



## Jiarifaralima - when the forest is reborn in Bobakilandy

On the heights of Bobakilandy, a vast private plot of land once stretched out, bare and dry. Its owner, Jiarifaralima, saw no point in planting trees there. For him, the land should remain as it was: free, empty, barren perhaps, but without constraints.

Then one day, teams from **Graine de Vie** came to talk about reforestation, scarce rainfall and a greener future. They made numerous visits, held awareness-raising sessions and engaged in passionate discussions under the scorching sun. At first, Jiarifaralima listened distractedly. But over time, he observed the changes: the seasons were becoming unpredictable, the rains were late in coming. So he began to think.

Three years later, his land has changed beyond recognition. Where dust once reigned, acacia trees now stretch their young branches towards the sky. The owner, once sceptical, has become a fervent advocate of reforestation.

*‘Before, I didn't care,’ he says. ‘But when I saw the results in other communities, I understood. My children used to walk four hours to collect dead wood. It was dangerous. Now the forest is coming back, and with it, life.’*

For Jiarifaralima, the forest is now synonymous with hope: hope for rain, wood for the home, cleaner air and a better future for his children.

Before leaving us, he smiled and added: *‘Thank you to Graine de Vie, thank you to the sponsor, because thanks to you, many communities will change their lives. It's not easy at first, but with the team's efforts, we will achieve great results.’*

And in his eyes already shone the promise of a forest restored.

