



Termos de Referencia

Workshop 2.1: Rural Development and Agribusiness

Agribusiness cluster is a key element of the transformation agenda. It is a cluster that the government has made substantial investments in recent years with the construction of dams to mobilize water for agriculture. Major efforts have also been made to facilitate the adoption of new technologies that have led to substantial increase in the number of acreage under irrigation. Production has increased substantially. The fact however is that agriculture in Cape Verde continues to face several handicaps, above and beyond the limited natural endowments of limited arable land, limited rainfall, weak soil, and difficult terrain. These handicaps range from production deficiencies to obstacles involving bringing products to markets.

What is clear is that there is a major potential to stimulate profitable market-oriented agricultural production, and agriculture is key to poverty alleviation. Cape Verde cannot neglect agriculture for the simple fact that poverty is heavily concentrated in rural areas and significant portions of the population continue to rely on agriculture for their livelihood and employment opportunities. It is worth noting that poverty and lack of opportunities affect women disproportionately. A high number of rural households are female-headed. The fight for poverty reduction in Cape Verde today must necessarily involve creative strategies to grow the agricultural sector, and maximize the latent potential that exists for market oriented production by supporting high quality, high value and safe agricultural production value chains.

The workshop session will examine the agribusiness cluster with a focus on the prospects for the future. Crucially, the workshop will take stock and also propose ideas for the way forward. Specifically, the workshop will therefore focus on the following questions:

The session will begin to examine this critical issue by exploring the following questions:

- What is the status and the current challenges and opportunities in the agribusiness cluster?
- What should be the priorities for developing this cluster?
- How to organize the cluster in order to strengthen the role of the private sector?
- What should be the role of the state?
- How to best develop the linkages to the academic world?
- How do we facilitate linkage between producers and the supply chain of the tourism sector?
-