

Partnership for Sustainable Agro-Forestry (PSAF)



Enhancing Rural Access (ERA) Agro-Forestry Project

Enhancing Access, Employment, Income & Skills within Rural Communities



The Context

Timor-Leste aspires to be a peaceful, prosperous and strong nation as depicted in its Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030. To achieve this there is need to promote development, particularly within the rural areas where 70% of the population live and where many are unemployed. The agro-forestry sector has high economic potential. This potential has a greater probability of success if necessary skills and market linkages, including rural access roads, are provided. Delivery of sustainable rural infrastructure will require contractors, capacity to manage and use of local resource based approaches.

The Partnership for Sustainable Agro-Forestry (PSAF) between the Government of Timor-Leste, the European Union (EU), Germany and the International Labour Organization (ILO) aims to contribute to peaceful, inclusive and sustainable development in Timor-Leste. This aim will be supported through improved rural access, the creation of employment, economic and domestic revenue opportunities through agro-forestry development, and a durable reduction in food insecurity and malnutrition in rural areas.

ERA Agro-Forestry Project Facts

Funded By:	European Union (EU)
Implemented By:	International Labour Organization (ILO)
Collaborating Partners:	Directorate of National Roads, Bridges & Flood Control (DNRBFC) GIZ
Implementing Partners:	Don Bosco Training Centre, IADE, CCI-TL, KSTL
Project Budget	EUROS 12,200,000
Time frame	June 2017 – May 2021



Objective

PSAF attempts to provide an opportunity to marginalized people, in particular young men and women in rural areas, to benefit from better employment opportunities in the agro-forestry systems of Timor-Leste.

ERA Agro-Forestry (ERA-AF) is a component of the PSAF. It has a specific objective “to implement a capacity building and labour-based programme to rehabilitate and maintain rural roads in order to improve access to agro forestry areas, employment and economic opportunities for local population”. This objective is implemented by the ILO.

The ERA Agro-Forestry Project seeks to provide market linkages to the agro-forestry areas. It does this by implementing a capacity building and labour-based programme to rehabilitate and maintain rural roads. This will improve access to agro forestry areas, employment and economic opportunities for the local population with the following results:

Result 1	Improved market access: rehabilitation and maintenance of at least 90km of rural roads servicing targeted agro forestry areas, providing economic opportunities for private businesses and communities, by fostering market linkages, as well as work opportunities for communities.
Result 2	Improved skills of at least 40 construction companies and municipality management of rural roads where the programme is active, including capacity building of local training institutions, construction companies and government, central and local authorities responsible for public work in rural areas.

Linkages

PSAF is jointly planned and delivered through two components. The first is technical cooperation from GIZ to support agro-forestry development and the second is technical support from the ILO to support the Ministry of Public Works' Directorate of National Roads Bridges and Flood Control (DNRBFC) and Municipalities, to strengthen local training institutions to build capacity within local construction companies. To facilitate market access these companies then rehabilitate and maintain rural roads servicing agro-forestry areas. Cross-cutting issues such as gender, youth and protection of the environment are embedded.

ERA Agro-Forestry is a critical mechanism to contribute to the expected outcome of the Timor-Leste Decent Work Country Programme (2016-2020) and also contributes towards the Sustainable Development Goals.



Institutional Arrangement

ERA Agro-Forestry sits within the Department of Training and Cooperation (DTC) in the DNRBFC. This arrangement ensures full integration of ERA-AF within the central government department and municipal offices responsible for public roads. ERA-AF is structured to facilitate close collaboration with several partners including the Municipalities, Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI-TL), Workers representatives (KSTL) and R4D which is another Government flagship programme for rural roads. Collaboration also embraces the training providers Don Bosco Training Centre (DBTC) and IADE.

Strategy

In collaboration with partners, ERA Agro-Forestry identifies and develops Contractors' capacity. Training is provided by the supported local training institutions (Don Bosco & IADE). Capacity development involves classroom and field training before Contractors are exposed to real 'live' Trial Contracts. During this stage business and technical coaches and mentors support the Contractors.

ERA Agro-Forestry creates community employment and income support during implementation of the Project. It ensures that social safeguards such as decent work conditions, gender equality, safety and health, consideration for people with disabilities care for the environment are recognised and addressed. Capacity is also built within DNRBFC, municipalities and local government authorities to rehabilitate, maintain and oversee training.

Targets

	90 km of roads rehabilitated and maintained to DRBFC standards
	450,000 worker-days generated of which at least 30% for women.
	6,000 households have improved access to rural roads. 6,000 workers and their families benefit directly from the road works employment opportunities
	40 contracts awarded for rehabilitation and maintenance to trained local construction companies
	- At least 40 public works and municipal officials trained in rural road management and maintenance - At least 1,000 trainee-days for Municipal staff in rural road management and maintenance 400 accredited certificates issued to trainees by participating training providers (Don Bosco and IADE)



Achievements

ERA Agro-Forestry Project commenced in June 2017. In facilitating market access to agro-forestry areas, twenty five (25) Contractors from Baucau (10), Manatuto (5) and Viqueque (10) Municipalities have been trained in construction of rural road works using labour based technology. The contractors who form the first and second batch of 40 contractors, have been capacitated together with clients' staff, to effectively implement and supervise road construction projects. This will create employment, provide income support, skills, and access to agro-forestry product markets. The contractors are given contracts and provided with coaching and mentoring to ensure effective transfer of skills. Three rural roads with total length of 20.635 kms in Baguia, Baucau are being rehabilitated since late 2018 with some 22.5 kms to be rehabilitated in Viqueque and 11-12kms in Manatoto in 2019. Capacity development is being implemented within the framework of ERA-AF Contractor Excellence Scheme. This scheme is designed to promote contractor's continuous improvement. Arrangement with a local NGO to ensure sustainable bio-engineering interventions have been explored. It is envisioned that ERA Agro-Forestry will be a catalyst for development in agro-forestry areas. Institutional Capacity Building of Training Institutions and DNRBFC is also ongoing.



25/40
Contractors Trained



More than **250,000**
Worker days of Employment
to be created



55.635
kms to be built



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