

IN BRIEF...

Proagri – The public SWAP in Agriculture in Mozambique

Sida's overall goal is to improve the quality of life of poor people. To reduce and defeat poverty is regarded both as an end in itself and as a means of creating a more secure and peaceful world for both individuals and the global community as a whole.

In Mozambique the majority of the poor live in rural areas. The rural poor are substantially poorer than the urban poor.

Reduction of rural poverty

Improving the living conditions in rural areas is a priority for Sida in Mozambique. In the short term, efforts are concentrated on improving agriculture and trade based on agriculture. In the longer term Sida supports the development of agro-industry and processing based on both specialisation and diversification.

With the above overall goal in mind, Sweden signed an agreement with Mozambique to support agricultural and rural development in 2002–2004. This support will be channelled through the Ministry of Agriculture's sector programme Proagri (SEK17m and SEK18m for 2003 and 2004 respectively). The support of a related private sector programme, <Malonda>, has also been agreed to. Sida previously supported DINAGECA, a project involved in land registration and cadastre, which has now been incorporated into Proagri.

Proagri is the first functioning SWAP (Sector Wide Approach) in Mozambique. On a sector level, the

Ministry of Agriculture and approximately ten other donors (participating partners) are anxiously monitoring its performance in regular policy meetings. On a programme level, the Proagri working group meets every week while the permanent monitoring groups make several field visits throughout the year.

In a recent evaluation of Proagri, it was shown that it is possible to reform public administration in Mozambique. Transparency, ownership and decentralisation have been the central questions. Proagri has up until now focused on the necessary institutional reform in the public part of agricultural sector. Phase 2 will be directed more towards the actual outputs supporting the strategy for poverty alleviation as described in the <PARPA>.

The public sector of Mozambique will continue to receive outside support. It is important, however, to acknowledge that the public sector is not the only factor in the sustainable rural development of Mozambique.

The private sector, NGOs and civil society are also important. In this regard, Proagri has already been shown to provide excellent opportunities for dialogue at sector level.

The current drought in southern Africa has been the worst in this region for twenty years. Mozambique, however, has been struck less than its neighbouring countries. Food support to the estimated 650'000 affected people began early and is still continuing, mainly through the World Food Programme. At the same time the Ministry of Agriculture is trying to mitigate the effects of the drought by co-ordinating the distribution of seed of fast-growing crops that are less dependent on regular rainfall. The planting of cassava and sweet potatoes is also being promoted for this reason.

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



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