



Name: Destinvil Sherline

Age and Gender: 33-year-old female

Location: Corail

Job: Market vendor

Story: Destinvil Sherline is 33 years old and her husband Arold Judy is 45. They live in Corail in the community of Leogane. The couple have 2 children; a 17 year old who is in 11 grade and a 7 year old who is in 2nd grade

For all of their married lives, the couple invested their time and resources into their farm. They practiced crop rotation and planted species that were specific to the seasons. Their farm was their only income source for more than 10 years. “There were some seasons that we enjoyed our harvests and the income generated through the sale of our vegetables, but sometimes, because we farm with only rain water, we lose our entire harvest”, Destinvil Sherline said.

Even when they would lose their harvest, they still needed to provide tuition for their children and also take care of their family. In addition to the risk of droughts, other natural disasters like Hurricane Matthew in 2016 complicated their economic situation. From a discussion among the family members came the idea to develop another income source for the family.



“In November, 2020, I started to run a small business”, reported Destinvil Sherline. She decided to sell not only the products from her farm but also bought and sold corn, rice, black beans, cold drinks, etc. Five days a week she goes to different local markets to buy and sell and, consequently, make profits. “While I ran the business, I was invited to join the Micro Credit Group that we launched in Corail”. I got a loan for 7,500 Gourdes (about \$80) for 6 months at an interest rate of 1%.

She reports that the loans “made a great difference in the life of women in the community. There are many women who are no longer totally dependent on their husbands for income. Yes, now, in Corail, so many women like me are one of the pillars of their families”.

“I can say that I am really satisfied with the loan program. For many years, our household had only one source of income, which was the farm. Now, I am actually part of a group that helps me get funds to run my business to make money and also to develop the practice of saving money that I never had before. I really thank God for this opportunity.”