

FEED THE FUTURE MOZAMBIQUE IMPROVED SEEDS FOR BETTER AGRICULTURE (SEMEAR)

Who are we?

SEMEAR is a five year project that builds upon years of USAID support to applied agricultural research, technology transfer and related capacity building. The activity uses win-win public-private partnership approaches to disseminate improved legume seeds and complementary crop management practices developed under the USAID funded Platform for Agricultural Research and Technology Innovation (PARTI). Through PARTI partnerships, more than 27 varieties of common bean, cowpea, groundnut, pigeon pea and soybean were released. Most of the varieties are drought tolerant, resistant to endemic pests and diseases, have end-user preferred traits, and show significant increases in yields on farmers' fields. Led by IITA, SEMEAR is a consortium involving two other CGIAR (Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research) centers, CIAT and ICRISAT, all working together with IIAM.

What is the current situation of agriculture in Mozambique?

Agriculture is the backbone of Mozambique's economy and over 80% of the total population depend on agriculture for food, income, and employment. According to the National Statistics Institute of Mozambique, in 2010 agriculture generated approximately 23% of the gross national product, suggesting low returns to labor. Therefore, accelerating agricultural growth is a key means of eradicating poverty and increasing food security in rural areas where poverty is widespread.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Safety (MASA) is promoting the production of legumes for consumption and cash generation, and also encouraging crop diversification to enhance food security and improve system productivity and resilience. SEMEAR directly aligns with the national agriculture development strategy which aims to create a shared vision for the key actors within the sector, and establish a harmonized framework that will guide decisions, deal with issues that affect investor confidence and speed up sustainable competitiveness.

What do we want to achieve?

The overall goal of SEMEAR is to increase the adoption of improved technologies, income, and food security of smallholder farmers in identified Feed the Future Zones of Influence (FTF ZOI). The project will specifically increase the production and supply of breeder, pre-basic, basic, and certified seeds of common beans, cowpea, groundnut, pigeonpea, sesame and soybean in the major FTF ZOI and strengthen the national seed systems.

Moreover, SEMEAR will scale-up and enhance the adoption of improved varieties and best management practices in the FTF ZOI using participatory approaches; and enhance national policy dialogue on seed and fertilizer supply.



Prime partner:

IITA - International Institute for Tropical Agriculture

Consortium partners:

CIAT- International Center for Tropical Agriculture

ICRISAT- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics

IIAM - Agricultural Research Institute of Mozambique

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How are we making it happen?

The project is to use a win-win PPP approach to enhance the demand for certified seeds and scale up adoption of improved technologies. Moreover, SEMEAR is establishing demonstration plots at strategic locations to increase awareness and demand for new varieties along with appropriate crop management practices. The basic seed is being fed into a network of certified seed producers that include seed companies and community-based seed out grower schemes to produce 10,000 tons of certified seed during the five-year project period. The project is also developing soil fertility and crop suitability maps for the FTF ZOI.

Who are we working with?

SEMEAR is creating numerous partnerships with the public and private sectors. The project is also linking key actors in the seed sector to:

- Source different categories of seeds, other inputs and market;
- Discuss issues related to seed production and delivery, emerging matters and eminent problems within the seed value chains; and
- Develop solutions to improve competitiveness, profitability and sustainability of the sector.

Capacity strengthening of partners is a major component of the project in order to enhance productivity without degrading the natural resource base.

Geographic coverage: Nampula, Tete, Zambezia and Manica Provinces.

Major targets (2015 – 2020):

- At least 100,000 beneficiary households will have increased income and improved food security in the SEMEAR targeted districts;
- 715 tons of basic seed made available to IIAM seed unit and certified seed producers;
- 88,7 tons of breeders and pre-basic seed of target crops produced and made available to seed multipliers;
- 10,000 tons of certified seed made available to farmers through public private partnerships with seed companies, community-based seed producers, farmers associations and stakeholders;
- At least 10,200 people (farmers, extension agents and seed inspectors) trained;
- Gross margin for the target crops improved in the FTF ZOI.



Having access to improved seed is very important because it allows me to multiply seed and use it in the future and also to sell to local farmers. With the revenue I will purchase one goat or cow to remind me that it “emerged from my farm”.

Ricardina Jorge, Nametil (Nampula Province)

Demo-plots are useful to make comparisons (...) nowadays we know how to calculate the returns per hectare, for example, now I can produce 2 tons of soy per ha using improved seed. I'm using the revenue to expand the size of my farm year after year and now I have my personal means of transportation and my own house.

Armando Catxava, Gurué (Zambézia Province)

