

▶ HAMETIN

ERA Agro-Forestry Project Newsletter

Partnership for Sustainable Agro-Forestry (PSAF)



International
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▶ Welcome to the Twelfth Edition of our ERA Agro-Forestry (ERA-AF) Newsletter “HAMETIN”.

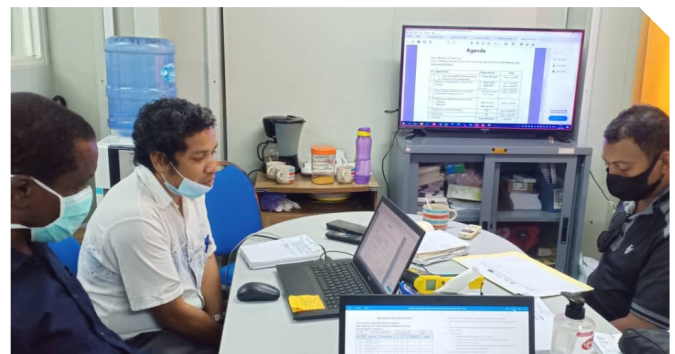
Welcome to HAMETIN, a monthly bulletin of the ERA-AF project, funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the ILO as a component of the Partnership Support for Agro-Forestry (PSAF) Ai ba Futuru. This edition will continue to update you on efforts being made to improve access to markets through 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 May 2021:

▶ 01. Maintenance Work Bid Opening

Amidst the Sanitary Fencing and Mandatory Confinement restrictions imposed by the government, the project has

been re-orienting and adapting its activities to continue including modification of previous manual tendering procedures to electronic procedures. Following the Virtual Pre-Bid Meeting held on Monday 19th April 2021, a Virtual Bid Opening Meeting was held on May 3, 2021 in the presence of Bidders and Public Works Municipal Directors from Manatuto and Viqueque,



witnessed by all the eligible bidder contractors to ensure the transparency and accountability. The Bid Process was quite successful, as it demonstrated the willingness of Contractors and Clients to seek alternative methods to ensure work does not stop.

The Bid Opening was for road maintenance works on the Lariguto -Builale road (9.0 kms) in Ossu, Viqueque Municipality and Borosmano - Fatumakerek road (6.8 Kms), in Soibada, Manatuto Municipality. The routine road maintenance works will involve contractors recruiting community maintenance groups and adopting local resource based approaches that are expected to create employment, skills, income support and provide other trickle down socio-economic benefits in the communities.



▶ **02. Road Works on Sites and Supervision while still observing COVID-19 Prevention and Mitigation.**



Road rehabilitation and maintenance works implemented by contractors within eastern municipalities continued with COVID-19 compliance measures and remote supervised. Works on sites in Manatuto and Lautem municipalities continue being implemented with several constraints due to imposition of Covid-19 prevention measures. Maintenance activities in Baucau and rehabilitation activities in Viqueque were also affected due to sanitary fences imposition to both municipalities. With this imposition, remotely supervised activities were being carried out by Baucau team through the use of Don Bosco Field Staff based on the project sites. All these activities are being implemented with the COVID-19 Guidelines provided by ERA-AF and adapted from EIIP Guidance - Considerations for employment-intensive Works in response to COVID-19 available on www.ilo.org.

▶ **03. ERA-AF short video productions**



ERA Agro-Forestry Project released two videos during the month of May, depicting:

- The Benefit and Impact of ERA-AF Project to Rural Agro-Forestry Communities.
- ERA-AF Project's Message of Support for EUROPE DAY, on 9 May 2021.

The videos are available on the ERA-AF Facebook page.

▶ **04. Implementation of the Business Plan for Don Bosco Labour Based Training Section.**

Plans for the sustenance of the Don Bosco Labour Based Training Section are ongoing, with a Consultant currently supporting the Implementation of the Business Plan.

In this regard, the Don Bosco Training Centre have also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the UNDP for Collaboration in Training of Contractors for its Project on Safeguarding Rural Communities and their Physical Assets from Climate Induced Disasters in Timor-Leste. The collaboration is for training of 155 contractors within a two year period, which will include; Classroom training, Field practical training and upcountry based coaching of company technical staff.



05. Field Based Contractor Business Mentorship collaboration between IADE and Don Bosco Training Center.



The 3rd phase of the ERA Agro-Forestry Contractor Excellence Scheme (ECES) started in May 2021. The business mentorship will be for the contractors in the municipalities of; Lautem, Viqueque and Manatuto. Trainers from IADE will be collaborating with the trainers from Don Bosco Training Center in ensuring that the contractors gain profitability from their business operations. The engagement of the 3rd phase of ECES end on 31st October 2021.

Human Interest

► Why Can They, and I Not!



Francelino Ximenes, 22 years, is a hardworking and enterprising youth, always willing to learn, experience and rise up to challenges and new horizons. His educational background has never stopped him from aiming high to be successful. Reflecting, Francelino notes, "I am just a Junior High School graduate, as I could not continue my schooling because my parents could not afford to pay for my school needs." Francelino and his parents live in a small hamlet called Larimi, part of Kaenlio Village, Post Administration of Iliomar in Lautem Municipality.

Francelino explains that life in the rural village is not easy, especially if one is not well educated and skilled. He therefore strives within all means to find a job to sustain life. He was fortunately able to get a job as a Construction Helper assisting to construct houses several years ago. After the work was completed, he remained unemployed, as there was no job available around his village. Consequently, he had to stay at home helping his parents cultivate corn and agricultural produces in their farms for daily consumption and subsistence, This was because it was difficult to sell their products in the markets, as it is very far to reach and there was no accessible road for merchants to purchase their produce.

Earning money in the village seemed to be challenging as there was also no project or other livelihood activity. "It was thus a happy moment in August 2020, to hear that ERA-AF project was going to rehabilitate our road" says Francisco. "I was then able to get a job with a Contractor named Fuiloro Unip. Ltd. Initially, I was working as a Helper while learning to construct masonry, retaining wall, gabions and other works. After observing and trying, I was able to work by myself and was contracted to do masonry works with the project." It was his courage, enterprising spirit, attitude, willingness to learn and rise up to challenges that enabled Francisco improve his skills and earn more for his family. This was through hard-work and he now has two friends as his Helpers. He said, "if others can do it, why can they, and I not!" Francisco expresses appreciation to EU for funding the project and to the ILO ERA-AF project for rehabilitating their road and providing not only job opportunities, but also skills and market linkages for the produce from their farms.



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