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The American University of the Caribbean (AUC), United States Aid to International Development (USAID)-Haiti and the Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab (SIIL)-Kansas State University jointly announce the launch of the Agricultural Technology Park (ATP) at AUC.

The American University of the Caribbean (AUC) is one of the southern region's top universities, teaching and conducting research in the agricultural sciences. One of the six universities participating in the USAID-funded initiative: *Haiti Agricultural University Partnership: Center for Mitigation, Adaptation, and Resilience to Climate-Change in Haiti (HAUP-CEMARCH)*, AUC will expand on its already active education and research program in agricultural training as part of its role in CEMARCH. Funded by USAID, this project focuses on building institutional and human capacity so that Haiti is able to identify and seek solutions to its agricultural problems in partnership with U.S. universities.



The ATP will also help AUC generate additional revenue to sustain its operation.

A key objective of AUC Individual Development Plan is to establish an Agricultural Development park to showcase high-potential climate smart agriculture technologies and strategies to sustainably intensify smallholder production systems. The ATP serves as a demonstration and training center for students to conduct applied research and local producers who are interested in learning how to implement modern agricultural techniques, methods for increasing agricultural productivity, and other ways to improve their farming practices. The ATP will also help AUC generate additional revenue to sustain its operation.

“Developing revenue-generating services and establishing agricultural technology parks to sustainably intensify smallholder production systems is a hallmark of SIIL’s portfolio,” said Vara Prasad, director of the SIIL at Kansas State University. “We are fortunate that USAID, as a branch of the U.S. government, values our work and is willing to invest in our approach to replicate this proven model in multiple countries and regions.”

The ATP is located next to the AUC campus. Dr. Paul Touloute, the President of AUC, said: ‘We are excited about the research, teaching and extension opportunities offered by our participation in CEMARCH, and know that our students will benefit greatly from the scholarships and education offered through the program’. The current farm (about 10 acres in size) has water, electricity and secure fencing. It will be further developed for the CEMARCH project with improved animal housing, new crop

production areas, and a renewed fishpond facility. This ATP features a farming systems model that can be adopted by smallholders in the area. The model demonstrates various promising technologies and strategies based on the local context to showcase best management practices of agriculture. Key technologies that will be showcased include:

- Improved beekeeping technology Forage production - an area of great interest for southern farmers.
- Improved chicken coops for egg production research and demonstrations.
- Livestock pens for goat production research.
- Crop production under greenhouses Plant nurseries for crop production, including vegetables, ornamental plants and fruits.

All of these will be embedded into a research and extension agenda to foster innovation in the agricultural sector in Haiti. USAID Haiti Mission Director Jennifer Link remarked, “USAID is pleased to help develop this ATP to engage youth and strengthen the resilience of the agricultural sector.

An official launch of AUC’s Agricultural technology Park will be held on May 1st, 2023, beginning at 10 AM. The event will be held at the campus of the university, and will feature remarks by members of various Haitian Ministries, local government officials, and USAID staff. Following the opening tours of the ATP will be given.

Pierre Absalon, Chef de projet, HAUP-CEMARCH : absalon.pierre@uniq.edu / (509) 36629431