Women’s Small-scale Bean Seed Business in Antanetibe Mahazaza, Central Highlands of Madagascar

Bodo Rabary et al.
Characteristics of the study area

Antanetibe Mahazaza

18°44’ South 47°20’ East

Altitude 1600 m.a.s.l.

Mean annual Rainfall : 1360 m

Mean Temperature:
Min = 12°C
Max = 23°C
Localisation of bean farmers’ groups
Context

• Rice, staple crop and food in Madagascar,

• Grown on 1.3 million Ha
  - 71 % are lowland rice
  - 29 % are upland rice

• Production of upland rice varieties is steadily increasing in Madagascar
Common bean production

• Nutrition: calcium and protein 22.3%
• Monocropping or in association with maize
• Low productivity due to:
  – Low soil fertility on highlands: acidic and low in nutrient, erosion on slope
  – Low use of inputs due to lack of cash at the beginning of the cropping season
• Low access to market due to poor infrastructure, existence of many isolated zones.
Bean seed production business

• Women groups started in 2001
  – Organized by AMADEA NGO for Food Security program
  – Started with vegetables production and training on recipes
  – Different other activities: chicken and pork breeding

• Bean seed business started in 2004
  – To provide bean seed quality
Trends of the evolution of bean’s groups

Number of farmers’ groups

years


Composition of the bean groups

Female: 88%
Male: 12%
N = 83
Occupation of the bean groups

Male (N = 10)
- Vegetable producer: 70%
- Chicken and pork breeder: 10%
- Chicken breeder: 10%
- Labour: 10%

Female (N = 73)
- Vegetable producer: 82%
- Chicken and pork breeder: 14%
- Chicken breeder: 1%
- Labour: 2%
Wealth class in the bean groups

Male (N = 10)
- 0% Poor
- 40% Middle
- 60% Rich

Female (N=73)
- 3% Poor
- 53% Middle
- 44% Rich

Poor: - Family members are hired as labour in other farms
- They have to buy rice everyday

Middle class: - They do not buy rice everyday, they have stock
- They are able to send their children to school
**Education level**

Female (N = 73)

- High School Diploma (HSD): 0%
- High School (HS): 1%
- Secondary School (SS): 1%
- Primary School (PS): 58%
- Uneducated (UE): 40%

Number of individuals:

- Poor
- Middle class
- Rich

Trends of income generated from beans between two wealth classes

Income (x1000) in Ariary

Years

2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011

Middle class

Poor

Higher price

Flood & hail

Start of the sale

Evolution of producers’ number

Years

Credit provided

Market not sure

Credit stopped

Number of producers

Middle class

Poor

## Gender issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inequalities</th>
<th>Elements for improvement</th>
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<tr>
<td>The poor have limited access to inputs</td>
<td>- Mechanisms of credit</td>
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<td>- Activity diversification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limited access to information and education</td>
<td>Capacity building ➔ need new approaches and methods to be accessible for poor women</td>
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<td>Unavailability to attend training</td>
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### Gender issues (Cont’d)

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<th>Factors of risk for the business sustainability</th>
<th>Elements for improvement</th>
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<td>Lack of knowledge about existing markets</td>
<td>- Market analysis</td>
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<td>- Fairs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Leadership strengthening</td>
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<td>Lack of partners diversity</td>
<td>- Analysis of value chain</td>
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<td>- Bean platform formed by all actors involved in the chain</td>
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Conclusion

• Men see the women’s business as attractive and some did not hesitate to participate

• Bean seed business was perceived by women as a possible way to improve their livelihoods, but they have to face too many challenges

• Different wealth categories faced different challenges in implementing their business

• Supporting activities have to consider these different needs and to be innovative using different methods and approaches
Thank you