

Finland Invests in Small-Scale Farmers in Sofala and Zambezia

In its search for more direct and effective ways of empowering Mozambican small-scale farmers, Finland signed this week a contract with ADPP Mozambique on the establishment of over 300 small-scale farmer associations, or *Farmers' Clubs*. The program will reach over 14,000 direct beneficiaries in the districts of Namacurra and Nicoadala in Zambezia province and in the districts of Maringue and Caia in Sofala province.

“The objective of this intervention is to provide the members of the *Farmers' Clubs*, and especially women, with the necessary tools to increase their agricultural production and the productivity of their fields. This will improve their food security and allow them to produce extra income as well,” explained Seija Toro, Ambassador of Finland.

The budget of the program is of EUR 8 million, corresponding to approximately MZM 344 million for the four-year period 2014-2018.

Based on an approach of full consolidation of human rights, the program will also support the target communities in the areas of micro-finance, health, and water and sanitation. As to the areas of market access and selling of products, ADPP Mozambique will be assisted by SNV, a Dutch NGO specialized in the area. It is expected that this intervention will help to convince Mozambicans, and especially young people, about the promising prospects that agriculture can offer them in the future in terms of income and professional development.

ADPP Mozambique has been a partner of Finland for 20 years in the area of development in Mozambique, and especially in the sector of education. The current program complements the support to rural development that Finland has been providing during the past few years in these two provinces and forms part of its contribution to the implementation of the strategies and investment plans of the Government of Mozambique in the sector of agriculture.

This year, Finland's development assistance to Mozambique is of approximately USD 30 million. Most of it is directed to General Budget Support, education and good governance.