



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS AND FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS IN ANGOLA THROUGH FARMER FIELD SCHOOLS

Agriculture is Angola's second largest productive sector. On average, it contributes 9.7 percent to the country's gross domestic product, making it the main economic activity of the Angolan people. At present, 80 percent of Angolan farmers are smallholders who produce around 80 percent of all agricultural products in the country. However, they face a number of constraints, comprising weak capacity and limited knowledge of improved agricultural practices and technology; poor access to extension services; limited access to modern inputs, including seeds and fertilizers; inadequate market information; and post-harvest losses. The agriculture sector's institutional capacity is also weak, particularly in relation to irrigation, policy analysis and agricultural statistics. Against this background, the project aimed to support smallholder producers to improve their production conditions and organization for marketing in three provinces considered the breadbasket of Angola, Bié, Huambo and Malanje. The project built on a previous World Bank-supported project - the Market Oriented Smallholder Agriculture Project (MOSAP I) - implemented in the three above-mentioned provinces.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The major component of the project concerned building the capacity of smallholders using the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach. The project reached 138 281 members from 4 478 FFS in 79 communes of the three target provinces. This was achieved by providing training at master trainer level for technicians from the Institute of Agrarian Development (IDA), as well as for technicians and FFS facilitators and focal points from the IDA. The IDA staff through the focal points, master trainers and technicians of the IDA's extension service (Agrarian Development Stations [EDAs]) were the main actors in implementing activities both at office and field level. The appropriation of the methodology and the progression of training sessions of the FFS different actors strengthened the knowledge and skills of the FFS members throughout the different learning cycles. This enabled the FFS members to share and apply the different agricultural techniques and innovations for a more sustainable production. The project organized and developed training for technicians and focal points within the IDAs of each province and the EDAs at commune level. These now have the methodological tools for FFS implementation, as well as a general provincial database, facilitating the continuity of monitoring and follow-up of FFS activities in each of the project's target communes. In addition, the project created a digital monitoring platform for FFS management, with the aim to transfer this technology to the IDA.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 7 800 091

Duration
September 2017–September 2022

Resource Partner
Government of Angola

Partners
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MINAGRIF); provincial governments of Huambo, Bié and Malanje

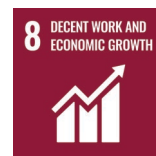
Beneficiaries
Farmers and farming households in the three target provinces (Huambo, Bié and Malanje)

IMPACT

The project contributed to increasing smallholder agriculture productivity, production and marketing for selected crops in the project areas. The process of capacity building of all the FFS stakeholders facilitated the empowerment, leadership and creation of sustainable alternatives in integrated production systems, using the participatory methodology of FFS, applying the approach “learning by doing and experimenting” and promoting decision-making in the production of main crops for food security.

ACTIVITIES

- Total of 138 281 members reached from 4 478 FFS in 79 communes of the three target provinces.
- Training provided for 105 IDA technicians at master trainer level, as well as 243 technicians and 1 663 FFS facilitators.
- 2 019 IDA, EDA and facilitators trained on FFS.
- 3 882 FFS established.
- 29 training centres/points in the three target provinces equipped to host training participants, and learning/study plots created in each centre according to FFS approach and curricula, ranging from 20 ha to a few acres in size.
- Facilitators, technicians and members of FFS involved in exchanges of experience, comprising 24 events between 2020 and 2021, involving 1 599 people.
- Total of 924 FFS graduated (from current project and MOSAP I).
- FFS 1.1 digital platform created.
- Concept note developed in 2019 on process of FFS institutionalization, and FFS institutionalization strategy revised in 2022, highlighting priorities and tasks at level of ministries, provincial governments and departments, among others.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Title

Strengthening Field Farmer’s Schools and Extensive Agriculture Services

Project Code

FAO: UTF/ANG/059/ANG
Donor: AO-ADI-3004-CS-UN

Contact

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