



PRESS RELEASE

Australian Government's Flagship Agricultural Livelihoods Development Program TOMAK - Signing of Memorandum of Understanding and Technical Cooperation Agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

Dili, 11 January 2023 – The Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) represented by Director General of Cooperation and Institutional Development Mr. César José da Cruz and To'os ba Moris Di'ak (TOMAK) Team Leader Mr. Renato Zrnic signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) together with two other technical cooperation agreements signed by Mr. Oscar Monteiro, National Director of Extension and Mrs. Joanita Jong, National Director of Veterinary at MAF, Comoro- Dili Timor-Leste.

The signing of these agreements have the following objectives: a) to formalize the roles of TOMAK and MAF at the national, municipal and local levels in the delivery of TOMAK-supported activities; b) to strengthen and clarify the expected involvement of MAF in providing coordination, management and technical support to the TOMAK program. Technical cooperation agreements with key departments directly involved in the implementation of TOMAK are signed with the National Directorate of Extension and the National Directorate of Veterinary.

“We thank the Australian Government for continuing to support the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries through TOMAK Phase II which will be implemented using an integrated food system approach,” said Mr. César José da Cruz.

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. The program will support communities with integrated activities that improve saving and loans, agricultural production, agri-business, food security, and nutrition. It will also continue its institutional strengthening efforts with government partners to improve the quality of government service provision to farming households, and will also provide more support and engagement with women, youth and farmers with disabilities

“We are looking forward to strengthening the cooperation with the Government of Timor-Leste through the Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries in providing technical support for assisting our community, and farmers to increase their production and wellbeing,” said Mr. Renato Zrnic.

The signing of the MoU and Technical Cooperation Agreement included participation of MAF national leadership, relevant MAF Director General and National Directors and MAF directors and heads of extension departments from three Municipalities (Baucau, Bobonaro and Viqueque), as well as TOMAK's implementing partner Catholic Relief Service and Caritas Diocese Baucau.

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