

UFISAMO



Newsletter 03/2018: October 2018



Figure 3: Participants of urbanGAP workshop, Maputo 2018; Photo: WS proceedings



Figure 2: Tropentag, Ghent 2018



Figure 1: Survey on dietary diversity, Maputo 2018. Photo: I.Cumbana

UFISAMO is a research consortium with partners in South Africa, Mozambique and Germany:



1. UFISAMo – activities from July – September 2018 (3rd quarter)

While the **annual meeting** in December in Berlin and the **final report** are being **prepared** - first chapters were submitted for comments – field activities were still ongoing: **UrbanGAP for Maputo** were developed in a multi-stakeholder workshop, the implementation and monitoring of urbanGAP in Cape Town was accompanied, and **last field data** for organisational structures and consumption habits was collected and analysed in Maputo. Besides, researchers from Mozambique participated in a **conference in Porto Alegre** on agriculture and nutrition in an urbanized society, while an UFISAMO delegation from Cape Town and Berlin participated in the **Tropentag** conference in Ghent.

Research activities

- A **workshop** to develop **urbanGAP** (good agricultural practices for the urban context) for the city of **Maputo** was organized by Nicole Paganini in close collaboration with Alberto Luis and Alzira Mahalembe from Abiodes and the support of the municipality of Maputo. Over 50 participants from associations and cooperatives of urban farmers, from various NGOs working on agro-ecology and urban agriculture, as well as from different faculties of the university participated in the 3 days' workshop between the 24th and 26th of July. The “**workshop proceedings**” were circulated soon after and can be accessed on the UFISAMO website. An urbanGAP manual for Maputo based on the research results is currently in production. Structure and design will resemble the one from Cape Town, adaptations to the specific context will be included.



Figure 4: UrbanGAP workshop in Maputo 2018; Source: WS proceedings

- Ivo Cumbana conducted **household interviews on HH dietary diversity** based on FANTA indicators as well as group discussions to elucidate different topics so far not well covered in his research on nutrition and consumption habits. The research is now zooming into how urban agriculture practice affects dietary diversity and nutritional value of the families involved in urban agriculture.
- Luisa Mutisse organized **focus group discussions on good practices in organizational structures** in associations and unions.
- Anita Tobies and Zita Seichter, two students on an **ASA** scholarship within the ASA program of academic cooperation, engaged in their field phase in Maputo. Their focus is on **practical knowledge transfer instruments** such as demonstration gardens, farmer field schools or similar formats. Guiding questions are how these formats operate, how successful they are in

transmitting innovative and good practice as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the different existing formats. Research is going on well, albeit slower than expected.

- **Research on broiler slaughtering and marketing hygiene in Maputo** is ongoing. The two master students working on stable hygiene and animal welfare have accomplished the analysis and are now working on their thesis.



Figure 5: During survey on household dietary survey, Mputo 2018. Photo: I.Cumbana

Business trips, meetings and preparatory activities

- Nicole travelled to South Africa and Mozambique in late July to conduct the urbanGAP workshop and consolidate some of her achievements in Cape Town, namely the urbanGAP implementation and monitoring.

In Cape Town, she presented earlier results of UFISAMO research during a workshop conducted by UCT on food systems. The group of African researchers went to an excursion of one of the UFISAMO urban research farmer.

- Tinashe travelled to Cologne University on another budget to engage into research and networking with other geographers in September. His presence in Germany facilitated the participation in Tropentag.

Conference participation

- Luisa presented her paper on **“policies and public action that stimulate food production and income generation in Maputo city’s agriculture and livestock associations – the mismatch between promise and practices”** at the 3rd international conference on agriculture and food in an urbanized society” in September in Porto Alegre/Rio Grande Del Sul.
- Ivo presented his paper on **“the contribution of urban agriculture on food and nutrition security of producers and their households in the city of Maputo”** at that same conference, taking place between the 17th and 21st of September.

Both papers received good feedback – the main issues for discussion were effects of trade and globalization on urban agriculture – with the underlying questions how local markets could be better protected from international competition in times of “free trade agreements” forcing emerging economies to open up their markets and local producers to compete with Brazilian and South African enterprises.

- Erik, Tinashe and Doreen participated at the **Tropentag** in Ghent 2018. That three day conference ran under the title of “**global food security and food safety: the role of Universities**”. It sought responses to the question, how agricultural research and innovation could result in better nutritional practices and reduced figures of malnutrition. A side event organized by BLE targeting the food security network of projects currently funded by BLE discussed and shared experiences in three workgroups: a) “how can research **results and action** be **up- and outscaled**,” and how the gap between research and practice could be bridged; b) “what are needs and concrete ideas for conducting **international summer/winter schools** for PhDs; and c) how the network could establish comprehensive **knowledge management** and what the future of the network could look like after the end of the funding periods.



Figure 6: Erik presenting workgroup results during the BLE session at Tropentag

For Erik, main topics of interest were the broad discussions on food systems, agriculture and the role of agricultural diversification and/or markets to alleviate malnutrition and obtain food and nutrition security.

Products

- **Report on backyard horticulture in Maputo** submitted by Enrique Flores. Currently in second round of editing.
- Workshop proceedings “**urbanGAP in Maputo**” by Alzira Mahalambe, Alberto Luis and Nicole Paganini.
- Outline for an academic **module on urban agriculture in Maputo** submitted by Samuel Quive. A similar document exists for Cape Town.
- Draft chapter on “**Organizational structures of urban agriculture in Cape Town**” for the final report handed in by Tinashe Kanosvumhira
- Draft chapter “**Being a farmer in Maputo**” handed in by Luisa Mutisse and Ivo Cumbana
- Paper “**Policies and public action that stimulate food production and income generation in Maputo city’s agriculture and livestock associations – the mismatch between promise and practices**” presented by Luisa in Porto Alegre.

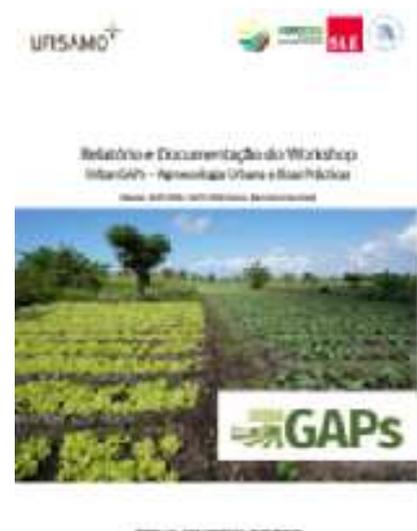


Figure 7: Cover page of urbanGAP workshop proceedings, Maputo 2018

- Paper “**The contribution of urban agriculture on food and nutrition security of producers and their households in the city of Maputo**” presented by Ivo in Porto Alegre.
- Article “**The potential of urban agriculture towards a more sustainable urban food system in food-insecure neighbourhoods in Cape Town and Maputo**” submitted to the journal “food economy” by Nicole.
- An article “**The missing ingredient – How Food Gardens could re-shape the foodscape of Mitchell’s Plain**” is going through final editing by Dan Tevera, Tinashe and Nicole.

Coordination

- Request for the **reallocation of funds** for the remaining project duration (until 28.02.2019) were submitted.
- **A request for project extension were elaborated** with the cooperation of all partners. Submission is pending due to a number of factors.
- **Arrangements for the annual meeting** (10th – 14th of December in Berlin) are being made: accommodation has been reserved for all guests from abroad, a schedule for the event has been drafted and points of interest for excursions are being approached.
- **The draft structure of the final report** has been further refined and schedules reviewed.

2. Scientific updates: Any new developments from third parties that might influence the project?

In Mozambique, a process is currently underway to establish an **obligatory food safety standard** (a Mozambique localGAP (currently referred to as MoZBoPa). The process is ongoing under the leadership of the international NGO “Solidaridad”, in collaboration with among others Government, a few SA supermarkets with regional footprints, GlobalGAP (South Africa office), INNOQ, the national standards body established for the preparation and promulgation of Mozambican standards.

Nicole is in contact with them to ensure that results of the urbanGAP workshop are considered in the process.

3. Indications of results for different user groups – how is previewed transfer strategy working? Adaptations needed?

The urbanGAP workshop in Maputo was particularly dynamic, indicating raised interest in the issue. The dissemination and adoption of good agricultural practices and a reduction of pesticide use in urban production – maybe even a switch to agro-ecological practices – seem particularly relevant in view of a recent poisoning of some Maputo inhabitants by pesticide-contaminated cabbage from urban production.

Activists and farmers in Cape Town provide positive feedback on the process of elaborating urbanGAPs and of involving farmers in research. The encouraging of farmers to get involved in their own networks has contributed, so the feedback, to a more empowered, more dynamic farming community.

The box scheme run by Abalimi "harvest of hope" was re-started in the last weeks and farmers again sell their winter harvest and early spring products through Harvest of Hope. We are happy about the

effort conducted by new Abalimi manager Grace and Dave and hope the organization can continue towards a more sustainable box scheme approach.

Abalimi is generally back on track: new personnel has been employed to increase the internal skills and portfolio. In that course, trainings have been scaled up, garden centres have been reinforced to be even better demonstration gardens focusing on water saving and soil formation, and outreach to local farmers is again taking up. Changes and adaptations have been made, to quote Dave Golding: . *“In hind sight it was a wake up call and a hard pruning for the organization. It has allowed for renewal on all fronts from Board members to Management and some additional new staff that bring new information, skills and energy into the organization. It has also given the Field program time to review and renew its approach and activities to move forward in a strong, clear and empowered way.”*

The Umthunzi box scheme in Cape Town - which came up when Harvest of Hope had stopped operations - continues to develop well, despite the Southern winter. It encourages farmers to apply the urbanGAPs, from site selection and production planning to field hygiene, harvesting and handling. Abalimi is again implementing its different projects and activities, new staff has been recruited. It remains interesting to see whether the provision of inputs (seedlings, compost), the organizing of planting (i.e. farmers are planting on command) and the granted purchase of product (for the box scheme Harvest of Hope) will take urban farming in the townships back to where it was, entailing dependency from the NGO, limited empowerment in terms of decision making and marketing, and limited financial benefits. As stated by the NGO, the approach will change according to evidence from the field and the process of self-reflection.

The demonstration plot in Cape Town is back on track, and implementing urbanGAPs. A new partner is cooperating with Magda, the initiator and manager of the agro hub/garden at Beacon Valley High School, thus overcoming old township barriers.

What else?

We congratulate **Magda** for winning the **“DAFF female entrepreneur price”** as best subsistence producer in the Western Cape.

Magda - who besides managing the Beacon Valley agro hub/UFISAMO demonstration garden on indigenous vegetables is one of the urbanGAP pioneer farmers in Cape Town – was awarded the price in August 2018 by the department of agriculture, forestry and fisheries (DAFF) of the Western Cape as **best subsistence producer in the Western Cape**.

As Nicole writes: *“This price is for the incredible work she does as facilitator, teacher, farmer and female CEO. Magda has started her farm few years ago and turned it into a place of diversity, learning and sustainable production. She is one of two food garden farmers (out of 60), who can make a living with farming activities in Cape Town”*.

Congratulations from the entire UFISAMO team!

And:

Welcome back, Anja Schelchen:

Anja is coming back from maternity leave to take up work on an hourly basis t