation for Haiti. His talents will be appreciated, especially regarding our project with *Jatropha*.

"THE LOSS OF FOREST COVER HAS LEFT HAITI WITH ABOUT 1% OF THE LAND BASE IN FOREST COVER."

Jatropha Plantation and Ecology Formation

By Michel Jobin

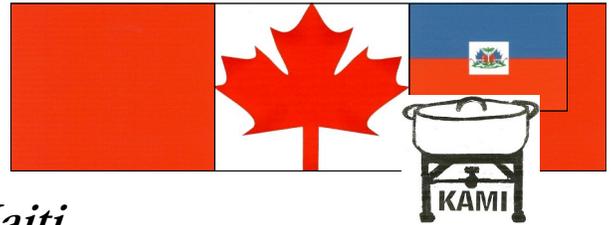
These two projects were identified by our Board to be undertaken within our 5 Year Plan. During my trip to Haiti, meetings were held with local potential players in executing these goals.

By working in partnership with a local vegetable growers co-operative, we hope to soon start planting *Jatropha*; *Jatropha* oil when extracted, should gradually replace or at least supplement kerosene as a bio-

diesel for KAMI stoves. It takes four years for *Jatropha* to be in peak production. Our approach will be to involve local farmers in planting *Jatropha* seeds in nurseries. Seedlings will then be transplanted and cared for as bare-root stocks in the farmers' individual vegetable plots. The suggestion made by the co-operative is to plant these around vegetable plots, as fencing to protect crops from roving animals, *Jatro-*

pha is poisonous to them. Livestock and poultry are usually loose and a great threat for farmers. This naturally will involve subsidizing farmers for work and care of trees. An agricultural technician can hopefully be hired by KAMI to oversee activities and provide education. The technician will also assist our Agent in training users of the KAMI stoves.

A NOTE TO SUM UP



KAMI's

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michel Jobin Orangeville	Chair
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Stephen White Orangeville	Director

Awareness Trips to Haiti



Jocelyn Latour **KAMI's** National Agent
Posing at **KAMI** office in Terrier-Rouge.

In October of this year, KAMI will be ready to accept visitors who want to see and hear something other than the images projected in our media. Come and meet the joyful and hardworking Haitian people in the village to Terrier-Rouge. We are suggesting visits of one week intervals. West Jet Airlines has the most economical flight directly from Toronto to Puerto-Plata in the Dominican Republic.

From here, land transportation can be arranged to the border, where you will be met and taken to Terrier-Rouge. Our accommodations are simple but secure. If you are interested in this unique experience, please reserve quickly, as space is limited. For more information, please call Michel Jobin at 519.942.0255.

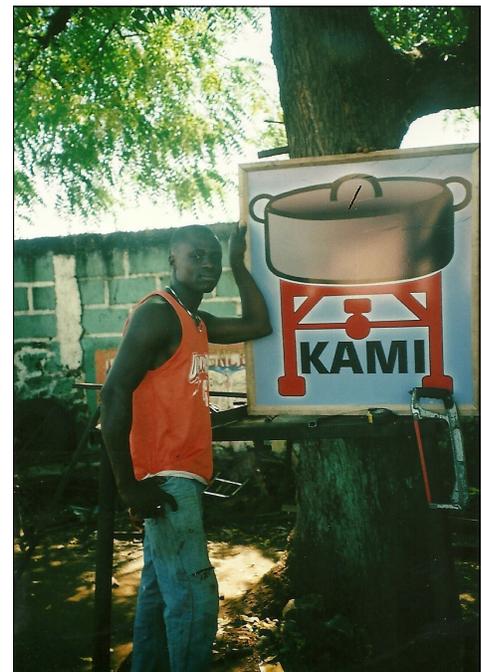
Happy Birthday KAMI

August 2010 marks our first anniversary as a Foundation dedicated to the sustainable development of Haiti. We have sure come a long way since our August 2009 founding meeting.

To our Board of Directors, our workers, our collaborators, fund raisers and donors, we wish you all a very

“Happy Birthday”

We look forward to many more accomplishments with your help and support. Thank you.



Franky Joseph proudly shows the **KAMI** sign. Franky builds **KAMI** stoves at his shop.

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Editor
Mike Labelle

