



REPORT
GAFSP-CSO Mission to Timor Leste
February 13-17, 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first GAFSP CSO mission to Timor Leste was conducted February 13-17, around three months after the project "Sustainable Agricultural Productivity Improvement Project" (SAPIP) began implementation. Ms. Ma conducted the Mission. Estrella Penunia, Secretary General, Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), Mission Team Leader and Mr. Marciano Virola Jr., Knowledge Management Officer, AFA. This mission was dovetailed to another mission under a program called Medium Term Cooperation Program Phase 2 (MTCP2) with mission team members Mr. Kyle Stice, Manager, Pacific Island Farmers' Organizations Network (PIFON); Mr. Aneet Kumar, Finance Manager, PIFON; and Mr. Zainal Fuad, La Via Campesina (LVC). Local hosts for both the GAFSP CSO mission and the MTCP2 mission were Mr. Juanico Jose Ximenes, President, National Association of Commercial Seed Producers of Timor Leste (ANAPROFIKO) and Mr. Ilidio Mendonca, Secretary, ANAPROFIKO, the latter acting as translator, coordinating the meetings with the concerned representatives from the implementing agency, supervising entity and development partners, and the preparation and facilitation of the farmers consultation.

The Mission Team met 23 participants (11 women, 12 men), who were representatives from: (a) SAPIP program management (1 man, 3 women), (b) WB (2 women), (c) EU (1 man), (d) GIZ (2 men, 1 woman), (e) ANAPROFIKO (5 men, 4 women), (f) MOKATIL (3 men), and (g) FAO (1 woman).

The one-day farmer consultation, held February 17, was attended by 21 participants (14 men and 7 women).

During these meetings, there was sharing of information about the GAFSP processes at the international level and AFA's role in it, the profile, status and programs of the organizations, and their views and opinions on the approved project. There was also sharing on the MTCP2 program and the roles of AFA, LVC, PIFON and ANAPROFIKO in this program.

The objectives of the mission were fulfilled. Interaction with 2 key farmers groups working on agriculture and food security was established. The farmers consultation became a venue to inform participants about GAFSP processes, the CSO's work in GAFSP, the GAFSP Timor Leste project (SAPIP), and the programs of key intergovernmental NGOs in the country. The farmer consultation itself became a first initiative on partnership, as it was co-organized by AFA, LVC, PIFON, MAF, hosted by ANAPROFIKO, and supported by IFAD, SDC, EU, GAFSP CU.

Participants during the farmers' consultation expressed appreciation over the content and processes of the GAFSP Timor Leste project, and expressed willingness and interest to participate in the project.



The government and supervising entities have expressed willingness and commitment to include the NGOs and the farmers' organizations in the implementation of SAPIP.

The suggestion for FOs and NGOs to already start meeting as a national platform to engage the government in the project was well taken by the SAPIP program management, with the reminder that they be informed when such a meeting will be conducted so they can support it.

MAIN REPORT

A. Background:

This is a report of the first GAFSP CSO mission to Timor Leste, conducted last February 13-17, 2017. The Mission was conducted by Ms. Ma. Estrella Penunia, Secretary General, AFA, Mission Team Leader; Mr. Marciano Virola Jr., Knowledge Management Officer, AFA. This mission was dovetailed to another mission under a program called Medium Term Cooperation Program Phase 2 (MTCP2) with mission team members Mr. Kyle Stice, Manager, Pacific Island Farmers' Organizations Network (PIFON); Mr. Aneet Kumar, Finance Manager, PIFON; and Mr. Zainal Fuad, La Via Campesina (LVC). Local hosts for both the GAFSP CSO mission and the MTCP2 mission were Mr. Juanico Jose Ximenes, President, National Association of Commercial Seed Producers of Timor Leste (ANAPROFIKO) and Mr. Ilidio Mendonca, Secretary, ANAPROFIKO, the latter acting as translator, coordinating the meetings with the concerned representatives from the implementing agency, supervising entity and development partners, and the preparation and facilitation of the farmers consultation with support from ANAPROFIKO staff.

(See Annex 1: GAFSP Timor Leste Mission Design)

B. Objectives

The main objectives of the mission were to:

- Get the basic profiles of key FOs and NGOs working for food security in the country;
- Get information about the GAFSP processes from the government and supervising entity;
- Inform key FOs and NGOs about (1) GAFSP processes, (2) CSO's work in GAFSP, (3) GAFSP project of the Timor Leste government, (4) other large agri development programs of government and development partners, (5) MTCP2 implementation in Timor Leste;
- Get feedback from key FOs and NGOs about the GAFSP process in the country; and,
- Get the commitment of the government and the supervising entity to include FOs in the design, implementation and evaluation of the GAFSP project through institutionalized mechanisms.

C. Key Activities

The Mission Team conducted the following:

- February 13: Meeting with representatives from SAPIP Program Management: (1) Mr. Cornelio Quintao De Carvalho, World Bank; (2) Ms. Angela da Cruz, Ministry



of Agriculture and Fisheries (Deputy Project Director, SAPIP); (3) Ms. Inacia Manuela Aleixo Dos Santos, World Bank; (4) Ms. Maria Isabel Alda Da Silva, World Bank

- February 14: Meeting with representative from World Bank: (1) Ms. Bolormaa Amgaabazar, Country Representative; (2) Ms. Inacia Manuela Aleixo Dos Santos
- February 15 AM: Meeting with representatives from ANAPROFIKO: (1) Mr. Juanico Jose Ximenes, ANAPROFIKO President; (2) Mr. Ilidio Mendonca, ANAPROFIKO Secretary General; and other members, officers and staff
- February 15 PM: Meeting with representative from EU: Simon Le Grand, first Counsellor, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Timor-Leste, Simon.Le-Grand@eeas.europa.eu
- February 15 PM: Meeting with representatives from the GCCA-GIZ: (1) Mr. Mirko Gamez, GCCA-GIZ Programme Coordinator; (2) Ms. Dulce Gusmao, Programme Officer, EU Delegation; (3) Mr. Marcelino Ferreira, Chief of Farmer Group, Baucau; (4) Mr. Bosoltino Guterres (?) Chief of Farmer Group, Baucau
- February 16 AM: Meeting with representatives from MOKATIL: Arsenio Pereira da Silva, President and Helio Dias da Silva.
- February 16 PM: Meeting with representative from FAO: Ms. Paula Lopes Da Cruz, Assistant FAO Representative, Timor Leste
- February 17: FO Consultation attended by ANAPROFIKO members, officers and staff; SAPIP, FAO, and Global Timor (*See Annex 2: Farmer Consultation Highlights; Annex 2a: Farmers Consultation Program; Annex 2b: Farmers' Consultation Attendance*)

D. Key Information Gathered

1. Basic Profile of Key FOs and NGOs

- a. ***Asosiasaun Nasional Produtor Fini Komersial/National Association of Commercial Seed Producers Timor Leste (ANAPROFIKO TL):***

ANAPROFIKO is an umbrella organization of commercial seed producers in Timor Leste which is registered with the Seed Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) and authorized to produce, process and/or market quality seeds in the country, including a number of farmer associations or farmer groups. It was formed in March 2015 with assistance from MAF-Seeds of Life and is registered at the Ministry of Justice on September 2016. Its membership consists of 55 commercial seed producers (1,500 seed growers) in 12 municipalities of Timor Leste. It works closely with the MAF to achieve seed security and seed sovereignty leading to food and nutrition security. It assists in MAF's effort to stop importation of seeds of maize and paddy and to realize self-reliance on commercial seeds of major food crops. There are 69 associations collecting and selling seeds to MAF. In 2016, ANAPROFIKO earned 2,038 USD.

ANAPROFIKO became a member of the Pacific Island Farmers Organization Network in May 2017. Following a series of consultation meetings and a scoping mission by the PIFON Manager, Kyle Stice it was agreed that PIFON would request for Timor Leste to be an expansion country under the IFAD/SDC Medium Term Cooperation Program Phase II (MTCP II), with ANAPROFIKO as the National Implementing Agency (NIA). This proposal was agreed by the MTCP II Regional Steering Committee



(RSC) meeting in Laos (June 2016). The signing of the LOA between ANAPROFIKO-TL and PIFON was completed on August 1st 2016. A total of FJD\$15,000 (USD\$7,159.50) was transferred from PIFON to Timor Leste on August 30th 2017 based on an agreed work plan and budget to be implemented from September – December 2016.

A number of important activities were conducted over the reporting period, including:

- Training of on proposal writing
- Training on seed quality control
- ANAPROFIKO Visit to member groups for consultation on FAO conservation agriculture
- Participation in seed learning exchange and open pollinated seed roundtable
- Consultation meeting on open pollinated seed learning exchange and open pollinated seed roundtable
- Consultation meeting with MAFF on seed quota and pricing
- Capacity building for ANAPROFIKO secretariat

Over 220 farmers were directly involved in these activities, including 151 males and 71 females.

- b. ***Movimentu Kamponezes Timor Leste/Timor Leste Peasants Movement (MOKATIL)***: MOKATIL is an umbrella organization of peasants in Timor Leste and is a member of LVC. It was established on July 28, 2011 through a declaration by peasants from the rural areas who came to Dili for a 2-day conference. Its membership is composed of 167 base committees with 50 households each. It does advocacy for pro-farmer policies and gives technical and policy related training for its members. It was formed by HASATIL, an NGO coalition that includes farmers, and its coordinator used to be the coordinator of HASATIL. It does its representation work through HASATIL, which is represented in the government's consultative body KONSANTIL. It is invited as participant in some programs of government.
- c. ***Pacific Island Farmers Organization Network (PIFON)***: PIFON is a network of farmer organizations in the Pacific, formed by the farmer organizations themselves, who felt they had a lot to learn from each other. They have been organizing exchanges since 2008. It is the sub regional implementing agency of MTCP2 in the Pacific and has conducted an FO profiling in Timor Leste for MTCP2 expansion last March 2016. For 2017-2018, PIFON is planning some programs in Timor Leste and would like ANAPROFIKO and MOKATIL to talk and work together to plan on some joint activities.
- d. ***World Bank (WB)***: WB is the supervising entity for the SAPIP project. It has 4 staff who will work on the project. Its support in the country is focused on smallholders. It is happy with the GAFSP fund because it gives government more investments on agriculture and food security. It sees agriculture as holding a huge potential for the country's development. It



works with NGOs in its projects, but thinks that FOs need to develop their capacity to engage with government.

- e. **Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO):** FAO is an agency of the United Nations mandated to achieve food security for all. The five priority areas for FAO's cooperation with Timor-Leste are: (i) Support institutions to ensure equitable year-round access to adequate nutritious and affordable food for all; (ii) Support to first agriculture census and enhanced capacity for agricultural statistics; (iii) Support to improve farming livelihoods, food availability and diversity of household diets through increased productivity, production and consumption of under-utilized food crops; (iv) Support to smallholder fishing and aquaculture households to become more resilient in the face of climate change; (v) Support to renewal, realignment and development of Timor-Leste's cash crop economy. FAO Timor Leste come under FAORAP and is not part of the sub-regional office in the Pacific. It will handle the M&E part of the GAFSP project but will set up a system for the whole MAF and not only for SAPIP.
- f. **Delegation of the European Union to Timor-Leste (EU):** The Delegation has the status of a diplomatic mission and officially represents the European Union in Timor-Leste. Its mandate is designed to establish a comprehensive partnership, based on three complementary pillars: development cooperation, economic and trade cooperation, and promotion of a more effective political dimension. The EU programs in Timor Leste have 2 sectors: governance and sustainable agro-forestry and rural nutrition. It has no direct involvement in SAPIP but intends to give budgetary support once the ground has been set. It also attends the coordinating meeting among development partners in Timor Leste.
- g. **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)/German Corporation for International Cooperation (GmbH):** GIZ is a German development agency that provides services in the field of international development cooperation. GIZ mainly implements technical cooperation projects of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), its main commissioning party, although it also works with the private sector and other national and supranational government organizations on a public benefit basis. In its activities GIZ seeks to follow the paradigm of sustainable development, which aims at balancing economic development with social inclusion and environmental protection. In Timor Leste, it is implementing for the EU the Global Climate Change Alliance support programme. This is a 5-year EU project started in 2013 that supports farmers in coping with climate change effects through promotion of sustainable and climate sensitive livelihoods. Farmer groups such as those headed by Mr. Marcelino Fereira and by Mr. Bosoltino Guterres in Baucau are involved in this program.

2. Key Findings/ Information

a. About Timor Leste

- o Timor Leste is a poor country but is not anymore in the list of countries eligible for World Bank grants due to its oil production. But oil does not provide much employment because it is offshore drilling. There is more



potential in tourism, but it requires a lot of infrastructure development, which is not yet there. Agriculture has the biggest potential.

- Agriculture receives 40 million out of the 2 billion total budget of the government, but the government spends more on big infrastructure projects. There is a big program from Australia, a new project from the EU and also from USAID. New Zealand supports horticulture, fishponds and other mixed activities. The WB is helping the mass population. IFAD works with select farmers, which are more advanced, have bigger land, and has potential for mechanization and market linkages. These are also needed, but there must be help for small subsistence farmers. WB focus is therefore working with small farmers.
- According to MOKATIL, the problems of peasants are mainly low income and lack of access to market. Agriculture in Timor Leste is still at the subsistence level, where production is at home level and not production for market. To help farmers to access market, government has a program where government buys what the people produce, but this had very limited success; it is the private sector that dictates the price. There is a government program to develop agriculture, but as part of program design, a needs assessment should be conducted to determine the real needs of farmers on the ground. For example, government bought tractors for farmers, but there were no provisions for training on the use and maintenance of these tractors.
- Timor Leste used to be a Portuguese colony, was invaded by Indonesia, and is now a new independent nation. There is a lot of land for communal use. Tradition is very strong as Timor Leste was a tribal society and communities have land to share. During the time of the Portuguese, some titles were issued. Indonesia came and also redistributed land and expropriated some land for government use. Now that Timor Leste has its own government, land management is very complicated. Buying a small piece of land can be very problematic because the titles are not clear. Land issues are now becoming a point of conflict, with some cases of relocation and land grabbing. These conflicts used to be localized, with families fighting over it. If it happens all over the country, it will be a big source of conflict. Government is becoming aware and has just passed a law to address the land issues. The Asia Foundation and others are closely watching and helping. WB is also trying to bring other grants to help clarify the communal land issue, but it did not get the money it needed. The available source of funding only covered half of what it asked for.
- The country is doing well in terms of security issues, which is very important for stability.
- On the topic of food security and nutrition, purple yam was traditionally consumed in Timor Leste and it was more nutritious. But people got more used to rice during the Indonesian time. There is a need to go back to the



traditional diet.

- Oecusi is the poorest region with 70,000 people with low income and lowest HDI level in the country.

b. About SAPIP program management:

- The project was signed by the government last November 2016 and implementation began immediately afterwards. The project will involve a total of 44 villages or sukus in the 4 districts - Liquica, Ermera, Bobonaro and Manufahi. From the original proposal, there had been changes in the target districts, from 2 original targets to 4 districts. Criteria for final selection of target districts were, among (a) watershed areas; (b) agricultural potential; (c) poorest districts based on census and poverty data mapping. The SAPIP Project Management Unit at the national level has established project management units in these four districts. The PMU has been carrying out trainings in the ministry offices in the 4 targeted districts. SAPIP PMU said that project implementation is slow but smooth.
- While the Timor Leste proposal was approved in October 2014, it took two years to design the final implementation plan and get final approval from the government. This was due to government changes during this time. Fortunately, the government managed to keep things on track through a lot of dedication from middle level people – directors who carried forward the project to the new minister and vice minister.
- The EU has no direct involvement with SAPIP but coordination meeting is happening in Timor Leste, with Australia as co-chair, MAF, and other development partners. EU had an intention to give budget support to the ministry of agriculture, with the expectation that SAPIP will be preparing ground for EU budget support. However, there were delays in implementation as well as in designing the M and E systems, thus, the decision not to provide budget support yet. FAO will handle the M&E part but will set up a system for the whole MAF and not only for SAPIP. For the M&E component, FAO submitted a project proposal with details of activities in January 2017 but there has been no feedback so far. FAO hopes to sign the agreement soon.

b. On Government engaging the CSOs in GAFSP

- At least 2 components will be implemented through partnership with NGOs at the local districts. The project management team is now collecting information at MAF offices in the districts to come up with a list of NGOs they can work with. MAF would like to work with existing local NGOs at districts who know the culture rather than from the national. But it needs to prepare first its own people before reaching out to NGOs.
- Component 2 of the GAFSP project is supporting smallholder organization development and strengthening. It is a priority of the MAF and WB supports it. In areas where farmer groups exist, they will be supported through the project. In areas where there are no FOs, the project will organize in areas of implementation. There are 4 locations based on the existence of watersheds. Farmer groups are at village level. The project



will help small farmers have linkages with donors, NGOs, etc. GAFSP CSO can advocate to NGOs to collaborate. Farmer groups need a lot of help and NGOs are very active in the agriculture sector, especially at the local level.

- There is an umbrella of NGOs for agriculture in Timor Leste and it is under the umbrella of NGO Forum. There are local NGOs in the target districts. The SAPIP PMU said that at least 2 SAPIP components would be implemented through local NGOs. If the local NGOs are qualified, they can be chosen as service providers. The project management unit is currently developing a project implementation manual, which includes the selection criteria for local NGOs. The CSOs will also be part of the steering committee. The MAF will decide who will represent CSOs in the steering committee. The PMU will also involve FOs to represent the voice of farmers.
- The SAPIP PMU recommended to the Mission Team to conduct a follow up mission after 6 months with ample time to visit farmers in the field, so that the Team can see progress in the field. They are now producing their own seeds. MAF invites the mission to come back after 6 months. They will then be able to see implementation progress. Now, MAF is focused on establishing the project management units in the districts. Project implementation is slow but smooth. The mission thinks it is also good for the CSO Asia representative to be in Timor Leste at the start and to inform and involve CSOs. The program management also has plans of informing CSOs.

c. *On FO situation/dynamics and perception on SAPIP*

- ANAPROFIKO leaders have heard of SAPIP only during this Mission. The leaders appreciate the potentials of the GAFSP project in the country and are interested to engage government in its implementation.
- MOKATIL also showed appreciation for the GAFSP project in the country, but is cautious, especially in engaging it, as it has some critical comments on what needs to be improved in government policies and programs for farmers and agriculture in general.

E. Recommendations and Action Points

1. ANAPROFIKO and MOKATIL can arrange a series of meetings first internally among their own leaders, then between themselves (the two FOs), and then with the NGO Forum HASATIL to discuss more about their own processes, strategies and commitments to further engage the government through SAPIP. It will good to know who would like to engage in GAFSP processes and if so, in what capacities or roles. Should some CSO/FO organizations be willing to engage, it will be good that they organize themselves, or network with each other, such that they can, as CSOs tracking GAFSP processes in the country monitor SAPIP processes with a more consolidated, unified voice as well as provide sound recommendations to the PMU.



2. It will be better to select the representatives of the CSO/FOs to the steering committee on a self-selection process; that is, it is the CSO/FOs coming together to decide and select their representative to the GAFSP. A middle ground can be that the CSOs/ FOs can have a shortlist (1-3 names) where the government can then select from this two. This process can foster more ownership and legitimacy of the CSO/FO rep as well as accountability of the CSO/FO rep to its constituents.

3. As CSOs, especially farmers' organizations, at national level is young, it will be good to synergize efforts of all sectors – NGOs, development partners, IGOs- in building their capacities to professionally run their organizations, engage the government, as well as to deliver economic services to their members. There must be a strong advocacy from CSOs, especially FOs, to push for more and better investment on agriculture, food security and nutrition.

ANNEXES

- 1 GAFSP Timor Leste Mission Design
- 2 Farmers Consultation Highlights
- 2a Farmers Consultation Program
- 2b Farmers Consultation Attendance

Submitted:

May 8, 2017

Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA)