



Youth Migration Implications for Agricultural Development: Empirical Evidence from Magude District, South of Mozambique

Tomas Adriano Siteo^{1*} and Fermino Mujovo²

¹ Mozambique Agricultural Research Institute, Socioeconomic Studies Centre, P.O.Box 3658 Maputo, Mozambique.

² Eduardo Mondlane University- *Faculdade de Letras e Ciências Sociais* Maputo, Mozambique.

INTRODUCTION

- Due to the ability to bring about changes in social and economic structure, migration is an important area of research.
- In the colonial period, migrations in Mozambique were studied by Luis Covane in the context of economic relations between Mozambique and South Africa
- For Covane (2011), the inability of Portuguese farmers to compete with the wages of South Africa's mining industry contributed to the outflow of labour from southern Mozambique to South Africa.
- Colonial taxes were also a migratory motivation for neighboring countries.

- In the post-independence period historically migration has been caused by migratory work, civil war, natural disasters (floods and droughts) and resettlement of the population in communal villages (Araújo 1997; Raimundo 2010).
- Nevertheless, rural migratory movements have been analyzed in the context of rapid growth of big cities. Less attention has been paid to the implications of migration for agricultural development.
- The effects that migration can potentially have on the rural economy can be quite complex.

- The consequences of migration for rural households are generally thought of at two extremes:
- At one extreme there is an optimistic view that consider that migration can promote development by easing production and investment constraints;
- In this sense remittances can be employed for hiring labour and purchasing inputs.
- At the other extreme is the pessimistic perspective that considers migration negatively affecting the family's ability to respond to family work needs, leading to decline in acreage and agricultural production.

- In Magude district, due to the migration of young people, agricultural activities have been left in the hands of elderly men, women and children, which leads to a reduction in labour force for agricultural production.
- However, if there is agreement that the loss of human capital and labour has negatively affected agricultural production, there is still no evidence on the implications of youth migration on agriculture in Magude.
- The purpose of this study is to analyze the implications of rural youth migration on agriculture and farmers income in Moine, Magude district, south Mozambique.

METHODOLOGY

- **Study Area**
- Magude is located in the northern part of Maputo Province, 150 km from the city of Maputo, between the parallel $26^{\circ} 02' 00''$ south latitude and between $32^{\circ} 17' 00''$ longitude.
- Magude is the second largest producer of cattle in Maputo Province,
- Magude district is crossed by Nkomati River favoring agriculture and livestock development.
- A significant part of the active labor force also migrate to South Africa, where it works mainly in mines and agricultural plantations.



METHODOLOGY- cont.

- Data Collection:
- This is a case study, combining qualitative and quantitative approaches.
- We used open and in-depth questions, and the questionnaire to collect household's socioeconomic characteristics (including cultivated areas, agricultural production and income) of 120 household's heads, randomly selected at the study site.
- Sixty-five households had at least one migrated member who left the household to work elsewhere for at least three months during the year, and Fifty-five had not.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 Socioeconomic characteristics of interviewed households in Moine, Magude

	Received remittances ⁵		Not Received remittances		Total		<i>P</i> value ⁶
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Mean	Std. Deviation	Mean	Std. Deviation	
a)- Household Attributes							
Age of respondent (years)	53.60	12.67	51.79	10.96	52.52	11.66	0.406
Residence time (years)	42.02	20.09	36.61	20.81	38.78	20.61	0.160
Household size	5.96	2.32	5.81	2.12	5.87	2.20	0.711
number of children	3.85	1.97	3.74	1.96	3.78	1.96	0.748
b)-Agricultural production (50kg bags)							
maize	11.40	4.17	10.14	2.61	10.64	3.36	0.044
groundnut	6.58	1.80	6.00	2.41	6.23	2.20	0.155
cowpea	6.08	2.12	5.35	1.49	5.64	1.80	0.028
cassava	2.54	0.87	2.25	0.82	2.37	0.85	0.065
sesame	4.96	1.70	4.39	1.34	4.62	1.51	0.043
green corn	2.85	1.29	2.42	0.75	2.59	1.02	0.020
pumpkin	4.42	1.88	4.08	1.10	4.22	1.46	0.223
c)Livestock production (number)							
Cattle	10.46	19.49	2.85	5.77	5.89	13.56	0.002
Goats	10.98	20.68	5.85	8.23	7.90	14.69	0.061
Pigs	1.69	8.88	0.24	1.60	0.82	5.76	0.177
Chickens	15.19	21.12	11.13	8.23	12.75	14.85	0.143
Ducks	5.58	26.21	1.21	3.56	2.96	16.84	0.164

- Most households were headed by elderly people.
- 53 years is the average age of households heads, which would be an indication of migration of young people from rural areas to urban centers and neighboring countries.
- This also could be related to the fact that young men have been more affected by the armed conflict that has plagued Mozambique for over a decade and a half.
- Family size often determines the size of the workforce available for migration. Data in Table 1 suggest that members who receive remittances from migrants generally have an extended family.

- Though labour on the household farm reduces, there is agricultural productivity gains through investment of remittances in agriculture.
- Data in Table 1, suggest differences on agricultural production between farmers that have migrant member and received remittances and those that did not received, in terms of maize production ($p = 0.044$), cowpea (0.028), sesame production ($p = 0.043$), groundnuts production ($p = 0.155$), which may be associated with investments of remittances in agriculture, including the purchase of cattle and other agricultural inputs.

- Note, however, that agricultural outputs in both groups is **lower than averages in the southern Mozambique** where household average maize production is about 1,5 metric ton which may be an indication that crop production is a risky and unprofitable activity, especially in a non-market integration scenario.
- Low agricultural outputs may also indicate emigrant's investments options who privilege construction of zinc sheet houses, water deposits, and vehicles (mainly pick-ups) in detriment of substantial investments in agriculture.

- Results suggest significant difference in terms of cattle possession between both households ($p = 0.002$), which reveals that there is an application of remittance values in cattle, either as a symbolic form (prestige) or as a form of saving and, still, eventually as a form of family reproduction (for the payment of the lobolo), whose practice is common in Magude.
- The importance of cattle is also associated with the ability to farm larger areas by households.
- Most households receiving remittances from their migrated members have average agricultural areas ranging from 3 to 3.5 hectares that are relatively higher than the areas cultivated by households without migrant members.

- The difficulties that migrants experience today in neighboring South Africa prevent them from supporting their families in Mozambique, which is reflected both in terms of the amount of remittances and the regularity of sending.
- Most households received from migrant members more than 2,000 MT/ month (about USD 30).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- agriculture and livestock are carried out in a context of reduction of the available labour and of vulnerability risk (scarcity and excessive rain).
- Involvement of families in agriculture and livestock activities has been supported by the existence of other complementary activities such as cutting and selling firewood, producing and selling charcoal.
- There is a significant difference between households that received financial and material remittances and those that did not receive, mainly, in terms of investments in agricultural production, farming and opening of small informal businesses in the local markets, thus demonstrating that remittances in cash and in various products contribute positively to social changes and households well-being in Magude.

- Although the results suggest positive effects of remittances, allowing migrant families to face several agricultural constraints (mainly credit for inputs and equipment), the potential effect of migration on production constraints, is not always positive, because rural households may face a missing or imperfect labor market
- Taking into account the positive impact that remittances sent by migrants on households Magude, the following is recommended:
- (a) The development of support structures so that adequately remittances have a greater impact (extension services, supply stores, veterinary services, etc.).

- (b) Ensure that migrants abroad have documents that make them legal abroad and allow them to send their remittances effectively and using existing circuits.
- (c) Development of inclusive public policies, in order to safeguard the interests of migrants abroad, calling for their participation in the development of communities of origin in terms of local investments.
- Properly implementing these policy recommendations presents a significant challenge for the Migration authorities in Mozambique.

MANY THANKS