

## **FIELD TRIP REPORT**

**(9 -18 June 2016)**

### **CONTEXT**

After 9 years of existence, the Tany Maitso was ended in the end of 2015. A seminar was organized in December 2015 for closing the project. During this seminar, experiences and ideas were shared between representatives of associations, and all of them confirmed that they will continue without the project.

The main reason of this field trip was to see the situation of each association at the present after the end of the project.

**Participants:** Haingo and Chantal

**Duration:** 10 days (9<sup>th</sup> June - 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016)

### **Schedule:**

- 9/6/16: Departure to Ranomafana
- 10/6/16: Association exchange in the upper part and visit of library
- 11/6/16: Association exchange in the lower part
- 12/6/16: To Farafangana
- 13/6/16: Inform the villagers about the association exchange and visit of library
- 14/6/16: Association exchange
- 15/6/16: To Ranomafana
- 16/6/16: To Tolongoina - visit of library and meeting with Radezy
- 17/6/16: Association exchange and back to Tolongoina
- 18/6/16: Back to Tana

### **FARAFANGANA**

During the visit, we had association exchange: 01 representative from each village came to the meeting except Bemelo which had an event in their village and couldn't send anyone.

General impression when coming in the village was that members are still motivated. They were very happy with the visit and said that we did not lie to them and TM keeps his promise. They were very thankful for the visit and the support.

They also mentioned that the visit was a big help and motivation to them again, it meant a lot to them and they still expect that the project will be back one day with another aspect of support.

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 meeting, they repeated many times that they still need support (if possible) in native tree planting. One man said that **“TM already helped them a lot, lots of changes were made but there are still many that need to be changed”**

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. The number of members is still complete. They still keep the one common working day per week and the monthly membership due; few members became demotivated and left the association. They continue with 22 persons. This year, they have 2 100 000Ar cash, harvested 50 cups of round beans and save the 100 cups for seed bank.

They still plant also the green leaves (harvested last march and sold in Manombo market). Also, they are planting cloves (leave some in the nursery and share some to members).

At the present, they have 02 pigs.

Native trees are growing well and they would like to plant more and more.

In general, in Morafeno, all activities continue. They do not have big problem in continuing without the project as trainings were well received. Anyway, they mentioned that they still need support on native tree planting.

### **Takoandra:**

The association is still functioning even only 12 members left. The seminar last December in Tana helped the active and motivated members to face the end of the project.

They continue to have meeting every Thursday. They do not have major problem so far. They are used to ask the other villages if they need some help or advice after TM was ended.

The round beans have been just harvested and they got about 200kg.

This year, they had bad harvest with green leaves because of insects. They also have 1 sow and 04 piglets.

### **Andrafia:**

Association remains functional. They have chickens, 02 pigs. They are planting green leaves but individually. 15 members left. The native trees were shared to members and grow well. According to their representative, it was hard for them

to face 2 problems consecutive within 2 years: death of their technician and the end of Tany Maitso. That is the reason why, the number of members decreases. They thought that the project should continue more years ☐

#### **Tsaratana:**

The association is still functional and all members are still involved. It was a bit difficult to keep some of the members being active. Their representative in the seminar in Tana encouraged them and reported the important discussion during the exchange and this strengthens them.

They have 10 chickens. Round beans have been just harvested and they got 250 cups. They plant green leaves and it is almost ready. Their plan is to sell some part of the harvest for getting more money for the association. They stopped to pay monthly due as many did not pay anymore. They still would like to plant more native trees.

#### **Manombo:**

The association is almost collapsed because only few members remain motivated. According to their representatives, they have only one pig. They stopped to plant green leaves reported their representative. They said that it created problems and conflict between members.

#### **Namohora:**

The association is still functional and active. However, some members left the association and only 10 members remains active. But, these remaining members are still very active and motivated and ready to continue the activities. They have a plan for the future but they are still about to collect money at the present.

They have 20 chicken and they also sell eggs for getting more money. They still keep the meeting once a month or an extra one if there is something that they need to discuss urgently.

They continue the beekeeping as well.

#### **Mandoavia:**

The association is still functioning. Some members left the association in December. They have just harvested round beans and got 150 kg. They save 50kg for seed bank. They continue to plant green leaves. Moreover, they continue buying and loaning rice.

#### **Analameloka :**

The association is still operational despite the number of members decrease. Only 12 members left after hearing about the end of the funding. They plant green leaves, and members continue to pay due.

They had 2 pigs but these 02 pigs were sold. They use money with rice business and plan to buy pigs again after rice harvesting.

## **Sahamahitsy:**

All members are still active without problem. 24 of these members are very active.

They still continue with pig breeding. They adopt new methods for that by sharing the pigs to members to avoid problems of feeding. Therefore, each member who has had pig takes care of the association's pigs.

They did not get good harvest with green leaves this year because of the heavy rain.

About native trees, their trees plantation was burnt last March because of the fire. Fortunately, they have got training on technique of the native trees nursery/planting. So, they are now doing nursery to replace those lost trees.

They also continue actively with beekeeping. This activity works well according to their representative and they are motivated to continue.

**Bemelo :** No representative came to the meeting exchange, but according to Ridia, it seems that everything is going, some activities are still continued especially beekeeping. This activity (beekeeping) is well developed in Bemelo.

## **RANOMAFANA**

### **Ambodiriana**

The association is continuing to be functional although 3 of members have quitted the association when they heard that the project is ended. They still have 6 pigs. They also plant vegetables within the association besides the individual. Two of these pigs will sold in the independent day, and the money will be served to buy chicken which has been already in their plan (chicken breeding).

In order to facilitate the tasks for the pig breeding, the pigs were placed at the pigsty of members who are doing this activity (pig breeding). They said that they do not have any problem on the pig breeding so far. That is the reason why they still continue this activity.

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

About the native trees, the seedlings were shared to members, and most of them are growing "slowly", reported their representatives.

### **Ampitavanana**

The association is still functioning. The number of members is still complete. Their plan for the future does not change (building a barn), and they are now about to collect the materials, they have had the necessary timbers. The construction will be soon.

Their activity is still the rice collecting and reselling/borrowing. They plant also peanuts and beans, but the beans do not growing well because of the rain.

They stopped the pig breeding, worried of the epidemic.

They have only 56 000 ariary as money cash after having spent money for the construction woods. They are waiting money from the rice selling and the planting of peanuts.

The native trees were shared to members and growing well and they still would like to plant more.

### **Matavirano**

The association is still “alive” and no member has quitted, and the member of board does not change. However, the motivation of some members is reduced. The active remaining members encourage them by running well the association.

This year, they had 3 pigs but one was sold, and the remaining two pigs will be sold during the independent day. The money obtained from the sale of pigs will be used to buy more pigs. They continue the pig breeding as long as they get enough money to buy the milky cow which is their objective for the future. According to their representative, they do not have problem on the pig farming.

They also continue the planting of vegetables included in the activities of the association.

The plants of native trees were distributed to each member. In the future, they do want to plant trees anymore because of the lack of land.

### **Andafiatsimo**

The association is still operational. The number of active members decreases since the end of the project. The problem of money has been almost solved with the help of Jean Pierre; the big part of the money was paid back during the last season of rice harvesting.

They bought 2 pigs in the beginning of this year when they got the money loaned but in 13<sup>th</sup> of May, their pig is dead following to swine fever, and they sold the one left just right after. Their plan is still to buy more pigs but they need help for the technique of pig breeding as this remains the activity with which they could gather money faster.

They still continue to plant vegetables and especially the peanuts which is one of the main activities of the association.

The native trees grow well. They would like to plant fruits (mandarin, orange, and litchis) if they can find funding.

### **Sambivinany**

The representative of Sambiviny did not come to the meeting. According to Jean Pierre, he meets the members of association in Sambiviny almost every week in Ranomafana, and they said that the association is still functional despite the de-motivation of some members, and he could confirm it when he went to this village to inform them about this exchange. They continue the chicken farming and the vegetables planting. The members share the responsibility, and each and every member takes care of an association's chicken.

### **lalatsara**

Among the projects with which we were working, Tany Maitso is first that satisfied us, and helped us a lot; reported their representative. The association is still running, all members are still active. Their vegetables garden is successful this year. As for the pig breeding, they did dare to keep as many as before anymore, afraid of stealer. They have only pigs at the present. They do not have a problem on the technique of pig breeding.

Although the project is ended, they are ready to continue because they have got lots of experiences. Their representative also informed that the project CLP or "savaivo" (local committee of the Park) is ended after being functional in their region for 2 years. This project helped them on chicken farming. Unfortunately, it was ended with the Tany Maitso.

The property (good) of the association decrease because of the roisto, and they could not sleep in the village during 4 months and then, the members could not work as before. However, they are not discouraged. Fortunately, the insecurity starts to calm down, and they regain the rhythm of their usual activities.

They continue to collect and re-sell rice like before.

The native trees grow very well, but in the future, they do not want to plant anymore because they live close to the forest. What they would like to plant is fruit and especially the coffee.

Their association does not have problem except the insecurity.

### **Volahotro**

The association is still operational, except some members died (3 members).

They have now 2 barns and continue the rice "business". However, they stopped the pig breeding because no member accepts to take care of the pigs, fear of the stealer.

They are still planting vegetables. They have seeds mainly beans (they have about 100 cups of beans' seeds, 50kg of round beans). The plantation of green leaves grow very well.

They are working with a project "vatsin'ankohonana" which facilitate the school joining (insertion) of the children by giving daily paid work to the parents. This paid work creates double benefit to the villagers: 1/give source of salary, 2/the

work done is beneficial also for them because repairing the road to Volahotro. But, it won't be a long-term project.

The native trees grow but so slow especially one of the species planted.

### **Sahavondronana**

The association is still running. They stopped the collect of rice because of the insecurity and they do not want to take risk to keep big amount of rice with them. They decided together to put their cash money in the rural bank. However, they continue to plant vegetables, garlic, and green leaves. They also bought and planted potatoes this year.

They wait until the security returns before restarting to use money as they did before.

They have just planted 2000 plants of native trees this year besides of the seedlings from Tany Maitso. This plantation is the result of their cooperation with CI (Conservation International) for restoration of the natural forest.

Their wish in the future is to plant fruit and coffee.

### **Iharananina**

Despite the insecurity, the association in Iharananina still exists and functional, all members remain active. Anyway, they had not stealers attacks this year.

They have rice in their own barn, 2 pigs that have just given birth to 6 piglets. Each member takes care of a piglet in the goal to facilitate the big task.

The vegetables planting are running well without problem.

The plantation of native trees is not satisfying. It grows but not so well.

They would like to plant fruit and coffee as well.

### **Amboditanimena**

The association remains functional even though the end of the project discourages them because they feel still need the help of the project.

They sold their pig because of the insecurity and they used the money to buy seeds of potatoes and seeds of cabbage.

They do chicken farming at the present, they have 48 chicken. They share responsibility; each member takes care of 2 chickens and can get the half of eggs.

The native tree planting runs well even it is not really so satisfying.

Like the other associations, they want to plant fruit also.

In the seed bank, they have seeds of green leaves and mainly round beans that they plan to plant in September- October.

## **TOLONGOINA**

### **Kianja miakatra**

3 of the members resigned officially after the project. The remaining active members are still ready to continue the activities, and it runs very well.

Their activities are focused on the rice collecting, the planting of peanuts and ginger which works well.

Their internal rule is well respected by the members and it helps the association to remain functional.

The only problem without Tany Maitso is the insufficiency of money. So, they have no other choice than using the money collected during the previous years.

Their next plan is to plant vanilla and cloves, and if their effort and motivation so far does not change, this plan may be realizable in 2017 (said their representative).

They still continue planting beans, peanuts, vegetables, ginger.

The members keep on paying the regular dues without problem.

The native tree grown well in the beginning but some of the plants died because of the heavy rain.

### **Iladitra**

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

In general, they have not faced remarkable problem when the project is over.

Their main activities are the rice collecting, and they also plant of rice. They have their own rice field. Last season of harvest, they have harvested rice from the association's rice field.

They equally plant ginger and vegetables like the other associations.

Their internal rule is applied without problem: 2000 ariary for the members do not come to the common work without reason, and 500 ariary with clear reason. Members keep on paying monthly dues.

They stopped the pig breeding because of the epidemic.

Native tree planting: no problem. According to their representative, they are still ready to plant more native trees if there will be a seeds or seedlings providing.



Their plan for the future is to buy a rice peeling machine.

### **Ambatoharanana**

Most of the members resigned when they know that the project is over. There are only 5 members at the present. There was even a big dispute between members because these who have quitted required the sharing of all properties of the association (money, seeds, rice, etc). Radezy advises them to apply the internal rule. This rule mention that if a member wish to resign from his/her proper will, he/she does not right to require anything from the association, but if he/she is fired, he/she has right to get an own part.

Concerning their activities, they do rice loaning.

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

### **Ambinanindrano**

The situation of the association is like before as well as the activities, despite their sadness because of the end of Tany Maitso.

After the seminar in Tana, they had a big meeting in order to decide how to face the future without the project. This keeps their motivation on, strengthens and even encourages them to continue. They are optimist about the future of this association.

Their current activities: all previous activities except for the pig breeding. The cassava they planted for feeding the pigs was sold for getting more money, and they keep on this activity (planting cassava) because it is benefic also.

Some of the native trees do not sprout because of the heavy rain.

Their plan is to help the children in their village during the registration for the next school years. 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.

### **Marosondry:**

No representative came to the meeting, and Radezy was so surprised because according to him, their association is well functioning.

On the way back to Tana, Radezy phoned us and said that the representative of Marosondry came for the meeting the next day. There were a misunderstanding on the date, and they were mistaken.

**Remark:** The participants of the associations exchange were very happy to hear about the beekeeping training and they were grateful that we have not forgotten them. They were so eager to attend this training.

### **Meeting with Radezy**

1/ He is so satisfied about his training on library keeping. He said that it was very useful for him as a librarian. It helps him in his task at the library.

The training was complete and enough.

Concerning his work, there is no problem so far except the lack of materials. According to the training he received, a list of materials are needed for carrying on a library like large format and small format notebook, pack of papers, pens, markers, stamp of the library. The mayor promised to provide all of these office supplies, but the stamp, maybe impossible for them to find it either in Tolongoina or in Fianarantsoa. Therefore, Radezy and the mayor asked if we could offer this stamp to the library. We accepted and promised to send it as soon as it is ready. The mayor has given us the authorization paper needed for making this kind of stamp.

2/The majority of the reader are the young students at the secondary and high schools. The members of associations are also among the visitors but they prefer to borrow the books and read it at home. The books most required for the members of associations and does not exist yet are the books concerning the agriculture (techniques of planting spices, vanilla, cloves, vegetables, etc).

3/ The club of the library will be created soon in which the members will be composed of children, young and adult. The young members (or rather future members) have already participated actively to the decoration of the library (making poster made by hand with picture and text incite, sensitize, encourage their peers to use the library and to like reading books in order to get and develop knowledge. You can see these posters in the photos.

They are now about to make the card of members and the rule.

## **CONCLUSION**

- The majority of the associations are still functioning despite some members left for some associations.
- The libraries: Tolongoina's library runs well and the current communality/mayor involves more in the management of the library. Same for Ranomafana's, the mayor at the present takes care of the library. The majority of the reader is the students of the secondary and high school. However, the association's members are also among to the reader. They do not have any problem so far. As for Farafangana's, it still runs, but is open only once a week because the room of the library is now used as preschool. It is the primary school that manages the library. Unfortunately, the first responsible (the director of the primary school) was not there during our visit because of her other duty. So, we could not get enough information about the management of the library.
- The beekeeping and the native trees planting as well as the coffee and fruit planting are the most required and the most interesting by the associations.

