

Government of Mozambique reinforces funding for agricultural research for the next three years

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The Government of Mozambique will invest around US\$50 million in agricultural research over the next three years. This feat was announced by His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique in his opening speech of the First Agricultural Research Symposium held in KaTembe, Municipality of Maputo, from 31 August to 1 September 2022. The investment aims to stimulate and improve agricultural research in Mozambique through the improvement and operation of research and vaccine production laboratories, reinforcement of the multiplication of pre-basic and basic seeds, support in the operationalization of the Rice Research and Leadership Center and impact assessments of agricultural production.



Until the signing of the General Peace Agreement in 1992, agricultural research infrastructures were largely neglected and largely abandoned due to the 16-year war that created an environment of insecurity, affecting the agriculture sub-sector. And due to financial constraints, Mozambique registered a low level of investment in agricultural research, which caused the continuous degradation of research infrastructure, namely laboratories and experimental fields, which are essential for agricultural research.

The funding announced here will stimulate and optimize agricultural research, boosting significantly the reach of research results that will contribute to the increase in agricultural production and productivity in the country.

The 1st Symposium of agricultural research was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADER) under the motto “Technological and Sustainable Transformation of Agriculture in Mozambique Towards Zero Hunger”, taking into account the current stage of agricultural research in Mozambique and the challenges of the

agricultural sub-sector of the country with the main objective of creating a national platform of excellence for the presentation and debate of the results of research programs and the exchange of national and international experiences.

The symposium brought together more than three hundred people, including distinguished members of government, research institutions, academia, the private sector, and national and international partners. It is worth mentioning the presence of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and the respective Deputy Minister, the Secretary of State of the City of Maputo, the President of the Municipal Council of the Maputo City, magnificent rectors of different higher education institutions, scientists and agrarian researchers, farmer representatives, research partners and agricultural extension.



In his speech, the President of the Republic referred to the release of 64 varieties of different crops (maize, rice, beans, sesame, onion, sweet potato, peanut and sorghum), tolerant to pests, diseases and climate change. He also indicated the increase in basic seed production from 10 tons to 22 tons. President Nyusi also pointed out that wheat varieties with a potential yield of 7 ton/ha have been identified in Niassa and in other regions of the country with 4 ton/ha. In animal sciences, an increase in the number of doses of vaccines against red and symptomatic anthrax and Newcastle has been recorded, thus increasing the number of animals covered by vaccination. Programs were also carried out to reduce inbreeding in animals, in the period 2015-2022.

The Head of State oriented that the symposium should discuss the platforms to develop sustainable agricultural technologies to increase agricultural production and rural development. The symposium should discuss and find suitable platforms for the transfer of agricultural technologies to farmers and ensure that they are adopted.