



Brazil Cooperation for Rural Development in Mozambique: scope, recent directions and new challenges

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Executive Summary

South-South Development Cooperation (SSDC) has recently been intensified with the growing political importance of emerging countries in the international system and it is expected to play an increasing role on the global development cooperation agenda.

Brazil has been an active player in SSDC, with a growing number of projects with many developing nations, particularly in Latin America and Africa. Among all countries, **Mozambique is one of the most important partners of Brazilian development cooperation**, being not only the top African beneficiary in terms of number of projects, but it is also the country where more long-term joint efforts and systemic approaches are being tested.

Rural development features prominently in Brazil-Mozambique cooperation portfolio. Brazilian policy makers have been proudly promoting its expertise in tropical agricultural technology and the success of its food security and smallholder support policies as comparative advantages in development cooperation, able to be adapted to the Mozambican context.

By analysing three key programmes – ProSAVANA, PAA Africa Mozambique and More Food International (MFI) Mozambique – it is argued **after a period of intensification of their relations marked by overall enthusiasm and high expectations, Brazilian cooperation with Mozambique in rural development is going through an adjustment phase.**

ProSAVANA has undergone an important reorientation of its initial conception, with less emphasis on facilitating large-scale investments in farmland towards more focus on building the conditions for the development of out-grower and contract farming schemes. However, this change, driven mostly by mobilizations and external pressure from civil society organisations, does not substantially alter fundamental assumptions of its intervention logic, such as strong conviction on market-oriented agricultural and value chain approaches built on agricultural research.

PAA Africa is going to its second phase, but it is a relatively small-scale project still trying to become more influential within Mozambican agricultural policy landscape.

MFI has been quite innovative in seeking to connect technical cooperation with financial “tied” cooperation for the acquisition of Brazilian machinery, but the **programme has been suffering several delays in finding the adequate instruments**, resulting that so far it has failed to deliver its promises.

This leads to the conclusion **this cooperation is seen its ambition being reduced.** Additionally, an agenda initially oriented towards agribusiness development and large-scale investments has been losing momentum. This has opened space for projects with stronger focus on smallholder support, but this reorientation faces important challenges to become operational, including less political prioritisation from the Brazilian side as well as a continued emphasis on large-scale agricultural development in Mozambique.

The study shows typical challenges of inexperienced newcomers within the development cooperation landscape. **Finding the right instruments** – organisational and institutional structures, including secured financing – and **understanding partner’s political, economic and social context in much more deepness seems to be fundamental** for those aiming to place South-South Cooperation at the forefront of the post-2015 development agenda.