



NEWS LETTER VETIVER NETWORK MADAGASCAR N°2

Handicraft

New objects, made with Vetiver roots for the most part, and Vetiver leaves, collected from the plantation :



Water depollution project, Marais Masay, Antananarivo

The manufacturing of the 250m² of floats is on the way



In the same time the first model of the new type of float is still not stolen and not broken, and the hedges for the banks protection are growing, giving ornamental aspect with banks protection.



Thanks to Commune Urbaine d'Antananarivo and its team, very open to introduce this new technology and very motivated, and thanks also to the NGO EAST (Eau Agriculture et Santé en milieu Tropical), who is the main backer, through a cooperation with the RIF (Région Ile-De-France, the Paris'Region).

We also plan to remake the project of hedges plantation into the shallow drain on top of small dikes, in partnership with Commune Urbaine d'Antananarivo.

Workshop and field trip, Ethiopia, 11-24/03/09

"The Vetiver System for soil and water conservation, environmental protection and infrastructure protection", 16-18 March 2009, Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, a workshop organised by SLUF, TVNI and SIDA, has been followed by a field-trip of almost 1.500Km, where we saw that the Vetiver is a common grass for many farmers in large areas.

I was invited to be a part of the presenters, so I made a presentation called « The Vetiver System, a biological solution for development and conservation in Madagascar », focused on « How Vetiver System Applications can mobilize communities and reduce poverty ».

During the field-trip, what we saw :

- ✓ Concrete and large examples on field of Vetiver Grass Technology (VGT) for Water and Soil Conservation in **agriculture**, big terraces built thanks to VS, and farmers understanding nicely why and how to use VS (first thanks to a NGO "MFM"): a perfect example of sustainable agricultural practices to reproduce! The farmers say that the crop yield is improved by between 30 and 50% thanks to the Vetiver Hedges, with the soil erosion stopped as 100%, the sediments trapped as 90%, the runoff reduced as 70%. The hedges also make wind-break and produce a huge amount of raw material for building, fodder or mulching. Madagascar should be inspired by this technology, simple, cheap, sustainable and very efficient to use lands in a sustainable way, within improving the yields !



- ✓ Impressive use of **thatching** by Vetiver, stronger than any other grass (and using leaves in different ways: coffee ceremony, bee's houses,...) so the leaves can represent a huge amount of raw material and then it can help to conserve the natural resources where this problem are met, like here in Madagascar. All this houses' thatch are made with Vetiver leaves :



- ✓ Concrete example of **groundwater** recharge improvement and better groundwater quality (Anno springwater saved thanks to VGT)

Infrastructure Protection

Two projects of slopes stabilisation are on negotiation :



The Vetiver Network International (TVNI)

During the Ethiopian Workshop, I was glad to be awarded by the TVNI with two prizes :

- one as certificate for technical excellence of using VGT,
- one for the best VGT photos album 2008,

and also to have been invited at the Ethiopian workshop, very interesting.

Thanks to this I realize that a **workshop** well organised can be the kick-start for VGT national promotion and for set up a national network: there was a good feed-back after the workshop.

What VGT can bring as solutions for Madagascar :

- water and soil conservation,
- sustainable agriculture, increased soil fertility and moisture, crop yields, groundwater recharge and clean drinking water, reduced pests impacts, available for mulching, fodder, building, handicraft...
- environmental rehabilitation and reforestation improvement,
- infrastructures protection and slopes stabilisation,
- water treatment and water quality improvement,
- riverbanks, dunes, beach stabilisation,
- raw material for handicraft and building (roof thatching)

I think this is a good experience to reproduce again, and now it would be the turn of Madagascar !



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VETIVER SYSTEM APPLICATIONS MADAGASCAR, GREEN & PROVEN SOLUTIONS

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Membre représentant du réseau **The Vetiver Network International**: www.vetiver.org

Picasa album: <http://picasaweb.google.fr/Yoannmada/VetiverSystemMadagascar>

Membre inscrit au réseau eco-web: www.eco-web.com/register/03296.html

News-letter n°1: http://www.vetiver.org/MAD-NL11_08pdf.pdf