



# USAID | TIMOR-LESTE

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



*A total of 121 young Timorese graduated from USAID's Building Agribusiness Capacity program in September 2008. Photo: D. Jose/USAID*

## OVERVIEW:

In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Building Agribusiness Capacity program supports agribusiness education and provides technical training for students of the country's agriculture high schools. The goals are to strengthen Timor-Leste's agricultural economy, create businesses, and promote economic growth and employment.

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:

Land O'Lakes International Development

## FUNDING PERIOD:

22 September 2006 to 30 September 2011

## FUNDING LEVEL:

\$6 million

## CURRENT PROGRAM:

Through a cooperative agreement with USAID, Land O'Lakes developed a one-year post certificate program at three technical agriculture high schools administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Following the graduation of the first batch of 121 students, the program is currently assisting the graduates to gain employment.

MAF intends to establish the certificate program as an ongoing program at the three agricultural high schools, where there will be a common core agribusiness curriculum

developed by Land O'Lakes that encourages students to apply knowledge learned in agricultural business activities.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

**1. Upgrading of agricultural high schools' facilities.** The MAF-administered agricultural high schools are now equipped with computer rooms, satellite communication and internet access. The agricultural high schools' facilities—such as workshops for mechanical training and students' accommodations—have also been upgraded.

**2. Students' exposure to cutting-edge technology.** Students learn to apply cutting-edge technology such as GPS/GIS technology to agriculture.

**3. Hands-on business experience for students.** Students organize themselves into cooperatives and gain hands-on business experience producing and marketing fresh produce. They also learn basic food preservation and processing techniques as well as animal management techniques to enhance livestock production and utilization.

**4. Training of agriculture teachers.** Through the program, the agriculture teachers of the three Technical Agriculture Schools received comprehensive training to improve teaching methods, emphasizing the student-centered and practical approach.

## CONTACT ADDRESS:

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