



CASE STUDY

MOZAMBIQUE SMALL-SCALE GROWER TRAINING

Tongaat Hulett has set itself the objective of contributing towards the creation of successful, sustainable small-scale sugarcane farmers. With sugarcane farming not being a traditional farming activity in Mozambique, local farmers generally lack the required knowledge and expertise. Due to the reality that most local farmers were previously subsistence farmers, they also require additional training in farming as a business. These skill shortages can influence productivity, viability and the sustainability of the small-scale grower associations that have been created. To address these requirements Tongaat Hulett has developed a farmer training and skills development programme to meet the training and development needs of these emerging farmers.

Participants of the first programme, which comprised 64 young trainees, 22 of whom were female, graduated in April 2018. They were chosen from small-scale grower associations, with one participant selected for every 40 hectares under cane. Tongaat Hulett thus far invested Mt 33 478 533 in this comprehensive four-year programme, which covers theory, practical and business management. The programme is presented by estate personnel and external institutions such as universities, research, and training institutions, from Mozambique and abroad. External institutions who present selected programme modules include Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Instituto Agrario de Boane, and Mananga Training and Development Centre in Swaziland.

The programme, which commenced in 2014, was initially designed to be a two-year course, but after the initial period it was determined that participants required additional practical experience in the production environment. The programme was thus extended to include two years of practical farming experience on the participant's association's farm. Training modules include:

- basic business management;
- soil and water management;
- crop nutrition;
- crop physiology;
- crop husbandry;
- labour management and control; and
- pest and diseases control.

Commenting on the success of the programme, Antonio Timane from the Hoyo Hoyo Association said, "We had teachers from Universities and at beginning of the training it was difficult to understand. We were training in all aspects of sugar cane growing and now we are ready to work and produce sugarcane."