

University Students' Rabbit Production Project: Haiti



Preliminary Proposal



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Introductions

On January 12th at 4:53PM a devastating earthquake shook the heart of Haiti altering millions of lives forever. This came on the heels of decades of degradation and 4 violent hurricanes in 2008. Haiti never gives up and in the last several years the Haitian people have taken a keen interest in adding rabbit meat production to their arsenal in their fight against poverty and hunger. Among the most determined of the Haitian people are the university students who see education as a road to a brighter future for themselves and their country.

Now thousands of students find themselves scattered in every direction, fleeing the destruction of Haiti's capital, Port au Prince. Sadly, a majority of the schools collapsed, leaving the students with few options for continuing their education and little opportunity for employment. Many of the agronomy students, finding themselves back home in Cap Haitien, approached Makouti Agro Enterprises asking for advice.

This project has been created to help address this new problem as well as to address previously identified needs and opportunities concerning Haiti's agronomic educational system. In Haiti and in Cuba, the university programs tend to be entirely theoretical. This has been a problem for many graduates who find it difficult to make the transition into a workforce that lacks mentoring opportunities.

Last year, Makouti was invited by IICA (Interamerican Institute for Collaborative Agriculture) and Christian Veterinary Missions (CVM) to assist in providing hands on animal experience for Haiti's 70 newly graduated veterinarians (from a school in Cuba). The Haitian Minister of Animal Production, Michel Chancy, has offered Makouti use of the 10 government farms (one per department) located throughout Haiti to help in providing hands on training and animal experience.

In the near future Makouti will be visiting each of these government farms and assessing them for production. Plans will be made and funds found to revitalize these farms. The goal is to use these farms as teaching centers for hands on agricultural experience and food production. This effort will be a collaborative one and will help educate farmers, agronomy students, veterinarians, etc. in a self sustaining manner.

Participating organizations:

Makouti Agro Enterprises is a Haitian run organization started in 2004 and spearheaded by Benito Jasmin, the Haitian field agent for the Partners of the Americas (POA)'s Farmer to Farmer program. The mission of the organization is to unite farmers, allowing them to pool their resources to overcome obstacles. The membership includes 75 families that participate in rabbit production and consulted with 219 rabbitries in 2009

Partners of the Americas's Farmer to Farmer program is focused on providing technical assistance to agricultural producers, producer organizations, and agribusiness in several developing countries. US agricultural volunteers travel onsite to share their knowledge with local farmers. This program is run independently of the US POA Chapters since the volunteers come from all over the country.

Responsible Individuals:

Myriam Kaplan-Pasternak DVM, 9 time FTF volunteer in Haiti for rabbit production since January of 2007. In the US she and her husband run a ranch with a 2000 rabbit, meat production project serving local restaurants. They are one of the largest rabbit producers and distributors on the west coast and co founders

of DG Educational Services, a nonprofit dedicated to agricultural education and natural sciences for children and adults. DGES is currently acting as a fiscal agent for Haitian relief efforts in the wake of the Jan. 12, 2010 earthquake.

Benito Jasmin is the founding leader of Makouti and the primary field agent for Partners of the America's Farmer to Farmer program in Haiti. He is an agronomist educated in Honduras. He currently has a 100 cage (known as holes) rabbitry near Cap Haitian. He is also an expert beekeeper, tackling successfully the health problems of Haiti's bees, and is experienced in crop production, reforestation and more.

Herve Alcinor is an agronomy graduate and a rabbit production instructor. He is the executive director of Makouti and is developing a speciality in cacao processing.

Gerard Michel Joseph is a lawyer with an agronomy background and a field agent for POA's FTF program. He is trained as a rabbit production specialist, meat quality assurance inspector, IPM specialist, and is a founding member of Makouti. He serves as a translator for FTF volunteers.

Anderson Pierre has a degree in administration. He has also been trained in beekeeping, rabbit production, horticulture, meat inspection, accounting. He is in charge of commercial operations for Makouti. Currently he is responsible for the rabbit projects in Baptiste, Riviere Froide, and Siguenneau. He also serves as a translator.

Since January of 2007, the members of Makouti and Myriam have successfully conducted numerous seminars on rabbit production, goat production, and composting throughout Haiti. They have assisted 219 families in producing rabbits and have increased production 5 fold. They have started a rabbit equipment importing business for those supplies not formerly available in Haiti. They are working on developing the entire value chain for the meat rabbit industry, including marketing, branding, processing and distribution. The waiting list of 125 potential meat buyers exceeds the supply for the time being.

Rabbit Project Outline

There is a gross misconception that raising rabbits is easy. After all they breed like rabbits don't they? If this were true then the world would be over run with rabbits or at least filled with rabbit breeders. Unfortunately rabbits also die like rabbits. From an evolutionary standpoint, they use disease, stress and predation to control their populations. Because of this, it is extremely important to include an educational component and follow up technical support to any rabbit production project.

So why introduce rabbits? Rabbits are a potentially great source of high quality protein that can be produced from plant products that are not edible by humans. While turkeys and chickens have the potential to have better plant to protein conversion ratios, these numbers require a grain rich diet that competes directly with human foods.

Rabbits can be raised in cages, reducing the negative impact of animal farming on the environment and the neighbor's garden. The cage management system also allows for easy collection of the manure for soil enrichment. Rabbit manure has the added benefit of not burning the plants, so it may be placed directly in the garden. Unlike chickens, there is minimal disease transmission between rabbits and humans. The cage system makes rabbits portable which is important when families must relocate or the animals need to be protected from storms, thieves, etc. They can also be raised in the cities.

Rabbits are a manageable size for most people to handle. This is important in families where the children

are a major labor force and many earthquake victims are now handicapped. Rabbits can also be managed by the elderly and infirm. The short gestation period (30 days) and rapid maturity reduces the wait time for harvesting the production.

Rabbits do not require lots of medication for successful production, keeping the daily costs down. They are also small enough to make a family meal without requiring refrigeration or rapid sale of the excess meat.

Lastly, they are very adaptable, intriguing creatures that if treated with respect can provide an income as well as vital nutrition. For university students who now find themselves without a school or jobs this can be a life saving opportunity. Proper training though, is the key to successfully introducing rabbits on an entrepreneurial level.

Educational Program

The proposed educational model has been successfully adapted throughout Haiti. It is designed to reach about 30-40 families at a time. The families must be able to provide a suitable location for their rabbit production and participate in a series of lectures plus a follow up meeting on the following topics:

1. Cage construction- participants will receive materials and instruction for constructing and setting up a 4 hole rabbit cage. This will include a follow up home visit to insure that the cage is located in a suitable site.
2. Rabbit nutrition and management- participants will learn to care for the rabbits' daily needs. The distribution of rabbits will begin. Makouti members will be available to identify and troubleshoot problems as they arise.
3. Rabbit reproduction- participants will learn about rabbit production, processing, marketing and selling. They will also learn about composting rabbit manure and other possible rabbit by-products like fur, leather, etc.
4. Review lecture- ideally this will occur a month or so later to allow the participants to ask questions and share experiences with each other. A second fryer cage can be constructed at this time for those people wanting more cage space.

Lectures are conducted by Makouti staff members, based on the lecture series created by Myriam and Benito Jasmin. The first series of lectures will also focus on picking out key people who will become future trainers themselves. The second visit will focus on follow up home visits by Makouti members and the future trainers to assure the quality of care that the rabbits are getting and increase the likelihood of success of each family.

Ideally these lectures and follow ups should span a 4-6 month period. This allows people to experience what they are learning and to formulate relevant questions. The 4-6 month period also takes the participants through the majority of the production cycle. This model can be modified further to accommodate the difficulty of travel to and from Cap Haitien, planting seasons, unexpected problems, etc. Cell phones can be used to reach Makouti members for urgent questions in between. The rabbits can also be introduced more slowly to reduce potential losses (discussed later). Myriam can also follow up with a tour of home visits to troubleshoot problems and to monitor the success of the overall project. Email is another option that can be used successfully.

As we proceed through this process we will be able to identify those individuals with a knack for raising rabbits, and those among them with natural leadership skills. They will become the core of the local support system. These individuals should then receive further training. Makouti is currently working on ideas to strengthen leadership skills, introduce record keeping, accountability, and a reporting system that will allow them to better monitor the progress of rabbit production throughout Haiti and increase the exchange of ideas, success and failures between rabbit farmers. As the rabbit industry grows in Haiti, this

will become more and more important and will help the programs adapt to Haiti's highly variable microclimates and ever changing realities.

This model will be modified to accommodate the needs of the university students. Temporary, or cooperative housing arrangements for the rabbits may be used for those students not having a suitable location for their rabbits until such time as the government farms are available and suitable.

Equipment

The second most important feature to raising rabbits successfully is using the proper equipment. While makeshift methods using locally available materials can work for some people who are very diligent and observant, they most often result in failure and frustration for the average individual.

Water supply is a very good example of this. Most Haitians must go to great lengths to get water for household use. As a result the animals rarely have water available to them. It is believed that goats and rabbits do not drink water at all, that they get all they need from the forages that they eat. Horses and cattle are only offered water once a day. The result is that the animals can not consume as much food nor extract as much nutrition from their food due to the insufficient water intake. The animals end up thin, drink contaminated water resulting in parasitism problems and produce insufficient milk for their young stunting growth for the next generation. In January 2007 we introduced water bottle nipples like those used for pets in the US screwed on to locally available plastic water bottles. This alone tripled the survivability of the baby rabbits. Less water is wasted, it stays clean and helps make water available to the rabbits 24/7. Without them, the only other option is little bowls made out of miscellaneous materials that get chewed up, tipped over and contaminated.

Rabbit cages are another big item that has a significant impact on the successful breeding of rabbits. The key factors that are important are:

1. Hygiene- a suspended wire cage with 1"x ½" wire floor allows for the feces to fall through the bottom, keeping the cages considerable cleaner. This is important because coccidia is a fecal parasite found in all rabbits that builds up in the environment and becomes infective within 24-48 hours. As the rabbits get exposed to higher levels of the infective oocysts, a condition of overcrowding or poor hygiene, diarrhea becomes a problem (this is not contagious to humans). Wire cages also do not harbor sarcoptic mange mites as do wood or bamboo cages. Sarcoptic mange is a very prevalent cause of itchy, balding skin rashes in Haitian rabbits and is contagious to humans.
2. Protection from predators-Dogs, rats, mongoose and thieves are big problems for rabbits in Haiti. Because of the rat problem in Haiti, we are leaning towards using 1"x ½" wire mesh for the sides and tops of the cages versus the 1"x 2" which is a bit cheaper.
3. Support-The quality of the cage wire is important for several reasons. First the cage must be sturdy enough to support the rabbits as they play and thump around the cage. It must be durable enough to last a few years without collapsing and resist rusting in the salty island air. We recommend 14-16 gauge wire mesh that is galvanized after it is welded together. It is currently impossible to find any useable wire of any kind in Haiti or in the DR except that imported by Makouti. The resulting cages have proven to be a significant improvement over traditional cages built from scraps.
4. Design- The most cost effect design is the Quonset style cage with 4 holes per unit. Rectangular cages are also effective but use slightly more wire per cage. It is preferable if the galvanizing is done after the welding to reduce rust. Quality wire is important as rabbits are tough on cages and will break them down quickly if not welded properly or the wire is too thin.
5. Protection from the elements- Rabbits need to be protected from the sun and heat as well as from the rain. A tarp or roof of some sort is important. Many Haitians use the shade of trees, suspending the cages

in the trees and cover the rabbits with plastic when it rains. Better options need to be explored especially in the areas hit by hurricane winds and rain.

If no structures already exist on the government farms, it might make sense to build a single span A frame roof with chicken wire sides. The cages can be hung from the ceiling allowing the manure to fall underneath for easy collection. The wire sides will keep the dogs and such from harassing the rabbits while still allowing for maximum air flow. The roof overhang should be such that it protects the cages from wind and rain. Chickens (with wings clipped to avoid roosting on the cages) and piglets can be raised underneath the rabbit cages. Worms can also be raised in the manure under the cages and become an extra source of income or garden soil enhancement.

Livestock

The rabbits themselves, of course, are an important feature of the project. Currently the demand for breeding stock is so high that rabbits are hard to come by. Importing breeding stock is a possibility, but I personally prefer to start with rabbits from established colonies from local stock that is adapted to the area first. These rabbits will be hardier, cheaper and adapt to the new locale faster than imported stock. I also feel that it is important for the new producers to understand the importance of selective breeding before improved stock is introduced. Regardless of where the rabbits come from the most important factor will be the physical trauma and heat stress that this trip will impose on the rabbits. This will result in rabbit deaths during the first few weeks. Therefore it will be very important to plan this move to keep stress on the rabbits to a minimum, facilitate adaptation and to allow for the losses.

Makouti, has a large rabbit project in Lorry, near Cap Haitien. Rabbits are also available from Quartier Morin about an hour away and from Foundation Vincent in Cap Haitien. They are ready to sell breeding quality rabbits which are a mix of breeds but selected for meat production. The current prices are 750 gourdes (\$18.75) for females and 500 gourdes (\$12.50) for males. The price for the females is higher due to the greater demand and resulting shortage. Because of this we may consider starting new rabbit raisers out with just one male rabbit until local problems can be identified and the new producers can achieve some degree of competency at handling the animals. This worked well in Grand Boulogne and reduces the losses of female rabbits. The downside is that it takes longer before individual families start making money off their personal rabbits. Eventually, when some outstanding breeders have been identified, we can look into bringing in imported stock to diversify and improve the gene pool.

Rabbit Feed

The availability of adequate forage feed and the potential for hot weather are the biggest challenges facing the rabbit raisers. These vary widely throughout Haiti and throughout the year. Heat stress is the number one killer of rabbits and also seems to coincide with the lack of forage in certain times of the year.

In general rabbits will eat almost any forage that a goat will eat. They will also eat most garden and kitchen wastes. Leucena tree leaves frequently seen in Haiti, are an important source of protein, but must be balanced with other feeds to avoid the toxic effects of the mimosine. The important factor is a variety of forages and a year round supply. This requires a committed daily collection of forage feed and maybe preplanning for the planting of needed forages. Many of them grow along the road sides, but competition for this easily accessible feed can be a problem during the hot dry seasons when one must walk farther to collect enough feed for the rabbits.

Forage feed identification and strategies for the introduction and testing of new feeds will be taught in the seminars. Some of the common forages are: Canavalia (Jack Bean), Gros Deline (Leucena, a tree leaf that is very high in protein), Patate douce (sweet potatoe leaves), Benzolive, Herbes Guinea, Herbes elephante (grasses), Chou Black (Hibiscus), Aiguille, Atibou, Makak, Chacha, Parese, Moutarde (mustard), Bali and Moringa. Toxic plants found were: Asorosi Yesken, Oleand (oleander), Brulant.

We will encourage people to plant more forages and trees specifically for the rabbits to be sure that no shortage happens as the seasons pass and the number of rabbits increases.

Commercial pelleted feed is available from the Dominican Republic, but it is often deficient in vitamin A causing severe health problems in newborn rabbits. We are working on a project to provide locally made pellets from Haitian plant sources.

Economics

The economics of the rabbit project will vary greatly among the individual producers. Some will not have a knack for it and give up. Many will do okay and achieve some financial success with it. Still others will do extremely well. Predicting is nearly impossible, but is very dependant on the individual's attention to detail. Keeping water bottles full, putting nest boxes in at the correct time, rescuing babies from bad weather and keeping the rabbits from overheating are very important small details that make a big difference. Based on past experience, it is expected that most producers will be able to produce 20 rabbits within the first 7 months after receiving a breeding pair. At \$10 per rabbit in Haiti, that is a \$200 value. Thereafter, they could generate about 10 rabbits every two months for sale or consumption and have the option of expanding their herd to increase their production further. This equates to about \$500 for the first year. This is significant when considering that 75% of Haiti's population lives off of less than \$1 per day. Two 4 hole cages seems to be the best set up for the average small producer.

In 2009 Makouti purchased and processed an average of 42 rabbits per week earning them an average \$1680 per month with costs running about 65% of gross. In 2008 one producer in Quartier Morin made \$750 a month until he lost his lease in 2009.

In Grand Boulage, Makouti is now experimenting with three new family commercial rabbit production facilities with 48 holes each. Estimates support an income potential of \$3000-\$4000 per year for these facilities.

 Budget

Item Detail		Notes	Price per unit Gourdes	Quantity	Subtotals Gourdes	Totals
Stage 1		Cage building, Management instruction, introduction of first rabbits				
Instruction						
	Salaries	2 people	1000	18	18,000	
	Transportation	10 trips				
	cage materials		2000		2,000	
	Instructors	Gas for car	1500	10	15,000	
	rabbits	Rabbits travel with staff				
	Food and lodging	Return home at night				
Stage 1 Totals						35,000
Stage 2		Devilery of rest of rabbits, Confiramtion of adequate housing for rabbits and continuation of training				
Instruction						
	Salaries	2 People	1000	12	12,000	
	Transportation					
	Instructors	gas for car	1500	6	9,000	
	rabbits	Travel with Makouti staff				
	Food and lodging	Return home at night				
Stage 2 Totals						21,000
Stage 3		5 home visits over 3 months and continuation of training, processing, marketing				
Follow up						
	Salaries	2 people 2 days 5 trips	1000	20	20,000	
	Transportation					
	Instructors	10 trips 2 people	1500	10	15,000	
	Food and Lodging	Return home at night				
Stage 3 Totals						35,000

Seminar Materials							
Instruction materials							
	Notebooks		50	30	1,500		
	Pens				250		
	Photocopies				1,500		
Lecture Hall Rental		Usually donated					
Food for students (stage 1)		Common practice as some people must travel far (30 students & 2 teachers x 6 days)		125	192	24,000	
Seminar Materials Total							
							27,250
Rabbit Production Equipment							
Cage & 4 waterers		6 + rolls of wire and 120 nipples purchased from Makouti (imported from USA)		4000	30	120,000	
Water Bottles		Family contribution					
Nest Boxes		2 per unit , Materials from Makouti.		250	60	15,000	
Ivomec		500 ml purchased from USA or Haiti (10 mls per family)		16	300	4,800	
Mineral Oil		1 pint per unit purchase by gallon from USA		800	4	3,200	
Rabbit Production Equipment Total							143,000
						\$USD	\$3,575
Rabbits		3 per unit plus losses. Purchsed from Makouti rabbitry in Lorry, Rabbit producer in Quartier Morin, OIM in Cap Haitien, Foundation St. Vincent					
Males		Ususally delivered first to minimize impact of early losses		500	35	17,500	
Females				750	65	48,750	
Transportation		With Staff					
Rabbits Total							66,250
						\$USD	\$1656.25

Project subtotal					327,500
Yearly inflation 15%					49,125
10% Admin & Miscellaneous					32,750
Project Total HTG					409,375
Project Total US \$		Exchange Rate 40 HTG/\$			10,234

Project locations:

Villages with rabbit projects as of 2009:

Grand Boulage (Friends of Haiti)	Font Cheval (Friends of Haiti)	Caranage
Les Cayes (Projet Lespwa)	La Gonave (Blue Ridge College)	Plaisance
Quartier Morin	Pleine du Nord	Thibeau
Grand Riviere	Milot (Partnership with OMI)	Port au Prince
Madline(Mike Worthing)	Vaudreuil	Baptiste
Limbe(Mike Worthing)	Haut du Cap	Aquin
Riviere Froide	Bande du Nord	Passe Bois D'homme
Sigueneau		

Villages in the preliminary stages as of Feb. 2010:

Duomonde (Through Leo Blumle), Cerca Carvajal (Richmond Dioceses)

Future of the Rabbit Industry in Haiti

Worldwide the demand for rabbit outweighs the supply. China is currently the leading exporter of rabbit. In the US the demand for rabbit is growing yet the supply is lagging far behind. The reasons few people get into rabbit production in the US is the lack of processing plants that will process rabbits, the cost of fuel to get rabbits to processing plants (currently some rabbits are trucked up to a week before slaughter as they get picked up by bunny runners who travel the country), the cost of feed and labor, and attacks by animal rights groups. You add that to the fact that only 1% of Americans are into farming and you have a long term shortage.

Currently throughout Haiti more and more people are interested in raising rabbit, largely for profit. More and more of these rabbit farmers are now eating at least some of the rabbits. The largest market for rabbits at the moment is for breeding stock. This will likely go on for some time if the interest in raising rabbits continues to increase as it has over the last three years. The biggest problems are a shortage of breeding female rabbits and the financial and logistical issues around the cage materials. These will resolve in time. Other future considerations concerning the industry are as follows:

1. Marketing rabbit meat- The main targets will be in cities. Rabbit is a favorite in restaurants and in demand by knowledgeable chefs. Farmer's Markets are a good place to sell rabbit to the general public. Setting up a distribution system will be important and keeping track of the accounting both for purchases from producers and to the consumers. The real trick is balancing the supply and demand. Efforts must be made to minimize seasonal fluctuations in production and keep the regular customers happy.
2. Processing the rabbits for market-Quality control, sanitation, refrigeration, freezing, transporting are all key issues that will need to be addressed. This will require electricity in the key collection points as well as trained staff to keep the product safe from contamination. Several Makouti members have been trained in meat quality and food safety through the Farmer to Farmer program.
3. Animal health care
 - a. Animal health workers and veterinarians
 - b. Veterinary pharmaceutical suppliers (Being reorganized by Christian Veterinary Missions)
 - c. Monitoring animal health- Haitian National Veterinary laboratory (wants to improve rabbit diagnostic abilities)

The animal health worker (AHW) and veterinary program in Haiti has become very fragmented. There are now 70 new veterinarians and efforts are being made to get them the necessary equipment, supplies and ongoing training they need to be effective. The fragments of former programs do still exist and with some money and effort they will be rebuilt. More collaboration is needed in the animal service NGO's in order

to rebuild an effective service industry.

4. Rabbit Research station

In the future this will become more important to help refine management practices, introduce new genetics, develop new feed options, and monitoring disease problems

5. Exportation of rabbit to the US

This has tremendous potential for Haiti when the production levels get high enough, production becomes reliable, processing and storage of meat is safe and reliable, and any importation requirements are met. More research will be needed to make this work, but it is very possible.

6. Rabbit by products: The following are some other possible offshoots for the rabbit industry.

- a. Fur
- b. Leather
- c. Felt- can be made into goods or sold to Portugal for hats
- d. Rabbit feet key chains etc.
- e. Bone beads
- f. Fur for fly tying (fly fishing)
- g. Blood for laboratories
- h. Fat for soap

CONCLUSION

Since 1985, in the wake of the great African drought that brought us the famous song “We Are The World” (round one), there has been talk of ending world hunger and poverty. “We AreThe World” has just been re-recorded to benefit Haiti and we are still asking the same questions and questioning solutions. Haiti is now providing us with an opportunity to show that with global cooperation we can achieve this goal.

As a survivor of both these events (Peace Corps Niger 1983-85 and the epicenter of Haiti’s earthquake, January 2010) I am often asked if this is possible. I believe it is. Humans are capable of extraordinary things, especially when they come together for a common goal. Haiti’s greatest strength has always been her ability to unify her people. Now she is unifying the world. This is our opportunity and we must grasp it as the alternative is

Times are certainly challenging in Haiti at the moment. We are rapidly trying to pick up the pieces of our projects that were in the affected areas, recover materials buried in a collapsed warehouse and aiding our producers to re-stabilize their lives. Though no members of our team, as luck would have it, were directly injured or killed, we all lost friends, and family. Stabilizing lives often involves helping whole communities find an equilibrium point from which rebuilding can begin. There are no guidelines available or experts to help us as so much of what we are doing falls outside the focus of international attention.

Experience has shown us that what Makouti does will have long term impact and is creating sustainable growth for families. Agriculture is what Haitians do best (75% are subsistence farmers). Food and income is what they need most. Helping Haitians in this sector is likely to be the single most significant factor in long term growth and stability. International research shows that rabbit meat production in Developing Countries can play a huge part. This isn’t just about earthquake recovery. Helping Haiti’s agronomy students gain hands on experience and become contributing food producers rather than another earthquake burden will greatly impact recovery of a devastated nation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or the members of Makouti Agro Enterprises.

CONTACTS

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Link to book list

<http://www.cvmusa.org/NETCOMMUNITY/Page.aspx?&pid=252&srcid=183>

Link to rabbit book on line

<http://www.librum.us/pdfs/raising%20healthy%20rabbits%20under%20primitive%20conditions.pdf>

CVM Veterinarians in Haiti

Dr. Keith and Jan Flanagan (Port au Prince) keithandjan@hughes.net

Dr. Kelly Crowdis (Les Cayes) crowdisk@yahoo.com

Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Book list, paperbacks or text available online

The Rabbit - Husbandry, Health and Production

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/t1690e/t1690e00.htm#Contents>

Raising Rabbits 1: Learning about Rabbits; Building the Pens; Choosing Rabbits

http://www.fao.org/sd/erp/toolkit/books/bfanimals/36%20raising%20rabbits%201_files/index_files/b101.htm

Raising Rabbits 2: Feeding Rabbits; Raising Baby Rabbits; Further Improvement

http://www.fao.org/sd/erp/toolkit/books/bfanimals/37%20raising%20rabbits%202_files/index_files/b102.htm

Haiti Innovation

<http://www.haitiinnovation.org/en/2007/04/15/hillside-terracing-primer#comment-1440>

The Humanure Handbook

Downloadable text at <http://www.jenkinspublishing.com/humanure.html>

I highly recommend this textbook for composting. It is very informative as well as entertainin.