

THE PRODUCTION OF CHARCOAL IN MADAGASCAR: TECHNICAL AND ECONOMICAL IMPROVEMENT

Ph. BURNY¹, P. MONTAGNE², R. CREHAY¹,
H. RANDRIANJA³, A.-M. RASAMINDISA⁴

¹ *Walloon Centre for Agricultural Research, Belgium*

² *CIRAD, France*

³ *L. Consulting, Madagascar*

⁴ *FOFIFA, Madagascar*

At a time when energetic problems are more important than ever, especially for developing countries, the production of charcoal holds a central position in the economy of Madagascar. It is nearly the unique source of cash for the peasants and the lonely source of energy, mainly for cooking, for the poor rural and urban households.

In order to fight against poverty in a country experiencing a dramatic demographic expansion, while preserving the natural resources equilibrium against overuse, the European Union supports a project, from January 1st, 2007 to December 31st, 2008, aiming to increase the yield of production of charcoal from living trees (going from 10 to 20 %), thanks to the learning of new techniques by the peasants, and to implement a new and efficient control and tax system. To do this, the role of local actors (communes, farmers' associations,...) is reinforced.