



## Agriculture innovation partnerships in Angola: successful stories

Ana M.P. Melo<sup>1</sup>, Joaquim César<sup>2</sup>, Luís Mira da Silva<sup>1</sup>, Ana Catarina Henriques<sup>1</sup>,  
Mpanzo Domingos<sup>2</sup> and Susana Estrela Soares Costa<sup>3</sup>

1- ISA-ULisboa, Portugal

2- IIA, Angola

3- FAO, Angola

### Executive Summary

Angola is one of Africa's resource-rich countries with a great potential for agriculture, nevertheless the agricultural sector has not yet fully recovered from the de-capitalization experienced during the years of civil conflict, and agricultural exports are currently negligible. Thus, development of the agricultural sector is considered by the government as a national priority. In this study, we identified successful histories of agriculture innovation systems in place in Angola, that could be used as models and, along with the implementation of CDAIS project, could contribute to create a new mindset among the actors of agriculture's value chains, which will privilege networking actions to overcome functional and technical issues to foster the agricultural sector.

### Angolan agriculture context

Angola, with a total population of 24.38 million inhabitants, covers an area of about 1.25 million km<sup>2</sup> and is located on the Atlantic coast of south-western Africa. According to the 2014 population census, 52% of the total population are women and about 38% lives in rural areas<sup>1</sup>. It is also worth mentioning that about 37% of the population is below the poverty line and 85% of the poor are in the rural areas and depend on agriculture. Angola is one of Africa's resource-rich countries, with a

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<sup>1</sup> INE.2014. Resultados preliminares, recenseamento geral da população e habitação - 2014



large potential for economic growth based on many mineral resources, particularly oil and diamonds, but also with a great potential for agriculture.

Before the independence, in 1975, Angola was a successful exporter of agriculture commodities, with special emphasis to coffee being the third largest world exporter in the 70s.

After the independence, most of Portuguese farmers left the country and many of the former commercial farms and plantations were converted into state farms, which were progressively abandoned.

A civil war, between 1975 and 2002, resulted in a virtual collapse of the commercial production, as large numbers of rural inhabitants either fled or reverted to subsistence agricultural production. Infrastructures heavily suffered, with widespread destruction of roads, bridges, irrigation systems and warehouses, and the presence of thousands of land mines in rural areas<sup>2</sup> made agriculture impossible in many places. Moreover, agricultural education, research and extension institutions were seriously affected.

Despite an investment program in place since the end of the civil war to rehabilitate the main infrastructures, contributing to improve the situation, the agricultural sector has not yet fully recovered from the de-capitalization experienced during these years, and agricultural exports are currently negligible.

The agriculture sector, corresponding to 8% of the total arable land's (57 million hectares) use, contributes approximately with 10 percent of the growth domestic product (GDP)<sup>3</sup>. In addition, crop yields remain very low as compared to other countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The oil sector accounts for almost 45% of the GDP, 95% of total export value and 80% of total government revenues.

Nowadays, Angola imports most of the agriculture products consumed and with the decrease of the oil barrel's price, enduring since 2014, the situation is hardly

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<sup>2</sup> MINADER. 1996. Agriculture Review Development Options.

<sup>3</sup> WB.2013. Angola economic update. issue 1.

bearable. Thus, a diversification of the economy is needed and essential, being the development of the agricultural sector a major national priority.

Family farming is the dominant mode in Angola. Family farmers usually produce for their own consumption but also include products for the market. Depending on the way that farmers are organized in terms of production and land tenure, different types of family farms can be identified<sup>4</sup> (Table I).

Farming Type	% of Total Land Usage	% of number of Exploration	Farming Subtype	Area of the Exploratio	Members		Crops	Animal Traction
					Family	Employee s		
Family	91,9	99	Subsistence	0-2 ha	3 to 5	0	Basic staples only	0
			Small	2-5 ha	3 to 5	0	(+) irrigated crops	0
			Average	5-15 ha	3 to 5	5	Basic staples (<1ha)	<5
Commercial	8,1	1		< 100 ha	3 to 5	10	Basic staples (<3ha)	<5

Data source: PDMPA 2013-2017 & Scoping study 2016 CDAIS Project

National development priorities for agriculture 2012-17.

The National Development Programme PND (2013-17)<sup>5</sup> includes programs to support the agricultural activity, namely: Program to develop the family farming; Program to develop the National food security; Programs to promote the Agribusiness; Rehabilitation of the irrigated perimeters; Support Rural investigation; Programs to finance agriculture, by promoting the private investment in agribusiness; Programs to support the rural trade.

With the implementation of those programs the Government aims particularly to increase the production of cereals, legumes, roots and tubers, chicken's, cow's, goat's and sheep's meat, milk and sugar.

Global level policy interventions are also needed in the informal sector to provide development of local markets and to institutionalize economic activities targeted at people with potential for entrepreneurship.

<sup>4</sup> ADB. 2009. Angola. Country gender profile. OSAN

<sup>5</sup> MINPLAN. 2012. National Development Programme PND (2013-17)

## **The role of the Capacity Development for Agriculture Innovation Systems (CDAIS) project to enhance innovation in Angolan agriculture**

The CDAIS project, funded by the European Commission and jointly implemented by AGRINATURA<sup>6</sup>, FAO, and Instituto de Investigação Agrária on behalf of the Angolan government, aims at making agricultural innovation systems more efficient and sustainable in meeting the demands of farmers, agribusiness and consumers, taking into account the different dimensions of capacity development (individuals, organizations and enabling environment) as well as its functional and technical capacities.

The CDAIS project identified three integrated learning and action-oriented processes expected to deliver results at the country level:

- 1) Development of a global Common Framework on Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems that will guide the assessment and investments in this field;
- 2) Co-assessment and development of country-specific Capacity Development needs, visions and action plans;
- 3) Co-design and co-implementation of demand-driven and efficient Capacity Development interventions around priority themes and value chains.

The implementation of CDAIS will contribute to create a new mindset among the actors of agriculture's value chains, which will privilege networking actions to overcome functional and technical issues, empowering the agricultural sector.

The CDAIS project may not only create further awareness of the need to deepen the existing interactions among the agricultural sector and start new ones, but also promote activities that enhance these interactions and trigger the consolidation or

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<sup>6</sup> A Consortium of 31 European Universities and Research Institutes (<http://www.agrinatura.eu>) working in agricultural research, education, training and capacity strengthening for development.

start the coordination exchange mechanisms and networks among the stakeholders in the agriculture's sector.

## Successful stories

### *Kukula Ku Moxi project at BIOCOM*

BIOCOM is installed at SODEPAC in Malanje province, Cacuso municipality, with an area of 42.000ha, which produces and commercializes sugar, ethanol and electric power produced from biomass; the sugar is entirely directed to the internal market, the energy to the National Energy Company (ENE) and ethanol to the National Company of Fuels (Sonangol). The company has several social responsibility interventions in the rural community, namely the "Kukula Ku Moxi" initiative that aims the development of family agriculture and wealth generation, in 20 rural communities. This initiative is an example of direct interaction between the private sector and small-farmers, with knowledge transfer regarding agricultural practices and management.

The project is one of the agribusiness projects supported by the government, being mainly developed by the private sector and is considered a successful innovation case.

### *MOSAP – Market Oriented Smallholder Agriculture Project*

MOSAP is a World Bank-project, supported since 2008, and implemented over the past years in three provinces (Bié, Huambo and Malanje). MOSAP was designed to increase agricultural production through the provision of improved agricultural services and investment support to rural smallholder farmers.

MOSAP produced changes in perception, behavior and communication language from beneficiaries. These beneficiaries have also acquired independence and raise new initiatives like the practice of interaction between associations of different municipalities to share difficulties, namely at the level of product commercialization.

In addition, there was political appropriation of this project, enabling it with a favorable environment.

### *SKAN-sharing knowledge agrifood networks*

The main objective of the SKAN platform is to share knowledge and technology in an integrated approach among the actors of the Agricultural Innovation Systems, between Europe, Africa and Latin America. Specifically and currently, it is established in Cabo Verde, Mozambique, Angola, Brasil and Portugal. This platform may have a role in the future activities of Agricultural Innovation Systems, since it can be used as a tool to promote networking among the agrifood sector (research, academia, extension services, NGOs and private sector of the agrifood row). SKAN's integrated approach focuses on strengthening the partnerships between science and industry, integration of available resources (other platforms, scientific knowledge, funding sources, etc), enabling the environment for international projects in consortium and empowering local actors to ensure projects' sustainability. With this purpose, SKAN acts with a facilitation component, enhancing the potential for knowledge and technology transfer.

### **National Agricultural Innovation Systems' actors and Potential innovation partnerships**

The stakeholder mapping exercise carried out during the inception workshop identified the key actors/stakeholders in AIS in Angola and discussed the roles and challenges encountered when making AIS operational and effective. The maps developed by the participants identified the following actors and roles as key in AIS:

1. Government (to define policies to ensure sustainable national production, investments in infrastructures and communicates with all players of AIS).
2. Universities and Research (to identify problems, to disclose information for the extension services and farmers).
3. Extension Services (to link the Universities/Research and the farmers).

4. ONG (to organize and to communicate among all actors in the AIS).
5. Cooperatives of farmers (to identify the problems, document and try to solve problems by interrelating with other actors in the AIS).
6. Rural schools (to disclose the knowledge between all the players of the AIS, more farmers focused).
7. Banks (to finance feasible projects, to permit the access to credit and private investors).
8. Fertilizer dealers (to perform market studies, and to develop a portfolio of products adapted to the local market, to improve logistics and communication among the players of AIS).
9. Insurance companies (to create insurance's products that fit Angolan's farmers, to communicate with all players and to find suitable solutions).
10. Media (to disclose information of the AIS to all players).

Consolidating the contribution of Agricultural Innovation Systems' actors during the scoping study and inception workshop, 14 potential innovation partnerships were listed and shared with a working group that will narrow it to 10 for a final selection of 5 to be decided by the national steering committee.

### **Final remarks**

The Angolan agriculture system holds a great potential to turn the agri-food sector in one of the most prominent and profitable sectors of the country economy.

Nevertheless, its environment still requires the development of general and specific innovation policies and investments to achieve the optimization of the potential resources. In addition, mindsets need to be renovated creating more collaborative and networking attitudes to allow sharing knowledge and benefits among sector stakeholders.

The agricultural sector of Angola is aware of the need for further mechanisms of national coordination for sharing ideas and common difficulties.

To respond to the need of further and effective mechanisms for coordination and exchange among the agriculture sector actors, many networks are trying to consolidate or emerge, such as the AIA – Industrial Association of Angola; CAFANG – Association of producers of coffee in Angola; APA – Angolan Association of Producers (being designed); SKAN-Angola – Sharing Knowledge Agrifood Networks. Most challenges raised by the actors are similar and related to the environment level. These can be mainly grouped by: i) general agriculture policies and investments; ii) agricultural innovation policies and investments and iii) cultures, behaviors and attitudes.

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