



PRESS RELEASE

Australian Government's Flagship Agricultural Livelihoods Development Program TOMAK Enters Second Phase (2022-2026)

Dili, 22 September 2022 – The Vice Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, H.E. Abílio Xavier de Araújo and Charge d'Affaires of the Australian Embassy in Timor-Leste, Suzy Wilson-Uilelea launched the second phase of the TOMAK (*To'os ba Moris Di'ak* or *Farming for Prosperity*) Program in Dili, Timor-Leste today.

TOMAK is the Australian Government's flagship agricultural livelihoods development program in Timor-Leste, implemented in partnership with the Government of Timor-Leste, NGO and private sector partners. Phase 1 of TOMAK was implemented from 2016-2022, with the second phase of the program commencing on 1 July 2022 until mid-2026 with a total program investment of AUD50 million.

"Over the past six years, the TOMAK Program has strengthened the capacity of government institutions from the national to the suku level. In Baucau, Bobonaro and Viqueque municipalities we have helped rural farming households to increase their incomes and produce and consume more nutritious foods," said Charge d'Affaires, Suzy Wilson-Uilelea, Australian Embassy. *"We are proud of TOMAK's achievements and we are pleased to be supporting TOMAK for another four years until 2026 through TOMAK Phase 2."*

In TOMAK Phase 2, the program will support communities with integrated activities that improve saving and loans, agricultural production, agri-business, food security, and nutrition. The program will also continue its institutional strengthening efforts with government partners to improve the quality of government service provision (particularly extension services) to farming households.

"The Australian and Timor-Leste Governments have a long history of collaboration to develop Timor-Leste's agriculture sector and we are pleased to see this partnership continuing with another 4-year investment in TOMAK," said His Excellency Abílio Xavier de Araújo in his official remarks. *"The Government of Timor-Leste, together with our development partners, has an important opportunity to help farmers increase their incomes and improve household nutrition by investing in the sustainable growth of the agriculture and fisheries sectors."*

TOMAK Phase 2 will provide more support and engagement with women, youth and farmers with disabilities. The TOMAK Program and its partners look forward to reaching new sukus within the current supported municipalities of Baucau, Bobonaro and Viqueque.

The official launch event involved representatives from the Government of Timor-Leste, development partners, the dip corps, civil society and the private sector and comes ahead of forthcoming socialisation meetings with implementing partners at the national and municipal levels.

Contact: Silvia Ximenes, Senior Communications Officer, TOMAK

Tel: +670 7715 5516 | WhatsApp: +670 7527 6904 | Email: silvia.ximenes@tomak.org