



Jean Christin Lops
Our Lady of Fatima Chapel
Agriculture Program

Interview with Jean Christin Lops

How does the agriculture program help you? Answer: The program is helping me very much. It helps me to know how to do my nurseries and at what distance to plant the seedlings like plantains, tomatoes, peppers and the other plants. It helps us to know how to leave the archaic system and go to the modern system. The agronomists teach us how to do the dams and to plant vetiver behind them. We learned how to do the dams to keep our soil solid and to avoid them being washed away by erosion.

What did you plant before? Answer: Before, when we had the soil, we used to plant only beans and corn.

Thanks to the training you have received, what do you plant now? Answer: Now, with the trainings we have, we learned how to do nurseries to plant peppers, cabbages, spinach, tomatoes, that give us more profit.

What do you do with your products, when you harvest them? Do you sell them? Answer: Yes, like for example the cabbage that we planted even though we don't plant that in good quantity yet, but what we need to buy in the market we find it and we use it. Now I don't have all the expenses I used to because I find it in my garden.

What do you do with the profit you earn? Answer: With the profit I get, I buy chickens I buy turkeys.

Thanks to trainings you have from the agriculture program, any change as a farmer? Do you get success? Answer: Thanks to the trainings I get from the agriculture program, I used to plant 2,3,4 pots of beans before and thanks to the training I plant more and I get more yield.

With the presence of St Margaret Mary now, how do you see the community? Answer: So, I see that the community makes a big moving ahead. Before if someone had a fever, they might not have the means to go to hospital. Now he or she can find some means with what he or she earned as profit from his / her gardens to go to hospital.

Do you see more cooperation in the community now? Answer: Yes, that helps us to cooperate because when we work in groups, each time you need the other, he or she is always ready to cooperate with you, he or she keeps the same activity, he or she works in group.

Are there more people in the church now? Answer: Yes, we say thanks to Saint Margaret Mary, the community has more people who come to the church. Everybody likes to get into the program so that the program can spread.

Can you help other people in your community now? Answer: I'm ready. I can help the community now because whatever the activity that is being done I get the possibility to cooperate with everybody.

What is good in the program What do you want to see as improvement? Answer: With the training that we received, they taught us how to do soil conservation and how to prepare the seeds so that we can have more yield. We would like have an agricultural loan Bank in the community that will allow us, when there is time for gardening, to have more progress. The way we would get more progress is if we got somewhere to borrow the money to buy plants and seeds to plant when we harvest, we would reimburse and we would keep the profit.

Do you want to say something special to SMM? Answer: We say a big thank you to Saint Margaret Mary for that very big project they give to the community. That pleases everybody and a lot of people would like you to be part.

Thank you.