

## SUCCESS IS CONTAGIOUS: SEPALI SILK PRODUCERS ARE REARING TO GO

13<sup>th</sup> Edition

**SEPALI Newsletter:**  
Organization of Silk Producers

April 2012  
English Version

### A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR NEW PRODUCERS:



*Fnozara, Ambodivoangy*

SEPALI is thrilled to announce that among our 29 new breeders this year, we now have 11 successful producers. In addition to our veteran breeders Jaonary Jean, Ranfanoely, Bernard, and Marie Jeanne, we now welcome Rasoa (Ambodivoangy), Zafinirina Helene (Ambinanitelo), Marivelo (Ambodivoangy), Nafosonina Eloi (Ambinanitelo), Jacky Armand (Ambinanitelo), Bemihavitra Roger (Ambinanitelo), and Fnozara Justin (Ambodivoangy). Although our new producers are still learning, they are already making a vital impact on the SEPALI project through their cocoon contribution and inspiration to others.

Together, this new group has produced over 5800 cocoons. Equally as important, their success is contagious. The other newly trained breeders are eager to try for themselves. Impatient to begin rearing silkworms, one breeder even produced 40 cocoons using his tree nursery of seedlings no more than 20 cm tall.



**SEPALI's Producers**  
*Ambodivoangy/Ambinanitelo*

### A UNIQUE APPROACH:



*Cooperative Techniques*

Recognizing the opportunity for cooperation within the SEPALI communities, our new producers in Ambodivoangy and Ambinanitelo have been problem-solving on their own. The group has developed a semi-cooperative system similar to the one used for rice production. Our farmers are now renting land, trees, and even moths to each other in order to maximize productivity.

If one farmer has many trees, but not enough time to rear larvae, he rents his land to another farmer who has plenty of time but not enough trees. Money is not usually exchanged in these arrangements, but the cocoon production is split between the two parties. In this way, our farmers have developed a system that is accessible to all community members.

### BIG STRIDES FOR SEPALI: Mamy goes to the United States

Mamy Ratsimbazafy, the director of SEPALI, was recently chosen by the US Embassy in Madagascar as the sole Malagasy representative for an NGO training conference in the USA. Next month, Mamy will travel to the US with representatives from other developing nations and attend a three week conference about NGO management techniques.

The conference, located in many major cities around the United States, will take place in late May. Mamy is looking forward to the opportunity and is hoping to meet with the representatives from CPALI American if possible.

## LOOKING FORWARD:



**Silk Processing Workshop  
SEPALI, Maroantsetra**

The recent success of our new producers made it possible to host a textile processing workshop with one of our women's groups this month. The 5 women from Ambinanitelo came to the SEPALI office in Maroantsetra for 5 days to be trained to process the cocoons and sew the textile. The women were trained by the capable hands of Mario and Lalaina.

Although some of the women had never used a sewing machine before, they were quick learners and were able to produce six square meters of fabric in only one week.

SEPALI will continue to invite women's groups from each community to participate in the workshops. The next community to host a workshop will be Ambodivoangy.



**6 meters of textile produced by the  
Ambinanitelo Women's Group**

## Ambodivoangy Holds Elections:

Ambodivoangy, the last of the SEPALI communities to hold their yearly elections, has finally announced the results. SEPALI welcomes Jaonary Jean as the new president of the TMA Ambodivoangy group. Jean Bernard was elected as the secretary and will continue to function as a trainer for SEPALI. Pierrette was re-elected as the treasurer of the group.

In the Ambodivoangy FTTFA group, Mani was re-elected as president of the group and Fenzara Justin was taken on as a SEPALI trainer. Together the team will lead FTTFA for the coming year.

The SEPALI team is excited to work with this experienced group of leaders and is looking forward to the coming year. The team is very optimistic that we will be able to reach our goal of 60 m<sup>2</sup> of textile in 2012!



**Jaonary Jean,  
Ambodivoangy TMA  
President**



**Mani  
Ambodivoangy  
FTTFA President**

## Textile Workshop Participants:

- TRAZIE
- Kilao
- Zafinirina Helene
- Zanamaho Alette
- Madame Damacien
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## SEPALI Trainers:

- Jaofeno Mario
- Lalaina



## Continuing the SEED Initiative.

As part of the new SEED initiative, SEPALI received funding to develop our work in the communities, buy new equipment, and develop an eco-tourism program to spread awareness about SEPALI. As part of this program, SEPALI will be setting up an educational tour at the demonstration site and create a small gift shop to showcase the work of our artisans. Only SEPALI members may sell hand-crafts at the SEPALI office, but the opportunity will give our members yet another chance at income generation. Through equipment production, cocoon production, cocoon processing, and artisan hand-crafts, SEPALI's women's groups now have multiple opportunities for income generation.