



### A step towards food security

With its expertise and experience, asf.ch supports the population of villages in the region of Haute Matsiatra in Madagascar to improve food security and income for families. The potato project began in 2016 engaging two partner villages together with the local farming association (VFTM). However, local knowledge (seeds, organic farming, consumption and storage) must be improved with the support of our partner organization.

In the long term, 40 villages with about 5,000 farming families will be able to participate in the potato project.



### Agro-sans-frontière Suisse (asf.ch)

Agro-sans-frontiere.ch, founded in June 2011, has around 40 members. They endeavor to use their knowledge and experience to improve the living conditions of the most disadvantaged population groups. The members of asf.ch, are working or retired professionals with extensive experience in agricultural and socio-economic research, consulting, and practice. asf.ch is a Swiss-registered non-profit organization.

#### Our bank connections for donations:

Banque Cantonale Vaudoise  
1001 Lausanne  
In favour of

AGRO SANS FRONTIERE CH  
1164 Buchillon  
Project «Madagascar»

IBAN CH62 0076 7000 R527 2638 9



#### Further information

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### Potato project in Madagascar

## So that hope grows again!

The nongovernmental organization agro-sans-frontière Suisse (asf.ch) aims to improve the living conditions of disadvantaged people in a sustainable way: that is, to benefit both humans beings and the environment.



### Food situation in Madagascar

Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world. Two-thirds of its more than 25 million people reside in the countryside and most make their living from agriculture. Rice, cultivated by men, is the basic food. Rice yields, however, suffer from severe climatic variations, and the production is not sufficient to feed the growing Malagasy population. Agriculture is primarily small scale and fragmented; productivity gains are low. Approximately every second household knows seasonal food shortages; child hunger and nutrition are central concerns.

### Help for self-help: 2017 - 2019

Potatoes, cultivated in the dry season by women, are particularly suitable for bridging supply shortages in rice. Potatoes produce a large amount of valuable food in a short time. People now eat potatoes mainly as a side dish along with rice. In the future, the potato also could play an important role as a basic food source.

A market analysis in the summer of 2015 has shown a large market potential for potatoes in the Haute Matsiatra region (see map).



The asf.ch project will promote cultivation, consumption and sale of potatoes in four stages over the next three years:

**1) Multiplying and distributing healthy seed (CEFFEL Antsirabe):** Disease-resistant potato varieties help to improve yield, crop quality, and reduce the risks of field losses.

**2) Application of the principles of organic farming without creating new dependencies (compost instead of commercial fertilizer):** A focus is the training of female potato producers and farmers as well as regular on-site technical assistance by our local partner organization (VFTM).

**3) Improvement of infrastructure of the new potato store houses in Betapoaka and Andohasahabe:** After the harvest, potatoes must be stored in a well-ventilated building in order to prevent diseases or premature germination until consumption or sale.

**4) Improvement of family nutrition and marketing potato products:** village cooking courses demonstrate the multiple uses of the potato as a dietary item, safe food preparation, and proper storage arrangements. The meetings also promote the use of energy-saving stoves ([www.adesolaire.org](http://www.adesolaire.org)). Efficient cooking stoves reduce the use of charcoal (by saving more than half of the former wood use). Reduced wood use saves women's labor and protects forests against further deforestation, a major Malagasy environmental problem.

### Project funding 2017 - 2019:

#### Basic elements of the project:

- potato seed, storage
- further training, cooking courses
- tools, thermo-hygrometer, energy saving stoves "ADES" (wood)
- potato festival

#### Other needs:

- means of transportation for the direct selling of potatoes on the market of Fianarantsoa.

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