



'YESTADT MILLINERY X DOT'

Spring-Summer 2017

ITC Ethical Fashion Initiative: HAITI

YESTADT MILLINERY Spring-Summer 2017 Sustainability Report

DOT - Labiche - Haiti

In association with the International Trade Centre's (ITC) Ethical Fashion Initiative (EFI) and its Hub in Haiti - Design. Organization. Training (DOT) -, Yestadt Millinery worked with the hat-making community group in Labiche, Haiti for their Spring-Summer 2017 collection. LABICHE is a women-lead cooperative and a hat workshop producing handwoven straw hats made with a variety of locally sourced natural materials. EFI and DOT have been working with the group since 2015, with the goal of enabling them to improve their business skills and the quality of their workmanship.



Hat-makers part of the LABICHE community group in Haiti.

Ninety-five (95) hats were produced for the Yestadt Millinery Spring-Summer 2017 collection in four styles: *Palm hat in PLAID*, *Palm hat in STRIPES with yellow tassles*, *BONJOU wide-brim hat in latanier* and *Gwen hat with large brim*. Working on orders for Yestadt Millinery, artisans received training sessions in Labiche and Port-au-Prince to improve their skillsets and understand the international quality requirements of this client. They learnt to apply strict quality controls and work with very high quality expectations. Despite the deficiencies noted during the production (which were corrected), the artisan women have increased their skillset and improved their understanding of international standards and expectations for future orders.

The order also contributed to grow the cooperative's fund securing its long-term presence within the project's framework. This collection was made using natural local fibre, thus this order contributed towards reducing the impact of environment.

Order summary

Yestadt Millinery Spring-Summer 2017	
Product type	Hat weaving
# of products	95
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gwen palm - Latanier (<i>Sabal domingensis</i>) - Scissors - Sewing needles - Measuring tape - Cotton tape (Supplied directly by the customer)
# of workers	Workers at LABICHE: 23
Skills developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Worked with the measuring tape and technical sheets to respect uniform dimensions and style - Natural Fibre treatment techniques - Hat weaving techniques - Hand hat finishing techniques - Quality control standards

Yestadt Millinery x DOT: Improvements



Finishing and quality control of Yestadt Millinery Spring-Summer 2017 hats

DOT played a key role in ensuring the hat manufacturing order from Yestadt Millinery through order management: liaising with the artisans in Labiche and applying strict quality control.

Production processes are closely followed by DOT and feedback sessions are organised on quality improvements to be applied, providing a continual learning experience for the workers at LABICHE.

Because of quality and design improvement, the value of the products and consequently order increased. The artisan women earned 80% more than what they would in their usual business.

Furthermore, the order permitted the cooperative to acquire a healthy capital to manage their operations.

Meet the Artisans



Doristil Emanthe – LABICHE's workshop member

A woman with a very strong personality, outspoken and respected by others. She is very clear in the way she communicates and is ready to take responsibility for what she says.

She raised the issue of quality for the domestic market, explaining that the consumers are becoming pickier and are requesting higher quality products.

Yestadt Millinery Spring-Summer 17: Presentation of RISE MAP

RISE is a system, developed by Ethical Fashion Initiative, to ensure traceability, compliance with labor and environmental regulations and a clear measurement of the impact of artisans work. RISE allows consumers to access key data on the resulting impact of orders, linked to the products production, stories behind the products and obtain visibility of the supply chain. In order to better understand this traceability, RISE uses a tool called RISEMAP. Created by Sourcemap, this traceability platform maps the complex supply chains of the Ethical Fashion Initiative through links between raw material suppliers and producers, videos, photos and data from the impact assessments. Yestadt Millinery's Spring-Summer 2017 will be available on RISEMAP very soon.

Conclusion

After consulting with the artisans of LABICHE and analysing the impact of production, it can be concluded that Yestadt Millinery's order was of great importance to the welfare of artisan women. The data demonstrates the real impact on the lives of those involved in this order, especially artisan women. The group learnt skills to produce hats conforming to international regulations and strict quality requirements.

More about the Ethical Fashion Initiative (EFI) and its work in Haiti:

EFI is a flagship programme of the International Trade Centre, a joint agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. EFI links micro-producers from developing countries to the international supply chain of fashion, facilitating dignified work at a fair wage. EFI supports local creativity, female empowerment and gender equality, with an overall aim to reduce global poverty by promoting job creation and increasing the export capacities of the region in which it operates. EFI began operations in Haiti in 2015, working with LABICHE to provide high-quality finished hats to its international fashion partners.



Hat-weaving in Labiche: it can take one to two days for an artisan to hand weave a hat.