



Fast Facts

Country: Timor-Leste

Duration: November 2003 to November 2004

Implementing UN Agencies: FAO

Other Implementing Partners: Ministry of Agriculture; Forestry and Fisheries

Budget: \$379,606.50

Key Words: Agricultural development; food security; post-conflict reconstruction, climate vulnerable communities

BACKGROUND

The destruction of harvested crops in storage facilities, either by pest predation or spoilage, was a major contributor to human insecurity in Timor-Leste. In 2003, it was estimated that stored maize, which provides about 70 percent of the cereal needs of the

Timorese, was lost to pest infestation. In response to this situation, FAO initiated a project to meet the urgent food security needs of rural communities, while also building their resilience to the impact of natural disasters.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project sought to reduce post-harvest losses through technical training and capacity-building of farmers. As a result, the project advocated for the use of metal storage silos and post-harvest technologies that would not only reduce losses but would also improve the nutritional and market value of crops and

as a result generate income for rural communities. In addition, the project expanded the use of rice-hull stoves in place of firewood and established seed-storage facilities in rural areas of Timor-Leste vulnerable to natural disasters.

BENEFICIARIES

Making use of existing local capacities and resources, the project trained 20 blacksmiths in silo construction and provided 1,500 households with emergency seed inputs. In addition, 1,800 villagers attended public

demonstrations in silo use, 3,600 farmers attended one-day hands-on training sessions in silo use, and 800 others received training in post-harvest machinery.