

EDUARDO MONDLANE UNIVERSITY
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS AND NUTRITION
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HIGHER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE OF GAZA (ISPG) AND
HIGHER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE OF MANICA (ISPM)
CALL Nº 08/2025

June 16, 2025

CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS:
COMUNITY ACTION RESEARCH PROJECTS (CARP-E) FOR ENTERPRISE CREATION,
INCUBACTION AND BUSINESS SPIN-OFFS

Title: Sustainable Vegetable and Fruit Production Value Chain

1. Background

Mozambique has been battling food shortage of almost all kinds of food crops (PAPPA, 2008)¹, which includes cereals, vegetables and fruit, and reliance on food imports in unstable world marked by frequent political and economical conflicts, and climate change constitute great menace to food security and sovereignty of the country (IPC, 2025)². Furthermore, reliance on food imports (ITA, 2025)³ poses a threat for a predominantly agricultural based economy where more than 80% of the population live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihood (MADER, 2024)⁴. Although the agriculture sector has been recognized as the backbone of Mozambican's economy (PARPA, 2001)⁵, its contribution to the national economy and people's wellbeing has been hindered by factors such as climate change, inefficient crop production systems, poor

¹ PAPPA. 2008.

² IPC. 2025. IPC Acute Food Insecurity Snapshot. October 2024 - March 2025.

³ ITA. 2025. Mozambique Country commercial guide.

⁴ MADER. 2024. Inquerito Agrário Integrado - 2023.

⁵ PARPA. 2001.



production value chain, increased youth exodus to urban areas, weak investment in research, and ineffective seed industry.

National production and consumption of vegetables and fruit is still below the known potential, and consumption of vegetable and fruits is generally synonymous of wealth, and poor access to these sources of valuable nutrients can be undoubtedly a determinant factor to health risks and low life expectancy, although it has been reported that vegetables production contributes to food security and household's income in major urban areas in Maputo, Beira, Nampula, Tete and Pemba (Ecole and Malia, 2015)⁶, and that makes horticulture as a key area for development (ITA, 2024)³. Mozambique has huge potential for vegetable and fruit production and commercialization, given the availability of 52.7% of which 7.2% is arable land (World Bank Group, 2025)⁷, favorable agroecological conditions for vegetable and fruit production, a significant population of youth, and potential regional market in the continent. The low production, productivity, consumption and commercialization of vegetable and fruits is associated with inefficient production and post-harvest technology, weak infrastructure and access to market, lack of effective investment in efficient production inputs such as improved seed, fertilizers and other critical inputs necessary for sustainable vegetable production (MADER, 2024⁴; ITA, 2024³), and weak value chain (ITA, 2024)³. Post-harvest losses of vegetable and fruit is estimated at over 40-50% of the total production, and it is due to lack of vegetable and fruit storage and processing facilities (FAO, 2025⁸). Vegetable and fruit production in Mozambique is mainly done under small scale by resource-poor farmers mainly in seasonal fashion under low agricultural technology and inputs, such as irrigation, improved seed varieties, fertilizers (Ecole and Malia, 2015⁵; MADER, 2024³) and pest and disease management, and the development of vegetable and fruit production into sustainable agribusiness model would require addressing these key factors that limit production and productivity, and the establishment of an effectively integrated value chain. Therefore, sustainable vegetable and fruit production value chain can be attained through an integrated approach which takes into account the technical issues of the whole production value chain of vegetables and fruits, which includes high quality vegetable and fruit propagation materials, existence of qualified production expertise, use of production technology and associated infrastructure, processing and access to market.

This call aims to develop or strengthen existing vegetable and fruit production enterprises in Mozambique for sustainable vegetable and fruit production value chain to contribute to sustainable vegetable and fruit production, processing and supply, job creation through three thematic areas, as described below.

2. Thematic Areas

Thematic Area 1: Sustainable Vegetable and Fruit Production Value Chain

This theme focuses mainly on sustainable climate-smart and productive vegetables and fruit production systems that will contribute to the reduction of vegetable and fruit deficit through:

⁶ Ecole, C e Malia, H. 2015. Caracterização da horticultura em Moçambique. In Harber et al. (ed). Horticultura em Moçambique: Características, Tecnologias de Produção e de Pós-Colheita (pp21-32) – Brasília, DF: Embrapa.

⁷ WBG. 2025. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.HA.PC?locations=MZ>.

⁸ FAO. 2025. Seeking end to loss and waste of food along production chain. <https://www.fao.org>

- Developing one or more enterprises that will be vacationed in sustainable vegetable and fruit production and commercialization;
- Promoting environmentally sustainable production practices and the adoption of novel production technologies and climate-smart techniques for higher vegetable and fruit productivity;
- Promoting proper harvest and post-harvesting, processing, and storage practices to minimize losses;
- Encouraging crop waste management through composting and recycling of organic waste.

Thematic Area 2: Sustainable Vegetables and Fruit Supply Chain

Vegetables and fruits are seasonal and perishable food type, so sustainable supply chain depends on comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of environmental conditions, proper handling and effective market. Therefore, sustainable vegetables and fruit supply chain will be attained through:

- Establishing businesses that will sustainably provide the market with fresh vegetable and fruits;
- Developing a network of vegetable and fruit processing hubs using cost-effective efficient processing technologies (vegetable packing, natural juice, dried fruits, jam etc);
- Establishing alternative markets for vegetable and fruit commercialization.

Thematic Area 3: Sustainable Community-based Vegetable and Fruit Propagation Resources

This theme will aim at promoting conservation of plant resources, mass production and distribution for sustainable availability of high quality botanical and vegetative seeds for mass propagation of vegetable and fruit crops through:

- Establishing sustainable community-based seed and plant nurseries to support mass production of vegetables and fruit plant materials for crop propagation;
- Establishing sustainable community-managed fruit tree orchards, fruit production and commercialization;

3. Who should apply

This call is intended to faculty members (Principal Investigators, Lecturers and researchers) from Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM), Higher Polytechnic Institute of Manica (ISPM), and Higher Polytechnic Institute of Gaza (ISPG) to submit proposals that align with the thematic areas outlined above.

4. Application Requirements:

- Be a Principal Investigator, Lecturer or Researcher of UEM, ISPM and ISPG.
- Technical and financial proposal: Refer to Annex 1.
- Curriculum Vitae.

5. Schedule of Activities.

Table 1. Schedule of Activities

Activity	Period/Date
Submission of proposals	16 to 30 June, 2025
Evaluation and Selection	1 ST to 3 rd July, 2025
Publication of results	July 4 th , 2025
Implementation period	July to December 2025

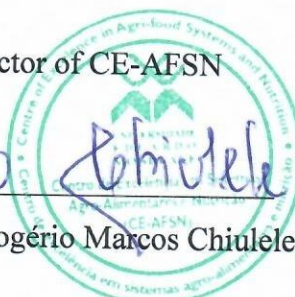
6. Budget

- Each selected project will receive funding of up to USD 15,000.

Application documents must be submitted to the following email address: dir.ceafsn@uem.mz by June 30th, 2025. The same email can be used for further details or additional information about the process. Details regarding the terms of reference and application forms can be accessed in the following website: www.ceafsn.uem.mz.

The Director of CE-AFSN


(Prof. Doutor Rogério Marcos Chiulele)



ANNEX 1:

1. CARP-E application form
2. Entrepreneurs/start-ups application form and with the Costing Excel.

Available in www.ceafsn.uem.mz