

DELFIN JÚLIO VILISSA

Senior Agricultural Policy Expert | Public Sector Leader | Project & Partnership Strategist

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

- **Dynamic development practitioner** with over **17 years of progressive leadership** in public sector governance, **project management**, and **international cooperation** within Mozambique's agricultural and rural development sectors. Proven success in shaping and implementing national-level agricultural strategies, facilitating high-value investments, and fostering **multi-stakeholder partnerships** including bilateral donors, multilateral institutions, the private sector, and civil society. Demonstrated capacity with effective budgeting strategies for donor-funded projects, proposal writing and resource mobilization.
- As **Director-General of the National Institute of Irrigation**, led national irrigation reform, donor-funded infrastructure projects, and institution-wide transformation. Former **Policy Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development**, recognized for **formulating strategic frameworks** such as PEDSA 2030 and PNISA, while strengthening **agriculture-climate integration** and evidence-based policymaking. Former **Head of National Department of Agricultural Policy** at Former Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security led the formulation of key agricultural policies such as PNISA (2018 - 2019), PEDSA 2010 assessment, formulation of both 1st and 2nd Biannual Review Reports on Malabo Declaration, establishment of the Coordination Committee for the Agriculture Sector (CCSA). Former **Agribusiness Promoter and Investment Analyst** at the former Agricultural Promotion Center, acted as an honest broker fostering the agricultural investments opportunities in Mozambique.
- Brings a **MSc in Climate Change & Sustainable Development** and a strong track record in **cross-functional team leadership**, **budget management**, and **results-based project execution** across agriculture, climate resilience, and sustainable development.

CORE SKILLS

Strategic Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagement

Policy Formulation & Public Sector Governance

Sustainable Irrigation & Climate-Resilient Agriculture

Budget Planning & Financial Oversight

Public-Private Sector Collaboration

Project Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)

Agricultural Investment Promotion

Team Leadership & Change Management

International Development & Diplomacy

Donor-Funded Project Management

World Bank, AfDB, EU, AGRA, FAO, etc.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

03/2021 - Present

Mozambique

- **Director-General**
National Institute of Irrigation (INIR, IP)
 - Lead a national team of **52 technical staff** delivering integrated irrigation services aligned with national and donor priorities.
 - Oversee implementation of major donor-funded projects including:
 - **IRRIGA Project (\$55M, World Bank)**: 2,500 ha of irrigated land benefiting 12,000 smallholder farmers.
 - **Renewable Energy for Rural Development Project (€7M, Belgium Cooperation)**: Targeting 1,000 farmers.
 - **TISA, FASIMO & CFS Projects (\$5M, Australia)**: Research-driven models to improve irrigation equity and efficiency.
 - **Moz-COBSI/ Community-Based Smallholder Irrigation (\$2M, Japan)**: Targeting 700 smallholder farmers.
 - Championed **organizational restructuring** from INIR to INIR, IP in line with Decree no. 41/2018 and fostered the establishment of INIR, IPP Provincial Delegations.
 - Introduced **georeferencing of irrigated areas throughout the country** and expanded operational irrigated areas in the country.
 - Fostered private sector engagement for trade and technical services in irrigation.

03/2020 - 03/2021

Mozambique

- **Policy Advisor to the Minister**
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADER)
 - Provided **high-level policy advisory services**, ensuring alignment with **continental and global frameworks** (CAADP, Malabo Declaration, SDGs).
 - Contributed to development of key frameworks: **Agricultural Planning 2020–2024** and **PEDSA 2030**.
 - Supported national agricultural performance baselining (IAI 2020).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

02/2019 - 03/2020

Mozambique

- National Director of Planning & International Cooperation
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MASA)
 - Directed a staff of **70 professionals** and managed stakeholder coordination with SADC, AU, AgRED, and donor agencies.
 - Led the extension of **PNISA (2018–2019)** and co-created the **Coordination Committee for the Agriculture Sector (CCSA)** in partnership with AGRA and the World Bank.
 - Oversaw special initiatives such as:
 - **Pemba-Lichinga Agro-Industrial Zone (AfDB)**
 - **NDC formulation for agriculture sector (climate mitigation target)**
 - **AGRA Capacity Building Strategy**

02/2017 - 02/2019

Mozambique

- Head of Agricultural Policy Analysis Department
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MASA)
 - Co-created and led the **Climate Change Unit** in partnership with FAO.
 - Promoted **evidence-based policy reform** via the Agricultural Research Platform (ReSSAKS).
 - Conducted national assessments aligned with **Malabo Declaration** and led **PNISA 2013–2017 review**.

11/2011 - 02/2017

Mozambique

- Agribusiness Facilitator & Investment Analyst
CEPAGRI
 - Facilitated over **100 agricultural investment opportunities**, securing projects worth ~\$800M.
 - Represented the Ministry in private sector forums (e.g., CTA) and donor coordination meetings.

11/2016 - 12/2016

Rome, Italy

- Agribusiness Facilitator (Internship)
UNIDO ITPO
 - Promoted **Mozambique–Italy trade cooperation**, securing ~\$200M in Italian agribusiness interests.

03/2010 - 11/2011

Inhambane, Mozambique

- Head of M&E Unit
Provincial Directorate of Agriculture, Inhambane
 - Designed performance monitoring systems, coordinated mid-term evaluations, and supported donor reports.

02/2009 - 03/2010

Zavala District, Mozambique

- District Director of Economic Activities
SDAE, Zavala District
 - Led all agricultural development initiatives at district level, focused on **climate-resilient crop production** and **PAPA program** rollout.

06/2007 - 02/2009

Inhambane, Mozambique

- Planning Officer
Provincial Directorate of Agriculture, Inhambane
 - Produced planning applications, led **budgeting cycles**, and liaised with agriculture market systems.

01/2006 - 06/2007

Mozambique

- Microcredit Officer / Investment Banking Analyst
SOCREMO Bank of Microfinance
 - Delivered financial literacy training, evaluated business proposals, and supported micro-lending programs.

EDUCATION

2015 - 2016

South Africa

- Master of Science (MSc), Climate Change and Sustainable Development
University of Cape Town

2000 - 2006

Mozambique

- Bachelor of Science (BSc), Agricultural Engineering
Eduardo Mondlane University

CERTIFICATION

Project Management, Monitoring, and Control

SETYM International – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Completed: December 2024

Mini MBA 360° Leadership

Gold Consulting - Lisbon, Portugal

Completed: August 2023

LANGUAGES

Portuguese

Native (C2) English

Fluent (C2)