

CAMBINE AGRICULTURAL PROJECT – INFORMATION

Activities carried out for the Year 2005

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of Cambine population especially the Children in the Boarding Hostels, children from Carolyn Belsche (Teles) orphanage, Seminary School students and other levels of our society who directly and indirectly are benefiting from the Agricultural Project I would like to express my deepest gratitude to ALL of you who thought of us and has been involved in the growth of the Cambine Agricultural Project.

A lot has been achieved and yet a lot is to be done in order to achieve our mission of “winning war against hunger” in a country whose past history has been marked by a civil war, floods, drought and other natural disasters.

Various people and groups have generously contributed to the success of the project. I am really thankful to you all who contributed to this mission of giving hope to the hopeless. Many thanks to friends from Missouri who donated various seeds, visitors and VIM working in Agriculture; my special thanks go to Carol Kreamer who has been and continue working hard for the Project.

**To you All I say, “OBRIGADO, HIBONGILE, KANIMAMBO,
THANK YOU VERY MUCH” AND GOD richly BLESS YOU**

A. Background Information

Cambine Mission is located in the South of the Country, about 500kms from the Capital city – Maputo. In addition to various programs that the first missionaries implemented, agriculture was one that attracted youths. Parents were sending from all four corners of the country their children to come and learn agriculture in Cambine. The first president of the ruling party, Eduardo Mondlane, was also sent to Cambine to learn agriculture. This made Cambine more popular as a Christian mission but also as an agricultural station.

However, the agricultural program suffered a severe decline when a war started and people fled for their lives in the neighboring countries. As the war ended and the peace returned, there was need to feed returning people. The church with other local organizations had to find ways of meeting the needs of these former refugees. In this effort, the UMC in Mozambique through the leadership of Bishop Somane Machado appealed to foreigners.

The program was reinitiated in late 1990s with the agricultural missioner of hope for the children of Africa. With no definite budget, the program has been depending on foreigner donations in terms of monetary, seeds, farm power (oxen), and even some volunteers coming to assist in carrying agricultural activities.

B. Who do we serve?

Cambine Mission is located in a rural setting where agriculture is the main activity. There are no industries to employ the local populations. The majority of the population survives on one poor meal per day. The main staple food is cassava, a root crop rich in carbohydrate and poor in other nutritive elements. Apart from serving the local population, the agricultural program serves:

- ✓ Four hundred and fifty (450) students staying in the boarding hostels. The students attending the secondary school from other districts live in adjacent hostels. A new women hostel has recently been opened hosting about 150 women students.
- ✓ Forty (40) children orphans who recently moved from Teles to Cambine. Initially, the center was for children of war, but recently as the endemic HIV/AIDS strikes the country, the center has started receiving orphans whose parents died of HIV/AIDS.
- ✓ Forty-four (44) students attending Cambine Seminary School,
- ✓ Forty-nine (49) students in the Vocational School studying agriculture, whose afternoon practical take place in the agriculture fields.

C. Achievements

1. Project Workers

The Mozambique United Methodist Church Annual Conference runs Cambine Agricultural Project. The Project Coordinator is a missioner of hope for the children of Africa assisted by a local technician. The Project employs contracted workers who are carrying out various activities such as using oxen in plowing, weeding, feeding the animals and carry out various activities when students are on holidays.

In addition to these contracted workers, the Project is benefiting from the workforce from the students, the children in the orphanage and the agricultural students.

2. Seminary School students and Agriculture

There has been a call from the donors who assist the Seminary School Students to help in raising animals and produce food. This call comes after observing hard times these future servants of God pass through.

The students attending the Seminary School receive a monthly allowance of about 30US\$ per month which far away from satisfying the needs of the students. In addition, some students come with a family and depend solely on the school allowance.

To try to reduce the suffering, the Cambine agricultural Project and the School Staff initiated a program that can assist seminary school students. Students received ducks and piglets for animal husbandry.

In addition, they were donated small plots for vegetable production. Onions, tomatoes, lettuce and cabbages were the major crops grown. The Project assisted with seeds, lands, plowing etc.

3. Horticultural Production

Horticultural Crops have been the major crops grown during the past months. The reasons being that there are easy to grow and take a short time to mature. The major horticultural crops grown were lettuce, onions, cabbages, tomatoes, garlic, and black pepper.

There are no sales of horticultural produces. A portion is given to the Boarding Hostels Students and the orphans. The Seminary Students are given seedlings and land. They are responsible of the harvest and the surplus is sold to the local market.

There has been an enthusiasm as the students participate in various activities and see the product of their efforts.

Table 1. Horticultural Production, Consummation and Destination

	Leaf Cabbages	Head Cabbages	Lettuce	Tomatoes	Garlic	Onions
Boarding hostels	925kgs	210kgs	497kgs	575kgs	50kgs	100kgs
Orphanage	414kgs	76kgs	211kgs	63kgs	20kgs	95kgs
Populations	219kgs	48kgs	304kgs	276kgs	-	-
TOTAL (Kgs)	1 558kgs	334kgs	935kgs	914kgs	70kgs	195ks

4. Turkey Production

The Turkey Production is a new introduction to the Project. Very few people keep turkey in their yards while it is a very good source of meat and income. Seen that the consumers' number is increasing, there is need of finding an animal stock that can provide enough meat to the consumers.

An average turkey can supply more meat than a goat.

A VIM team from New Milford UMC – Connecticut sponsored this small project, a small fence of 20mx20m has been established and a housing of 7mx3m for the animals was built. An initial stock of 10 ducks; 7 females and 3 males is to be purchased from a local farmer.

5. Ducks Production

This project has been a decline in the past months but now is flowering due the efforts carried out to lift the production in terms of improving the housing, cleanness and provide medical supplies especially vaccines.

6. Pig Production

Pig production has characterized the Cambine Agricultural Project. However, the cost of production is increasing every day mainly because of the rise in the costs of feed.

The major cost involved in Pig Production is the cost of feeds. As days go by, there has been an increase in the market price of the feeds.

7. Layers Production

The layers have been purchased three years ago. They have passed their egg-producing period. Only few eggs are produced daily. There is need to replace these layers.

The egg production has made an impact in the life of many people. Many people have been interested in raising layers. Among which is a third year student in the Seminary School who is raising 25 layers. Many other people are requesting for layers.

Follow is the overview of the animal stocks:

Table 2. Animal Stock for the Carolyn Belsche Orphanage

Species	Total	Female	Males	Offsprings
Pigs	14	2	0	12
Ducks	15	11	4	-
Layers	90	-	-	-

Table 3. Animal Stock for the Boarding Hostels

Species	Total	Female	Males	Offsprings
Pigs	10	4	1	5
Ducks	90	67	10	13
Layers	116	-	-	-
Cows	8	6	2	-
Goats	5	3	1	1
Turkeys	10	7	3	-

8. Field Crop Production

Maize, peanut and cassava are the major crops grown in the South of Mozambique. Cassava is the staple food in the area. Peanut is used as a substitute of cooking oil while cassava is used for breakfast instead of bread; it is also served as relish.

The cassava is utilized for breakfast for the students in the hostels and in the orphanage. Four hectares of cassava have been exploited and an average of 8000kgs was harvested.

9. Pineapple Production

First pineapple fruits have been harvested and donated to the children in the hostels and orphanage. These pineapples were brought in from Muxungue in Sofala province in the Central Part of the country.

These are cayenne type and very watery and sweet.

10. Transport

Cambine is located in a remote area where there is a need to dislocate to the nearest market. The transport of material, feeds etc from the local market or Maputo are made possible through a truck donated by the New York Conference. The truck is about 20 years old and always requires maintenance and repairs.

11. MAJOR CHALLENGES AND PROBLEMS

- ☑ The Major challenge has been and still the exponential increase in consumers. As the new institutions are opened such as the **new orphanage, the girls' dormitory**, this calls for more people to assist with food. There has been a need to increase production and this calls for more resources.
- ☑ There have been dry months and this has affected our planned activities. Some of the cultures have been left out. Water has been a limiting factor in food production. Efforts have been deployed in putting in place a small irrigation system. A well is needed for more water supply.

- ☑ Manpower is still small to cope with all the agricultural activities. More workers are needed but a limited amount of resources is available.
- ☑ The project is still operating as an agricultural of subsistence however there is need of adopting a mechanized agriculture and irrigation is to be reinforced.
- ☑ The lack of seed industry in the country has made difficult the activities. Sometimes, seeds that have lost the viability are purchased and fail to germinate.
- ☑ Due to the hard times people around the project are going through, people have opted at stealing the project's products.

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