

Antananbaobe Village Womens Cooperative - Madagascar



SRI - Conservation through Improved Rice Farming Technique

“Ilay olona mamboly vary maroanaka miaro atiala”

February-May 2009 Belaoka-Marovato



Accessing the SRI rice paddy. The long house behind the Antananbaobe women is the village church and the small thatch hut to the right is Fideline's home (cooperative president).



The SRI process promotes increased efficiency through regular weeding, using “sarcleuse” hand-welded weeding machines.



Every Wednesday the cooperative members all get together to share the work of weeding their SRI pots.



Weeds growing at the base of young rice plants cannot be removed by sarclouse, so must be pulled by hand. The Antananbaobe cooperative has planted just under one hectare for their SRI demonstration plot.



Non-SRI method seedlings are planted late with several young plants per space (left). In the SRI method, seedlings are transplanted after 8 days, singly, to eliminate root competition (right).



Two weeks after transplanting, SRI rice seedlings are strong and producing “zanaka” (offshoots). Before planting , “GuanoMad” bat guano was added to the paddies as organic fertilizer.



Sarcleuses for the SRI project were crafted locally by the village welders association using melted car pieces.



The Antananbaobe cooperative women understand it's their duty to encourage others in the village to plant using the SRI method, once it is demonstrated to all that the method produces a superior yield. Increased rice production in lowland areas should reduce slashing-and-burning of rainforested hillsides for inefficient rice farming to feed families, thereby protecting watersheds and preventing topsoil erosion. The cooperative is learning to think about generations to come.



Three months to go!