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CPALI/SEPALI Madagascar Newsletter

6 March 2013

PPP - Partners, Planning and Pupae

In less than two weeks, Rick Zuzow, Rishabh Bhandari, Alicea Cock-Estab and Kristin Mayer, students from Stanford University's course, "Extreme Design for Affordability" will descend on Madagascar to spend two, packed weeks with the SEPALIM team to solve some of our most vexing technical problems. The Extreme Team will visit SEPALIM farmers and textile producers to learn how they make our textile and help us make it more efficiently, or they may work on how to remove caterpillar stains on the cocoons, or how to lighten the cocoons in preparation for dyeing, or how to make new cocoon designs - or something entirely different . . . Whatever they decide to do, we hope it will be Extreme!



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News from the Field

3.8 kg of Red Ruffed Lemur



II
4000 silkworm pupae
plus 1 kilo of cocoons



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Just after the Stanford students leave, Maminarina Randrianandrsana from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign will arrive to initiate a survey on entomophagy in Madagascar (insect eating) and spend about 2 months collecting pupae and leaves. In November/December the team worked with Lydiah Gatere collecting soils with the goal of initiating a long term study to determine on the effect of *Talandoa* (silkworm host plants) on soil quality at different farm sites. Maminarina will now collect leaf samples from trees grown at these sites to see if leaf nutritional value is correlated with soil type. We already know that *A. suraka* raised on different host plants differ significantly in growth rate and survivorship. Furthermore, pupae raised on *Talandoa* produce cocoons two times the mass of cocoons produced by larvae that fed on an alternative leaf forage (Razafimanantsoa and Craig, unpublished data). Maminarina's work will allow us to explore the effect of soil quality on leaf forage, and correlated effect on pupae fat and protein content. Hopefully these data will allow us to determine how many pupae need to be eaten to have a protein impact on local diets as well as the steps we need to take to improve the soils and hence the nutritional quality of the host plants. We plan to task our our next future Peace Corp volunteer (arriving in June) with helping us develop soil treatments that can enhance leaf food value. Hence, our motto for 2013: Partners, Pupae and Planning.

News from the Field

Mamy just returned from a visit to farmers who are competing to rear the most pupae on their farms. So far, our top producers, are Joanary Jean and Fenezara Justin, both have produced 4000 cocoons in the past year (halfway to the 8000 cocoon target!) and Joanary Jean produced 1000 just in the past month! Joanary Jean's success is in part due to the fact that he is one of the few farmers who has built a breeding house to the chrysalids that SEPALIM requires. Hopefully others will copy him instead of keeping the pupae in a basket under the bed . . .



SEPALIM is continuing its program to send Denis Ramasy on month long field expeditions to train farmers in larval care and cocoon production. He lives in one of SEPALIM's rented houses the community so that farmers can check in with him daily to learn what needs to be done at each stage. He also gives group lessons such as how to deal with predators, tree care, move larvae to a new trees when a food source is defoliated. Probably most important, he is a cheerleader and full time technical supporter for the farmers.

Marketing update



Our wild silk textile is generating interest in New York and overseas. Thanks to Teresa and Sheila Zent, we have our first "professionally made" product. The decorative pillow shows off the variety of each

individual square made from a uniquely spun cocoon, color shading and individual weave. As room light changes during the day, so do the colors of the textile - I suggest enlarging the picture above to take a, really good, closer look - any orders??

Textile artist Diane Eaton has completed a second wall hanging "**Tidgen**", in which she remembers her father's time as a child in one of the thousands of Japanese internment camps in Indonesia during WWII.

Diane backed CPALI silk with similar-coloured bronze fabric, leaving a rough edge. All-over quilting held it in place. Embroidered with a red circle (Japanese flag) and 'rice' at bottom. The barbed wire design is sun-printed on silk and the 3-D barbed wire is made from yachting cord with each barb made from twisted silk cord held in place with glue.





This piece is on display at Golden Textures - Contemporary Art Quilt Exhibition, Maryborough, Victoria, Australia until 7 April. It sold on opening night.

Reorders: When our textile is reordered, we know that their experience with it has been satisfactory. We are proud to report that HabuTextile has placed a *third* order with CPALI/SEPALIM. In addition, two New York design firms are considering our textile to be incorporated into their line as is a Canadian jewelry designer. Product production and product design will soon be pushed ahead through our partnership with Otis College of Design in Los Angeles. Otis is interested in working integrating SEPALIM into its integrated design learning program - that means architecture, home design and jewelry all in one! Otis is a hotbed of creativity and is also interested in having its students understand what enterprise models of conservation and poverty alleviation are all about.

Global Giving, our primary source of online fund-raising, has announced a Matching Pledge Day on 13 March

2013. Bonus Day- matching will begin at 9:00 am EDT and will match donations at 30% up to \$1,000 per donor per project! There is \$50,000 available in matching funds and matching will last until funds run out or 11:59 pm EDT. GG challenge funds don't last long so please consider donating on 13 March 2013 at 9:05!!

Let the adventure continue!



Catherine Craig, PhD
CPALI President

We welcome your suggestions and comments - please contact me at: or suggest additional products or markets, please contact ccraig "at" cpali "." org or Mamy Ratsimbazafy at Mamycpali.gmail.com.

Donations can also be gratefully accepted and acknowledged through Global Giving (<http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/help-farmers-produce-silk-and-enhance-nutrition/>) but if you would like a special 4"x4" sample of our silk be sent as a gift, please make a donation of \$100 or more by sending a check to: CPALI, 221 Lincoln Road, Lincoln, MA 01773. Don't forget to include the recipient's address.

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