



CONTENTS

EDITORIAL

Editorial:
Welcome from FAOMZ Country Representative, Castro Camarada

Check it out:
In the field with FAOMZ

(Inter)acting:
FAOMZ and partners at the programming meeting of the Organization

Face to Face:
Interview with FAO National Emergency Coordinator

Projects Update:
An update on projects beginning and ending this quarter

Goodbye to:
Margarida Marques, Assistant FAO Country Representative — Programme

Publications:
FAOMZ Annual Report 2014. Report: Workshop on guidelines for new investments in agriculture.

The Fun Bit:
A crossword to mark the UN International Year of Soils

Welcome to this first issue of the FAO Mozambique newsletter **Mbeu** ('seed' in Shangana, the language spoken in southern Mozambique). It comes at a time of important developments for the country in relation to agriculture and food and nutrition security. This year marks the end of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and Mozambique has made significant progress in reducing the proportion of those suffering from hunger, even though undernourishment in children under five remains a great challenge. FAO in Mozambique supports the efforts of the Government and all of those contributing to this major endeavor, namely civil society, academia and the private sector among others.

With this quarterly magazine, FAO Mozambique intends to highlight critical issues on the food and nutrition security agenda as well as the agricultural sector in general including forestry, fisheries and livestock. Thus, in this first edition, we will focus on key activities from the last three months, such as our support to vulnerable farmers affected by the floods in central and northern Mozambique and the visit of Heads of Mission from the European Union to projects of FAO and the other UN food agencies in Manica Province. We are also taking this opportunity to say goodbye to our colleague, Margarida Marques, who recently retired. And we invite you to test your knowledge of soils in our crossword to mark the UN International Year of Soils.

It is my hope that this newsletter will be a vehicle to share information and knowledge so as to contribute to FAO's goal to eradicate hunger, to improve food security and nutrition and to promote sustainable agriculture in Mozambique.

Castro Camarada

FAO Representative in Mozambique



Check it out

Some highlights from what's been happening with FAO Mozambique

Nampula

FAOMZ meets President Nyusi at the first Mozambican Cassava Festival, in Ribáuè, Nampula Province



The President of Mozambique, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, opened the first Cassava Festival in the country on 7 June, in which FAO participated. Speaking with Nyusi at the FAO stall, Jorge Machanguana, an FAO post-harvest specialist, felt the President was positive about the activities of FAO in Ribáuè, Nampula Province. "I think President Nyusi captured the essence of our purpose among the local communities", Manchanguana said. [Click here to read more](#)

Maputo

Mozambique lauded for achieving the MDG 1 target of halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger by 2015



Mozambique was one of the countries awarded on 7 June by the three Rome-based UN agencies – FAO, IFAD and WFP – for having achieved the MDG 1 target of halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger by 2015. The prevalence of under-nutrition in Mozambique declined from 56,1 percent in 1990-92 to 24 percent in 2014-16. "We have achieved the target of halving the proportion of the hungry in our country by adopting policies, strategies and projects in the agricultural and fisheries sectors, among others", the Mozambique Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, José Pacheco, said at the press conference. [Click here to read more](#)

Manica

Visit of Heads of Mission from the European Union in Mozambique to FAO, IFAD and WFP projects in Manica



On 21 May, the three Rome-based Agencies (RBA's) FAO, IFAD and WFP welcomed four Heads of Mission from the European Union in Mozambique to projects of the agencies in Manica Province. The visiting Heads of Mission, who included the ambassadors of the European Union, Austria, Holland, and Sweden, were also joined by attachés from Portugal and Germany. Over the course of the visit, the RBA's had the opportunity to show the implementation of their projects, while also allowing the diplomatic representatives to form a deeper understanding of the development cooperation between the partners in Mozambique. [Click here to read more](#)

Maputo

Technical workshop on principles for new investment in agriculture held in Maputo



Increased responsible public and private investment in the agricultural sector is key to poverty reduction, improved food security and production of nutritious food at reasonable prices. This came out clearly during a two-day technical workshop on the principles guiding new investments in agriculture that was held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 23 – 24 April 2015. [Click here to read more](#)

Winter Acting

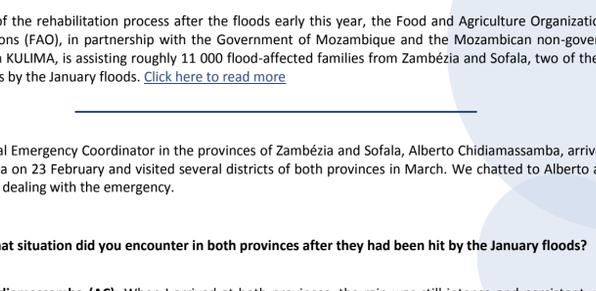
FAO Mozambique holds programming meeting

On 31 March and 1 April, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Mozambique held a programming meeting to analyse and plan its work in the country. FAO staff as well as representatives of the government and development partners attended the event. [Click here to read more](#)



Face to Face

Floods in Zambézia and Sofala provinces



During the 2014/2015 rainy season, Mozambique was hit by heavy rains that led to severe flooding, particularly between the months of January and March 2015. On 12 January, the Council of Ministers declared a red alert for the central and northern regions of the country. Only on 10 April did the Government declare a green alert for the affected regions.

In support of the rehabilitation process after the floods early this year, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in partnership with the Government of Mozambique and the Mozambican non-governmental organization KULIMA, is assisting roughly 11 000 flood-affected families from Zambézia and Sofala, two of the hardest hit provinces by the January floods. [Click here to read more](#)

FAO National Emergency Coordinator in the provinces of Zambézia and Sofala, Alberto Chidiassamba, arrived in the affected area on 23 February and visited several districts of both provinces in March. We chatted to Alberto about his experiences dealing with the emergency.

FAOMZ: What situation did you encounter in both provinces after they had been hit by the January floods?

Alberto Chidiassamba (AC): When I arrived at both provinces, the rain was still intense and persistent, mainly in Zambézia. The rivers still carried a great volume of water. The affected families were still being assisted, the access roads remained impassable. There were isolated villages and administrative posts as well as destroyed and/or damaged bridges, irrigation schemes, water supply systems and other economic and social infrastructure. There were flooded agricultural areas where planting and cultures had been washed away. Due to excessive humidity and high levels of superficial erosion, the soils were also saturated. Many families had lost the few goods they possessed, and were living under precarious conditions. The local authorities and the cooperation partners were assisting the population. No matter what their capacities and resources were, all of them were highly engaged. [Click here to read the full interview](#)

Projects Update

Read about FAO Mozambique's latest project focusing on food safety, and about our outgoing project on the 'Right to Food'.

On 9 April, the newest project of FAO in Mozambique was launched in Maputo. The goal of the project "Strengthening controls of food safety threats as well as plant and animal pests and diseases to improve agricultural productivity and trade in Southern Africa" is to reduce the incidence of food contamination, pests and diseases among plants and animals. A further aim is to reduce their impact on the productivity of food crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry so as to support safe trade and contribute to the improvement of food security and nutrition in the region. [Click here to read more](#)

On 30 March, FAO officially closed the project "Right to Food" which the Organization had implemented in Mozambique in partnership with the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Nutrition (MASA). In a seminar for the official closure of the project, the FAO Country Representative, Castro Camarada, congratulated the Government and civil society organizations for adopting a perspective of human rights – namely the human right to adequate food – in legislation, policies and food security and nutrition plans in the country. [Click here to read more](#)

Goodbye to...

After almost three decades at FAO Mozambique, Margarida Marques has retired from her post as Assistant FAO Country Representative — Programme. We want to thank Margarida for all the hard work and good times, and to wish her all the best for the future.



She was a mother figure who understood all of her "children" all over her.

She built relationships based on trust. A person with integrity who would always do what is right, even when it was difficult.

What I liked about Margarida was that she cared, she asked about your family and always seemed to know if you were having a bad day.

Margarida was a very hard worker. Nothing could ever be done just half-way.

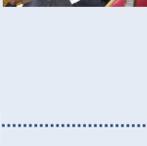
To me, Margarida was serious, professional, and always supportive.

Thank you Guida for all your unconditional support during my life challenges.

Margarida has a heart of gold... but she can be stubborn, too. But as they say, only a very stubborn person can stand against the wind!

Publications

FAOMZ Annual Report 2014



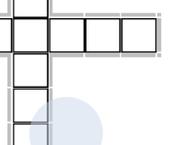
FAO Mozambique has published its annual report 2014. This report summarizes the work undertaken by FAOMZ in 2014 to achieve the medium-term priorities defined in the Country Programming Framework (CPF) for Mozambique 2012-2015 in support of the Government programme. The document concentrates in three priority areas, namely governance on food and nutrition security; food availability, access and consumption; and environment, natural resources, climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Report: Workshop on guidelines for new investments in agriculture

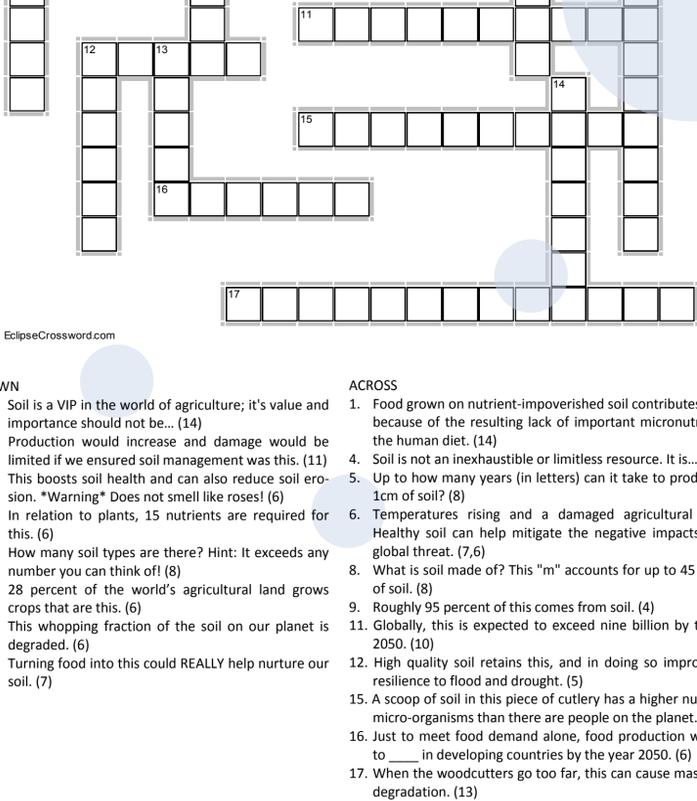


This report summarizes the issues discussed during the technical workshop on principles guiding new investments in agriculture organized by the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG), held between 23 and 24 April 2015 in Maputo, Mozambique. The IAWG (FAO, IFAD, UNCTAD and the World Bank) launched the program *Pilot use of Principles Guiding New Investments in Agriculture* in January 2015. Its aim is to test principles for responsible agricultural investment with early stage agribusiness operations in partner countries of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, and infuse responsible principles and practices into these agribusinesses. [Click here to read the publication](#)

ALL ABOUT SOILS



The UN has declared 2015 the International Year of Soils (IYS). The IYS aims to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of soil for food security and essential ecosystem functions. This crossword is designed to highlight all the ways soil is awesome, and help spread awareness about the central role soil plays in our daily lives.



- DOWN**
- Soil is a VIP in the world of agriculture; it's value and importance should not be... (14)
 - Production would increase and damage would be limited if we ensured soil management was this. (11)
 - This boosts soil health and can also reduce soil erosion. *Warning* Does not smell like roses! (6)
 - In relation to plants, 15 nutrients are required for this. (6)
 - How many soil types are there? Hint: It exceeds any number you can think of! (8)
 - 28 percent of the world's agricultural land grows crops that are this. (6)
 - This whopping fraction of the soil on our planet is degraded. (6)
 - Turning food into this could REALLY help nurture our soil. (7)
- ACROSS**
- Food grown on nutrient-impooverished soil contributes to this, because of the resulting lack of important micronutrients in the human diet. (14)
 - Soil is not an inexhaustible or limitless resource. It is... (12)
 - Up to how many years (in letters) can it take to produce just 1cm of soil? (8)
 - Temperatures rising and a damaged agricultural sector? Healthy soil can help mitigate the negative impacts of this global threat. (7,6)
 - What is soil made of? This "m" accounts for up to 45 percent of soil. (8)
 - Roughly 95 percent of this comes from soil. (4)
 - Globally, this is expected to exceed nine billion by the year 2050. (10)
 - High quality soil retains this, and in doing so improves our resilience to flood and drought. (5)
 - A scoop of soil in this piece of cutlery has a higher number of micro-organisms than there are people on the planet. (10)
 - Just to meet food demand alone, food production will need to ___ in developing countries by the year 2050. (6)
 - When the woodcutters go too far, this can cause massive soil degradation. (13)