



Sustainable Soil Conservation Practices Among Smallholder Maize Producers in Mozambique: An Action Research Study

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Abstract

Sustainable soil conservation practices are crucial for enhancing agricultural productivity in smallholder maize production systems across Mozambique. An action research approach was employed, involving participatory workshops with local farmers to gather insights into current agricultural practices and needs. Data were collected through structured interviews and focus group discussions conducted in rural areas of Mozambique. Farmers expressed a strong preference for soil conservation methods that integrate organic matter application and crop rotation, suggesting these as key strategies for sustainable maize production in the region. The findings indicate that integrating organic amendments like compost and practicing intercropping can significantly improve soil health and reduce erosion risks among smallholder farmers in Mozambique. These practices are particularly effective when combined with water management techniques. Policy makers should consider supporting extension services to provide farmers with training on sustainable soil conservation methods, while also advocating for subsidies or incentives that encourage the adoption of these practices by smallholders.

Keywords: *African Geography, Soil Conservation, Participatory Action Research, Sustainable Agriculture, Smallholder Farming*

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