

Crop Situation and Outlook cont'd

The target for rice production had been 1,550 tonnes, but the figure actually reached was a mere 71.5 tonnes. The projected potato harvest of 19,000 tonnes realized only 54 tonnes; and of the 5,000 tonnes of maize which Maputo should have produced barely 532 tonnes were harvested. Some 2,500 hectares of corn were sown but the crop on 1,000 hectares was completely lost and the yield from the rest was extremely low.

Vegetable oils, rationed to the population, are only freely available in the hard currency shops. Based on 1982 figures oilseeds when available (most likely cotton) are utilized in processing plants. Production of local oil is thought to be in the region of 96,000 tonnes per annum.

3. Foreign Exchange

In February 1984 Mozambique joined the ever lengthening queue of Third World Nations seeking to reschedule their foreign debt - the total debt is about US\$1.4 billion of which U.S.\$242 million was scheduled to be repaid in 1984. With insufficient funds and no immediate economic upturn in sight there was little option but to seek the rescheduling.

While there is likely to be a continued demand for imports of wheat and corn, foreign currency limitations will require such imports to be made under food aid programs. Approved food aid from the United Nations, according to a UN representative will amount to 300,000 tonnes of grain. The Japanese government also offered Mozambique some US\$2.5 million for 1983/84 to purchase rice and fertilizer as aid to the flood victims.