

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Christelle Calixte is an Agriculture Education and Communications Master's student at the University of Florida. Calixte joined the Feed the Future Haiti Appui à la Recherche et au Développement Agricole AREA project January 2017 as a MS Graduate Program scholar. Specializing in extension, Christelle Calixte will be conduct research in Haiti once she has completed her master's degree. Calixte's research with the AREA Project will be conducted under advisement from UF faculty Dr. Robert Grady

### Background

Growing up in Port-au-Prince, Haïti, Calixte was close with her family. Inspired by her aunt, who is an agronomist, Christelle attended EARTH University in Costa Rica to pursue a career in agronomy.

"I wanted to learn where my food came from," Calixte said. "It was a very masculine field, which was also attractive to me. Attending EARTH University was life changing. I had never been on a farm before and it was very different."

After receiving her Bachelor's degree in agronomy, Calixte returned to Haiti and practiced agronomy. She later spent 2 years in Montreal, Canada learning about human resources where she gained her certificate in human resources supervision from HEC Montréal. She returned to Haiti and taught middle school students.

### As an AREA Project Scholar

With a background in agronomy, education and human resources, Calixte found a passion for agricultural education and communications, which led her to UF and the AREA project. Since January, she has had the opportunity to work as a research assistant in addition to attending classes. She hopes to utilize her experience, background and degrees to improve the extension programs in Haiti.

"I would like to work with the Haitian Ministries in consultancy about extension," Calixte explained, "I also would like to get involved in the schools at the collegiate level to provide courses on extension and make some curricular changes."

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The Feed the Future Haïti 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.



*Christelle Calixte, masters student in Agriculture Educations and Communication. Photo credit: Tyler Jones, UF IFAS Communications*

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