



CREATING JOBS AND GENERATING INCOME IN RURAL AREAS OF MOZAMBIQUE THROUGH CASSAVA PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING

Although cassava is the most widely consumed starch in Mozambique, providing up to 30 percent of daily calorie intake, the country's cassava processing industry remains weak, relying mainly on manual processing and posing a challenge for the value chain.

With a number of barriers to a sound cassava processing industry in place in the country, such as low productivity levels and poor logistics, crucial measures were needed in order to make the crop commercially viable. In this context, the project targeted the two districts of Massingir and Mabalane, Gaza Province. Its overall objective was to promote the entire cassava value chain in order to drive micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to contribute to poverty reduction through income generation opportunities in rural areas of Mozambique.

In order to achieve this, emphasis was placed on three specific objectives, namely (i) increased productivity of cassava through farmer training and the improvement of access to good planting material, (ii) improved quality of cassava production and (iii) integration of smallholder farmers into the value chain and access to the cassava market. These objectives, in turn, were to be achieved through areas such as improved post-harvest handling techniques among farmers, the facilitation of district platforms and an enhanced capacity among farmers for organizational management, storage and commercialization.



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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project introduced cassava production and processing in the districts of Massingir and Mabalane. It established community-based enterprises/farmer groups for the production of cassava planting material of good quality (in particular, material free from the highly damaging African Mosaic infestation), and enhanced farmers' knowledge of sustainable cassava production practices. A voucher system, through which farmers were issued with a paper ticket containing a pre-defined amount with which to purchase seeds, was also put in place.

In terms of capacity development, a number of training activities were carried out for the benefit of farmers and their organizations, on topics ranging from cassava processing to agribusiness.

In order to improve the quality of cassava production, farmers' post-handling techniques were improved and trainings conducted on both manual and mechanical processing.

Finally, the participation of farmers and other stakeholders in the development of the value chain was increased through their participation in a number of value chain platforms.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

EUR 728 839

Duration

July 2016 – September 2019

Resource Partners

European Union and FAO

Partner

Mozambique Institute of
Agricultural Research

Beneficiaries

1 038 producers, including
798 women, from 32 communities
across the districts of Massingir and
Mabalane in Gaza Province

IMPACT

The availability and consumption of cassava in the two target districts has increased significantly as a result of project activities. Around 30 percent of the farmers covered by the project are now able to produce planting material of good quality and free from diseases. This has increased access to planting material of good quality and in sufficient quantity for a large number of farmers. Production of cassava is now practised and viewed as a source of income and job creation. Some 32 communities covered by the project produce and consume cassava, positively impacting the food security situation of families.

ACTIVITIES

- Through training and capacity development activities, the project reached 1 038 producers, of whom 798 were women (77 percent), from 32 communities of Massingir and Mabalane.
- 195.25 ha of cassava fields established, of which 96.25 ha were harvested, producing 684.5 tonnes of cassava.
- Two cassava district platforms established (one each in Massingir and Mabalane). In total, 16 sessions were held over two years (eight for each district), attracting 186 participants (106 in Mabalane and 80 in Massingir).
- Four mechanical cassava-processing kit units purchased and set up in the two districts (two in each district).
- Voucher system put in place, allowing the sale of 134 762 cuttings by cutting producers.
- 929 farmers trained in cassava processing, 770 in the functioning of the voucher system, 331 farmers in agribusiness. In addition, 30 farmers and four technicians took part in exchange visits to the provinces of Gaza and Inhambane.
- Two practical guides (one on cassava production, the other on processing) produced to increase knowledge of techniques among farmers.
- Training carried out for farmers on both manual and mechanical processing, with a focus on subproducts (such as tapioca and manioc leaf) and the manufacture of processing kits.



Project Code

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Project Title

Enhancement of cassava value chain in Gaza Province

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