

## SEPALI IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Intensive trainings, film crews, and new members

18<sup>th</sup> Edition

### SEHATRY NY MPAMOKATRA LANDY FOTONY

September 2012  
English Version

#### SEPALI Hosts Visitors in the Month of September:



**SEPALI Members with Visitors in Ambinanitelo**

The new volunteer would replace Kerry O'Neill in May, 2013 and start a vegetable intercropping program with SEPALI's farmers. Hoby was warmly received in Ambinanitelo and SEPALI members expressed interest in the project. Another visitor, due to arrive in Maroantsetra in November, will also help pave the way for an intercropping program through an extensive soil quality study in each SEPALI community. The visitor will analyze soil samples from around the Talandoha host plants.



**Mani's Interview  
Ambodivoangy**

In addition to the routine field missions, September brought an unusual band of characters to Maroantsetra. The first was Hoby, a Peace Corps staff member from Antananarivo who visited the community of Ambinanitelo to gauge farmers' interest in working with a new Peace Corps volunteer on a food security initiative.



**Matthew filming a moth training  
Ambinanitelo**

Two of Kerry's family members also visited Maroantsetra in late September. Her brother Matthew O'Neill, a trained documentary film producer, worked hard during his stay to prepare a film about SEPALI. Over the course of ten days, the trio visited SEPALI communities in Ambinanitelo, Ambodivoangy and Farankaraina. On each trip, they took footage of trainings with SEPALI staff members, presentations, interviews, and members' land. Matthew hopes to have the film finished by January of 2013 and will send copies back to Maroantsetra so that we can show the film in each community.

#### THE HUNT IS ON: SEPALI MUST FIND A NEW OFFICE BY DECEMBER, 2012

Due to a recent increase in rent for the SEPALI office in Maroantsetra, staff must begin to look for other options. Director Mamy Ratsimbazafy and staff members have been examining multiple options for the move and have decided on a two-part plan:

SEPALI will purchase land in the coming months to set up a new demonstration site and continue the silkworm rearing operation. Staff will also identify another house to rent in Maroantsetra that will host the SEPALI office. Properties under consideration include houses near the airport, along the riverfront, and near the Relais du Masoala.



**The move begins...**

SEPALI will begin the move shortly and will announce the new address in November, 2012.

### **Month-Long Intensive Training in Ambinanitelo:**



**SEPALI Training**

In addition to its monthly field missions and question and answer sessions, SEPALI implements a three-stage formal training process for the silkworm rearing. The preliminary classroom training begins before the host trees are mature and is followed by a hands-on demonstration. The second training consists of a hands-on review of the entire rearing process with the mature host trees and individualized attention on each farmer's land. The third and final part of the training process is for each farmer to participate in a month-long intensive training course that follows the silkworm through an entire life-cycle.

It was this third step that staff member Mario Jaofeno conducted in Ambinanitelo and Ambalamahogo this month. Ambinanitelo was the first community to receive this intensive training which will mark a major shift in the SEPALI program. Having received all steps in the training process from SEPALI, Ambinanitelo should be able to start producing cocoons on its own and SEPALI will begin to shift its attention to the newer communities. This will mean fewer field missions for Ambinanitelo and more independence for Rafanoela, SEPALI's lead farmer in that community.

### **Mission to Marovovonana:**

Also in September, Eddy and Kerry led a week-long field mission to Ambohisoa, Marovovonana, Ambodimangatelo, and Ambatofotsy. In each town, Eddy gave a public presentation about the SEPALI program spread awareness about SEPALI's work in their communities. In Ambohisoa, SEPALI member Gilbert finished planning 283 trees and has been approved to receive a membership card.



**Meeting in Ambatofotsy**

All farmer groups in each community met with the SEPALI staff during their visit and discussed updates and questions. The new group in Ambatofotsy brainstormed plans to hold an election and organize days to work together on the SEPALI project. Ambatofotsy members are expected to report on their election in the coming month.



**Training in Ambalamahogo**



**Ambohisoa Group Work**

### **ATTENDEES AT THE SILKWORM TRAINING IN AMBINANITELO AND AMBALAMAGOGO:**



**Mario, SEPALI Trainer**

Eight SEPALI members actively participated in Mario's training sessions in Ambinanitelo and in nearby Ambalamahogo this month.

- 1) Rafanoel
- 2) Mahason Geri
- 3) Zafinirina Helene
- 4) Rasolo Jasmin
- 5) Samuel
- 6) Celine
- 7) Jackilette
- 8) Razafindrakalo Justine

Also participating part-time were SEPALI members;

- 9) Trazie
- 10) Girane
- 11) Rabe Jean Damacien

Although many members participated, SEPALI was not fully satisfied with the turnout. Many members who should have participated in the training responded that they were already comfortable with the rearing techniques and simply requested chrysalides.

It is in the best interest of everyone, however, if each member is as skilled as possible at the rearing in order to reduce chrysalide death rates.