

FAO helps Madagascar to grow food in the off-season. A US \$ 500,000 project by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) is using Madagascar's agricultural off-season to decrease food aid dependency and offset the effects of high food prices.

The FAO launched an emergency technical cooperation Project in July to provide rice seed, bean seed and fertilizers to about 6,000 farmers and their families, targeting households hit hard by the recent cyclones that destroyed 80 percent of the last harvest, when people consumed seed supplies as food.

Every year, Madagascar imports about 200,000 tons of rice for consumption, this year, the gap is estimated at 270,000 tons, and that will present a challenge, "MARCO FALCONE", FAO's emergency coordination in Madagascar said in a statement.

Farmers in Madagascar traditionally plant crops in the main rainy season in July and August, food production could be considerably increased.

In MADA English Journal.

#### A. READING COMPREHENSION.

- 1- Find in the text: the synonyms of: grain, To provide, To reduce
- 2- Find in the text: the opposite of: ends, low
- 3- Say if these statements are true or false:
  - a- All the last harvest are destroyed.
  - b- Madagascar has enough rice every year.
- 4- Answering these questions
  - a. What is the aim of the FAO project mentioned in the text?
  - b. What did the FAO give to the farmers?
  - c. Why did the FAO choose these farmers?
  - d. What is the advantage of planting crops off-season?
- 5- Fill in the blanks with words from the text
  - a- More than 80 percent of the Malagasy ..... 1 ..... don't have running water.
  - b- It's a big .... 2 .... For the government to create new jobs.

#### B. GRAMMAR IN USE

- 1- Put the verbs between brackets into the correct tenses and forms
  - a- The farmers (to begin) to work in the field, at dawn.
  - b- If you (to breed) dairy cows, you (to get) at least 0 liters of milk a day
  - c- Why don't you (to give) IVOMECA to your cow
- 2- Fill in the blanks with grammatical items

To make a living, Josephine collects empty plastic containers. She sells (1) to a recycling plant nearby (2) it is a tiring job. She doesn't earn much money from it. She gets than two dollars a day (3) a miserable life. Josephine is (4) able to feed her children nor to pay for their schooling.

#### C. WRITING

"Malagasy farmers poverty is a destiny" do you agree with it? Why?

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