



# Trees That Feed Foundation

Annual Report 2021–22



## TEACHING HOW TO FISH...



PLANTING FRUIT TREES TO FEED PEOPLE, CREATE JOBS AND BENEFIT THE ENVIRONMENT

# Training in Propagation

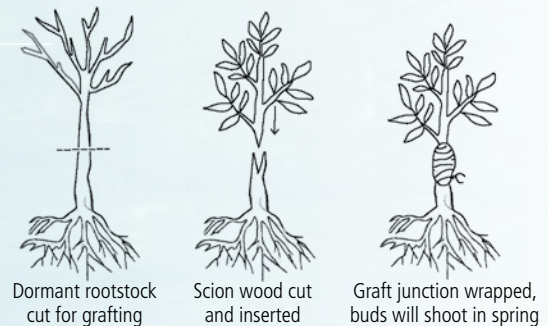
Most fruit trees don't grow from seeds! All the best apples, peaches, mangoes, and breadfruit of course, are not propagated from seeds. Most breadfruit varieties have no seeds at all! The botanists explain this phenomenon with the odd number of chromosomes and the many possible genes that could express.

So then how can we get more trees? Our farmers use various propagation methods:

## Grafting (basic cleft or v-graft)

A twig (a "scion" or "bud") is physically attached to root stock. Various techniques ensure close contact so that the scion gets nutrition from the mother tree. Mangoes are relatively easy to graft.

**Advantages:** fast fruit production

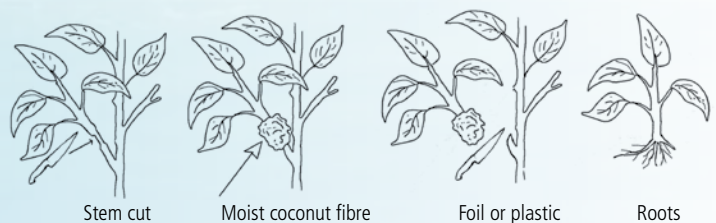


## Stem culture (including air layering)

A healthy branch is bruised, wrapped in moist peat moss or coconut fibre, and left on the mother tree for a few weeks. Roots form and the branch can be planted as a new tree.

**Advantages:** good chance of success

**Disadvantages:** labor intensive, roots may not be as strong

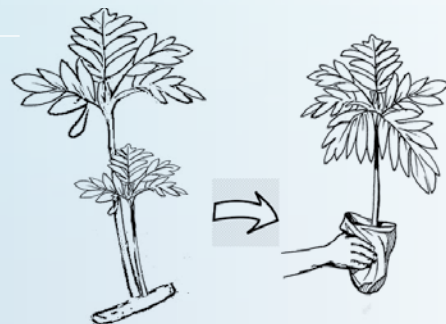


## Root culture

A short segment of root from a healthy tree is planted in a sand bed and kept moist. After a few weeks leaves emerge.

**Advantages:** strong roots, large numbers

**Disadvantages:** works best in humid climates; somewhat of an art form

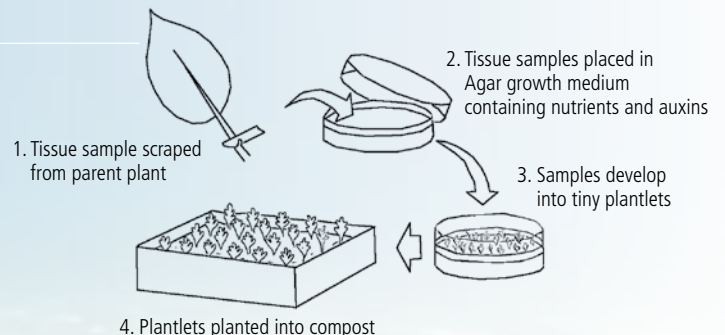


## Tissue culture

Germplasm from healthy plants is propagated in a chemical bath.

**Advantages:** Large volumes can be produced

**Disadvantages:** Needs a sterile lab environment; tends to be expensive



# Letter from the Chair



**Hello again friends,**

It's time again for our usual Annual update. Does it seem like the year went by quickly? For us, despite COVID, the year went quickly because we were so busy. In this report, as usual we'll share some facts and figures as well as a few heartwarming stories.

This year we're emphasizing a theme that we at *Trees That Feed Foundation* take deeply to heart, permanence, or sustainability. We've used the ancient proverb to symbolize our focus. To give a fish is food for a day but teaching to fish means food for a lifetime. We of course plant fruit trees that can feed families for a lifetime. Also we teach about preserving excess fruit and we help small businesses to process and market their products, all derived from these trees. Soon enough the people that we help and their communities will become independent of outside assistance.

That is the type of help we aim to provide ... the type that passes along a permanent benefit. The word "sustainable" is good too but we aim higher than that. We want to see trees planted, better nutrition, and a better environment. We also want to see real economic benefits. When there's profitable economic activity the benefits are likely to be long-lasting.

We're aiming to share our approach with others also. We want to teach other helpers to deliver benefits that are permanent. Of course there are emergencies and disasters where quick, temporary help is essential. We help if we can, but we want to see assistance that leads to permanent benefits, benefits that last long after we retire to our rocking chairs on the porch.

Your support makes this possible. A fruit tree lives for 50, 100, even 200 years. It feeds people and benefits the environment long term. The small agrobusinesses that we boost provide a living for decades. We are proud to see entrepreneurs boosting their standard of living, and in turn helping their community, all due to your support.

Thanks again.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary McLaughlin".

Mary McLaughlin

Chair, *Trees That Feed Foundation*

# Cover Story

*Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day.  
Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.*

This adage has spread wisdom across centuries, continents, and cultures. At *Trees That Feed Foundation*, we live this idea. We see it come true time and again in different faces and places. Here is the story of one young entrepreneur who has gone out “fishing” on her own with breadfruit.

**Karlene Johnson** was a young teacher at a school in rural Jamaica when we met her in 2015. We had received a grant from Rotary to plant breadfruit trees at schools. She immediately saw the benefits of our mission and became a strong advocate for tree planting. Within a few years, she went from planting trees, to making breadfruit flour, to starting her own business. *Something Country* is a bakery located in Kitson Town, in the parish of St. Catherine, Jamaica. Many of her tasty products, including cookies and bullas, which are like biscotti, are based on breadfruit flour.

Karlene is creating wealth from trees! This wealth stays in her rural community, alleviating poverty. How? Karlene buys breadfruit flour from the processing center at her old school. The fruit that makes the flour comes from local farmers. She employs local people and sells in local shops.

The 39-year-old, who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Literature in English, has followed her passion to utilize fruits and vegetables to make wholesome treats. Karlene values food security, tree conservation and wholesome living.

In April 2021, the largest newspaper in Jamaica featured Karlene. You can listen to her story in her own words at <https://tinyurl.com/SomethingCountry>. We are proud to hear her say that we were pivotal in getting her involved in the production of breadfruit. This partnership is one of many whose work was sparked by TTFF and which has flourished into a lasting legacy for her family and community.



Karlene Johnson bakes breadfruit cookies and more at her Jamaican bakery, *Something Country*.



The finished product looks (and is) quite appetizing!

# Trees to the Bahamas

The Bahamas is a country made up of nearly 700 islands in the Caribbean. Think white sand beaches and palm trees. It relies heavily on tourism to boost its economy, as well as imported food. As COVID, as well as hurricanes, hit the Bahamas, the government has had to find new ways to feed their people and provide them with jobs. We believe that planting trees can be part of that solution. As it turns out, the Bahamian government thinks so too.

On October 12, 2021, we completed our third shipment of breadfruit trees to the Bahamas since Hurricane Dorian hit in 2019. The trees were propagated in California and were couriered to Nassau by volunteer **Karin Bolczyk**.

Then the team pitched in. Individuals from other islands across the Bahamas took the baton—or trees—from there. TTFF coordinator **Melissa Ingram** organized the volunteers and helped deliver trees within Nassau. **Iram Lewis**, a former Olympian sprinter and current Member of Parliament (MP), who is dedicated to sustainable livelihood in the Bahamas, helped transport trees to Freeport. **The Eleuthera Foundation** took trees to Eleuthera, and **Pericles Maillis**, a farmer and attorney, transported trees to Andros. It took the wisdom of Solomon (which **Mary McLaughlin** seems to have) to allocate trees appropriately to the various recipients.



Iram Lewis, a former Olympian sprinter and current Member of Parliament (MP), transported breadfruit trees from Nassau to Freeport.

Pericles' land offers some challenges. It is near sea water, and the soil is poor, mainly composed of sand and pockmarked with sinkholes. He brought in a backhoe to expand the holes and fill them with organic material like compost and good quality soil. The baby trees appreciated his extra work and are doing very well!

Pericles hopes that these trees are the beginning of tens of thousands he can help to bring into the Bahamas. "The idea is to help breadfruit become common and abundant," he said. "We want the country to be able to make flour and byproducts ... and have food that can be stored for the times of disaster and troubles to come."

Congratulations and thanks to the Bahamas team!



Pericles Maillis (left), a farmer and attorney, transported trees from Nassau to Andros.

# Breadfruit in the United States

Of course, our main goal is feeding people in the Caribbean, Central America, and Africa. But it would be nice to create an export market to further boost their local economies. As a start, TTFF imported 200 pounds of breadfruit flour from Jamaica into the United States to provide samples to producers here in the U.S. Our initial focus is to bring healthy, breadfruit baked goods to mom-and-pop coffee shops. We're also working to expose North American chefs, bakers, entrepreneurs, and consumers to breadfruit flour.



steamed breadfruit slices. For founder **Courtney Mills**, these creations began as a necessity to feed her family, who lead a grain-free life. In Barbados, where they were living when the pandemic hit and the airports closed, she had to look to local foods and found breadfruit! Now she's sharing her solution with the world.

**Rita Hilton**, a former teacher in Jamaica, runs *Carita Premium*, which also exports breadfruit flour. It was named a Best Product Nominee by *Jamaica Observer*! Also in Jamaica, **Richard Harris** of *Shavuot Farms* is building substantial capacity to produce high-quality breadfruit flour for the export market.

Chef **Todd Manley** is spreading breadfruit vodka across the United States from *Sion Farm Distillery* on St. Croix in the Virgin Islands. Among his awards is a gold medal from the prestigious 2022 *San Francisco Spirits Competition*. You can purchase his vodka online and get a taste at various Applebee's Bar and Grill locations, as well as in some American Airlines travel clubs.

Puerto Rico is our main exporter of breadfruit flour. **Marisol Villalobos Rivera** of *Amasar* takes breadfruit from the breadfruit tree on her agroecological farm to tables in countries including the U.S. She recently went to Barcelona for a trade show to expose her products to the European market. Besides all-purpose breadfruit flour, Amasar's product line includes pancake and waffle mixes, and a breadfruit breakfast cream.

Coming from the Dominican Republic to the U.S. are breadfruit tostones from three different companies: *Goya*, *Titan*, and *FINCA Panapen*, founded by **Raquel de Jesus**. Tostones are a rough-cut home fried breadfruit traditionally served with a spicy sauce and enjoyed with an evening meal or snack.

Costa Rican *Jungle Foods Inc.* has also been successful in exporting breadfruit flour to the U.S. **Paul Zink** highlighted it in California at *Natural Products Expo West*, which is attended by tens of thousands of people from more than a hundred countries.

**Andre Gordon** of *Isabella Family Farm* in Jamaica is processing and exporting roasted breadfruit, tostones, and chips for export. We recently connected him to **Javion Blake** of *Jus Chill* in Colorado, and now Andre supplies Javion with three flavors of breadfruit chips. Focused on making breadfruit a household name, the two are planning to meet up at the *Summer Fancy Food Show* in New York City to promote it.

From Barbados, *Ulu Foods* is bringing creative products to the U.S., such as breadfruit pizza crusts, breadfruit hard taco shells, and breadfruit soft tortillas. They also produce chips, crackers, and



Breadfruit Tostones from the Dominican Republic are available in the United States.

At TTFF, we're thrilled to have so many partners who share our passion for breadfruit. Whether we are providing them with breadfruit trees or connecting them to each other—farmers, processors, bakers, or businesspeople—we're always overjoyed by the outcome. Delicious, nutritious breadfruit is coming into the U.S., while economic activity is spurred in all these other countries. It's a win-win.

# Empowering Women

*Trees That Feed Foundation, Haitian Connection, and Jeremie Breadfruit Nursery and Bakery* have teamed up to create a recipe for success for a group of women in Haiti, and we hope to take our new *Women's Empowerment Program* to other areas soon!

It begins with an ingredient we know and love—breadfruit flour! Add locally grown coconuts, ginger, and molasses, and we get konparets, a delicious and nutritious hard biscuit with a conveniently long shelf life. Train a salesforce, and we see women with independence, dignity, and empowerment.

The pilot program was carried out in Jeremie, Haiti, and surrounding communities from December 2021 to April 2022. With local help, including **Renate Schneider** of *Haitian Connection* and **Pierre-moise**

**Louis**, owner and manager of *Jeremie Breadfruit*, we identified a pod of five sets of five women vendors, as well as five mentors, from nearby villages. The mentors assisted with training and distribution, and TTFF provided a training deck.

Each woman, including the mentors, received 50 konparets per week for a month at no cost to them, a donation from TTFF. The women were encouraged to save the proceeds of the first month to finance

their ongoing business. All 30 increased their orders over time! More than 5,000 konparets are being purchased and resold weekly. Seven of the women are reselling 550 per week, generating revenue of \$137.50 per week. We estimate that most of the women have doubled or tripled their prior earnings.

A mother of seven, one of these new business-women told us that the profits help feed her children. Others said that they use the funds to send their children to school. One commented, "This is my only hope to get an income."

**A mother of seven told us that the profits help feed her children.**

A NEW BUSINESSWOMAN

Aligned perfectly with our mission, the *Women's Empowerment Program* builds a marketplace that feeds people, creates jobs, and benefits the environment—not only immediately, but also long-term. Besides the

vendors, the farmers, breadfruit flour processors, and bakers are profiting. And the food supply increases for more people in wider-spread areas.

TTFF encourages other organizations or individuals to create *Women's Empowerment Programs*. Many other communities across Haiti and beyond stand to benefit. We will provide the initial support in the form of free konparets, training materials, and suggestions based on experience.



From planting breadfruit trees to selling breadfruit by-products, everyone involved in the process employs valuable skills. As part of the *Women's Empowerment Program*, Haitians sell breadfruit komparets produced by *Jeremie Breadfruit*.

Roughly translated, the word konparet means "when you smell it, you appear at the bakery." Perhaps it will gain the meaning "when you smell it, you know your konparet saleswoman is coming!"

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***"We thank you for the tremendous work you have been doing for our farmers, and neighborhood growers in preserving our fruit trees, the bees, local processing, and the environment."***

**MARSHA JOHNSON** / COUNTRY DIRECTOR  
PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS JAMAICA FARMER-TO-FARMER PROGRAM / KINGSTON, JAMAICA

# Disaster Relief the TTFF Way

On August 14, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southern Haiti. It was the deadliest natural disaster of 2021. Although *Trees That Feed Foundation* is not primarily geared toward disaster relief, this situation was unique. Local relief was nearby. Thanks to your heartwarming responses, we were able to help.



A mom who is quietly and with dignity distributing food so that other mothers and grandmothers can feed their children.

For ten years, we have been working in this very same region along the southern peninsula of Haiti, the area that was hardest hit. We've helped to develop small businesses there, including *Jeremie Breadfruit Nursery and Bakery*. JBFN is run by **Pierre-moise Louis**, his brother **Nazaire**, and a small staff. The JBFN bakery produces konparets, a substantial local biscuit made from breadfruit flour and other ingredients.

Immediately after the earthquake, Pierre-moise Louis sprang into action. Fortunately, his bakery building was not severely damaged. He donated his entire inventory of konparets, several thousand, to needy families in the area. This is a great example of Haitians helping Haitians.

We jumped in right behind. We asked him to increase his production dramatically to provide needed food. He was able to do that for two reasons. First, there were many breadfruit trees around, many donated by *Trees That Feed*. And second, fortuitously, the breadfruit was in season.

The team in Jeremie was able to produce up to 5,000 konparets each day. Working with JBFN and various trusted local partner organizations, we organized delivery of the food. That was not always easy because roads and bridges were badly damaged, and some criminal gangs made transportation difficult. Within a few days, however, we had successfully mobilized. To date, we have provided 80,000 meals to earthquake victims in Les Cayes and surrounding communities.

While other groups helped by flying in emergency supplies, our work relied on locally sourced food, mostly from trees, produced by Haitian operated businesses. This is important because the meals helped not only those being fed, but the money spent stimulated the local economy. Money and jobs flowed to the farmers who own the trees, the workers producing the food, and the drivers making deliveries. As we know, jobs create independence and dignity. And self-reliance is something of which a community can be proud.

As Pierre-moise said, "It is very good for the national economy of Haiti because we are using national products to make the konparets and breads, so the farmers have an opportunity to sell their breadfruits and more people find jobs. What you are doing is different from what other organizations do because other NGOs go to other countries to buy rice, beans, oil, etc. to give to people in Haiti. So what you are doing is unique."

TTFF is proud to be helping Haitians to help Haitians.

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***We are focusing on konparets because they are very nutritious and ready to eat, so people don't need to cook. They don't have any food and water, so they need ready-to-eat foods because they don't have kitchens in which to cook.*** PIERRE-MOISE LOUIS

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# The Handiwork of Haitians

We have so much wonderful work going on throughout Haiti! From each center of action emanates growing economic activity. Because our friends are so spread out, they are not in competition. Rather, we encourage them to connect and share their experiences. (See *related photos on back cover*.)

In Northern Haiti, we work with **Father Emilio Travieso**. He received a PhD in agroforestry and now runs *Ecole St. Ignace de Loyola*, a school in Ouanaminthe for young children. He places a focus on ecology and agriculture. They have been growing avocados and other food crops for a little while now. They previously planted vetiver to help with erosion control, with partnership from **Jen Wride** of *Bonne Terre Haiti*. Now they are adding to their food forest with new cherry and moringa seedlings. The students helped with the planting, and the trees will soon bring delicious and nutritious fresh food to these school children.

As you know, we love to provide not only trees, but education too! Father Emilio wrote to us, "Many, many thanks for the coloring books! They have arrived safely and will be in the hands of happy second graders soon. I have looked through the books (and teacher's guide), and they are really fantastic. Thank you for all the care that clearly went into making them! Same goes for the thoughtful way the kits were prepared, with colored pencils, sharpeners, and erasers."

In the East is **Wiscard-Kardin Lapaix** with *St. Joseph Medical Mission* and the *Klinik San Josef*, in Thomassique. He is only the second of our friends in Haiti to propagate breadfruit saplings from the trees we gave him. These were distributed among farmers and community health committees in the surrounding villages. Breadfruit is highly valued in the area, and yet there are few local sources of it, so multiplication is key to the success of this project. Breadfruit is a welcome tool in their medical kit.



This thriving breadfruit tree was propagated by Wiscard-Kardin Lapaix.

In the farming town of Tru du Nord in Northeast Haiti, **Charlotin Frednaud** started a company with the help of a basic *Trees That Feed Foundation* factory in a box. You heard of him before. Today his breadfruit flour is in supermarkets across Haiti. This thriving entrepreneur keeps it local to spur the economy. He buys breadfruit from a network of small farmers. These farmers now have extra income, money to educate and care for their families. This money reinforces the value of trees and the need to plant more, thus benefiting the environment.

In Southern Haiti's Fond 'Oies in Leogane, **Casimir Noncent** makes and sells breadfruit flour. Recently, he held a meeting with community members to encourage them to plant breadfruit and other fruit trees and to educate them on breadfruit flour and its byproducts. You can also find him providing the breadfruit flour to feed children in schools, such as *The Good Samaritan School* in Jacmel.

In Central Haiti, **James Pierre Charles** of *Effort Vision* is now producing over 500 pounds of breadfruit flour per month using TTFF's solar dryers. This is distributed to six schools, one orphanage, and a church. *Effort Vision* also provides a cooking school, featuring recipes made with breadfruit.

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***We are very happy to work with TTFF! We will continue to work together for a better future in Haiti. When we join our hands together, we become stronger and will do a lot of things in underserved communities in Haiti! We love you all in Christ.***

FRITZNEL SAINTIME / CEO, PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER  
VOPAHEH ORGANIZATION / HAITI

# Accountability with Greenstand's Treetracker App

At *Trees That Feed Foundation*, we love to visit our partners around the globe. Unfortunately, we can't visit everyone every year. Thanks to technology though, we can stay in touch. Mary and Mike field phone calls and text messages from farmers and other international friends daily if not hourly on WhatsApp. We are fortunate enough to witness the growth of some of our beneficiary's trees via video or photos at times. And recently, we found an amazing tech tool that allows us to track these trees on a map!

With Greenstand's Treetracker app, we can watch our trees grow where they were planted anywhere in the world. Farmers can periodically take photos of the trees they are caring for and upload them to the app. We see the tree's exact location and type, the name and picture of the grower, and the TTFF certificate number with which it was claimed. The tree photos are superimposed on a Google Earth map of the world, showing high-definition satellite pictures of the landscape. Individual trees and bushes are clearly visible!

The app is free and seamlessly integrates with a smartphone and GPS.

Treetracker serves as a verification that the trees we provided were indeed planted and planted well. It also allows us to share in the excitement of our beneficiaries as together we watch their "babies" grow and prosper. We can even offer advice when things aren't looking so good. It keeps us all accountable, as it brings transparency to the tree planting space.

As always, TTFF keeps education at the forefront of our minds. We are making the use of Treetracker even easier for our growers by providing them with detailed instructions on how to use it. We also have a fantastic partner in Jamaica named **Kemeisha McLean** who travels to many sites to check on trees that aren't yet being tracked. She uploads the photos and information to Treetracker and shows farmers how to do it for themselves. We've got "boots on the ground" with Mrs. McLean!

We know that our work is having an impact. We hold ourselves accountable to our donors and Greenstand's Treetracker app gives us the evidence.

**We found an amazing tech tool that allows us to track these trees on a map!**



◁ Mrs. McLean is tracking trees in Jamaica and teaching farmers how to do the same.

△ Greenstand's Treetracker Jamaica map. You can zoom in to see the individual trees!

# STEM Academy

Mary and Mike first visited *Sydney Pagon Agricultural High School*, now called the STEM Academy, in 2016. The school is located near Santa Cruz in the parish of St. Elizabeth, Jamaica. After an enthusiastic meeting with **Mr. Milbert Miller**, the principal, TTFF agreed to donate a solar food dehydrator to the school. The dehydrator (“solar dryer”) would be used for both teaching and production of food products for the students.

A local engineering firm built and installed the first unit. There was great acclaim, with particular enthusiasm from the 4-H and RADA organizations in nearby Santa Cruz. The dryer was used to dehydrate breadfruit, mango, and numerous herbs and spices.

The local maintenance man, **Mr. Robin Rhoden**, had himself built a small solar food dehydrator. He looked to us to be the right man to build more of these solar dryers, and so he was commissioned!

Fast forward to 2021. **J Wray & Nephew** is a prominent rum producer in Jamaica. Their Appleton brand is produced nearby to the school. Unfortunately, the factory closed due to market

conditions. The company generously agreed to replace lost jobs and support local agriculture by funding a major agro-processing plant at the school. TTFF agreed to provide a high-capacity grinding mill for producing breadfruit flour. *JWN Foundation* is funding almost everything else, including seven, count them, seven solar dryers. The factory will be producing 5,000 pounds of breadfruit, cassava, and other kinds of flour weekly.

The solar dryer is optimized for food dehydration with a capacity of over 600 pounds per week.

The design has also met with great success in Haiti also. Our manufacturer in Haiti has tentative orders for 15 units!

Three cheers to *JWN Foundation* and good luck to Sydney Pagon school.

EDITOR’S NOTE: As of this writing construction is well under way. (See the article in Jamaica’s *Gleaner* newspaper, published on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 12:15 a.m. **Janet Silvera**, Senior *Gleaner* Writer and **Ashley Anguin**, Photographer).



These four completed solar dehydrators are used for teaching and production of food products at *Sydney Pagon STEM Academy* in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica.



Milbert Miller, principal of *Sydney Pagon STEM Academy*, shows the progress being made on the pepper farm in Elim, St Elizabeth.

# DATELINE 2021

## JANUARY

- Mike McLaughlin receives Phiatus award for TTFF work from the Worshipful Company of Actuaries, London

## FEBRUARY

- 500 Ma'afala breadfruit trees to Belize; 500 more in October
- 500 coloring books to GOALS, Haiti

## MARCH

- 1,000 Ma'afala trees to Bahamas Government in Nassau, by courier
- Grinding mill provided to Women Against Poverty, Kenya

## APRIL

- 300 fruit trees to Haiti Takes Root
- Equipment to Henry's Delight, Jamaica

## MAY

- 1,000 trees purchased locally for Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya
- Trees purchased from Wiscard, Medical Missionaries, new tree propagation in Haiti
- Board meeting (also October)

## JUNE

- 700 breadfruit seedlings purchased and distributed in Dominican Republic

## JULY

- 700 trees go to St. Croix, 432 to Haiti
- Caribbean Tree Planting week

## AUGUST

- 80,000 meals supplied to earthquake victims in southern Haiti

## SEPTEMBER

- Launched refreshed website, easier to read, mobile friendly. Visit [www.treesthatfeed.org](http://www.treesthatfeed.org)
- Treetracker app launched. Fruit tree donations will be photographed and geotagged.
- Training in Ouanaminthe by Renaud Thomas

## OCTOBER

- 1,000 more Otea breadfruit trees to Nassau
- Entrepreneur Karlene Johnson opens her breadfruit bakery
- Received 200 pounds of high-quality breadfruit flour in Chicago, as samples for restaurants, bakeries

## NOVEMBER

- 500 breadfruit trees sent to Roatan, Honduras
- Food dehydration equipment shipped to Nicaragua
- Grinding mill provided to Sydney Pagon school, Jamaica
- Mary McLaughlin attends Echo conference in Fort Myers, FL

## DECEMBER

- Women's Empowerment Pilot Project kicked off
- 30,000 trees paid for in Uganda
- 300 breadfruit trees purchased locally for farmers in Costa Rica
- Equipment and supplies provided to Grace Project, Kenya
- Mary and Mike visit Costa Rica farms—first international trip in years

*"My community will benefit greatly as our orchard now becomes a reality. So on behalf of myself, my neighbors, and the whole community of Stonebrook Vista, Trelawny, we want to say Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!"* NKRUMAH LAWRENCE / RECIPIENT OF TREES / TRELAWNY, JAMAICA

# Breadfruit Trees and Agroforestry in the Dominican Republic

In La Vega province of the Dominican Republic lies La Finca Tierra Negra (LFTN), a unique, organic family farm run by **Altair Rodriguez**, a former human rights lawyer turned agroforestry aficionado.

What began as a small plot of land became one of the most important cacao farms in the area in the early 20th century. In the 1940s, however, Altair's great grandfather left the country as a political exile after organizing the fight against the dictatorship. He died in exile, but his family recovered the farm in the 1960s. In the 1980s, a decline in the global cacao market led to a more conventional agricultural system with cassava and plantain monocrops. Seven years ago, Altair set her sights on rebuilding an ecological agroforestry system, which is much more resilient, abundant, and economically sound.

As she said, her goal is "to turn it into a model farm that motivates farmers to shift from growing annuals and monocrops that are gradually degenerating and killing our soil to agroforestry systems that improve biodiversity and regenerate our soil, incorporating trees with all of their benefits and making it economically viable."

Breadfruit trees are among Altair's biodiverse plant system. She has planted around 400 breadfruit seedlings since 2018. Earlier this year, TTFF provided her with 100 more. We also connected her with an environmentalist named **Ansermo Uceta**, who is doing community reforestation work in Northwest Dominican Republic. Altair generously transported 379 other breadfruit saplings to Ansermo and 300 families living in nine communities in the municipality of Villa los Almacigos in the Santiago Rodriguez Province.

Breadfruit is growing in popularity with farmers in the Dominican Republic, who use it to shade cacao, which is the second most highly exported product in the country. This is thanks to people like Altair and Ansermo who are spreading the word that breadfruit is an amazing tree to incorporate into agroforestry.

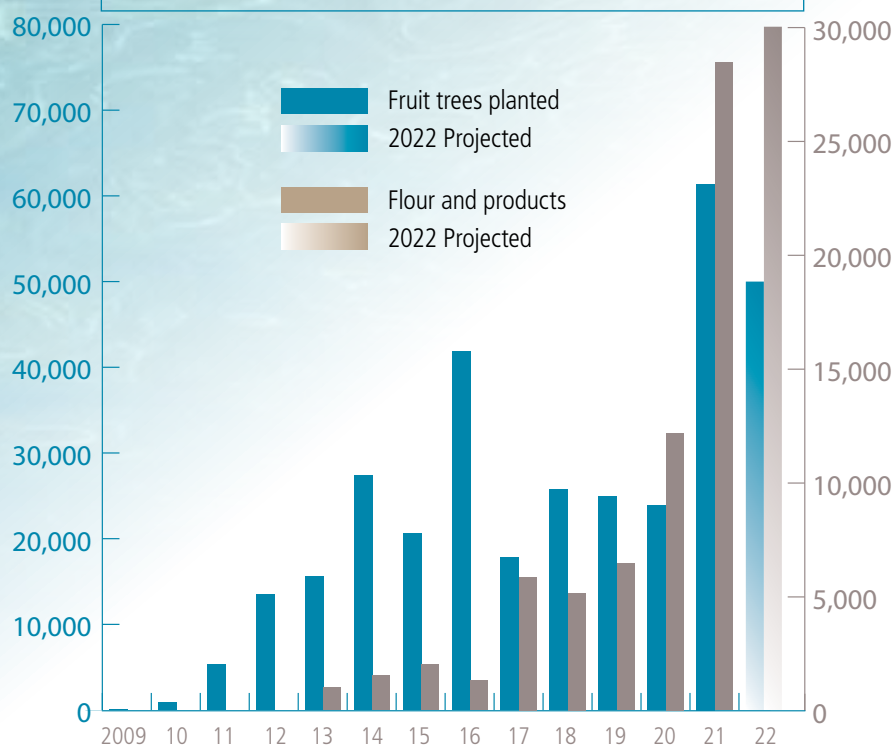
During her transition between law and agriculture, Altair heard a professor say that only industrial farming can feed the world. She knew it then, and she'll say it again now with much more experience under her belt. "We can feed the world WITHOUT destroying the planet!"



Altair Rodriguez (left) is including breadfruit trees in the agroforest she is rebuilding on her farm in the Dominican Republic.

# Financials

Fruit Trees Planted and Food Supplied Yearly



	2021	2020
Contributions	\$438,914	\$262,665
Fruit Trees	\$167,191	\$111,687
Equipment	\$20,565	\$19,755
Education and Training	\$984	\$9,873
Food Products	\$72,274	\$35,008
Research	\$0	\$12,063
Administrative	\$27,750	\$16,813
Surplus (Deficit)	\$150,151	\$57,467
Expense Ratio	6.3%	6.4%
Net Assets	\$477,478	\$327,327

1. Financials are consistent with 2021 audit report. 2. Our policy is to hold net assets equal to approximately one year of contributions as a reserve against economic fluctuation.

**Our supporters are our lifeblood.  
Here are just a few:**

Ajana Foundation
Boise City Farmers Co-op
Buddhist Global Relief
Ceres Trust
Douglas M. Kinney
Dr. Scholl Foundation
Duncan Robinson
McKnight Foundation
National Tropical Botanic Garden
S. Michael and Mary McLaughlin
Terry McLaughlin
W. L. Lyons Brown Foundation

Also thanks to more than 250 individual donors not mentioned above. You all give us the support needed to carry out our mission.

*Thanks to all  
our donors.  
Your support  
makes our  
work possible!*

***"I collected the breadfruit plants. You and the organization are doing a tremendous job for the world. These plants that I got today will eventually provide thousands of meals, and thousands of people will be fed by them."*** PAUL LEE / RECIPIENT OF TREES / PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS / ST. ELIZABETH, JAMAICA

# Thank You!

**To our donors—both individuals and organizations—we thank you!** Your generosity enables us to plant fruit trees and put equipment in the hands of flour processors. Together, we are generating tons of food, which feeds people and stimulates the economy. You have helped us to educate children on the importance of trees to the environment and to train farmers and entrepreneurs. Your contributions have also allowed us to work hard and happy in our office, keeping in touch with you via technology.

**We also thank our many dedicated volunteers and partner organizations** in the eighteen countries we serve. Your varied expertise helps us thrive as a bigger, better entity. Your service is invaluable. We hope you will all continue to support *Trees That Feed Foundation*. And please consider introducing our work to others and encouraging them to subscribe to our emails. We want to grow and expand the number of lives in which we can make a permanent difference. Some specific examples of how we put your dollars to use follow:

- ➔ **\$15 provides a fruit tree that can feed a family for decades. This includes the cost of high quality fruit saplings, shipping and delivery, planting, and care until the trees get established.**
- ➔ **\$150 funds a cooking school in Haiti. Our Haitian partners provide breadfruit flour and demonstrate creative recipes to encourage variety and quality in nutrition.**
- ➔ **\$180 provides coloring books, coloring pencils, accessories and a teacher's manual for young children's schoolrooms.**
- ➔ **\$300 pays for 100 pounds of breadfruit flour, the basic ingredient in over 3,000 meals.**
- ➔ **\$2,500 funds a hybrid solar dryer, an essential part of our Factory in a Box kit.**

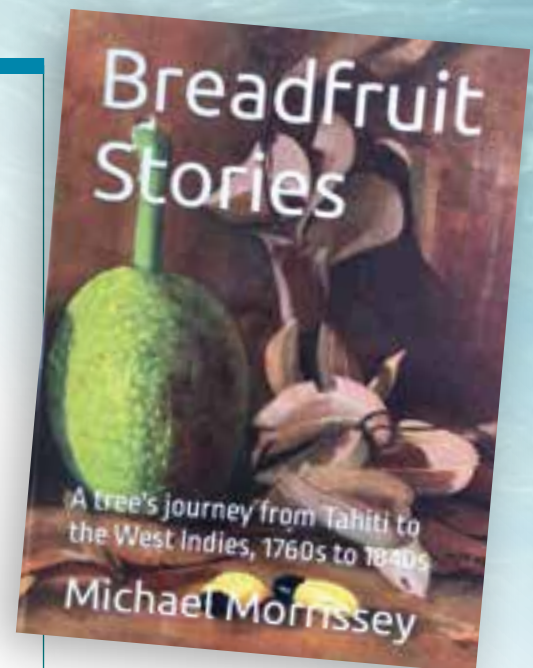
**Of course we appreciate donations of any amount!**

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**You can contact us anytime. We would love to hear from you!**

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**Just Published!** Easy-to-read true stories about breadfruit and how the trees came to the West Indies. There's much more to the story than Captain Bligh and the mutiny on *The Bounty*. Originally intended to feed the enslaved people on the Caribbean islands, breadfruit has become a widely recognized superfood. Honorary UWI Professor Michael Morrissey has thoroughly researched and documented the history, retold as 50 entertaining, insightful stories.

Available on Amazon. \$24.95. Hard Cover. Search for Breadfruit Stories Morrissey.

Read interesting stories while supporting us—part of the purchase price comes back to *Trees That Feed Foundation* as a modest royalty.



TOP A delicious breadfruit-based meal provided by James Pierre Charles of Effort Vision is prepared for schoolchildren.

BOTTOM Father Emilio teaches his students about the environment with TTFF's unique coloring book.

TOP Hot porridge made from breadfruit served at Good Samaritan school.

BOTTOM Breadfruit plants repotted and being nurtured at *Plant with Purpose*.

TOP Haitian schoolgirls working on a TTFF schoolbook lesson, fruit trees' benefit to the environment.

BOTTOM Charlotin Frednaud delivers his breadfruit flour to schools in Northern Haiti.



**Trees That Feed Foundation**  
Planting Fruit Trees to Feed People, Create Jobs and Benefit the Environment

**Trees That Feed Foundation 1200 Hill Road, Winnetka, IL 60093 [www.treesthatfeed.org](http://www.treesthatfeed.org)**

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