

Intervention:	PACDIB and PROMEC – Farmer-to-Farmer Extension System (FTF)
Country:	Mozambique, Sofala Province: Districts of Buzi, Dondo, Nhamatanda, Chibabava, Machanga
Date:	PACDIB (2000-2005) and PROMEC (2001-2007)
Objectives:	The support of agricultural development is a priority for the Austrian Development Cooperation in Mozambique. One of the concrete project objectives of the Austrian financed projects PACDIP (Projecto de Apoio aos Camponeses no Distrito do Buzi) and PROMEC (Promoção Económica de Camponeses) is to stimulate the exchange of experiences among peasant farmers and at the same time facilitate their access to innovative know-how and practices
Approach of the Intervention:	<p>The "<i>farmer-to farmer</i>" (FTF) methodology has been initially introduced in 2001 by PACDIB. After the end of PACDIB in 2005, the project PROMEC picked up the intervention idea and continued working in this area.</p> <p>FTF is a concept and methodology of work developed in South America for small-scale farmers (<i>campesino-a-campesino</i>, <i>camponês-a-camponês</i>) with the objective that the farmers organise themselves in groups and learn from each other through the exchange of experiences. To facilitate this process and to communicate with the Extension Service, the groups (generally made up of farmers belonging to the same neighbourhood and/or pursuing similar interests) are encouraged to select a "<i>promotor</i>" (volunteer extensionist) of their own, generally a group member himself, or someone living in the region and knowing the local situation well. This <i>promotor</i> (or "<i>camponês de contacto</i>", <i>contact farmer</i> as he is generally called in Mozambique) serves as link between the group and the state extension service, as well as other relevant institutions. He is given appropriate training, qualifying him to assist the group members in basic farming techniques and organisational issues. When necessary, he can call for assistance from the extension service.</p> <p>Applying this system, the extension service is in condition to reach a larger number of farmers which otherwise would not have access to support. Generally, a group assisted by a <i>promotor</i>, consists of some 15-20 members; one extensionist is capable of providing support to around 15 <i>promotores</i> or groups. PACDIB and PROMEC have also tried to encourage the groups to increasingly select women <i>promotoras</i>, with moderate success. In 2007, there are approximately 2500 individual farmers being reached by the FTF method (promoted now by public and private extension service).</p>
Benefits and Impacts:	<p>The "<i>farmer-to farmer</i>" system has started to work well (mainly in Buzi district, where the system was initially introduced by PACDIB), however, it is clear that much remains to be done. Extension methods must be improved, extension contents must respond more clearly to the groups' needs; this will require further training of extensionists and <i>promotores</i>. In emergency situations, e.g. when necessary to fight the sudden and unexpected infestation of crops, quick and efficient assistance must be provided.</p> <p>Until today, the division of labour and cooperation between PROMEC and the extensionists and <i>promotores</i> have been quite effective and well coordinated: While PROMEC, acting through one project assistant</p>

	<p>in each of the two districts, concentrated on providing information on market opportunities and on facilitating access to traders and buyers, the extensionists together with the <i>promotores</i> concentrated on assisting the farmers in their field work. PROMEC also collaborated providing regular training to extensionists and <i>promotores</i>, notably in <i>Conservation Agriculture</i> and in basic production techniques of sesame, horticulture, and beans. There is visible impact of the work of the <i>promotores</i> in the field with the groups getting assistance from a <i>promotor</i> producing higher yields and products of better quality.</p>
Lessons learned:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> regular contact and information exchange between the extensionist and the <i>promotor</i> is crucial for the functioning of the system; <input type="checkbox"/> regular meetings between <i>promotores</i> and extensionists facilitate exchange of experiences and know-how, as well as regular training; <input type="checkbox"/> linking <i>promotores</i> to farmer groups that are organised around a concrete economic activity (so-called "clubes de negócios" or <i>business clubs</i>) is a crucial support to enhance and increase their production for the market; <input type="checkbox"/> linking <i>promotores</i> to farmer groups as service providers makes the system sustainable in the long run, since the groups are able to provide some compensation or remuneration to the <i>promotor</i> for his/her work due to their enhanced and increased production; <input type="checkbox"/> a <i>promotor</i> with good all-round knowledge is an important actor who can stimulate or lead general development at the community level
Wider application:	<p>The spreading of the "farmer-to-farmer" extension system to all districts of Sofala province has been declared a priority by the Provincial Directorate for Agriculture. PROMEC has been called to collaborate to further develop and consolidate this system in the five project districts; this task will constitute a major challenge for PROMEC II. The aim is to formulate a strategy for Conservation Agriculture and the "farmer-to-farmer" extension system at the Provincial level.</p>
Implementing agency & partners	<p>Implementing Agency: H3000 Development Consult Partners: Provincial Directorate and District Departments for Agriculture in Sofala Province</p>
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