



HAMETIN

ERA Agro-Forestry Project Newsletter



Partnership for Sustainable Agro-Forestry (PSAF)



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► Welcome to the Fifteenth 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 Road Access Agro-Forestry (ERA-AF) Project Activities in August 2021:

► 01. Formation of Labour Based Contractors Association in the Going...

The Formation of a Labour Based Contractors Association is eventually in the making. This follows a meeting of ERA-AF contractors in batch I, II, and III which explored on the idea of forming an association so as to unite, advance and safeguard their interests as they seek to be competitive within the dynamic market.



About 19 contractors participated in the inaugural meeting, comprising a majority, and hence those who attended resolved to bring the association to fruition by appointing an interim leadership to guide them comprising director from Ralan Unip. Lda. with the Vice-Chairperson being the director of Rozi Construction. Six other members who included Directors from Om Brother, Luminar, Ryzena, Lia Lura, Uaitau and Zorro were also chosen as interim municipal representatives, so as to spearhead formation of the association. The interim leadership is consulting within its ranks and with other stakeholders to enable formation of the association as early as possible, and HAMETIN will continue updating you on this development.



02. Coaching is an Integral Part of the Capacity Building.

While we learn in various ways, coaching is seen as a good tool to facilitate the learning process. This is because coaching is done under real life conditions, with the coach seeking to enhance capabilities by identifying and focusing on gaps which may have been realized through challenges faced during implementation.

In addition to the role of supporting supervision and quality assurance of works, the Training Engineers of DBTC LBT Unit also have the role of Coaching/ Mentoring the trainees as they implement works. Coaching supports the technical staff of contractors to elevate their skills and knowledge while implementing the project.

This involves assisting and supporting engineers and supervisors of contractors to implement the project based on the experience, skills, knowledge on Labour Based Methods that they were taught in the classroom.

The engineers of DBTC LBT Unit are assisted in the field by the National Training Engineer of ERA-AF project



► 03. Engagement with CCI-TL for Contractor Development

A Team from ERA-AF Project met with CCI-TL on 26 August 2021 to deliberate on Contractor Development Issues. The CCI-TL Team comprised Vice-President, Infrastructure Arq. João Alves and Executive Director – Rui Pachecho In the meeting, both parties updated each other on interventions aimed at spearheading contractor classification, regulation and development. ERA-AF also sought support of CCI-TL to institutionalize Contractor Development for growth and sustainability of Contractors. Briefing was also made on a White Paper on Contractor Policy & Enabling Environment being developed and a Contractor Tracer Study that is ongoing, and which will feed on the various contractor development interventions.



Human Interest

▶ With the road, we not only have the market 'nearer'...., but we also have 'kiosk' and income



"For many years, we sustained our livelihood through farming activities such as planting rice and other vegetables. But we were confronted with various challenges" says Cecilia. Cecilia Guterres, 35 years old is a mother of 4 children, 3 sons and 1 daughter who lives in Suco (village) Atelari in the Post Administration of Baguia, Baucau municipality

Despite the fact that Cecilia's family were engaged in farming, it was quite challenging to haul the farming produce to the markets outside the village. This challenge was even more difficult owing to the fact that there was no local demand within the community, as no one would buy their produce. On a sad note, Cecilia said they had to sell their farm produce to markets which were approximately 15 km away from their suco. Because of having no public transport, Cecilia relates that "we had to walk and carry the produce on our heads to take them to the market for sale".

Cecilia said that sometimes the quantity of produce they took to the market would vary, based on the demand predicted. If the demand was expected to be high, they would take more and if the demand was less, they would not take much to the market. The proceeds from these sales were used for paying school fees for her children and dependents. Cecilia said that without farming, the children would not be able to go to school.

This was the situation because of limited alternative opportunities for productive employment within the village. In a hushed tone, she added that despite her husband having some skills, he could not be employed because of the limited opportunities in the village and therefore could not exploit his potential. Cecilia sadly described this as the state of affairs in the rural area where they lived.

In a turn of events, Cecilia states that she was grateful when she heard that ERA-Agro Forestry Project was going to implement a rural road rehabilitation project in their Suco. What even excited her more was the fact that her husband would also be involved in the project, and utilize his skills. Cecilia also took that opportunity to sell her farm produce to the road workers and other contractor staff by allowing them to take her produce on 'credit' and pay later when they got their salaries. The gains from these activities enabled Cecilia and her husband to set up a kiosk near the road. "We now have a kiosk and we earn a good income because of the rehabilitated road in our village" Cecilia says.

Cecilia reflects that most importantly, through ERA Agro-Forestry Project they have got their rural road properly rehabilitated, and which has also enabled access of public transport. She went on to say that they are able to deliver their farming produce to the market without necessarily walking or carrying on their heads as before. She also notes that the good road access has made public transportation affordable for everyone. Cecilia excitedly stated that the public transportation facilitated transportation of products and people like never before.

Cecilia lauds the European Union for providing funds through ILO-ERA-Agro Forestry project that has enabled the rehabilitation of rural roads within their community, thus creating job opportunities to the local community.



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