



Lurdes Gonsagra Pires is 20 and has a two-year-old daughter. She has limited access to land, so she grows vegetables around her home and sells them to make money. Lurdes is part of a farmers' group in Faularan village. Oxfam and Fini Esperansa are working with Lurdes' group to come up with affordable and sustainable solutions to improve mung bean production, processing and sales.

Lurdes and her colleagues are holding mung beans from their first harvest. Rainfall has been lower than usual over the past few years, and more unpredictable. Thanks to new techniques these mung beans grew from dew alone.



IMPROVING THE LIVES OF 2500 FARMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES



FUNDING NEEDED \$68,000



PROJECT TIMELINE 2016-2019

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HELPING RURAL FAMILIES IN TIMOR-LESTE EARN A DECENT INCOME

REMOVING BARRIERS TO ESCAPING POVERTY



A boy and his mother standing in front of a haystack, where they slept last night. Many families in Timor-Leste work on rice fields and have to sleep there to save time on travelling.

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Meet Marcelina Aquesen. Together with her husband Fernando Meao, Marcelina has received training from Oxfam's local partner. They learned new methods of growing crops that were better suited to the climatic conditions.

"I started working with Oxfam about five or six years after independence. I started my permanent garden then and I still have it growing up until today.

Before Oxfam came into our life, our life was very poor. We didn't do terracing; we just planted straight into the ground. When we would collect our harvest it wasn't much, it was very little. When Oxfam came, we planted everything like vegies and corn, and we harvested much more than before. Our life is better." Marcelina



64% OF WORKERS ARE INVOLVED IN AGRICULTURE



70% OF PEOPLE RELY ON SMALL FARMS FOR INCOME

THE CHALLENGE

- In Timor-Leste, the majority of the population relies on selling produce from small farms for income. Although the country is well-placed to serve the Asian market, poor infrastructure and lack of access to information are challenges to overcome. Farmers have the potential to boost their income but lack the knowledge and experience to get the best price in international markets.
- As a result most rural families suffer from food shortages for at least one month a year.
- Oxfam's IMPACT programme works to support economic self-reliance and resilience in rural communities by helping farming businesses to thrive. This will also help to make the essentials like education attainable and help break the cycle of poverty.

THE PROGRAMME

- Over 2500 female and male farmers receive support to have a secure supply of food for their families and access to markets so they can generate an income.
- We work with farmers' cooperatives to increase the production of food crops by providing training, seeds and equipment. By sharing resources and labour, cooperatives have lower production and marketing costs than farmers who work individually.
- The role of women in decision making is addressed at a local level by providing gender training to female and male farmers and leadership training to women.
- We work alongside local Non-Governmental Organisations, to provide training that will boost farmers' knowledge of small business management.
- Farmers receive support to sell crops like mung beans and kidney beans in local markets, and coffee in overseas markets, all for a fair price. And thanks to your support, their coffee is now Fairtrade certified!