

Zahana in Madagascar: Rural Transformation through Participatory Development

Updates and Newsletter

November 2009

Dear Markus,

We have exciting new developments to report from Madagascar. We have redesigned our website www.zahana.org and we hope you will find it easier to navigate. We will provide links in this newsletter to in-depth information and photos on our website. We are trying Constant Contact to see if this format is suitable for our needs. Please forward it and encourage your friends to join with one click.

Malamalama Article

Dr. Ihanta, the founder of Zahana and Jeannette Kojane were featured in [Malamalama the magazine of the University of Hawaii](#). We are especially happy as October 2009 is one of two printed (on paper) editions per year. (Feel free to share the link with others.)

The village of [Fiarenana](#)

With the launch of the first GlobalGiving challenge (we met with your help!), we started in 2009 working in the village of Fiarenana, some 45 minutes by foot from [Faidanana](#), our first site. The enthusiasm and dedication of the community towards participatory development could make them a model for Zahana's work in the near future.

Building the communal water system of Fiarenana

...was the first development priority set by the community. The community decided to keep the location of the old communal well, but rebuild it from the ground up to be safe and sanitary. Zahana hired the water engineer who lived in the village for a month to oversee the project and teach the villagers how to maintain their new communal water system. [More on the website](#)

Building Fiarenana's School

In This Issue

[Malamalama
Fiarenana](#)
[New water system](#)
[New School
Nursery](#)
[Rice/Grain Storage Bld.
Microcredit/Seedfund](#)
[Cookstoves](#)

Quick Links

[Home Page](#)
[Latest News](#)
[Fiarenana](#)
[Gift Cards](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



See our [slide show](#) of the school being built by everybody in the community, literally stone by stone. Zahana will again help pay for the materials that are out of reach for the villagers, while they contribute locally available materials, all the bricks and their labor to build their school. [More on](#)

[Zahana's website](#)

Revitalizing the Nursery



Coffee seedlings are the first crop grown by the revitalized nursery. The former gardener, with a wealth of knowledge, was hired by Zahana to run the project. His coffee seedlings are in high demand and after providing them to his community, he hopes to grow more to supply other villages

and generate his own income. [More](#)

Grain Storage Building



The communal grain storage building in Fairenana was finished ready to receive the rice harvest in May 2009. [More on the Zahana website](#)

Potatoes as micro-credit





Taking the idea of a seed bank literally, Zahana provided 30 families with 1 kg of potatoes each. As seedlings for an in-between crop in the fallow rice fields, the loan is to be paid back in potatoes into the communal seed storage.

Fiadanana - Our first Pilot Village



The community has decided to build concrete foundations for their communal wells with cast iron fences. The accomplishment of this talk was a good reason for a celebration.

Improving Cookstoves

[Deforestation](#) is the foremost environmental challenge. Zahana is firmly committed to introduce solar cooking in the villages we work in. Research and experience shows that to be successful in this endeavor, the will and commitment from the community to buy into new technologies is vital. The community-wide adoption of an improved cookstove is the crucial first step in this process. [More \(and photos\)...](#)

Expanding the School Role for Community Education

It has been decided, with the community's input, that in addition to the regular school curriculum, such as reading, writing and math for the children, a strong focus on agriculture, farming practices, crop improvement and nutrition will become an integral part of the teacher's tasks and role. In early October an agricultural specialist

spent a week in Faidanana for the first round of training. He found the community's enthusiasm infectious and is looking forward to return as soon as his schedule permits.

Teacher training

Zahana searched for and selected the teacher for Fiarenana. Zahana will train the new teachers in a month-long, tailor-made program held in the village.

The biggest change in the community was the female teacher getting pregnant and moving away from the village. Zahana has to search for a teacher for Fiarenana anyway, and in this process a replacement for her was found who will attend the training together with the other teacher from Fiadanana.

It continues to be an inspiration to us how we can help make important changes in people's lives. We are very grateful for people's continued support and belief that we, together, can make a difference.

Last, but not least, please check out our do-it-yourself Zahana [gift card, formatted ready to print](#), as an idea for the upcoming holiday season.

Best wishes,

Ihanta, Jeannette and Markus

[Forward email](#)

✉ [SafeUnsubscribe®](#)

This email was sent to markus.faigle@gmail.com by markus@zahana.org.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Project Zahana in Madagascar | PO Box 62223 | Honolulu | HI | 96839