

FARMERS TO MARKETS

Viqueque Sustainable Agro-Enterprise Farmers to Market Development Project

Country: Timor-Leste

Project Cost: \$2,983,571

Project Length: 2018-2023

PROJECT SNAPSHOT |

This project aims to assist 6,750 farming families and over 34,000 community members to become self-sustained through agricultural interventions.

DESIRED IMPACT |

The Farmers to Market project will increase both profitability and sustainability of agro-enterprises. This will result in increased incomes, financial resilience and food security among farmer households.

Further impacts include the sustainability of natural resources as well as strengthening of the local economy. This is achievable through the training of farmers to improve agricultural and business knowledge, skills and practices. Together, this increases the yield and quality of crops, as well as the availability of value-added products in the market.



80% of households in Timor-Leste rely on agricultural activity as a major source of income



Over 40% of the population live below the poverty line

\$745,893
in private funds is required for this project

OVERVIEW |

Timor-Leste is one of the poorest countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and the target District, Viqueque, is one of the most underdeveloped and marginalised in Timor-Leste. Lack of employment, alternative livelihood opportunities and underemployment are major causes of poverty and vulnerability.

This project aims to grow the Viqueque District rural economy through market-orientated agro-enterprise, particularly focused on ginger, candlenut and coconut value chains. It is expected that markets will be better supplied, value chains strengthened, food security increased, and trade deficits reduced. More importantly, farming families will experience a sustained engagement in the agricultural sector and life to the fullest.

CONTACT US

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KEY ACTIVITIES | JUNE 2018 - NOVEMBER 2018

The key activities achieved within the last 6 months includes:

- ◆ Recruitment of 8 local project staff to support implementation of the project
- ◆ Project orientation workshop conducted with farming families
- ◆ Collection of a baseline survey with 366 farmers to assess the gaps and inform value chain activities
- ◆ Value chain assessment of 104 businesses to understand which activities are most profitable within the value chains of ginger, coconut and candlenut
- ◆ Completed a gender analysis to best understand how gender influences our target communities and impacts project activities



LUCIANA'S STORY |

Luciana Viegas has suffered the devastating loss of both her husband and two of her children. She is now the sole provider for four children and provides for them by making 'Kadaka' cake to sell in the local kiosk. Even when she or her children are sick, she continues working in order to generate an income for the family. On a good day, she can make NZ \$2.50. This, along with the crops she grows, provides food and other essentials for her family.

For Luciana, her engagement with the Farmers to Market project will be life-changing. It means that she will be able to grow more diverse and profitable crops as well as participate in value-adding activities for her crops, and as a result increase her income. Luciana will learn a range of agricultural skills which will empower her and her family to discover new opportunities.

WHAT'S NEXT |

Within the next 12 months, we have exciting activities planned in order to achieve wider project goals.

Our activities include:

- ◆ Opportunities for farmers and buyers to connect in order to strengthen the value chains for ginger, coconut and candlenut
- ◆ Value-adding processing techniques
- ◆ Agricultural and post-harvest technical training and mentoring
- ◆ Financial literacy and business basics training