Research skills move into farmer practice in Madagascar

Research–extension links and climate-smart farming

Scope • Madagascar; associated advisory work across 13 of 24 regions
Partners • FOFIFA, FCA, ASARECA and AFAAS

The starting situation

Research capacity can improve farm practice when researchers and extension teams have practical channels to demonstrate innovations, and farmers can test them in their own fields.

How partners contributed

ASARECA-linked support strengthened FOFIFA research capacity, while AFAAS-linked FCA support enabled technicians to film and edit advice in-house. A reference farmer tested four biofertilizer methods over two seasons with FOFIFA, shared findings and trained neighbours. More than 120 farmers in specialised Farmer Field Schools worked on tick control, cattle health and milk productivity. Researchers and managers were trained, and an associated 14-country communication network operated.

What changed

The case reports advisory reach expanding from a 2023 target cohort of about 180 to about 2,000 later reach, with women representing roughly 60% of FCA reach (participation, not a measure of empowerment). At one screening of about 49–50 people, around seven applied the seven-day compost method. More than 120 Farmer Field School participants reportedly saw about 80% fewer heavy tick infestations and about 25% higher daily milk yields among some participants.

Evidence and source

Draft Endline and Country Case Study Reports

Source record • SS14 Infographics

Sustainability and lessons

In-house video production, participatory trials and farmer schools offer channels for continued advisory support. To demonstrate durable effects, partners can record farmer-level practice adoption, comparable labour and cost data, and livestock baselines over time. Clear attribution between XP4, partner and associated activities will strengthen future reporting.