

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: July 09, 2024

Report Number: HA2024-0004

Report Name: Haiti Appoints New Minister of Agriculture

Country: Haiti

Post: Port-au-Prince

Report Category: Agricultural Situation

Prepared By: Skendy Germeus

Approved By: Eric Baylor

Report Highlights:

Mr. Vernet Joseph, a former senior-level official with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Environment, was appointed on June 13, 2024, as head of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development in Haiti. His priorities during his mandate include reclaiming abandoned farmland, repairing defective irrigation systems, and enhancing fishing activities to reduce food imports. Minister Joseph succeeded Mr. Bredy Charlot in this role.

General Information

Following the forced resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry in April 2024, Haiti's transitional government appointed Mr. Garry Conille as Prime Minister. Since his appointment, Mr. Conille has successfully formed a government comprising 14 newly-installed ministers. Mr. Vernet Joseph was appointed head of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development (MARNDR), succeeding Mr. Bredy Charlot on June 13, 2024.

Minister Joseph hails from Milot, a small township located in the Nord Department of Haiti. In 1982, he earned a degree in agricultural engineering from the School of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine (FAMV) at the State University of Haiti (UEH), where he specialized in watershed management. He furthered his education with a master's degree in Forest Training for Hot Regions at the National School of Rural Engineering, Water Resources and Forestry (ENGREF), in France, and another advanced degree in Agricultural Policy and Development Administration from the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier, France.

Minister Joseph's career began at MARNDR in 1982, where he held various roles, including head of the Watershed Management Service and coordinator of natural resources in the Artibonite and South departments until 1995. Concurrently, he was a professor at FAMV from 1989 to 2009.

In 2004, he joined the Directorate of Soils and Ecosystems at the Ministry of Environment, where he served until 2009. From June 2012 to April 2015, Mr. Joseph was appointed Secretary of State for Agricultural Revival at MARNDR. His career continued as he served twice as Chief of Staff at the Ministry of Environment from June 2015 to March 2017.

During his installation speech, Mr. Joseph stated his key priorities regarding agriculture. These priorities include:

- Reclaiming infertile agricultural land
- Extending support programs for farmers
- Restoring inefficient agricultural water systems
- Improving fishing efforts to reduce food imports
- Providing support for agricultural production and processors
- Improving the country's egg and chicken agribusinesses

Attachments:

No Attachments.