

COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE

Sustainable and Participatory Models - Madagascar

 **Confidential Document** - General program presentation. For detailed agronomic protocols, cultivation plans and yield data, please contact the author.

Program Overview

The **Community Agriculture Program** aims to transform traditional farming systems into sustainable, resilient and participatory models. By placing communities at the center of decisions and actions, the program promotes agroecology, collective resource management and strengthening of local food sovereignty.

Challenge and Context

Malagasy agriculture faces multiple challenges: soil degradation, unsustainable practices, low productivity, climate change, limited access to inputs and markets. Small-scale farmers, working in isolation, struggle to improve their livelihoods. A collective and ecological approach is essential to strengthen resilience and economic viability of rural communities.

450

FARMER MEMBERS

15

COOPERATIVES FORMED

800 ha

CULTIVATED LAND

36 months

PROGRAM DURATION

Principles of Community Agriculture



PARTICIPATION

Collective decision-making and democratic management



SUSTAINABILITY

Agroecological practices and resource conservation



EQUITY

Fair sharing of benefits and responsibilities



EMPOWERMENT

Capacity building and local autonomy



RESILIENCE

Adaptation to shocks and diversification



SOLIDARITY

Mutual support and collective learning

Promoted Agroecological Practices

Sustainable and Innovative Techniques

- **Agroforestry:** Integration of trees in farming systems (fertility, shade, forest products)
- **Cover cropping:** Soil protection, nitrogen fixation, weed suppression
- **Composting and biomass:** Valorization of organic waste for fertility
- **Crop rotation and intercropping:** Optimization of space and nutrients
- **Soil and water conservation:** Terraces, stone bunds, half-moons
- **Integrated pest management (IPM):** Biological methods, repellent plants
- **Farmer seeds:** Selection, multiplication and exchange of local varieties
- **Efficient irrigation:** Drip, micro-irrigation, participatory water management

Program Objectives

- Increase agricultural yields by 60% through agroecological practices
- Form 15 functional and autonomous agricultural cooperatives
- Improve soil fertility over 800 hectares
- Diversify income sources for 450 farming families

- Reduce chemical input use by 70%
- Establish 5 community seed banks
- Create direct links with urban markets (short circuits)
- Train 100 farmer-trainers in agroecology

Participatory Intervention Models

1. Community Gardens

- Shared spaces for vegetable production
- Collective resource management
- Sharing of harvests and benefits
- Mutual learning of techniques
- Inclusion of women and youth

2. Farmer Field Schools (FFS)

- Practical training in the field
- Experimentation and innovation
- Agroecosystem analysis
- Collective decision-making
- Knowledge dissemination

3. Agricultural Cooperatives

- Bulk purchase of inputs
- Collective marketing
- Access to credit and savings
- Price negotiation
- Shared services (equipment, transport)

4. Seed Banks

- Conservation of local varieties
- Multiplication and distribution
- Seed exchange between villages
- Knowledge documentation
- Seed autonomy

Complete Cycle Approach

From Planning to Marketing

- **Phase 1 - Participatory diagnosis:** Analysis of needs, resources and constraints with the community
- **Phase 2 - Collective planning:** Crop selection, cropping calendar, plot allocation
- **Phase 3 - Training and implementation:** FFS, demonstrations, technical support
- **Phase 4 - Participatory monitoring:** Regular observations, collective problem-solving
- **Phase 5 - Harvest and storage:** Post-harvest techniques, storage infrastructure

- **Phase 6 - Marketing:** Market access, negotiation, processing
- **Phase 7 - Evaluation and learning:** Participatory review, adjustments for next season

Priority Crops and Diversification

- **Cereals:** Rice (rainfed and irrigated), maize, sorghum, millet
- **Legumes:** Beans, peas, peanuts, cowpea (nitrogen fixation)
- **Tubers:** Cassava, sweet potato, taro, yam
- **Vegetables:** Tomato, onion, carrot, cabbage, greens, moringa
- **Fruits:** Banana, papaya, citrus, mango, avocado
- **Cash crops:** Vanilla, cloves, coffee, cocoa (sustainable production)
- **Forage:** Brachiaria, Stylosanthes for integrated livestock

Solidarity Economic Model

Income Generation

- Direct sales to consumers
- Local producer baskets
- Processing (drying, jam, oils)
- Contracts with restaurants and hotels
- Regular farmers' markets

Financial Mechanisms

- Savings and credit funds
- Collective working capital
- Community crop insurance
- Microcredit for IGAs
- Fair benefit sharing

Performance Indicators

- Yield increases (kg/ha per crop)
- Soil fertility improvement (organic matter, NPK)
- Crop diversity (number of species grown per farm)
- Reduction in pesticide and chemical fertilizer use
- Increase in household agricultural income
- Participation rate in collective activities
- Number of local varieties conserved

- Market access and prices obtained

Expected Results at 36 months

- +60% average agricultural yields
- 15 operational cooperatives with 450 active members
- 70% reduction in chemical inputs
- 5 seed banks with 50+ local varieties
- +40% agricultural income per household
- 800 ha of sustainably managed land
- 100 certified farmer-trainers

Social and Environmental Impact

- **Strengthened social cohesion:** Collective work, mutual aid, conflict resolution
- **Women's empowerment:** Land access, own income, leadership
- **Youth inclusion:** Attractive agriculture, employment opportunities
- **Biodiversity conservation:** Local varieties, beneficial fauna
- **Carbon sequestration:** Agroforestry, soil organic matter
- **Climate resilience:** Diversification, adaptive practices
- **Food security:** Diversified production, storage, self-sufficiency
- **Knowledge transmission:** Experienced farmers to youth

Participatory Governance

The program favors democratic governance where decisions are made collectively by cooperative members. Elected management committees ensure transparency, equity and accountability. Women and youth have guaranteed representation in decision-making bodies.

👉 Interested in This Program?

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Contact me for agronomic protocols, cultivation plans and cooperative models

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Presentation document - Public version

Detailed technical protocols and yield data available upon request

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