

Viljoen plans to help crippled Mozambique

By CAS St LEGER

FREEDOM Front leader General Constand Viljoen and President Joaquim Chissano this week laid the foundations of a plan for South African farmers to help rebuild Mozambique's shattered agricultural sector.

The plan could result in 500 to 2 000 South African farmers going to Mozambique to show that country's farmers how to get back on their feet.

General Viljoen, accompanied by Freedom Front senators Dries Bruwer and Dr Piet Gous of the Transvaal and Free State agricultural unions and a party of experts met President Chis-

sano and a large contingent of ministers in Maputo on Thursday for two hours.

"I went along to explain to President Chissano the whole political background and how it would affect the operation. I told him the Afrikaner people were concerned with the image of this country," said General Viljoen.

"Mutual advantages will come from the joint effort to the benefit of the whole of southern Africa. On Mozambique's side would be the revival of their agriculture. Land, water and electricity are available but not the expertise," said General Viljoen.

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The exercise would lead to the establishment of a joint food production strategy for the sub-continent, he said.

Until war took its toll in the mid-80s, 80 percent of Mozambique's workforce was employed in agriculture. Since then, farming production had dropped by 80 percent due to a lack of managerial skills.

"I will be reporting back to President Mandela and the matter will go before a working group. We hope to see the first results around August," he said.