Agriculture & Fisheries

Abountiful Land

For centuries, traders have been flocking to Timor for its valuable commodities.

Food security and income

The government’s commitment to food security and income generation for the people. "Timor Leste has a tradition of agricultural vigour. One out of every three people engaged in farming, more than one of every four jobs are in agriculture, and farming is a major and professional manner so that it’s part of our way of life,” explains Agriculture & Fisheries Minister Maria Maramlin A. Menim. “Our goal is to develop the agricultural infrastructure of the country and train and help the people to improve their farming activities, and to increase production and income for the people. The government is working hard to improve the living conditions of the farmers.

This means enhancing productivity, quality and quantity, providing better seeds and fertilizers to farmers, and improving the harvest process of packaging, transportation, and shipment. The government is working hard to bring these changes into our lives and we welcome international partners and investors,” said Mr. Menim.

The government is also working to improve productivity, and to make better use of the land. "This is a key issue for our country, in terms of food security and income generation for the people. We are committed to making this a reality, and to working with our partners to achieve this goal.

And researchers are analysing seeds to identify strains which will thrive in the conditions of Timor-Leste, and which will be most commercially competitive.

Cash crops

Rice is the staple food of the Timorese. The grain currently accounts for 77 per cent of the country’s food consumption. The government is working hard to increase production and improve the quality of the grain.

Still, it is not enough to meet domestic demand. The government has invested in the development of rice-eating policies, and is working to improve the quality of the grain. The government is also working to increase the area under rice cultivation, and to improve the harvest process.

Crops such as cardamom and coconut and their derivative products thrives, spices and cut flowers are all being stressed and tested. The aim is to extend the margins of the sector beyond what may come out of the soil, to include value-added processes and products. Mainland cashews, mango pulp, pears, pears, pineapples and pears are some of the important economic activities in providing financial and technical support to develop this crucial sector,” says Mr. Menim.

Fisheries and aquaculture

Having access to the surface of the land, as well as the resources at sea, Timor Leste is a half island with 7,500 km of coastline, and 72,000 km of exclusive economic zone, making it a major fishery.

The full potential of these aquatic assets has yet to be explored. The government has set up a task force to investigate the potential of these assets. "The government is working hard to improve the living conditions of the farmers, and to work with our partners to achieve this goal. We are committed to making this a reality, and to working with our partners to achieve this goal.

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