

Interview with Director Pedro Dzulcula
[REDACTED] on Aug. 1, 2014
with the presence of JICA staff
taken place at DPA Nampula

List of remarks by Mr. Pedro Dzulcula, Director of DPA, Nampula.

- We have a big challenge of food insecurity. 4 million population and majority are doing agriculture. 36% of income(?) are from agriculture. **We have great opportunities for increasing agricultural investment.**
- Agro-ecological characters are suitable for producing maize, soybean, cabbage, many crops. Thus, cooperation for 3 countries, Japan and Brazil, is OK, and **the best practice of the experience of the Cerrado should be brought here under responsible investment.**
- **But, before starting, before anything, we need to make Master Plan.** MP will be environmental, social, economic issues. Responsible Agriculture must be for focusing on the productivities of small farmers. They shouldn't remain to be subsistent farmers.
- **The Cerrado region has a lot of experiences on this. How to adopt this into our conditions here. We have different situations.** We have different land law, too. In Mozambique, land belongs to the state. The government protects land for people. Any investors who come to Mozambique need to consult with communities, and the government support that.
- **The Cerrado experience is brought here by EMBRAPA.** They came here and jointly working with IIAM (Mozambican research institute) together with Japanese study team. How to enhance the conditions to increase productivities of farmers. They are building their own laboratories. Where and what we can produce will be studied.
- We shall experiment different varieties of maize, soybeans and others. Why soybeans? ProSAVANA is following PEDSA (Strategic Plan of Agriculture). ProSAVANA must follow the recommendations of PEDSA. There is a diversification of crops in it. We must supply protein. We are still importing chickens from Brazil. We need to increase capacity of supplying chicken. In order to do poultry, we need to mix soybean as chicken feeds. Soybean can reduce nutrition problems. It is a strategic crop for Mozambique, so as sesame. They can get more money from these crops than maize. These are "future crops" .
- We are elaborating Master Plan, and we invite them, civil society, and journalists. **We give them drafts of Master Plan (* It seems that he talks about "the Concept Note") for receiving their opinions about what is wrong and what is good. No answer. They say that they don't like or want ProSAVANA. Why? We are just doing research, and some pilot studies. We already chose farmers associations, and we are supporting farmers associations to learn how to manage finance.** We give training in order for them to be out of poverty.
- **We have many problems from civil society. They talk about farmers, but they live in Maputo, some of them are living here. They come here to manipulate.** They say that ProSAVANA will take land from small farmers. It's not true. So we try to explain "No, ProSAVANA is not going to manage land. ProSAVANA is for farmers to increase productivities. It is for benefiting farmers. ProSAVANA is a Mozambican initiative" . **We face a lot of subversions against ProSAVANA.** We don't understand. They say ProSAVANA is wrong since it is for producing soybean. It's not real. We can solve our food insecurity, farmers can sell their products. If we produce enough, we can export. We can increase our GDP in Nampula. In the future, we can sell to the Japanese market, too. Japan can benefit from it. The world population is increasing, and it doesn't make sense to keep our products in the country. We can also supply food to our partners.
- **For Master Plan, the civil society doesn't point out which points are problematic. Rather, they say that they don't like ProSAVANA.**

- The communication with civil society is not so good sometimes. It's because we took so long to answer to their letter that the civil society wrote. The process of submittance of this letter was problematic, too. Here we have local government. We are here of MINAG and governor is here. If there were problems they could have discussed here. But they took it directly to Japan last year. But Master Plan is not finished. MP must be approved by the government, then, once we finish MP, we were supposed to invite them all. But they didn't wait for that, and said that it's not a good way how MP is.
- They must participate in MP. None from Brazil will come here to remove local farmers. We the government have the responsibility. We cannot destroy our country. We cannot remove our farmers. The discussions about ProSAVANA was on TV. The farmers from Ribaué, Monapo called to say that they are waiting for ProSAVANA and development. But there are people who are saying that in Nampula province, farmers don't like ProSAVANA. It's not true. It's not real. Some people, global people, manipulate like this in the name of small farmers.
- They say that we don't like ProSAVANA and soybeans. And say that they like tomatoes. Why? Soybeans we have market. Market of soybeans will increase. We are open to any market. Not only Africa. Our farmers should be open to the market in Japan. Japan is helping us for long. Even myself I learn in and from Japan. Why don't let Japan work for next generation.
- Nampula Civil Society Platform, we are having coordination. We also understand that there is other side. They don't want to read Master Plan. We give them master plan, so please read it and give us your comments. But they do not read and say that ProSAVANA is wrong and taking 1450 million ha of our land,
- Now, we recognize that in civil society there is Mozambican politics involving with this also. They use some people in the civil society. There are opposition people. They say that we must stop development. But then people will go hungry, and blame on the government, thus the opposition will be benefitting.
- We say that please give us your suggestions. Family Farming National Plan, we welcome. Please bring it to us. But they do not bring it. It's a normal challenge. We will win. Society can win from ProSAVANA. Food security will be solved by it. Land of farmers to bring technological change, and people can benefit from sustainable agriculture.
- Land Law gives rights to farmers who cultivate for 10 years. Community must be consulted and signed. Before permission of the communities, none can remove anyone.
- In such a case (if the communities don't sign contracts with investment companies), no investment. There are so many free land. If you can find none is around, you can use the land. Like in Monapo, South African company invests to produce soybeans.
- (If the contracts were made against will of the local peasants, and they were removed from their farmland or residence, what will the government do?) There is no such a case. We don't have any cases. In the future, there may be. But we don't like. If there are bigger advantages of investment, we need to double the compensations, Infra-structure, etc. They shouldn't suffer.
- (There are cases in other countries, for example, farmers cannot read and the local chiefs or someone made them sign without them knowing what the documents were) No, not here. Some problems here, there are some one who owns the land and not doing anything for more than 10 years. Then the gov. has right to take. Small farmers don't need to submit exploration plan like investors, We the government don't take their land. Only for the investment. Many times, they come and say that they want land. But once they come, they don't do agriculture and use the money for something else.
- (Names of companies investing in the province are) Matanusca, Alfa Agriculture, Amalura Farming (Indian), Corredor de Agro (Netherland), others. We don't have Brazilians or Japanese here. (not willing to mention Lurio Green. When suggested, there was a silence.)

- Regarding (Prosavana's) Master Plan, if we say that we bring technology, civil society says nonono. We bring machinery instead of hoes. We need to produce quantity and quality. We cannot keep using hoes. We should ban slash-burn agriculture.
- The large famers need bigger machinery. The problem here is comercialization. Small farmers don't know about market. So, they can do contract farming.
- We have many corridors. There is Maputo corridor and Beira Agriculture Corridor. No Master Plan is there. Why are they talking about only Nacala Corridor and ProSAVANA? Why about Japan? Why don't they talk about Beira Agriculture Corridor?
- Civil society who come here to fight against ProSAVANA are coming from those side, too. Mr. Antonio Mugerene of civil society platform here is working for SKIP. SKIP is of USAID. And he is coming here to fight against ProSAVANA. (Director, laughing) It's very interesting. This one must have other agenda. They are using civil societies of Japan and Brazil. There are Valley of Limpopo and Valley of Zambezia, Wuamba? project, China. They are making rice. They occupy big land, but none is talking about China. None talks about them. (big laugh)
- Wamba, they produce a lot of rice and feed rice to local market. So there is advantage and disadvantage.