

BREADFRUIT INSTITUTE



Diane Ragone, PhD, Director

PROGRESS REPORT - Summer 2011

Growing Interest in Breadfruit

What do Haiti, Jamaica, Ghana, Kenya, Nicaragua, Italy, and 45 other countries have in common? Breadfruit. Farmers, tree planting and community groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government agencies, universities, student's research institutions, food processors, chefs, and others are exploring ways to utilize breadfruit's potential. What's missing from this mix? Funding agencies!

In this report, we will spotlight breadfruit projects and partnerships in Haiti, Jamaica, and Ghana.

Breadfruit Projects



Haiti - The Agroforest Regional Nursery Foundation (ARN) (www.signahaiti.com/signa/arn-foundation) is an independent, non-denominational, non-profit NGO established in Port au Prince, Haiti in 2008. ARN focuses on watershed management, agroforest restoration, sustainable agroforestry/agricultural practices, and job creation. ARN's first regional nursery encompasses a 4 ha site in Digue Matheux, in the Montrouis region, about 50 km from the capital. This nursery is producing thousands of fruit, nut, biofuel, erosion control, and indigenous hardwood plants.

A Haiti breadfruit project was launched in November 2010 when 64 Ma'afala plants were delivered to the ARN nursery. All of the plants survived and were planted into mixed agroforestry fields in the spring. Despite dry weather conditions, the plants are doing well. The ARN nursery is an ideal site to receive breadfruit plants from Cultivaris/Global Breadfruit (www.globalbreadfruit.com) and grow them to a suitable size for planting by farmers and home gardeners and for reforestation projects.

A pilot project to make 1000 lbs. of breadfruit flour from local trees in one week was successful, with four persons peeling, slicing, drying, and grinding the pieces! ARN is now working with bakeries and feeding programs to use the flour. The foundation is also developing a feasibility study for a 40 hectare diversified tree plantation of bananas, mangoes, citrus, and breadfruit. The project will include management training, compost reclamation, a solar energy plant, and a processing facility.



Jamaica

The Trees That Feed Foundation (TTF) —featured in our 2010 Fall Progress Report—continues its outstanding work in Jamaica. Under the enthusiastic leadership of founder Mary McLaughlin, they have brought in close to 2,000 Ma’afala plants. The plants arrive from Global Breadfruit production facilities in trays and are transplanted into pots at the Orange River Agricultural Research Station. The plants are grown for 3-4 months before being distributed. Trees planted at the station in December 2009 are now more than 7 feet tall and flourishing. TTF is developing partnerships with numerous organizations and community groups such as the Northern Caribbean University, Rural Agricultural Development Agency, Jamaican Forest Conservancy, Rotary International, and the Jeffrey Town Farmers Association.



A complementary focus involves production and marketing of value-added products such as breadfruit flour.

Breadfruit flour made by the Mango Valley Women’s Cooperative which received a new flour grinding mill, donated by TTF.

Learn more about TTF at: www.treesthatfeed.org

Important Agreement Signed

In June, Dr. Ragone visited the lush island of Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, to meet with government officials farmers, College of Micronesia, staff, the Conservation Society of Pohnpei, and other organizations, to discuss a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the government of Pohnpei and NTBG. The Honorable John Ehsa, Governor of Pohnpei, signed the MOU in August.

Pohnpei is an important center for breadfruit diversity in the Pacific and breadfruit agroforests have been a sustainable system of food production and watershed

protection for more than two millennia. We have 20 varieties from the island conserved in our breadfruit collection. An excellent Pohnpeian variety has been successfully propagated by Dr. Murch’s laboratory at the University of British Columbia. Cultivaris can now begin developing the protocols required to produce this variety for global distribution.

Using the landmark benefit-sharing agreement with the government of Samoa as a model, NTBG will return 50% of the net licensing fees—received from Cultivaris for every plant of a Pohnpeian breadfruit variety sold under the terms of this agreement—to the government of Pohnpei.



Adelino Lorens, Pohnpei Chief of Agriculture, facilitated the MOU.

Other News

Angela Tillson joined the Institute as Program Manager in May. Angela is a long-time Kauai resident



with proficiency in program and project management, fund raising, and public relationships. She has more than 20 years experience as a location/production manager in the movie industry, helping make some of the largest productions (and blockbusters) filmed on

Kauai a success. Angela brings a wealth of talent and enthusiasm to advancing the mission of the Institute and promoting breadfruit.

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