

A consultation Workshop on “Challenges and opportunities for sustainable intensification of agriculture in maize-legumes systems in Mozambique” took place in Maputo, in the frame of the light case study 5 of ProIntensAfrica: Identifying Scalable Sustainable Intensification Pathways for the Rainfed N-deprived Maize-Legume Cropping Systems of Eastern and Southern Africa – The cases of Mozambique and Tanzania. It was led by ISA-ULisboa (Portugal) in partnership with ARC (South Africa), IIAM and ISP Manica (Mozambique).

The workshop counted with participants from funding agencies, extension services, international organizations, and higher education and research institutions. This wide audience actively contributed to the discussion, sharing their different perspectives around the same issue: the sustainable intensification of agriculture by farming system maize/legumes.

Being corn and legumes the major food crops produced in Mozambique, taking up about 44.3% and 35.9% of the total area cultivated in the country, the sustainable intensification of agriculture (SIA) through the massification of production in maize-legume cropping systems is a key to enabling the SIA and improving the welfare and food security of small farmers.

Production systems are more complex and diversified than they appear and go far beyond production. However the current approach of most agricultural interventions focuses on improving agronomic performance at farm level ignoring the socio-economic dynamics at the aggregate level and the potential impact of these on the design and management of the production unit as a whole. The household should be considered as a whole and looked at as a dynamic micro-enterprise, where production (cereals, vegetables and fruit trees), the sale of surplus and on farm services and farm off, decision-making processes and factors affecting the way as the unit as a whole is managed, are also components of the system. All these must to be considered for SIA. The diversity of farms must also be taken into consideration since it has a role in determining the adequacy of SIA technologies. Given this heterogeneity, there is not a technology package able to serve all groups. Therefore, the producers should be

involved in the planning and development of appropriate technological packages that fit their biophysical and socio-economic reality.