

AGRICULTURE EXTENSION

SEPTEMBER 2015 – AUGUST 2016

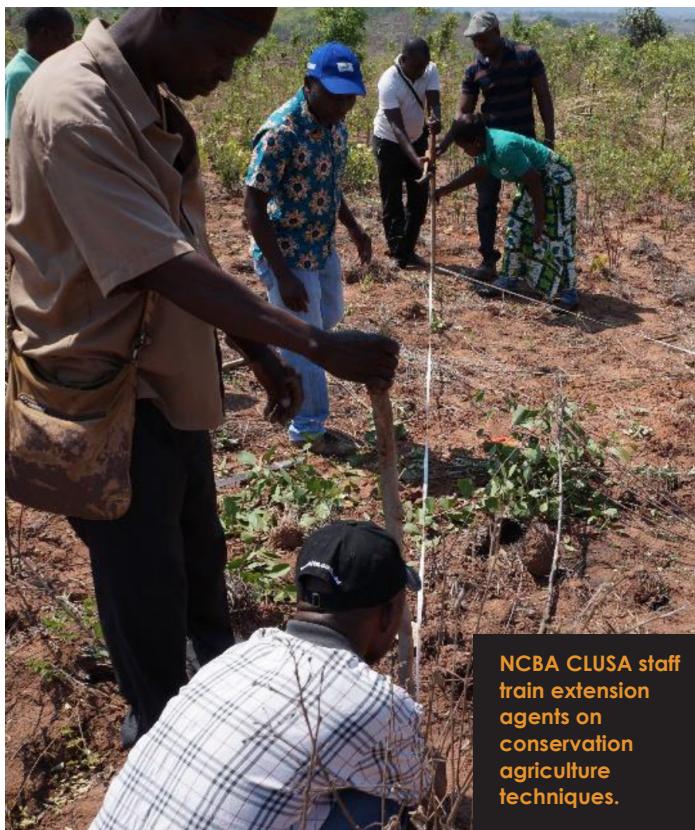
FUNDED BY:

Portucel Mozambique
\$316,964



TARGETS

FARMERS TRAINED:	3,000
TOTAL BENEFICIARIES:	24,000
INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY BY:	50 %
DEMONSTRATION PLOTS SET UP:	135



NCBA CLUSA staff train extension agents on conservation agriculture techniques.

AGRICULTURE EXTENSION PROJECT

The Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services project will target Manica and Zambezia provinces, which are some of the poorest in Mozambique. Poverty rates increased dramatically in both provinces in the past decade. In Zambezia, poverty rates increased from 45 percent in 2003 to 70 percent in 2011. A large portion of the population is involved in agriculture, and so a sustainable increase in farming productivity could greatly increase food security.

NCBA CLUSA will focus on increasing yields and reducing post harvest losses through establishing an effective trainer network and increasing farmers' incomes and productivity from planting to sale.

In order to impact food security as well as incomes, the project will target crops with the largest potential to both increase farmer profitability and reduce harvest loss including beans, pigeon pea, soy, maize, groundnuts and cassava. NCBA CLUSA will strengthen networks of producer groups including key relationships between farmers, input supplies and buyers.

THE AG-EXTENSION MODEL

Getting farmers to adopt new agriculture practices takes training and support. Being able to rely on a knowledgeable and available professional who can help farmers with technical questions can mean the difference between adopting a useful new practice and just continuing on with traditional agriculture.

These informed and professional trainers are known as extension agents. Through training from NCBA CLUSA as well as government agriculture ministry resources, these extension agents set up demonstration plots and train up lead farmers across the provinces. Each agent is responsible for training 30 lead farmers. These lead farmers then themselves train groups of up to 25 local neighboring farmers and producer group members on techniques like conservation agriculture, post harvest handling, and use of improved seeds.

In partnership with PROMAC, which uses lead farmer groups to teach conservation agriculture techniques, the project will be implemented with coordination from IFC technical services, getting the most appropriate agriculture technology and information to farmers.



The full extension model: Technician and extension agent João da Costa (center) shares a laugh with his lead farmer Marosa Jone (right) and her neighbor Azélia Tole (left) who she trained in CA practices.

This cascading training also promotes the empowerment of women farmers, who can lead their neighbors through new techniques. Extension training will also focus on nutrition-led agriculture, promoting home farming among women to increase dietary diversity, including the consumption of vitamin A and K-rich produce like leafy vegetables, orange fleshed sweet potatoes and moringa.

NCBA CLUSA was founded in 1916 and has worked in over 85 countries building democratic institutions and providing technical assistance to cooperative businesses and local organizations. We currently work in Africa, Asia and Latin America providing expertise in co-op development, food security, youth empowerment, governance and natural resource management.



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