



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Stephanie Docteur is a Food and Resource Economic Master's Student. Docteur began joined the Feed the Future Haiti Appui à la Recherche et au Développement Agricole AREA project January 2017 as a MS Graduate Program scholar. As an AREA project MS graduate student, Stephanie will not only be completing her Master's degree, but will be conducting research in Haiti integrated into a priority area under an AREA project program with a lead researcher.

Background

Docteur grew up in Port au Prince, Haiti until the earthquake left her high school in ruins in 2010. Stephanie finished high school in New York and went on to receive her Associate degree from Santé Fe College. She later transferred to UF and received her Bachelor's degree from the Food and Resource Economics Department where she found her passion for agribusiness.

Docteur said, "I grew up in an entrepreneurship type of family. My dad is an agronomist, so I have always been exposed to agriculture. I want to be able to educate others how to grow [crops in Haiti] because I realized we are importing so much [food] and we are barely producing any food for my nation."

As an AREA Project Scholar

As an undergraduate student, Docteur took full advantage of UF resources immersing herself in research and developing relationships with professors. With a driven and focused mindset, Docteur has begun to understand her capacity and is excited to gain valuable skill sets as an AREA MS graduate scholar.

"I think I am going to learn a lot of management skills. And [my master's studies will] enhance me to be more informed when it comes to agriculture, especially [in] what I am interested in, agribusiness," she said.

After graduating with her masters, Stephanie Docteur hopes to return to Haiti permanently to contribute to the economic growth of agriculture sector.

"I don't want to change everything all of the sudden, I want to make them (Haitians) see how we can improve and be more efficient [in agriculture]. [I want to show them] how we can improve production efficiently and decrease cost," she said.

Keep up to date with our graduate students via Facebook our website. More information about the MS graduate program can be found at our website under Projects and Partners.

The Feed the Future Haiti Appui à la Recherche et au Développement Agricole (AREA) project is made possible by the American people through USAID as part of the U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative to reduce global hunger. The AREA Project is led by the University of Florida Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS). The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) takes pride in supporting international education, research and Extension/outreach programs, through UF/IFAS Global. UF/IFAS Global priorities are learning, discovering, and engaging.

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Stephanie Docteur, masters student in Food Resource and Economics. Photo credit: Tyler Jones, UF IFAS Communications

