

Project summary

Improved capacity for affordable quality seed production and utilization in the Zambezi Valley



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The Zambezi Valley comprises four provinces in the Central Region of Mozambique: Tete, Manica, Sofala and Zambézia. The region is home of 43% of the Mozambican population, and despite its extremely rich natural resources poverty is widespread.

Limited agricultural production

Most rural people make a living in agriculture and most of them are (women) smallholder farmers depending on the production they manage to achieve (e.g. millet, sorghum, maize, cassava, sweet potato). These farmers are facing several constraints that [limit their productivity and agricultural production](#). Often good quality, certified seed, at the right time and in sufficient quantity is lacking, and that is a major constraint to acquire a proper income and achieve food security. More than 90% of the smallholder farmers depend on their own harvest for seed for the next crop, or on seed from the informal market.

Education and training gap

The development of a sustainable seed system, to produce affordable good quality seeds, strongly relies on [skilled and relevant professionals](#), women and men, at all levels of the seed value chain: plant

Title: Improved capacity for affordable quality seed production and utilization in the Zambezi Valley (NICHE-MOZ-230)

Start: 1 September 2015

End: 31 August 2019

Client(s): Nuffic

Budget: 4,500,000 Euro

Partners: Royal Tropical Institute (KIT); Aeres Group; Zambezi Valley Development Authority (ZVDA)

Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (CDI) is the knowledge broker of Wageningen University & Research. We foster and contribute to sustainable and inclusive food systems through actions in four specified and interlinked focus areas: Agriculture and Markets, Climate and Environment, Food and Nutrition, and Governance and Partnerships. Our staff has the unique combination of substantive knowledge, an international network and excellent process management qualities.

producers, seed growers, seed conditioners, seed distributors and farm retailers, and (small) farmers (seed end users).

Education and research on seed topics, at secondary and post-secondary schools, are poor and nearly inexistent. Training of e.g. breeder scientists, seed technicians, professionals for seed companies on hybrid seed development and production is urgently needed. A seed sector curriculum including e.g. seed system diversity, seed value chain development as well as seed production and technology and quality control would bring [improvement to the education in the sector](#).

With improved education and training at the required levels, and enhanced coordination and planning, establishing priorities (based on needs assessment), a seed sector targeting the needs of (women) smallholder farms could emerge. At the same time, there is a large need to update practical knowledge, skills and attitudes on seed sector development and look at seed in a more systemic manner. Extension training and services, short courses for smallholder (women) farmers and mid-career professionals could be developed to address this need.

Integrated development of the seed sector

The project aims to enhance integrated development of the seed sector by building capacity through education, training and action-research, contributing to inclusive economic growth and enhancing food and nutrition security.

By the end of the implementation period the organisations participating in this project will:

- have the capacity to develop, implement and maintain programs for innovative gender sensitive education and training, action-research and service supply or agribusiness, focusing the seed value chain;
- promote and disseminate new processes of inspection and certification;
- deliver graduates (women and men) and run business and extension advisory services that respond to the demands of the labour market and/or generate self-employment in the agribusiness sector in the Zambezi Valley; and they will
- establish, extend and consolidate partnerships with the private sector for input and output supplies in the seed value chains.

Seed producers, smallholder farmers, **in particular women**, students at the partner institutions and other stakeholders of the agribusiness and seed sector in the region and/or abroad are indirect beneficiaries of the project.



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