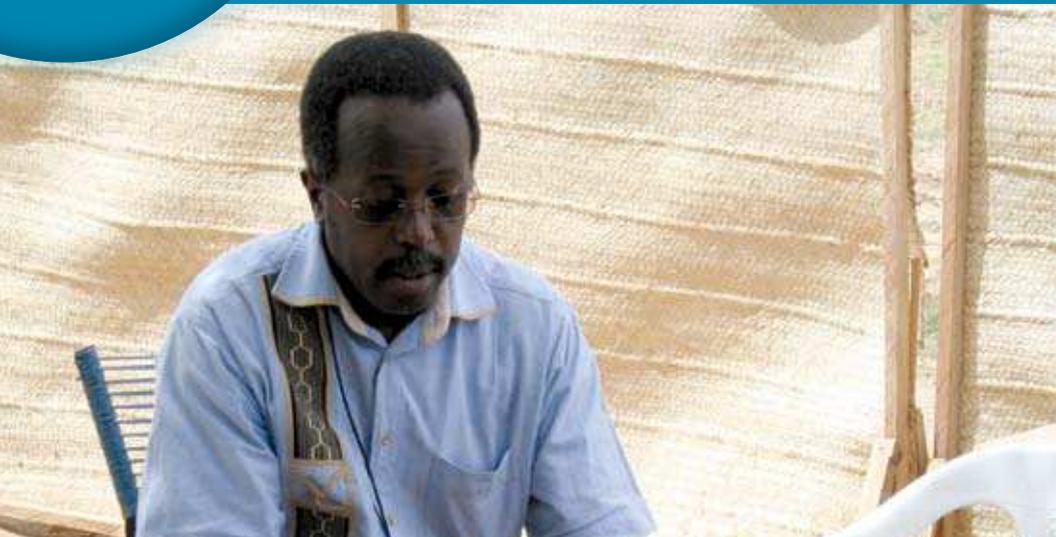




ANTENNA NEWS

N°3 JULY 2010



MALI

MOPTI: 10 HEALTH CENTRES NOW PRODUCING CHLORINE

When Alain Sossah, one of our partners in Mali, came through Geneva recently, he gave us a first-hand update on the project of equipping health centres – and their chlorine output.



Alain works with Formations Sans Frontières Mali who train local technicians in energy and water supply. In recent months, FSF has equipped 10 health centres in the Mopti region with solar chlorine production systems.

With each health centre now set up to produce 10 litres of chlorine a day, thus covering the needs of the centre and its health area, the first results have not been long in coming. The women agents ('matrones') at each centre are already hard at work, fully au fait with the tasks of producing chlorine, quality control, disinfection and purification of drinking water. Their sales of chlorine will cover the costs of production and system maintenance. To ensure the sustainability of production, 10 technicians – one in the immediate vicinity of each centre – have been trained in the upkeep and maintenance of the system. A second set of training will give them skills in the installation of small solar home systems. All possible steps have been taken

to encourage the technicians to stay in the locality – even though in many cases, once trained, they tend to leave the countryside and head off to the city. The chamber of trade in Mopti, a project partner, actively counsels the trained young technicians in their work.

The impact of the Antenna Mopti project will more widespread, with their inclusion in a larger project funded by UNICEF and covering five areas in Mali to promote household water treatment based on the local production of chlorine (see March 2010 newsletter).

MAKE A DONATION

Thank you for your precious help and generosity.

Raffaelsen Bank Versoix
Mont-Blanc Agency – 1201 Geneva
SWIFT: RAIFCH22 – N° Clearing (NCB) 80215
Antenna Technologies Foundation
IBAN CH07 8021 5000 0017 9861 7



EDITORIAL

REVERSING THE BACK-TO-FRONT 'GREEN REVOLUTION'

The world has been awash with multiple crises recently, but has this brought decision-makers to their senses? No way! An Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) is investing billions of dollars in a high-tech agriculture, aiming to integrate a market of 180 million small farmers. This conglomerate of financial and institutional interests consists of major foundations and multinational companies, in particular the global agrochemicals. At stake are a monopoly on seed supply, the leasing of land (20 million acres have already been leased), and the disappearance of an autonomous and ecological way of farming. To discard the ancestral knowledge of African farmers – and the related rehabilitation of soils suitable for traditional crops, alongside the diversity of local seeds – will be an inestimable loss to the environment and the rural world.

The latest FAO report has warned us that, in 2009, the world passed the one billion mark of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition, with 100 million more people than in the previous year. How hard it is to make the voice of the poorest be heard!

AGRA uses a fanciful, fabulous, vocabulary about its struggle for freedom from hunger, speaking of help for the small farmers of Africa! Yet farmers' organizations are not being consulted. In the wake of recent food riots, surely the only solution to help Africa overcome hunger and malnutrition lies in the efforts and priority commitments of governments, supported by NGOs in their role as local agents.

The response of Antenna is, albeit with due modesty, clear and that is to apply its expertise and technical facilities in ways appropriate to the resources of the countries where it operates. In 2010, our focus on local food production will be through improved access to seed supply and the techniques of micro-gardening in association with women's groups.

See our website : <http://fr.calameo.com/read/0003185461d0c7d5a194f>



ANTENNA TECHNOLOGIES

29, rue de Neuchâtel – CH-1201 Genève
T +41 22 731 10 34 – F +41 22 731 97 86
info@antenna.ch – www.antenna.ch



MADAGASCAR

THE NUTRITION CENTRE IN ANTSIRABE

Antenna expands its activities
in its fight against malnutrition



Two thirds of Malagasy children aged between 6 months and 5 years suffer from anaemia and serious deficiencies in micronutrients. Diseases are exacerbated by malnutrition – itself a direct cause of over half of child mortality cases.

There are three main reasons for this malnutrition in children:

- **The low spending power of families** often makes it difficult to access basic food products (10 hours of work are needed to buy a litre of oil and two days to buy a kilo of meat).
- **The low educational level of mothers** who are unaware of any notion of the nutrient intake of different foods and the need for balanced meals for their children. Their cooking is basic and traditional: rice, some 'seeds' (beans, beans ...) and vegetable leaves (plants that are cooked before consumption, to eliminate their toxins).
- **Cultural customs** that attach little significance to regular meals and the nutrients absorbed by children.

As part of its work against malnutrition, Antenna has three activities in Madagascar:

- **Distribute free and balanced meals** - to which **SPIRULINA** is added - on a daily basis to children in care at the Antenna Nutrition Centre. Some 20,000 meals are foreseen on an annual basis.
- **Educate the mothers of these children**, at Meetings, about food intake and the need to balance the meal within their normal budget.
- **Educate children** about basic hygiene.

The expected results are:

- Improved general condition of malnourished children.
- A change in behaviour, at least in part, of mothers in relation to the nourishment of their children.

These activities began on 1 March 2010. Antenna has rented a house in downtown Antsirabe, designed to accommodate children and their mothers, with a dining room, and sanitary and other facilities.

A supervising tutor, Nou, and a cook, Patricia, are responsible for operating the **NUTRITION CENTRE**.

Children are welcomed at the Nutrition Centre at the request of doctors or responsible agents in the Fokontany urban district and are accepted by priority depending on their state of malnutrition.

The operating budget of the house is 10,000 Euros per year, half of which is for structural costs (rent, salaries, materials ...).

ONLY 50 CENTS PER MEAL !

More information on our website:
www.antenna-france.org

