

# Getting back to basics: creating impact-oriented bean seed delivery for the poor (and others)

## Experience of Seed Production With Smallholder Farmers in Mozambique

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### CHALLENGES

The engagement of the country in the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) put the problem of hunger, undernourishment, preservation of natural resource base, improved education and sanitation at the top of agenda of the government and the civil society. The first overall challenge of the country is to sustain Rural Development, in order to generate new local income opportunities, increase income for poor farmers contribute to increase food supplies to urban areas. The second challenge is to achieve food security in urban areas, through the increase of productivity obtained with the use of good quality seed. The third challenge is that the seed commercial companies do not show interest to produce seeds of OPVs.



### MAIN RESULTS

1. The involvement of smallholder farmers in PVS trials showed them interest in the program of seed production.
2. Medium level farmers understand better the issue of seed and their importance for agriculture productivity than the small ones
3. Linkage of seed production with market is crucial for the success.

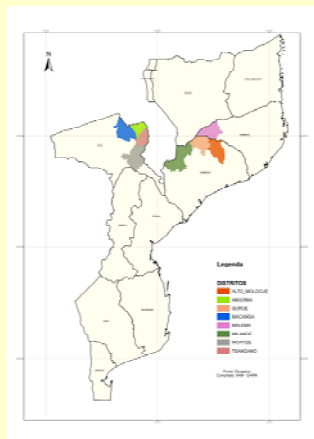


### OBJECTIVE

To engage smallholder farmers in on-farm seed production, in order to have a sustainable and easy way of getting improved seed.

### METHODOLOGY

Through PVS, farmers were exposed to new high yielding varieties and promising lines. Farmers made their selection based on different criterias, such as high yielding, growth habit, resistance to pests and diseases, market preference, etc. Smallholder farmers and medium farmers/associations received one or two varieties/lines. The area planted varied from 0,5 ha to 2,0 ha. Basic crop management was taught to all farmers. Seed production was done in some districts of Tete, Zambezia and Nampula Provinces (see map above).



Districts involved in PVS trials and on-farm seed production

### LESSONS LEARNT

1. Poor small farmers do not show interest for commercial seed production
2. Best strategy for medium farmers is give one variety each farmer. Given more, there is high risk of mixtures
3. Before involving farmers, training is extremely important
4. PVS is good way to expose farmers to different bean varieties and to create awareness
5. Farmers' seed producers need to be continuously assisted.

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