

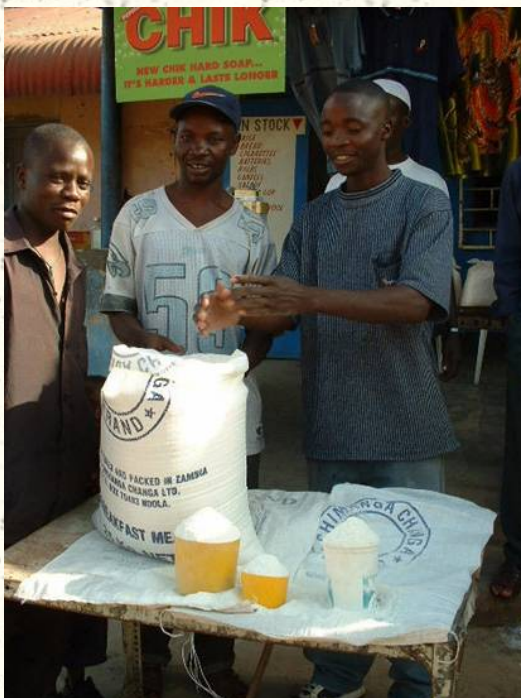
# **Mozambican Experience with Agricultural Market Information Systems**

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**By  
SIMA/MADER Team**

**November 15, 2004  
Maputo, Mozambique**





## Presentation Outline

- Why SIMA in Mozambique?
- Evolution of SIMA
- Successes of SIMA
- Challenges

## Why SIMA in Mozambique?

- One of the main objectives of economic reforms introduced by GOM in early 1990s:
  - Promote efficient national and regional agricultural trade
    - Decimated by 16 years of civil war
  - How: through better private and public decision making

## Why SIMA in Mozambique? (2)

- Establishment of SIMA may contribute to achieve these goals
  - Improved price and marketing information for farmers and traders
  - Analysis and perspective for policy makers
    - Country coming out of long history of state control of markets
    - Great need for understanding how private markets could be expected to meet needs of farmers and consumers in absence of central decision making

## Evolution of SIMA

- 1991: Started with a monthly publication
- 1994: Introduction of a weekly publication
  - Since then, published every Wednesday, 52 weeks a year, every year - total of 488 to date
- 1995: Started the establishment of provincial SIMAs
  - At present, two quite active, three others trying to become established
- 1998: Regional and international price information incorporated, using web access

11 de Setembro de 2003

## Quente-Quente

No. 427

Informação Semanal de Mercados Agrícolas no País, Região e Mundo

Publicação do Sistema de Informação de Mercados Agrícolas (SIMA)

MADER-Direcção de Economia-Dpto. Estatística  
Telef (01) 46 01 31 / 46 01 45, Fax (01) 46 01 45 / 46 02 96, email: sima@map.gov.mz  
www.aec.msu.edu/agecon/fs2/mozambique

Preço de Amendoim Sobe em Alguns Mercados

National weekly bulletin - "hot off the press". Hard and soft copy distribution, also by radio and newspaper

Provincial market bulletin -- "listen-up". Hard copy distribution, but radio in local language is key

**ESISAPO**  
BOLETIM SEMANAL DO SISTEMA DE INFORMAÇÃO DE MERCADOS AGRÍCOLAS DA PROVÍNCIA DE NAMPULA  
PUBLICAÇÃO DA Direcção Provincial de AGRICULTURA E DESENVOLVIMENTO RURAL

TELEF. 213309; FAX 214177 E-MAIL: DPADRAFNPILA@TELEDATA.MZ

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MINISTÉRIO DA AGRICULTURA E DESENVOLVIMENTO RURAL  
Direcção de Economia  
Departamento de Análise de Políticas

Relatórios de Pesquisa

PASSADO, PRESENTE E FUTURO DO SISTEMA DE INFORMAÇÃO DE MERCADOS AGRÍCOLAS (SIMA)

Por:  
Ana Paula Santos  
Cynthia Boman  
Dimitri Carim Abdala  
David Pacheco  
Pedro Arlindo

Relatório No. 50P  
11 de Março de 2002

República de Moçambique

Examples of policy outreach - research reports and policy briefs. Key to influencing attitudes and understanding of policy makers

30 de Agosto de 2003 **Flash** Nº 36P

Resultados das Investigações do SIMA-Dest e Departamento de Análise de Políticas  
MADER-Direcção de Economia

*Produção e Comercialização de Culturas Alimentares: Que Expectativas para o Presente Ano? O Ponto de Vista dos Comerciantes Rurais de Pequena Escala no Norte e Centro de Moçambique*<sup>1</sup>

Por: Equipa Técnica do SIMA

## Evolution of SIMA (2)

- User Needs Assessment in 2001
  - Nationwide assessment of information needs throughout chain -- farmers, traders, processors, NGOs, others
- Changing from Market Information System to Market Information Service:
  - Become more demand driven
  - Work in collaboration with private sector, NGOs, and local public sector

## Evolution of SIMA (3)

- Establishment of a pilot Strategic Marketing Information Service in 2001
- Nampula province
  - More dynamic area in terms of production and agricultural marketing
  - Large number of producer associations
    - Strong links with commercial sector and NGOs
  - Provincial SIMA already established
  - Information already disseminated through local radio in local language

## Number and % of Households Receiving Market Information Through Electronic or Print Media

Province	# of households	% within province/country
Nampula	442,668	66
Manica	127,040	59
Rest of country	510,045	23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,079,753</b>	<b>35</b>

*Nearly 450,000 households reached in Nampula at average annual cost per household of US\$0.07*

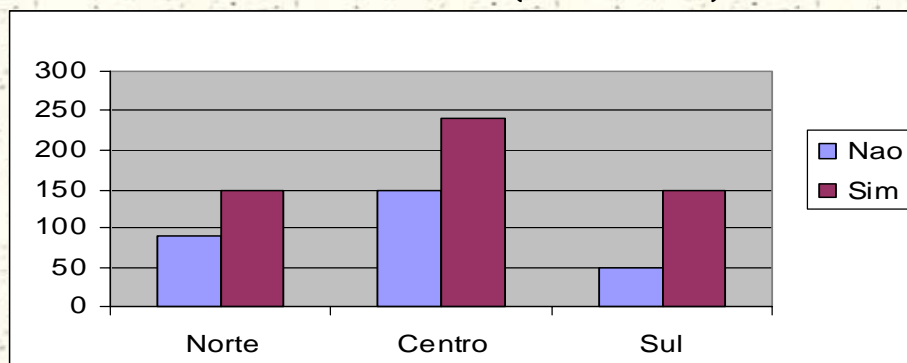
## Successes of SIMA

- Institutionalization
  - Reliable market information unit established in Ministry of Agriculture
  - Paid for fully through Ministry financial mechanisms
  - Day-to-day operations conducted entirely by Mozambican staff
- Much greater dissemination
  - Radio programs in local languages are key

## Successes of SIMA (2)

- Commercially oriented farmers use the information

Total Cereals Sales Value, by Household Access to Market Information ('000 meticaís)



## Successes of SIMA (3)

- Improved Policy
  - Avoiding bad decisions
    - Regional maize crisis of 2002/03 became opportunity to reaffirm commitment to free trade, rather than to step away from it
  - Very positive impacts of maize trade with neighboring countries on producer prices
  - Little impact on consumer prices in main consumption zones

# Future Challenges

- How to ensure sustainability and continuing relevance of the system
  - Sustainability requires "investment" from both public and private sectors
    - Public good nature of information means basic budget will need to come from public sector
    - But private sector demand for the service helps ensure this funding → lobbying
      - ✦ And can provide complementary funding of its own

# Future Challenges (2)

- Continuing relevance helps ensure sustainability
  - Private sector will not demand the service if it is not relevant to their needs
  - Public sector will lose interest if system is not used to inform policy decisions

## Future Challenges (3)

- Continuing relevance requires:
  - Efficient management and decision-making
  - A practical analytical mentality as opposed to a purely reporting mentality
    - Needs to constantly assess market performance and modify the collection and reporting system to remain relevant

## Future Challenges (4)

- Sustainability and continuing relevance both require constant investment in human capacity
  - Formal short-course training
  - In-service training
  - Selected long-term training