



## NEPETA CATARIA GROWS IN BURUNDI

The first tests of seed planting *Nepeta cataria* have demonstrated that it grows well in Burundi. "Community for Burundi", an NGO partner of the ACECI who are working towards social integration of 28 pygmy families, conducted the tests in a germinator in the community of Matara, province of Nyabiraba. This community was chosen to participate in the anti-malaria project in a sustainable development vision because of its particular vulnerability to malaria. Batwa (pygmy) families, composed mostly of women and children under five, are among the poorest of the poor in Burundi, and are increasingly exposed to malaria.

**Their participation in the project will make it possible, on the one hand, to protect themselves from Malaria with a biologically derived mosquito repellent, and on the other hand to fight poverty by taking part in income-generating activities such as the cultivation of Catmint, the extraction of the essential oil and the manufacturing of mosquito repellent products such as lotions and soaps.**

Community for Burundi' has addressed the community's administration for access to a sufficient land area for the cultivation of Catmint. The community has already developed a soap factory.

With the prospect of promising results, the officials of ALUMA-ACVE (Association for the Fight Against Malaria and the Action Green Belt for the Environment) have devoted land in the valley of Ntakangwa and in the province of Cibitoke for field testing of Catmint. The purpose of this experiment is to consolidate the pilot phase to establish the feasibility of the project in Burundi before large scale production.

## THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI - HE MR. PIERRE NKURUNZIZA - ENDORSES THE PROJECT TO PRODUCE MOSQUITO REPELLENT FROM CATNIP

During an interview between the President of the Republic of Burundi, **HE Pierre Nkurunziza** and the CEO of ACECI, the President expressed great interest in the Catmint mosquito repellent project. "Malaria transmitted through mosquito bites is the number one public health problem in Burundi", he noted. He promises to facilitate this project as an initiative of the Presidency Office, and didn't rule out the possibility of granting parcels of land for the cultivation of Catmint as a contribution of the State. Dr Jeanne Karenzo, coordinator of the office of strategic studies and development will be closely following the implementation of the project.

## SIGNATURE OF THE GENERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF BURUNDI AND ACECI

On behalf of the Government of Burundi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation signed a General Cooperation Agreement with ACECI on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

This agreement, allowing ACECI to operate in Burundi as an international organization, will facilitate the implementation of the mosquito repellent project to fight against malaria but will also help increase the awareness of parallel programs including training, research and advisory services related to the fight against poverty, sustainable development and environmental management.



## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED FOR THE BURUNDI CATMINT PROJECT

Following the meeting of the regional partners of ACECI and in the presence of the media (TV, radio and news print), an advisory committee was established for the anti-malaria project. Coordinated by the ACECI, the advisory committee consists of seven members (ABR PNILP, MINAGRI, Office of Strategic Studies and Development of the Presidency of the Republic, ALUMA-CEAA, ABEM). The ABM

(Burundi Association of Broadcasters) and PNILP (Integrated National Program for the Fight against Malaria) are the official spokesmen.

The committee will be extended to other partners during the implementation phase of the project. In the short term, the advisory committee will:

- Develop an action plan for the International Day of Fight against Malaria – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2011 – which will be an opportunity to advocate the use of mosquito repellents to protect individuals from mosquito bites;
- Draft the terms of reference for the pilot phase of the project together with project feasibility;
- Initiate and optimize the cultivation of quality of Catmint in Burundi; and,
- Identify land – both public and private – for the cultivation of Catmint on a large scale;
- Engage partners to help finance and develop the project in Burundi

Establishing this advisory committee addresses ACECI's concerns regarding the project's ownership. It ensures the participation of all stakeholders including government and non-governmental civic societies. Starting from a vision of enlightened development, responsible partnership and balanced cooperation, ACECI believes that sustainable development and the fight against poverty are primarily the work of the local populations.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** World Malaria Day. ACECI and its Canadian partners will join the government of Burundi and private local agencies involved in the sector to educate the people of Burundi on the importance of using mosquito repellents as a strategy to fight malaria.

**June 9, 2011:** Volunteers from the Ecole Polytechnique of Montreal, under the direction of François-Xavier Chiron, are organizing a fundraiser-gala evening for the Catmint mosquito repellent project.

**October 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** The ABEM (The Burundi Medical Students Association) will organize a month long exhibition at the French Institute of Bujumbura on the Catmint mosquito repellent project.

On display will be catmint plants, extraction and hydro-generation techniques, solar energy technology and biomass, mosquito repellents and other explanations concerning the project.

**October 7, 2011:** As part of the campaign for public awareness inciting action and cooperation for development, ACECI is organizing a **"5-7 for Cooperation Here and Elsewhere"** at the Museum of Civilization in Quebec City on the theme "Why is Quebec rallying around the project to produce mosquito repellents for the fight against Malaria in Africa?"

**October 17-18, 2011:** ACECI and its partners in Bujumbura organize the **2nd International Conference on the Catmint Project in Burundi**. The first conference marked the official launch of the project. It took place between October 15 and 16, 2010 in Bujumbura. The second conference will concentrate on the mobilization of funds and the submission of the project's feasibility document.

Executive Team of ACECI

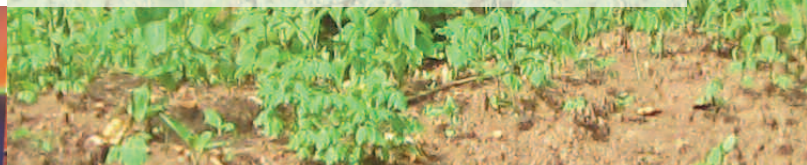
The program will be available soon on the site

[www.antimalariaomd.org](http://www.antimalariaomd.org) and [www.aceci.org](http://www.aceci.org).

309-600 Av. Wilfrid-Laurier

Québec, QC. CANADA G1R 2L5

1-418 524-7648



Agence consultative en éthique  
de la coopération internationale

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[www.aceci.org](http://www.aceci.org), and [www.antimalariaomd.org](http://www.antimalariaomd.org)

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