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Articles in the field of agricultural economics, suitable for publication in the journal, will be welcomed.

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# Brief Notes on Agrarian Settlement in Mocambique

by

A.R. FIGUIERA

Provincial Settlement Board, Lourenco Marques

Up to a few years ago the agrarian occupation of Mocambique had been taking place unassisted, but at a very slow rate and in a disorderly and scattered form, as there was no properly established settlement programme which could serve as a guide, aiming at the creation of development centres and the better use of the natural resources.

Naturally, development took place more intensively near the largest consuming centres and in the better served regions with the most favourable conditions, or in places especially suitable for such crops as tea, coconut palms, tobacco, etc.

However, vast inland regions - chiefly the northern districts of the Province such as Tete, Niassa and Cabo Delgado - have persisted with poor development and little agrarian activity, although having notable natural resources.

Thus, the most recent agricultural statistics show that of about 4 000 farms in Mocambique (1966) about 57% are in the districts of Gaza and Lourenco Marques, 14% in Mocambique, 11% in Manica e Sofala and 8% in Zambézia. The other districts have only 10% of the farms. Of the latter, the most sparsely occupied are the districts of Niassa, Tete and Cabo Delgado, as already mentioned.

With the Limpopo Scheme, the Government started a new settlement policy planned in advance which aims at increasing the country's agrarian activities on a technical and economical basis. With this objective the Provincial Settlement Board was created and different schemes of settlement were considered in the Development Plans, the most important of which are now under way with the fulfilment of the Third Development Plan (1968 to 1973).

In this plan particular attention is paid to settlement in the northern districts with investments by the Government, infrastructures and financing for the settlers, in three important priority zones:

Zone A - in the Niassa district, including Vila Cabral, Maniamba, Muemba and Catur, where 300 settlers will be placed on farms mainly suitable for producing deciduous fruits, maize, potatoes, pigs and cattle.

Zone D - in the Cabo Delgado District, but extending into the district of Mocambique, including Balama, Namuno, Melôco, Montepuez, Erati, Alua, Ocua and Mesa, where 900 settlers will produce cotton, maize, sesame, Burley tobacco, pigs and cattle.

Zone F - in the Niassa District, but extending into the district of Zambézia including Mecanheles, Lioma and Molumbo, where 300 settlers will produce maize, cotton and chiefly cattle.

Besides these, in the Third Development Plan but with different activities, are the following:

Zone G - in the Tete district, including Angonia, Macanga, Marávia and Zumbo, which will be studied and divided up for free settlement without financial help from the Government.

Zone K - in the district of Manica e Sofala, including the plateau area of Barué, Chimoio, Manica and Mossurize, with a plan identical to that of Zone G.

Zone B - in the Cabo Delgado District, including the River Valleys of Massalo and Muera, where the aim is to study the possibilities of profiting from electric power and also the profitable exploitation of around 50,000 hectare of irrigation land for later settlement.

Zone E - in the Mocambique District with characteristics identical to zone B, covering the Malema River.

Zone L - in Manica e Sofala and Inhambane districts, including the Save River Valley, to study a profitable irrigation scheme for that valley and later settlement.

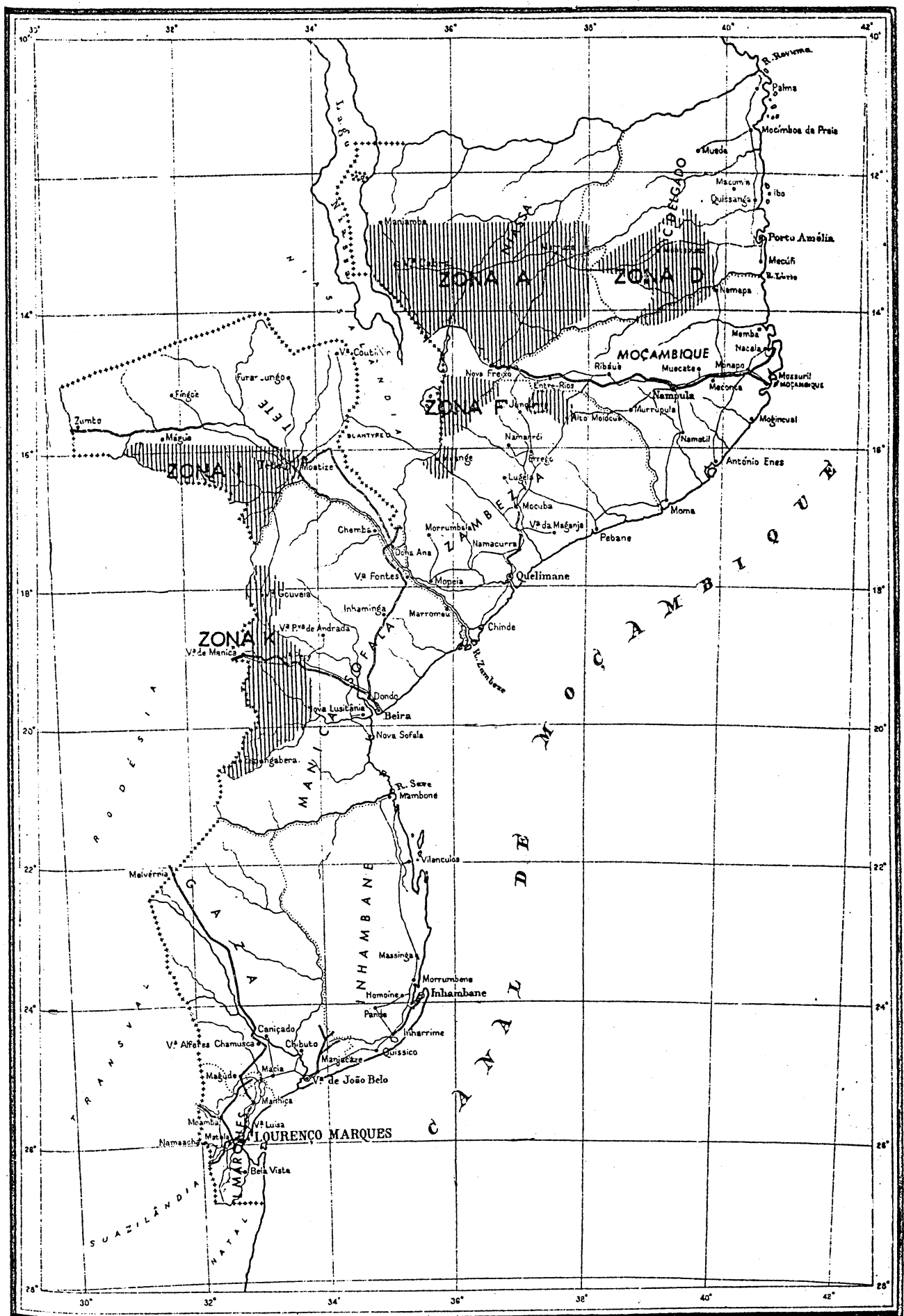
Besides these settlement activities, more attention is being given to the agrarian ordination of the less advanced African population, aiming at social and economic promotion, rural ordination centres being created near the settlement centres or included in them. Important work of this nature is taking place in the districts of Niassa and Cabo Delgado, with very promising results.

To give a better idea of the settlement action which has been developing in Mocambique, we indicate the main characteristics of the most important settlement centres and of rural ordination.

The Limpopo Scheme was started in 1953 with the construction of a dam in the Limpopo river, to irrigate about 14 000 ha. of land.

Up to now, about 1 600 settlers have been placed of which 443 are Africans, each settler having an area of from 4 to 10 ha. of irrigable land, the main crops being rice, wheat, cotton, tomatoes, lucern and potatoes. Rice as the main

# PROVÍNCIA DE MOÇAMBIQUE



crop has already reached an output of 30 000 tons.

The settlers live in 13 villages. The establishment of each settler costs between 300 to 400 contos (R7 500 to R10 000). There is already a "Co-operativa Agrícola do Limpopo" (Farmers' Association) which processes the crops in five factories in different villages: rice mills, a tomato concentrate plant, dehydration and milling of lucern, canned and sausage products.

With the construction of a new dam in the Elifant river (Massingir Dam) it will be possible to increase the irrigated area to 30 000 ha. and establish many more settlers.

Maputo Valley - flood barricades and draining of the lands in the valley permitted the settlement of about 70 farmers of which 30 are in an organized settlement with financial assistance from the Government and about 40 are in free settlement. The former have 20 ha. of land with irrigation by pumping stations and a common block of about 2 000 ha. of pasture land for cattle, and the latter have about 300 ha. each of which around 100 ha. have irrigation possibilities.

The main crops are rice, maize, beans, potatoes and vegetables.

In addition, 86 more African farmers were established each with 2.5 ha. of irrigated land and a common block of about 4 000 ha. for pasture.

Barra do Limpopo - the draining and division of land in the Limpopo valley, near the river mouth, have permitted the establishment of 850 African farmers, 400 of whom have 1 ha. of irrigated land each, raising rice, maize, wheat and beans.

Inhamissa, Sotuíne and Siaia - flood barricades, draining and division of lands in the Limpopo valley, near Joao Belo, have permitted the settlement of about 2 300 African farmers with 1 to 1.5 ha. each of irrigated land and 4 ha. more of dry land on the slope, raising rice, maize, wheat, beans, cotton, bananas and vegetables.

Magula - Chibombanine - flood barricades, draining and division of lands in the Limpopo Valley, adjoining the aforementioned area, where 35 farms were established in free settlement with variable areas from 30 to 80 ha. of irrigated land, and about 500 African farmers, many of them with 1 ha. irrigated land, for raising rice, maize, wheat, cotton, beans, bananas and vegetables.

Coolela - rural ordination of the local population which includes the settlement in 7 villages of 1 145 farmers, each with a farm of 4 ha. where they grow cashew nuts, groundnuts, manioc and beans.

Interesting social promotion work includes the following:

Sussundenga and Zonue are settlement centres established in the Revue River Basin, including Manica and Chimoio with about 80 settlers established by the Government, each with a farm of about 250 ha. for Virginia Tobacco (in Zonue), maize, kenaf, sunflower, Burley tobacco (Sussundenga) and cattle raising. 110 Africans were also settled on parcels of 10 ha. each and produce the same products.

Caia, Inhangoma and Mopeia are settlement centres established in the Zambezi Valley, the first two on the right bank and Mopeia on the left river bank, where about 100 settlers were placed (57,23 and 20) on parcels of 50 to 250 ha. of which 25 to 50 ha. is irrigated land. The main crops are cotton, maize, sunflower, rice, beans, sesame, and cattle raising on the larger farms.

This includes also the rural settlement of about 400 Africans, on farms of 10 ha. each with 2 ha. of irrigated land.

Priority Zone A - in this section, in the Niassa district, to which we have already referred, more than 150 settlers have already been established, in settlement centres near Vila Cabral, Mandimba, Nova Freixo, Maua and Marrupa, with the establishment of 200 more settlers being foreseen towards the end of the Third Development Plan (1973).

The farms range from 100 ha. to 300 ha. with crops of maize, beans, potatoes, Burley tobacco (Mandimba), cotton (Nova Freixo, Maua and Marrupa) and raising of pigs and cattle. The establishment cost in respect of each settler ranges from 250 to 300 contos (R6,250 to R7 500).

Besides this, the agrarian settlement and social promotion of the African population of the district has been taking place, the majority of whom are already living in villages.

Priority Zone D - in the greater part of this section of Cabo Delgado district, 60 settlers have already been placed in the Montepuez area, and 100 to 120 settlers are expected to be established by the end of this year. The size of each farm is around 250 ha., of which 100 ha. are for crops and 150 ha. for cattle.

The main crop is cotton, and the production of maize, Burley tobacco, beans and sesame is also foreseen. The settlement cost in respect of each farmer runs around 250 contos (R6 250).

The agrarian settlement and social promotion of the African population are progressing steadily with very encouraging results, and are coupled to the settlement of Europeans already mentioned.

The settlement of priority zone F, mentioned earlier, has not yet been started, and awaits a study of the natural resources to be made by a South African firm. Next year we hope to start placing around 75 settlers a year until we reach the target of 300 settlers established by the Third Development Plan for this zone.