

FIRST GROUP OF SEPALI WILD SILK PRODUCERS IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES

SEPALI newsletter:
Organization of Wild Silk Producers

1st Edition

April 2011
English Version

FOUR NEW SILK WORM BREEDERS, MAY 2011



Marivelo (TMA)
Ambodivoangy

Mrs. Marivelo has 460 beautiful trees that will serve as food for the wild silk worms. The SEPALI team finished setting up all rearing materials in her breeding house in April and everything looks great and ready for the first rearing trial. This month, May 2011, she will participate in a training program with SEPALI about the silk worm rearing process. Her land is a quick 10 minute walk from the village.

Mrs. Pierette is also on track to begin the rearing process in May 2011. Although the distance to her land from the village is a 2 hour hike through challenging terrain, Pierette was able to transplant **550 trees**, more than double the number required by SEPALI. She carried all seedlings by hand from the village to her land in 2009.



Pierette (TMA)
Ambodivoangy

Mrs. Rasoa has 1000 trees that she planted in 2009. Her land is 10 minutes walk from the village. Rasoa is already familiar with the wild silk rearing process because she has been caring for the naturally occurring larvae that feed on her trees. May is the time for her to improve her rearing capacity in order to produce more cocoons.



Rasoa (TMA)
Ambodivoangy

Mrs. Celestine has 250 mature trees. Her land is 1 hour walk from the village, so she will arrange a schedule with other members of her family to care for the larvae and visit the rearing site each day. Celestine is currently following the training program with SEPALI and should be ready to rear larvae when the program is complete.



Celestine (TMA)
Ambodivoangy

INTRODUCTION:

It is a pleasure for SEPALI Madagascar to inform you that the team will publish a monthly newsletter. This newsletter, originally written in Malagasy for the SEPALI farmers, will also be published in English and French to keep all of our followers informed about the warm collaboration between the SEPALI farmers and the NGO team.

WHAT IS SEPALI?

SEPALI is a local NGO that provides new income generating activities for farmers through the development of a wild silk market.

SEPALI is currently working with the impoverished communities near the boundaries of the Makira protected area. The NGO team is training farmers to rear a wild silk species called *Antherina suraka*.

WHAT ARE THE SEPALI OBJECTIVES?

SEPALI has two goals, one is **development** through the creation of new livelihoods for local farmers via the cocoon market, and the second is **forest restoration** through planting the endemic wild silk host trees (*Talandoha*). SEPALI requires that each farmer plant a minimum of 250 trees in order to attain membership.

FOUR SEPALI BREEDERS ALREADY PRODUCING COCOONS:



Laina Marie Jeanne
(Anatoraka)

Mrs. Marie Jeanne Laina lives in Anatoraka, community of Ankofabe (10 km south of Maroantsetra). Sandy soils and coastal weather conditions make Anatoraka a challenging site, but Marie Jeanne began planting host plant trees in January 2009 and currently has 350 mature trees. The SEPALI team trained her to rear larvae in 2010 and she was able to produce 1000 cocoons last year, but her aspirations are higher yet. In an effort to produce more cocoons, Marie Jeanne continues to expand her tree nursery and increase the number of host trees. Marie Jeanne is still asking for more training and more rearing equipment from SEPALI in order to meet her targeted number of cocoons.



Jaonary Jean
(Ambodivoangy)

Jaonary Jean is a very well-known man in his community of Ambodivoangy. In addition to the SEPALI program, he participates in the religious, agricultural, health, and even political domains of his community. Jaonary Jean began planting host trees in January 2009 and has been rearing silk worms as a trail period since July 2010. He currently has over 1600 mature Talandoha trees and is very optimistic about his cocoon production for the coming year.



Talandoha trees
(June 10th, 2010)



Bernard
(Ambodivoangy)

Jean Bernard Rakotoarison is the president of one of the Ambodivoangy farmers' groups. He has been farming Talandoha trees since January 2009 and has been producing cocoons since July 2010.

Bernard already has 1100 trees that he hopes to increase to 2000 before the end of this year. The SEPALI team visited his land in April 2011 and delivered chrysalides for the rearing process. Currently, Bernard is a trainer assistant for SEPALI and he will train the other group members as necessary.



Bernard's rearing site
(April 2011)



Rafanoely
(Ambinanitelo)

Rafanoely is the president of his group in Ambinanitelo. In addition to planting over 1000 new Talandoha trees on his land since January 2011, Rafanoely also has 100 pre-existing wild Talandoha trees, allowing him to begin the rearing process before his new trees reach maturity. He plans to increase the number of trees to 2000 by October, 2011. Rafanoely is also an assistant SEPALI trainer for his group and will work to spread awareness about the SEPALI program.



Mamy and Rafanoela caring
for A. suraka eggs