



Co-funded by the European Union



Ai ba Futuru – Partnership for Sustainable Agroforestry

A partnership to enhance peace and improve nutrition through employment and income-generating opportunities in agroforestry value chains in rural Timor-Leste

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



In rural areas of Timor-Leste, employment opportunities are rare. The rural population, in particular youth, women and those with low levels of education, often struggle to make a living, while at the same time lacking employment prospects. Agricultural yields are low, and periods of food shortage and malnutrition are commonplace. In the short and medium term, the agriculture and forestry sectors are offering some of the few employment and income-generating opportunities in the rural areas, which are home to 70 percent of the population. Against this background, the Timorese Government, the European Union (EU) and the Government of Germany agreed to strengthen rural employment in agroforestry value chains. The EU and the German Government through the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) co-finance the “Partnership for Sustainable Agroforestry” (PSAF) or *Ai ba Futuru* (trees for the future in Tetum) and implement it in cooperation with the Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) of Timor-Leste.

In detail, the project aims to: (i) increase the production and productivity of agroforestry systems; (ii) strengthen the capacities of actors along agroforestry value chains; (iii) improve market access for agroforestry products; and (iv) improve the institutional and organizational framework for the promotion of agroforestry.



Objective

The partnership’s objective is for marginalized groups to benefit from better employment in agroforestry systems in rural areas of Timor-Leste. Members of the most marginalized groups, including young women and men in rural areas, will benefit from increases in production, better employment opportunities and improved market access, generating higher income.

Our approach

Agroforestry has received considerable international attention in recent years owing to its potential to increase agriculture and forestry production on a limited area, while safeguarding nutritional diversity and ecosystem functioning. In countries such as Timor-Leste that do not always offer for heavy mechanisation due to often difficult topographic conditions and little investment, but are home to a large number of young job-seekers, agroforestry provides some potential for sustainable increases in production.

Implemented by



Other main expected outcomes include:

- Increased economic and social well-being;
- Improved nutrition; and
- Improved resilience to the impacts of climate change.

These will be achieved through working with at least 4,000 households as well as businesses and other actors along relevant value chains to:

- Generate additional income from increased agricultural and forestry production;
- Generate additional income from improved employment opportunities on-farm as well as off-farm in agroforestry value chain businesses; and
- Enhance erosion control and resilient food production in agroforestry systems.

In support of the government-led process of decentralization and to ensure close collaboration with rural communities, the project runs a project office in Baucau and is closely cooperating with local MAF staff in the municipalities.

Implementation status

The project is being implemented in the municipalities of Manatuto, Baucau, Viqueque and Lautem.

Since the start of the project, agroforestry systems have been established in 37 *sucos*, including socialization activities, trainings on agroforestry management, and of course tree planting. Until the end of the 2019/2020 rainy season, more than 1.8 million seedlings were planted, which in the future will provide timber, food and fodder.

More than 500 extension workers, farmers, nursery managers and forest guards have been trained so far on topics related to sustainable agroforestry production systems. Through the establishment of four agroforestry demonstration plots, farmers can now learn directly on the field about agroforestry principles. Furthermore, the project contributes to long-term capacity building by providing scholarships to 15 students to obtain a Master's degree in relevant subjects at the Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) in Indonesia.

The project is supporting the establishment of four bamboo processing centres in the project's municipalities in cooperation with the local Bamboo Institute. This cooperation will create local employment and increase the supply of bamboo as a raw material, which is high in demand.

Additionally, the pilot round of participatory land-use planning has been successfully conducted in 6 *sucos* and will continue in the remaining 34.



Published by:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Partnership for Sustainable Agroforestry (PSAF)
Palm Business & Trade Centre, 3rd floor
Surik Mas, Fatumeta (Hudilaran), P.O. Box 60
Dili, Timor-Leste

Contact:

Rainer Schellhaas (rainer.schellhaas@giz.de)

Updated:

July 2020

Websites:

https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/timor-leste_en
<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/70499.html>

This publication was produced with financial support from the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Its contents are the sole responsibility of GIZ and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union or the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.