

# CENDEP Newsletter

Centre for Nursery Development and Eru Propagation (CENDEP) Working To Become Centre For Nursery Development and Environmental Protection (CENDEP)

December 2012

## How Farmers Are Grappling With Limited Resources And Technical Knowhow To Elude Poverty



On Friday, 19 October 2012, Max Frieda, a onetime intern and now ambassador of CENDEP wrote: "...In the meantime, I was wondering if it might be possible to initiate a small project for the women of Ekonjo and Mapanja such as we had discussed on my visit. If I was able to raise, say, US\$500, would you be able to delegate some interns to carry out some type of agricultural extension work..."

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## QUIZ

The picture below is of a plant found in the Korup National Park and Bayang Mbo Sanctuary in Cameroon. Give the generic and specific name of the plant

Genus:

Species:



Picture by Scott Zona

Results of Quiz in our october 2012 Issue

Genus: *Chytranthus*

Species: *talbotii*

Ecological use: Food for wildlife

**Winner:** Nobody gave the right answer



## How Farmers Are Grappling With Limited Resources And Technical Knowhow To Elude Poverty

In order to add value to their produce and earn better incomes, many rural farmers in Cameroon often engage in the preprocessing of farm produce. There are many challenges to this such as absence of low cost technologies adaptable to the rural milieu, inadequate production to warrant processing, lack of farm to market roads etc

Through our analog forestry work we have been encouraging these farmers to diversify their agricultural production. This is done by assisting farmers to design their farmland to include various crop and tree species that they use as medicinal plants, for family consumption and broadly for biodiversity conservation purposes.

We present to you in pictures how farmers in Mapanja, a village on the slopes of Mount Cameroon, are struggling with limited resources and technical knowhow to increase cassava production in order to process and add value to it. We also present how farmers in Bafut in the North West Region of Cameroon are processing oil palm and medicinal plants from their young analog forestry farms. Also in this issue is how farmers in Cameroon and other African countries are being sensitized on analog forestry This issue was inspired by the following communication:

**On Friday, 19 October 2012, Max Frieda, a onetime intern and now ambassador of CENDEP wrote: "...In the meantime, I was wondering if it might be possible to initiate a small project for the women of Ekonjo and Mapanja such as we had discussed on my visit. If I was able to raise, say, US\$500, would you be able to delegate some interns to carry out some type of agricultural extension work..."**

On the basis of this communication our volunteers, Mr. Limbshu Augustine and Nsaikila Melaine held a series of meetings with the "Hands On the Ground Women" farming group of Mapanja to plan on the use of pledged support of US\$500. We also visited their group and individual farms. The women emphasized that their priority need was a grinding machine for their cassava followed by vegetable cultivation as there is a ready market in the nearby city centres of Limbe, Buea and Douala. Our volunteers made it clear that for a cassava grinding machine to make sense there must be adequate production to keep it working to full capacity. So it was agreed that the group farm be expanded while individual members increase their private farms. This is what we present in pictures: **(Continued on page 4)**

### CENDEP Newsletter (CN)

CN is a bimonthly update of the field activities of CENDEP.

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This issue of CENDEP  
Newsletter is dedicated  
to our volunteers Mr.  
Nsaikila Melaine & Mr.  
Limbshu Augustine  
Thank You For All You Did  
With Our farmers



CENDEP was set up in 1999 as a

farmer group, with the mission of assisting and training farmers in the sustainable production and marketing of non wood forest products. From the beginning CENDEP started working at protecting the environment, using the approach 'protecting the environment through domestication', in other words, protecting threatened and commercial crops by growing them. Today CENDEP works in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon, focusing principally on plant domestication and on restoring degraded forest lands especially those that serve as watersheds using analog forestry techniques.



From Mapanja village , on the slopes of Mount Cameroon, to Bafut in the North West Region of Cameroon, our volunteers held meetings with farmer groups to agree on and analyse their priority needs. Interventions were planned together



In Mapanja village, the Hands on the Ground Women Women Group saw cassava and vegetable cultivation as a way out of poverty. For these women land is not a problem, an immediate hurdle was scarcity of improved planting materials...





Maintenance work began on old abandoned cassava farms because of prospects to acquire processing equipment...



Preparation of new farm land was begun to boost production and ensure full capacity use of processing equipment.....





Our volunteers visited group and individual farms to assess the production capacity and needs of the farmers.....



CENDEP Chief Executive Officer, Youndjie Koleoko Gabriel, (left with machet) accompanied the volunteers to the field to meet the women...





## Palm Oil Extraction in Bafut Village



Harvesting of palm nut combs....



Boiling the nuts.....





After pounding the boiled nuts with sticks a hole is scooped in the middle of the pounded nuts, covered with a sieve and allowed over night. The extracted oil is again boiled and and ready for use (market, home consumption).....





### Products of “Young Analog Forests”



Mr. Akombo now grows a variety of medicinal plants in his using analog forestry techniques. He provides cheap and affordable medication to the poor in his community.....Processing of his herbs remains very rudimentary.



Honey is an important component in Akombo’s therapy. In the past he relied on cracks on tree trunks to raise bees, today he has some bee hives in his farm





## Analog Forestry: Spreading the word

In Cameroon we sensitized 3 new communities with the help of Mr. Molua Michael. Mr. Molua is the head of the Mokoko Wildlife Management Association. In Mr. Molua's village, the Cameroon Development Cooperation is expanding their oil palm plantation and Mr Molua is one of those community members who is not at ease with the massive destruction of the mangrove and tropical forest in his community. The corporation has surrendered a total of 280 ha to the 4 villages close to their plantation site and Molua is worried that this land will not met the needs of the community in fuel wood, timber and non timber forest products. He is eager to establish a 1.5 ha analog forest as a model for the sustainable management of the land available to the communities. One of the species under threat from the palm plantation expansion is *Allanblackia gabonensis*. This species is native to Cameroon and Gabon and has a limited geographic range. Under the IUCN Red List Category & Criteria it is classified as Vulnerable. Mr Molua has not received training on analog forestry but have been the reading the field guide to analog prepared by the international analog forestry network (IAFN).



*Allanblackia Gabonensis* now threatened by oil palm expansion

## Analog Forestry Sensitization in Ghana

Mr. Periemantah Kutshoteh Ndzeffemmegho our Forest and Nature Conservation Officer gave a presentation on the concept 'Analog Forestry' to a group of 7 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from Ghana. Through his presentation, Mr. Periemantah contributed in in helping these CSOs with the set up of a trajectory on Analog Forestry in Ghana by providing recommendations on possible starting points for the CSO's to take up Analog Forestry in their work and what can be next steps.

## Intensifying Sensitization in Cameroon

Our volunteers held took advantage of community meetings to talk to more stakeholders about analog forestry. Three such sensitization meetings were held in Bafut where analog forestry has been underway since October 1, 2010.



Nsaikila Melaine explaining the concept of analog forestry to councilors in Bafut village





We attended a training workshop titled « Atelier de renforcement des capacités sur la prise en compte des couches défavorisées / vulnérables et l'approche genre dans la gestion communautaire de l'adaptation aux changements climatiques ». The workshop was organized by GEF Small Grants Programme Office in Cameroon. The training permitted us to attempt a Vulnerability Reduction Assessment (VRA) exercise with one of our target groups. In 2013 after a mastery of the tools we shall conduct VRA that will enable us to better address climate change issues with our target communities. We are greatly happy to the GEF Small Grants office in Cameroon for inviting us for the training.



Melaine Nsaikila with village children in Bafut after a VRA exercise with their parents





# FOREST HOUSE

- Social enterprise established in 2008
- Processes and markets honey and eru ( Gnetum spp ) /okok
- Obtains its supplies from small holder farmers located in and around forest areas in North West & South West Regions of Cameroon
- These farmers receive technical support from CENDEP.



By buying **CENDEP HONEY** you will be contributing in:

- Improving the income of local farmers through the development of their honey enterprises
- Maintaining jobs in Forest House
- Protection of the environment through reforestation undertaken by the Forest Management Committee

