

Curriculum and Degree

The “Approach by Competence,” approved by Haiti’s Department of Education, is the modular system adopted by the CFFL. Modules are given at the rate of three per year. Graduates of the CFFL will hold the nationally and internationally recognized diploma for the degree of Technician in their field of training.

Budget and Staffing

Grants and private donations supporting initial construction, tuition subsidy, and programmatic costs will in time be complemented through tuition income and profits from partnerships with corporations. Tuition will be \$2,500 per year and charged according to the student’s ability to pay. Funds to support Student Scholarships are urgently needed.

Director Abraham Cerventes whose educational, construction and management skills, obtained both in Haiti and overseas, are ideally suited to this position, will be assisted by three heads of departments and a team of specialized part time teachers.

Legal Structure

CFFL operates under Zanmi Lasante and its governing Education Board. Donations are tax-deductible and may be sent to:

Partners in Health, For the CFFL Student Scholarships,
888 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215
or Contact Charles or Gillaine Warne at charleswarne11@gmail.com
864-901-5125



Fritz Lafontant Learning Center

Centre de Formation Fritz Lafontant (CFFL)

Definition

The Centre de Formation Fritz Lafontant (CFFL) is an initiative of the highly successful organizations Zanmi Lasante and Zanmi Agrikol (Partners in Health and Partners in Agriculture), which have brought modern health care and sustainable agriculture practices to Haiti. The CFFL is located in Corporant, in the Central Plateau, and is named for the internationally respected patriarch of the community of Cange, the Reverend Father Fritz Lafontant.

The CFFL has for its objective a new and innovative approach to agriculture and construction, which can be replicated across Haiti. It will train a cadre of young Haitians to be agents of change in sustainable food production and innovative construction.



Context

The horrific earthquake of January 2010 laid bare the consequences of poor building practices in Haiti. Haphazard construction using severely deficient techniques resulted in the systemic failure of structures and the death of 220,000 people. Following the earthquake, Haitians were excluded from the rebuilding of their own country because of their lack of construction skills. Thus the need for training in good construction practices is painfully evident.



Nearly total deforestation over the past 200 years throughout Haiti, and especially on the Central Plateau, has led to soil erosion and the depletion of natural resources. The malnutrition and even starvation for large segments of the population have now been made more pervasive by the influx of people fleeing to the Central Plateau from earthquake zones. This has put an unprecedented strain on the already weak infrastructure of the region.

In spite of the critical need for skilled workers even before the earthquake, professional and technical training have always been one of the most neglected sectors of the Haitian education system. Few viable learning centers exist, and they do not have adequate equipment or programs adapted to new technologies and the demands of the market. Teachers themselves often receive no training in current technologies.

The Central Plateau in particular suffers from neglect, as aid has always focused on Port-au-Prince. The Central Plateau has no technical center for training its youth. The establishment of a center for training in current agricultural techniques and innovative construction practices has never been more timely or more urgently needed.

Mission and Philosophic Vision

In the socio-economic context of the Central Plateau, the mission of the CFFL is the training of competent, proactive technicians in agriculture and construction, and their integration into the socio-economic system of the region and the whole country.

We envision a school of excellence with practical options that will promote human and natural resources already available in the region, but dormant. The five pillars upon which CFFL bases its philosophy are:

1. **TECHNICAL.** Developing technical competence to meet the standards of national and international markets.
2. **ENVIRONMENTAL.** Contributing to the promotion of a healthy, productive, and sustainable environment.
3. **ECONOMIC.** Promoting durable economic growth in the region by applying business principles to the management of products and services.
4. **ETHICAL.** Developing ethical behavior and values in pursuing one's profession.
5. **SOCIAL.** Encouraging social and moral responsibility among citizens through training activities that promote a sense of the common good.

Target Population

The CFFL will involve the following categories of people, chosen because of their motivation to improve their own quality of life and that of their community

- Youth of the Central Plateau who have completed eleven years of traditional studies.
- Youth of the neighboring regions who have the Baccalaureate I certificate and who agree to return to develop their region of origin after training.
- Adults who have practiced a trade informally and now seek to improve their skills.

Programs

Zanmi Lasante, the 'parent' of Zanmi Agrikol, has provided humanitarian services in the Central Plateau for thirty years. Together they have recognized the need for the following market sectors and job categories:

Agriculture, Building construction, Woodworking, Plumbing, Electrical, Auto mechanics, Ironworks, Hotel management, Ceramics, Fiberglass.

Implementation

We anticipate CFFL partnerships with Clemson, Greenville Tech, Virginia Tech, University of Florida, University of Georgia, and Earth University of Costa Rica among other institutions. Other long-term, ongoing partnerships are with the 'Diocese of Upper South Carolina, Rotary International, MASS Architectural Group in Boston, and 1000 Jobs Construction SA.

In the first year 75 students will begin instruction in a 2-year construction program or a 3-year agricultural program. The initial classes will be in Agriculture, Building Construction, and Carpentry. Among courses in the first year will be construction using compressed stabilized earth block, created from local materials.

