

Progress Report No 1

April 2007

Inception meetings in Mozambique

In April 2007 an inception meeting was held at EPF-ADPP in Chimoio in which the following persons participated:

- Mr. Harrie Oppenoorth, HIVOS, Netherlands
- Mrs. Soneni Ncube, HIVOS, Zimbabwe
- Mrs. Felicity Dennis, project leader project of ADPP, based at EPF-ADPP in Bilibiza
- Mr. Ernesto, technical project leader of ADPP, based at EPF-ADPP in Bilibiza
- Mr. Flemming Nielsen, FNR Mozambique (IIAM) Sussundenga
- Mr. Christian Fenger, GAIA-Movement, Switzerland
- Mr. Jacob Zulu, GAIA-Movement (EPF-ADPP), Chimoio
- Mr. Jan de Jongh, FACT Foundation (Arrakis), Netherlands

Meetings and visits

Thursday 12 April a field mission to the Jatropha plantation in Chitundo was made by the group (without Harrie Oppenoorth and Flemming Nielsen).

Friday 13 April the latest results of the project were presented during the morning by Ernesto (for Bilibiza) and Jacob (for the Chimoio area) and the project planning was presented by Felicity. In the afternoon a visit was paid to the Sussundenga research station.



The nursery at Sussundenga with the 3 different varieties of Jatropha

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The week thereafter, Felicity Dennis and Jan de Jongh had a meeting with Mrs. Inez Hackenberg of HIVOS (based in Nampula) to update her on the project.

In Maputo, Jan de Jongh visited Mrs. Iolanda Cintura of the Ministeria da Energia, Direccao Nacional de Combustiveis to exchange latest developments in bio-fuels activities. Mrs. Cintura is a member of the National Working Group on Bio-fuels.

Once in Bilibiza, overall project leader Mrs. Felicity Dennis prepared the workplan with detailed planning and budget for 2007 and a rough planning for the next years. The plan was discussed with Mr. Erik Schurmann, the EPF-ADPP responsible person for Bilibiza and later in more detail with two of the three EPF extension workers, Abdulahi and Zeidana (Augusto was still in Zimbabwe). New technical support people will be attracted, both graduates from the Agricultural school in Bilibiza and from overseas development instructors (DI's).

Jan de Jongh gave a presentation on the background of the project and the setting up of nurseries to all 25 teacher trainees who will assist the Farmer's Clubs in the villages.

Flemming Nielsen, Jacob Zulu, Chistian Fenger and Jan de Jongh participated in a workshop in the Netherlands on the agronomical aspects of Jatropha, organised by FACT Foundation in early April 2007. The budget for this workshop was provided by Stichting Het Groene Woudt separate from the Mozambique project.

Modifications as discussed during the inception meetings

Related to Project Contents

The focus on major activities has changed from Mid Mozambique (i.e. Manica province) to Cabo Delgado (Bilibiza). The extension of the project to Manica province will be scheduled in a later stage, probably in 2009, once more knowledge on varieties, pest mitigation and economics has become available.

Related to Partners

The group of main partners in the project is limited to ADPP Mozambique, GAIA-Movement, FNR Mozambique (IIAM) and FACT Foundation (Arrakis). ICRAF and Caritas are not directly contracted. More subcontracts for specific assignments, such as training, will be given out directly by FACT.

Related to Budget

There are no major changes in the budget for main activities. Only the roles of partners in detailed budget activities have changed slightly, in accordance with their strengths and capabilities.

Related to Planning

Since contracts only materialised after the start of the rainy season, the planting period for Jatropha in this year was reduced. It would be best to include at least 3 seasons, for which it is proposed to extend the project to mid 2010. An official request for this, possibly including other modifications, needs to be done after one year of operation.

Results up to end April 2007

The contracts between FACT and the three major partners (ADPP in Maputo, FNR Mozambique (IIAM), and GAIA-Movement) have been signed between January and March 2007. Down payments have been made, or are in the process of transfer.

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In Bilibiza, the EPF's Jatropha experts started collecting seeds from existing mature plants in the neighbourhood and planting them with small farmers. Technical project leader Ernesto reported that about 103,000 seeds have been planted in hedges and some plantations. After visiting the hedges, the germination rate was estimated between 30 to 40%. Taking 1,320 plants in a hedge as the equivalent of a 1 ha plantation (with distances of 2,5 and 3 m respectively), the hedges represent the equivalent of 23 to 31 ha that have been planted around Bilibiza during the months January and February 2007.



A poor farmer's family, residing near their field in a very harsh environment, with many mosquitoes nearby (causing malaria), bad water quality (causing diarrhea), and poor food (causing undernourishment, to which the children's bellies testify).

The research component of the project was given priority: seeds from 3 varieties were planted at the Sussundenga research station, both in open air and in the nursery (2 ha). GAIA's project leader Jacob Zulu contacted two Farmer's Clubs around Chimoio and gave them 1 kg seeds from the Guatemalan *Octagon variety*, which were sent from the Netherlands. They were grown as seedlings (2 weeks old) and in beds; (1 was visited).

In the region around Chimoio a variety of observations was made. At the EPF itself, the Jatropha that had been put in the field more than a year ago intercropped with maize, was reduced to stumps without the leaves, which had been eaten by insects. Further the weeders had cut many young Jatropha plants as they are difficult to discern between the 1 m high weeds. In the nursery the leaves of the old plants were eaten by insects. In contrast, the new Octagon seeds looked good after 3 weeks.



The flea beetle in the middle, eating the leaves. Some flea beetles were sent to Wageningen University for identification.



The Octagon seeds in the nursery at EPF Chimoio



Visiting the 2 ha field in Chitundo

In Chitundo, only 30 km from Chimoio, a very healthy plantation of 2 ha one-year old Jatropha was visited, in which some plants already produce seeds.

From this hedge several plants have been stolen, after announcements by the government to plant Jatropha.

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The first hedge that was planted under the GAIA project "Fences for Fuel" Dec 2005.



The hand rope pump near the hedge was used for irrigation purposes.



Bilibiza village with main road (river)

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The first one-year old hedge around a field at the school



Some of the buildings of the EPF school at Bilibiza



Ernesto and Felicity on their way to visit the recently planted hedges



One of the 103,000 Jatropha plants planted in hedges in February 2007