

PROJECT:	Increasing Incomes of Horticultural Smallholder Farmers (Horti-Sempre)
REGION:	Central, East & Southern Africa
COUNTRY:	Mozambique
PROJECT PHASE:	January 2017 – December 2020
FUNDING:	Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC)



RATIONALE

Agriculture is the foundation of Northern Mozambique's economy and employs over 80% of the economically active population, contributing 25% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Economic development and poverty alleviation are therefore highly dependent on agricultural growth. There is need to respond to market opportunities for selective horticultural and staple crop products where gaps exist in the local supply due to limitations in quantity, quality and seasonality. Imports from other provinces like Maputo and other foreign countries are currently filling these gaps. Some crops such as cassava and beans experience high demand and show both local and export market potential.

Mr. Jaime attends to his lettuce farm



Successful use of mini-tunnels in Northern Mozambique

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Horti-Sempre Project improves the access of local small-scale producers to relevant products and services which help them increase their capacity to produce and compete in the market. The project plays the facilitator role with targeted interventions to empower the farmers to develop business models with private sector partners.

The project is currently in its second phase and has three main components:

- Improving access to inputs and practices through upgraded quality seed varieties for horticulture (both through imports and local certified multiplication of improved new varieties), Business to Business (B2B) technology transfer and transfer of selected Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs);
- Introducing innovative and affordable irrigation solutions to increase the size of cultivated land and accessibility to water for more months in the year; and
- Improving sector competitiveness through the promotion of clusters, strengthening market linkages and active exchange on market opportunities between producers and buyers. This is in addition to introducing value added practices such as basic processing and packaging.

The project applies a Market Systems Development (MSD) approach to trigger systemic change in the target market by building on existing end-of-market opportunities.

EXPECTED PROJECT IMPACT



Increased annual net income of 25,000 smallholder farmers by 30% by supporting the growth of the horticultural sector.



Increased productivity and output quality production. Reduced seasonality of vegetable production and complementary production of selected staple crops.

TESTIMONIAL

"I had been farming lettuce on a rented plot for several years. Initially, I was only able to sell a portion of my produce and faced a lot of trader rejection due to issues like small heads and deteriorating leaves. My neighbour informed me about a business development project called Horti-Sempre that had helped farmers like me benefit from good yields. I visited a few of their farms and was quite impressed with the crop quality. I enrolled for the project trainings and learnt a lot about new tropical seed varieties, the right way to till my land, different sowing techniques, and fertilizer application among other crop management techniques. The Horti-Sempre Project linked me to a reliable seed and input supplier and provided a project agronomist who made several visits to my plantation to observe progress and offer advice. Within a short while, the difference in my harvest was noticeable. In 2017, I was able to sell my entire harvest and earned more income which I used to buy the plot I was initially renting. I have now rented another piece of land which I am using to increase my crop production. The additional income has helped me educate my children and improve my family's living standards."

Jaime Alberto | Lettuce farmer in Nikuta, Nampula

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