

## **FIELD TRIP REPORT**

### **(12 -21 November 2016)**

#### **CONTEXT**

Since the end of Tany Maitso project in December 2015, the associations are independent and learnt to run without help little by little. An evaluation trip was done in the project sites in June 2016, and another ones in November in order to see the situation of each association at the present after the end of the project.

Library is also opened in each site during the existence of the project. The project continues to support the library. One of the main objectives of this field trip is to see the progress of these libraries.

An association exchange was organized in Ranomafana, in Farafangana and in Tolongoina.

**Participants:** Haingo and Chantal

**Duration:** 10 days (12 November - 21 November 2016)

#### **Schedule:**

- 12/11/16: Departure to Ranomafana
- 13/11/16: To Tolongoina and visit the library, meet the members of library club
- 14/11/16: Association exchange, back to Ranomafana in the afternoon
- 15/11/16: To Farafangana
- 16/11/16: Inform the villagers about the association exchange and visit of library
- 17/11/16: Association exchange
- 18/11/16: To Ranomafana
- 19/11/16: Association exchange in the lower part
- 20/11/16: Association exchange in the upper part
- 21/11/16: Back to Tana

#### **FARAFANGANA**

Two representatives from each village came to the meeting except Bemelo and Namohora.

According to Ridia, the association of Bemelo does not functional anymore. Members stop the activities. This was because of two consecutive problems: death of Johnny and the end of the project right after this big disappointment.

As for Namohora's absence during the association exchange, the government provided school supplies to the school children in this area, and the parents (members of association) had to assist in this event. That was the reason of their absence.

We were so impressed of their joy to receive and to meet us again.

Once again, they also mentioned that the visit brought courage and motivation to them, even no material either financial report was not offered.

Few members left the association after the funding was ended but it does not decrease the others' dynamism. Many of them informed that they will not let down the association and all the efforts they have made even only 5 members will remain.

During the exchange, each member made a small presentation about the current situation of their association and then, we had big discussion, advices and solutions were given.

### **Morafeno:**

Association still continues with the 22 members. The number of members is still complete. They still keep the one common working day per week. This year, they planted vegetables (zucchini, cucumber, green leaves, onion and peanuts). They still keep seeds for seed bank after the harvest.

Their pigs were killed by the swine fever, and they have not restarted yet the breeding. They need help on the modern technique of the pig breeding so that they could obviate and find solutions to problems.

The cloves plantations are growing well (common and individual plantation).

Native trees are planted in the common land, it is growing well and they would like to plant more and more.

### **Takoandra:**

The association is still functioning with 12 active members.

They continue to have meeting every Thursday.

The 4 piglets they had were sold in October and the 1 sow was sold 1 month later, fear of swine fever. Anyway, they got benefit from it.

The women members are also doing the wickerwork (weaving mats). According to the representative of their association, our visits there last June brought motivation to them and incite the continuation of the activities, because they felt that we did not forget them □

The round bean planting was successful, whereas the green leaves was not because of the drought and the insects.

The native tree grows well despite the slowness of growing. They think that it is the effect of the drought and the lack of rain.

One problem of which they could not find solution is the beekeeping. They noticed that most of their bees' colonies were escaped from the beehives. This is the result of the campaign of fight against the mosquito vector/causing agent of malaria (project of the Ministry of health). During this campaign, there was

pulverization of insecticide within and in the surrounding of the villages that threaten and vulnerable for the bees, reported their representatives.

### **Andrafia:**

Association remains functional. Two ex- members who left have just rejoined the association once they saw that the association is still running. One of these members represented the association of Andrafia during this exchange meeting. Moreover, they are now the responsible of the pig breeding.

They had also to pay some “punishment” (money) to the association according to their internal rule.

They are doing chicken farming, and pig breeding. Just before the independent day, they sold 1 pig. The one female left gave birth of 3 piglets. So, in total, they have at the present 4 pigs. According to them, the motivation to breed pigs was the fruit of their participation in the seminar and the big exchange where they gathered experiences and technique from the other associations. That is why they were so happy to hear about the training on pig breeding.

The peanuts planting are done individually because they faced a problem on the weeding if it is planted in a big common land. Same case for the green leaves to prevent the conflict on the watering. Each member got seeds is obliged to give the one-third of the product to the association every harvest.

The native trees planted in the field or clean land does not grow well compared to these planted in the brush.

### **Tsaratanana:**

The association is still functional and all members are still involved. Reported by their representative, our previous visit (in June) motivated them a lot.

They are still continuing the chicken farming. They also have 2 pigs. The round beans planting remains their main agricultural activity besides the green leaves.

They restarted as well the rice collecting this November.

The native trees are generally growing well, without problem (planted individually).

### **Manombo:**

The association awakes little by little since the last exchange meeting in June. Knowing that the other associations are always active and functional, they decided to take care of their association. The total of active member is now 12. They have now one sow and 3 piglets. They also loan money to be reimbursed for rice. Some as their situation in June, they stopped to plant green leaves,

problem of watering and fertilizer. They said that this created problems and conflict between members. The native trees are growing well and they would like to plant more.

### **Namohora:**

No representative of the association of Namohora came to the meeting because of the distribution of school supplies to the school kids in their village.

### **Mandoavia:**

The association is still functioning and running better. They are planting peanuts in a common land whereas the green leaves were shared and planted individually. Moreover, they continue buying and loaning rice (1 daba loaned, 2 daba reimbursed). They bought 1 pig and it has just given birth of 7 piglets. The native trees activity is individual to prevent the problem in the future.

They complained also concerning the beekeeping. The bees escaped from the hives. However, this activity is the most successful and beneficial recently.

As for the chicken farming, they had to face the problem of disease. They said that they still want to buy chicken because this activity (chicken farming) is easy and fast for getting benefit.

### **Analameloka :**

The association is still operational. They plant green leaves and peanuts. They stopped the monthly due because some members had a difficulty to pay it.

Recently, they bought 2 small pigs again, and they have a plan to sell them already before the New Year. Their plan is to buy rice from the money got, and sell the rice during the hard season to get benefit.

Some of the native trees grow well, some are not satisfying.

### **Sahamahitsy:**

Remarks: we were happy to see that the two representative of Sahamahitsy association are both women. They said that the women are more and more active in the association.

They still continue with pig breeding. They have 3 pigs at the moment. They said that the new method (sharing the pigs to members to avoid problems of feeding) was a good idea.

About native trees, their trees plantation was burnt last March because of the fire. Some part of the plantation is still growing after the fire, and they have

already grown some native trees seedlings in the nursery and will replace the burnt area.

They also continue actively with beekeeping. According to their representative, they do not have big problem as the other villages, MAYBE because their beehives are not found close to their house.

The association continues to have weekly meeting, reported their representative.

**Bemelo :** No representative came to the meeting exchange, and as Ridia reported during the meeting, it seems that they do not continue anymore the association. However, they are still doing beekeeping as individual activity, and source of income.

### **Meeting with the director of primary school in Manombo**

She is the first responsible of the library in Manombo. According to her, many visitors from different entities came to the library. Some come to read books, some for providing books, and some just for curiosity. The majority of the readers are students from the secondary school. Some farmers (members of associations or not) also look for books in the library. That is why she said that the books on agriculture we brought during this field trip will be very useful and helpful for this group of adult readers.

She thanks us about the training she will attend in Fianarantsoa. She said that this kind of training is very necessary to ensure the good management of the library.

### **RANOMAFANA**

We started the association exchange in the lower part of Ranomafana site.

Like in Tolongoina and Farafangana, two representatives of each association came to the meeting.

#### LOWER PART

### **Ambodiriana**

The association is continuing to be functional. They sold 4 pigs recently and they still have 2 pigs. They used the half of money got for buying seeds and they have money cash left 150 000 Ar. They also plant vegetables within the association besides the individual. They continue to plant beans and peanuts.

Their common problem is the drought especially for beans planting; it also has effect on the cultural calendar.

The members continue to pay membership fees and remain active. They have regular meeting every couple of week.

About the native trees, most of them are growing so so.

### **Ampitavanana**

The association is still functioning. The members have finally finished building rice storage. They used association's money for this construction, but they have 75 000 Ar left. It proved that their association is still active and progress little by little.

They still continue with the rice collecting, they have rice stored around 765 kg.

As well, they plant green leaves. Native trees are grown but only few because of the drought.

### **Matavirano**

The association is still running. They are doing few activities (pig breeding: one sold before the independent day and one left, plant beans, leaves and round beans). They have around 100 000 Ar cash.

Besides the activities mentioned above, they are also very active with beekeeping and continue it as individual activity.

Native trees grow but not very well as it was very dry during the last few months and it has big impact in their plantation. The members are still the same in number; even some are less active but remain as members.

Their perspective in the future does not change which is to buy the milky cow. According to their representative, they do not have problem on the pig farming.

### **Andafiatsimo**

The association is still operational, but we noticed that it seems not progress. They have not bought the pigs according to their plan in June.

They still continue to plant beans and peanuts but the harvest was not good because of the drought. They have no cash money either.

The native trees grow well. They still ask if the project can help them for their plan to plant fruits (mandarin, orange, and litchis) by providing seedlings.

### **Sambivinany**

The representative of Sambivinany did not come to the meeting. Jean Pierre said that they are no more active, and the association is collapsed.

### UPPER PART

The last day of our field trip before going back to Tana, we had exchange meeting with the members of association in the upper part of Ranomafana.

Ilatsara was missing because of some insecurity reasons. But, Berthin confirmed that their association is still functional and runs well. Members are still motivated.

During the meeting, members complained a lot about the insecurity in the upper part, even the products in the field are now get stolen. They have to sleep with the pigs during the night time and even keeping the money of association is now very risky as it may cost your life even small amount. The insecurity was calm down during the previous months but it is started to be a problem since this month (November). The reason is the poverty that prevails in this region at the present as it is now the hard season.

We could not visit the library either because the bridge found before Amboditanimena is cut (broken) and it was impossible to drive there. The association exchange had to happen in Vohiparara. We had to leave the books to Berthin and he will bring it to the library in Ambalakin-dresy when the bridge is repaired.

### **Volahotro**

The association is still operational. They still continue the business of collecting rice and give it loaned to members. They have around 1000 cups of rice. When they harvested crops, they still keep the system of 50% share to members and 50% for sell.

They are still planting vegetables. They have seeds: beans, round beans, green leaves and corn.

They are working with a project "vatsin'ankohonana" has already ended, and the villagers have no fast source of income anymore whereas, they are now in the middle of hard season.

### **Sahavondronana**

The association is still running. The number of members is 28. Their money is in the rural bank.

They use money with different business like planting rice, beans, green beans, soya and garlic.

They planted in total about 4000 native trees (2000 from Tany Maitso and 2000 from their own nursery) and 3500 grows well.

They would like to plant fruit and coffee.

### **Iharananina**

Despite the insecurity, the association in Iharananina still exists and functional, all members remain active.

They store 300 kg of rice in the barn. They have at the present 12 pigs. They restart the fish farming.

10% of the native trees grow so far. They have 12 beehives and 300 000 Ar cash money.

They still talk about their wish to plant fruit and coffee.

### **Amboditanimena**

The association remains functional. The association has 28 members.

Many activities still continue: chicken farming (they have 10 chickens: they had 48 before but it was attacked by chicken epidemic), vegetables planting (beans but they had bad harvest with the beans because of drought, round beans, corn, cabbage), pig breeding (they still bought 2 pigs), rice collecting (they have now 150kg of rice).

As money cash, they have 100 000 Ar left.

The native trees grow but not very good as there was not enough rain.

### **TOLONGOINA**

Participants: 11 (2 representatives/association + Radezy)

#### **Visit at the library**

We met the members of the "club of library". The club counts 38 members. Most of them are students at the primary, secondary and the high school. The members of associations are among to the reader and visitors of the library but not so many as the students.

During the discussion with this club's members came to the meeting (21 kids and teenagers, and 3 adult members of Tany Maitso association), they join the club for many reasons:

- Bring improvement
- Find different techniques of farming, health, education
- Develop their knowledge
- Interest on foreigner language
- Look for books for supporting their study

The books they use in often are: dictionary, books for learning french and english, pig and cow breeding, chicken farming, about cooking and books contains story.

Usually, they borrow the books and bring it back after one week. According to the adult members, it arranged them because they have no time to spend for



reading books in the library. So, they prefer to borrow the books and read them at home.

They asked if we can provide more special books like: more dictionary (French and English), books about the tourism, about informatics (they would like to learn computer), etc.

They (especially the members of associations) were very happy to receive the books on agriculture (technique of vanilla, coffee, potatoes, pepper, vegetables), and they were very thankful.

### **Kianja miakatra**

The association is progressing. The remaining active members are still motivated.

Their activities are focused on the rice collecting. They stopped to rent rice field because this land was not so good and need fertilizer. They collected 40 daba of rice but as they do not have barn, they had to lend the rice to members because when they stored it in their house, there was a problem of rats.

Their plan for the future is to buy plantation field or/and rice field. They still keep in mind the next plan which is to plant vanilla and cloves.

They still continue planting beans, peanuts, vegetables, ginger but not like before because of the land problem.

The members keep on paying the regular dues without problem.

The native trees grow well.

### **Iladitra**

The association is still running and the number of the members is still the same.

Their main activities are the rice collecting and planting. They have their own rice field. They are going to sell their harvested and collected rice soon.

They equally vegetables, peanuts, green leaves. They stopped the ginger planting because it affected the fertility of the soil.

Members keep on paying monthly dues without problem. They do not have regular meeting but only when it seems necessary like if the members of board have to do report to members, before and after selling product and when there is an important decision to be taken.

Native tree planting: no problem.

According to their representative, their plan for the future does not change: to buy a rice peeling machine, and also to buy and rear milky cow.

### **Ambatoharanana**

The 5 remaining members continue to handle the association. Some persons would like to join the association.

Concerning their activities, they do rice loaning, and planting beans. Unfortunately, the beans plantation is not satisfying because of the drought.

They planted also native trees like the other associations, and it grows well.

### **Ambinanindrano**

The association of Ambinanindrano works well. It is "alive" and members are very motivated.

They have just sold 60 cups of beans x 750Ar, 160 cups of peanuts x 600 Ar, 250kg of ginger x 1200 Ar

They bought 50 daba of rice with 750 000 Ar from these money.

They also sold banana harvested from the banana field that they rent. They got 600kg of banana and sold with 60 000 Ar.

Their yield for the beans: 150 cups, peanuts: 200 cups.

Their rest of money cash is 914 000 Ariary.

The native trees planted and survived are growing well.

Their plan to help the children in their village during the registration for the next school years is still on the list of their perspectives. They will loan money to the parents, especially the members of the association, who have difficulty to find money for the registration of their children, and they can pay back the money during the harvest season of rice.

They also continue to rent the banana field which is proved beneficial for the association.

### **Marosondry:**

The association is still functional. The members of board are still active.

Their activities: vegetables planting and rice collect. The pig breeding is interesting and beneficial but they are worried about the swine fever, and because they have not so experienced on the technique of pig breeding.

The members always pay regular due without problem. The money collected from the due is used for the social help (like when one of the members gives birth or this kind of familial event, or meet difficulty: death, sickness, etc)

**Remark:** The participants of the associations exchange were very happy to hear we provided the library more books and especially the ones they required during our visit in June (books about agriculture). They were also so eager to attend the training on pig breeding because this is one of the activities that interest them.

## Meeting with Radezy

So far, he has no problem on keeping the library. He is even proud to say that he is getting used and experienced on the librarian work.

He is happy and satisfied to get the stamp of the library ☐

According to him, the existence of the club help to run the library and the members can promote the library by inciting and encouraging their pairs to come and read books in the library.

Once a week, he and the members of club organized English language course. Actually, they teach each other by using the books and the dictionary in the library.

Before leaving to Ranomafana, we had a short meeting with the mayor of Tolongoina. Our discussion was focused on the material providing on the library and the future of the library (from 2017).

The mayor thanks Tany Maitso for all efforts that it brought to run the library. He said that the commune of Tolongoina has provided supplies last month, but as they do not have enough budget, they cannot yet afford a big providing. As for the responsible of the library that will replace Radezy, he has no solution yet still due to the lack of budget, but he promised to discuss about it with the administrative committees of the communality.

## CONCLUSION

- The majority of the associations are still functioning and we noticed some positive change since our field trip in June. It means that this field trip was not a spent of time but brought something for the associations and the motivation of the members.
- Sambivinany (Ranomafana), and Bemelo (Farafangana) are the associations do not survive after the end of the Tany Maitso project.
- Andafy atsimo (Ranomafana), Manombo (Farafangana), and Ambatoharanana (Tolongoina) are the weakest associations, according to our observation and our survey.
- The libraries: Tolongoina's library runs well and the current communality/mayor still continues to involve in the management of the library as much as they can.  
For Farafangana's, it is still functional even it is not like Tolongoina's. We are so impressed on the progress of the library in Tolongoina.
- The biggest wish of the associations is that visit should be made at least once but better twice a year and project will continue with the same activities or other aspects.

**Remarks:** the four ex-technicians are also very happy for our visit and they asked if they will be able to attend the pig breeding training with the associations if it is possible.

