

MINAG

IIAM

DE

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY



Strengthening Mozambican Capacity for Agricultural Productivity Growth, Policy Analysis, and Poverty Reduction

**Quarterly Project Narrative Report - FY08 (Q1)
October 1 to December 31, 2007**

**Mozambique Associate Award / Food Security III LWA CA
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Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Objective 1: Strengthen IIAM capacity to identify and make available improved agricultural technologies	1
Objective 2: Increase the demand and supply of policy analysis relevant to the dominant agricultural development issues	2
Objective 3: Institutionalize the capacity to provide information for monitoring and evaluation of agricultural sector performance within MINAG	4
Objective 4: Modernize the National Market Information System (SIMA)	5
Objective 5: Assist USAID-Mozambique and partners to measure program impacts	5

Strengthening Mozambican Capacity for Agricultural Productivity Growth, Policy Analysis and Poverty Reduction

Introduction

Following the mid-term evaluation of the project in February-March 2007, a revised SOW and budget were prepared to reflect the key recommendations emanating from the report. The revision of the SOW involved the key stakeholders from the Directorate of Economics of MINAG and IIAM. The modification of the CA was approved on 20th of December 2007 and a draft workplan was submitted to USAID/Maputo in late January 2008. Given the potentially drastic USAID/Maputo budget cut the project will need to revise the workplan to reflect the available resources and/or to look for other partners willing to finance some of the project activities.

This report for the first quarter of FY08 is organized by project objective and the activities apply to the period October 1 to December 30, 2008 for year 4 (FY08) workplan. Progress was made in recruiting new socio-economists for IIAM to be allocated to CESE Maputo, to the South and to the Northwest Zonal Centers. There were 23 applicants out of which 10 were short listed for formal interviews. Five candidates were selected out of which 4 are males and 1 is a female. Contract papers have been prepared and forwarded to MINAG for clearance and transmission to Administrative Tribunal for final approval.

The process for short listing the potential candidates for employment in DE was initiated during this period but was quickly frozen following the removal from office of most National Directors and their Deputies. The new Director of Economics (Victorino Xavier) has been given a mandate to re-organise the Directorate to improve its performance in the implementation of its strategic functions. It is not yet clear how when the process of contracting news staff will be restarted and therefore the human resource situation in the departments of Statistics and Policy continue unchanged.

The following activities were planned and implemented for this quarter:

- Support MINAG in the preparation of the Strategic Plan for the Agricultural Sector
- Evaluation of levels of adoption of Nicaragua – ICTAR 198 sesame variety and Nametil peanut variety in Nampula
- Estimation of current adoption of Nikwaha cassava variety in Nampula and validate the ex-ante analysis
- Evaluation of the impact of vaccination against Newcastle disease in Central and Southern Mozambique
- Publication and dissemination of on-going panel data analyses – Mortality/HIV Aids and household Income
- Support to IIAM socio economics working paper series
- Technical backstopping on production of TIA 2007
- Provision of technical backstopping to SIMA staff

Objective 1: To strengthen IIAM's capacity to identify and disseminate improved agricultural technologies

1.1 Evaluation of levels of adoption of Nicaragua – ICTAR 198 sesame variety and Nametil peanut variety in Nampula Province

The field study was conducted in the district of Monapo and involved 200 households. Preliminary un-weighted results indicate high adoption rates in Monapo district increasing from about 17.3% in 2003/4 season to 31.8% in 2006/7 season in the case of Nametil peanut variety and from 14.0% in 2003/4 season to 32.5% in 2006/7 in the case of ICTAR 198 sesame variety. For both crops, the principal factor influencing adoption is market access. The majority of the holdings producing the two crops rely on seed retained from past harvest (>50% of the holdings in 2006/7 season). The purchase of seeds from the market was realized by only 12.7% of the holdings producing groundnuts and 21.1% of the holdings producing sesame. For the holdings which never grew the improved varieties peanuts, the lack of seeds was given as the principal reason for non-adoption and the lack of purchasing power was the principal reason for the sesame crop. The results indicate that adoption can be significantly improved through improvement of market access for final product and availability and access to seeds.

1.2 Estimating the levels of adoption of Nikwaha cassava variety

A survey was carried out in September/October in the Districts of Memba, Mossuril, Mogincual and Nacala-a-Velha with the objective of estimating the current levels of adoption and to validate the ex-ante analysis¹. Data entry and processing were concluded during this period and analysis, and report write-up will start in the second quarter. Field work and data processing were supervised by Ellen Payongayong.

1.3 Evaluation of the impact of vaccination against Newcastle Disease in Central and Southern Mozambique

No additional work was carried out during this period since Alda Tomo was dedicating her time on the coursework for her MS program.

1.4 Graduate training

Alda Tomo continued with her coursework for her MSc training at MSU and Isabel Siteo started her MS training in Agricultural Economics in Australia with financial support from the Australian government.

Eunice Cavane, a Mozambican PhD candidate at Michigan State in Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies (CARRS), with a specialization in extension, successfully defended her PhD thesis in December 2007 and was awarded her degree. She was funded from non-FSG sources, however, Cynthia Donovan served on her guidance committee, and Cavane worked with IIAM/CESE staff members from the Central Zonal Center to conduct her field research. Her thesis, *Farmers' Attitudes and Adoption of Improved Maize Varieties*

¹ [Economic Impact on Food Security of Varietal Tolerance to Cassava Brown Streak Disease in Coastal Mozambique](http://www.aec.msu.edu/agecon/fs2/mozambique/iiam/rr_1e.pdf). S. McSween. T. Walker. V. Salegua. R. Pitoro. IIAM-DFDTT Research Report No. 1E. August 2006. http://www.aec.msu.edu/agecon/fs2/mozambique/iiam/rr_1e.pdf

and Chemical Fertilizers in the Manica District, Mozambique will be available soon on the web.

Emma Bradley, a University of Eduardo Mondlane student in Rural Development, wrapped up her field research on livestock and adult mortality impacts, and will proceed to data analysis, under the supervision of Cynthia Donovan.

1.5 IIAM research report series

The working paper based on Eng Mazuze's thesis was finalized and published under the IIAM working paper series. The working paper entitled "Analysis of Adoption of Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potatoes: The Case Study of Gaza Province. Research Report 4E. It can be accessed from <http://www.aec.msu.edu/fs2/mozambique/iiam/rr-4e.pdf>

1.6 Others

- a) The project continued to support the development of IIAM webpage and uploading of documents, including the USAID-funded COMPETE project. MSU backstop team member Longabaugh visited Mozambique from October 24 to November 2, 2007 to participate in a 2 day website workshop whose main objective was to review IIAM's website development and management and advise the institution on a strategy to be adopted for sustainable development and management of the site. The following were the main recommendations from the workshop:
 - A website group be created
 - IIAM should initiate the process of moving the site to Eduardo Mondlane University's server. It was agreed that the domain name IIAM.GOV.MZ will be purchased and used
 - Dream Weavers should be the primary software
 - The proposed website layout and structure be passed to a website designer to be contracted by IIAM
 - The current website hosted by MSU should remain operational and updated until the new site becomes operational.
- b) The project staff continued to collaborate with the Directorate of Training, Documentation and Technology Transfer on matters related to technology transfer. The Project Country Director participated in meetings between DFDTT and the Directorate of Extension (DNE) to define actions to improve information flow about agricultural technologies from IIAM to DNE. A working group was created to look into the modalities for production of extension manuals.
- c) A two-day in-service training on STATA was provided to the Northeast Zonal Centre socio-economists by Eng. Raul Pitoro. The training was refresher and was intended to kick-start the analysis of the survey data by the two socio-economists under supervision by project staff.
- d) Eng Raul Pitoro participated in the national cotton sector meeting organised by the National Cotton Institute (IIAM) which took place in Nampula, 7-8 November 2007. He made a presentation of a research proposal on the Evaluation of Economic Benefits of Bt Cotton in Mozambique: Implications for smallholder farmers and

cotton companies. The presentation is available at <http://www.aec.msu.edu/fs2/mozambique/policypapers/btcotton-Econbenefit.pdf>

- e) The Project Country Director has continued to be involved in the COMPETE Technical Committee charged in evaluating project proposals.
- f) The Project Country Director and the Coordinator of CESE provided technical assistance to staff from the Directorate of Extension on the design of a study to be undertaken on fish farming in Manica and Zambeze Provinces
- g) Dr. Cynthia Donovan conducted a three-day poster training in December, 2007 which involved 5 participants, two from IIAM and three from DE. The participants are finalising print ready posters to be printed in Maputo.

Objective 2: Increase the demand and supply of policy analysis relevant to the dominant agricultural development

2.1 Support MINAG in the preparation of the Strategic Plan for the Agricultural Sector

The former minister for Agriculture Mr. Muhate transferred the activity of preparing the Strategic Plan of the Agricultural Sector to the Directorate of Economics and will be under the direct leadership of the Director of Economics. This conforms to the competencies of the Directorate and it is intended to speed up the completion of the plan. The project continued to lend support to the process through the participation of Eng. Danilo Abdula.

2.2 Publication and dissemination of on-going panel data analyses – Mortality/HIV Aids and Household Income

Drs. Cynthia Donovan and David Mather's report on the impact of HIV/AIDS on rural sector, based on TIA data and financed by the World Bank, has been translated into Portuguese and is being proofread.

Two additional reports with the TIA panel datasets sets on the determinants of crop income and panel analysis of total income and its components are under development and review. Some results from this work were presented to the US Government Accountability Office (GAO) in December (discussed below).

2.3 Analysis of Public Expenditure for the Agricultural Sector

The first formal meeting of the public expenditure working group took place in December with representatives from MINAG, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning and Development, SIDA and MSU country team. The Ministry of Fisheries had not appointed a representative when the group met. The Project Country Director presented the terms of reference as proposed by ReSAKSS and a synthesis of the methodology to be followed for the implementation of the study. The group also had several meetings with World Bank Mission for Agriculture Public Expenditure Review between 10 of December and 21st of December 2007. The objective of the meetings with WB team was to define common terms of reference to allow the implementation of only one study to be co-financed by ReSAKSS and the Bank. The modalities of joint financing of the study by ReSAKSS and the WB and the institutional arrangements for study implementation are still to be concluded.

2.4 Others

A presentation on food security issues was made to an IEHA review team from US Government Accountability Office Team at USAID offices in Maputo on November, 14 2007. In January 2008 follow-up meetings with the GAO, MSU Food Security Group research in Mozambique, Zambia and elsewhere provided evidence of the difficulties with IEHA funding and the need for increased investments in the agricultural sector. As demonstrated in Mozambique, IEHA programs were funding key activities for agricultural development, but the funding is threatened by congressional earmarks and low budgets. The December presentation can be found at http://www.aec.msu.edu/fs2/mozambique/policypress/gao_final.pdf

Objective 3: Institutionalize the capacity to provide information for monitoring and evaluation of agricultural sector performance within MINAG

3.1 TIA 2007

Fieldwork for TIA 2007 was concluded and data processing was initiated. With contributions from Ellen Payongayong, MINAG DEST staff produced and presented preliminary results of key TIA 2007 sections in late 2007. Complete preliminary results are expected to be available in Q2. Ellen Payongayong used in-service training methods to improve data cleaning procedures and other data processing. Further training activities were limited due to the lack of new DEST staff.

3.2 Documentation of TIA datasets

Ellen Payongayong continues to work with TIA datasets. She worked with sampling expert David Megill on assessing TIA panel and non-panel weights for TIA 2005.

Objective 4: Strengthen the National Market Information System (SIMA)

4.1 Provide SIMA staff with technical backstopping

SIMA staff members have continued to produce the weekly market information bulletin Quente-Quente and during this period editions 639 to 651 were produced. The Nampula provincial market information system produced Esisapos edition 256 to 262. Full information is available on SIMA website <http://www.sima.minag.org.mz> .

Cynthia Donovan continued to work with SIMA staff members on new developments with communications technology. SIMA is developing a partnership with Technoserve, BusyLab and others to use SMS messaging with the SIMA system. In addition, the SIMA team is working with the Angolan National Cereal's Institute to develop a collaborative program, and Donovan will be working to develop a joint project based on meetings in Maputo help in October.

4.2 Update SIMA database and systems

Ellen Payongayong began an analysis of the SIMA database, to target needed improvements and identify possible modifications in systems.

Objective 5: Assist USAID-Mozambique and partners to measure program impacts

Ellen Payongayong has begun pulling together the previous household surveys conducted by the NGOs. Major activities in this objective are planned in future quarters.