

CHIBAS *info*

On behalf of CHIBAS board of directors, it gives me extremely great pleasure to deliver this first issue of CHIBAS' newsletter to you.

*CHIBAS (research center on bio-energy and sustainable agriculture) is a nonprofit, organization based in Haiti. It is an institute founded with the goal of improving, releasing and promoting the use of improved sweet sorghum and *Jatropha* varieties as dual purpose crops (food/feed and energy) for the sub-humid and drought prone regions of Haiti and the Dominican Republic.*

These crops could bring significant wealth to the poorest farmers in Haiti's most marginalized areas and at the same time reduce Haiti's dependence on foreign fuel imports and the impact of this dependence on the national currency as well as the balance of payments.

Gael Pressoir

The Ministry of Agriculture and CHIBAS signed an agreement defining CHIBAS' public mission

The document was signed between Haiti's Ministry of Agriculture, Natural resources and Rural Development (MARNDR) and CHIBAS on Friday October 10, 2008.

The purpose of this agreement is to set forth the understandings and intentions of MARNDR and CHIBAS with regard to shared goals in promoting, developing and releasing the technologies needed for a biofuel success story to the benefit of Haiti's resource poor farmers and economy.

CHIBAS engaged itself to train young Haitian plant breeders and to share the improved varieties and technologies that will be developed with MARNDR and the public schools of Agriculture. MARNDR will provide its institutional support to CHIBAS.

A PDF copy for the agreement is posted on CHIBAS' website www.chibas-bioenergy.org/chibas-marndr.pdf



The Minister of Agriculture, Joanas Gué, and CHIBAS Director, Gael Pressoir, signing the agreement

USLOFRADES and CHIBAS joint project in Saint Louis du Sud has been approved for funding

The French embassy in Haiti has awarded to USLOFRADES (Association of St Louis immigrants in France) and CHIBAS a grant to fund a pilot and feasibility study on *Jatropha curcas*' potential as a bioenergy crop adaptable to sustainable smallholder production systems around Saint-Louis du Sud. The French Embassy will contribute 46,000 €, and USLOFRADES 19,200 €, to this project.

News Flash

- We would like to welcome Arlan Lecorps to CHIBAS' Board of Directors.
Arlan Lecorps will be representing Haiti's Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development (MARNDR).
- CHIBAS will soon be making a major announcement regarding funding of its *Jatropha* & Sweet Sorghum breeding programs.