

# ▶ HAMETIN

## ERA Agro-Forestry Project Newsletter



Partnership for Sustainable Agro-Forestry (PSAF)



International  
Labour  
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## ▶ Welcome to the Twentieth 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 January 2022

#### ▶ 01. Local Government and Technical Staff Workshops Outline Roles, Challenges and Solutions

*“God has done His part, Government have done their part, It is now our turn to do our part, which is to maintain, guarantee, the quality of projects that have been delivered to us”...*

This was one of the sentiments expressed from some of the local administration and municipal public works officials from Lautem (Iliomar and Lospalos) and Manatuto (Lacló, Hohorai) in which the EU funded ILO ERA Agroforestry Project are implementing road projects under PSAF-AbF. This follows seminars held from 25th to 28th January 2022



in Lautem and Manatuto for Local Administrators and Municipal Public Works Supervisors to provide feedback and deliberate on practical solutions on how to address and facilitate issues arising from implementation and maintenance of roads and supervisors.

Several issues arose from the participative seminars as a result of the deliberations on the issues/challenges encountered and what can be done better in ensuring effective delivery. Valuable feedback was provided to the project on how ERA-AF project in collaboration with the local government can work together to address the various social and technical issues arising during implementation.

Participants lauded the EU as the donor and ILO as implementing agency for providing access and market linkages to the agroforestry communities, which has led to improved livelihoods within rural communities.



## 02. Implementing Bioengineering methods alongside roads with risk to Erosion and Landslides

Amongst the requirements for a functional infrastructure in today's environment, is that the infrastructure besides fulfilling its intended task of providing service, should also not adversely affect the environment, but should be climate resilient. Ensuring the restoration of the natural habitat of the sideroads after construction is another objective. In roads rehabilitation, certain environmental aspects need to be considered in realizing climate resilient roads. ERA-AF Project is aware of the environmental aspects, and thus builds roads which to the extent possible protect the road from damage from adverse climate including providing drainage, structures, soil protection, protection of slopes and other features such as bio-engineering. Bioengineering is basically application of scientific, structured, natural and sometimes traditional methods to deal with problems mainly related to soil and landslide protection so as to ensure effective functioning of the road. In ERA-AF projects, bio-engineering methods are used to safeguard and protect areas that have high risk to erosion and landslide. The different methods of bioengineering adapted include slope trimming, grass planting, tree-shrub planting, brush layer, live check dam, live stakes, stone soling, and fencing. The most used ones are tree-shrub planting, live staking, live check dam, grass planting and fencing. The planting period is often during the rainy season and contractors are responsible for growing and planting before handing over the road to the community. Bio-engineering, if well implemented are natural solutions which are more versatile and climate resilient and sustainable in the long run, if well-maintained.



## ▶ 03. Final inspection to three roads, Luca-Bibileo Road Viqueque Municipality, Apatmuto-Larimi-Canfuro (Iliomar) and Souru-Nairete-Leuro Road (Lospalos) Lautem Municipality, Linking Agro-Forestry Communities.



During the first week of February, ERA-AF team visited and conducted final inspections on three roads in two municipalities which included: Luca-Bibileo Road in Viqueque and two roads in Lautem: Apatmuto-Larimi-Canfuro (Iliomar) and Souru-Nairete-Leuro Road (Lospalos). The completion and defects liability inspections conducted on the roads involved works by six contractors including Fin-los Unip. Lda., Uaitau Unip. Lda., Tula Eli Unip. Lda., Om Brother Unip. Lda. Fuiloro Unip. Lda. and Zorro Construction Unip. Lda. and managed to verify whether the roads had been implemented to the required quality.

The visits revealed positive impact on the roads including enhanced market linkages and opportunities as observed on Souru-Nairete-Leuro Road in Lautem Municipality where elderly women were found collecting dry coconuts and stockpiling them by the newly built roadside to be picked up by vehicles transporting them to the nearby oil processing factory. This was not feasible prior to the construction of the road, and has led to a much more stable supply from the neighbouring community, although still short of demand.

The overall road inspection concluded that the roads have been well implemented and were ready for use and to be handed over to the community and municipality. Stay tuned for further information on the inauguration!



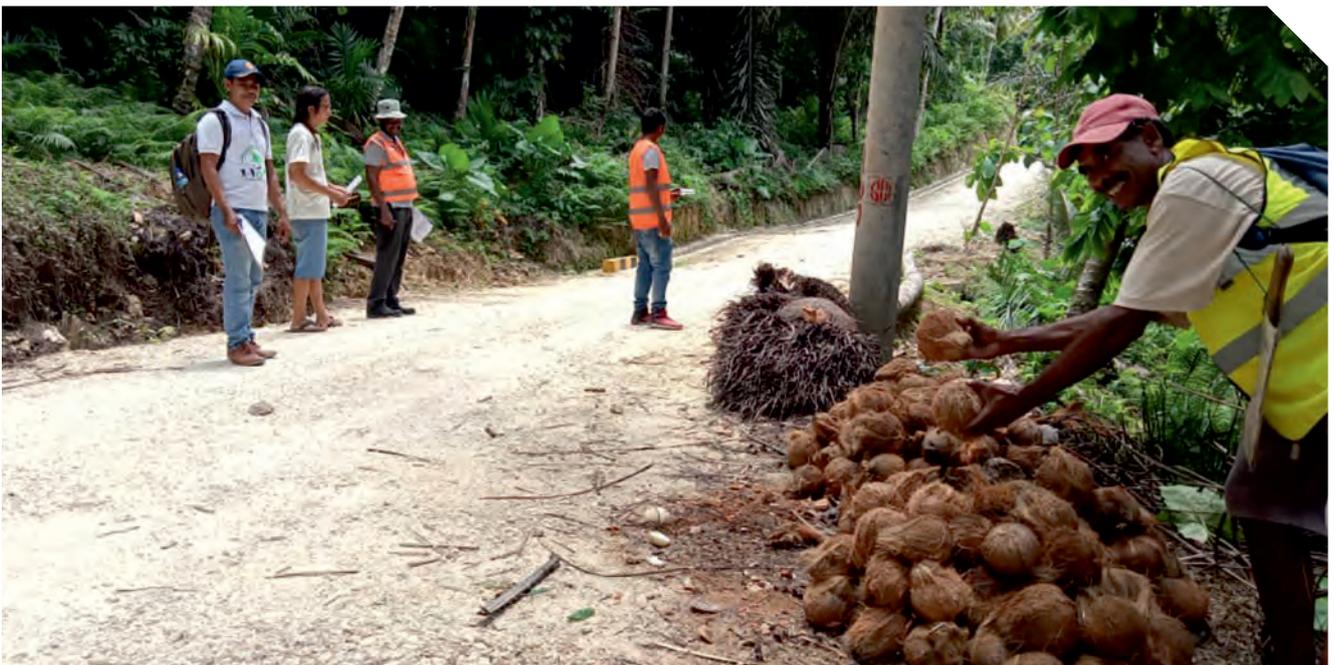
## Human Interest

### ▶ No More Carrying Coconuts on Our Heads, As We Now Have a Road Linking to The Market.



Souro is a bustling village with many coconut plantations and agro-forestry activities together with a Virgin Coconut Oil Factory that exports its products to Australia. It also boasts of being a cultural tourism destination with the Iraroco 7 water sources and ancient Portuguese building providing a rich history. Mrs. Derinda Fernandes Morais, a 34 year old mother of 6 children lives in Aldeia Mana-Kuru, within Suco Souro in Lospalos, Lautem Municipality. The biggest challenge for Derinda and other farmers in the community was the lack of access to their farms for a long time, which made it difficult for the community to deliver their produce to the market, particularly during the rainy season. Mrs. Derinda

remembers this saying, “We have lived in this area for more than 20 years, since before independence and after independence, but it has been difficult for us to transport our coconut produce to the market. We had to carry our produce either on our head, on foot by wheelbarrow for long distances or using donkeys. This was a very tiring process because of the weight of the produce and long-walking distances to the market, but it had to be done in order get income to sustain the family. We were also limited on the amount of what we could take to the market. But now it is very different because many consumers can come to buy our produce directly from the farm. Now we only need to collect the coconuts by the roadside, and consumers can then buy and transport the coconuts directly by their vehicles and deliver them to the market. This is possible because ERA-AF project prioritized the rehabilitation of our road, which was done with good quality and which has helped ease our work. We can only express our gratitude to EU as the donor and ILO as the implementing organization for being able to rehabilitate our road”.



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