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Characterization of family farming in Haiti: Food security challenges and sustainable agriculture solutions

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Introduction: According to Chaves and Campos (2012), family farming is an important ally in the implementation of sustainable rural development, as a productive and social segment, as it is an essential element both for its internal consumption and the food security of the population, as well as for the occupation and generation of work in the rural environment, so that families do not leave their rural properties to live in cities. The purpose of this study is to make a diagnosis of family farming in Haiti, and analyze if the productive practices adopted by the farmers in this region are helping to promote the development of family farming with sustainability.

Methodology: This is an exploratory- descriptive study with a qualitative approach, using field research. The data were obtained through direct observation of the rural worker in his natural work environment. Photos, recording, filming and semi- structured interviews were used to obtain data. Data collection was carried out from May 18 till June 15, 2017, through interviews with a sample of 44 rural producers from the region of Bayonnais, Haiti.

Findings: After the analysis, it was verified, Family farming in this region is of subsistence. Most of them have low levels of education and low family incomes, with no technical assistance from the authorities. In addition, considering the data obtained in the research, it can be said that the productive practices adopted by family farmers in Bayonnais do not yet contribute to promote and develop family farming with sustainability.

Conclusion & Significance: Recommendations are made for establishing an outreach program to accompany small farmers on the different problems faced during agricultural production based on good public policy to develop family farming in Haiti. Empower the Family Farming sector can used as a strategic role in fighting hunger in Haiti and creating self-sufficient farmers in rural Haitian areas.

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