



Australian Government

Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

Livestock

Smallholder cattle enterprise development in Timor Leste



Overview

A large proportion of the Timor Leste cattle industry is based on low-input, low-output systems on over-utilised and degraded communal land.

Opportunities exist to capitalise on the cultural importance of cattle, and the wealth they can generate if managed and marketed better, by transitioning to more commercial production systems.

Demand for slaughter cattle has increased strongly in urban areas such as Dili, providing a strong basis for commercially-oriented beef production. This project will provide proof that commercially-oriented smallholder cattle production and marketing is profitable, is adopted by farmers and other beef supply chain participants, and paves the way for out-scaling.

A core strategy will be the creation of Beef Systems Development groups, including members from private sector production and supply chains and local government advisory staff.

Participatory action research to improve productivity and market research to strengthen farmer-market linkages will be facilitated within these groups.

KEY FACTS

ACIAR Project No. LPS/2014/038

Duration: February 2016 to December 2020 (5 years)

Target areas: Timor Leste

Budget: A\$2,999,216

Project Leader

Geoffry Fordyce, University of Queensland

Key partners

- Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI), UQ
- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Timor Leste
- University of Timor Lorosa'e
- Faculty of Animal Science University of Mataram / Consortium for Large Ruminant Research, Indonesia

ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Anna Okello



Objective

The project's overall aim is to increase the income of smallholder crop-livestock farmers and market chain operators in Timor Leste through more efficient, commercially-oriented cattle production and improved access to markets.

The project's specific objectives are to:

- Establish Beef Systems Development groups to guide research at a municipal level.
- Strengthen capacity of Timor Leste beef cattle industry participants to support development of profitable production systems.
- Facilitate the development of farm business skills and cattle marketing systems.
- Develop profitable forage-based cattle management systems.

Expected scientific results

Collection, management and analyses of research data unique to the Timor Leste situation, and relating to the following elements of commercially-oriented smallholder beef production and marketing:

- Animal feed supply, including forage production, storage and delivery to cattle.
- Cattle production, nutrition, reproduction and management.
- Marketing to increase prices and productivity.
- Business aspects of farming and adaptation of improved practices.

Expected outcomes

- Potential to double the net household income derived from cattle production and trading, with opportunity available irrespective of socio-economic status.
- Increased capacity of the Timor Leste beef cattle research and development sector.
- Demonstrated shift from traditional to commercial cattle production systems.
- Increased availability of beef in Timor Leste.

