

# ▶ HAMETIN

## ERA Agro-Forestry Project Newsletter

Partnership for Sustainable Agro-Forestry (PSAF)



International  
Labour  
Organization



Issue 18 | November | 2021

## ▶ Welcome to the Eighteenth Edition of our ERA Agro-Forestry (ERA-AF) Newsletter "HAMETIN".

Welcome to HAMETIN, a monthly bulletin of the ERA-AF project, funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the ILO as a component of the Partnership Support for Agro-Forestry (PSAF) *Ai ba Futuru*. This edition will continue to update you on efforts being made to improve access to markets through rural roads, capacity building of institutions, contractors and the resulting impact on improved roads, decent employment, improved livelihoods, skills development and community empowerment. Our aim is to inform you on how the project is being implemented together with the people and for the people, its impact and other every day issues. We welcome your feedback. Hoping you enjoy this issue of HAMETIN....

### Enhancing Rural Access Agro-Forestry (ERA-AF) Project Activities In November 2021

#### ▶ 01. Assessing Community Satisfaction

An Endline Community Satisfaction Survey was conducted from November 29-30, 2021 on 2 roads that were completed by the second batch of Viqueque contractors in Makadique-Bubilita and Luca-Bibileo roads. This is a follow up of community feedback on the road impact following a baseline survey that was conducted on the same roads in early 2019, prior to the road being built.

Through the Endline Community Satisfaction Survey, comparison was made with the baseline done in 2019, to assess on whether there has been positive or negative impact to various socio-economic indicators. During the surveys, the communities were able to provide feedback on how they perceive the road and its effect on their livelihoods, including market linkages, access to education, health, entrepreneurial activities and other sustainable interventions. The Community Satisfaction Survey also documents stories of interest that have impacted the community.



#### ▶ 02. Is there Impact in Traffic?

Another Traffic Count Survey has been done on the Makadique-Bubulita and Luca Bibileo roads in Viqueque municipality at the end of November 2021.



The Makadique-Bubulita and Luca-Bibileo Traffic Count Survey forms part of the Endline Surveys that are conducted on a finished road so as to assess the impact of roads after construction, by comparing it with the volume before construction. Conducting of traffic counts involves recording of vehicular and pedestrian traffic volume, circulation and movements on the roads during different periods before, during and after construction. The traffic counts were done by male and female youth from the community who were trained as enumerators prior to conducting the traffic count.



### ► **03. Monitoring of ERA-AF project roads by DRBFC Department of Planning, Training and Cooperation (DPTC)**

As a result of the collaboration between the ERA-AF project and the National Directorate of Roads, Bridges, and Flood Control (DRBFC) through its Department of Planning, Training and Co-operation (DPTC), a team of Engineers conducted a Monitoring Mission to several on-going ERA-AF projects in Manatuto and Lautem in the month of November 2021. Visits were made to appraise the stakeholders on the various road developments, while also facilitating quality assurance based on the agreed rural roads standards, specifications, and guidelines. The team managed to monitor the project in several locations such as:



Manatuto Municipality including:

1. Rural road rehabilitation in Soibada (Boroasmanu-Fatumakerek)
2. Rural road rehabilitation in Laclo (Ainakulao-Robae)
3. Rural road rehabilitation in Hohorai (Aikurus – Hatu Ermera).

Lautem Municipality also including:

1. Rural road rehabilitation in Souro - Nairete
2. Rural road rehabilitation of Souro - Luturula
3. Rural road rehabilitation in Caidavalarin - Liafalun
4. Rural road rehabilitation in Apatmuto – Larimi - Camfuru

The team encouraged contractors to ensure compliance to the contract conditions, specifications and project requirements to enable timely delivery.

### ► **04. ERA-AF Project Activities Showcased at Baucau Expo**



ERA-AF and the DRBFC participated at an Exhibition event held in Baucau from 22-27 of November 2021 to commemorate the Proclamation of Independence of Timor Leste. Taking part in the exhibition event as part of the Ministry of Public Works activities was an opportunity for ERA-AF project to enhance the project visibility by informing the wider community, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders of its activities.

The ERA-AF desk was visited by 462 visitors including ministers, members of parliaments, dignitaries, government officials, local NGO's, community members, students, and other interested parties.

Besides informing visitors of the project activities, ERA-AF Project held Quiz Shows which were popular with the visitors and students, where those who were able to respond correctly were awarded project memorabilia such as T-shirts, masks, hats.

## Human Interest

# ▶ Xefe Suku Leads By Example, Compensating Using Own Funds To Bring Development through ILO ERA-AF and EU Road Project.



Mr. Carlito Viegas, 43 years old and father to 8 children, is a Village Chief who has been leading his community in Suco Leuro Post Administrative Lospalos Municipality Lautem by example. Despite Mr. Viegas just graduating from junior high school without pursuing further education, he has had a strong urge and interest to realize development in his community by enabling access to electricity, roads, market, education, and health services. Says Viegas. "I only graduated from Junior High School, with not much knowledge, for which I tried to educate myself. Prior to 2008 I worked in Timor-Lodge in Dili and in 2009 I decided to return to Lautem and open a small – motorbike service shop – business to sustain my family. However, as I observed the slow pace of development within the Suco, I decided to offer my candidature, to run as Chief of the Suco with an objective of pursuing progress and enhancing collaboration to steer development within the needful community. I was fortunate that the community trusted and supported me to lead them".

Carlito states that "I am open to any opportunity to realize development for my suco, rather than pursuing my own self-interest or a hidden agenda which may impede community development. It is in this spirit that we have partnered with the European Union, ILO – ERA AF and others so as to bring about development to our community within the

rural area. Many Aldeias do not have road access, but we were fortunate that in 2020 the ERA-AF Project identified our area as a priority suco to rehabilitate roads in Luturula, within Suco Leuro".

On challenges, the village chief notes, "before implementing there were many challenges brought about by those along the road who were not willing to provide right of way without compensation because their trees and crops were to be affected by the planned roadworks. It is to be noted that while the ERA-AF Project provides funds for road works, it does not provide for compensation which is the responsibility of the local government, and usually considered as local contribution. After many attempts at negotiating with the community, I decided to take responsibility and paid USD 1,000 as compensation for ten trees. I opted to take the responsibility of compensating the community affected as I am seeking the rehabilitation of the road which will open up access to markets, and health services such as ambulance for the sick. Interestingly, as the road is being built, those who were initially refusing are also using the road".

Carlito expresses the communities gratitude by saying "we are extremely happy for the ERA-AF project that is being implemented by ILO and funded by European Union. As a result, we are seeing positive changes from accessing transport to the market, hospitals as well as safe movement of kids to and from school. An immense thank you to the European Union and the ILO ERA-AF Project".

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union.  
Its contents are the sole responsibility of the ILO and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

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