

Empowerment project for peasant women in Ankoronga, on National Road 7, Toliara II District, Atsimo-Andrefana Region, Madagascar

1. Context

Madagascar is endowed with abundant natural, human and cultural resources. Nevertheless, its inhabitants remain poor and women are the most affected by poverty. This is partly due to the social inequalities and lack of opportunities they face simply because they are “women”. While gender inequality exists in most societies around the world to varying degrees, the combined devastating effects of poverty, discrimination and lack of opportunity affect women in many ways, including their economic status.

In this developing country, women's work in the bush is colossal: they produce 90% of the food consumed by the rural poor. They also cultivate family gardens to harvest vegetables and legumes. These tasks contribute significantly to food security, nutritional well-being and income generation for their families. Despite their essential contribution to the food security of their communities, women do not have equal access to resources, opportunities and other basic services, such as land, decent work or training. They are also very often excluded from local governance bodies. To address these shortcomings and to participate in the emancipation of women, the Rotary Club of Toliara includes in its projects this peasant development project that targets women in particular.

2. Project owner

The Rotary Club of Toliara, District 9220, created in 1959, and now has 20 members, plans to implement this project in order to contribute to initiatives aimed at the emancipation of women, especially from the rural world. For this new Rotary year 2021-2022, RC Toliara aims to carry out more projects in the short and medium term to participate in food security, job creation and poverty reduction. Note that today, nearly 800 million people suffer from malnutrition in the world while by 2030, a water deficit of 30 to 40% was reported by the FAO in 2018.

3. Beneficiaries

For this short and medium term project, the direct beneficiaries are fifteen (15) women, members of the women's association TAMIA in Ankoronga, Rural Commune of

Saint-Augustin, District of Toliara II - Atsimo Andrefana Region, Madagascar. They are already working in the field of market gardening, but need support to develop their activities. However, 400 people who are their children and family members indirectly benefit from this action. This village of Ankoronga is located 12km east of the city of Toliara, on the RN7.

4. General objective

Overall, this project contributes to food security, job creation and poverty reduction through the economic empowerment of women by providing technical and material support.

5. Specific objectives

Specifically, this project aims to:

- Strengthen the organizational capacity of women
- Improve their technical capacity in the field of market gardening and vegetable garden using the agricultural manuals developed by the RC of Toliara
- Provide training in income management and diversification of activities
- Set up a solar drip irrigation system to help these women no longer depend on women to stop depending on rainwater and abandon manual watering, which manual watering, which requires a lot of time and energy and is tiring
- Train women in processing, packaging and marketing techniques for their products

6. Expected results

- The organizational capacity of the TAMIA women's association in Ankoronga is strengthened
- The TAMIA association in Ankoronga is able to carry out advocacy and partnership negotiations to improve their agricultural activities
- The fifteen (15) women are trained on innovative agricultural techniques through the application of the RC Toliara agricultural manuals
- The solar micro-irrigation system is operational
- The women have the technical capacity to process, package and market products
- Nearly one ton of agricultural products (tomato, potato, cauliflower beans, carrots and other vegetables) is produced annually by these women

- The women have more time to take care of their homes and to undertake other income-generating activities (IGAs)
- The resilience of these women and their families is strengthened through improved daily income from agriculture

7. Activities

- Strengthen the technical and organizational capacity of the TAMIA women's association in Ankoronga
- Train women on innovative agricultural techniques using the RC Toliara agricultural manuals (from theory to practice)
- Install a solar water pumping system and micro-irrigation equipment in their collective field
- Train these women in product processing, packaging and marketing techniques
- Conduct periodic monitoring to evaluate activities
- Identify and set up other projects to accompany these women and support them in the long term

8. Approach and means

For the realization of this project, the Rotary Club of Toliara collaborates with the local authorities as well as other notables to facilitate the implementation of the project. For purely technical support, RC Toliara will mobilize its experts in agriculture and sustainable management of natural resources.

The assets for RC Toliara are the availability of a Clubhouse for the organization of trainings, expert technicians in agronomy, natural resources management and socio-organization as well as the experiences in the conduct of similar projects in the past (2018 - 2019, Cf. annexes)

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Appendix: photos of similar activities



Drip irrigation system

Achievements Rotary Club of Toliara 2018 - 2019 with the support of RS Saint Denis

A training workshop of 2 days (15 and 16/11/2018) was organized at the DREN for the service managers, teachers drawn to conduct training at the level of CEG's and women delegates of TAMIA.



Photo of the workshop at DREN Toliara organized by RC Toliara (PP Bos and Rotarian Paubert)

Photo of the President of the TAMIA Group in Ankoronga (beneficiary of this project)





Prospecting for suitable land for the installation of the gardens



Tools and input distribution



Manombo pump out of order and repaired by us



Inspection of an abandoned well, which has since been rehabilitated



Fence at CEG Saint Augustin



Traditional fence CEG of
Melenaky



Type of living hedge being
researched



The installation of the flowerbeds



Installation of the micro-irrigation network by the students of the CEG of Saint- Augustin



Installation of a water receiver for micro-irrigation at the CEG of Saint Augustin



Support and follow-up in the field are essential