



Mozambique

Promoting Integrated and Diversified Horticulture Production in Maputo Green Zones towards a stable Food Security System

Horticultural diversification turned a new leaf in horticultural production for Mr César Malusane Malate after more than five years of mono-cropping in the peri-urban Maputo Green Zones of Mozambique. "Previously everyone planted Covo¹ but through FAO production has come to include tomatoes, cabbages, onions, carrots, lettuce, pepper and beetroot".

The project was "an eye opener to change of crops", said the vigilant horticulture producer who is "looking forward to increasing the land under cultivation" from the current 0.4Ha divided into seven different plots of 50m by 10m (0.05Ha) producing a minimum average income of US\$200 per month including enough for family consumption.

The 32 year old father of two girls (ages 8 and 5) and a boy (age 10) has been a beneficiary of the Government of South Africa funded project through the Massacre Mbusini² producer association since 2005 when he learned about the programme implemented by FAO in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Malate has been realising greater income in production of cabbages as compared to the previously popular leafy vegetable Covo where he made an average of US\$50 per month aggravated by the crop's high perishability index.

He receives help from two brothers producing an average of 2 tonnes of cabbages per month including other vegetables which he sells in bulk for timeliness of transactions with assistance from his 25 year old wife who also operates a selling point at the nearby local market.

Mr Malate lives in a two bedroomed house which he constructed from the gradual savings of his sales. Even though he still has to finish its construction he is proud of the great leap towards a better shelter and livelihood through improved food and nutrition security.

¹ A leafy vegetable.

² A patriotic name which holds in memory the location (Mbusini – South Africa), where the late President Samora Machel was killed in 1985.

Mozambique

Mozambique lies along the south-eastern coast of Africa with an extensive coast line of 2,470 kilometres and an area of 801,590 square kilometers (km²). The country is divided into 10 provinces and 128 districts. It has about 36 million hectares of arable land, suitable for agriculture. At present, approximately 3.9 million hectares, which make about 10% of the arable land are under cultivation with 97% cultivated by smallholder farmers. While land availability is abundant, expansion of land under effective use is limited by constraints among which include labour, suitable farming system based on agro-ecological zones, absence of draught power and access to water.

Mean annual rainfall ranges from 800 mm to 1,000 mm along the coast; 1,200 mm in the central region of the country; and between 1,000 mm and 2,000 mm in the northern region. There is however considerable variation, with areas of low rainfall even within the wet northern region. Irrigation systems are still poorly developed covering a mere 3% of the potential land.



Mr Malate in one of his cabbage plots where he spends the greater part of his usual working day - irrigation is made easier by the readily accessible water.

Of Mozambique's 128 districts, 20 are "highly prone to drought"; 30, to flooding; and another 7, to both risks. Overall, 48.2% of the population is prone to one or both risks.

Mozambique's agriculture is strongly bipolar, split between 3.2 million small farmers, producing 95% of agricultural GDP, and about 400 commercial farmers producing the remaining 5% (Coughlin 2006). According to the agricultural census (TIA)¹ 2005, 91% land of the small and medium scale farmers, was used for annual crops which

include maize, cassava, rice, sorghum, millet, cowpeas and groundnuts. Maize, cassava and cowpeas were the most common food crops, cultivated by 79%, 73% and 50% of the farmers respectively. Of the maize produced in the country 99% is produced by the small-scale farmers, Zambézia, Nampula, Niassa, Manica, Tete Provinces including selected areas of Maputo and Gaza. The main cash crops include cotton, sesame, tobacco and sunflowers. According to the agricultural census (TIA) 2005, sesame was the most common cash crop cultivated by 8% of the farmers followed by cotton explored by 7% of the farmers.

In general "average crop yields are about half of the regional standard estimates" even though there have been notable increases as in the 2005/6 agricultural season that registered a 10.4% rise in cereal production as compared to the 2004/5 season.

Mozambique at a Glance

Total land area: 801,590 million square kilometers, 36 million hectares of arable
Arable land: 46%
Arable land in use: 10%
Area of land under irrigation: operational 40,000 hectares = 3% of potential land
Agriculture sector contribution to GDP: 23%
Agriculture sector contribution to exports: 20%

Total population: 19.4 million
Average family size: 5
Families making a living from agriculture: 3.2million small-farmers, 400 commercial farmers
Average land area per family: 1.4 hectares

Yield of main food crops:
Maize 0.4-1.3 tonnes/hectare
Cassava 4-5 tonnes/hectare
Beans 0.3-0.6 tonnes/hectare
Sorghum 0.3-0.6 tonnes/hectare
Rice 0.5-1.8 tonnes/hectare

Main cash crops:

Sesame
Cotton
Cashew nuts
Sugar
Tobacco

Fertilizer usage:

Less than 2kg fertiliser per hectare of arable land. (Naseem and Kelly 1998)

Average cost of fertilizers:

NPK 12.24.12 50kgs = US\$ 30
 UREA 50kgs = US\$ 25

Number of livestock in country (TIA 2005):

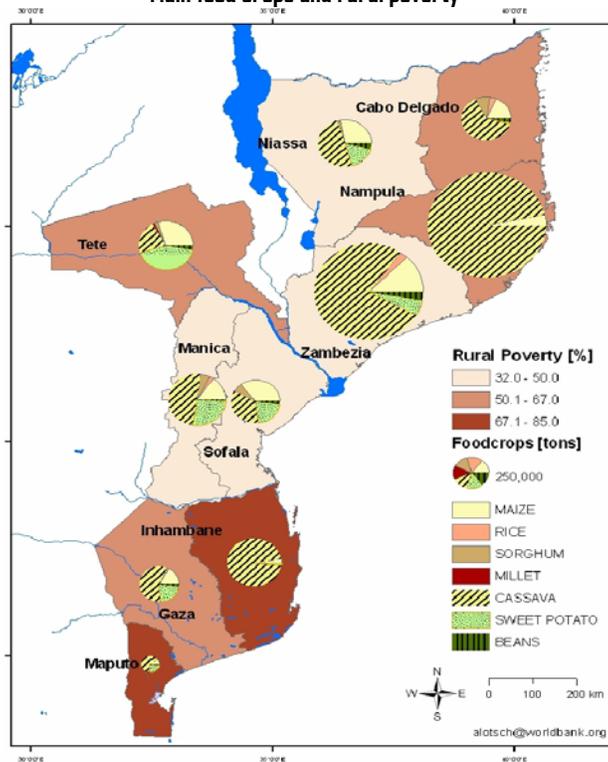
Bovine	1,400,000
Goats	4,929,000
Sheep	197,000
Pigs	1,631,000
Chickens	14,217,000

HIV/AIDS infection rates: 16.2% of the adult population

Number of AIDS orphans: 600,000 of the 0-17 age group

FAO's partners in Mozambique: Ministry of Agriculture, Disaster Management Institute, UN Agencies, IRPC, Action Aid, Mozambique Food Security Cluster members

Main food crops and rural poverty



Source: (World Bank (2005b:9). World Bank staff estimates

Crop diversification has been promoted through capacity building and practical demonstrations at school garden and community levels. Income Generating Activities through Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) have given DVCs an opportunity to implement sustainable local community activities whilst ITFs have helped restore food production for flood, drought and/or cyclone affected households. Livestock vaccination and surveillance activities against Newcastle, FMD, CBPP have been useful in promoting animal health activities.

Currently the following projects are being implemented by FAO Emergency and Rehabilitation Unit in Mozambique:

Strengthening Livelihoods through Food and Nutrition Security in Vulnerable SADC Countries (OSRO/RAF/SIQ/SAF): Regional project to strengthen the capacity of vulnerable households and communities to sustainably address food insecurity.

Surveillance and control of epidemic Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) and Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) (OSRO/RAF/SII/SAF): Regional project aimed at controlling and strengthening preparedness against the spread of Trans boundary Animal Diseases-TDAs implemented in Provinces of Gaza, Manica and Tete with common borders with SADC Countries.

Support to restore smallholder food production through Agricultural Input Trade Fairs (ITFs) in the flood-affected provinces of Mozambique (OSRO/MOZ/701/BEL & OSRO/MOZ/702/CHA).

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