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ALTERNATIVES OF DEVELOPMENT OF NACALA CORRIDOR

The case of Agriculture of Conservation

peasant-to-peasant

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URL [HTTP://NGO-JVC.NET/JP/PROJECTS/ADVOCACY/PROSAVANA-JBM.HTML](http://NGO-JVC.NET/JP/PROJECTS/ADVOCACY/PROSAVANA-JBM.HTML)

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Background

Civil society organizations from Mozambique, Japan and Brazil are engaged since 2012 in advocacy stream for the defence of peasant's rights and food sovereignty. This engagement stems from the resistance to the advancement of ProSAVANA programme, which is a result of a triangular partnership among the government of respective countries, under allegedly objective of developing Nacala Corridor. Out of resisting to this programme, more than 20 civil society organizations have been strongly arguing and proposing alternatives model of development focused on supporting peasantry agriculture.

It was under this context, that a group of activists and peasants who are members of the Nampula Provincial Union of Peasants, in September 2016, through a fieldwork in the peasants farmlands, they collected alternatives for development of agriculture that are being implemented along Nacala Corridor. Monapo district was selected as case study, as in this district an agriculture of conservation initiative, known as MaCa (Peasant-to-Peasant Learning Methodology) is being implemented.

MaCa initiative is being implemented in Monapo under "Land, Gender and Peasantry Learning project" which is funded by Oxfam Belgic, in what the Nampula Provincial Union of Peasants, and the Cabo Delgado Union together with District Union of Monapo and Ancuabe are involved as partners. It's a three years programme, started in 2014, to be finalized in 2016 and is funded by Belgic government.

1. Nacala Corridor Context

The pressure on land and other natural resources by big investments projects have been growing in Mozambique. Ultimately, the government of Mozambique celebrated 50 agreements with big multinational cooperation under public-private partnerships¹ intended to use and control land and communities' natural resources. According to the Bank of Mozambique, a total entrance of foreign direct investments (FDI) in 2013 summed up to \$ 5.9 million, an increase of 15.8% compared to 2012, setting up Mozambique a third largest destination of FDI in Africa². In 2014, the Centre of Investments Promotion (ICP) approved 487 investment projects in an amount of \$7 102 million, exceeding \$2.8 million acquired in 2013, expecting that same trend would be reached out in 2015³.

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Large part of this already invested capital is channelized for mining, hydrocarbon exploration, agribusiness, energy and construction, with more focus in the development corridors of Beira, Nacala, and Zambeze Valley, among the six existing one. For example, the pressure on land and water, in the last 50 years, has led to a concession 1.5 million of hectares of land to more than 50 investments, many of them violating communities' human rights⁴.

As to the public policies level, the adoption of Strategic Plan for the Development of Agrarian Sector (PEDSA) and it's implementing tool, the National Investment Plan of

¹ <https://www.grain.org/article/entries/5136-os-usurpadores-de-terras-do-corredor-de-nacala>

Agrarian Sector (PNISA) aligned with the Comprehensive African Agriculture the Development Programme (CAADP), as well as, Regional Agriculture Policy (RAP), these frameworks have defined fundamental guidelines for the development of agriculture in the country, with particular focus on agribusiness.

Such investments alongside with structural programmes intended to turn development corridors economically viable, imply deep social, economic and cultural changes on communities' lives targeted under these initiatives. As impacts, there are violations of Land Law (Lei n° 19/97, of 1st October), Resettlement Regulation on Economic Activities, among other instruments.

As to the observation of international instruments level, there is violation of universal principles of rights to free, previous and well informed consultation underlined in the 169 Convention of International Organization of Labour (OIT)⁵. As results, there are intimidations over to communities that, themselves, oppose implantation of investment projects; appearance of settled food insecurity; resettlement of communities in marginal and unproductive land impeding them from meeting the human right to adequate food (HUAFA) underlined in the International Pact of People's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights⁶; change of peasants' productive systems and dispute among companies and peasants to access water. It's worth to recall that, a few number of existing studies on land grabby, women, young female and children are the most affected by social transformations as results of resettlements, open up of new farmlands far away from the residence, long distance to access water, streams, schools and others.

As to Monapo district level, in the last 5 years, several agribusiness investments were implemented and have been contributing to several conflicts on land. These are cases of Matanusca, Agro Alfa, Jacaranda among other middle and large scale investments that have been grabbing local communities land².

2. Socioeconomic Context of Monapo

Monapo district is located along Nacala Corridor, it connects Nampula City and Nacala Port. It has 3.564km² of total area and with a population of 351.012, to which 178.606 are women and 172.405 are men. The total number of habitant correspond 10% of the total number of the population of the province, which is the most populous of the country with 4,647,847 habitants. The district is divided into three administrative post, Monapo-district headquarter, Itoculo and Netia. In total the district holds 67,472 small agricultural explorations and a total cultivated area of 57,497 hectares of land³

² <https://adecru.wordpress.com/2014/10/06/camponeses-acusam-candidatos-a-presidencia-da-republica-de-marginalizarem-a-agricultura-camponesa/>

³ <http://www.ine.gov.mz/estatisticas/estatisticas-territorias-distritais/nampula/marco-de-2012/distrito-de-monapo.pdf/view>

Agriculture is the main economic activity, employing 90% of population economical active. Main crops are maize, cassava, beans, peanuts, cotton and sesame. Some sisal plantations are still operating within the district, all from colonial time.



3. Methodological Procedure, comprehensiveness on data collecting

Procedure I: Documental Analyses, the focus was on the revision and analyse of documents related to the agriculture of conservation project.

Procedure II: Upon documental revision were designed data collecting tools, particularly questionnaire for semi-structured interviews and guides for focus group of discussion.

Procedure III: At collecting data was applied in-depth interviews as one of the main quantitative approaches of information collecting. Out of focus groups of men and women, was conducted discussion with women separately in order to deepen gender relations in the productive process and in the society as a whole.

Procedure IV: direct observation was one of the technique applied, where were visited farmland of promoters of Rural Extensions, beneficiaries of the programme including paying visits to their households.

Quadro 1: Plano de Trabalho Chart 1: Work Plan

DATA	FORUM forum	LOCALIZAÇÃO localization	OBSERVAÇÃO Observation
4/9/2016	UDC-Monapo	MONAPO-HEADQUATER	Meeting with leaders of District Union of Peasants

5/9/2016	FAPRI-RAMIANE	ITOCULO	Visit horticultures farmland and meeting with members
5/9/2016	MARERENE	ITOCULO	Visit horticultures farmland and meeting with members
5/9/2016	FAPAI	ITOCULO	Visit horticultures farmland and meeting with members
6/9/2016	OCNI	ITOCULO	Meeting with members
6/9/2016	FACI-SUL	ITOCULO	Meeting with members
7/9/2016	FAPRONA	NACOLOLO	Meeting with members
7/9/2016	TUPUARA	NACOLOLO	Visit horticultures farmland and meeting with members
7/9/2016	CANACUE	CANACUE	Meeting with members
8/9/2016	RIVA-RIVA	MUCUJUA	Visit horticultures farmland and meeting with members
8/9/2016	CUTUCUA	MUCUJUA	Visit horticultures farmland and meeting with members
9/9/2016	APIOCANA	NETIA	Visit horticultures farmland and meeting with members
9/9/2016	ACANE	NETIA	Meeting with members
9/9/2016	FANE	NETIA	Meeting with members
10/9/2016	FAPAMO	MONAPO-SEDE	Visit horticultures farmland and meeting with members
10/9/2016	UDC-MONAPO	MONAPO-SEDE	Debrief and weekend

Chart 2: Data Collecting

Local	Data collecting tool	Men	%	Women	%	Total
MONAPO District	Group Discussion	206	57.7%	151	42%	357
	Extensions promotors	17	63%	10	37%	27
	Streams (assisted peasants)	114	54%	98	46%	212
Total		337	57%	259	43%	596

In total 596 people were contacted for identification of alternatives, in which 43% were women and 57% men. In the group of discussion they participated 357 singular members, in which 57,7 were men and 42% women; they participated 27 promotoros of rural extensions, to which 63% were men and 37% women that are assisting 212 streams to which 54% are men and 46% women.

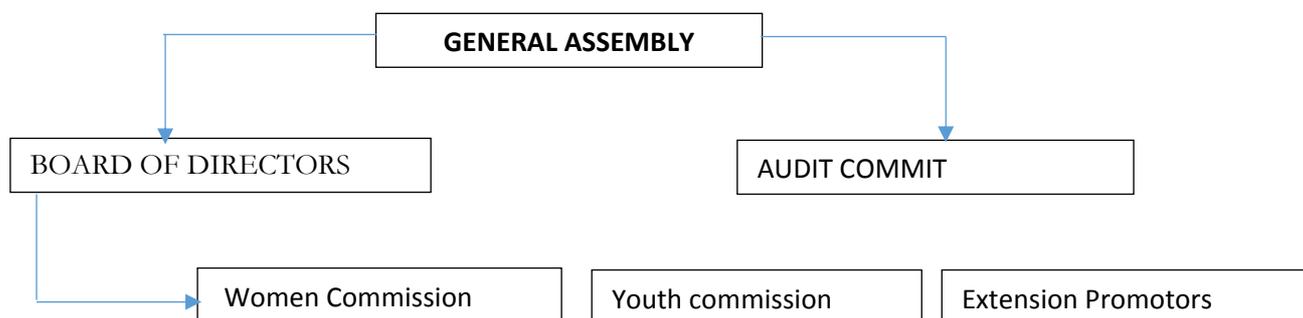
4. STUDY RESULTS

4.1. Project Approach and agriculture situation in Monapo District

The peasant-to-peasant programme has as its approach, use of an extension methodology in which trained peasants and holder of a certain agriculture practices teach other peasants how to improve the production and productivity. However, the focus of the programme is to use the agriculture of conservation and agroecology as sustainable model for achievement of food sovereign.

The Monapo district union of Peasants is composed by 7674 members, in which 5705 are men and 1969 are women integrated in 20 forum and 112 associations of peasants. The main crops produced by them are maize, cassava, peanut, beans, sesame and horticulture. Above is the structure of the District organization.

Organization chart1: *Structure of district associative organization*



The initiative peasants-to-peasants benefits 300 peasants that count with assistance of 32 Promotoros of Rural Extension, which are 14 women and 18 men. The extension promotoros are peasants with a strict knowledge on agriculture of conservation and agroecology to teach these practices to other peasants. Each promotor at average assists 10 peasants known streams.

The implementing process of this approach starts with identification of promotoros of extension, that they go through a theoretic training on the methodology peasant to peasant followed by a technical training at the Union headquarter as well as in the farmland of beneficiaries and promotoros.

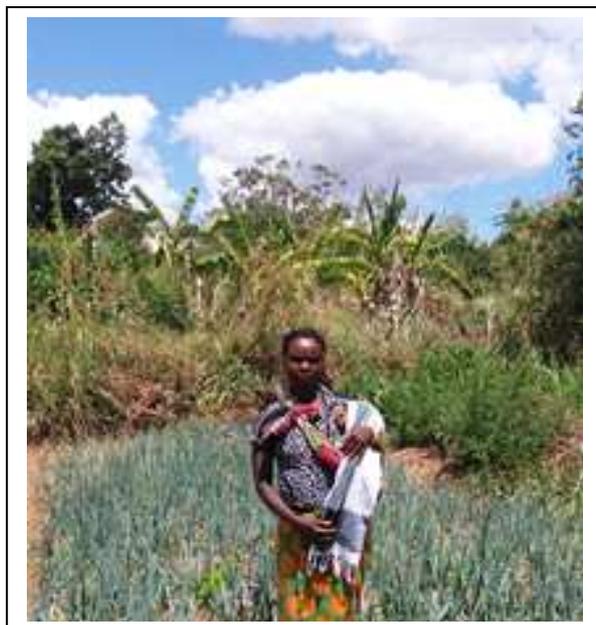
4.2. Improvement in the productive systems

Out of theoretic lessons, peasants were trained on: (i) production of natural fertilizer and repellent, (ii) conservation of soil using a dead and alive coverage (iii) rotation and intercropping system. Regarding to the fertilizer the most notable were simple tea and improved tea, which consists on using animal excrement (cow, chicken, goat, pig, whatever they have in the community), these are boiled, kept for some days and soon after applying on the plants, particular horticultures. The most used repellent is the ash soup, which consists in drawing ash in hot water, adding sop, after a day of fermentation it is applied on the plan and it keeps mosquitos away from the plant. The dead coverage consists on spreading dry grass over the farmland before planting with the objective of keeping humidity, eliminating weird herbs and increasing soil fertility. The alive coverage has the same utility, however, this consists in keeping plants alive in the soil as mucuna (a type of beans with long leaves and creeping) that contribute for maintain oxygen and soil fertility. The most difficult compost for peasants to use is *boil*, it has contain onerous ingredients for peasants as the use of green banana, sugar and bran remained from bear production and wild fruits.

It was seen that in all local Fórum the beneficiaries are adopting practices that have been taught, however, the same beneficiaries are applying those that are financial sustainable such as intercropping, rotation of crops, dead coverage, alive coverage and ash soup. Other fertilizers that require an investment from peasants they do not use, a small number of those peasants could be of those that would have sugar to apply on fertilizer in the farmland instead of using for household consumption.

Although it is a dry year all over the country, as result of El Nino weather event, in Monapo, peasants that applied this technique, they succeeded to harvest maize and beans from the first campaign 2015/2016 on the contrary to those who did not use. However, even those who applied this technique, they did not in their all farmland as it was the first time for them, in another words, they were testing, however, the plot that they used was reduced, however, the results was good. Equally the number of beneficiaries of this initiative is still reduced, in another words 300, whereas the total number of member of the union is 7674, in another words, it only covers 3,9% of the member.

Mrs Domingas Domingos she is one of the beneficiary of the project, she is a member of Tupuara Forum, in the locality of Nacololo. She is 35 years old, married and mother of 5 children. In the second season of 2015/2016 campaign, the horticulture season, she produced onion and cabbage. In her farmland, she applied *boil* technique and ash soup. In the dryland production, she produced 750kg of maize, 150kg of sesame and 50 of beans (jeijao cute). With the selling of 125kg of sesame at the price of 50,00Mt she succeeded 6250 MZN. Part of this money was used to buy domestic appliance. “This new type of cultivation has brought benefits for all peasants that are using and following Extension Promotors guides”



Amelia Salazar 34 years old, married with 6 children, 3 boys and 3 girls, she lives in Netia and she is a member of Cane Forum. She has 3 hectares of land that she uses with her husband. In the last agriculture campaign, she learnt to use ash soup and simple tea for the crops of maize, beans olocue (lentilha). By having applied these two techniques for the first time, she produced 1000kg of maize, 4000kg of beans olocue (lentilha), 300kg of mapira, 600kg of beans cute and 300kg of pea. With the selling of what she produced, she obtained 140.000MZN. With this amount, she bought couple-bed with mattress, plastic chairs, a motorbike and plastic appliance. The motor bike, instead of being used by her husband it used by her two daughters one aged 15 that she is at grade 9 and other aged 12, she attending grade 8, they study 10 km away from home. “I am very satisfied with these techniques and for the next year we mean to apply all over our farmland, they brought betterment in our life”.



5.3. Agriculture Supplies and Commercialization

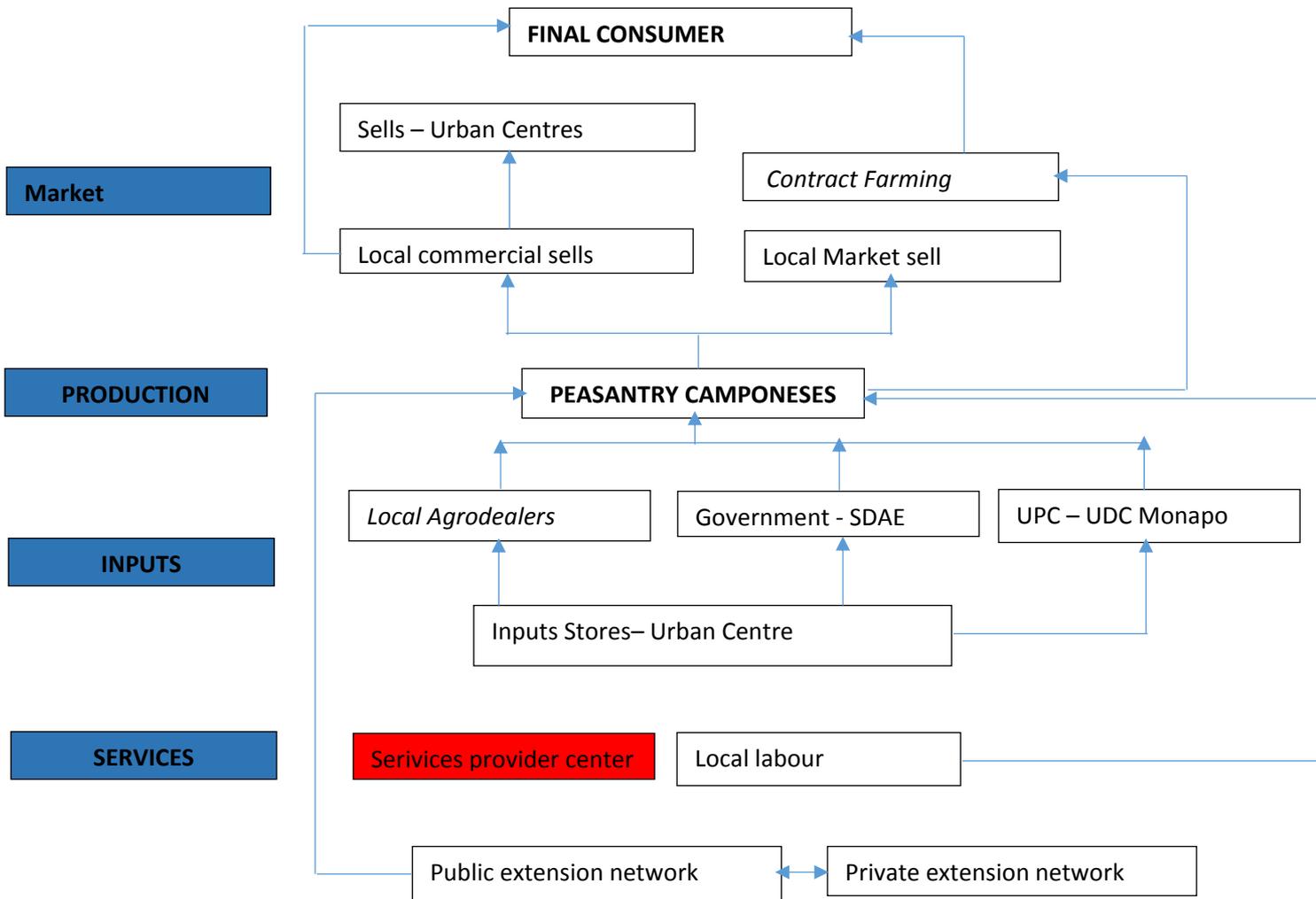
One of the challenge that peasants face has to do with the access to agriculture inputs, particular on the improved seed of maize and horticulture. Seeds are bought locally, however, due to the long distance from some communities to the city, Monapo village and Nampula city where are found horticulture seed stores, the seeds use to be highly expensive when they are available in the community.

A different situation is on the products, once there is a long distance for commercialization of products, associated with high cost of transport, peasants are forced to sell locally at low price comparatively those from Monapo headquarters and Nampula city. Generally, peasants sells their products at local open market, which happens once a week in some communities, to local buyers that they resell the products in Nampula or Nacala city.

Main commercial crops that peasants have been getting more benefits from are maize, sesame, beans bóer, beans olocue (lentilha). Crops such as sesame, beans are exported by big retailers to India mainly, one of the biggest consumer of beans.

The schematic below shows the value chain of main commercial crops associated to peasants. Briefly, it elaborates specifically the planning of production, agriculture inputs, services as per production and commercialization. Other components of the value chain such as agro-processing, practically, it is inexistent among peasant's crops produced by peasants and other local beneficiaries. This value chain refers specially to the main crops commercialized which are maize, sesame, beans as well as traditional crops of cotton grown for centuries that some peasants are producing through contract peasantry.

Organization chat 2: *Value Chain*



5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In Monapo district, in spite of structural difficulties, peasants have been developing initiatives that fit with their systems of production and have been improving their production and life conditions. Programmes such as methodology peasant-to-peasant, although they are localized and small, represents a mirror of these alternatives. Investing in this type of technology, represent a clear alternative to ProSAVANA programme. However, one of additional challenges has to do with the access to market by peasants.

Accessing market in sustainable way by small producers is a structural challenge and not circumstantial. Any intervention seeking to respond to this problem, out of understanding the market setting and form of integrating producers, must regard the structure of producer's organization vs the structure of the market. In a market economy, correcting the structure of the market is an impossible task, even if it was conducted by the state, however, the solution lays on the revision of peasant's production structure so that it may fit and integrate in the existing market. Generally main recommendation of this data collection are:

- ✚ If Japanese and Mozambican organization were to present alternative models to ProSAVANA, they would, strength implementation of programme with similar approach to the “Learning Methodology peasant-to-peasant”, however, some issues should be taken it account: (i) address the programme to specific communities; (ii) introduce a component of commercialization and advocacy (iii) work in gender to ensure that men and women have same benefits.
- ✚ More than changing the structure of the district or provincial unions, it's recommended that similar to the commission of young, women, rural promoters and advocacy agents, should be established commissions of commercialization and selling in the district that foster agriculture commercialization.
- ✚ At provincial level, it's recommended, establishment of agriculture commercialization unity comprised by a business manager and a partnership promotor, that must work as hand adviser and promotor of commercialization commission in the district.
- ✚ In the context of organization of production, plans for simple productions must be conceived before the agriculture campaigns.

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