



**ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC
AGRICULTURAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF THE LAW ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND
NUTRITIONAL SECURITY**

Preamble

Given the need to establish the legal framework for the development and standardization of activities in the agricultural sector and to promote the ever increasing improvement of the food and nutritional situation of the Mozambican population, the Assembly of the Republic, pursuant to number 1 of article 179 of the Constitution, determines:

**CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 1
(Objective)**

The objective of this law is to establish the basis for the development of the agricultural sector and rural areas, the promotion of food and nutritional security and the ever increasing realization of the human right to adequate food, in order to achieve a society free from hunger and endowed with healthy and active human capital.

**Article 2
(Scope)**

1. The legal regime established in this law applies to the activities and resources involved in agricultural development, rural areas and the promotion of food and nutritional security in the national territory at large.
2. This law covers all public and private entities that directly or indirectly may influence the agricultural development of rural areas and the promotion of food and nutritional security in Mozambique.

Article 3 (Objectives)

1. Within the framework of the constitutional principle according to which agriculture constitutes the basis of the national development of the Republic of Mozambique, this law aims at establishing the guiding legal framework for the development of the agrarian sector, the transformation of rural areas and the achievement of food security, focusing on the human right to adequate food.
2. More specifically the law pursues the following objectives:
 - a) Guide the State and other public actors in planning, implementation, institutional and multi-sectoral coordination and monitoring of actions geared towards agricultural development, rural areas and the ever increasing realization of the human right to adequate food, within the framework of international commitments Mozambique has made;
 - b) Promote the modernization of agriculture in order to increase agricultural production and productivity, agricultural competitiveness and to improve the economic and social situation of the population;
 - c) Stabilize and improve the living conditions of citizens and develop the national economy through consistent and effective policies covering agricultural development, rural areas and food security;
 - d) Strengthen public institutions within the context of the human right to adequate food at all levels;
 - e) Ensure equal opportunities for citizens with respect to access to resources needed to exercise the human right to adequate food, with special focus on vulnerable groups;
 - f) Ensure the participation of the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders in planning, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes relating to this matter;
 - g) Promote good dietary, nutritional, hygienic and sanitation practices in the community.

CHAPTER II DEFINITIONS, PRINCIPLES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE STATE

Article 4 (Definitions)

1. The agricultural sector comprises all activities related to agricultural, livestock, forestry and beekeeping production, including the processing and marketing of products, by-products and derivatives, services and supplies related to these activities.
2. Family farming is the kind of agriculture practiced in rural areas on small farms, predominantly using family labour, independent of the type of technology and the purposes of production.

3. Commercial farming is the kind of agriculture practiced in rural areas on a small, medium or large scale, using predominantly wage labour, either seasonal and/or permanent, and showing more formally structured management levels and organizational patterns.
4. Food and nutritional security includes the right of all people, at all times, to physical, economic and sustainable access to adequate food in quantities and qualities acceptable within the prevailing cultural context, in order to meet the food preferences for a healthy and active life.
5. The remaining terms and definitions are contained in the Glossary attached to this law, of which it is an integral part.

Article 5 (Principles)

The application of this law is governed by the following principles and assumptions:

- a) **Universality and Primacy of food and nutritional security:** adequate food supply is a human right of all citizens and a basic condition for ensuring social peace, public order and economic, social and cultural development of the country, and it should be a strategic objective in the dealings of public and private actors, civil society and the population;
- b) **Shared responsibility:** The State, the private sector, civil society, the family and citizens share the responsibility of ensuring that all citizens enjoy the universal right to adequate food;
- c) **Responsible and sustainable management of natural resources:** agricultural activity includes physical, chemical and biological processes that have an impact on natural resources, biodiversity, the environment and the climate, and it is essential that these activities are managed in a prudent and sustainable manner, subordinating them to the rules and principles of public interest;
- d) **Completeness:** food production, food and nutritional security are intrinsically linked and interdependent and involve various segments such as production, inputs, research, extension, agribusiness, storage, trade, distribution, supply and supervision, which is why they should be addressed holistically and as a whole;
- e) **National priority:** food production is to be geared primarily towards meeting domestic needs in terms of food and nutritional security and subsequently towards the external market;
- f) **Safety:** the need for the State and other public, private and civil society stakeholders to ensure that domestically produced or imported food is healthy and of the recommended quality for human consumption;
- g) **Multi-sectoral complementarity:** developing the agricultural sector and ensuring food and nutritional security require the combined efforts of various sectors, each one acting within the scope of its specific responsibilities and on the basis of complementarity;

- h) **Equity:** the application of this law should be adapted to the actual situation, observing the criteria of justice and equality of citizens, and promoting in particular gender equality;
- i) **Good Governance, Decentralization and Transparency:** all public, private and civil society stakeholders should be guided by principles of ethics, integrity, swift acting, decentralization, transparency and the rational use of resources inherent in food production and food and nutritional security;
- j) **Reduced interference in free private marketing:** in building and releasing buffer and strategic stocks, the actions of the State focus on defining transparent and fair general rules as well as on monitoring compliance by private operators;
- k) **Empowerment and Participation:** the State and other public, private and civil society actors agree that, gradually, citizens have the knowledge, opportunities, capabilities, skills and resources necessary to actively participate in food production and in the adoption of best practices that contribute to achieving food and nutritional security;
- l) **Rural space and dynamic local economy:** the need to reconcile agricultural activity with the requirements of survival of the rural environment as backdrop of life, work and leisure;
- m) **Continuity and renewal:** the need for passing on things to new generations, instilling in young people an interest in agriculture and rural areas, as a means of diminishing the rural exodus;
- n) **Equality and Solidarity:** the State, the private sector and civil society organizations should promote equal opportunities for all citizens in realizing the right to food, particularly with respect to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and persons;
- o) **Compatibility:** as an economic activity agriculture should provide to those who pursue it profitability compatible with that of other sectors of the economy;
- p) **International cooperation:** by strengthening bilateral and multilateral partnerships aimed at mobilizing financial, technical and technological resources for the country, and by contributing to the creation of an open trading and financial system based on predictable and non-discriminatory rules.

Article 6 (Obligations of the State)

1. In pursuing the objectives of agricultural development and realization of the human right to adequate food, by ensuring food and nutritional security, the State has the following obligations:
 - a) Respect, protect, promote and provide the human right to adequate food;
 - b) Integrate the approach of the human right to adequate food in the elaboration, implementation and monitoring of economic and social plans and in the State Budget;
 - c) Give priority to the agricultural development of rural areas and to food

- and nutritional security when allocating financial resources from the State Budget;
- d) Strengthen human resources through the training of farmers and rural workers and of technicians and professionals from agriculture and other sectors involved in the realization of the human right to adequate food;
 - e) Create incentives for the direct exploitation of land and the settlement of young farmers in rural areas;
 - f) Ensure the planning, growth and creation of irrigated areas, forestation and forest-grazing, towards the better use of land having recognized agricultural suitability;
 - g) Promote the organization of agricultural and forestry markets and the improvement of business efficiency, the creation of access roads between production areas and population concentration centers;
 - h) Promote socio-economic cooperatives and associations from the viewpoint of farmer participation in defining agrarian policy and in the processing and marketing of their produce, aimed at better integration of value chains;
 - i) Support the development of farm related activities in areas with harsh conditions or specific ecosystems, with a view to integrating income resulting from the exploitation and preservation of economic, landscape and environmental resources of the rural space;
 - j) Develop research, experimentation and rural extension in a participatory manner, in particular with respect to the different sub-sectors requiring a specialization of national agricultural production.
 - k) Take appropriate measures to ensure the availability of food, taking into account factors of instability in the international food market and situations of poor harvests brought about by floods, droughts or other unforeseen circumstances;
 - l) Promote the development of rural areas by gradually improving infrastructure and the planning of agricultural production areas and human settlements;
 - m) Promote the adequate development of agro-businesses and the food industry in order to meet the demand of citizens;
 - n) Promote the development of agricultural infrastructure and veterinary assistance;
 - o) Design and implement policies aimed at involving the private sector in the ever increasing growth of investments in agriculture and food and nutritional security.
2. Local governments and municipalities may formulate plans and strategies on agricultural development and food and nutritional security that fit the natural and socio-economic conditions of the territories under their jurisdiction, taking into account the basic principles established in this Law and within the powers conferred upon them by specific legislation.

CHAPTER III AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Article 7 (Multifunctional Role of Agriculture)

Taking into account the need to maintain the stability of the life of the people and the national economy, agriculture should effectively play its conventional role as main source of food products and its role of conserving natural resources such as land, water, forests, wildlife and the natural environment.

Article 8 (Sustainable Agricultural Development)

1. Considering its multifunctional role, the sustainable development of agriculture is a national priority and the State must promote the construction of agricultural infrastructure, including farmland, irrigation and drainage systems, the training of the workforce and the establishment of an appropriate agrarian structure that takes into account the country's agro-ecological conditions.
2. Farming is to be done in a sustainable way, respecting and enhancing the natural biological and physical cycle of the natural resources involved, with a view to ensure benefits for present and future generations.

Article 9 (Incentives for Farmers)

The farmer who practices agriculture for the production of goods and products for human consumption, constitutes the basis of agricultural development and should for that very reason be professionally qualified and encouraged to increase agricultural production, improve his living conditions and contribution to the country's economy.

Article 10 (Protection of the farmer)

The social protection of the farmer aims at improving the living conditions of the agrarian population, in the sense of effectively assimilating their status to that of other workers.

Article 11 (Incentives for Young Farmers)

1. The installation of young farmers is a way to revitalize the agricultural business sector and the rural areas, and it should be subject to specific incentives.
2. The Government should establish conditions and incentives for young farmers by creating attractive conditions for young people engaged in farming.
3. The Government should take measures to encourage the interest of young

people in agriculture and in settling in rural areas, particularly those trained in agricultural techniques and science and in rural development, as a way to ensure the sustainability of farming.

Article 12 (Incentives for Associations and Cooperatives)

1. The State encourages and supports the production of the family sector and encourages farmers as well as individual workers to organize in associations, cooperatives, unions and other more advanced forms of production.
2. In pursuance of the provisions in the preceding number, the State shall provide, inter alia:
 - a) the inclusion in the general education curricula at primary, secondary and middle level and in vocational training, subjects related to associations and cooperatives;
 - b) activities related to motivation, organization, legislation and education concerning association and cooperative matters, for the public in the rural environment;
 - c) various forms of association as an alternative and an option to increase the offering of jobs and integration of rural workers in urban work.

Article 13 (Regime for the Use and Enjoyment of Land)

The development of agriculture and of the rural areas is governed by the constitutional principle that land belongs to the State, that it cannot be sold or otherwise alienated, mortgaged or pledged and that its use and benefit constitutes a right of all Mozambican people, as a universal means of creating wealth and wellbeing.

Article 14 (The Structure of Agricultural Development)

The State promotes the improvement of the structure of the agricultural sector by developing appropriate infrastructure for agricultural production, expanding the scale of production areas and improving the mechanisms for the organization and management of the family sector in particular.

Article 15 (Strengthening the Management of Agricultural Activities)

In order to increase creativity and motivation among farmers, especially from the family sector, the State shall take the necessary measures to revitalize family farming by creating the conditions for strengthening the capability to

rationally manage agricultural businesses.

Article 16
(Incentives for the Family Sector)

The State shall give priority to support of the family sector, without prejudice to the various incentives for small, medium and large agricultural enterprises existing within the scope of this law.

Article 17
(Security and Efficiency in Land Use)

1. The State shall adopt effective measures to promote greater security in land ownership by producers and the effective and efficient use of arable land, in particular for food production aimed at guaranteeing the country's food and nutritional security.
2. In pursuing the objective set out in the preceding number, the State shall take appropriate measures to eliminate the phenomenon of fallow arable land and land speculation in urban and rural areas.

Article 18
(Improvement of Agricultural Production Infrastructures)

1. The State shall take the necessary measures to improve the infrastructure for agricultural production including the planning and expansion of agricultural fields in the family sector, the establishment of multifunctional agricultural fields, the construction and maintenance of irrigation and drainage systems in accordance with the agricultural potential of each region, taking into consideration the need for environmental harmony.
2. In pursuing the provisions set out in the preceding number the State shall encourage the improvement of agricultural productivity, the maintenance of production areas and the rational and efficient operation and use of irrigation systems.

Article 19
(Development of the Workforce in the Agricultural Sector)

1. The State shall take the necessary measures to promote skills development in agricultural techniques and management in order to ensure the training of a workforce able to assume an active role in the ever increasing development of the agrarian sector.
2. The State shall promote education in matters related to agricultural production in order to raise awareness and interest in agriculture among its citizens.

Article 20
(Promotion of Women in Agriculture)

In recognition of the major participation of women in farming, the State shall promote an environment of equal opportunities between men and women, paying more attention to the right of women to have access to land and to their involvement in managing agricultural activities.

**Article 21
(Organizations of Agricultural Producers)**

The State shall take the necessary measures to promote the activities of organizations of farmers and other rural entrepreneurs, especially those based in communities, in order to ensure greater efficiency in agricultural production and marketing at local level.

**Article 22
(Development and Promotion of Agricultural Technology)**

The State shall take appropriate measures, such as setting specific targets in research and technology development, encourage close collaboration between research institutions, universities and private organizations, and disseminate and promote ownership of appropriate technologies by producers in order to raise production, productivity and quality levels of agricultural products.

**Article 23
(Pricing and Stabilization of Production)**

The State shall take appropriate measures that allow for the fair pricing of agricultural products, reflecting the real situation of supply and demand, as a way to ensure the stabilization of production and value the efforts of producers and the rights of consumers.

**Article 24
(Upkeep of the Natural Agricultural Cycle)**

The State shall take necessary measures, in particular with respect to the appropriate use of agro-chemicals and fertilizers and soil improvement, through the effective use of organic fertilizers as a way to maintain and promote the function of the natural cycle of agriculture.

**Article 25
(Production and Distribution of Seeds and Agricultural Inputs)**

The State shall take appropriate measures to promote the production and systems for the rational distribution of seeds and agricultural inputs in order to reduce production costs in agriculture.

**Article 26
(Agricultural Planning)**

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1. Agricultural planning shall be carried out in a democratic and participatory manner through multi-annual national agricultural development plans, harvest plans and annual operating plans, subject to the definitions in this law.
2. Harvest plans and multiannual plans, drawn up in accordance with the general planning instruments, consider the type of product, homogeneous factors and ecosystems, the planning of actions of direct and indirect organs and entities of public administration, regional particularities and, in accordance with the agricultural vocation and various supply needs, the setting aside of reserves for food security and exports.
3. The plans shall provide for the integration of production and processing in the agricultural sector, and of this sector with the other sectors of the economy.
4. The Ministry of Agriculture shall coordinate, at national level, the agricultural planning and the monitoring of its implementation in the provinces, districts and municipalities.
5. The Government shall provide the integration of agricultural planning instruments with other sectors of the economy, developing and keeping up to date a database of indicators concerning the performance of the agricultural sector, the effectiveness of government action and the effects and impacts of programs having multiannual plans.

Article 27 (Agricultural Research)

1. Agricultural research must be a national priority and the Government shall establish a national system for agricultural and food and nutritional security research, coordinated by the Institute of Agricultural Research of Mozambique (IIAM) and cooperating with public and private entities, universities, cooperatives, trade unions, foundations and associations
2. Agricultural research should:
 - a) be integrated with technical assistance and rural extension, producers, communities and agro-industries, and should be generated from or adapted to the biological knowledge of the integration of the diverse ecosystems, taking into account the economic and cultural conditions of the social segments in the productive sector;
 - b) give priority to the improvement of genetic material produced by the natural environment of ecosystems, by increasing their productivity while preserving maximum genetic heterogeneity;
 - c) conduct scientific research aimed at improving seeds and their release and distribution to producers in order to increase production and productivity;

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- d) give priority to the generation and adaptation of agricultural technology for the development of small farmers, emphasizing basic foods, equipment and agricultural inputs aimed at this group;
 - e) comply with the regional characteristics and generate technologies for animal and plant health, respecting the preservation of health and the environment.
3. Genetic material for agriculture, including semen for artificial insemination may be imported provided there is no legal prohibition.
 4. Scientific and technological development programmes aimed at generating up to date technology, deserve a priority level in order to ensure the independence and the parameters of international competitiveness of Mozambican agriculture.

Article 28 (Technical Assistance and Rural Extension)

1. The technical assistance and rural extension try to promote, together with the rural producers, owners and non-owners, their families and organizations, solutions that are appropriate for the problems they meet in production, management, enhancement, storage, commercialization, industrialization, electrification, consumption, well-being and preservation of the environment.
2. Along with the official public technical assistance service and rural extension, private entities and civil society may offer, free of charge, technical assistance and rural extension of an educational nature, ensuring attention to small producers and their associations, aiming in particular at:
 - a) disseminate technology necessary to improve the agricultural economy, the conservation of natural resources and the improvement of living conditions in rural areas;
 - b) encourage and support the participation and organization of the rural population, respecting the organization of the family unit as well as the bodies representing rural producers;
 - c) identify alternative technologies together with research institutions and rural producers;
 - d) disseminate economic information in the areas of agricultural production, marketing, food and nutritional security.
3. The execution of technical assistance and rural extension should be integrated with agricultural research, farmers and with their representative organizations and rural communities.

Article 29 (Protection of the Environment and of Natural Resources)

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1. In implementing this law, the State shall ensure, at all levels, i.e. central, provincial, district, municipal and community level, the integration of environmental preservation issues and the conservation of natural resources. To this end, the State shall:
 - a) regulate and supervise the rational use of soil, water, fauna and flora;
 - b) carry out agro-ecological zoning which allows for the establishment of criteria for matching and planning spatial occupation by the various productive activities, as well as for the installation of hydroelectric infrastructure;
 - c) promote and / or encourage the recovery of areas currently suffering from deforestation or desertification;
 - d) develop programmes for formal and informal environmental education for the general public;
 - e) promote the production of seeds and seedlings of native species;
 - f) coordinate promotion and incentives programmes in order to preserve springs of watercourses and of the environment, as well as the use of biomass in the production of fertilizers.
2. The monitoring and rational use of natural resources from the environment is the responsibility of the lawful title holders entitled to the use and enjoyment of land and of the persons occupying the rural infrastructure.

Article 30 (Arid, Semi-arid and Deforested Areas)

1. The Government should identify, throughout the national territory, arid and semi-arid areas and adopt appropriate agricultural management plans using appropriate technologies and promoting the knowledge of local communities.
2. The Government should take strict regulatory and administrative measures to prevent deforestation caused by the exploitation of forest resources and the practice of uncontrolled burning, and promote tree planting as a way to ensure the recovery of flora and fauna.

Article 31 (Integrated Management of River Basins)

1. River basins are the basic units for planning the use, conservation and recovery of water and ecosystems.
2. Without prejudice to specific legislation, the Government should establish a system of integrated river basin management with a view to its balanced use for agricultural irrigation, fisheries, power generation, inland waterway and lake transport, flow control and other related purposes.
3. Companies that economically exploit segments of river basins with dams or reservoirs and electricity concessionaires shall be responsible for the

environmental changes they cause, and they will be responsible for restoring the environment within the geographical scope of the river basin in question.

Article 32 Irrigation and Drainage

1. The irrigation and drainage policy should be implemented throughout the country, giving priority to areas of proven suitability for irrigation and providing producers with knowledge about and practices concerning irrigation systems that best suit their areas.
2. The State shall undertake public works such as dams, reservoirs, wells, dikes and sluices for irrigation projects, the channeling of watercourses and the drainage of wetlands.
3. The irrigation and drainage policy should:
 - a) Define the guidelines of the national irrigation and drainage policy;
 - b) Establish the coordination and implementation mechanisms for the national irrigation and drainage programme;
 - c) Set standards to establish the rational use of water resources for irrigation, promote the integration of actions by central, provincial and district bodies and the involvement of the private sector and civil society;
 - d) Conduct studies for the implementation of infrastructural and other works related to the use of river basins, perennial river areas or irrigable valleys, with a view to a better and more rational use of water for irrigation;
 - e) Establish lines of funding or incentives, providing specifications and deadlines as well as the kinds of security compatible with the characteristics of irrigated agriculture.

Article 33 (Agricultural Mechanization)

The Government is responsible for the implementation of actions related to agricultural mechanization, which, with adequate human, material and financial resources, may:

- a) preserve and enhance the national agricultural machine park, preventing its undue obsolescence and providing for its technological development;
- b) encourage the formation of public and private companies with the objective to provide mechanized agricultural services directly to producers and through associations or cooperatives;
- c) strengthen research in universities and research institutes and development in the field of agricultural machinery as well as rural extension and training services in mechanization;

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- d) establish and enhance the test and trial centers for the development of agricultural machinery;
- e) disseminate and encourage mechanization practices that promote the conservation of the soil and the environment.

Article 34 (Agro-business and Food Industry)

1. The Government shall promote the development of agro-businesses and the food industry through the rational use of the potential of the country's agricultural products.
2. Food industry operators are to conduct their activities and manage their business in accordance with the principles established in this law, giving priority to food and nutritional security in the country.
3. The Government shall promote the strengthening of the management base, encourage greater collaboration with agriculture, and enhance the distribution system in order to develop a robust food industry able to meet domestic demand in the supply of food products, while reducing the adverse effects of industrial operations on the environment.

Article 35 (Integration of Fisheries and Timber Industry)

In taking measures on food and nutritional security, agricultural development and rural areas, the government shall pay due regard to the development of fishing and forestry, due to its intrinsic relationship with food production

Article 36 (Agricultural Protection)

1. The Government shall take regulatory and administrative measures aimed at protecting agriculture, in order to achieve the following.
 - a) the health of plant populations;
 - b) the health of livestock;
 - c) the suitability of inputs and services used in agriculture;
 - d) the identity and sanitary and technological safety of final agricultural products for consumption.
2. In pursuing the objectives established in the preceding number, the Government shall permanently develop the following activities:
 - a) plant health monitoring and protection;
 - b) animal health monitoring and protection;
 - c) inspection and classification of products of plant origin and their derivatives, by-products and waste of economic value;
 - d) inspection and classification of animal products, derivatives, by-

- products and waste of economic value;
- e) monitoring of inputs and services used in agricultural activities.

Article 37 (National Agricultural Health System)

1. The National Agricultural Health System (SINSAP) is created under the direct supervision of the Minister in charge of agricultural and animal production. Its primary function is to promote, at national, provincial and local level, health and health surveillance and protection of animals and plants.
2. The National Agricultural Health System, whose regulatory organization and functioning is the responsibility of the Government, will collaborate with the National Health System in matters pertaining to public health.

Article 38 (Levels of the National Agricultural Health System)

1. The National Agricultural Health System includes three levels, namely central, provincial and district level.
2. The district will be considered basic territorial unit in the organization and functioning of public agricultural health services that, with the participation of the organized community, specifically ensure the following activities:
 - a) a register of properties;
 - b) inventory of animal and plant populations;
 - c) control of movement of animals and plants;
 - d) registration of animal and plant health professionals;
 - e) registration of companies trading in products for agronomic and veterinary use;
 - f) registration of disease diagnostics laboratories;
 - g) inventory of diagnosed diseases;
 - h) execution of disease control campaigns;
 - i) education and health surveillance;
 - j) participation in projects for the eradication of diseases and pests
3. The provincial services of the National Agricultural Health System are responsible for the following activities:
 - a) monitoring the movement of plants and animals between provinces;
 - b) coordination of campaigns to control and eradicate pests and diseases;
 - c) coordination of epidemiological activity;
 - d) coordination of health education;
 - e) control of the diagnostic network and of accredited animal and plant health professionals.
4. The central and higher authorities of the National Agricultural Health

System are in charge of:

- a) surveillance of ports, airports and international border posts;
- b) setting standards relating to campaigns for the control and eradication of pests and diseases;
- c) approval of diagnostic methods and of products for veterinary and agronomic use;
- d) maintenance of the epidemiological information system;
- e) evaluation of actions undertaken at district and provincial levels of the national agricultural health system;
- f) representing the country in international forums dealing with agricultural protection;
- g) conducting epidemiological and support studies for the development of the National Agricultural Health System;
- h) methodological and technical guidance to other departments of the National Agricultural Health System;
- i) coordination and enhancement of the National Agricultural Health System;
- j) development and application of the Agricultural Protection Code.

Article 39 (Decentralization of the National Agricultural Health System)

1. Strategies and policies to promote and monitor health are ecosystemic and decentralized by type of health problem, and aimed at attaining areas free of pests and diseases, as provided for in international agreements and treaties the country has entered into.
2. Fund management institutions organized by private entities may participate in the National Agricultural Health System in order to complement public actions in the field of agricultural protection.

Article 40 (Inspection of Products of Vegetal and Animal Origin)

1. Industrial and sanitary inspection of products of plant and animal origin, as well as of agricultural inputs, will be managed so that procedures and organization of the inspection are based on universalized methods and equally applied to all inspected establishments.
2. Adopted to inspection may be the method of hazard analysis and critical control points

Article 41 (Agricultural Information)

1. The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for maintaining a broad agricultural information system for the dissemination of:
 - a) crop estimates by province and district, including estimates of

- b) cultivated or harvested area, production and productivity;
 - b) trading prices of agricultural products from producer to reference markets in districts and provinces;
 - c) values and export prices FOB, with the breakdown of prices up to producer level, highlighting fees and taxes charged;
 - d) values and import prices CIF, with the breakdown of prices in international markets up to the placement of the product in Mozambican ports, highlighting fees and taxes charged;
 - e) registration, mapping and soil from rural properties;
 - f) costs of agricultural production;
 - g) volume of regulatory and strategic public and private stocks, broken down by product types and location;
 - h) agricultural meteorological and climate data;
 - i) ongoing research and results of research already completed.
 - j) information on diseases and pests;
 - k) industry of products of plant and animal origin, and of inputs;
 - l) classification of agricultural products;
 - m) Inspection of products and inputs;
 - n) Offenders of various laws related to current and Government regulated agriculture.
2. The Ministries of Agriculture and of Commerce and Industry coordinate the conduct of studies and detailed analyses of the behaviour of domestic and foreign markets for agricultural and agro-industrial products, stating their adequateness and dissemination for the full and immediate knowledge of rural producers and other market players.

CHAPTER IV DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS

Article 42 (Revitalization of Rural Areas)

1. Whereas rural areas play an important role in sustainable agricultural development, the State and other actors should strive for development of these areas by improving farming conditions and the well-being of the people.
2. The agricultural development should contribute to the ever increasing development of rural areas, the creation of an agreeable landscape and upkeep of local cultural traditions.
3. The Government shall take appropriate measures to revitalize rural areas by turning them into enjoyable spaces, endowed with adequate infrastructure that contributes to the flourishing of a vibrant local economy and to the well-being of the rural population.

Article 43 (Rural Development Plan)

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The State shall ensure that all administrative units, from districts to hamlets, have and implement an integrated rural development plan that specifies the areas of production, human settlements and other purposes, taking into due consideration the principles laid down in the law on land use planning.

Article 44 (Planning of Rural Human Settlements)

The Government shall adopt and implement a policy of human settlement planning in rural areas with services and increasingly endowed with basic services including drinking water, health, education and sports and recreation facilities, in accordance with the integrated approach of the millennium villages.

Article 45 (Improvement of Rural Housing)

The Government shall adopt and implement a policy to promote improved housing in rural areas in the sense that rural families have more and more decent housing that is duly compartmentalized, airy and with adequate sanitation, by better using local materials and improved construction techniques.

Article 46 (Rural Electrification and Agro-energy)

1. It is incumbent upon the Government to implement the policy of rural electrification, with the participation of farmers, cooperatives and other associations.
2. The rural electrification and agro-energy policy includes rural electrification, whatever its source of generation, reforestation and fuel production from crops, biomass and agricultural waste.
3. The government shall first encourage:
 - a) rural electrification and rural cooperatives, through funding by official credit institutions, technical assistance in the implementation of projects and fees for the purchase and sale of electric energy, consistent with the costs of service delivery institutions;
 - b) the construction of small hydroelectric and thermoelectric plants using agricultural waste, that aim at rural electrification for rural cooperatives and other forms of association;
 - c) programmes for energy forestation and forest management on farms, in accordance with environmental legislation.
4. Electricity generation concessionaires shall promote the training of skilled labor to be employed in the small plants referred to in paragraph b) of the preceding number.

Article 47 (Rural Roads)

The Government shall ensure the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of rural roads that allow for permanent accessibility and the smooth flow of people and goods between production and consumption areas.

Article 48 (Rural-Urban Exchange)

1. The rural development policy shall be geared towards reducing regional disparities and those between rural and urban areas resulting from geographical, economic, historical and socio-cultural differences.
2. The State shall encourage the exchange between rural and urban areas in order to raise awareness about the importance of agriculture and rural areas and their role in promoting a healthy living and the well-being of citizens.
3. The State shall adopt appropriate measures for the development of green areas in or around urban areas in order to meet the needs of residents in cities, capitalizing on their proximity to consumers.
4. The Government shall promote hunting and rural tourism as a means to strengthen the interaction and harmony among the inhabitants of rural areas and those from the cities, by disseminating and preserving the rich cultural and historical heritage of rural areas.

Article 49 (Universal Access)

The Government shall promote universal access to rural areas through the development of an efficient system of transport, communications, media and information and communications technology accessible to inhabitants of rural areas.

Article 50 (Promotion of Entrepreneurship)

The Government shall promote entrepreneurship and self-employment by encouraging the creation of small and medium-sized agricultural, commercial and industrial businesses as well as the expansion of banking and financial services to rural areas.

Article 51 (Strengthening of Citizenship)

The government shall gradually create the conditions for the strengthening of

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citizenship at the level of rural areas through formal and non-formal education, dissemination of information and access to public administration and court services.

CHAPTER V FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SECURITY

Article 52 (Availability and Access to Food)

Agricultural development policies mainly aim at achieving adequate levels of production and productivity of food products in quantities and of qualities necessary to ensure food and nutritional security and the realization of the human right to adequate food for all citizens.

Article 53 (Marketing, Supply and Strategic Reserves)

1. The Government shall build up, properly locate and maintain regulatory and strategic stocks of basic commodities in order to guarantee their purchase from the producer, ensure supply and regulate the domestic market price.
2. The creation and release of regulatory and strategic stocks shall obey rules based on the principle of minimum interference in the free private market, observing deadlines and pre-established and widely known procedures without affecting the minimum margin of the actual gain of the farmer, based on updated production costs and historical productivity averages.
3. Regulatory and strategic stocks should preferably be acquired from membership organizations of small and medium producers.
4. Guaranteed minimum prices shall be set through financing of trade and by the acquisition of sustained agricultural products, with those food products considered basic enjoying preferential treatment for the purpose of establishing the minimum price.
5. Public stocks shall be sold through auctions on commodity exchanges or directly through public bidding.

Article 54 (Packaging and Storage)

1. The Government shall create incentives for the improvement of processing, packaging, storage, and reduction of losses at the level of the rural establishment, including the community.
2. Maintained throughout the national territory are the requirements of

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standardization, inspection and classification of plant and animal products, by-products and derivatives and economic valuable waste and of agricultural products for consumption and industrial processing for the domestic and foreign markets.

3. The State shall promote the construction of public warehouses and markets for agricultural producers;
4. A national registry of storage units for agricultural products is established, on a mandatory basis.

Article 55 (Safety and Promotion of Adequate Nutrition)

1. The Government shall take appropriate measures such as improved hygiene and food quality as well as the indication of brands, in order to ensure the safety of food, improve the quality of food products and allow consumers to make appropriate choices when it comes to safe food.
2. The Government shall take necessary measures such as the development of guidelines for healthy eating patterns, raising the citizens' awareness with respect to food consumption, and provide relevant information aimed at promoting a good diet making effective use of agricultural and fishery resources.

Article 56 (Imports and Exports of Agricultural Products)

1. Without prejudice to what is stipulated in the general legislation on imports, the State shall take special measures such as adjustment of tariff rates and import restrictions, which are required when certain imports have or can have significant negative effects on the production of domestic agricultural products competing with imported agriculture products, by limiting imports of agricultural products the domestic production of which does not meet demand.
2. The Government shall adopt effective policies that promote increased competitiveness of domestic agricultural products, strengthening market research and the dissemination of relevant information in order to increase exports.

Article 57 (Food Security for Emergency Situations)

The Government shall take appropriate measures, including increased production and the reduction of distribution when such measures turn out to be necessary to ensure the availability of food in cases of food insecurity in certain periods, brought about by unforeseen circumstances such as poor harvests, floods, droughts or other disasters.

Article 58 Obligations of Citizens

In exercising the human right to adequate food citizens should:

- a) Respect and comply with this law;
- b) Collaborate with the authorities in its implementation;
- c) Participate in training, campaigns, consultations, policy and programme development processes as well as legislative initiatives;
- d) Replicate the knowledge concerning good dietary, nutritional, hygienic and sanitation practices in their households and communities.

Article 59 (Special Provisions for Vulnerable Groups)

1. Special attention among those entitled shall be given to vulnerable groups.

2. Vulnerable groups are:

- a) children in difficult circumstances;
- b) orphaned children;
- c) women heads of households;
- d) the elderly;
- e) persons with disabilities;
- f) persons with HIV/AIDS and chronic and degenerative diseases

3. Also considered vulnerable groups are people affected by disasters, economic setbacks, households with members suffering from chronic malnutrition and from other emergency situations

Article 60 (Support Measures for Vulnerable Groups)

To ensure the right to food of these groups, the State shall:

- a) Strengthen the multi-sectoral coordination for prevention, mitigation and response to disasters;
- b) Strengthen the distribution systems of safe and culturally appropriate food.

CHAPTER VI MULTI-SECTORAL AND INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION

Article 61 (Institutional Coordination)

In the design and implementation of plans, policies and strategies on agricultural development, rural areas and food and nutritional security, the

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relevant State institutions, local bodies and municipalities should collaborate in creating and operating the coordinating bodies with a view to increase their efficiency and transparency.

Article 62
(National Council for Rural Development and Food and Nutritional Security)

1. The National Council for Rural Development and Food and Nutritional Security is created in order to coordinate the multi-sectoral and institutional actions of Agrarian Development, Rural Areas and Food and Nutritional Security.
2. The National Council for Rural Development and Food and Nutritional Security is chaired by the Prime Minister.
3. Members of the National Council for Rural Development and Food and Nutritional Security are ministers or leaders in charge of:
 - a) Agriculture
 - b) Health;
 - c) Rural Development
 - d) Public Works and Housing
 - e) Industry and Commerce;
 - f) Fisheries
 - g) Planning and Development
 - h) Finance
 - i) Environment
 - j) Education
 - k) Science and Technology
 - l) Mineral Resources
 - m) Tourism
 - n) Women and Social Action
 - o) Transport and Communications
 - p) Energy
 - q) Statistics
1. The National Council for Rural Development, Food and Nutritional Security normally meets once a year and extraordinarily whenever convened by the Prime Minister.
2. Invited to attend the meetings of the National Council for Rural Development and Food and Nutritional Security are the Provincial Governors, the Executive Secretary of SETSAN, the Executive Secretary of the National Council to Combat HIV and AIDS, the General Director of the Institute of Agricultural Research of Mozambique, the General Director of National Institute of Disaster Management, the General Director of the Mozambique Cereals

Institute, the Director of the Centre for Research and Technology Transfer, among others.

3. Representatives of scientific and research institutions and other public or private entities may be invited to attend the meetings of the National Council for Rural Development and Food and Nutritional Security for the assessment of specific topics.

Article 63

(Competencies of the National Council for Rural Development and Food and Nutritional Security)

1. The Competencies of the National Council for Rural Development and Food and Nutritional Security are:
 - a) To approve the master plan for agricultural development, rural areas and food and nutritional security;
 - b) Approve the annual reporting to the Assembly of the Republic on the state of development of agriculture and the rural areas, the progress in food and nutritional security and the realization of the human right to adequate food ;
 - c) Guarantee the integration of food and nutritional security and the human right to adequate food in legislation, policies, strategies, plans and programmes;
 - d) Propose the formulation, updating, implementation of legislation and policies on agricultural development, rural areas and food and nutritional security, focusing on the human right to adequate food;
 - e) Promote the decentralization of agricultural development, rural areas, food and nutritional security and the reduction of chronic malnutrition at provincial, district and community levels;
 - f) Inform and advise the Government on the state of agricultural development, rural areas and food and nutritional security in the country;
 - g) Recommend ratification of international conventions and agreements on food and nutritional security and the human right to adequate food;
 - h) Recommend measures to mitigate the occurrence of acute and chronic food and nutritional insecurity, and;
 - i) Exercise such other powers as conferred by law.

Article 64

(Technical Secretariat for Food and Nutritional Security)

1. The technical and administrative support to the National Council for Rural Development and Food and Nutritional Security is ensured by the Technical Secretariat for Food and Nutritional Security.

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2. The Technical Secretariat for Food and Nutritional Security is headed by an Executive Secretary appointed by the Prime Minister after consultation with the Minister of Agriculture.
3. The Government is responsible for the organization and functioning of the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutritional Security.

Article 65
(Rural Development and Food and Nutritional Security Fund)

1. A Rural Development and Food and Nutritional Security Fund (FDR-SAN) is established to design and implement sustainable financing programmes for agricultural produce, rural development and food and nutritional security, in accordance with this law;
2. The Rural Development and Food and Nutritional Security Fund (FDR-SAN) enjoys administrative and financial autonomy, is supervised by the Prime Minister and is headed by a Chairman of the Board of Directors appointed by the Prime Minister having consulted the Minister of Agriculture.
3. The Rural Development and Food and Nutritional Security Fund (FDR-SAN) shall be governed by its own by-laws, to be approved by the Council of Ministers.

Article 66
(Sources of Resources for the Rural Development and Food and Nutritional Security Fund)

1. Financial resources for the Rural Development and Food and Nutritional Security Fund (FDR-SAN) are the following sources:
 - a) Decentralized funds for local economic development;
 - b) Decentralized funds for local infrastructure;
 - c) Repayments of loans within the scope of the above paragraph;
 - d) Internal and external financial resources arising from loans, agreements or arrangements, especially reserved for investments in rural credit;
 - e) Fees for the exploitation of forest and wildlife resources;
 - f) Fees for the right to use and enjoy land;
 - g) Fines applied to individuals or legal persons for breaches of standards established by this law;
 - h) Other resources that may be allocated by the State or by other public or private entities.

Article 67
(Rural Credit)

1. The obligation is established on all financial actors without discriminating

between them, to make rural credit available as a means to finance rural activities, through the mandatory application of their own resources, allocations of official loans, funds and any other resources, with the following objectives:

- a) encourage investment in rural production, non-predatory recollection and collection, storage, processing of products and installation of agro-industries by farmers or their associations;
 - b) promote timely and adequate funding of current costs related to production and marketing of agricultural products;
 - c) encourage the introduction of rational methods in the production system, aimed at increasing productivity, improving the standard of living of rural populations, adequate soil conservation and preservation of the environment;
 - d) provide, through credit arrangements in the longer term, the acquisition of production equipment and instruments;
 - e) develop fishing and forestry activities.
2. When intended for the family farmer or family entrepreneur, rural credit will aim at stimulating income generation and a better use of family labour, through financing agricultural activities and rural services, provided that these are developed in rural or community areas, including rural tourism, artisanal fishing and aquaculture, handicraft production and the like

Article 68 (Beneficiaries of Rural Credit)

1. The beneficiaries of rural credit are family farmers assisted by the Rural Development and Food and Nutritional Security Fund, or other competent entities, individuals or legal persons that, while not defined as farmers, engage in the following activities related to the sector.
 - a) production of basic seeds or seedlings, inspected or certified;
 - b) production of embryos and semen for artificial insemination;
 - c) artisanal fishery and aquaculture for commercial purposes;
 - d) forestry and related activities.
2. Beneficiaries of rural credit for trade, when needed for the delivery of agricultural produce, may be beneficiaries and agro-industries that process or industrialize the product, provided there is proof of the purchase of raw material directly from producers or from their cooperatives or associations, for a price not less than the minimum set or adopted on the basis of calculating the financing, and through supervision of the competent monetary authority.
3. For the purposes of the provision in the previous number of this article, beneficiaries are traders engaged in, cumulatively, cleaning, standardization, storage and wholesale marketing of agricultural products.

Article 69
(Criteria for Access to Rural Credit)

1. The allocation of rural credit observes the following basic criteria:
 - a) suitability of the beneficiaries;
 - b) inspection by the financier;
 - c) provision of credit to the farmers directly or through their formal or informal associations or cooperatives;
 - d) availability of credit depends on the production cycle and the ability to increase funding;
 - e) reimbursement deadlines and periods adjusted to the nature and specific character of rural agricultural operations, as well as to the ability to pay and the normal periods of marketing agricultural produce. of goods produced by the agricultural activities.
2. Agricultural credit may be in kind, depending on the prevailing circumstances in the rural areas.
3. In return other farmers may have to provide own resources, at different percentages, taking into account the nature and interest of agricultural exploration and activity involved.

Article 70
(Agricultural Development Plan and Food and Nutritional Security)

1. The Government shall develop and implement a master plan for agricultural development and food and nutritional security, defining the policies to be implemented in a systemic and integrated way in order to increase the performance of the agricultural sector, develop the rural areas and ensure food and nutritional self-sufficiency.
2. The master plan referred to above shall stipulate, among other things, the following:
 - a) General guidance for the formulation of agricultural development policies and programmes, rural development, food and nutritional security;
 - b) Objectives for the food self-sufficiency ratio;
 - c) Policies and programmes to be implemented by the Government concerning agricultural development, rural areas, food and nutritional security;
 - d) Other matters deemed relevant to promoting the objectives of agricultural development, rural areas and food and nutritional security.
3. The goals for the food self-sufficiency ratio referred to in point b) above shall be established in order to improve the current ratio as guidance in national agricultural production and domestic food consumption, allowing

for the identification of issues of concern to producers and other stakeholders in these matters.

4. The policies and programmes of the master plan regarding the development of agriculture, rural areas and food and nutritional security shall be conceived in harmony with other national, provincial and district plans and sector plans.

Article 71 (Annual Information)

1. Each year the Government shall, through the Prime Minister, submit information on the general situation of agricultural development, food and nutritional security and the country's rural areas, as well as the policies implemented and their impact on the improvement of living conditions of the populations, to the Assembly of the Republic.
2. The information referred to in the preceding number shall contain clear policies and measures, to be taken by the Government, with respect to the state of agricultural development and food and nutritional security.

Article 72 (Responsibilities of the Sectors)

The Government shall define in specific regulations the duties and responsibilities of each sector in the realization of the objectives of this law as well as the administrative measures to be taken against non-compliance with its provisions.

Article 73 (Harmonization of Civil Society Actions)

1. The actions of civil society organizations concerning agrarian development, community development and that of rural areas as well as the realization of the human right to adequate food, and food and nutritional security should be harmonized with the plans, policies and strategies set by the Government under this law.
2. Civil society may establish observatories, forums or other coordinating platforms devoted to specific issues concerning agricultural development, rural development, food and nutritional security and fulfillment of the human right to adequate food.
3. The government shall take into account the contributions and viewpoints of civil society in the formulation and implementation of public policies on agricultural development, rural development, food and nutritional security and the fulfillment of the human right to adequate food.

Article 74

(Financing and Partnerships)

1. In allocating financial resources from the State Budget, the development of agriculture, rural areas and food and nutritional security have priority.
2. The State shall strengthen national and international partnerships, including technical and financial cooperation at bilateral and multilateral level, in order to raise investments for the development of agriculture and the rural areas and to ensure the realization of the human right to adequate food.

Article 75 (Agricultural Insurance)

1. Agricultural insurance is established with a view to:
 - a) cover losses arising from claims concerning fixed and semi-fixed assets;
 - b) cover losses resulting from natural phenomena, pests, diseases and other events affecting plantations, crops or livestock;
 - c) forestry, fishing and aquaculture activities will be supported by agricultural insurance provided for in this law.
2. The agricultural insurance policy may operate as collateral in rural credit operations.
3. It is incumbent upon the Government to define the modalities of incorporation and the conditions of allocation to agricultural producers who have been affected by adverse situations to the point of jeopardizing the recovery of costs of agricultural operations

Article 76 (Guarantee of Agricultural Activity)

1. An Agricultural Activity Guarantee Programme is created with the Government determining the criteria and modalities pertaining to:
 - a) the exemption of financial obligations related to rural credit operations costing whose settlement is hampered by the occurrence of natural disasters, pests and diseases that affect livestock and crops;
 - b) compensation of own funds used by the producer in agricultural operations when losses occur due to the events mentioned in the previous paragraph;
 - c) the guaranteed minimum income from agricultural production linked to the costs of agricultural operations.
2. The Agricultural Activity Guarantee Programme shall be funded by:

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- a) funds from the participation of farmers;
 - b) resources from the State Budget and other resources that have been allocated to the programme;
 - c) the revenue earned from the investment of resources of the preceding paragraphs.
3. The Agricultural Activity Guarantee Programme will, in accordance with that established by the Government, completely or partially cover:
- a) the financing of rural operation costs;
 - b) own funds applied by producers to cover rural operation costs, be these linked or not to rural financing.
4. That not covered shall be losses related to rural farming conducted without compliance with the laws and standards of the Agricultural Guarantee Programme.

Article 77

(Proof of Losses)

1. Proof of losses will be provided by the financial institution by means of a valuation report issued by a qualified professional.
2. The Ministries of Agriculture and Finance, in conjunction with the Bank of Mozambique, shall jointly establish guidelines for the accreditation and supervision of those in charge of providing proof of losses attributable to the Agricultural Guarantee Programme.
3. The Ministry of Agriculture shall certify and supervise those in charge of providing proof of losses attributable to the Agricultural Guarantee Programme, and it shall define and disseminate operational instruments and technical standards concerning the provisions in this article.
4. It is incumbent upon the National Council for Rural Development and Food and Nutritional Security to decide, as only administrative entity, about resources concerning the clearance of losses and related claims under the Agricultural Activity Guarantee Programme.

Article 78

(Administration of the Agricultural Activity Guarantee Programme)

The Activity Guarantee Programme will be administered by the Rural Development and Food and Nutritional Security Fund, in accordance with standards, criteria and conditions set by the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance.

Article 79
(Compensation for Production Losses)

The State shall take necessary measures such as reasonable compensation for losses of production caused by disasters or plagues in order to prevent their impact on agriculture and to allow for standardization of agricultural production.

Article 80
(Monitoring and Evaluation)

1. The sectoral and multi-sectoral institutions for the coordination and implementation of food and nutritional security actions and for the ever increasing realization of the human right to adequate food should strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
2. The sectoral and multi-sectoral plans and programs shall incorporate indicators to monitor and evaluate the goals in promoting the development of agriculture, rural areas and the realization of the human right to adequate food.

Article 81
(Right to Information)

1. Without prejudice to the protection of classified information in order to secure higher national interests, reports on development of agriculture, rural areas and the realization of food and nutritional security, studies of universities, research centers, and civil society organizations shall be relevant for the purposes of analysing the degree of implementation of actions for the progressive realization of this right.
2. Universities, research centers, civil society organizations and the general public, have a right to information.

Article 82
(Right of Participation)

1. Participating in actions aimed at the realization of the Human Right to Adequate Food are, among others:
 - a) civil society organizations;
 - b) the private sector;
 - c) education institutions.
2. Forms of participation are, among other things:
 - a) public consultation;
 - b) the consultation of specific groups;

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- c) the participation in sectoral and multi-sectoral coordination bodies of the Human Right to Adequate Food.

Article 83
(Evaluation of the Impact on Food and Nutritional Security)

1. The adoption of legislation, public policies, strategies, plans, programmes, investments and projects involving the exploitation of natural resources requires a study evaluating the impact on food and nutritional security.
2. Areas that deserve special attention, among other things, are:
 - a) mineral extraction;
 - b) exploitation of natural resources;
 - c) exploitation of tourism resources;
 - d) exploitation of fishery resources;
 - e) exploitation or diversion of water courses.
3. The study evaluating the impact on food and nutritional security is submitted to the Technical Secretariat for Food and Nutritional Security for consideration and approval.

TITLE – FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 84
(Regulations)

It is incumbent upon the government to apply this law 180 days after its approval.

Article 85
(Entry into Force)

This Law shall enter into force one hundred and eighty days after its publication in the Bulletin of the Republic.

Approved by the Assembly of the Republic, on, 2014

THE CHAIR OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC

VERÓNICA NATANIELA MACAMO NDLVU

Promulgated on, 2014

To be published.

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THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

ARMANDO EMÍLIO GUEBUZA

GLOSSARY

1. **Access to food:** The capacity of families and individuals to have sufficient resources for the purchase of food suitable to their needs and the existence of infrastructure and mechanisms to ensure achieving this.
2. **Suitability:** Food has to be sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals, it should be safe for humans, free from adverse substances or contaminants and culturally acceptable to the people it is intended for.
3. **Agro - ecology:** Agro - ecological agriculture means comprehensive, socially just, economically viable and ecologically sustainable agriculture.
4. **Food:** Any substance that people eat or drink to achieve an adequate nutritional state so as to maintain their vital physical, cognitive and social development. At this point clean and safe water is considered an essential part of food products. Food has to satisfy psychological needs in terms of quantity, quality and safety, and to be socially and culturally accepted.
5. **Food assistance:** Provide food to vulnerable people in case these are unable to have access to food by their own means.
6. **Evaluation:** This involves a systematic and balanced analysis of activities aimed at determining compliance with and repercussion of the objectives, the profitability of resources, the effectiveness in terms of the project's development of human rights and its sustainability.
7. **Impact Evaluation:** Prior assessment of the needs of those entitled by policies and programmes. It is intended to define, predict and mitigate any negative effects of legislation, public policy, strategies, plans, programmes and projects.
8. **Disaster:** Occurrence, slow or fast, of an event caused by a natural, technological, biological or man-made phenomenon, in proportions which may pose risks to life, human and material damages, resulting in the disruption of socio-economic infrastructure and of services essential for the normal functioning of a society or community.
9. **Chronic Malnutrition:** Chronic malnutrition is defined as low height for age and differs from acute malnutrition, defined as weight for height. Chronic malnutrition is caused by acute malnutrition occurring in the stage of life between conception and the first two years age and is left untreated. Since it is a critical stage of development of the body, damage caused cannot be recovered after the age of two.
Thus, chronic malnutrition or stunting, is caused by malnutrition of both the mother before and during pregnancy and lactation, and the child during the first two years of life, with half the lack of growth taking place in the womb and half after birth.
10. **Sustainable Development:** The development based on environmental management that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the balance of the environment and the ability of future generations to satisfy their needs.
11. **Availability of food:** Refers to the quantity of food from own production, imports, reserves, food aid and remittances.
12. **Emergency:** Sudden occurrence of a disaster that affects people, destroys assets, disturbs the functioning of the infrastructure and is of such a nature or proportions that it exceeds local response capacity, requiring urgent and exceptional measures in the short run in order to minimize adverse effects and restore normalcy.
13. **Stability:** Food should be adequate, available, accessible and useful at all times. Stability should be guaranteed at individual, family and social level.
14. **Hunger:** Refers to the phenomenon where a large percentage of the population of a country or region suffers from acute malnutrition accompanied by a pronounced

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increase in the mortality rate. Hunger affects the performance of the metabolic functions of the human body.

15. **Gender:** The whole of factors that define and socially relate women and men.
16. **Vulnerable groups:** A vulnerable group is a homogeneous population group whose means of physical and financial access to food is scarce or nil (structural or temporal vulnerability).
17. **Food and nutritional insecurity:** A condition in which people are unable to purchase sufficient food at any one time.
18. **Nutrition:** Refers to how the body processes and uses food and its relationship to health, habits, customs and eating habits.
19. **Food and Nutritional Security:** The right of all people at all times to have physical, economic and sustainable access to sufficient quantities and qualities of adequate food that is acceptable within the prevailing cultural context, in order to meet food preferences for a healthy and active life.
20. **Civil Society:** The whole of legal subjects developing collective and spontaneous actions around common interests, goals and values.
21. **Social units:** Establishments for social assistance to vulnerable groups. These units include infant care centers targeting pre-school children.
22. **Use of food:** Refers to socio-economic aspects of food and nutritional security (SAN), eating habits and the knowledge people have about nutrition.
23. **Food utilization:** The capacity of the human body to absorb adequate food and convert it into energy.
24. **Vulnerability to food insecurity:** Refers to the risk that individuals, families and / or communities are exposed to, jeopardizing access and availability of food.
25. **Rural energy supply and agro-energy:** The production and use of energy inputs relevant to production and agricultural productivity and to the social well-being of farmers and rural workers.
26. Within the scope of State obligations related to the human right to adequate food the following meanings prevail:
 - a) **Comply:** the obligation of the State not to impede or hamper, through legislation, policies or actions, the realization of human rights;
 - b) **Protect:** means that all people are protected against third party actions that violate their human right to adequate food;
 - c) **Promote:** this translates into the proactive involvement of the state in activities aimed at ensuring people's access to resources, means and their use with a view to the progressive realization of their rights;
 - d) **Provide:** refers to the obligation of the State to guarantee adequate food to individuals or households who, being in a situation of structural or temporal vulnerability, are unable to satisfy their needs.