

PROMOTING RURAL INVESTMENT IN SMALLHOLDER ENTERPRISES (PRISE)

CONTRIBUTION FROM IMPERIAL TOBACCO UK:

FIELD RESULTS FOR 2009/10



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BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

The Government of Mozambique (GoM) acting through Centro de Promoção da Agricultura (CEPAGRI) under the Ministerio da Agricultura and Instituto para a Promoção de Exportações (IPEX) under the Ministry of Industry and Commerce has initiated a program called "Promoting Rural Investment in Smallholder Enterprises (PRISE)". PRISE emerged from the recognition that smallholder farming has great potential to raise the productivity of agriculture across Mozambique, while simultaneously impacting people's livelihoods. The urgency to act was galvanized by a concerted effort from both ministries to form a strong coalition of public and private sector partners to tackle the complexity of the challenge.

The primary objective of PRISE is to achieve sustainable increases in smallholder farm incomes by improving and diversifying the production, processing and marketing of agricultural produce. Targeted interventions will integrate vital environmental, gender, and health related components to ensure sustainability and synergistic impacts on livelihoods. This objective will be addressed by tackling challenges across the entire production and marketing chain. Key intervention areas are: a) Strengthen the supply chain to enhance access to production, environmental, and health related inputs by smallholder farmers; b) Increase farm productivity and diversification by transforming subsistence cultivation into profitable business enterprises based on existing knowledge systems and market demands for selected high value commodities; c) Develop the organizational structure of farmers to command a balanced presence in agri-business and marketing; d) Expand and develop the market chain to increase farmer incomes by i) encouraging investment by agro-dealers, processors and traders and by ii) enhancing sales of produce at higher prices with lower production costs; e) Promote environmental stewardship by integrating extension & training services on sustainable agricultural practices and natural resource management; and f) Address cross-cutting social issues of gender inequality and health needs with a focus on i) creating opportunities for women and ii) reducing the incidence of common diseases to improve and sustain livelihoods.

PRIORIZED INTERVENTION AREA FOR 2009/10 WITH FUNDING FROM IMPERIAL TOBACCO UK

During the period 2009/10, funding from Imperial was used to support the achievement of one key objective of PRISE, namely: Promote environmental stewardship by integrating extension & training services on sustainable agricultural practices and natural resource management. To achieve this objective, the following activities were carried out:

1. Promote homestead planting of trees for fruit, fuel, and building material to meet the diverse needs of households and to alleviate the problem of deforestation in the targeted district sites of Mozambique.
2. Introduce improved kitchen stoves to reduce wood demands for cooking using a model that can be made from local materials by one adult in 2 hours with a wood savings of 35-50%.

3. Promote conservation agriculture (CA) with crop rotations, organic manures and simple agroforestry systems on both rainfed and irrigated lands a) to reduce problems of water-runoff, soil compaction, and loss of valuable top soil, b) to improve soil fertility, c) to produce higher and more stable crop yields, and d) to reduce labor and production costs.

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

The program was implemented in Tsangano district in Tete Province, targeting resource poor farmers both tobacco and non-tobacco growers.

The report under review gives a brief outline of activities carried out and results produced during the period July 2009 to June 2010 with **Table 1** summarizing the results.

2009/10 FIELD RESULTS (see Table 1 for result by practice)

Awareness Campaigns

Since the program was new in the area, TLC field extension staff carried out several awareness campaign meetings with the following objectives:

- Introduce the program to the community
- Solicit support from community leaders
- Provide a forum to discuss main challenges facing the people and reach a consensus on the priority interventions and a common approach
- Draw up plans of action including definition of roles and responsibilities by each concerned party.

The table below summarizes the number of sensitization meetings held in the area on the 4 key interventions. In total, 190 meetings were conducted involving 2585 men and 2470 women.

Topic	No. of Meetings	Participation		
		Men	Women	Total
Forestry and mud stoves	130	2345	1920	4265
Irrigation and conservation agriculture	60	240	550	790
Total	190	2585	2470	5055

Beneficiary Participation

A total of 1,507 households in 65 villages participated in the project activities during the period. Female participation in the program was 35 %. Participation was very good in the area due to the sound extension approach that was being used by TLC field coordinators. Farmer to farmer extension was also instrumental increasing outreach. In addition, TLC runs a bi-weekly program on the local radio station featuring messages that range from environmental

stewardship to sustainable agriculture which has attracted many households to adopt the practices.

Table 1: 2009/10 Results

Activity	Targets	Results
Overall Participation		
No. of villages		65
No. of villagers		1,507
Man		976
Women		531
Tree Planting		
Tree seedlings raised (#)	500,000	533,000
Total of Outplanted (all types) (#)	500,000	512,830
Natural Tree Regeneration		
No of villages		2
No. of villagers		4
Area (ha)		6
Mud Stoves		
Mud stoves constructed (#)	250	192
No. of villages		18
No. of clubs		26
Male		4
Female		188
Treadle Pump Irrigation		
No. of villages		4
No. of treadle pumps		47
Area planted (ha)		7.6
Male		38
Female		9
Conservation Agriculture		
No. of villages	5	3
No. of participants	50	50
Area covered (ha)	10	5

Note: Shaded cell means not applicable or activity did not have a target

Reforestation Program

- The target was to raise and out-plant 500,000 tree seedlings but the actual number raised was 533,000 with 512,830 out-planted representing 106% and 102% achievement, respectively. The average survival rate is over 85% due to use of healthy seedlings and timely out-planting in well prepared pits. The number of seedlings raised was more by over 33,000 due to the fact that households had used recycled polythene tubes. Generally, households have highly welcomed the intervention particularly considering the level of deforestation in the area.
- On natural woodland regeneration, 6 hectares of village forest area were under management involving 2 villages. There is growing interest in the practice due to ease of establishment. In this regard, more area will be put under natural woodland management in subsequent years.
- On reduced wood use, 192 households in 18 villages installed and used fuel-efficient wood stoves. TLC is collaborating with Ripple Africa (a UK-registered NGO) to test a more cost-effective and easy method of constructing kitchen stove.

Conservation Agriculture

Conservation Agriculture (CA): The plan for 2009/10 was to reach 50 households of which all were reached with a total area of 5 hectares. The high performance is attributed to an approach that targeted households benefitting that could afford fertilizers, particularly tobacco farmers in which TLC provided maize seed and herbicides while farmers bought the fertilizers on their own or through other projects. The good performance was also contributed by TLC leveraging resources from other projects, particularly the project being run jointly with CIMMYT. The practice has had the biggest impact as farmers have experienced an increase in yield due to weed control and moisture conservation besides the saving in labour. TLC plans to work with Mozambique Leaf Tobacco and CIMMYT to demonstrate CA under tobacco. Adoption of CA in tobacco would greatly contribute towards reduction in child labour due to reduced labour demand particularly for ridging and weeding.

Irrigation

The only practice promoted during the year was treadle pump irrigation. A total of 47 farmers (38 men and 9 women) adopted the practice. Total area grown to a variety of irrigated crops was 7.6 hectares. Crops grown were beans, maize, onions, tomatoes and other leafy vegetables. There is a high demand for vegetables in Tete mainly due to the opening of the new Vale coal mine. TLC has had discussions with the mine officials with the intention of making farmers access this potential market.

CONCLUSION

The achievement during the period has been very impressive given the late start arising from difficulties experienced in getting PRISE on the ground. To-date, contributions from Imperial rank the highest and have helped to lay the foundation for more interest from other partners. More farmers have shown willingness to participate in the various interventions offered by the project. At the moment, many villagers are visiting TLCM offices requesting the organization to support them in their respective villages.