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....

Participants were also trained on how to select social media tools that can undoubtedly assist the effort of reaching the target group of the project. Look forward to more and better visibility ....

In realizing that enhanced visibility of project outcomes is the responsibility for the whole team, ERA-AF project facilitated training of its staff on the effective use of social media. The training which was conducted online, was facilitated by Invest People Timor Leste (IPTL) on a part time basis for 5 days. Participants were guided on how to make use of various social media platforms.

02. Tracer Study-Lottery Draw

An interesting study is in the making, which will provide a true picture of how the contractor perform after being trained. The ERA-AF project and R4D-SP projects are conducting a Joint Contractor Tracer Study with the objective of assessing the status and potential impact of contractor training and capacity building interventions provided to contractors and trainees by the 2 projects since 2012.

Enhancing Rural Areas Agro-Forestry (ERA-AF) Project Activities in September 2021:

01. ERA-AF Project Staff attended training on Using Social Media for Effective Project Visibility

In realizing that enhanced visibility of project outcomes is the responsibility for the whole team, ERA-AF project facilitated training of its staff on the effective use of social media. The training which was conducted online, was facilitated by Invest People Timor Leste (IPTL) on a part time basis for 5 days. Participants were guided on how to make use of various social media platforms.
To encourage participation, a Lottery Scheme was conducted to incentivize participation in the Study. A Draw was made on 14 September 2021 through the Wheel of Names and witnessed by participants from DRBFC, DBTC LBT Unit and the consultant representative who conducted the tracer study. The Lucky Winners who were awarded Vouchers for Construction Tools and Equipment that will assist them with their works included Mr. Prudencio the Grand Winner - Alberto dias Ribeiro of Maputo Unipessoal Lda., the Runner Up - Mrs. Juviana da Silva of MR Construction Lda and the Second Runner Up - Mr. Leonel Pinto Rangel of Cavic Unipessoal Lda.

The Joint Contractor Tracer Study Report is expected to be completed in October with the outcome expected to refine current training efforts and inform future contractor development interventions.

03. Coordination and Institutional Development

The ERA-AF project Training Team and Don Bosco Training Centre (DBTC) Labour Based Training (LBT) unit have had fruitful engagement with the Chief of Department of Training and Coordination (DTC), under Directorate of Road, Bridge, and Flood Control (DRBFC) regarding LBT interventions. Exploration has been made of how to enhance existing and future training of local contractors and other staff in the public sector on LBT technology. Other efforts include, identifying feasibility of institutionalization of regulations that would facilitate possession of LBT certificate as a pre-requisite in the contractor selection process for rural road works.

Mr. Santino Barreto, the Chief of Department of DTC-DRBFC noted the instrumental role of the DBTC LBT unit which is accredited by INDMO to provide LBT related capacity building training that besides providing infrastructure and also enhances employment creation. Agreement was reached in regards to further engagement and the processes required in facilitating the inclusion of DBTC certification within the procurement regime for rural roads.
Human Interest

ERA Agro – Forestry Promotes Inclusiveness of People Living With Disabilities

In this world, people are always different as some were born physically normal while others are not. Mr. Rui Guterres is one person living with a disability and a head of a household in the post administration of Baguia in the Suko of Defawasi. To support his family, he tried some farming i.e. gardening and rearing of animals with little success as this could not meet the needs of his family. In his quest to sustain the family, he tried to find another job to meet his family needs to no avail. Finally, his wish came to fruition in September 2018 when he heard that a rural road project supported by the European Union (EU) through the ILO ERA Agro-Forestry Project would be implemented in his village. Through social interactions and meetings in the village, he learnt that in order to benefit directly, he should join one of the companies coming to implement the works in the village. That is when he got the opportunity to work in a company named Caidadale Unipessoal, Lda. He was recruited by this company and was earning a salary of USD 120.00 per month. With a sigh of relief, he said: “I am very happy to be able to have a regular monthly income and because of it, I can now fulfill my family needs. My family now lives better than before because their daily needs are being met unlike before. I intend to use the surplus from my earnings to open a small business like a kiosk.”