

GOING OUT STRONG

SEPALI finishes out the year with a Big Move, More Visitors
and a Soil Sampling Project

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20th Edition

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English Version

New Land and a New Office for the SEPALI Team!



SEPALI Land, Varingohitra

In just 2 short days, SEPALI team members Mamy, Mario, Eddy, Bertrand and hired help Jerison and Prista transplanted over 250 full grown trees from the old SEPALI office in Ambatomasina to the new land in Varingohitra. The team had been hard at work for weeks digging holes and preparing the land for the move.

Piled high with compost, the trees seem to be adapting well to their new home. In addition to transplanting the trees, the team also built a path through the new gardens, dug a pond for water catchment, and began construction of a well. Construction of bathrooms, a watchman house and tent platforms will continue throughout December and January.



Transplanting Trees

The second major move of the month, also completed over two days, was to a new SEPALI office. In just one afternoon, the team loaded up all SEPALI's possessions in one big haul and settled in. The SEPALI team will now live and work in the new office. Just like before, SEPALI welcomes farmers and members to visit at anytime and check out the new house for themselves.



*New SEPALI Office,
Varingohitra*

NEW SEPALI OFFICE How to Get There:



*New SEPALI Office,
Varingohitra*

The new SEPALI office, located in Varingohitra, is on the RN5. Heading south from Maroantsetra, you will cross over the bridge, pass the school, and pass the Relais du Masoala. When you pass SOLIMA and the reading center, you will see the SEPALI gate and sign across the street on the right side of the road.

Twenty minutes outside of town, the new house offers more garden space, a secure house, and a quiet neighborhood to continue the project. It is also much closer to the new SEPALI land where the silkworm demonstration site will be located and the SEPALI office will eventually be built.

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Visitors, Visitors, Visitors...



***Lydiah Gatere,
Soil Scientist at SEPALI***

This month, Lydiah Gatere, a Kenyan soil scientist currently working at Columbia University, joined the SEPALI team for 4 weeks to conduct a soil sampling project. Through this program, SEPALI hopes to find out how Talandoha trees affect the soil and if the silkworm rearing process has a positive impact on the soil. Over the last three weeks, Lydiah, Eddy, and Kerry sampled over 26 farms in 8 SEPALI communities.

The first sampling mission was to Anatoraka and Manambia in the south, where Lydiah and Kerry sampled the sandy farms of Marie Jeanne and staff member Denis Ramasy. Sahafotra, Antsangofia, and Mahalevona were next. Eddy joined Lydiah and Kerry and the three managed to sample 4 farms in Sahafotra, 4 in Anstangofia, and 6 in Mahalevona over the course of 5 days.



Soil testing, Mahalevona



Sampling in Ambinanitelo

The second step was to Ambinanitelo, where the team spent 2 days collecting samples from 9 farms around the area. In Ambodivoangy, despite heavy rain and unfavorable conditions, Lydiah and the SEPALI team managed to collect samples from the land of Jaonary Jean, Odette, and Marivelo. Unfortunately, the team ran out of time to test in Marovovonana.

All soil samples were returned to SEPALI so that they can be dried, pounded, and sieved before Lydiah takes them to Antananarivo. There the samples will be sieved again and processed. Lydiah hopes to be finished with her work by the end of February and promises to send all information about the soil back to SEPALI's members.



***Interview with Nafosonina Eloi,
Ambinanitelo***

SEPALI would like to extend a big thank you to Lydiah and to all the farmers who participated in the sampling program.

Stanford University Scouts out SEPALI for a Student Partnership in Design Program:

David _____, a visitor from Stanford University in the US, visited SEPALI this month to scout the way for a group of students who are due to arrive in March, 2013. The students are part of a creative design program at the University and will be staying with the SEPALI team for a week to help us tackle our product design challenges.

During his four day stay, David visited our farmer groups in Ambodivoangy, participated in a textile workshop in Maroantsetra, and was introduced to the whole SEPALI project by Mamy Ratsimbazafy.



***David visits
Ambodivoangy***

When the students arrive in March, we hope to work with them to design a product or a series of products that will solve both our production and marketing problems.