



USAID | TIMOR-LESTE



The income of Lequitura farmers tripled as a result of the introduction of greenhouse technology. Photo: Toby Gibson

OVERVIEW:

The Dezenvolve Setor Privadu (DSP) or Private Sector Development project works with agribusinesses, commercial enterprises, financial institutions and government entities to promote market efficiencies and accelerate Timor-Leste's economic growth.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI)

FUNDING PERIOD:

July 2005 - July 2010

FUNDING LEVEL:

US\$10,788,474.00

CURRENT PROGRAM:

DSP focuses on business development and efficiency improvement activities that strengthen the supply chain that links rural Timorese agricultural producers to markets in Dili and, later, abroad. The project is also helping to improve Timor-Leste's commercial and legal framework, to be more conducive to business formation and efficient operation.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Following a market assessment showing strong potential for high-quality horticulture, the project has **introduced modern farming technologies** at the Lequitura Special Horticultural Area and provided technical assistance to community-based company Zero Star on growing, grading and packaging high-quality horticulture.
- DSP provided market linkages, technical support, and access to seeds to 19 farmer groups, consisting of 219 members, for the **increased production of mungbeans**. It is estimated that at the end of the growing season in 2009, production will be increased by 120 tons, and revenues by \$60,000.
- DSP assisted the local Truck Transportation Association to qualify as a shipper for the World Food Programme's emergency and school feeding programs. To date, the association is still serving WFP, generating \$351,220 in additional revenues for its 35 members and 50 subcontracted truck owners.
- DSP linked 134 businesses and other service providers to each other with the development and production of the *Baucau Business Directory*.
- DSP is working with two microfinance institutions to develop an agricultural credit product that better meets the financial needs of farmers, based on their business cycle.

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