



**60 NEW CPALI FARMERS HAVE PLANTED 10,000 TREES, 5 ORIGINAL FARMERS RAISE SILKWORMS, 5 NEWLY TRAINED TEXTILE WORKERS**

CPALI Fall, 2010

**EDITORIAL**

**INNOVATION**  
*...Instead of adopting a conventional market value chain, we have "bottom-loaded" our value chain so more money is returned to farmers than to silk processors or to fabric producers..." find out how*  
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**CPALI congratulates its in-country director Mamy Ratsimbazafy and Lalaina Raharindimby on their recent marriage.**



**Fun facts about silk #3:**  
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**News From The Field**

**CPALI farmers self organize**

Fall and winter in the US and Europe are Spring and Summer in Madagascar. Its the beginning of the growing season with lots of new leaves perfect for hungry larvae. CPALI's first five innovator farmers are beginning to rear larvae and produce cocoons after careful, in the field, training by Denis Ramasy. Fifty-five more farmers from four communities are growing seedlings in their nurseries or have already planted them on their farms.



I visited farmers in Ambodivoagany in June to verify their plantings. When there I met Mani Henri, the lead farmer of a new farmers' group that he organized. Mani and his team, without any prodding or funding from CPALI or SEPALI Madagascar, planted a nursery of silk moth host plants and in addition, planted greens to sell to support nursery expansion. We are especially encouraged as Mani's group is hard working, young and represent a different cohort of the

Ambodivoagany population than we have worked with before. When I was there, Mani organized a celebratory dinner to congratulate all and sample the delicious greens. Tom Corcoran, CPALI's student intern, organized a screening (computer screening that is) of Mama Mia! (*unlike* the dinner, greens and silk project, Mama Mia! returned mixed reviews). As always, stay tuned....



Mani's team in garden of greens.

**Editorial**

***Innovation in Conservation***

In our previous newsletter, we introduced the importance of innovation as a CPALI focus for conservation and poverty alleviation. Instead of paying farmers resource rents for forest lands from which they have been displaced, we are working to assist them earn extra income from the land they already farm. Instead of adopting a conventional market value chain, we have "bottom-loaded" our value chain so more money is returned to farmers than to silk processors or to fabric producers. We are allowed to do this because CPALI designed an innovative non-spun textile that does not demand a great deal of skill, upfront learning and expensive machinery to produce.

Instead of introducing the domesticated silkworm and its host plant (that would have avoided the research cost of our program but resulted in a textile sold on an international market in which Madagascar will never be able to compete), CPALI assessed what local resources are available to Makira farmers for sustainable use. We then devised a field-based program that local people could conveniently adopt. We invented new products and are identifying new markets to buy them. If CPALI, after only 7 years of very hard work and research and very few resources, was able to establish a sustainable program that is leading to an international business, just think of what a similar, but well funded, professionally marketed program could achieve if it used the CPALI model.

*Catherine L. Craig*

Catherine L. Craig



I. Renalsen

**CPALI's non-spun textile goes to New York**

Seven people spent seven days making this 9 ft by 3 ft, non-spun textile. While the textile can be made entirely by hand, thanks to the Rufford Foundation and the



Turkeybush Foundation, we were able to purchase 3 sewing machines to speed things up.

The Material ConneXion (MC) has accepted the textile for inclusion in their source libraries in New York, Milano, Bangkok, Cologne, Dong-gu Deagu. MC has also decided to include our textile in their 2011 sample boxes that are marketed to their best clients. The CPALI textile is one of 15 samples drawn from their library of 5000. With our textile on display around the world it will be available to designers who might use it for lighting, home decorations, fashion accessories, clothing and we hope many other objects we have not imagined

**Fun Fact #3: Everybody poops**

One of CPALI's innovations is collect the silkworms just before they spin so that the silk remains clean. Just before the caterpillars spin cocoons we place them in baskets mounted to prevent predation by small mammals, wasps or geckos. After the cocoon forms, we remove the chrysalids (what is left of the silkworm), to ensure that the silk is not contaminated by stray insect parts (to which some people are allergic). However, before collection, the caterpillars are allowed to range freely over the food plants. So how can the farmers tell the stage of development of a particular silkworm? Good question! We know that the caterpillars go through 5 stages (molts) prior to spinning after hatching from their eggs. Caterpillar size alone isn't enough of an indicator since we cannot guarantee that the worms have had access to the same amount of food during their growing period. By the way, it takes about

10 grams of leaves to make 1 gram of silk. Leaves go in and poop comes out while the caterpillars build up their reserves for spinning and pupating. Our observant project director, Mamy Ratsimbazafy, noticed that the size of the poops also increase with development, extending by one segment per molt. So a Stage 5 caterpillar (below) produces a 5-segment poop—one signal that it is time to herd



T. Corcoran

him/her into the spinning basket. The other signal is that the caterpillar changes color just before it starts to spin from yellowish-green to a blue-striped beauty.

All of these observations and procedures are described in the illustrated manual that Mamy has written, in Malagasy. We print copies of the books on rainproof paper for distribution to the farmers. Each booklet (40 pages, some in color) costs about \$15 to print and ship to Madagascar.

--R.S. Weber

**Welcome SEPALI**

Mamy Ratsimbazafy, CPALI's program director, has organized the Malagasy NGO, Sehatry ny Mpamokatra Landy Ifotony Madagascar (Silk Workers Cooperative Madagascar), to partner with CPALI in Madagascar. SEPALI Madagascar and CPALI will work together to expand the wild silk initiative in the Makira area as well as to other regions of the country. SEPALI will provide technical support to farmers and textile producers. CPALI will develop investor opportunities and products that will link local businesses, artisans and farmers to profitable markets. Together they will work with partners from the Madagascar's conservation and development community to promote wild silk as a unique Malagasy product that supports and protects Madagascar's unique fauna and flora.