



Project update

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| Project title (Acronym): | “Strengthening the Resilience of Rural Food Environments In The Context of Disaster Risk and Climate Change In Mozambique” (FEMOZ) |
| Geographical focus: | Mozambique |
| Call reference: | Food environments for improved nutrition |
| Cooperating partners: | Institute for Technology and Resources Management in the Tropics and Sub-tropics (ITT) TH Köln; Institute for Information Science (IWS), TH Köln; Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Frankfurter Forschungsgesellschaft (FFG), Faculty of Agronomy and Forest Engineering, University Eduardo Mondlane (UEM); Universidade Rovuma, Nampula, Mozambique, Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN), Maputo, Mozambique; National Institute for Disaster Management (INGD), Maputo, Mozambique; Network of Food Sovereignty Organizations (ROSA), Maputo, Mozambique, Rural Association for Mutual Aid (ORAM); Maputo, Mozambique; Solar Power Stores, Maputo, Mozambique |
| Duration: | 01.03.2021 until 29.02.2024 |
| Budget: | 1,152,806.26 € |

Map of the target region

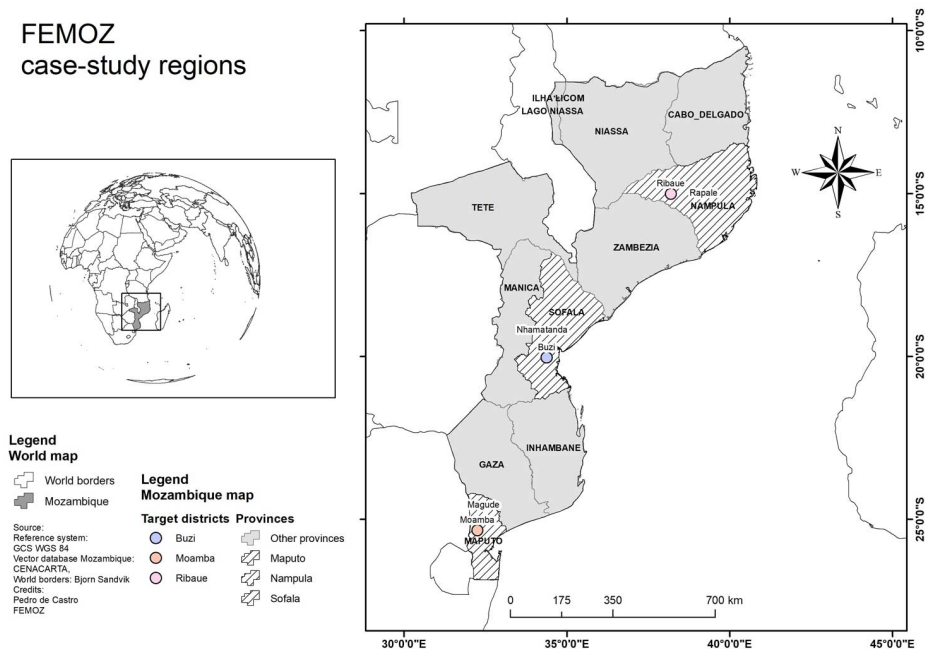


Figure 1. FEMOZ case-study regions (Pedro de Castro, FEMOZ)

Aim of the project

The FEMOZ project aims at strengthening the resilience of rural food environments in the context of disaster risk and climate change in Mozambique.

The “Food Environment” mediates the interactions between consumers and markets and influences consumer’s decisions. FEMOZ food environment conceptual framework consists of an external domain (including the dimensions of food availability, prices, markets and product’s properties, marketing, and regulation) and a personal domain (including accessibility, affordability, convenience, and desirability).

Both external and personal domains are considered in the context of disaster risks and climate change (CC). FEMOZ’s objectives address the measurement of these different dimensions of the food environment in the different target (Ribaué, Buzi and Maputo, see Fig. 1), contributing to evaluating how potential rural development interventions for increasing agricultural production, rising incomes, or reducing food prices would ultimately and effectively reflect on the population’s diets and nutrition.

FEMOZ’s objectives also target the creation of change in the food environment through awareness and knowledge formation around good practices in the different dimensions of the food environment and further changes in behaviour, practices, and performances for improving food security and nutrition (FSN).

Results

In the framework of the FEMOZ project, three major events were held on September of 2023 in Maputo, Mozambique. These events were the “Food and Nutrition Policy Workshop”, a stakeholder workshop and the Symposium under the theme “Rural Food Environments: Challenges to achieving greater food nutrition security”. The development of the activities are the following:

Food and Nutrition Policy workshop

FEMOZ elaborated on the basis of official policy documents, strategies, plans and programmes, as well as existing studies and evaluation evidence report the “Food Environment Policy Index” (EPI), exploring domains including governance, resource allocation, and the composition of products. These preliminary results were discussed in two of the three study areas (Maputo and Nampula, see Fig. 1), with the objective of elaborating the final report as the basis for prioritising policy measures for the promotion of healthy food environments.



Figure 2. Food EPI workshop (Christine Bohn, Frankfurter Forschungsgesellschaft – FFG)

Stakeholder workshop

FEMOZ project partners and local focal points of the project districts Ribaue, Buzi and Moamba (see Fig. 1), as well as stakeholders met on September 18th, 2023 in Macaneta, Mozambique. The objective of the event were:



- To discuss with results of the FEMOZ project on Neglected and Underutilised (Plant) Species (NUS);
- To share developments on the project’s Local Open Online Courses (LOOCs) on Food Environments and NUS.

Figure 3. Video of NUS in Mozambique (Yamile Villafani, TH Köln)

FEMOZ (preliminary) results derived from NUS include potential uses, laboratory analyses on their nutritional values, and videos recorded in each district, displaying the diversity of these native foods, their availability and traditional uses. These findings are set to potentially be part of the National Food-Based Dietary Guideline of the Mozambican Ministry of Health (MISAU).

FEMOZ Symposium – Rural Food Environments: Challenges to achieving greater food nutrition security

The event took place in Maputo, Mozambique on September 20th-21st, 2023. The objective of the symposium was to share knowledge, expertise and experiences of different actor of academy, civil society and policy related to food environments, and their contribution to food security and nutrition (FSN).



Figure 4. FEMOZ Symposium 2023 (UEM)

The presentations included FEMOZ results on the classification of food insecurity in the project study areas and socioeconomic and demographic determinants on food security and nutrition in Mozambique, as well as previous results for the EPI analysis and food value chains in rural areas. Other panels were presented by FEMOZ project partners and researchers/policy makers in the topic of the symposium.

Key statements and policy advice:

- In WP 1 and 2, more detailed work was done on "Markets and supply chains", "Prices and affordability" and "Convenience and desirability". In September 2023, the concepts of desirability and convenience as part of the personal domain of food environments and the results of the fieldwork to date were presented at a workshop with the participation of government representatives and at the FEMOZ symposium of the UEM annual conference. The results on the availability of convenience products, food quality and food safety were also incorporated into the Food EPI evidence report and the Food EPI workshops in Maputo and Nampula.
- The discussions with the participants of the food and nutrition policy workshops showed the usefulness of the Food EPI methodology for analysing the impact of different policies in the area of food and food security. The structure of the analysis could form a good basis for a monitoring system and thus promote the development of policies based on scientific results. The results of the Food EPI analysis showed, among other things, the need to better harmonise the sector policies of agriculture and health, as the current focus on the promotion of export products has not led to any improvement in the nutritional situation of the local population. To this end, local needs and, in particular, the diversity of supply would have to be prioritised in agricultural policy.