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The September 2022 Agriculture Working Group (AWG) meeting was co-chaired by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADER). MADER was represented through the officials from the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Fisheries (DPAP), and the meeting participants included representatives from the government (DPAP), United Nations (UN), Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM), International NGOs (ACF, AGRA, iDE and GAIN) and one from an agriculture value chain private sector company (Plexus), with a total of 31 participants.

During the meeting, Mr. Lacerda Nema, the Head of Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at DPAP shared information on *“Land Availability, access and use by the IDPs in Cabo Delgado and Nampula Province”*. From FAO – Pemba Field Office, Brasilino Salvador and Fábio de Sousa, Project Officer, Agronomist and Outreach, respectively briefed the participants through a video on training IDPs, Host Communities, Government Officials and local radio journalists on climate smart agriculture practices (Good Agriculture Practices) including basic care of small-stock farming.

Key Highlights:

- The Government through DPAP, SPAE and INGD has been allocating an average area of 0.5 hectare to the IDPs in the resettlement sites and host communities for crops production. However, the actual total land allocated to IDPs for crop production is yet to be established.
- Ensuring that IDPs have access to water for crop production is a critical longstanding challenge caused by water scarcity and the ongoing armed conflict that has increased competition for water resources among local communities.
- It is strongly recommended that a study on land availability and accessibility for IDPs and Host Communities should be undertaken in the provinces of Cabo Delgado and Nampula for better planning of crops production activities so that information such as the available average area per household, water source as well as the condition of the soil could be captured.
- Conservation Agriculture (CA) is recommended as a farming system for the IDPs and Host Communities because the possible intense use of the soil can have negative impacts in the soil and, consequently, affecting the soil fertility and productivity.
- The AWG supports the production of liquid organic fertilizers and compost using locally available material (green leaves, animal manure, black soil, charcoal left overs, rice husk, maize brans, “*piri-piri*”, tobacco) to improve the soil structure and fertility as well as prevent crops pests and diseases.
- The dissemination of Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) techniques through community radios in local languages and through lead IDPs and Host Communities farmers was deemed very critical as the language can be a barrier for knowledge generation and sharing.

Land Availability, access and use by the IDPs in Cabo Delgado Province

The total number of individuals displaced in Northern Mozambique is currently at 946 508¹ Internally Displaced Persons. All displacements are a result of the insecurity situation in northern Mozambique. The government has been demarcating plots of land, for the definitive resettlement of the displaced, including the allocation of land for farming. According to DPAP, 617 878 IDPs (147 205 households) in 43 resettlement sites rely on agriculture as the main source of livelihoods. This corresponds to 70.9 percent of the total number of IDPs reported by the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).

The Government of Mozambique through DPAP, Provincial Services of Economic Activities (SPA) and National Institute for Disaster and Risk Management (INGD) have joined forces in coordination with the humanitarian community to allocate land for crop production to IDPs. In total, 12 783 hectares was allocated in the districts of Ancuabe, Balama, Chiure, Mecufi, Metuge and Montepuez to 26 737 households (133 685 people) for the 2021/22 agriculture season campaign. For the 2022/23 agriculture season campaign an additional amount of 18 886 hectares including Namuno district has been earmarked to IDPs for crop production.

CHALLENGES

- The government cognizant of the fact that information on availability and accessibility of land for IDPs does not correspond to the actual needs.
- Lack of information on the actual land allocated to IDPs in the districts of Ibo, Macomia, Meluco, Mueda, Namuno, Palma and Macomia.
- Host Communities unwilling to share their land with IDPs for fear of misappropriation of their property, preferring to lease the land instead.
- Lack of resources to undertake a systematic review of the land available for farming, and total allocation to IDPs.

¹ <https://dtm.iom.int/mozambique>



De Sousa

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Key recommendations:

- A study on land and farm production focusing on availability, use and productivity of agricultural land is critical, with a section on land available to IDPs for crop production.
- Establishment of platforms for dialogue between the host communities and IDPs to address grievances on land issues.
- Due to the possible intensive use of land by IDPs, the practice of Conservation Agriculture (CA) is highly encouraged in order to maximize crops production while conserving and improving soil properties and productivity.
- IDP Families have been relocated land far away from water points. When targeting beneficiaries for the short cycle and main season agriculture campaign, partners should take into consideration availability of water in the production area. This is essential in order to allocate appropriate type of seeds the IDPs.



Training on Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) - Lessons Learnt

A video documentary highlighting the trainings provided to IDPs, Host Communities, government extension officers a district level and radio journalists presided the discussions led by FAO and DPAP.

In close coordination with DPAP, FAO facilitated the trainings on Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) as well as small stock farming (chickens and goats). Training participants had the opportunity to practically apply the use of readily available material such as animal manure, black soil, charcoal left overs, rice husk, maize brans, “piri-piri”, tobacco, green material such as margosa/ neem leaves, garlic and onions to produce liquid organic fertilizer.

From practical experience, composting reduced pollution, reuses organic waste, reduced the cost that would otherwise be invested in the purchase of fertilizers and more importantly, returns nutrients needed for food production back to the soil.²

In August and September 2022, a total 126 Trainers of Trainers (TOTs) lead farmers comprising of IDPs and Host Communities were trained on GAPs by FAO in close collaboration with the DPAP and District Services of Economic Activities (SDAE). Each TOT will further train 50 households to bring the total of trained IDPs and Host Communities to 6 300 households (32 500 people).

2 <https://www.fao.org/land-water/overview/covid19/composting/en/>

Seven community radio journalists participated in the training. The journalists will broadcast the acquired knowledge in local languages to IDPs and host communities with an average coverage of at least 500 households each. The total reach by the journalists is expected to be 3 500 households (17 500 people).

Key recommendations:

- Follow up trainings during the post inputs distribution phase would further enhance their skills and an opportunity to monitor progress in the application of the lessons.
- More practical skills and field visits would be essential, with expansion of agriculture assistance to include support to marketing activities.
- Refresher trainings should be continuous and tap into the participant’s enthusiasm. about what they learnt and highlighted that agriculture is their lifeline in food security and livelihood, and expressed a strong interest that.

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List of Acronyms

AWG	Agriculture Working Group
ALRP	Northern Mozambique Agriculture Livelihood Response Plan
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
ACF	Action Against Hunger
DPAP	Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Fisheries
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GAP	Good Agriculture Practices
HDP	Humanitarian Development Peace
IOM	International Organization for Migration
iDE	International Development Enterprises
INGD	National Institute for Disaster and Risk Management
IDP	Internally Displaced People
MADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSAG	Non-State Armed Groups
pH	Potential of hydrogen/Acidity
SPAЕ	Provincial Services of Economic Activities
SDAE	District Services of Economic Activities
TOT	Trainer of Trainers
UEM	Eduardo Mondlane University
UN	United Nations
WFP	World Food Program



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Contact:

FAO Agriculture Working Group

Email: AWG-Mozambique@fao.org