

Seeds of Life 3



Key details

Location

Timor-Leste

Duration

Start Feb 2011

End Sep 2016

Budget

AUD 26,470,478

Commissioned organisation

The University of Western Australia

Partners

Ministry of Agriculture; Forestry and Fisheries;
Seeds of Life Program

Project Leader

Harry Nesbitt - University of Western Australia

ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Eric Huttner

Program

Crops

Project code

CIM/2009/049

SoL 1 (2000-2004) conducted replicated trials under research conditions on maize, cassava, sweet potato, rice and peanut. SoL2 (2005-2011) extended research activities to on-farm trials to evaluate potential new crop varieties under farm conditions. These trials also included farmer palatability and agronomic suitability tests.

The third phase (SoL3) built on the relationships and experiences resulting from SoL1 and SoL2.

SoL 3 (2011-2016) maintained a focus on research to expand the number of released varieties but also implemented a program to multiply and distribute seed both formally through a government managed system, community based seed multiplication and distribution and in collaboration with private enterprise.



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Overview

Seeds of Life (SoL) is a program within the Timor-Leste Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) funded jointly by the Australian and Timorese Governments. SoL evolved from the recognition that a lack of good food crop varieties in Timor-Leste was constraining crop production and impinging on national food security. SoL aims to improve food security through increased productivity of major food crops.