

New Mango Nursery at Mandritsara in Northern Madagascar



A new mango nursery has been established at Mandritsara in northern Madagascar. It was set up by the Fruits, Vegetables, and Environmental Education (FVEE) program of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM), the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s partner church in Madagascar. The new nursery is located on the grounds of the FJKM seminary at Mandritsara and will be managed by the seminary. It will provide grafted mango trees and other quality fruit trees for growing in Mandritsara and surrounding area as a contribution of the FJKM to help subsistence farmers increase their food security and gain income to reduce poverty. As Pastor ... said, ""



Jeremia Ratsirahonana at the site of the new mango nursery for the Mandritsara seminary. This was in October 2020 when Jeremia went to take up his new position after spending over 7 months getting trained at the FVEE program's nursery at the Ivato seminary in Antananarivo and at the FJKM fruit center at Mahatsinjo. Note the well and bricks for constructing the house where Jeremia will live.



On the October 2020 trip, FVEE technical director Rolland Razafiarison took about 40 fruit trees, mostly grafted mangos, to the seminary where the seminary students potted them up in 20-liter yellow pots to serve as mother trees for getting scions for grafting. These mango trees include many of the world's best mango varieties such as Kent, Tommy Atkins, Kensington, and Mallika. Other fruit trees to be grown at the nursery include lychees, canistels, and citrus.



In December 2020, the house where Jeremia will live at the nursery was still under construction.



The nursery house where Jeremia will live was finished in April 2021. He moved in in late April after a worship service to dedicate the nursery to God as a ministry of the church. The mother trees have been moved to the new nursery as well as the ~ 1000 mango rootstocks that Jeremia got growing at a temporary location. The new nursery is right on the road into Mandritsara which is an excellent location for selling grafted mango trees and spreading the word about this new FJKM ministry.



A fence has been completed around the new nursery. The area enclosed by the fence is about 0.43 ha or 1 acre. Remaining steps to get the nursery completely established include installing metal gates, constructing shade structures, and planting the mother trees. These steps will be done when FVEE personnel return to Mandritsara after Covid travel restrictions get lifted.



For three years the FVEE will provide the inputs needed for producing grafted mango trees and other fruit trees at the new nursery. As soon as enough trees are ready, the nursery will begin selling fruit trees. This will help to spread good fruit varieties and help the nursery to become financially sustainable. After three years, the FVEE will cease to provide inputs for the nursery but will continue to provide technical assistance.

The new nursery will serve as a focal point for helping farmers to grow grafted mango trees of good varieties in the area around Mandritsara. The nursery will be used as part of instruction for seminary students so that they can learn how to grow and propagate fruit trees. The nursery will be used for training farmers and church members. The first of these trainings should take place later in 2021 or whenever Covid realities will allow.

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- Dan Turk, PC(USA) mission co-worker, 5 May 2021