

## NEW MEMBERS, NEW COMMUNITIES AND NEW MOTIVATION

4<sup>th</sup> Edition

**SEPALI newsletter:**  
Organization of Wild Silk Producers

July 2011  
English Version

### UPDATES FROM THE FIVE COMMUNITIES WORKING WITH SEPALI:



**Marovovonana members read the  
SEPALI Newsletter**

On July 20<sup>th</sup>, the SEPALI team delivered 1000 plastic pots and over 1000 seedlings to farmers in the Marovovonana community. After an early morning meeting with the farmers, SEPALI members Denis Manoely and Sizemana, filled all of their plastic pots and finished planting all 250 allotted seedlings in one day. Similar progress was made in other Marovovonana tree nurseries before the trip was over.

Assisting with the planting process were 5 new members of the SEPALI community; Randranarison Fidelis, Rastefanoel, Lalay, Razafimamy Tibo Justin, and Razafimamy Theodore Emanuel Justin. Randranarison Fidelis is the newest addition to the Marovovonana community. The other four farmers are the first members of a new SEPALI community in Ambodimangatelo. As the group grows, they will elect a president who will become a lead farmer on the SEPALI team.



**Ambodimangatelo, a new group  
for SEPALI**

As all SEPALI communities, Ambinanitelo is finishing up a busy rice harvest this month, but the Ambinanitelo group has also been making progress. Of the 650 seedlings delivered to Ambinanitelo this month, 500 were planted before the SEPALI team left the village. Jacky Armand, a particularly hard-working farmer, filled and planted all plastic pots in his new nursery in just two days. In addition to planting seedlings, the Ambinanitelo group now includes four members who already have mature Talandoha trees on their land.



**Jacky Armand  
(Ambinanitelo)**

### UPDATES FROM THE FIELD:

As we approach the end of the rice harvest season, SEPALI farmers are ready to start planting trees again. This month, SEPALI delivered a grand total 2250 seedlings to the four communities, over 1500 of which were planted before the SEPALI team returned to Maroantsetra. In addition to the new seedlings, SEPALI also welcomed 12 new farmers to the SEPALI community this month.

### NEW T-SHIRTS FOR SEPALI MEMBERS IN OCTOBER:

SEPALI recently announced a new deadline of October 15<sup>th</sup> for all current farmers to have finished planting 250 Talandoha trees on their land. In October, a SEPALI team member will count the living trees on each farmer's land and award SEPALI membership cards and t-shirts to those farmers who have successfully transplanted all 250 trees. The membership cards will allow each farmer to participate in SEPALI events and officially market their silk to SEPALI. SEPALI t-shirts will be distributed to all card-holding members after the October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. Farmers who plant their trees after the deadline can still become card-holding members of SEPALI, but will likely miss the opportunity for a t-shirt this year.



**Odette**  
**(TMA Ambodivoangy)**

The focus of the Ambodivoangy visit this month was to make preparations for a rearing experiment that will be carried out in mid-August or September. The experiment is designed to compare the rearing potential of the fertile, forested land in Ambodivoangy to the sandy, largely deforested land around Maroantsetra. The experiment will also serve as an excellent chance for our new breeders from TMA to participate in the complete rearing process and have hands-on training sessions with the SEPALI rearing specialists. Mrs. Odette's land is among the options being considered as a location for the experiment.

Members of the FTTFA group are still in the planting stage of the process and are busy filling plastic pots and transplanting seedlings. Four new sets of plastic pots and seedlings have been requested from SEPALI in anticipation of the October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. Members of the FTTFA group will also participate in the upcoming experiment.



**FTTFA Meeting**  
**(Ambodivoangy)**



**Planting a Tree Nursery**  
**(Ambalamahogo)**

The SEPALI team visit to Ambalamahogo this month included a meeting with both the farmer's group and the women's group. Plastic pots in the group nursery are already filled with fertile soil and ready for the delivery of a new batch of seedlings in August. After a short sabbatical for the rice harvest, the woman's group will resume weaving rearing baskets in August.

Despite the departure of 4 members who are no longer able to work with SEPALI, the Ambalamahogo farmer's group was happy to welcome 9 new members this month. Six are already familiar with SEPALI as they are also members of the women's group and 3 are brand new to the SEPALI family. Lazarosy, Kalo Marie Nary Nette, Rahery Jean, Fleurine Zafielsie, Clotilde, Rasomartiny, Justine Razafindrakalo, Ernestine Razafindrakalo, and Radiah are sure to bring energy and renewed motivation to the Ambalamahogo farmer's group.



**Ambalamahogo famers**  
**wrap up the rice harvest**  
**and get ready to plant**  
**seedlings**

## **LEAD FARMERS STEP UP TO THE PLATE:**



**Lead Farmer Team Meeting**  
**(Maroantsetra)**

At a SEPALI team meeting on July 2nd, lead farmers from each community agreed to take on new responsibilities. In addition to providing training sessions for members as necessary, each lead farmer will collect monthly data for his members including the number of seedlings, number of trees, and the current status of the rearing process of each member. SEPALI will deliver a new data sheet to each lead farmer during the monthly visit to the communities.

## **REARING TIP OF THE MONTH:**

When rearing larvae, make sure there is plenty of space in your nets. This will encourage the pregnant months to lay their eggs on the leaves instead of on the nets where they are likely to dry out. Tie the net to four wooden stakes to keep the net from hugging the tree.



**Silk worm rearing specialist, Denis**  
**Ramahas, carefully adjusts his net**  
**(Manambia)**