

# MANITATRA Project

## General Context

Madagascar is a farming country. Over 80% of the population live in rural area and are essentially farmers. Malagasy people mainly live on rice and starch, however, the irrigated or irrigable areas for these crops are not enough anymore. Demographic growth coupled with climate change and alarming destruction of natural environment cause the environment degradation and depletion of soil fertility.

With the support of the Malagasy Government and the French Development Agency, GSDM, Professionals in Agro-ecology, responded to a COMESA call for proposals (Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa) to support the scaling up of the dissemination of Climate Smart Agriculture in Madagascar, techniques considered to be appropriate for a sustainable agriculture in order to address food insecurity and climate changes. Two areas of intervention of the BVPI project, the Middle West, an area with serious soil degradation and a real problem of Striga asiatica, and the South East, an area which is highly vulnerable to climate changes and a poor population.

Thus, after a technical and financial review carried out by COMESA in August 2014, GSDM, Professionals in Agro-ecology received a sub grant from COMESA within the framework of the 'Manitatra Project' to scale up the dissemination of Climate Smart Agriculture in the regions of the Middle West and South East of Madagascar for a period of 12 months (Sub-Grant agreement N°CC0014/14).



## Project Objectives

The objective of Manitatra project is to up scale Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) in Madagascar to mitigate climate change and to improve food security.

## Specific Objectives

The specific objectives are to:

- Ensure the large scale dissemination of Climate Smart Agriculture in two areas which are the most vulnerable to climate change namely the Middle West and the South East ;
- Capitalize and scale up the stock taking of previous projects in particular those of the BVPI-SEHP project financed by AFD ;
- Play the advocacy role in scaling up the dissemination of agro-ecological techniques for a sustainable agriculture.

## Expected Results

**For the Middle West :** Increase the area under CSA by 80% compared to the BVPI project and double the number of farmers adopting agro-ecological techniques that is 500 new farmers including 200 women.

**In the South East :** Increase the area under CSA by 50% compared to the BVPI project and reach 1400 new farmers including 900 women.

## Beneficiaries and areas of intervention

**For the Middle West :** 1000 recipient farmers including 200 women (Rural Commune of Ankazomiriotra - Inanantonana -Vinany - Fidirana);

**For the South East :** 1400 recipient farmers including 900 women (Rural Commune of Evato - Vohimasy - Mahafasa -Tangainony).

## Dissemination methodology

- 'Farmer to farmer approach' : use of experienced lead farmers to run peer training ;
- Limited number of technicians to backstop lead farmers which means reducing project cost ;
- Use of dissemination tools by lead farmer (field training materials per training theme) ;
- Use of discount voucher to avoid cash transfer ;
- Payment by Orange Money.

## Focus areas

The Manitatra Project will intervene in two areas :

- **Middle West (MW) :** rural commune of Ankazomiriotra - Inanantonana - Vivany and Fidirana ;
- **South East (SE) :** rural commune of Evato - Vohimasy - Mahafasa - Tangainony.

## Means of implementation

Designations	M.W	S.E	Observations
Area supervisor	1	1	Project offices in Ankazomiriotra and Farangana
Technicians	3	2	An average of one technician per commune
Motorbikes	4	3	Area supervisors and technicians are equipped with off road motorbikes
Lead Farmers	12	10	One lead farmer trains from 5 to 10 farmers in the neighbourhood of his farm (5to 10km)
Bicycles	12	10	Lead farmers are equipped with bicycles
Nurseriesmen /women	19	5	They are all nurserymen/women who have been trained by BVPI-SEHP project
CDR	4	1	In many cases, CDRs are retired servants hard to mobilize

## Main activities

### 1) In the Middle West

The activities planned for the Middle West are namely:

- Scaling up systems based on stylosanthes to regenerate soil fertility and to combat Striga asiatica (management of 600 ha of already existing stylosanthes biomass and implantation of 500 ha with new adopting farmers (cassava+ stylosanthes) / (rice+ stylosanthes)). The new adopting farmers are provided with stylosanthes seeds as well as those who have ploughed their plots but wish to start again stylosanthes based system or alternatives to stylosanthes, especially the use of climbing legumes (cowpea, Vigna umbellata, mucuna) ;
- Introduction of system with climbing legumes in particular allelopathic mucuna for weeds and white grubs repellent ;
- Large dissemination of a fast-growing legume shrub: Acacia mangium (300 000 plants) ;
- Agroforestry (cajanus, crotalaria, tephrosia...) ;
- Improved stable and farm manure management ;
- Composting with addition of natural insecticides (improved compost, liquid compost, lombricompost, 7- day compost) ;
- Apiculture and Fish farming ;
- System of Rice Intensification (SRI).

