



**REDSAN
PALOP**

Rede Regional da Sociedade Civil
para a Segurança Alimentar nos PALOP

Associação para a Cooperação e o Desenvolvimento

SOCIAL MOBILIZATION FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

**THE EXPERIENCE OF WORKING IN A MULTI-THEMATIC
NETWORK-REDSAN PALOP**

Support:



ACTUAR – Associação para a Cooperação e o Desenvolvimento is a non profit, plural and independent organization, based in Coimbra, Portugal, and has the theme of Food and Nutritional Security and the Right to Food as a priority of its intervention.

C O N T A C T S

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The REDSAN-PALOP – Civil Society Regional Network for Food Security and Nutrition in the PALOP - is a space for articulation of multi-thematic organizations of civil society networks working to strengthen the dialogue with governments and international organizations to influence the political agenda for food security and nutrition and the human right to food in the Lusophone space. The REDSAN was formally launched in 2007 and involves civil society organizations from Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Brazil, Portugal and East Timor.

C O N T A C T S

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PRESENTATION

This publication systematizes the process of building the Regional Network of the Civil Society for Food Security and Nutrition in the PALOP (REDSAN-PALOP). Formally launched in 2007, this network is progressively becoming a space of articulation and intervention of civil society at national, regional and global levels, giving voice to a group of organizations working in network in order to strengthen the dialogue with governments and international organizations in the field of food and nutritional security (SAN), right to food and food sovereignty. The REDSAN-PALOP involves working groups and networks of organizations from Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe and Mozambique¹ and has been driven by ACTUAR - Association for Cooperation and Development an organization that also takes its secretariat. The REDSAN-PALOP is currently working on including networks from Brazil, Portugal and East Timor in a process that will lead to REDSAN-CPLP.

All these countries are part of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), an organization founded in 1996 which approved in 2011 its Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (ESAN-CPLP) at the regional level².

Since the beginning of the mobilization process in each country it was tried to, as far as possible and depending on the existing reality, to encourage the progressive construction of multi-thematic networks of civil society in policy interchange with governments in the context of National Food Strategies and Nutritional Security. This work had a clear option for the intersectoral treatment of this theme.

The national networks partners of REDSAN-PALOP have histories of autonomous mobilization and are in different stages of development and consolidation. Both nationally and regionally, it is the result of long processes of collective learning, with many ups and downs in terms of the technical and (or) financial capacities of the organizations, or the greater or lesser openness and (or) interest in the political dialogue by governments. This means that in most countries, the processes of strengthening follow the political agenda offSN, in particular as it regards the greater or lesser definition and implementation of their national strategies and consequent operationalization of institutional mechanisms for dialogue and social participation.

The experience of mobilization of REDSAN-PALOP is an example and a potential contribution to the discussion of the challenges facing the construction of intersectoral mechanisms of social intervention aimed at building new forms of governance of the FSN at national, regional and international levels.

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Together, these countries are commonly known by the acronym PALOP (African Countries of Portuguese Official Language).

² More information about the CPLP and the theme of FSN <http://www.cplp.org/id-125.aspx>.

I. National Strategies for Food Security and Nutrition : National Situation and in CPLP

"The implementation of the recommendations of the Action Plan of the World Food Summit is a responsibility of each State through national legislation and the formulation of strategies, policies and programs aimed at achieving food security."

In: Plan of action of CMA (Rome, 1996)

Generally speaking, the processes of formulating and implementing programs and strategies of FSN with the support of international organizations increased considerably since the mid-nineties, due to the priorities and commitments assumed by the countries at the international level. The conclusions of successive World Food Summits, the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and other initiatives of regional and global levels, contributed to accelerate this trend.

In most cases the programs and national strategies of FSN relied on the technical support of FAO, in particular through its Special Programme for Food Security (PESA)³. Between 1995 and 2008 benefited from the initiative PESA 106 countries, taking as a central support countries to achieve MDG 1. The initial focus of PESA was based on two aspects: firstly, assist countries in formulating their national programs and/or regional strategies, on the other hand, increase food production by small-scale pilot interventions, easy and low cost, using participatory approaches.

It was intended that governments themselves were to develop their own programs and strategies for FSN, with the assistance of the FAO directed to: i) ease the process of formulation and implementation of these policy instruments; ii) act as a catalyst for stronger political commitment; iii) provide synergies with donors and technical assistance. Since these programs were developed at national level, content, format and approach adopted (notably in legal, institutional, public policies, human and financial resources) varied depending on the case.

Since its implementation in 1994, PESA has also evolved in terms of the approach adopted, from an approach too focused on the "production" (increased food availability) for a broader approach, which included a multidimensional, intersectoral and multi-player view of the FSN. More recently, there is an increasing trend towards the incorporation of principles related to the human right to food.

The evolution of this approach and thus the objectives pursued, was inspired and supported, in experiments conducted by some countries in the late nineties, emphasizing Brazil with the Zero Hunger Program. This also had an influence on the availability found in other Portuguese-speaking countries, particularly the PALOP, for the formulation and/or implementation of their programs and strategies to FSN, which is somehow inspired by the Brazilian experience. That is why, although in different stages, all PALOP have been involved

³ The program PESA was launched by FAO in 1994 and adopted at the CMA 1996. For more information see www.spfs.org.

in formulating and/or implementing FSN programs and strategies with some common characteristics in terms of focus and institutions⁴.

These programs were monitored, for example, by the proposition and/or institutionalization of different types of governance structures in order to promote coordination between government and the different players – including civil society, international agencies and in some cases, the private sector – in the formulation and implementation of public policies.

This process has developed (and still grows) gradually and it was particularly important due to the learning exchange and a "cross fertilization" facilitated by the existence of a common culture and language at both governments and civil society, or the consultants and staff of FAO involved in supporting these countries. Let us see, first, the situation in each country.

Brazil has considerable experience in the field of FSN policies and was the country where major institutional innovations have been implemented and shared with other countries. The first election victory of President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva in 2002, paved the way to the development of an ambitious program to combat hunger strongly inspired by previous claims of social movements, as well as greater openness and investment cooperation with Africa. His Zero Hunger Program⁵, now coordinated by the Ministry of Social Development and Hunger Combat (MDS), consists of more than thirty additional programs focusing on different dimensions of FSN. In institutional terms, the FSN Organic Law (LOSAN – Law No. 11346 of September 15, 2006)⁶ establishes definitions, principles, guidelines, objectives and composition of the National Food and Nutrition Security (SISAN), whereby the government, with the participation of organized civil society, draw up and implement policies. The SISAN consists of the FSN National Conference (CNSAN), the National Council of FNS (CONSEA) and the Interministerial House of FNS (CISAN). The CONSEA is a structure of governance linked to the presidency where, through social participation and intersectoral approach, materializes its advisory regarding the formulation of policies and the definition of guidelines for FNS for the country⁷. The country plans to replicate this structure at the decentralized level (States and Cities), this being one of the biggest challenges for the consolidation of this institutional innovation. In 2011, Brazil approved the National Plan for Food Security and Nutrition (PLANSAN 2011-2015).

Overall, it can be said that Brazil's experience has shown that fighting the structural causes of hunger and poverty requires a clear political priority for this theme, accompanied by effective social participation in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of actions and how to build a cross-sectoral approach to the FSN. This approach has been adopted as a central point of the national development process.

It was in Brazil that the FAO PESA found methodological elements and experiences (through trial and error) that were quickly incorporated into their practices in other regions of the world. Also Brazilian bilateral cooperation and exchanges promoted by civil society organizations in Brazil with African organizations spread some of these principles. In this

⁴ The documents of national strategies and programs are available in the database on policies of FAO at www.fao.org/righttofood/inaction/ajustice_strategylist_en.htm.

⁵ For detailed information see the Zero Hunger Program www.fomezero.gov.br.

⁶ Available at www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_Ato2004-2006/2006/Lei/L11346.htm.

⁷ For detailed information about CONSEA and their activities see www4.planalto.gov.br/consea.

process of "cross-fertilization"⁸, Mozambique was the first African country of the CPLP, where given the existing social and political conditions, it established an institutional environment more favorable to building a movement similar to that of Brazil, on African soil.

Mozambique approved in 1998 its Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (ESAN) and its corresponding National Plan for Food Security and Nutrition (PASAN). This strategy was revised in 2007 giving place to ESAN II for the period 2008-2015. The governance structure designed to support the implementation of ESAN and the coordination of other initiatives in the field of FSN was the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN)⁹. This is an agency under the Ministry of Agriculture, but that brings together representatives of different sectors of government, civil society and international organizations. Its members are called to participate in meetings of SETSAN and discuss progress or adjustments in the implementation of national policy for FSN. Beyond the political dialogue with social participation, this structure also plays a technical role through the intervention of thematic working groups. SETSAN has a decentralized intervention through the creation of structures at the provincial level (Provincial-SETSAN). Mozambique is currently formulating an Act of the Right to Food and reviewing the existing institutional framework. At the time of this writing, it was expected that institutional coordination could now be carried out from a higher hierarchical structure of the state, accompanied by the strengthening of institutional and financial autonomy of existing institutions.

In **Cape Verde** the National Strategy for Food Security (ENSA) and its corresponding National Plan for Food Security (PNSA) for the period 2003-2015, were approved in 2004. In 2006 was carried out a review of PNSA for 2007-2011, which laid the groundwork for the creation of two intersectoral mechanisms to implement the policy: i) National Council for Food Security (CNSA) and the National Network for Food Security (RNSA). Although included in ENSA, no mechanisms have yet entered into function. This is explained partly by the low political priority given to this question and the discontinuities generated by the change of governments and (or) technicians responsible for the area, and also by the limitation of resources. Nevertheless, in 2011 the government put forward the definition of the National Program of Agricultural Investment under the program CAADP (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme), where the government intends to include the ENSA. It has also demonstrated openness to proceed with the effective institutionalization of coordination mechanisms contemplated in PNSA, as well as reviewing its strategy.

In **Angola**, following the action of national civil society and also the various exchanges carried out, particularly with Mozambique and Brazil, the government proceeded with the formulation of the National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (ENSAN), which has been approved by the Council of Ministers in 2009. This strategy was formulated with the support of FAO and with the participation of ten ministries representing different sectors of government and of the civil society. In institutional terms this instrument has defined the basis for the creation of the National Council of Food and Nutritional Security (CONSAN) as the highest organ of dialogue and political negotiation. However, in 2010, the government decided to proceed with the formulation of the Integrated Programme of Rural

⁸ We can refer to the exchanges promoted by the Brazilian government agencies, FAO and non-governmental organizations, as well as technicians who contacted individually with players in other countries. It is worth highlighting the work of Adriana Aranha, Alberta Mascaretti, Flavio Valente, Renato Maluf and Francisco Sarmento, among many others.

⁹ To learn more about SETSAN check www.setsan.org.mz.

Development and Poverty Combat (PIDRCP) under the supervision of the Presidency of the Republic, through which it intends to harmonize a set of tools to combat poverty, and increase rural development and FSN. The ENSAN will therefore be implemented under this instrument. This decision prompted the government to abdicate CONSAN, proposing instead the creation of the National Council Against Poverty (CNLP). It is expected that this organ will constitute the forum for dialogue between the different players, including civil society.

In **Sao Tome and Principe** since 2007 the government has been attempting to formulate a national strategy for FSN. At that time, FAO has started to support the policy making through the Ministry of Economy, the body that at that time patronized the Ministry of Agriculture. Due to various constraints – including political instability with frequent ministerial reformulations and lack of resources at all levels – Failed to start the process. Currently, the responsibility of the issue of institutional thematic for FSN is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Planning and Development, after a brief period in which the agricultural sector had its own ministry (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development). Although the country does not have a specific strategy in the field of FSN, it has several instruments where this is discussed. In policy terms the country gives a very significant priority to the development of agriculture as the basis for the promotion of FSN. An example is the National Strategy to Combat Poverty (ENCP), the Missive Updated of Agricultural Policy, Rural Development and Fisheries (CAPADRP) passed in 2006 and the National Plan for Agricultural Investment made in the framework of CAADP. In 2011, again with support from FAO, the government finally met the conditions to formulate its National Programme for Food Security and Nutrition (PNSAN) which is expected to be approved in 2012.

Also in **Guinea-Bissau** the promotion of FSN appears as the main strategic objective tool for developing the country, namely in the Bill of Agricultural Development Policy and the National Strategy for Poverty Reduction. In 2007 the government completed the formulation of the National Programme for Food Security (PNSA). However, this instrument was never approved by the Council of Ministers, reason why it did not enter the implementation phase, scheduled for the period 2008-2013. This was due in part to political instability that has plagued the country, but also to various constraints such as lack of coordination and lack of resources at all levels. In institutional terms, the PNSA has foreseen the installation of a National Food Security Council with interministerial status and also a multi-disciplinary Technical Coordination Unit. However, none of these structures has been implemented and therefore the government does not currently have a technical structure for the specific subject of FSN. The financial, human and technical resources available at the Ministry of Agriculture – sector with greater intervention in this area – are limited. In 2011 the government came forward with the definition of the National Investment Fund in the context of CAADP which foresees the inclusion of PNSA. This instrument is now the main priority of the government in terms of policies in the field of agriculture and FSN. In line with the guidelines of the CAADP and NEPAD the government intends, with this instrument, to achieve a higher level of economic growth based on agricultural development (though with a strong focus on export), reduce poverty and promote food security. The sustainable management of the lands and hydric resources, improving rural infrastructure and commercialization, access to the market and increased availability of food is the main thrust of this program.

In **East Timor** the National Policy for Food Security (PNSA) was approved in 2005. The PNSA recognizes the right to food and affirms the FSN as an intersectoral matter. In terms of

strategic content are defined the following main themes: i) Promotion of food and agriculture production; ii) Promotion of services to support agriculture and infrastructures; iii) Additional measures in other areas such as fisheries and employment; iv) Improving information about food safety; v) Protective networks for vulnerable groups; vi) Improve the use of food and nutrition. However, this policy has encountered difficulties and delays in implementation due to lack of financial resources and limited human resources and capacities at national level. In institutional terms was created the National Committee for Food Security (CNSAN-TL) which gathers various sectors of government and development partners to discuss and monitor the implementation of the policy. The government is currently undergoing revision of the statutes of the CNSAN-TL through which it foresees the inclusion of civil society.

In **Portugal**, the FSN is spread among different sectors of government, particularly through programs for agriculture, social protection measures and specific health plans. The impacts of financial and food crisis globally emerged unemployment and are increasing poverty with implications in the lifestyles of families. At this point it is discussed that the country is the only one who does not have a FSN strategy. In the light of European Union policies implemented in recent decades, food safety took a prominent role at the expense of other components of food security and nutrition. Portugal is the only country in CPLP which didn't go forward with the formulation of a national strategy for FNS. Under the strategy of the CPLP, Portugal assumes, like Brazil, the role of a country that could support the other members of the Community. For this reason it is important to mention that the Portuguese cooperation policy covers the issue of FNS and the fight against hunger in the context of the MDG and the North-South cooperation.

In addition to the ongoing processes at the national level, it should also be noted the political progress on the regional level FNS, particularly within the CPLP. The meeting of Agriculture Ministers of the CPLP had approached several times the need to develop strategic common plans in this area. In 2011, the CPLP has decided to proceed with the formulation of its Regional Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (ESAN-CPLP), under the existing agreement with FAO. A central objective of this strategy is to strengthen the coordination between Member States and the governance of its policies and sectoral programs that impact on the FNS. We must emphasize that this strategy is based on the approach of the right to food and gives primacy to the strengthening mechanisms for governance for the FSN and support for small farmers. The strategy was developed taking into account lessons learned in the discussions and the process of reform of the World Food Security Committee of the United Nations (CFS)¹⁰, also seeking to build an institutionality to strengthen the institutional frameworks in each country. The regional strategy was formally approved by the Council of Ministers of the CPLP in October 2011 and presented at the 37th session of the CFS held in Rome that year. At this point the CPLP has also obtained observer status in CFS. It is hoped that the strategy will be ratified by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the CPLP to be held in Maputo in July 2012.

To conclude this brief presentation, you can say that all Portuguese-speaking countries, given the easiness for promoting exchanges between the various relevant players and also face to the technical support of FAO, advanced in the last decade with the definition and implementation of FSN strategies and programs that clearly promote greater social

¹⁰ To learn more about CFS check www.fao.org/cfs/en.

participation and an increasing cross-sectoral approach. CPLP also developed a regional strategy which seeks to contribute to the strengthening of national strategies and to develop a coherent institutional framework for better governance of the FNS in various territorial levels of the Community.

In all cases these processes were accompanied by attempts to adopt institutional frameworks and own governance bodies that favor and stimulate the potential participation of the civil society to discuss various issues related to the FSN. However, until now, only in Brazil (through the National Council Food Security and Nutrition – CONSEA) and Mozambique (Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition – SETSAN) there is an effective civil society participation in governance bodies. In these countries, national networks of civil society have participated actively. The other countries have shown signs of progress in this matter, as it is explicated in the proposed creation of governance bodies specific to the FNS in the context of national strategies. Such processes are not yet institutionalized, which limits a direct and effective participation. In these cases, although the national networks do not take part in the governance bodies (since they are not yet running), they are invited to participate in occasional moments of political demand of governments (formulation, review, discussion topics). Within the CPLP, it is expected that, in 2012 the Regional Council and the Technical Secretariat for FNS, which will have the participation of organized civil society, particularly through multi-thematic networks and other relevant players will become operative.

Table 1 summarizes the information previously displayed.

	Policy Instrument	Date of Approval	Mechanism of Governance	Institutional affiliation	Advances in the Right to Food	Civil Society Network
Angola	National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (ENSAN)	2009	Currently: Food Security Office (GSA) Expected: National Council of FSN (CONSAN)	Sector (Agriculture) It is anticipated transition to supra-ministerial level (Presidency)	- Consecrated in ENSAN; - Recognition implicit in the Constitution;	Working Group on Civil Society for Food Security and Nutrition
Cape Verde	National Strategy for Food Security (ENSA)	2004	Currently: Directorate for Food Security (DSSA) Expected: National Council for Food Security (CNSA)	Sector (Agriculture)	- Consecrated in ENSAN; - Recognition implicit in the Constitution;	Platform of NGOs from Cape Verde (PONG's)
Mozambique	National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (ENSAN)	1998 2007 (review)	Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN)	Sector (Agriculture)	- Consecrated in ESAN; - Recognition implicit in the Constitution; - Law on the Right to Food in formulation;	Network of Organizations for Food Sovereignty (ROSA)
Guinea-Bissau	National Program for Food Security (PNSA)	Beginning of the formulation in 2002 (not yet approved)	Currently: Office of Agricultural Policy of the Ministry of Agriculture Expected: National Council of FSN (CONSAN)	Sector (Agriculture)	- not embodied in PNSA; - Recognition implicit in the Constitution;	Network for Food and Nutrition Sovereignty and Security of the Guinea-Bissau (RESSAN-GB)
Sao Tome and Principe	National Program for Food Security and Nutrition	Beginning of the formulation 2011	<i>under discussion</i>	Sector (Ministry of Planning and Development)	- Recognition implicit in the Constitution;	Civil Society Network for Food Security and Nutrition of Sao Tome and Principe (RESCSAN-STP)
East Timor	National Policy for Food Security (PNSA)	2005	National Council for Food Security (CNSATL)	Sector (Agriculture)	- Consecrated in PNSA; - Recognition implicit in the Constitution;	FONG-TIL - Federation of NGOs in East Timor
Brazil	Zero Hunger Program LOSAN National Plan of FSN	2003 2006 2011	National Council of Food and Nutritional Security (CONSEA)	Supra-ministerial (Presidency)	- Consecrated in LOSAN; - Recognition implicit in the Constitution;	Brazilian Forum on Sovereignty and Food Security (FBSSAN)
Portugal	Strategic Vision for Portuguese Cooperation	2009	---	Sector (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	- Not consecrated in the Strategic Vision; - Recognition implicit in the Constitution;	Portuguese Network for the Sovereignty and Security of Food and Nutrition (Realimentar)
Regional Level CPLP	Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition of the CPLP (ESAN-CPLP)	Approved in 2011	Council of Food and Nutritional Security of the CPLP	Is expected to be the Conference of Heads of State and Government	ESAN-CPLP drawn also from the standpoint of the Right to Food;	Regional Network of Civil Society for Food Security in PALOP (REDSAN-PALOP)

II. NATIONAL SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

In the case of PALOP, as in other countries, the formulation of national policies for FSN and the corresponding construction of governance has opened space for civil society participation. These processes have been accompanied by the strengthening of multi-thematic FSN civil society networks, process driven internally by organizations in each country, but that also benefited from formal and informal exchanges between civil society organizations of the various countries. In most cases, the exchange processes and building networks in these countries benefited from the support of the project IFSN - "International Food Security Network," co-financed by the European Commission and implemented by ActionAid International¹¹.

As the government level, also in the context of the civil society processes of mobilization and organization of civil society differ from country to country, intensity and history of mobilization. In organizational terms, the processes to reach this level of mobilization were more or less long, depending on the reality of each country. However, there is the awareness that the existence of a joint multi-thematic network strengthens its ability to civil society interventions in various areas of the FSN and allows greater demands on the government accordingly.

In general terms it can be said that the process has had several consolidation levels over time, from the existence of normal organization triggering initial effort of articulation mobilizing other organizations to work together, to the existence of multi-thematic work groups with a greater degree of interaction and already developing joint actions, and finally with a network of institutional and administrative structure of its own. In the cases of Brazil, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe national networks of the civil society to FSN are more consolidated and therefore will be more prominent in the following sections.

II.1 ROSA – Civil Society Network for Food Sovereignty in Mozambique

Social mobilization in Mozambique around the themes of sovereignty and food security and right to food has gradually become more consistent and recognized over the last decade. The work of the Civil Society Network for Food Sovereignty in Mozambique (ROSA)¹²

¹¹

The IFSN project mobilizes today more than 1400 local and national organizations of civil society, with the main objective of establishing and strengthening national networks for food security in order to influence national, regional and international implementation of human right to food in the countries of the South. The IFSN includes more than 30 countries in the regions of West Africa, South and East, Central and South America, South and Southeast Asia and Europe. To learn more check www.ifsn-actionaid.net.

¹²

For more information about ROSA and their activities check www.rosa.org.mz.

contributed to this process. Today, despite various difficulties, the ROSA is an important unifying center of civil society to these issues and one of the main interlocutors with the government. ROSA was born in 2003 in the context of public discussion on the topic of "Biotechnology and Food Security." Its original purpose was to improve coordination and performance of organizations dealing with the problems of the introduction of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and, more broadly, to intervene in policy discussions and initiatives in the field of agriculture and food security.

As a result, a coordination group was established and agreed on a basis of understanding for the intervention of the network. These principles were embodied in a regulation which define the objectives, mission, structure, governance mechanisms and functioning of the ROSA. Since then, the process of building and strengthening of the ROSA has been faster, thanks in part to the support received from some international organizations, including and most importantly, the project IFNS. This project allowed ROSA to have the means to have a part-time coordinator, cover basic expenses with the facilitation of network and participate in exchanges with other networks and organizations, both within the CPLP and other countries. Today

ROSA has 35 members and its mission puts the focus on the issue of food sovereignty, assuming as main objectives to achieve coordinated action among its members, facilitate the sharing of information and experiences and promoting advocacy and policy dialogue. ROSA has national focal points and features on all provinces. In terms of structure ROSA consists of a Coordination Group Ordinary Members and the Secretariat.

The coordination group, currently consisting of 11 elements (see Box 1) has as main task to develop and approve the plan of activities and budget, approve reports, implement the action plan approved, track and monitor the network activities; represent ROSA by delegation to the event where this is requested, propose initiatives to revitalize the ROSA in order to better achieve its objectives; approve the entry and exit of ordinary members and the coordination group.

The ordinary members, currently over two dozen, are all civil society organizations that express interest in joining ROSA and respect its principles. Each of its members have privileged areas of work, all of them cross to the question of sovereignty and food security: Agriculture, Gender, Access to Land and Natural Resources, HIV / AIDS, Health and Nutrition, Sanitation, Human Rights, among others.



Partners of REDSAN-PALOP exchange experiences and define strategies with FAO CPLP in the Seminar on gender and access to natural resources in Lisbon in 2010.

BOX 1 - Coordination Group of ROSA

- ABIODES - Association for Organic Agriculture Biodiversity and Sustainable Development
- ACORD
- ActionAid Mozambique
- AORAM - Rural Association for Mutual Aid TAP - Technicians Association of Agro-Livestock
- KEPA - Service Centre for Development Cooperation
- KULIMA - Organisation for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development
- Human Rights League
- MuGeDe - Women, Gender and Development
- NEPA
- ORAM - Rural Association for Mutual Aid
- UNAC - National Union of Farmers in Mozambique

The complementarity between the different experiences and areas of work of its members converge towards common goals within the framework of ROSA embodying a multi-thematic platform of intervention with a combined voice.

The secretariat staffed by two people (the secretary and the assistant), works on a rotating basis among the organizations of the coordinating group with a mandate of two years. Its main tasks are to establish contacts with national and international partners, networks / similar organizations and donors, to prepare partnership agreements, memorandums, contracts between ROSA and other players to mobilize financial and material resources, developing and managing the daily activities of ROSA, present reports to the collective ROSA, accrediting or delegate member organizations to represent the events where ROSA is requested, collect, classify and circulate information relevant to the performance of the activities of ROSA and of great interest to members; monitor, in collaboration with the coordination group, the activities of ROSA, and perform other activities delegated by the coordination group.

Due to its nature, ROSA's network has no legal status, which is why partnerships or contracts established to its name are legally made through the organization that assumes the secretariat or a member of the coordinating group.

The experience of ROSA has shown that joint efforts by civil society have increased its capacity for intervention (see Box 2). ROSA has been a central interlocutor with government for discussion and implementation of public policies. This is verified, among other examples, in the context of the formulation of the Action Plan for the Reduction of Absolute Poverty (PARPA) and Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (ESAN). Apart from its contribution in discussions of policies, ROSA also participates in the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN). Conquering this status gave it a privileged position to participate in political dialogue, but also the ability (and responsibility) to take an active role in implementation of actions for monitoring and evaluation.

BOX 2 - Examples of activities undertaken by ROSA

- **Participation in the discussion and formulation of policies (Action Plan for the Reduction of Absolute Poverty, National Strategy for SAN, sectoral policies, the Right to Food Law);**
- **Participation in the Technical Secretariat for FSN as the interlocutor of civil society;**
- **Participation in different events at national, regional and international level in the fields of agriculture, rural development and FSN (ICARRD, World Social Forum, Forum for Food Sovereignty, etc.);**
- **Running campaigns and awareness raising initiatives (Campaign for the Right to Food Campaign against the EPA, etc.);**
- **Implementation of actions to empowerment, seminars, lectures, etc.;**
- **Conducting studies and development of policy position papers.**

The experience of ROSA shows a peculiarity in terms of mobilization and coordination of civil society in this matter. It is adopting the approach of food sovereignty in parallel with the

FSN. This differentiates this type of networks from other platforms in other countries and even globally. This is due to the fact that ROSA, as a space for articulation of civil society, bringing together a multiplicity of actors, including those linked politically with the *Via Campesina* (International Peasant Movement) international network, such as the National Union of Farmers in Mozambique (UNAC). This allowed, for example, the inclusion of aspects related to production model, natural resources and biodiversity, protection of traditional knowledge or land reform policy positions advocated and in the proposals presented by ROSA. The choice of this approach has not prevented ROSA from also working in other dimensions related to FSN, these are access to food, nutrition, gender issues, HIV / AIDS, health, education and Sanitation, all of them cross the FSN policy. Recently, the perspective of the Human Right to Adequate Food has filed more evidence on the strategic options of ROSA. An example was the National Campaign for the Right to Food carried out in 2010 and its participation in the formulation of the Right to Food Act, currently under discussion.

It is possible to synthesize the following developments / major accomplishments achieved by the action of ROSA, since its establishment in 2009: i) Existence of a platform composed of a multiplicity of actors working together the themes of Food Sovereignty, Right to Food and FSN reinforcing the ability to demand a greater intersectoriality by the government; ii) Recognition as the interlocutor of civil society in Mozambique for political dialogue at national, regional and international level in the issue of FSN iii) Increase in the capacity of its members at different levels (organizational, technical, political, etc.).

However, there are still many obstacles to overcome such as: i) the ability of several members to assume secretariat functions and (or) active coordination, ii) Limitation of financial resources at various levels to build capabilities that enable work done on a regular basis including logistics and administrative ii) Difficulty of decentralization to the provinces; iii) Gaps in terms of visibility and communication at various levels.

The path taken so far by ROSA, in Africa, demonstrates the ability to mobilize civil society organizations regardless of whether there are resources assigned by donors. Shows, however, that a minimum availability of resources can advance more than proportionally the joint work and, finally, probably most importantly, there is the possibility to work assembling various civil society actors with different perspectives and skills around joint goals to the FSN. These matters (lessons learned) will be shared at the end of this work.



ROSA sharing their experience with other Lusophone countries in 2007.

II.2 São Tomé and Príncipe

In recent years the FSN has been steadily gaining ground on the political agenda of São Tomé and Príncipe. For this the civil society has greatly contributed, including through awareness

raising, training and promotion of initiatives for public debate. In that context social mobilization and exchange with other countries has intensified, resulting in the option for the construction of a network. It is important to note that in São Tomé and Príncipe is very difficult to encourage cooperation and joint work between civil society organizations. This characteristic is recognized by their own national organizations and even by government agencies. This issue is referred to take into account the important role that exchanges with other countries can have. The "see-to-believe" or "learning by doing" are key ingredients to gain confidence and initiate the process of mobilization. For example, in July 2007 representatives of civil society in São Tomé and Príncipe participated in Fortaleza in the Third National Conference of FSN in Brazil, in order to share experiences with other networks and organizations from Lusophone countries.

Civil Society Network for Food Security and Nutrition of São Tomé and Príncipe (RESCSAN-STP) comes later in 2008, following the conclusions of the seminar on "Food Security and Nutrition, Human Right to Adequate Food and Food Sovereignty" driven by FONG - Federation of NGOs in São Tomé and Príncipe and with the technical support from ACTUAR.

This initiative was attended by more than two hundred participants, including a strong civil society participation, different sectors of government and invited from other CPLP countries, also including international organizations. During this initiative, various actors discussed possible options to improve the levels of FSN of the population. The relevance of the issue made possible the involvement of prominent political figures, as exemplified by the participation of the President of the Republic, Fradique de Menezes, in the opening of the event, as well as the Prime Minister in its closing. Two main conclusions emerged from this seminar: 1) The need for the country to have a national and comprehensive strategy of FSN including multiple actors; 2) The need for civil society to articulate on a network of work under these themes¹³.

The RESCSAN-STP is then symbolically launched on World Food Day, 16 October 2008¹⁴. At the time of its launch, RESCSAN-STP was defined as an informal structure for interconnection of various civil society organizations, open to all interested parties who share the objectives and principles of food safety and nutrition, human right to food and food sovereignty. It was also agreed that its primary purpose would be to improve dialogue and social participation in discussion and implementation of policies in this field.

In 2010 ACTUAR participated in an initiative to strengthen RESCSAN-STP which resulted in a deepening of cooperation between members, better understanding of methodologies for networking and definition of mechanisms for the organization and

BOX 3 - Co-ordination Group of RESCSAN-STP

- ADAPPA - Action for Agriculture and Livestock Development and Environmental Protection
- AMI – International Medical Assistance
- FCJ – Children and Youth Foundation
- MARAPA – Ocean, Environment and Artisanal Fisheries
- ZATONA-ADIL

¹³

For more information see the Final Declaration of the Seminar in www.redsan-cplp.org.

¹⁴

Statement of formation of RESCSAN-STP available at www.redsan-cplp.org.

functioning, including the adoption of internal rules and the definition of communication strategies and visibility¹⁵.

Currently RESCSAN-STP is comprised of about twenty organizations, assuming the mission of contributing to the achievement of the Human Right to Adequate Food and the promotion of Sovereignty and Food Security in the country. Whereas the proposed goals are: i) promote advocacy actions, ii) build proposals for the definition of public policies, including its monitoring; iii) empower and improve the coordination among the members in various areas of SAN; iv) facilitate the dissemination of information and share experiences.

Regarding its structure, RESCSAN-STP is constituted by the General Assembly, which includes all members of the network, by the Coordination Committee (see Box 3), which is chosen among network members for a term of three years for five thematic working groups (Fisheries and Marine Resources, Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Environment and Forestry; Sanitation, Infrastructure and Urban Environment, Health and Nutrition, Education) and the office of communication and visibility.

In terms of operation RESCSAN-STP stipulated that the General Meeting will be done at least once each year, and its Coordination Committee seeks to meet quarterly, on a mandatory basis and extraordinarily whenever its members consider necessary. The working groups attempt to meet at regular intervals, to the extent that the members consider appropriate. The secretariat was taken by ADAPPA, organization best positioned to provide structures and human and administrative resources to that end.

The will of civil society to unite efforts and their ability to work together are patent in the range achieved by RESCSAN-STP, both in terms of number of members and in the diversity of work themes (agriculture, fisheries, gender, health, children and youth, nutrition, human rights, environment, sanitation or entrepreneurship).

The experience of RESCSAN-STP, though still young, already shows some important lessons. It should be noted, in particular its crucial role in the affirmation of the FSN agenda in the country. Through its initiatives (see Box 4) was able to resume the political dialogue and return to commit the government to proceed with a national strategy in this field.

In terms of political proposition is highlighted the "Policy Forum for Agriculture and Food Security" held in the country in 2010 and which was organized by RESCSAN within the project PDSA in partnership with the Marquês de Valle Flor Institute, Federation of NGOs Sao Tome and Principe (FONG-STP) and ACTUAR, providing a broad debate on the need for the country to move forward with a national strategy of FSN¹⁶. The document "Contribution of RESCSAN-STP for a future National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition in Sao Tome and Principe" was prepared by civil society and formally delivered to the government constituting a concrete contribution to the process of strategy formulation for FNS. In it are discussed priorities of intervention in the following areas: i) Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries; ii) Access to Land and Natural Resources Management;

¹⁵ This initiative was developed under the project Decentralized Food Security (PDSA) funded by the European Commission and implemented by the Marquis of Valle Flor Institute (IMVF), which also included a component to strengthen the RESCSAN-STP.

¹⁶ The systematization of the Forum Report including a description of the activities and findings is available at www.redsan-cplp.org.

iii) Policies on Prices, Credit and Market Access; iv) Health and Nutrition; v) Education vi) Monitoring of Food Insecurity and Vulnerability; vii) Resource Allocation and Budget¹⁷.

The mobilization process provided by the RESCSAN-STP revealed to date the following progress: i) Strengthening of FSN on the political agenda, in particular the formulation of the national strategy, ii) Increased capacity of civil society, both conceptually and in the formulation of proposals in the field of FNS; iii) Reinforcement of the ability to work gathering different perspectives to the discussion of the FSN.

The main challenges are focused on: i) increasing the ability to access resources independently and beyond the exclusive reliance of projects, ii) strengthening the capacity for critical thinking and political dialogue; iii) further work routines within the network; iv) Improving mechanisms for communication and visibility.

The effort so far has been recognized by government and other actors, and the RESCSAN-STP was called to participate in the formulation of the national strategy of FSN finally resumed in 2011 with the technical support from FAO.



Participants of the Forum on Public Policies for Agriculture and FSN held in São Tomé and Príncipe.

II.3 Angola

In Angola the first steps towards the formation of the Angolan Network (Working Group on Civil Society Food Security and Nutrition) were taken in 2007 following the Seminar on "Right to Food and Rural Development" which joined in the debate civil society representatives of the government, guests from other countries and representatives of international organizations.

The completion of this seminar in Angola was very important because it occurred at a particularly opportune moment for the involvement of civil society in the discussion on the construction of FSN policy at the time beginning to be formulated in the country. This event had a wide media coverage, with the participation of central and local governments and enabled the sharing of experiences with civil society networks in other Lusophone countries such as ROSA from Mozambique and representatives of CONSEA from Brazil. At the end of the seminar, the organizations felt that particular attention



Participants of the International Seminar on Right to Food and Food Security held in Angola.

¹⁷

You can view the document at www.redsan-cplp.org.

should be given to integrating the right to food strategies and food security policies of the country and agreed on the need to strengthen the capacity and coordination among civil society organizations so that they can participate with the highest quality in dialogue with government, universities and international organizations, to build this strategy¹⁸. In that context were understood the efforts to meet the construction of this thematic FSN network . The challenges proposed to the creation of the network were to strengthen the capacities of analysis and formulation of proposals to continue the dialogue initiated in the seminar and, consequently, to build the FSN policy in Angola¹⁹. Under this initiative, the then United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Jean Ziegler, sent a letter to these organizations reiterating the importance of this initiative in the Angolan context²⁰.

Since then the process of building a network has been fostered and boosted by ADRA – Action for Rural Development and Environment, one of the historical and recognized Angolan organizations working in the field of agriculture, community development and FSN. Note that in Angola the previous existence of civil society networks focused on specific subject areas such as the theme of land and natural resources, child, or HIV-AIDS.

The low perception of the usefulness of building a multi-thematic platform (including also the lowest perception by the government) and formalization of a new network with this larger goal, which led to the mobilization to be developed based on a work group, waiting for the option of formalizing a network to a more appropriate time.

Among various interventions at national, regional and global levels stands out the participation of this group and other civil society organizations in the public consultations on the national strategy for FSN adopted in 2009. Those organizations participating in this working group are also intervening with the Councils Consultation and Social Dialogue at the local level (Cities), through which they participate in the drawing of municipal plans of FSN and rural development. In 2010 the group participated in the 26th FAO Regional Conference held in Luanda, on behalf of REDSAN-PALOP and presented a position document demanding the African governments and FAO to focus on strengthening governance of FSN²¹.

II.4 Guinea-Bissau

In Guinea-Bissau Civil Society Network for Security and Food Sovereignty (RESSAN-GB) appears in 2008 following the "Workshop on Right to Food", organized by civil society. Again the participation of organizations from other member countries of the CPLP was crucial to facilitate the exchange of ideas. The workshop also involved the participation of representatives of government and had as main objective to facilitate the exchange of experiences and information and enable the participants regarding the theme of the Right to Food. This process has opened the discussion on the relevance of the articulation between national organizations of civil society and the possible future creation of a multi-thematic network for SAN. This proposal was approved by the participating organizations, and for this purpose was appointed a

¹⁸ The systematization report of the workshop is available at www.redsan-cplp.org.

¹⁹ Final Declaration available at www.redsan-cplp.org.

²⁰ Letter from Jean Ziegler available at www.redsan-cplp.org.

²¹ Position Paper distributed at the 26th FAO Regional Conference for Africa available at www.redsan-cplp.org.

Coordinating Committee to prepare the process, including negotiation of consensus on the strategy, mandate and political position set.

The dynamization provided by the Platform of NGOs of Guinea-Bissau (PLACON-GB) and the local ActionAid were crucial for the progress of the process in its early stages including: i) capacity building activities on FSN and right to food initiatives and policy discussion on the national program of FSN were carried out after its creation as well as lobbying and advocacy work to influence the effective implementation of this program; ii) participation in the discussion, development and dissemination of the land law, and their regulation among others. The main speaker was always the Ministry of Agriculture.

Nevertheless, political and organizational problems derived from the complex and unstable political situation in the country²², well as lack of resources to pay for basic operating costs, led to the disorganization and near extinction of PLACON-GB, undermining the efforts that were being developed to strengthen the network. This meant that since 2010, RESSAN-GB has lost strength and motivation requiring, at this time, an impulse to restructure. In Guinea-Bissau there are other civil society initiatives related to the promotion of FSN and Food Sovereignty with emphasis on the Working Group on Land Products, strongly driven by Tiniguena, AD – Action and Development, Peasant Federation KAFO and Divutec. Currently ACTUAR seeks to facilitate contact points and coordination between RESSAN-GB and these Working Groups in order to strengthen the process of national mobilization and re-launch of the joint work focused on the FSN policy of the government that meantime lay forgotten.

II.5 **Cape Verde**

In Cape Verde the mobilization of civil society on the subject of FSN strengthened within the framework of the Platform of NGOs from Cape Verde (PONG's). The PONG's, established in 1996, is a domed structure of civil society that brings together more than three hundred organizations from different subject areas. Within the PONG's a group of organizations chose to stimulate a Working Group for FSN to coordinate the process of building a more comprehensive action and greater involvement of civil society in this field. As the group works within the framework of PONG's, it benefits from the resources (financial, human, material) provided by the platform. This allows their existence, but limits their development, because if PONG's cannot lead the process assuming the necessary costs, no other organization will be able to do so. This lack of mobilization also has relation to the low political priority given by past governments to the FSN, in particular the Ministry of Agriculture, but also because civil society has not taken the issue as one of its highest priorities. Nevertheless, the group has been active in dialogue with the government, particularly with regard to the need to resume the National Food and Nutrition Security Program. The lack of qualified human resources in this subject has been identified by PONG's as the main obstacle to their operations.

²² Should be noted that the country has experienced several coup d'état attempts and successive elections that prevent the political and social stability.

The PONG's has offices in all the islands, making possible for the working group to work in a desconcentrated way: due to the characteristics of the archipelago of Cape Verde travel costs are relevant.

The PONG's has participated in numerous initiatives of exchange of experiences promoted by REDSAN-PALOP helping to drive articulation processes in other countries and promoting the sharing of information on several topics relevant to other working groups and networks, including, for example, the theme of access to water and biodiversity conservation, among others.



Partners from REDSAN-PALOP at the II Regional Meeting held in Olinda (Brazil) in 2008.

II.6 Brazil

In Brazil, civil society has a long history of mobilization and participation in the field of FSN result of a long journey of struggle and struggle since the 1930s. However, it was mainly in the eighties and nineties that more decisive initiatives in the field of mobilization and popular participation appeared. For example, the well-known Movement For Ethics in Politics put the fight against hunger as one of its top priorities. Other examples are the National Confederation of Bishops of Brazil (CNBB), the Pastoral of the Child, the Articulation of the Brazilian Semi-Arid (ASA), the union movement – in particular CONTAG, the Movement of Landless Workers (MST) or the Pastoral Land Commission.

However, particularly worth mentioning in the field of social mobilization, is the creation of the Brazilian Forum for Sovereignty and Food and Nutritional Security (FBSSAN) in 1998²³. The FBSSAN is an important articulation of entities, individuals, social movements and institutions dealing with the issue of FSN. The Forum is one of the main interlocutors with the government to discuss policy of FSN featuring affiliated forums at municipal and state levels. Throughout its history, FBSSAN entered into global networks related to the theme, such as the Global Forum of Food Safety and Nutrition, the International Network for the Human Right to Food (FIAN), the Inter-American Network for Agriculture and Democracy (RIAD) or the Global Alliance for Nutrition and Human Rights (WANAHR).



Partners from REDSAN-PALOP visit communities and exchange experiences with Brazil.

²³

To learn more about FBSSAN check www.fbsan.org.br.

The FBSSAN articulates civil society and, in some cases, promotes joint actions with the government. Among the main objectives of FBSSAN stand out: i) to mobilize society around the theme of the FSN and collaborate to form a public opinion favorable to this view, ii) encourage the development of policy proposals and public actions national and international of FSN and Human Right to Food; iii) Place the subject in the national state and municipal political agenda and collaborate to the international debate on the subject; iv) Encourage the development of local actions of promotion of FSN; v) collaborate for the empowerment of individuals from civil society to optimize the effective participation of society in different spheres of social management and v) Report and monitor the government's responses regarding violations of the right to food. The FBSSAN actively participates in the National Council for Food Security and Nutrition (CONSEA). The organizations of the FBSSAN took over the last years an important role in the conduct of the main topics addressed by CONSEA. Furthermore, past presidents and current president of CONSEA emerged from the participating organizations of the FBSSAN²⁴.

II.7 Portugal

In Portugal, more generally, the subject of the FSN was not a priority. This is due in part to more than twenty years of implementation of programs to modernize the agricultural sector (first) and subsidies to not produce (second). On the other hand, due to the introduction of legislation for hygiene and Sanitation for the food processing sector (derived from European standards), the country began to prioritize the issues related to quality and food safety and to the competitiveness of some lines of production.

The cooperation with African Portuguese-speaking countries also had no significant action in this area, since the amount of resources used and the approach was clearly insufficient to place the issue of hunger and FSN appropriately in the national political agenda. Exception to this scenario was the action of national organizations of small farmers, such as CNA – National Confederation of Agriculture (linked to *Via Campesina*), as well as some NGOs, which through its greater international inset gave some relevance to the issue of food sovereignty, the right to food and FNS.

Several of these organizations have promoted initiatives in Portugal, some supported by ACTUAR, with a view to mobilization of other organizations and awareness of the public and political parties to these themes. Since 2006, ACTUAR has been making efforts in order to build a multi-thematic network in Portugal.

That year, in partnership with the Portuguese NGDO Platform, a project was submitted to the Portuguese Cooperation (IPAD - Portuguese Institute for Development Assistance) to this effect, which did not deserve support because it was not considered relevant. In 2007, again in partnership with the NGDO Platform, held the initiative "Linking Experiences: a gathering on Food Security" aimed to raise awareness of Portuguese organizations to the need for a joint mobilization more consistent. In 2009 and 2010 the ACTUAR again requested support of IPAD for the establishment of the Portuguese network, but once again the initiative was not considered relevant.

²⁴ Like the examples of Francisco Menezes, Renato Maluf, Maria Emilia Pacheco, members of the executive coordination of FBSSAN on behalf of IBASE, CERESAN and FASE, respectively.

However, the mobilization of civil society has intensified recently, due to the global financial and food crisis and also to the growing recognition of the issue at a national level (particularly because of the situation of food dependency, deconstructing of agricultural production and the desertification of the rural environment).

In 2001 was finally established the ReAlimentar – Portuguese Network for Sovereignty and Food Security, an initiative promoted by the ACTUAR together with other organizations like the CNA, OIKOS – Cooperation and Development, Marquis of Valle Flor Institute (IMVF), Health in Portuguese, Consumers Association of Portugal (ACOP), Association of Rural Women and Rural Portuguese (MARP) and the National Federation of Fishery's Unions. These organizations took the initiative to stimulate a space for dialogue, debate and joint efforts to strengthen the intervention in the processes of formulation and decision-making on national and international policies related to FSN, food sovereignty and right to food. The ReAlimentar has a Letter of Principles which sets in their political positions in this field and has been building bridges with other international networks and organizations of civil society²⁵.

The organizations participating in this network are now defining an agenda for action where will be included actions to protect the small national producers from the present conditions for marketing their products (derived from exclusive national and european policies and also the concentration of large distribution), at promoting the integration of various vulnerable groups, and discuss the need for the country to review the current lack of a national strategy to ensure the human right to adequate food from the perspective of food sovereignty.

II.8 East Timor

In **East Timor** the Federation of NGOs from East Timor (FONG-TIL) is the platform that gathers more than three hundred civil society organizations in the country. The FSN appears as one of its priority themes of work bringing together the growing interest of its members. However, there isn't a work group (or network) on this specific topic. Given the distance and costs involved, the frequency of contacts between the organizations in this country and those belonging to other countries of the CPLP in the context of REDSAN-PALOP is lower. For this reason, East Timor has been the country who benefited the less from exchanges made. ACTUAR is working to ensure greater frequency of contacts and sharing of information, as well as the effective integration of this organization in the process of enlargement for REDSAN-CPLP.

II.9 Major advances, problems and challenges at national level

As shown in the previous section, the effort of mobilization of the national networks has been translated into concrete results. The recognition of these structures as interlocutors for

²⁵ More information on ReAlimentar check www.realimentar.org.

political dialogue in the context of national strategies for FSN is already a reality in most countries. The initiatives for the exchange and sharing of experiences led to a growing capacity for action by organizations at the national level, particularly in African countries. The increasing visibility of these networks and working groups has enabled the placing on national political agendas of cross-cutting issues for FSN (gender, access to land and natural resources, impact of GMOs, etc.). The **main developments** so far in the mobilization at national level are the following:

- The mobilization of organizations in all countries and the recognition that their articulation in workgroups or multi-thematic networks is fundamental to achieve a qualifying participation in dialogue with governments, pushing them towards intersectoral - aspect considered essential so that the theme does not continue restricted to the Ministries of Agriculture in each country.
- Progressive consolidation of networks and multi-thematic working groups from civil society focused on the FSN, food sovereignty and right to food in all countries, which integrate an increasing number of organizations (together national networks of partners of REDSAN-PALOP mobilize about 200 organizations);
- Implementation of national lobbying actions and advocacy in all countries with their respective governments on the issues most relevant to the political agenda (effective implementation of national policies of FSN; need to strengthen national structures for social dialogue and participation; positions taken on various topics - volatility of food prices, GMOs, access to resources, voluntary guidelines on the right to food, etc.) increasing the pressure on policy makers;
- Conducting information campaigns and training (Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique) among vulnerable groups on different topics (SAN, market access, right to food, etc..), Increasing their qualified participation in discussions within their organizations and of these with other organizations and governments;
- Performing national diagnostics on the right to food in Mozambique, Angola and Sao Tome and Principe with the aim of contributing to national policies of FSN;
- Growing recognition of the national networks partners of REDSAN PALOP as interlocutors for political dialogue. On one hand with governments (on the need to move and / or revise their national strategies of FSN), on the other with international organizations (FAO, CE) and the media.

However, there is a long way towards the consolidation and strengthening of labor at national level. The **main problems** that are common to most countries and that have hindered the work of these national networks are:

- Absence or ineffectiveness of spaces for dialogue and participation with the government over the non-implementation of commitments made in national strategies of FSN (cases of Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Angola), or even lack of national strategy (cases of Sao Tome and Principe and Portugal).
- The fact that civil society in African countries is still undergoing an affirmation period, which means that these countries are dependent on the government or donors. Furthermore, political instability and governance (particularly in Guinea-Bissau and

Sao Tome and Principe) directly affect the greater or lesser ability of civil society organizations to work together.

- Deficient technical skills to work the issues of FSN and right to food in the context of organizations, especially in the PALOP.
- Poor connection of national organizations with the local level; it is important, however, to underline the exception in relation to farmers' organizations whose participation in working groups and networks is wished to be reinforced.
- Difficulty of access to basic resources needed by the working groups and national networks consolidated;
- Disabled means of communication and visibility at national level;

The main **specific challenges** that arise at national level, particularly given the current stage of their national policies for FSN are:

Table 2 - Major challenges at national level

Country	Major Challenges of National Networks
Angola	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consolidate the Working Group of Civil Society for Food Security and deepen networking routines, in particular at the decentralized level; - Deepen the intervention of the Working Group in a coordinated manner under the Municipal Councils of Social Concertation and Consultation; - Enhance dialogue with the government at the central level, in particular claiming an effective implementation of the ENSA and the National Council of FNS; - Participate in the definition and implementation of local plans for rural development and FNS;
Cape Verde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consolidate the Working Group of Civil Society for Food Security within the PONG's; - Strengthen lobbying and advocacy with the government to review the PNSAN from the perspective of the Right to Food; - Increase and diversify funding sources for the Working Group; - Strengthen the work with vulnerable groups, particularly the implementation of local initiatives; - Claim and support the review of legal and institutional framework for the FNS, in particular the effective implementation of the National Council of FNS. - Ensure participation in the implementation of the CAADP;
Guinea-Bissau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance dialogue with other civil society groups towards extending and strengthening the RESSSAN-GB; - Claim with the Government the review and effective implementation of the National FNS; - Ensure participation in the implementation of the CAADP; - Diversify funding sources and enhance the process of extending the network to the local level;
Mozambique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consolidate the work of ROSA, particularly in relation to routines of networking (communication, visibility, accountability) to its members; - Increase the participation next to the SETSAN; - Working along with the government for the formulation and approval of the Law of the National Right to Food; - Claiming a reorganization of the institutional framework (SETSAN), in particular its connection to a higher hierarchical level; - Strengthen the intervention of ROSA at regional and global level;
Sao Tome and Principe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consolidate the work of the RESCSAN-STP, particularly in relation to routines of networking (communication, visibility, accountability) with its members;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work closely with the Government in finalizing and effectively implementing the National Program of FSN; - Ensure participation in the implementation of the CAADP; - Raising awareness of policy makers to the perspective of the right to food; - Promoting the development of capacities among vulnerable groups and partner organizations of RESCSAN-STP;
Portugal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consolidate the work of feed back and increase the number of partners of the national network; - Strengthening bridges with other organizations at national level European and international; - Conduct lobbying and advocacy next to the Portuguese government with a view to the incorporation of the perspective of the right to food in the cooperation policy and the decision to proceed with the formulation of a national strategy for FNS.
East Timor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consolidate the FSN and the Right to Food as a topic of labor within the FONGTIL; - Conduct lobbying and advocacy with the government to review the National Policy on FSN from the perspective of the Right to Food; - Claim the effective implementation of the National Council of FSN and a greater participation of civil society; - Strengthen bridges to other networks and organizations in the field of FSN and the right to food, particularly with Portuguese-speaking countries.
Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase and diversify sources of financing the FBSSAN; - Support processes of strengthening and mobilization together with the other Portuguese-speaking countries; - Participate in initiatives for exchanging experiences and capacity building with other Lusophone networks in the field of FNS, food sovereignty and the right to food.

III. SOCIAL MOBILIZATION AT REGIONAL LEVEL

3.1 Regional Network of Civil Society for Food Security and Nutrition in PALOP (REDSAN-PALOP)

The Regional Network of Civil Society for Food Security and Nutrition in PALOP (REDSAN-PALOP) emerges given the need identified by the civil society organizations in these countries that a more effective dialogue with governments also involves an action at regional level (CPLP), as well as with international organizations serving in their countries (FAO, EC, donors, etc.). The context of the discussion of national strategies for FSN ongoing in all these countries and exchanges carried out generated the perception that a degree of territorial intervention reinforces the other and, as such, a more active articulation with regional and international character is key. It should be noted that the African countries members of the CPLP, for historical reasons, possessed less access to international discussions and negotiations in the fight against hunger and the promotion of FSN. Breaking this isolation, discussing new approaches to old problems and gaining "institutional weight" for civil society in various international negotiations were the biggest challenges for regional and international articulation.

The initial process of creating and strengthening REDSAN-PALOP received some support from the IFSN²⁶ project including bringing minimum funding for some joint activities. For it was important to input ACTUAR as a formal partner of the project IFSN - due to its connection with partners PALOP - as well as the recognition of these countries as "priority" by the European Commission within the framework of support received by the IFSN. The ACTUAR continued the dynamic work of the process by assuming with agreement of other organizations involved, its secretariat and facilitating their intervention at the regional and international levels.

The REDSAN-PALOP was formally launched during the Third National Conference on FSN held in Fortaleza (Brazil) in June 2007. At the time of its creation has defined a set of priorities that dictated its strategy of intervention in the years to follow: i) Stronger action for the exchange and sharing of experiences among different PALOP increasing the level of information and knowledge on the subject of food and nutrition security, food sovereignty and the right to food, ii) coordinate efforts at the level of each country and between the various countries to collaborate with organizations interested in working together these themes through a network; iii) Undertake joint impact and political advocacy in their national territories looking for the highest priority policies to combat hunger and promote food security and nutrition that incorporate the principles of food sovereignty and the



Launching of REDSAN-PALOP in Fortaleza (2007).

²⁶ See note 11.

Human Right to Food; iv) Coordinate actions at regional and international levels, with particular attention to the CPLP, United Nations agencies, European Union, FAO, among others, seeking to influence their policies and programs in line with a joint approach of the Lusophone space.

Based on experience gained in previous years and carried out exchanges, civil society organizations decided to develop their networking using an intersectoral approach, appropriate to the different contexts of the countries involved.

The REDSAN-PALOP has focal points in Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe and Mozambique and a regional secretariat in Portugal, which hosts the headquarters of the CPLP. Through its members (Box 5), this regional network brings together various NGOs and associations of farmers, fishermen, women, people with HIV / AIDS, youth groups, consumer organizations, research institutions, among others.

BOX 5 - Members of REDSAN-PALOP

- Working Group of Civil Society Food Security and Nutrition in Angola
- PONG's - Platform of NGOs in Cape Verde
- ROSA - Organisations Network for Food Sovereignty in Mozambique
- RESSAN-GB - Network for Food Sovereignty and Security and Nutrition of the Guinea-Bissau
- RESCSAN-STP - Civil Society Network for Food Security and Nutrition of Sao Tome and Principe
- ACTUAR – Association for Cooperation and Development (Secretariat)

It should be noted that the principle of subsidiarity is considered in all operations of the regional network: any matter that may be resolved at national level by organizations and networks involved should obey this principle. The other principles used in regional coordination are:

- The national and regional networks should give priority to the participation of vulnerable groups in their activities / coordination including (and especially) small farmers and rural workers;
- The intersectoral should be strengthened through thematic working groups at the regional level, coherently linked to existing groups at national level, contributing to an intervention and interaction with multi-players structures and of governance implemented by member countries of the CPLP;
- The organizations, working groups and national networks speak on its behalf and in accordance with the rules established among its members to represent the network, the representation of the regional network is conditioned by the approval of the members of the network coordination or of the national working groups;
- The regional network is facilitated by an organization with the capacity to undertake the secretariat functions, elected by representative organizations of the national networks and ideally located near the headquarters of the CPLP;

In this sense it may be relevant to mention the **main tasks of the organization that facilitates the network:**

- Facilitate communication and exchange of information between networks of different countries;
- Facilitate the development of joint work plans and ensure compliance with national partners, including reporting;
- Support processes of capacity building and strengthening networks at national level;
- Provide technical support to organizations and national networks;
- Promote research and analysis to support decision-positions of the partners;
- Facilitate administrative and financial management of the regional network;
- Promote the development of initiatives (campaigns, lobbying, dialogue) at national, regional and global levels;
- Promote partnerships and building bridges with other organizations and civil society networks;
- Archive information and historic memory of REDSAN-PALOP;
- Find financing and channel resources to national and regional networks;

The work of network articulation included, especially the construction of common strategies, support for partnerships between organizations in the countries, joint research, capacity building activities and knowledge sharing involving organizations of various countries as well as joint actions of lobby and advocacy, endorsed by organizations of various countries, contributed to influence the definition, implementation and monitoring of national policies of FSN and legal frameworks of the right to food in national and regional context (see Box 6).

BOX 6 - Examples of activities carried out by REDSAN-PALOP

- December, 2007, **Europe-Africa Summit**, Lisbon, participation in the initiative "*People's Court for the Right to Food*" calling attention to the importance of this human right and to the urgency of the implementation of national policies to fight hunger.
- May, 2009 **Second Meeting of Health Ministers of the CPLP**, Lisbon. The Regional Network sent a formal "*Message for Guarantee Food Safety and Nutrition*" to governments of the CPLP and other participants. The Message revealed the concern of civil society with the issue of food insecurity and presented a set of demands and proposals to the governments of countries of the CPLP.
- July, 2008, **Seventh Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP)**, Lisbon. The Regional Network sent a formal "*Message of Civil Society for the Right to Food*" requiring the fight against hunger and promotion of food security and nutrition were treated as a priority on the political agendas of governments and in the cooperation strategy of its Member States as ensuring compliance with Human Right to Food.

- May, 2010, the **26th FAO Regional Conference in Africa**, Luanda. The Regional Network was part of the official panel of the event where it presented a communication on "*Regional Governance and National Food Security Experiences of Portuguese-Speaking African Countries.*"
- June, 2011, **Food and Nutritional Security Strategy of the CPLP**. REDSAN collaborates with FAO and CPLP in the process of consultation with civil society with a view to the formulation of the FSN strategy of the CPLP.
- Realization of **various studies** and research on various topics such as "Study on the Volatility of Food Prices in PALOP" (2011); "Social Technologies for Urban Agriculture" (2008); "Interconnections and reciprocity between the right to food and land tenure rights" (2012); Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security: Key elements to assure good outcome" (2012); "Integrating a gender approach in water resources management and land (Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique and East Timor)" (2010).
- Holding of four **Regional Meetings of REDSAN-PALOP** Fortaleza (2007), Olinda (2008), Coimbra (2010), Lisbon (2011).
- Realization of various **initiatives for exchange and sharing of experiences**, such as: "Seminar on Food Security and Civil Society in PALOP" (Fortaleza, 2007), "Seminar on Right to Food and Rural Development" (Angola, 2007), "International Seminar on Urban Agriculture, Environment and Society "(Coimbra, 2008); "Global Meeting IFSN" (Rome, 2009), "International Seminar on Public Policies for Agriculture and Food Security" (Sao Tome 2010); Conference "Integration of a Gender Approach in the Management of Water Resources and Land-related" (Lisbon, 2010) Regional Meeting IFSN (Ethiopia, 2011), International Conference "Policies and Cooperation on Food Security and Sovereignty in CPLP" (Lisbon, 2011).
- Participation in **political events**, such as: Third National Conference on FSN in Brazil (Fortaleza, 2007), 37th Session of the CFS (Rome, 2011), World Social Forum (Dakar, 2011); IV Conference on FSN in Brazil (Salvador, 2011).
- Holding of various **training and information** initiatives, such as: "Training on Rapid Diagnosis of the Right to Food" (Fortaleza, 2007), "Workshop on Right to Food" (Guinea-Bissau, 2008), "Workshop on Right to Food and FSN " (Sao Tome 2010), including production of **teaching materials** (Diagnostic Guide on the Right to Food (2007), Manual on Food Security and Nutrition (2010), CD-Rom" Thematic library on Gender and Access to Land and Water "(2010), several themed posters and leaflets.



Partners from REDSAN-PALOP manifested during the Europe-Africa Summit (2007) against the economic partnership agreements of EC with the ACP countries.

Major advances achieved by REDSAN-PALOP so far have been the following:

- Growing number of partner organizations of REDSAN-PALOP and strengthening of building bridges with other networks and organizations worldwide, including the Civil Society Mechanism linked to the World Committee on Food Security (CSM/CFS)²⁷;
- Actions for interchange and exchange of experiences between different countries on issues of FSN, Right to Food and Food Sovereignty, providing the capacity building of civil society to a multi-disciplinary and intersectoral work and strengthening the work developed nationally for each network or working group;
- Formation of an active civil society network at regional and international level involving the PALOP and the beginning of its gradual expansion to other members of the CPLP countries (Brazil, Portugal and East Timor);
- Increased capacity for political dialogue, lobbying and advocacy at national level (especially with the government) and regional / international (including among the CPLP, European Union and United Nations agencies), including participation in the process of strategy formulation of FSN of the CPLP and discussions at the World Committee for Food Security (CFS);

The **main organizational challenges** identified in the regional plan are the following:

- To redouble efforts in the development and consolidation of the working groups in Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde to support capacity building for greater inter-sectoral articulation, expansion of the groups, discussion and definition of standards for operation of networks;
- Consolidate the enlargement process to REDSAN-CPLP with the inclusion of networks from Brazil, East Timor and Portugal supporting the focal points in those countries in the process of setting up / strengthening of national working groups;
- Intensify the exchange processes, experiences and capacity building between countries - both technical and organizational - taking advantage of the historic mobilization of more established national networks;
- Increasing the participation of peasant organizations of various countries in the multi-thematic networks and continue discussions regarding the consolidation of a platform for organizations of farmers and rural workers in the CPLP;
- Strengthen the participation in procedures for global dialogue, in particular the Civil Society Mechanism of CFS (CSM/CFS);
- Find alternatives to the financing of national, regional and global network activities.

²⁷

More information is available at <http://cso4cfs.org>.

3.2 CPLP FSN Strategy and Enlargement of REDSAN-PALOP

In 2011 the CPLP made the decision to proceed with the formulation of a Regional Strategy for FSN (ESAN-CPLP). The formulation of this strategy was coordinated by the Executive Secretary of CPLP and had the support of FAO. The strategy was presented at the 37th Session of the World Food Security Committee(CFS) held in Rome in 2011. CPLP's strategy has been designed taking into account the perspective of the Right to Food and assuming the mission to strengthen the coordination between Member States and the governance of sectoral policies and programs that impact on the FSN to eradicate hunger and poverty in countries of the Community.

The REDSAN-PALOP actively participated in the mobilization and advocacy with national governments and at regional level in view of the openness and encouragement expressed for the purpose by the Executive Secretariat of CPLP and FAO.

The Strategy drawn includes recommendations from civil society regarding the incorporation of the human right to food, civil society participation through multi-thematic networks for FSN and strategic lines of intervention with priority given to increasing the availability of food based on family farming²⁸.

During the first half of 2012 will be held the stage of detailed action plans and structuring of the governance bodies of the strategy, particularly the Regional Council of FSN of CPLP, inter-ministerial agency of advice to the Summit of Heads of State of the CPLP. The REDSAN-PALOP is highly committed to continuing to contribute to the necessary political discussion involving partners at national level, with the Executive Secretary of CPLP recognizing the important contribution of this network²⁹. It is expected that action plans are ratified in July 2012 during the Conference of Heads of State and Government of



CPLP Executive Secretary receives contributions of REDSAN PALOP for the regional strategy of SAN.



Partners from REDSAN-PALOP gathered in a meeting with the Executive Secretary of CPLP in October.

²⁸ Contributions of REDSAN-PALOP for the FSN strategy of the CPLP available at www.redsan-cplp.org.

²⁹ Executive Secretary of CPLP recognizes the contribution of REDSAN-PALOP View story in <http://www.cplp.org/Default.aspx?ID=125&PID=6489&M=NewsV2&Action=1&NewsId=1750>.

the CPLP to be held in Maputo, Mozambique.

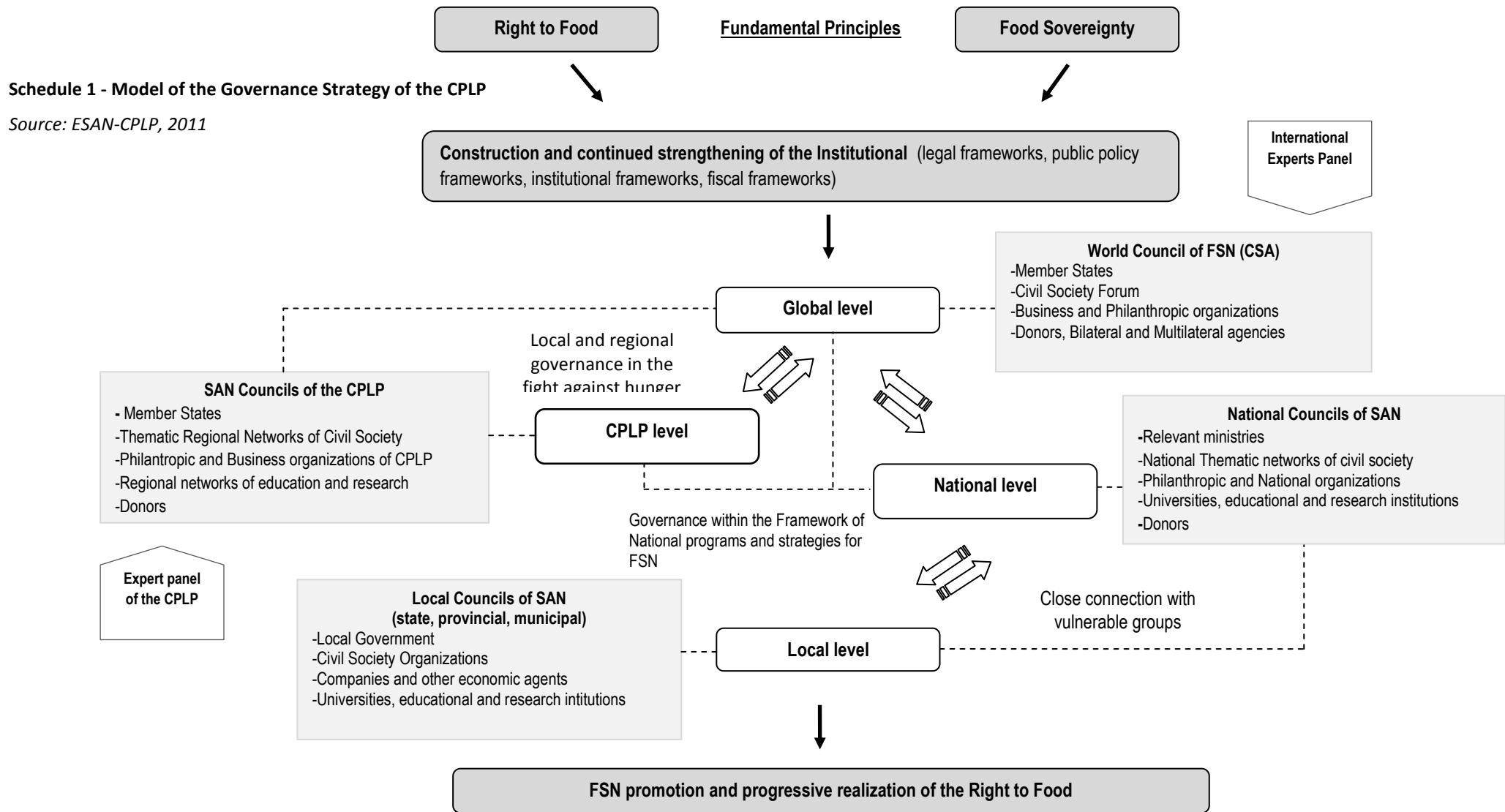
Given this context, all partners have considered important that the activity of REDSAN-PALOP at the regional level be expanded to include Brazil, Portugal and East Timor in a process that is intended to lead to REDSAN-CPLP.

This process has been recognized as fundamental by CPLP itself during the hearing that Executive Secretary, Domingos Simões Pereira, held with the REDSAN-PALOP in October 2011 in Lisbon. At that time took place in Lisbon the Fourth Meeting of REDSAN-PALOP facilitated by ACTUAR. On that occasion ACTUAR mobilized organizations from Portugal and Brazil to discuss with other networks from PALOP the enlargement process of the regional network: for the the CPLP space. ACTUAR is also strengthening contacts with organizations in East Timor for the same purpose.

In November 2011 was held in Salvador, Brazil, the Fourth National Conference on Food and Nutrition Security in Brazil. By invitation of the National Council of FNS of Brazil (CONSEA), ACTUAR has facilitated the participation of a delegation of REDSAN-PALOP at this conference as an international observer. Seizing the opportunity was organized a meeting between REDSAN-PALOP and FBSSAN during which deepened the steps for the constitution of REDSAN-CPLP and its release in parallel with the next Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Maputo in July 2012.

The CPLP strategy recognizes the intersectoral as an important principle to consider in all organs of governance, participation of several players and top priority for this theme. The Strategy also foresees the construction and strengthening of institutions as a way to improve coordination, coherence and alignment of policies at the different levels (local, national, regional, global), based on a multi-actor and multi-territorial perspective (see Scheme 1 .) In view of this context the active participation of civil society in the implementation of this strategy is essential, notably through the various multi-thematic networks such as REDSAN-CPLP³⁰.

³⁰ Apart from this regional network, other structures are arising from civil society and the private sector should be taken into account by the CPLP within the implementation of the future strategy of SAN, including: REDISA-CPLP; Network CPLP Environment and Territory; CPLP Health Network ; Network of NGO platforms of CPLP, and the CPLP Business Council.



Regarding the strategy of the CPLP and other areas of regional labor, the REDSAN PALOP identified the following specific challenges:

- Participate actively in the process of completion of the strategy: preparation of position of the REDSAN PALOP relatively to the statutes of the Council of FSN of the CPLP which shall include standards that facilitate the participation of civil society in deliberative processes of the Council, as well as plans of action to be taken. Identify recommendations regarding action plans of the strategy.
- Ensure the participation of civil society in governance bodies of the strategy: claim the effective implementation of governance bodies with the participation of civil society.
- Lobbying next to the focal point for FSN's government of each country: to influence national governments in the definition / proposal of priority activities within the action plans.
- Lobbying for the allocation of financial resources: persuading national governments to allocate budget on a mandatory and not purely voluntary way.
- Mobilization for Maputo in order to strengthen civil society participation at the Summit of Heads of State and Government to be held in Mozambique in July 2012 and the importance of the ratification of the strategy by the Heads of State and Government.

IV. LESSONS LEARNED

The joint effort between different players and complementarity provided by the thematic and organizational diversity opened new perspectives for social participation in policy development in these countries.

These thematic networks have proven to be an important mechanism, both in terms of deepening citizenship and social participation, and political influence by making it easier to open up dialogue with governments and civil society contribute to the development and (or) progress in implementing FSN national strategies.

The method of networking is an important working tool to articulate not only the demands of the broader civil society, but also of the most vulnerable groups, allowing discussion with other interested parties, and bringing the concerns of those who have no voice to the national, regional and international forums.

From the experience of mobilization of the REDSAN-PALOP at national and regional level emerge some **lessons learned**:

- ***The construction of multi-thematic networks of civil society is a differentiated process***

The construction of thematic networks focusing on the FSN is a process whose characteristics, rhythm and evolution fit and result from the reality of each country. The existence of initial processes that promote the approach and joint work is key to generating and (or) building confidence (most important asset for cooperation) between the various parties. This means that building networks is an ongoing process and not something that is institutionalized, "by decree". This process has always advances and setbacks and can take different stages of consolidation. When starting the process in countries where there is no tradition of cooperation between civil society organizations, proved to be very positive foster exchanges with organizations and networks in countries where this methodology was being a good example. The errors or bad past experiences favor collective learning processes and contribute to greater consistency and ability to influence social organizations. Exchanges must be carefully selected and prepared because the existence of natural bridges at the cultural, ecosystemic and (or) economic and social level is important .

- ***Diversity of actors working for common goals***

These networks are composed of a multiplicity of social actors who work cross-cutting issues of FSN (access to land, water and sanitation, health, gender, education, biodiversity, poverty reduction, access to credit, etc.) and include a diversity of organizations (associations, community-based organizations, unions, NGOs, networks, social movements, etc.). representing different vulnerable groups (women, indigenous peoples, people living with

HIV / AIDS, youth, farmers, pastoralists, fishing communities). The added value of these networks is their members who represent different players and are specialized in different areas related to the FSN and its approaches (such as food sovereignty and the perspective of the Right to Food). The support of organizations to run the network can comprise political support (being a member and subscribing public positions), the mobilization of organizations in various territorial levels, in particular the representatives of the most affected people and (or) groups by food insecurity and financial and (or) technical support. The network organization and position subscription in the same behalf also protects members of the network of possible nationwide political (or) financial retaliation.

- ***Networking enhances citizen participation***

Participating means to intervene at all levels of policy, including its formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The need for the participation takes place by the very nature of "public" in any government policy, which means that the beneficiaries of this policy should be involved in all phases. The main reason to increase levels of citizen participation in public policies is that the improvement of democratic mechanisms in all its phases contributes significantly to a wider and better distribution of public resources, thus favoring the poorest and most vulnerable, and increasing popular control and management policies. The experience of REDSAN-PALOP shows that for the existence of a more effective citizen participation in policy are needed at least two key ingredients: i) it is necessary that civil society is strengthened and has the capacity and quality to intervene in policies; and ii) there must be openness on the part of governments and mechanisms to promote popular participation. Regarding the first factor of the experience of REDSAN-PALOP demonstrates that the joint effort between various organizations at various levels (community, local, national) enhances the capacity of intervention of the people they represent (vulnerable groups). The citizen participation emerges, first, within their own networks of civil society, which adopt democratic processes of decision making (meetings, forums, working groups) and adoption of common positions in accordance with the demands of vulnerable groups. The capillarity is a characteristic of these networks. Networking allows for greater territorial coverage, because you can bring in small organizations and citizen groups that are distant from the centers of decision to work together. Thus can be given voice to those who have more difficulties to share their problems and proposals. On the other hand, the very structure of the network can overcome national boundaries to relate to regional and international organizations. This extends the possibility of exchanging experiences and sharing solutions.

Regarding the second factor, the existence of adequate public spaces of participation (as in the case of the National Council of FSN created and / or proposed within the framework of national strategies) is able to promote greater contact and interaction between government and civil society, leading to many excluded social sectors access to other forms of representation. These public spaces function as expansion and democratization of the

management of the State by increasing the transparency and the number of actors involved. Effective participation in these spaces is facilitated through networking.

- ***Connection between political work and programs is important***

In African countries participating in the network, the work together on programs in the field allowed the construction of a political agenda more consistent and positive. Programs of agro-ecology, small agro-industries and initiatives related to access to markets for small producers are examples that allowed regular meetings between the key actors of civil society, the building of formal and informal partnerships between the networks of organizations, generating "good practices". These, when systematized, strengthen the capacity to claim for more adequate public policies. The dialogue with the government also benefits of such a link since you can more easily mobilize key actors in the governance structure when discussions begin on the basis of concrete issues implemented on the ground.

- ***The articulation of networks in different regions reinforces the effectiveness and efficiency of actions taken***

The articulation of connected networks in the various territorial levels allows greater coordination and advocacy actions impact given the growing interdependence in the agri-food areas relevant to the FSN (availability, access, consumption, etc..). Regular participation in regional and international events, as well as the flow of information between the various levels strengthen the capacities of organizations and the network as a whole able to invoke international commitments at the national level and bring examples and local testimonies for international level discussions. The construction of platforms of understanding and cooperation at international level is facilitated due to the construction of trusts created in other territorial levels.

- ***The network organization strengthens the capacities of civil society and is consistent with cross-sectoral structures and multi-actor governance for the FSN***

The existence of multi-thematic networks for FSN strengthens the capacity of participating organizations themselves by sharing knowledge and complementarity in action, enhances the capacity of qualifying holding in discussions with the various sectors of government participating in inter-sectoral structures, and opens a larger number of channels of influence within the government and parliament. The multi-disciplinary and multi-player work contributes to the configuration of a vision more systemic and a greater ability to negotiate common political priorities in the various territorial levels of governance of the SAN.

- ***The processes of building networks are flexible, but require investment at various levels***

The civil society networks are flexible. Their format must adapt to the context of each country and the political priorities of civil society. The networks are expanded and are reduced according to priorities throughout time without this being in itself, focus of major concern for its members. Experience shows that the construction and consolidation requires time and appropriate resources. By appropriate resources we mean a minimum amount of resources that allows some entities to assume their facilitation and secretariat, as well as the existence of means for the basic activities required during periods of increased activity: meetings between members, publications, participation in events relevant for policy development at national, regional or international level and maintenance of information to keep a memory of historical processes. These resources should not, however, instrumentalize the networks or generate a trend towards loss of its flexible nature and its institutionalization with an increase in their fixed costs and greater dependence on donors and (or) governments.

To conclude we can say that the experience of work of REDSAN-PALOP has not been without problems and negative aspects. They exist and are derived from the construction of a collective process, with very few resources, and in countries where a systemic view of the FSN is still at the beginning.

It is believed, however, that this work will allow more fully to discuss this experience and its value in the construction of new progressive forms of social participation in the governance of food security and nutrition. The expansion of REDSAN-PALOP to REDSAN-CPLP with the inclusion of the experiences of Brazil, Portugal and East Timor will certainly contribute to give more strength to this process.

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ANNEXES

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PONG's - Platform of NGOs from Cape Verde (CAPE VERDE)	PONG's - Platform of NGOs from Cape Verde E-mail: platongs@cvtelecom.cv Telf: +238 2617843 URL: www.platongs.org.cv	Aguinaldo David davidaguinaldo@yahoo.com.br
RESSAN-GB - Network for Food Sovereignty and Security and Nutrition of the Guinea-Bissau (GUINEA-BISSAU)	Under reorganization	Under reorganization
RESCSAN-STP - Civil Society Network for Food Security and Nutrition (SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE)	ADAPPA - Action for Agriculture and Livestock Development and Environmental Protection E-mail: adappa@cstome.net Telf: +239 2221971	Celso Garrido pdsa.stp@gmail.com
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LIST OF PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS FROM NATIONAL NETWORKS

CABO VERDE

ADAD - Associação para a Defesa do Ambiente e Desenvolvimento
ADECO - Defesa do Consumidor
ADIRV - Associação para o Desenvolvimento Integrado de Rui Vaz
ADP
AFADIF - Associação de Filhos e Amigos para Desenvolvimento Integral de Figueiral
África 70
AGRI – Várzea Nova
AGRO – Trave
AGRO-Ricabom
AMA – Fajã
AMIRIBEIRÃO
AMIVALE
ASAS
ASDIS – Associação das Associações de Solidariedade para o Desenvolvimento das Ilhas de Cabo Verde
Associação Nova Geração de Pescadores de S. Pedro
Associação Agricultores e Criadores de Colonato
Associação AGRO Serelho
Associação Agro-Pecuária do Calhau
Associação Amigos do Calhau
Associação Armador, Pescador e Peixeiras do cais da Praia
Associação Comunitária Novos Amigos
Associação Comunitária para Desenvolvimento de Achada Baleia
Associação Comunitária para Desenvolvimento de Baía
Associação Comunitária para Desenvolvimento Integrado de João Garrido
Associação de Agricultores e Criadores em Defesa da Biodiversidade
Associação dos Agricultores da Casa de Meio
Associação dos Agricultores de Tamareira
Associação dos Agricultores e Criadores de Gado de Ribeireta
Associação dos Agricultores Ribeira dos Picos
Associação dos Agricultores, Pecuários e Avicultores de Cidade Velha
Associação dos Amigos da Natureza
Associação dos Pescadores e Peixeiras de Calheta – S. Miguel
Associação Juntos para o Desenvolvimento da Comunidade de Achada Furna
Associação para Desenvolvimento Comunitário de Arribada/Japluma
Associação para Desenvolvimento Integrado da Freguesia de Nossa Senhora do Livramento
Associação Para o Desenvolvimento de Vale da Custa
Associação Pescadores da Ilha do Maio
Associação Pescadores de Praia Baixo
Associação Pescadores de Salamansa
Associação Unidos para Desenvolvimento de Tinca
Associação Unidos para Desenvolvimento Integral de Moia-Móia
Cáritas Caboverdeana
Citi-Habitat
FEDER-ÓRGÃOS
Fundação “Padre Luiz Allaz”

OADISA - Organização das Associações de Desenvolvimento Integrado de Santo Antão
OAF - Organização das Associações da Ilha do Fogo
OÁSIS
OAZA
OMCV - Organização das Mulheres de Cabo Verde
PRODECO - Defesa consumidor
Rede Mulheres Parlamentares Cabo Verde
Rede Parlamentares P/Ambiente e Luta Contra a Desertificação e pobreza
ROPA-CV
Soldifogo

ANGOLA

ADECOR – Associação de Defesa do Consumidor
ADPP – Ajuda de Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo
ADRA – Acção para o Desenvolvimento Rural e Ambiente
AAS
ANA - Huíla
ANAMILA
ASBC – Kwanza Sul
CDPA – Centro para o Desenvolvimento e Parcerias de Angola
CIC - Conselho Interospitalario de Cooperação
Consórcio Terra da Huíla
Cruz Vermelha Angola
Development Workshop - DW
Fundação CEAR (Benguela)
FUNDAÇÃO CODESPA
GTZ
Handicap internacional (Huambo)
IACU-INACAD - Instituto de Apoio as Crianças Vulneráveis
Open Society Foundation
OXFAM (Benguela)
Plataforma Mulheres em Acção
PROMAICA – Promoção da Mulher Angola na Igreja Católica
Rede de Organizações Sociedade Civil do Cacuaco
Rede de Segurança Alimentar Malange
Rede Educação para Todos
Rede Miombo
Rede SIDA/ANASO
Rede Terra
Trocaire
UCAN – Universidade Católica de Angola

SÃO TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE

ADAPPA - Acção para o Desenvolvimento Agro-Pecuário e Protecção do Ambiente
A.S.C. PLIVINI - Agente Saúde Comunitária Plivini
AAA - Associação Auxílio e Amizade
ADABER - Associação de Defesa do Ambiente e de Desenvolvimento Rural
ADEP - Associação para Desenvolvimento da Pecuária
ADRA-STP - Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AESTP - Associação dos Escuteiros de São Tomé e Príncipe
AJEIE - Associação dos Jovens Empresários e com Iniciativa Empresarial
AJUM

ALISEI

AMBM - Associação de Moradores de Boa-Morte

AMI - Assistência Médica Internacional

APABDB - Associação dos Pequenos Agricultores de Botelo, Desejada e Boa Entrada

Associação Côto

CAS - Clube Amigos da Sara

CJM - Cooperativa Josina Machel

FCJ - Fundação da Criança e da Juventude

FENAPA - Federação Nacional das Associações de Pequenos Agricultores

FOMS - Fórum Mulher Santomense

FONG - Federação das ONG de São Tomé e Príncipe

IMVF - Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr

Instituto KITÊMBÚ

MARAPA - Mar Ambiente e Pesca Artesanal

OSDH - Organização Santomenese dos Direitos Humanos

Santa Casa da Misericórdia

STEP-UP

ZATONA ADIL

ZOOVET

MOÇAMBIQUE

ABIODES - Associação para a Agricultura Biológica Biodiversidade e Desenvolvimento Sustentável

ACORD

ActionAid Moçambique

ACUDES - Associação Cultural para o Desenvolvimento Sustentável (Inhambane)

ADS (Sofala)

ATAP - Associação de Técnicos Agro-Pecuários

CADER (Nampula)

CMA

CONCERN

FONGA – Fórum de OGS Nacionais de Gaza (Gaza)

FOPROI - Fórum das Organizações Não Governamentais da Província de Inhambane

FORUM TERRA (Cabo Delgado)

Kubatsirana – Associação Ecuménica Cristã (Manica)

Kulima - Organismo para o Desenvolvimento Sócio-Económico Sustentável

LDH – Liga dos Direitos Humanos

MuGeDe - Mulher, Género e Desenvolvimento

NAFET - Núcleo das Associações Femininas de Tete

NEPA

ORAM - Associação Rural de Ajuda Mútua

PROAGRI e ORAM (Niassa)

RADEZA - Rede de Organizações Para o Ambiente e Desenvolvimento Comunitário Sustentável da Zambézia

UNAC – União Nacional dos Camponeses de Moçambique