



CENDEP NEWSLETTER



Vol.1: Issue 3, Feb. 2011

Gnetum spp: Time for Trans-border technology transfer?



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Who we are

The Centre for Nursery Development and Eru Propagation (CENDEP) was created in 1999 as a farmer group and legalized as a Common Initiative Group (CIG) on the 19th July 2000. Her mission is to assist and/or train local people in the domestication, sustainable production and marketing of Non Wood Forest Products (NWFPs) and agricultural products of economic importance and in the sustainable management of natural resources".

CENDEP's activities cover principally the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon. In the NW Region our activities are aimed at addressing issues of climate change indirectly. This is through our Analogue Forestry program through which we are assisting local communities to establish permanent forests to buffer extreme weather events and also to act as carbon sinks. The interest and participation of the local population is driven by their assurance on the water supply services of permanent forests.

In the SW Region our activities are centred on domestication and development of the value chain for Eru. Eru is a perennial crop which starts to produce after 3-5 years, and then can be productive for 30-50 years. Value chain development activities are carried around the Mount Cameroon Region and in the buffer zone of the Korup National Park. Sustainable agriculture and environmental education activities are carried out in the two regions.

CENDEP Newsletter (CN)

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

Editors

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"If Eru domestication was not lucrative then CIFOR and CENDEP will not have spent time, and money traveling across hundreds of kilometers to train communities here. I strongly believe that before we know the importance of this initiative, they will no longer be coming here. I suggest, we team behind CENDEP for these technical visits and grasp all it takes to succeed in propagation work so that in the future, we can become trainers in the whole Eastern Region of Cameroon."

Ndjodom Benjamin, Mendoungue, Yokadouma



Editorial

By Wirsiy Eric Fondzenyuy

In this issue we bring to light current efforts at transferring the Eru domestication technology to other countries in the Central African sub-region. Thus we will report on the visit on Monday February 7, 2011 of a team comprised of ten delegates from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, and representatives of the forestry ministries of three Central African countries namely Congo, Gabon and the Central African Republic to CENDEP

At the national level Mr. Ngah Presley Bongnjo reports on the last lap of training for Eru farmers in Yokadouma in the East Province of Cameroon. This lap consisted of technical support and an exchange visit. Each activity was interspersed with working sessions (question and answer sessions), presentations, and retrospective training on Eru propagation, nursery and farm management.

We also continue to share our experiences with climate change and REDD, our involvement with other national civil society organizations in the first ever national workshop on climate change and REDD held in February 2011 in Mbalmayo, Cameroon, to speed up action and participation as well as the lessons we learnt from the workshop.

We present an update of the “Bafut Watershed Restoration and Protection Project”, a project financed by the Rufford Small Grants Foundation. Despite the challenges we were able to sow close to 22,387 seeds belonging to 16 tree species were sown in the three community nurseries as indicated below.

On internship, we finalized arrangements for Max Frieda, a fourth year Political Science student at the University of Washington in Seattle to do his internship with us. Max will among other things look into the ways in which farmers working with CENDEP are able to secure land for conservation, and the ways in which legal mechanisms can advance or conflict with this effort. Jelke Brandehof who arrived in early January from the Hogeschool Zuyd, Maastricht School of International Communication is doing fine and has just submitted her progress/induction report. Mr. Nkoulou Nkoulou Yannick Serge from the University of Yaoundé I, visited to learn about Eru, especially how to propagate seeds.

On volunteering, Mr. Bongaman Massimo Wongbi and Limshu Augustine Nyuydzela, all graduates from the University of Buea, joined the CENDEP team. As it is our tradition they shall all be schooled on how to domesticate Eru, after which they shall be assigned to specific program areas (value chain, domestication, analog forestry or sustainable agriculture) based on their aptitudes.

Mr. Tanda Godwin Ade, the Capacity Building and Project Development Officer, left after two years of service with CENDEP. Mr. Tanda is fondly remembered for his devotedness and ability to work long hours. He represented CENDEP in many workshops and seminars, both at the national and international level.

Forest House, a subsidiary of CENDEP participated in the National Agricultural Show that took place in Ebolowa, where they joined the coalition for food sovereignty (COSAC) campaigning against the importation of food products into Cameroon.

At the time of finalizing this newsletter we received news that ICCO, our principal donor is unable to continue supporting us. We shall elaborate on this in the next issue.

Gnetum: Trans-border technology transfer

On Monday February 7, 2011 a team comprised of ten delegates from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, and representatives of the forestry ministries of three Central African countries visited CENDEP. The main purpose of the visit was to study the possibilities of transferring the eru (*Gnetum spp*) domestication technology to other countries in the Central African sub-region. The country representatives came from Congo, Gabon and the Central African Republic. In these countries the German Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection is financing a three year project titled “Reinforcement of food security in Central Africa through the sustainable management of non timber forest products”.

The team was scheduled to meet other Cameroonian structures involved in eru domestication such as the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development, IRAD, the Limbe Botanic Garden as well as visit the Idenau Export Market. Available to receive the team were Mr. Youndjie Koleoko Gabriel (CEO), Mr. Eric Wirsiy (Knowledge Management Officer), Mrs. Mathilda Chibuike (Forest House manager) and Ms. Jelke Brandehof (intern).



Presentation to the delegates

Mr. Wirsiy started off with a presentation that explained CENDEP’s mission and objectives. He further presented CENDEP’s practical case on the sustainable management of eru in the support zone of the Korup National Park in the SW Region of Cameroon. He elaborated on the activities undertaken to disseminate knowledge on the sustainable management of eru with the aim of assisting the local people to contribute in forest conservation and improve their livelihoods by diversifying their production through the introduction of a high value non

timber forest product (eru) into their farming system. He ended CENDEP’s presentation by suggesting to the visitors how CENDEP could contribute to the success of their project.

In the question and answer session that followed the visitors asked to know if CENDEP was being supported by the Cameroon government for the good work they are doing. The answer was no and that support for CENDEP’s extension activities was mainly from Dutch NGOs notably the Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO) and Netherlands Committee of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN NL). The visitors were also interested in knowing what steps CENDEP was taking to differentiate domesticated eru from that in the wild.

After a visit of CENDEP’s eru nursery facilities and Forest House (a subsidiary of CENDEP responsible for the collection processing and marketing of farmers produce notably eru and honey, all non timber forest products) the team visited Bakingili village, one of the communities that have been trained by CENDEP in the past. This enabled the visitors to see eru grow-

They described CENDEP as an essential link between research and the farmers.

It should be noted that eru domestication work was started in Cameroon by Dr. Shiembo and later taken over by the Limbe Botanic Garden. Since 2000 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. In the course of time CENDEP has distinguished herself as lead organization in the Central African region as far as the domestication of Eru is concerned. Apart from training farmers in the South West Region of Cameroon, CENDEP have been solicited by many other NGOs such as CIFOR to provide eru domestication training in the East of Cameroon. A team of CENDEP trainers is currently in the Cross River State of Nigeria where they are offering training on the domestication of eru.

The CENDEP team is open to contribute to the success of the ongoing project to sustainably manage non timber forest products in the Central African sub region.



Delegation visits eru farm in Bakingili



Chat with Mr. Ekuka, an eru farmer

Technical support visit to Eru domestication trainees Nghah Presley Bongnjo

From January 27, to February 6, 2011, a CENDEP team led by Mr. Tanda Godwin Ade and Nghah Presley traveled to Yokadouma in the East Region of Cameroon to carry out a technical support visit. The visit was the last phase of training on eru domestication for three communities in this region supported by CIFOR. They visited eru nurseries and demonstration farms to assess work progress, as well as identify and address technical difficulties faced by the trainees. They also conducted an exchange visit to the two most successful communities. Each activity was interspersed with working sessions (question and answer sessions), presentations, and retrospective training on eru propagation, nursery and farm management. Even though the language for the training was French, the farmers were able to use their dialect as there was a volunteer who did the translation.

During previous visits problems were identified and addressed and we have the feeling that generally the training was a successful one. At the time of the last technical follow up visit all the three communities that we trained succeeded in producing rooted cuttings in their propagators. This was an improvement from the results obtained during the first technical support visit. Unfortunately because of time constraint the trainers would not be able to evaluate if all the farmers would make corresponding improvement in potting and weaning of the rooted cuttings when the time comes. However, two of the communities already understood how to pot and wean rooted cuttings as their potted seedlings were in good condition



Discussions during the exchange visit

The Mendoungue community was the most advanced in terms of mastery of the techniques. They had already started investing in eru domestication. Through its community forest delegate, 300 polythene bags were bought and used in potting the eru seedlings. This is an indication that the initiative will continue at the end of the CIFOR/CENDEP partnership. When the trainees could not afford selotape to mend holes on their propagators they resorted to the use of resins that they could collect locally. Youths in the village of Djalobékoé took over the daily management of eru nurseries and the demonstration farms. This inspired youths of Mopouo who resloved they would make use of the knowledge acquired during the technical support visits to promote eru domestication in their community as the adults who attended the training were failing in their duty. One of the farmers, Mr. Simon Pierre was the most knowledgeable and committed farmer in eru domestication. He can act as a contact farmer in the region.



A well protected nursery with right conditions for rooting of cuttings

Before we left we talked to some of the trainees and community members to gather their impressions on the work we did with them.

“We the youths do not care what the adults say about our active involvement in the eru domestication process and resultant takeover. We are not interested in leadership positions, and we do not intend to show any disrespect. We want development in our community. We request that youths get involved in future trainings as we have learned already a lesson from the eru training that involved only adults. We will want to involve more youths in subsequent trainings to ensure active participation” – Hermann, Djalobekoé.

“If Eru domestication was not lucrative then CIFOR and CENDEP will not have spent time, and money traveling across hundreds of kilometers to train communities here. I believe they have other things to do with their money and time. I strongly believe that before we know the importance of this initiative, they will no longer be coming here. I suggest, we team behind CENDEP for these technical visits and grasp all it takes to succeed in propagation work so that in the future, we can become trainers in the whole Eastern Region of Cameroon .”
Ndjodom Bejamin, Mendoungue

“I am one of the unfortunate youths of Mopouo who did not participate at the Eru training. I am also a school dropout. I have come with an understanding that one has to learn to be dynamic. As I am not strong at school, I can take on agriculture. That is why I have become too interested in the Eru domestication. After receiving the retrospective training, I now know the basics, especially how to insert cuttings, manage the propagator and when to pot and wean the eru plants. I will mobilize some youths to join me in that affair as I have seen in the case of Djalobekoé. I will lead in nursery activities by taking over from my father so that we can succeed too as the people of Mendoungue. I will also go to Mr. Languel Simon Pierre for advice and will call CENDEP for possible technical advice also.” – Cedric, Mopouo

It was a pleasure working with CIFOR. We did not participate in the choice of the farmers and believe that for future initiatives:

- i. The location of propagators (nurseries) should be carefully thought out considering the care it requires;
- ii. Group dynamics should be considered a component of the training;
- iii. Technical follow up is an important component of the eru domestication training and should not delay; it should be immediate to boost adoption.
- iv. If a community indicated interest in domestication, a reconnaissance visit should be done by the trainer before a contract is established. The visit is essential to advise the parties.

CENDEP TAKES FIRST STEPS TO REDD+ READINESS IN CAMEROON

By Perie mentah Kutocheh Ndzemfemmegho

CENDEP's experience with REDD

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) is one of several mechanisms crafted in the wake of climate change impacts by the Kyoto protocol. Its specific origins came during the 13th Conference of Parties (COP13) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in December 2007 in Bali, Indonesia where the famous Bali Action Plan was agreed. The action plan considered policies and incentives for REDD and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (accounting for the plus).

This news article briefly describes CENDEP's experience with climate change and REDD, her involvement with other national civil society organizations (CSOs) in the first ever national workshop on climate change and REDD held in February 2011 in Mbalmayo to speed up action and participation and the lessons learned from the workshop to put in place a national strategy for REDD in Cameroon

CENDEP's experience with climate change and REDD issues started in early 2010 when as a result of her forest restoration initiatives, she was invited by the Netherlands Committee of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN NL) to participate in a workshop series titled "carbon as a funding mechanism for conservation projects". The workshop was held in Ghana and Uganda respectively and jointly organized by IUCN NL and World Land Trust, UK.

In Uganda CENDEP was exposed to an on-going reforestation project with the inclusion of a carbon component to suit current trends in the carbon market. For 2 weeks, she was trained on how to elaborate and develop a Project Idea Note (PIN) – a prefeasibility for an eventual REDD project and visited one of Uganda's pioneer forest carbon projects around the Kibale National Park jointly managed by the Ugandan Wildlife Authority (UWA) and Face the future company – a Dutch based carbon project developer and broker.

Following these trainings, CENDEP elaborated a prefeasibility study of two forest reserves and their buffers in SW Cameroon (Nta-Ali and Rumpi Hills ca. 85,000ha). This prompted Face the future to undertake a site visit in December 2010 in order to assess Cameroon's readiness to participate in a subnational REDD+ project that may subsequently deliver "carbon offsets" in the marketplace using the Voluntary Carbon Standards (VCS) and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance standard (CCBA). That assessment is on-going through communication with CENDEP and policy makers at the regional level.

Training and strategy workshop on Climate Change and REDD

The Mbalmayo workshop on Climate Change and REDD was jointly organized by the Centre for Environment and Development (CED) and the International Union For Nature Conservation (IUCN). The purpose of the 2 day workshop was to bring Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) implicated in the forest sector to have an understanding of climate change, its link with the forest, the REDD mechanism and processes as well as assess the current REDD readiness in Cameroon. Some of the key objectives were to identify key competencies, and potential gaps, in the REDD+ processes in Cameroon, and prepare a civil society plan for effective participation and action as well as to strengthen the existing and foster stronger network amongst the civil society.

From the different presentations, the following issues emerged as stumbling blocks to Cameroon's REDD readiness: difficulties in measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV) carbon at the national and local or project level, the need for capacity building of CSOs on the different building blocks of REDD (MRV, participation, governance etc.), the slowness in securing land rights by indigenous peoples and local communities which jeopardizes ownership and benefit sharing.

Six breakout groups of about 6 people each were formed to deliberate on the more than 18 identified keywords associated with REDD+ after which they presented their roadmap in the plenary.

Lessons learned and way forward

The key lessons learned as far as CENDEP is concerned are the need for a continuation of knowledge sharing among CSOs as well as flexibility in embracing the different financial mechanisms of REDD+.

In as much as the position adopted by the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) who proposes a development adjustment factor (DAF) instead of reliance on historical rates of deforestation so that development needs of member states through forest exploitation can be met with the possibility of receiving REDD credits in future is laudable, it is equally important for the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection (MINEP) to embrace the possibilities of "carbon offsets" as offered by the voluntary carbon market. In order to be legitimate, responsible, certifiable and above all avoid the "hot air" syndrome, "carbon offset" projects must present specific and robust methodologies that conform to strict regulatory standards and have the potential to combine climate stabilization, biodiversity and livelihoods as co-benefits.

If this is done, then the way forward for REDD+ readiness in Cameroon would entail payment for positive actions (identification & survey of forest boundaries, inventorying timber and non-timber forest products, preparation of management & land-use plans, sustainable harvesting, first level value addition to the harvested product and capacity building of members of indigenous groups & local communities for all the related activities) instead of compensation for harm not done to the forests. These payments must go to those who actually participate in these positive actions and not vanish through corrupt practices.

The opinions expressed herein are those of CENDEP and do not necessarily reflect those of the DESIGNATED NATIONAL AUTHORITY in Cameroon.

Bafut Watershed Restoration & Protection
By Youndjie Koleoko Gabriel



Summary Report Jan-Feb 2011

The main activities we planned for January and February 2011 were:

- routine nursery management
- environmental education in schools,
- fire tracing around the water catchments.

Assisting more farmers in the design of their farms to incorporate analog forestry as a component of their land

Except for fire tracing all the planned activities were carried out.

Tree Nursery Management

Because of the intense heat, the nursery shades in Adiemokong and Akofungubah communities were reinforced. A new shade was constructed in Mughie to complement the natural shade that existed. This is expected to boost the survival rate of the germinated tree seedlings.

The potting of germinated seedlings as well as the sowing of new seeds was carried out in all the community tree nurseries. A total of 22,387 seeds belonging to 16 tree species were sown in the three community nurseries as indicated below.

S/N	Tree Species	Community Nursery			Total
		Akofun- gubah	Adiemokong	Mughie	
1	Croton	250	248	256	754
2	Mellitia conrau	200	200	170	570
3	Polysia fulva	1900	1,848	1,880	5,628
4	Prunus spp	510	420	390	1,320
5	Trema	384	400	450	1,234
6	Hurungena	2800	700	2,900	6,400
7	Red maesopsis	200	200	200	600
8	Vitex	200	160	190	550
9	Cordia dichotoma	14	14	14	42
10	Mellitia conrau	200	200	200	600
11	"Sour salt"	39	-	-	39
12	Glyricidai spp	500	500	500	1,500
13	Acacia spp	350	350	350	1,050
14	Robinia spp	300	300	300	900
15	Sesbania spp	400	400	400	1,200
16	Moringa	40	40	-	-
Total		8,287	5,980	8,200	22,387

The potting of mature seedlings started timidly with just 615 seedlings potted. Potting was hampered by a shortage of polythene bags but would be addressed in the coming weeks.

Environmental education in schools

In our January 2011 Newsletter we reported that “an adamant school teacher in Government School Mughie converted part of the school tree nursery into a yam farm destroying some of the seedlings that were already sprouting”. The nursery was rehabilitated after sensitization. Thus pupils were once more able to participate in constructing a nursery to raise trees seedlings for the protection of their water shed. They also participated in the potting of the first batch of mature seedlings from the community nurseries.

Assisting farmers in the design of their farms to incorporate analog forestry

Following the sensitization carried out in the project sites on the benefits of incorporating analog forestry in the farm management plan during the previous reporting period, 11 farmers indicated willingness to test the approach. Three others, Mrs Suh Beatrice, Pa Akombo Shadrach, Francis Neba have also joined the group of farmers who are interested in owing private analog forests.

In addition to the planned activities the following activities were carried out:

Seed collection

Seeds as well as wildings were collected from the remnant forest in the communities. This was the initiative of the community members and their facilitator. The wildings had difficulty picking up as they were a bit over grown to be potted. This is helping in reducing the reliance of the community on external seed sources although they still express interest in some exotic species they have heard about or seen in other areas of the Cameroon such as ‘*njangsang*’, ‘*njabe*’, ‘*bibinga*’.

Sensitization meetings

Sensitization meetings were held in the various communities to improve community participation of project activities. Even though some devoted members were ensuring that project activities continue as planned, the project team thought it wise to involve a critical mass of the population in the activities. The sensitization meetings were a forum to evaluate the effectiveness of measures taken to improve on the performance of the project.

Thus it was realized that the roster/timetable agreed upon and established to ensure the participation of all the Forest Management Committee members on nursery maintenance was not strictly respected. This resulted in some members devoting extra time to work in the community nurseries.

The sensitization meetings were however very useful as they helped in improving community ownership of the project. For example during the meetings the community members suggested tree seedlings that could be collected from their forest instead of depending on outside sources.

The most positive outcomes of our work were:

- a. To make up for the tree seedlings lost during the previous period due to negligence in the management of the tree nurseries, a community member identified matured wildings in one of the remnant forests and suggested that they be potted for future use. This was done.
- b. Forest Management Committee members were involved in the sensitization of community members that could not attend the sensitization meetings organized by the project. They carried out the sensitization during village quarter meetings.
- c. Participation in project activities improved after a visit from the project management to clarify doubts in the minds of some of the community members such as some farmers secretly receiving monetary incentives from the project.
- d. Eleven (11) farmers requested assistance in designing their farmland to incorporate analog forestry. At the beginning we targeted restoration of watershed. It is very interesting that the local people have quickly understood the benefits of analog forestry besides water provision.

Internship and Volunteering at CENDEP

By Wirsiy Eric Fondzenyuy

We finalized arrangements for Max Frieda, a fourth year Political Science student at the University of Washington in Seattle to do his internship with us. Max's primary interest is sustainable agricultural development and food systems. Max has a focused interest in legal issues, but his broader research interest encompasses the general area of small-scale farming and biodiversity preservation. Max will look into the ways in which farmers working with CENDEP are able to secure land for conservation, and the ways in which legal mechanisms can advance or conflict with this effort. He is also interested in examining the dynamics between CENDEP's development projects and larger-scale development enterprises, and the ways in which land degradation might factor into future prospects for land usage and development. Aside from the legal realm, he is also interested in examining the ways in which the institutional capacity of CENDEP and similar organizations could be expanded, and perhaps used as a model for other development projects. This will include looking at the successes of community integration and the effectiveness of linking agriculture with ecological preservation. Notwithstanding, Max is willing to take his research in any direction that might be most useful to CENDEP and furthering this type of development.

Incidentally, Seattle is actually the international sister-city to Limbe, and people in Seattle, we hope would be receptive in strengthening cross-national environmental preservation. Max's research will last for about 4 weeks.

Jelke Brandehof who arrived in early January from the Hogeschool Zuyd, Maastricht School Of International Communication has just submitted her progress/induction report in which she describes the huge cultural misunderstanding about her terms of reference and the way it was resolved enabling her to proceed with her internship without problems. She also describes her personal circumstances especially the speed with which she is adapting to her new environment. She is happy she is doing fine both mentally and physically.

Mr. Nkoulou Nkoulou Yannick Serge from the University of Yaounde I, visited to learn about eru, especially how to propagate seeds. He visited local farmers where he was able to see the conditions under which the plant grows under domestication. Before he left he indicated his desire to return and be part of the team

Volunteers

Mr. Bongaman Massimo Wongbi and Limshu Augustine Nyuydzela, all graduates from the University of Buea, joined the CENDEP team. As it is our tradition they shall all be schooled on how to domesticate eru, after which they shall be assigned to specific program areas (value chain, domestication, analog forestry or sustainable agriculture) based on their aptitudes. Mr. Bongaman and Augustine say they are interested in contributing to the growth of CENDEP while learning something that could help them in their future careers.



Bongaman Massimo Wongbi

Mr. Bongaman Massimo Wongbi, is a holder of a Bachelor's degree in Environmental sciences from the University of Buea, Cameroon. Before joining CENDEP he has been a contract worker with an employment agency "Emploi Service" in Douala Cameroon. He was in charge of stock taking and inventory.



Limshu Augustine Nyuydzela

Mr. Limshu Augustine Nyuydzela, is a holder of a Bachelor's degree in Environmental sciences from the University of Buea, Cameroon. Before joining CENDEP he has been a c worker with the Phalong Electrical Company in Limbe Cameroon. He also worked with the Pamfu Pressing in Limbe

Departures



Mr. Tanda Godwin Ade, the Capacity Building and Project Development Officer, left after two years of service with CENDEP. Mr. Tanda is fondly remembered for his devotedness and ability to work long hours. He represented CENDEP in many workshops and seminars, both at the national and international level. He brought new blood into CENDEP's environmental Education activities and catalyzed the active participation of some communities in our field activities. The entire CENDEP team wishes him success in his future endeavours.

NATIONAL AGRO PASTORAL SHOW: EBOLOWA 2011

By Matilda Chibuike

In January 2011, Forest House, a subsidiary of CENDEP participated at the National Agro-pastoral Show that took place in Ebolowa. It was a Cameroon government initiative, spearheaded by ministry of agriculture. The six days event which commenced on the 17th of January attracted participants from all the ten regions in Cameroon with farmers as primary exhibitors, common initiative groups, Non governmental organisations ,small and medium size enterprises, big industries, financial institutions, government ministries, as well as individuals who showcased various farm produce and product innovations in the agricultural sector.



Forest House Stand @ the Show

We joined the coalition for food sovereignty (COSAC) campaigning against the importation of food products into Cameroon and the fight for food sovereignty in Cameroon. Our products were Eru seedlings, dehydrated eru and honey with the brand name of *CENDEP HONEY*. The dehydrated eru was appreciated by the public for its green colour and excellent packaging. It was an avenue for us to advertise our products to the Cameroonian population. By making our products a household name in Cameroon, we will expand sales and effectively contribute in alleviating poverty by assisting the farmers to sell their produce. Our stand was most visited by the public because of its location in the COSAC village for its originality. We were one of the most privileged stands to be visited by the Cameroon head of state. Through the show we were able to exchange ideas and network with other stakeholders in the food industry.

The farmers for whom the show was intended did not enjoy the vantage position we had. They were far inside, and cried their show was stolen ,and the evaluation for prize awards was to some not transparent .

Overall it was a good experience for Forest House. Apart from networking and talking to possible clients/suppliers/etc. we had a good time, enjoying the gala dance and many other fun activities.

Announcement:

International ReSource Award for Sustainable Watershed Management 2012

Swiss Re, one of the world's leading reinsurer, launched the "**ReSource Award 2012**" on 31 January 2011. Swiss Re established the International ReSource Award in 2002 to actively support the planning, evaluation and implementation of water-related projects with the aim of promoting awareness and encouraging the efficient use of this precious resource. The award is an annual competition for innovative watershed management projects with a total value of **USD 150 000**. It will be granted to one or several projects selected by an international jury. The prize money is to be used exclusively for **project implementation**.

NGOs, private, scientific or public institutions and similar bodies are invited to apply for the ReSource Award 2012. The award is looking for projects which genuinely seek to contribute to **raising awareness** of the ecological, social and economic significance of water sources and watersheds in **developing and emerging countries** (only projects, which are implemented in a non-OECD country are being considered). Preference will be given to those projects which demonstrate **innovative preventative measures** for protecting water resources, i.e. projects that have a pioneering character in the local context (cultural, institutional or technological) and **involve local community** and/or regional institutions. Organizations that submitted their applications in previous years are permitted to re-submit their projects subject to substantial changes regarding the quality of the project.

All information on the ReSource Award, incl. application guidelines (see enclosure; available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Russian and Mandarin Chinese), application form, submission procedures, criteria and schedule, can be found at www.resourceaward.org.

The application process is divided into two phases i.e. the initial and final application: In phase one, participants are requested to fill in the **application (application form in English only)** on www.resourceaward.org. The deadline for submissions for the ReSource Award 2012 is **30 April 2011**. Successful applications will be invited to submit a full proposal (phase two: final application)

May we kindly ask for your support as we are now looking to attract interested parties involved in watershed management to participate in the 2012 award. We would be most grateful if you could **spread the word about the ReSource Award** within your own network of contacts, by mentioning the award in your **newsletter or on your website**.

We greatly appreciate your support to further sustainable watershed management and we are looking forward to receiving many interesting applications!

Yours sincerely,

Angela Marti
Director, Corporate Citizenship, Swiss Re

PS: Please feel free to forward this e-mail (in its entirety) to other interested organisations.

COMMERCIALS

FOREST HOUSE

Forest House is a Non Governmental Business Enterprise and a subsidiary of CENDEP Cameroon. Forest House processes and markets non timber forest products whose production CENDEP is promoting.

"We reinvest part of our profits in community efforts aimed at rehabilitating and conserving forest ecosystems"

forest house products



Dry Eru



Eru Seedlings



Honey

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