

▶ HAMETIN

ERA Agro-Forestry Project Newsletter



Partnership for Sustainable Agro-Forestry (PSAF)



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▶ Welcome to the Fourteenth 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 Areas Agro-Forestry (ERA-AF) Project Activities in July 2021:

▶ 01. Balancing Challenges with the Good Stories.

A recent mission to Manatuto, Viqueque and Lautem has provided the project with first-hand knowledge of both good stories and challenges being faced on project sites. The good stories first....

It is interesting to note that PNDS have complemented ERA-AF efforts by also constructing roads that connect 2 of the ERA-AF project roads,

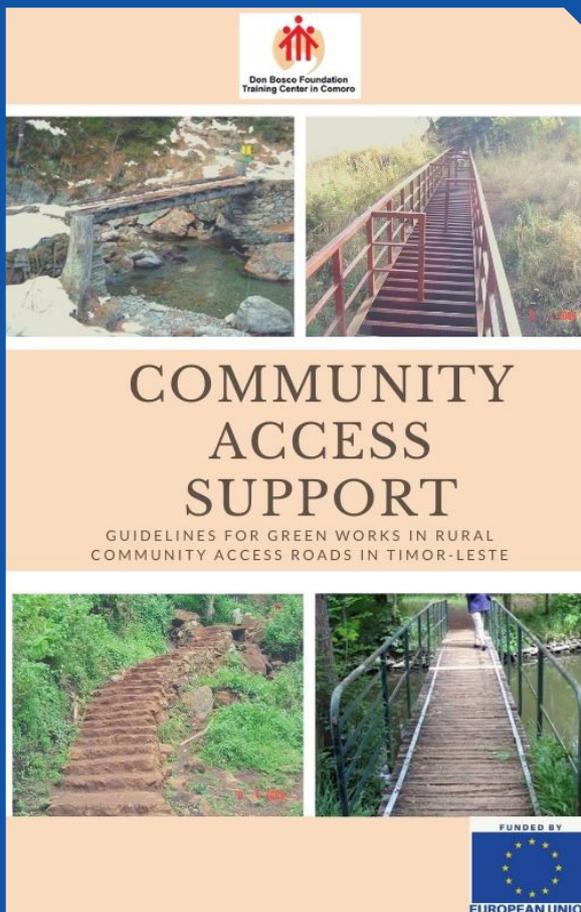


namely Larigutu – Builale in Viqueque and Boroasmanu – Fatumaqerek in Manatuto, which further extends the linkages provided by the roads. It was also interesting to see markets continue to pop-up along Bubulita and also an Electrification Project along the Boroasmanu – Fatumaqerek road, as a result of the road construction. This supports the old-age adage, that development follows a road. However, together with the good stories, challenges still abound. While other parts of Timor-Leste are dry, in Iliomar, Lautem it is still raining almost every day, which barely allows Contractors in the area a sufficient dry period to implement works. Efforts are being made to adopt good practice, to enable timely completion of the projects, rain or no rain.



02. Support for DBTC for Upcoming Trainings.

The ERA-AF project has continued to support and work closely with the Don Bosco Training Centre (DBTC) by providing technical and training advisory services to enhance its operations of providing labour-based methods capacity building training interventions. Don Bosco is now enhancing its skills and capacity in green works and infrastructure climate change adaptations.



► 03. Joint Contractor Tracer Study for ERA (-AF) and R4D (-SP) between 2012 and 2020 on the go...

An ERA-AF and R4D-SP Joint Tracer Study for Contractors trained between 2012 and 2020 continued with online surveys administered to respondents through different channels (SMS, Email, Facebook Message or WhatsApp), and interviews with other stakeholders. The study outcomes are expected to inform future contractor development interventions by assessing the current status of contractors and their staff who have benefitted from training and capacity building as well as to identify lessons learned and propose recommendations for future projects.



Human Interest

▶ **“Because of ERA Agro-Forestry, I have built my Dream House”**



“It is difficult to construct a dream house when you live in rural areas, which do not provide much job opportunities”. This was stated by Mr. Domingos Soares, a 35 year old father of six children, a daughter and five sons. Because of financial difficulties faced by his family, Domingos from Suco Fatumakerek, Post Administrative Soibada in Manatuto Municipality was not able to experience school life as is with other children. Consequently, he had limited opportunities to access work as he had no education. Reflecting on how he has been able to earn a living, Domingos says “I decided to establish my own family, making a living as a farmer, since farming has been the only way for my family to earn a living. As a result, we are able to sustain our livelihoods, and also send our children to school.”

Talking about family responsibilities, Domingos says “I have struggled to build a shelter for my family, and managed to build a small shelter with bamboo cladding for walls. Unfortunately, with time, the shelter was falling apart owing to weather elements, which made it not suitable for someone to live in it.”

Domingos recalls, “I then tried to save some money in order to build a new dream house for my family.

As a result, I was able to start constructing the foundation and column of the dream house. However, my dream house was forced to pause for almost ten years as I had no money to continue with the roof.” Domingos remembers, “Every day, I always thought of how and when I could be able to complete the dream house for my family, and where would I be able to get the money?” These were hard times for Domingos, as he says, “There were no other people who could lend me money, as most of the people lived in the same situation.” “Consequently, we had to be patient and continued living in the shelter, which was almost falling apart. I had lost hope, knowing there was no way to complete the dream house for my family. Life was so difficult and unfriendly to me.”, says Domingos, sadly.

Domingos’ tone then changes, as he talks with enthusiasm, and says, “I would like to thank God, because I saw hope again in 2019 when the ERA-Agro-Forestry project from ILO prioritized the rehabilitation of Boroasmanu – Fatumakerek road in Soibada. The project provided a very good opportunity where employment was created by the project within the local community. I tried hard to search for employment amongst the contractors that had been assigned to implement the project and finally, I was thankful for the chance to work with Ilatun Unipessoal.Lda. It was a very good opportunity for us as a local community as when you worked hard, you would earn more. I was thus able to embrace the opportunity and earn some income to sustain my family life. In addition, I was also able to save some money to continue construction of my family’s dream house, ignored for almost ten years. I would thus like to thank the donor, which is the European Union who has provided funds to rehabilitate our road and create job opportunities to us, and the local community.”



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