



WHAT ABOUT GSDM ?

GSDM is an association under Malagasy law, bringing together different organizations involved in research, training and dissemination of Agroecology (AE) and Conservation Agriculture (CA) in Madagascar. Their member's details are provided in this handout.

GSDM is the focal point of the National Task Force on Conservation Agriculture (NCATF), a national platform supported by FAO. Its goal is to support and promote the adoption of the Agro-ecology techniques related to climate change (CSA or Climate Smart Agriculture) and Conservation Agriculture in the context of the national frame of references. From 2004 it has received the support from AFD (French Agency of Development) through the project "Support to the dissemination of agro-ecologies systems in Madagascar"; and recently from COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa).

OVERALL FRAMEWORK AND CHALLENGES

The demographic growth, associated with climate change and the practice of traditional agricultural cause environment damages, soil fertility degradation and therefore, crop production is unable to meet population needs any longer. Irrigated agriculture is limited by the availability of irrigated or irrigable soils. Highly resource devastating practices as applied by farmers are threatening the whole ecosystem.

Many major risks will make food insecurity inevitable for the upcoming generations as a consequence of the slow and continuous degradation of the environment if no measures are taken at all levels, and if the agricultural practices are not reviewed, and new practices adopted.

OUR MISSIONS

Our missions consist in supporting a large-scale dissemination of Conservation Agriculture and Agroecology in the country in a view to implement a sustainable development charter.

These missions fall within the role of a technical institute which consist in :

- Developing the techniques of Agroecology (technical engineering) : Stocktaking, Training, Support to research and Agroecology Labeling ;
- Support Agroecology integration to public policies, programs and projects (integration engineering) : Mission of advocacy ;
- Support the integration of Agroecology in the systems of current development networks in rural environment (development engineering). On the other hand, GSDM acts as an interface between research, training and development.



GSDM OVERALL OBJECTIVE

GSDM overall objective consists in supporting the Conservation Agriculture and Agroecology up scaling in Madagascar to promote a sustainable agriculture and protection of the environment to mitigate climate change.

GSDM SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Stocktaking of best practises ;
- Capacity building for both top level staff and technicians within the framework of the National System of Agricultural and Rural Training (SNFAR) ;
- Promotion and support to the dissemination and up scaling of agroecological techniques in terms of quantity and quality (Rural development and environment) ;
- Advocacy for Agroecology integration into public policies ;
- Agroecological techniques integration into programs/projects (forestry, environment and livestock, support to stakeholders networks).

GSDM TARGETS ARE :

- Organizations, NGOs and associations working in agriculture, likely to be interested in Agroecology and Conservation Agriculture ;
- Technical and financial partners ;
- Training centers working in sustainable agriculture and environment protection ;
- Decision - makers ;
- Farmers and farmers's organization.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY GSDM

- Expertise in Agroecology : initial surveys, proposals of CSA systems adapted to the prevailing physical and socioeconomic conditions ;
- Support to strategy implementation for dissemination action : field team backstopping, monitoring and evaluation during vegetation period etc...;
- Monitoring evaluation on quality intervention in Agroecology ;
- Support to exchange visits in agroecological in a particular area as required ;
- Short-term training as required ;
- Long-term training leading to official qualification : i.e. Specialized diploma in CSA ;
- Availability on web site of all information and data on GSDM stocktaking.

WHY TO JOIN GSDM ?

- To benefit from the latest information on Agroecology ;
- To benefit from GSDM expertise in Conservation Agriculture and Agroecology ;
- To be part of the framework of stakeholders in designing Research and Rural Development projects involving these technologies, currently subject to a high demand (watershed management, etc.) ;
- To be able to benefit from training and labeling as a professional in Agroecology and to benefit from GSDM support in funding for research or rural development projects.

HOW TO JOIN GSDM ?

Send a written application with a cover letter to GSDM President of the Board, care of its Executive Director. The application will be examined during a General Assembly. Registered organizations or physical persons involved in the research or dissemination of agroecological techniques in Madagascar may apply to be a member.

WHO ARE GSDM MEMBERS ?

GSDM has currently 18 members, development actors working on Agroecology, in environments and actively contributing to the economic development of the country through many projects.

The Centre National de Recherche Appliquée au Développement Rural or National Rural Development Applied Research Center (CENRADERU /FOFIFA), in consortium with CIRAD, the University of Antananarivo, FIFAMANOR and IRD on the Systems of Altitude and Sustainability Production (DC/SPAD) carries out thematic research on DMC (Direct seeding Mulch-based Cropping systems) and is engaged in the design, the adaptation and the dissemination of innovative sustainable systems through two major programs of DP/SPAD : " The Sustainable Cropping and Rice Growing Systems (Scrid) and " Cropping systems Engineering". The SCRID intervention areas are the Highlands, the Middle West and the Alaotra whereas the activities of the Cropping Systems Engineering are for the time being concentrated in the Middle West. The topics under particular study for the time being cover :

- The soil biological, physical and chemical functioning under DMC systems ;
- Rainfed rice production functioning under DMC systems and its implications for applied genomics and varietal creation ;
- Integrated management against bio aggressors, Agriculture livestock integration including mainly the development of DMC systems in terms of use of cover crops for animal forage/feeds and analysis of innovation processes and impact of innovation at the levels of production systems and producers groups. FOFIFA also plays a key role in academic training (hosting and backstopping of trainees, supervision of PhD thesis).



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SDMad Ltd is the major food crop and cover crop seed provider in Madagascar. It has been deeply involved in DMC dissemination in Lac Alaotra, the southeast region, south west and highlands of Madagascar. Well known in the management of Rice Fields with Poor Water Control (RMME), SD MAD has the skill in low land reclamation, and in perimeters and watershed management. Moreover, it has been involved in support to commercial farmers in Alaotra region, in partnership with Agro B&P Conseils.

The experimentation and dissemination centre for farmer's management of the hillsides, (e.g.tanety) or FAFIALA (FAnamparihana sy Fikarohana momba ny ala sy ny ALA vadim-boly) works all over Madagascar. It trains farmers and technicians, and carries out development actions on tanety based on agroforestry, conservation agriculture and environment protection. Likewise, FAFIALA carries our research and dissemination actions in sericulture. It spreads mulberry trees in watershed protection and in the agroforestry systems. In terms of conservation agriculture, after the training on all staff within TAFE, FAFIALA engaged in dissemination in the middle west of VAKINAKARATRA (district of Mandoto and Betafo) with a strong adoption by the farmers on the Stylosanthes-based systems. Apart from profitability of these CA systems (increase in yields with the number of years under DMC), they are very efficient to combat *Striga asiatica* which make them the most adopted system by farmers. FAFIALA has high level staff, technicians and socio-organizers trained with sound experience in conservation agriculture.

WWF Madagascar or World Funds for Nature, a non-profit making organization with its head office based in Switzerland and which is working in other countries to protect nature as an international organization. It works all over Madagascar with a representation in Antananarivo. With the funding from Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FEEM/AFD), WWF has implemented with AVSF and other operators the Plateau Mahafaly project the objective of which is to suggest sustainable production systems including Conservation agriculture and forage as alternative to slash and burn techniques (e.g tavy) in the cleared areas of this limestone plateau and on the littoral with a view to settling the populations. WWF joined GSDM on May 15, 2008.

Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières is a non profit organization of international solidarity, acting to support small-scale farming in the South. AVSF puts the skills of professionals in agriculture, livestock and animal health in the service of small-scale farming threatened by exclusion or poverty. In terms of dissemination of Conservation agriculture. AVSF is a member of GSDM. Currently, it provides services in Analanjirofo region in a project around Ambatovaky and Zahamena protected areas, a food security thematic for programme funded by the European Union in the southwest region, the support for vulnerable populations in Antsiranana region project. AVSF has high level staff and technicians trained in conservation agriculture.

From its inception, ANAE was part of the Environmental programme (phases PE1 and 2) implementing agencies from 1991 to 2002, in charge of the component "Conservation management of waters and soils, and improvement of the rural living environment". Its mandate is to manage funds intended for implementing mini projects of soil conservation and support to agricultural production is this Programme priority intervention areas. From 2003 onwards to date, ANAE became a service provider in the integrated field of environment, have allowed the Association to build sound professional relationships with rural communities, develop a synergy with major development and environment protection projects and gain extensive experience in terms of organization, approach, communication, funds management, and transfer of technical knowledge.

It has also the skills related to rural community development and natural resources protection, notably in the fields of mitigation and adaptation to climate change (natural forest restoration, reforestation, agroecological techniques, income generating activities...) and environmental IEC. In terms of conservation agriculture dissemination ANAE has already been involved in it since 1995 upon the funding to continue its actions in Lac Alaotra within the Framework of BVLAC project, in Bongolava under the operator contract with GSDM and in peripheral area of Mantadia Mangoro National Park with the support of Conservation international and the World Bank Through EP3 (Environment Program 3). ANAE has high level staff and technicians trained in conservation agriculture.

Basically involved in hydraulic infrastructure programmes, Bas-Rhône Languedoc- Madagascar (BRL Madagascar Ltd) has been participating since 1999 in projects disseminating Conservation Agriculture through an approach integrating watersheds as a whole (Lac Alaotra, south-east). Currently, disseminating Conservation Agriculture in Lac Alaotra by BRL mainly on the eastern bank has gained strong support from farmers. Since 2006, BRL has also undertaken dissemination of conservation agriculture within Ampary area (Itasy region), a volcanic activity area with a high population density and a rapid environmental degradation. BRL has trained top level staff and technicians with sound experiences in Conservation Agriculture.



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Inter Aide is a French NGO which has been working in Madagascar since 1994, especially in rural development (agriculture advice, access to drinking water and sanitation, development of irrigated micro-area, community health, education). Inter Aid is involved in pragmatic dissemination of Conservation Agriculture and Agroecological techniques to serve family farms and joined GSDM since November 12, 2004. Inter Aid has been carrying out counseling actions and agriculture development since the early 2000s in the districts of Manakara, Manajary and recently in the districts of Vohipeno and Farafangana (south east of Madagascar). These actions have allowed the emergence of producers' organization (grassroots groups, unions) that has adopted efficient farming practices and mutual support systems. These farmer's organizations organized themselves to Federation FAGNIMBOGNA in 2009 and created several cooperatives. Federación Fagnimbogna became a reference farmer's organization in Vatovavy Fitovinany Region, thanks to the producers (over 1200 members), its productive capacities, mediation and service provided to farmers, such as meeting the needs for seeds and input or products storage and development. As Inter Aide partner, the federation is actively involved in the dissemination of appropriate farming techniques and quality sweet potato among others...). The Fagnimbogna federation cooperatives sell seeds and local varieties such as Mihary, X265 and Fatrana rice varieties.