

# Mango Training at Ankaramena

## An Update from the Fruits, Vegetables, and Environmental Education Program in Madagascar

The Fruits, Vegetables, and Environmental Education (FVEE) program of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM) is helping to establish a fruit tree nursery at the Ankaramena FJKM church in south central Madagascar. This nursery will produce grafted mango trees of many of the world's top mango varieties. It will serve as a launching point for the distribution of these varieties as well as grafting techniques to southern Madagascar, an area suffering from food insecurity and the effects of climate change.

Major progress in establishing the nursery was made in October 2020 when construction of a wall around the church's property got started and an initial training was held to help people learn to plant and care for mango trees and to get quality mango varieties planted in the community.

From 9 to 13 February 2021, the FVEE technical team went to Ankaramena to do a new round of training on how to graft mango trees, to see how wall construction was progressing, and to follow-up with people in the community who received trees in 2020. The trip got off to an inauspicious start when, on the way, FVEE program technical assistant Germain Andrianavoson got word that his wife was having emergency surgery for internal bleeding. He promptly got on a bus in Fianarantsoa to return to Antananarivo to be with his wife. She came through the surgery fine and is recuperating. So, Rolland Razafiarison, FVEE technical director, continued and sent the following photographs and information.



The wall at the Ankaramena FJKM church that was begun in October 2020 is nearing completion. It will help provide security for the new nursery to be established on the church grounds.





The wall will protect the trees to be planted at the church from damage from cattle. This is National Road #7, the main highway to southern Madagascar which passes just in front of the Ankaramena church.



Twelve varieties of grafted mango trees along with a couple of canistel trees, were potted up in 20-liter pots. They will eventually be planted in the ground around the church to serve as sources of grafting material for the nursery.





Training in how to graft: first you practice with sticks, ...



... then afterwards, with real trees.



One of the grafted mango trees planted in October 2020 that is now growing well.





At the February training, 25 people learned how to graft mango trees and received the tools they need to graft their own trees. They received a total of 53 fruit trees to plant on their land, including oranges, lemons, and 22 grafted mango trees.

Several steps remain before the installation of the nursery at Ankaramena can be completed. The wall around the church property needs to be finished. A house will be constructed on the church property to help with security. A hangar and shade structure will be constructed as part of nursery installation. The mother trees will be planted in the ground around the church. When the new nursery worker designated by the church, Johary Rafanomezantsoa, completes his training at the fruit center at Mahatsinjo and the nurseries at Fihaonana and Ivato in May 2021, he will be installed as the Ankaramena nursery worker and begin nursery operations at the church. The FVEE will support the nursery for 3 years until income exceeds expenses. At full production, the nursery is expected to produce over 2000 grafted mango trees per year. Funds are still needed to complete the project. It is expected that the nursery will be fully operational by the end of 2021 if funds are found. The nursery will be managed by the Ankaramena FJKM church with profits going to the church.

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-Dan Turk, PC(USA) mission co-worker, 15 February 2021