VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS OF COMMON BEANS IN MOZAMBIQUE

by: Isabel CACHOMBA\textsuperscript{1} & Cynthia DONOVAN\textsuperscript{2}

\textsuperscript{1}Agricultural Research Institute of Mozambique (IIAM) \textsuperscript{2}Michigan State University, Michigan

INTRODUCTION

Common beans have an important role in enhancing food security and farm household income in Mozambique. Common bean production is based on smallholder rainfed manual cultivation systems in selected higher elevation agro-ecological zones, with low external input use and small cropped areas. Yields remain very low (from 200 to 500 kg/ha) and production is highly seasonal. In 2008 total production was 52,500 M.Tons, and mean production per household was 144 kg (TIA, 2008). This study analyses the common bean value chain in Mozambique, characterizing bean production and trade. The study also reveals different actors of the bean value chain in order to identify opportunities for agricultural research and policy interventions.

METHODS

Descriptive analysis with household datasets and market price analysis based on rapid market appraisals, market price data (SIMA) and household survey (TIA) data.

RESULTS

About 35% of smallholders with common beans market those beans in local markets and the marketing channels have relatively few agents, such that beans pass through one to three intermediaries before reaching consumers.

Trade is primarily from more northern production zones (Tete, Zambezia, Niassa) to consumption zones in the center and south, especially Maputo, the capital city in the far south (Figure 1). Beans can be an important cash crop. Farmers who participate in common bean markets sell an average of 35-40 % of their production in Nampula and Zambezia Provinces. (Figure 3)

RESULTS (continued)

Figure 2 shows the Marketing Channels in the Common Bean value chain, demonstrating the small number of stops in the channels. Women are active traders in wholesale markets, traveling from the south to the north during marketing seasons.

Traders identified various problems related to grain quality that can limit sales in the consumption market, including mixing of varieties (lack of purity) and presence of pest damage to grains. Most traders identified only 2-3 types of beans that they will purchase for southern markets, where consumers select khaki and khaki speckled beans. In zones close to Malawi, darker small red are more in demand. Traders generally had knowledge of SIMA price information system, but indicated that the frequency and availability of information was limited. In some zones, cellphones are used to call other market traders for information.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

\begin{itemize}
  \item Beans major producing areas: Niassa, Tete and Zambezia. Major market: Maputo.
  \item Smallholders who participate in the market are producing beans as a cash crop, selling a high % of their production.
  \item Common bean value chains are relatively short and do not yet take advantage of regional/export opportunities.
  \item Problems of bean marketing: limited access to price information, poor transportation infrastructure, inadequate storage conditions, lack efficient processing techniques, mixing varieties, storage pests and damage to grain quality.
  \item Agricultural research into varieties and cropping cycles with market opportunities can improve market opportunities.
  \item Market information can play an even greater role in developing markets and improving profitability for farmers.
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