**Livelihood Opportunities through Sustainable Agriculture (LOSA)**

**Goal:** Improved wellbeing and resilience for agriculture-based communities in Viqueque Municipality by June, 2019.

**Objectives:** Farmers are managing their resources in a sustainable manner; vulnerable girls and boys, women and men have improved wellbeing and strengthened community

**Funding:** Government of Australia and ADRA Australia

**Activities**

During this three-year project ADRA worked with people of Luca and Uma Tolu to:

* Drill and install 17 bore wells and pumps providing water to community kitchen gardens, schools, and neighbouring households
* Build 6 community kitchen gardens and 4 school kitchen gardens
* Training 98 farmers in growing fruit and vegetables
* Training 100 students in growing fruit and vegetables
* Train 600 farmers in conservation agriculture methods
* Supporting households to build 111 latrines
* Provide nutrition, hygiene, and sanitation training to more than 1,138 community members
* Provide nutrition, hygiene, and sanitation training to 924 students
* Create 8 Saving and Loan groups

**Impact**

The Livelihood Opportunities through Sustainable Agriculture project supports farmers in rural Timor-Leste to improve and diversify their agriculture livelihoods. ADRA drills bore wells that provide water for households and community gardens. These gardens become learning centres where farmers are provided opportunities to learn how to grow different kinds of vegetables. These vegetables provide nutritious food for families and ADRA staff provide training in nutrition, hygiene, and sanitation so that families become more knowledgeable in maintaining their health. Farmers are able to sell excess vegetables to neighbours or at local markets to earn extra income. Additionally, as rainfall patterns are becoming less predictable, ADRA is introducing farmers to Conservation Agriculture methods for staple crops such as corn and mung bean. Conservation Agriculture methods discourages slash and burn and encourages mulching which helps to return nutrients to soils, helps the soil better retain water, and reduces time spent weeding. The LOSA project supports these activities at six learning centres where groups of farmers learn new skills. Among the farmer training groups the project has supported the members to start saving and loan groups which allows them to save money and borrow money that they can invest into their homes and farms at low interest rates that they are able to repay.