



PROJECT LESSONS-LEARNED REPORT

Project Title:	Enhancing capacities of rural communities in the districts to pursue climate resilient livelihood options in the Sao Tome and Principe districts of Caué, Me-Zochi, Principe, Lemba, Cantagalo, and Lobata
Country:	Sao Tome & Principe
Related CPAP Outcome	By 2016, local communities and government bodies at the district and national levels will adopt techniques and behaviours conducive to a sustainable environment, and to improving the prevention and management of risks and natural disasters.
Project Description and Key Lessons-Learned	
Brief description of context	<p>Please give a brief description of the country context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What were the main challenges being faced at the start of the start of the project? <p>São Tomé and Príncipe (STP) is vulnerable to climate-related hazards such as storm-induced flash flooding in rivers and coastal areas. Despite abundant average rainfall, STP has also been experiencing longer episodes of drought, which constitutes a new constraint on food production, particularly in the northern regions. This situation contributes to increased vulnerability of farming communities. Of particular concern are the vulnerable villages of São Tomé districts of Caué, Me-Zochi, Principe, Lemba, Cantagalo, and Lobata, where rural community livelihoods are most affected by increased climate variability.</p> <p>Key challenges that needed to be overcome include: a) limitations in developing capacities of the key institutions of relevance to rural community livelihoods; b) scarcity of relevant information for planning climate resilient agricultural activities; c) low institutional capacity and coordination both in the private and public sectors; d) high levels of poverty, weak financial capacity of farmers and poor access to credit.</p>
Brief description of project	<p>A short description of the project should be provided here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What were the issues the project tried to address? ○ What solutions the project tried to offer? What were its major outputs? <p>To date, relief and rehabilitation (reactive actions) have been the focus of disaster management practices in the targeted districts. Key barriers that needed to be overcome included: a) limitations in developing capacities of the key institutions of relevance to rural community livelihoods; b) scarcity of relevant information for planning climate resilient agricultural activities; c) low institutional capacity and coordination both in the private and public sectors; d) high levels of poverty, weak financial capacity of farmers and poor access to credit.</p>

	<p>A sustainable solution required a multi-pronged solution including i) developing capacities of the key institutions of relevance to rural development and livelihoods; ii) developing key community-based decision making structures to enhance farming communities' livelihoods; iii) dissemination of climate resilient livelihoods farming methods in the most vulnerable communities; and iv) promotion of investments to boost communities' livelihoods against climate risks. To meet that, the bellow outputs were set:</p> <p>i) strengthen the capacity of the CATAP, CIAT, district governments and assemblies, district councils, CSOs and CBOs to support the enhancement of climate resilience of rural community livelihoods; ii) reduce the vulnerability of rural livelihoods to climate risks through climate risks management infrastructures and mechanisms; and iii) design and transfer adaptation strategies to strengthen communities' climate resilience in the 30 most vulnerable villages of the 6 districts of CMPLCL of São Tomé and Príncipe.</p>
<p>Key project successes</p>	<p>Please describe what has worked well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What have been the key successes of this project? <p>The vulnerable farmers, fishermen, <i>palaiês</i> and livestock breeders have suffered from the effects of climate change through direct impact from phenomena that affected project activities. In this context, the project carried out actions to strengthen community resiliency and to protect their means of subsistence which have contributed significantly to an improvement of community living conditions. The irrigation systems allowed for a negative reduction in the lack of water levels for farming as well as significantly reducing community conflicts. Therefore, there was an increase in food production yields, improved delivery to markets and greater stability between supply and demand.</p> <p>Investments in plots, the acquisition of supplies and new jobs are all project results. According to community feedback, the increase in incomes has permitted its members to acquire building materials to construct their own house. This financial improvement it was possible to increase the size of the portfolio and reinvest in, for example, the rearing of chickens as a co-operative activity. The profits generated by these infrastructures has a significant multiplier effect with the result that the farmers' children can now pay school fees, all the way to university, drastically altering the usual paradigm of the female farmer.</p> <p>These infrastructures, managed by the co-operatives, have proven themselves to be sustainable, motivating an entrepreneurial spirit in their members who are starting to dare taking personal initiatives.</p> <p>In Caué and Lembá Districts, the unit of sale changed from the item to the kilogramme, thanks to the improved size and quality obtained from greenhouse production. Technical assistance and training reflect practical results given that now the farmers are able to combat the fruit fly plague in their own plots. Community populations also have access to greenhouse products which previously was not possible. The co-operatives have also been very active in local agricultural fairs.</p> <p>Some co-operatives have already become sufficiently developed are now involved in social responsibility activities in favor of their more vulnerable community members.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What factors supported this success? Fully engagement of government; Synergies with other projects/programmes and the partnership strategy; Providing equipment and vehicles to the partners; Providing training in several areas and international technical assistance;
<p>Project shortcomings and solutions</p>	<p>Please describe what have been the main challenges of this project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What have been the main challenges/ shortcomings/ unforeseen circumstances of this project? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriation and sustainability of the infrastructures built: greenhouses, irrigation systems, pigsties. - Political and administrative support: Sectoral coordination (PRIASA, EU, others) and complementary policy decisions (collective infrastructure management) - Balancing interventions by community: St. Lucia Irrigation 10% of the total project budget and being able to intervene in all recommended. ○ How were they overcome (if they were)? Evolving the minister who came out with solutions as privatizing the greenhouses for example or charging small amount from the population to maintain the infrastructures built. UNDP played the integrator role of leasing and coordinating the stakeholders involved. ○ Were the project results attained? If not, what changes need to be made to achieve these results in the future? Were mostly attained. The project’s micro-credit component was cancelled due to the high risk of repayments, absence of beneficiary guarantors, and the non-existence of a reliable financial institution available to implement the microcredit mechanism. Instead, based on communities’ needs assessment, the project implemented other interventions such as solar freezers, pigsties and poultry. These activities were implemented to generate additional income for the farmers as an element of increasing their resilience. For example, the pigsty and poultry infrastructures have significantly contributed to the improvement of the economic state of the members of the cooperative.
<p>Lessons learned</p>	<p>Please think about and describe the key lesson(s) learned from this project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What could have been done differently/ better? The project has been visionary in capturing the need for climate adaptation in the agricultural sector in São Tomé and Príncipe through a collective national and local effort. The project has made important contributions to strengthen adaptive capacity at national and local level and has been able to develop a promising agricultural transformation towards climate resilience, although: -The project’s design and objectives were overly ambitious for the country’s context, nevertheless the project achieved considerable results in increasing the vulnerability of the communities;

- The project should be more focus in adaptation measures to increase the resilience of farmers;

- The project should have more active cooperation with local governments, NGOs and Civil Society to address the challenges for the future sustainability;

- **What would you recommend improving future programming or for other similar projects elsewhere?**

It has laid the foundations for subsequent actions for resilience building in the agricultural sector and contributed to creating a window of opportunity for new investments based on the lessons learned and experience. Proposals for future directions include:

- Strengthening research and development for agro-ecological practices to address climate impacts.
- Building resilient value chains for selected crops of high importance to livelihoods and national economy.
- Exploring financial instruments and engagement with the private sector for climate resilient agricultural development.
- An excellent opportunity to mainstream climate change adaptation in agriculture within the country is for MoAFRD to be proactively involved in the revision and implementation of the National Determined Contributions (NDC) in the country.

- **What mistakes should be avoided if the initiative were to be replicated?**

Reduce the beneficiary communities, focus in more adaptation interventions, involve local governments, NGOs and Civil Society to assure the sustainability of the infrastructures left by the project.

- **How easy would it be to replicate the successes in a different context/ country?**

The replication potential is good due to the innovative character of the introduced climate adaptation technologies. The project anticipated a replication approach based on using pilots to establishing climate change platforms in the most communities, which in turn will generate tools and methods that can be addressed in other parts.

Provide any other relevant information

One of the lessons learned during the last decade in several countries is that a more systemic, inter-sectorial and multi-level approach is needed. Investment and innovation in agriculture need to widespread agroecological approaches and to be coordinated with interventions in other sectors such as health, environment, education, trade, and social protection. Different stakeholders should also be involved. Farmers but also the private sector, consumers,

	development partners, academia, local authorities, and parliamentarians are important to be aligned and coordinated to strengthen adaptation and promote resilience. State’s capacity to promote such coordination and alignment to develop territorial sustainable food systems should also be strengthened.
Follow-up Actions	Based on the Final Project Review, include a brief record of decisions and conclusions related to follow-up actions

Project Information	
Award ID:	00091898/00083410
CO Focal Points:	Maria Mendizabal - maria.mendizabal@undp.org Cristina Veloso – cristina.veloso@undp.org
Partners:	-Ministry of Agriculture for Rural Development (Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock). -Center for Agro-Pastoral Development -Agricultural Research and Technology Centre
Project resources:	<p>https://undp-adaptation.exposure.co/ce8d718a3927c8a5de4a1694c92422f1 (Impact from the irrigation systems installed in the communities of Bom Sucesso and Terra Batata.)</p> <p>https://undp-adaptation.exposure.co/agua-para-os-agricultores?fbclid=IwAR37c9ssajnG_34bSJh4luw_a_yG1iz9jh79fJrj11qihnZ9iYUlkPZvp8U (Impact from the irrigation systems installed in the communities of Bom Sucesso and Terra Batata.)</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/pnudstp/posts/2228299140572068 (Impact felt by the beneficiaries in the communities of Uba Budo in their daily lives.)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YWXHAXE1CpQ&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0gNXoeT-9AOjygszXCmLSTmRcGdV7nqmD0dhc5EDR3hc6nm_iEFW4OTs (Handover of pigs and inauguration of the pig sties in the communities of Colónia Açoriana and Águas Belas.)</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/mapdrstp/posts/612209269280000 (Social community action for greenhouse farmers from Saudade.)</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/mapdrstp/posts/614078755759718 (Training in greenhouse production for greenhouse farmers.)</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/mapdrstp/posts/615498278951099 (Training in greenhouse production for greenhouse farmers.)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YWXHAXE1CpQ&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3zNAcfOrMu2Tf6GnkpueVsufjIC3dFgMLA_uogh1qoppbLDV5OuWpKIw (Inauguration of community pig sties and handover of pigs to breeders from Colónia Açoriana and Águas Belas.)</p>

	<p>http://www.tvs.st/program/NTU=/Njly/true (Government Report to Parliament.)</p> <p>http://www.tvs.st/program/NTU=/NDgy/true (Inauguration of a greenhouse.)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLMAe7CVJwg (Visit to the Soledade greenhouse by the Minister of Agriculture.)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2I1qExTC5TE (Biological pest control against the fruit fly.)</p> <p>https://www.rtp.pt/play/p3049/e320732/reporter-africa-1-edicao (Inauguration of the Rio Lima irrigation system.)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFTxJaHnvRU (Inauguration of the Rio Lima irrigation system.)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSyRVE6dcf8 (Social community action for greenhouse farmers from Uba Budo.)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EpY2A1m-X0 (Social community action for greenhouse farmers from Saudade.)</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2075537982658384&set=a.1533486173530237.1073741829.100006066078934&type=3&theater (The participation by greenhouse farmers from Saudade in agricultural fairs.)</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2059631280915721&set=pcb.2059632827582233&type=3&theater (Greenhouse production in the community of Saudade.)</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=137311123701406&set=pb.100022675572026.-2207520000.1530535731.&type=3&theater (Greenhouse production in the community of Canavial.)</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=241357553296762&set=a.124272481671937.1073741827.100022675572026&type=3&theater (Greenhouse production harvest in the community of Canavial.)</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2091920564430681&set=pcb.2091920637764007&type=3&theater (Registration of the co-operatives in the national register.)</p> <p>https://www.rtp.pt/play/p3049/e308046/reporter-africa-1-edicao (Greenhouse production on São Tomé.)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHqIYv8RZ3c (Impact from the irrigation systems installed; Project Co-ordinator.)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qkNUflegKI (A farmer's experience in the fight against the fruit fly.)</p>
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	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbAg9fJFYsw (The fight against the fruit fly; Trainer.)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7IDFmhOVCek (The fight against the fruit fly; Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upXFwOaFZyY (The fight against the fruit fly; UNDP.)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ji5mrPvTFs (fight against the fruit fly; CADR trainee.)</p>
Report prepared by:	Cristina Veloso – Program Analyst
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