

# Nutritious Sweetpotato for Niassa and Inhambane, Mozambique

Nutritious Sweetpotato for Niassa expands into the Province of Inhambane in Mozambique. The project started a new one-year interim phase in January 2017 after successfully completing Phase 1. In Niassa province, we continued to work in the same eight intervention districts and extended to three districts of Inhambane province to develop a second four-year phase that will commence in 2018. A participatory training was planned in collaboration with Provincial Director of Agriculture and Food Security (DPASA) and implemented by District Economic Activity (SDAE) extension personnel in 110 villages in the two provinces.

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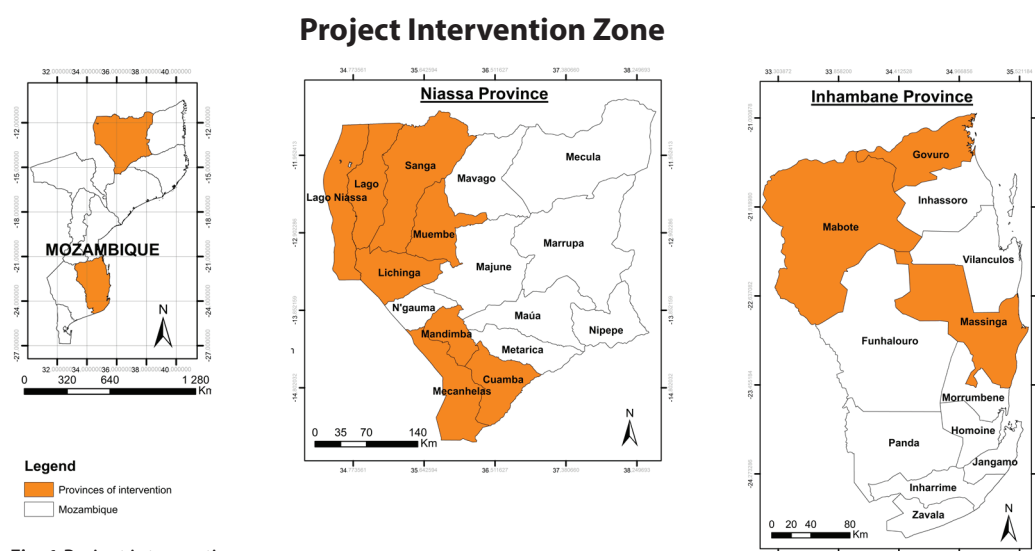


Fig. 1 Project intervention zones



## What is the problem?

**Niassa is the most remote** and sparsely populated of Mozambique's provinces with a population density of just 11-12 persons per km<sup>2</sup> of land. It also has the best growing conditions for sweetpotato in the country. Inhambane is a disaster-prone province that frequently experiences drought and floods and has poorer soils. Both provinces have in the past had low access to biofortified crops such as orange-fleshed sweetpotato (OFSP). They also have high levels of child malnutrition. Stunting among children under five years of age is high - 47% in Niassa and 36% in Inhambane. Levels of vitamin A deficiency are also high, and nutritional knowledge among caregivers is low.



## What do we want to achieve?

**During the four-year project period** that ended in December 2016, we achieved the objectives of

reaching at least 20,000 households in Niassa with improved OFSP varieties; ensuring that at least 20% of households growing OFSP earn 50 USD or more per year from OFSP sales; and increasing the average sweetpotato yields by 50%. Capacity building and implementation of lessons learned from the four-year project are key to making OFSP universally available as a source of nutrition, food security, and income. Therefore, the project co-developed an integrated strategy and program to scale up OFSP by stakeholders in Niassa and Inhambane by the end of 2017.



## Where and with whom are we working?

**The project is led by** the International Potato Center (CIP) and implemented in partnership with local partners. We work in eight districts of Niassa province (Lago, Muembe, Sanga, Chimbunila, Lichinga, Mandimba, Cuamba and Mecnheles) and in three districts of Inhambane province (Govuro,



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### Direct partners

- Instituto de Investigação Agrária de Moçambique (IIAM)
- Serviço Distrital de Actividade Económicas (SDAE)
- Secretariado Técnico de Segurança Alimentar e Nutrição (SETSAN)

### Indirect partners

- Ajuda de Desenvolvimento do Povo para Povo (ADPPP)
- Associação Portuguesa de Apoio a África (APOIAR)
- Associação Progresso (AP) from January 2017
- Diocese Anglicana de Lichinga from January 2017
- Padaria Sanjala
- Padaria Abass
- Padaria Mandimba
- Smart Development Works (SNV)
- União dos Camponeses e Associações de Lichinga (UCA)
- WeEffect
- Direcção Provincial de Saúde

Mabote, Massinga), covering 28 administrative posts, 46 localities and 110 villages (Fig. 1).



## How are we making it happen?

**CIP capitalized on the lessons** learned during Phase 1 and implemented a process with SDAEs and other collaborative partners to scale up OFSP in Niassa and Inhambane from January 2017. The implementation strategy includes:

- Select committed communities for the intervention after an awareness campaign;
- Undertake in-depth analysis of OFSP benefits and constraints presented and discussed by stakeholders;
- Facilitate the integration of evidence and lessons into government plans and NGO programs;
- Identify high potential locations and evaluate OFSP varieties in a participatory way through on-farm trials;
- Build capacity of SDAE technicians and Decentralized Vine Multipliers.



## What have we achieved so far?

- **During the first four-year** phase ending 31st December 2016, 28,044 households in Niassa received OFSP vines.
- OFSP was integrated to the government's DPASA program and other projects like SNV, WeEffect, FOFEN, APOIAR. All 16 districts of Niassa province that are producing OFSP participated in an agricultural fair in Malemia, Sanga district on June 5, 2017. The fair was visited by the President of Mozambique.
- During the annual review meeting, the work plan for focal points was developed in participatory way (Fig. 2) for Lago, Sanga, Muembe, Chimbunila, Lichinga, Mandimba, Cuamba and Mecanheles districts.
- Community awareness events were held, such as: culinary contests; national gala nutrition, agricultural campaign 2016/17 kick-off; visit by the Mozambican President (Fig. 3); road show; and a visit by the First lady of Mozambique to Lichinga.
- 74 villages were intensively facilitated for their own development through OFSP awareness campaign.
- 53 SDAE technicians and supervisors were trained on planning, yield measurement and data collection.



**Fig. 2** Participatory training on OFSP production in Cubue, Lago district. (credit B. Rakotoarisoa)



**Fig. 3** Vigilio Manjate, SETSAN provincial coordinator at CIP stand for the visit of the President of Mozambique. (credit B. Rakotoarisoa)

- The average OFSP yield in Niassa increased to 16 t/ha (range: 6-22.5 t/ha) (Fig. 4).
- District planning was instituted at Govuro, Mabote, Massinga districts of Inhambane province.
- 65 SDAEs, authorities, nutritionists, and NGO staff (16 women) were trained in extension methodologies in Inhambane.
- 36 on-farm trials were installed in 36 localities within three districts of Inhambane testing 20 OFSP varieties.
- Baseline data in Inhambane showed that 13% of the households produce OFSP (2%, 12% and 57% in Mabote, Govuro and Massinga, respectively); and 28 percent of the households conserve vines (77% in Massinga and 8% in Govuro).
- Padaria Sanjala in Lichinga continues to produce Power Bread from 60 kg of purée per week.
- At Baia village (Sanga district), more than 90% of households produce and maintain vines in lowlands or in house gardens for the next season.



## What's next?

This interim program was co-designed with the government and other stakeholders for large-scale implementation in Niassa and Inhambane. The government started integrating OFSP into government planning during the 2016-17 agriculture season. The project will support the integrated agriculture-nutrition-marketing program 2017-21 under Phase 2. Clearly, with the drier conditions in Inhambane compared to Niassa, the greater use of irrigation and the Triple S method for conserving roots as the basis for planting material will be required.



**Fig. 4** SDAE Cuamba Director and the CIP technician appreciate the OFSP root yield in Baia Village. (credit B. Rakotoarisoa)

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