

INTRODUCTION

The Centre of African Studies of the Universidade Eduardo Mondlane is a research and research-training institute. The Centre has two principal area-subject specialisations: the study of the socio-economic conditions of Mozambique in its transition from colonial-capitalism to socialism; and the study of Mozambique within the Southern African region.

Building a strong base for a socialist society means essentially transforming the system of production inherited from the colonial economy. This is why in the choice of issues for research, the CEA focusses on problems of transforming production. These studies are important not only for the issues of transformation which they pose, but also for the ways in which they help in the construction of a stronger historical understanding of the patterns of colonial exploitation from which transformation begins.

Studies of production are not seen merely at the level of raising productivity, as though production and politics are separate. FRELIMO's tradition and leadership enforce the insistence that the mobilisation of productivity is a political act, and needs political organisation, and the raising of productivity is inextricably bound up with the need to reorganise the labour process so that the worker-peasant alliance wields the power of the state. Thus studies of the rural economy for the process of socialisation involve not only the enlargement of the economic productive base, but equally the re-ordering of social relations. The research results of the Centro's projects are published in monograph form and are generally directed towards organised structures within FRELIMO and the government; **Mozambican Studies** (in its Mozambican edition **Estudos Moçambicanos**) is addressed to a more general audience.