



Science, Citizenship and Humanity

ACADEMIC ACTION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL COMMUNITIES

Famer's Associations in Nampula Angry with the implementation of Model II of ProSAVANA

(Nampula, 3th December, 2014) The famer's associations in the district of Ribaué, Nampula province, are angry and revolted since the first semester of the current year with the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and the Coordination of ProSAVANA. These are Maria da Luz Guebuza Association¹ and Association of Namuali², both full members of Nacaroane Forum, comprised by 13 associations. These two associations had been selected to accommodate the implementation of Model II of Extension and Model Project (PEM) of ProSAVANA program.

The ProSAVANA PEM contemplates several models making a whole of operational subprojects with objective of directing the agrarian extension services turned up to the insertion of famers, medium and huge famers in the productive chain of Agribusiness, particular in the value chain of soy and vegetables. The PEM model II, as subproject, aims presumably to cultivate and conceive assistance to famers associations in Nacala Corridor and it's currently being implemented in Ribaué at Maria da Luz Association and Association of Namuali.

¹ Associação Maria da Luz Guebuza

² Associação Agropecuária de Namuali

ADECRU, till then, found out that the fund for PEM currently root from ProSAVANA Development Initiative Fund – PDIF, which initially operated under a packet of 750.000\$ rooted from Counterpart fund (Mikaeri Shikin) which aggregate funds from food Japanese assistance (KR) framed in the Official Development Assistance (ODA). Information collected by ADECRU discloses further that this nature of projects normally is developed under Japanese cooperation when facing polemic initiatives, where communities hang together on resistance as the case of ProSAVANA. Its implementation is aimed to seek sympathy and legitimacy of the project in the communities in order to advance with ProSAVANA afterward. As to Japan side, this strategy is been often used by the Japanese government in the development of nuclear energy, as it was the case of Fukushima.

In contact with militants of Academic Action for the Development of Rural communities (ADECRU) in Nacala Corridor, members of Maria da Luz Guebuza Association and Association of Namuali, they narrate that all started when the coordination of ProSAVANA visited the two associations in their fields with the intention of making a mobilization and propaganda of ProSAVANA project. At the occasion, the ProSAVANA team explained that this program will improve the production of small famers and promised to give motor pump for each association to facilitate the irrigation, fertilizers, agricultural input and training if the associations accepted to work with ProSAVANA.

The initial problems emerged after handing over merely a motor pump for both associations, although these are located in different communities (10 km from one other). Equally, the associations noticed at the occasion that the motor pump was given in loan terms for two years (2014-2016), in what the two associations should pay 60.000MT divided equally. Furthermore, the associations received two sacks of fertilizer so that they can produce onion, without a deep knowledge of this partnership, which made the 40 active members of Maria da Luz Guebuza Association only 6 accepted ProSAVANA assistance.

“The ProSVANA people are not serious they came with false promises, while indeed their core intention was to conduct study in our fields. We have been seeing them

entering respectless in our fields, they draw sample of soil and water to conduct study. Now we understand that they don't want to help us, but they want to study our land," assured one of the participants.

The Maria da Luz Gubuza leadership members suspect that the ProSAVANA team is running experiences or conducting secret research in their field without authorization and telling the purpose of the research, *"they don't telly us anything about their plan, we merely notice stranger movements here in our fields, sometimes they come and starts measuring water, sometimes they walk around in our field drawing measures, they don't tell us what they do",* said one of the leaders.

"We accepted to work with ProSAVANA because they promised us a motor pomp, something that we never had before. They promised to give us new technologies, prepare our land but they didn't do. If someone tells us in the presence of our government to burn this land with the argument that it will increase the productivity, we will burn it. They take advantage of our lack of knowledge and our full respect to government to make us their captive. Now we feel that we are captive and the worst is that we don't know how to get out from, we are regret by having received their motor pomp, we warn the other associations not to accept, even they come with the government representatives" said a woman, one of the famers leader.

Regarding to the payment of motor pomp, the two associations are reticent to the fulfilment of the given deadline as a lot of conditions such as availability of agriculture inputs, provision of extension services and access to market were not assured so that the production could flow as usually. The Association of Namuali underlines that ProSAVANA shows itself not beneficial to the farmers which mostly rely on agriculture to invest in education for their children and for the family sustainability. It alleges not to be the programme that farmers need to increase their production, increase the income and improve the quality of life, promoting sovereign food. In the voice of one of the member of Association of Namuali *"this program will just bring disgrace to us, it will take our land".*

ProSAVANA is a triangular cooperation program among three governments (Mozambique, Brazil and Japan) which allow Brazil and Japan to acquire more than 10 million hectares of land from the government of Mozambique to be held by huge Brazilian and Japanese agribusiness companies (monoculture of soy, maize, sunflower, cotton) in the north of Mozambique, along the so called Nacala Development Corridor, with strong focus in 19 districts of Nampula, Niassa and Zambezia.

This program is strongly rejected by movements from the field, communities in Nacala Corridor, Religions Congregations, Civil Society Organization, activist and academics that in May 2013 demanded, in an Open Letter to Detain and Reflect urgently the ProSAVANA Program addressed to the President of Mozambique, Brazil and Prime Minister of Japan, that could be taken “all necessary precautions for immediate suspension of all actions and projects in the tropical savanna of Nacala Development Corridor in the scope of implementation of ProSAVANA program”.

As a result of resistance from the three governments in installing a mechanism of democratic dialogue, inclusive and transparent, the social movements and Civil Society Organizations, in 02th June, 2014 they hardened their positions and resistance by launching the No ProSAVANA Campaign. The campaign has as its objective to construct a public fight agenda to detain and paralyze all actions and projects currently running in the name of the ProSAVANA program.

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