

**ANNEX L. FARMER'S AND FISHER'S
ORGANIZATIONS AND
SUPPORTING SERVICES**

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L-1. Objectives of the Study for Farmers' and Fishers' Organizations

The main objectives of the study are to (1) grasp the existing forms and activities of the farmers and fishers organizations in East Timor, (2) understand their historical backgrounds, (3) identify the obstacles and potentials of the organizations for agriculture development, and (4) utilize the collected information for the preparation of the plan of organizing farmers as well as the plan for the pilot projects.

The existing forms and activities of the organizations are briefly shown in the main text as the results of the Suco Survey. In this annex, the results of the interviews to farmers/fishers and site observations are summarized to help understand the current conditions deeper. The historical backgrounds of the organizations were studied, and its results are summarized in the Annex N.

The farmers and fishers organizations are considered as the entity not only of being engaged in the economic activities as a group, also of administering and managing their communities traditionally and sometimes informally. The forms of the organizations studied therefore include the substantially administering groups in the villages. This is based on the assumption that they often function as the villagers' representatives, through which the people get organized, collectively participate and facilitate their activities to pursue the development objectives.

L-2. Administration

In Manatuto district, the Study Team surveyed the farmers' and fishers' organizations in four villages where the Manatuto Irrigation System¹ covers. The names of the villages are Ailili, Ateas, Maabat and Sau. The Table L.2-1 shows the forms of the administration in those villages.

According to the Table, the chiefs of those villages, commonly with a couple of the assistants officially administer the villages. The chiefs of the villages were either selected by the community people or nominated by the CNRT, if not elected in the Indonesian regime. The community people do not always support the chiefs, particularly if not selected by them. It should be noted that the village representatives are in some cases not the chief but the other people, as seen in Sau village. In fact, it can be seen in many areas that the traditional leaders, the Liurai and elders in the community, informally administer the villages.

According to the interview to the chief² of Dato village in Manatuto district, there is the elders' council through which 10 elders give him necessary advice for village administration. In the village, all the important matters are brought to the Liurai, who actually make a decision with the elders. If serious problem occurs which elders cannot solve, the case is brought to the district police.

¹ The Manatuto Irrigation System is one of the pilot project areas (Refer to Chapter 10).

² He was elected by the CNRT as the chief in 1999. He had been the secretary of the village by then for 19 years.

L-3. Farmers' and Fishers' Groups

Table L.3-1 shows the farmers' and fishers' organizations, besides the village administration, seen in Manatuto district. Several farmers/fishers in the same clan commonly organize themselves into a group to mutually help for agriculture and fishery activities. The activities vary group by group, which include cleaning of backyard garden for vegetable production, preparation of land for paddy and other crops production, control of irrigation water, weeding and harvesting, transporting and marketing the products, etc. Some farmers in the group harvest and store paddy together, and the stored paddy is consumed after they prepare the group's land or in case some of them fall in short of food. Farmers also organize themselves for livestock rearing. All of the groups mentioned above are called as *Kelumpok Tani*.

It was seen in some areas that three fishers in the same clan form a group, and each of them provides a boat, an engine and a fishing net respectively to make a complete set for fishing. They share the catch equally. This is considered as one of the remaining forms of the organizations from the Indonesian regime.

The KUD system, the farmers' cooperative system that the Indonesian government introduced to East Timor, cannot be seen any more. The system provided farmers with free seeds, fertilizer, and other necessary inputs for crop production, and purchased the products with the secured prices from the farmers. This system actually lessened the significance of the traditional *Kelumpok Tani* at that time since the farmers could rely on the government assistance. It should be the time now for the farmers to reconfirm the importance of the *Kelumpok Tani* through which they can facilitate their agricultural activities.

The OMT is women's organization established by the CNRT, its network covering most of the country. The OMT in Manatuto district³ has 27 members at present and seeks to spread the activities wider in the district. Their activities are divided into 5 areas, such as (1) agriculture, (2) education, (3) humanitarian, and (4) human rights and (5) health. Due to the budget constraint, the OMT currently concentrates on the humanitarian area, which aims to generate women's income through sewing, weaving and pottery. The OMT was recently assisted 10 buffalo by the government (TFET) so that they can lend it to farmers for land preparation and generate income. These generated incomes will be used to assist widows and orphans. Besides, the OMT was assisted capitals by the Ocha for the repair of a restaurant building near the beach and for its operation. This generates the net income of Rp. 1,000,000 a month. These incomes are also intended to help widows and orphans in the district.

³ In Manatuto District, the Study Team interviewed a woman in the UNTAET working as in charge of the OMT.

L-4. Irrigation-based Farming Corporation (IBFC)

The irrigation-based farming corporation (IBFC) is a medium to a long term social and economic development project which has for its objective to harness the potential of the traditional collective and self-help experience prevalent in subsistence agriculture countries like East Timor. The country has the *kelumpok* and *hamutok* ways of doing farming and community activities.

The farmers in villages and whose farmlands are in a contiguous and irrigated area have opportunities to establish a farming corporation. Each farmer shall use their farmland as their stock shares in the corporation and these contiguous farmlands shall be their corporate farm.

The farming corporation – being a medium to a long-term social and rural development program – could be initiated by way of an initial project on *Strengthening Water Users' Associations*⁴. If the farmers could organize to make irrigation efficient and effective, it is possible for them to organize and make efficient and effective any agriculture-related activities in the same irrigated area.

The farmers shall organize from among themselves the officers and managers of the corporation. The corporate officers shall manage all the activities in the corporate farm. That is, from acquisition of agricultural inputs, irrigation, land preparation, transplanting, weeding, fertilizing, application of agro-chemicals, harvesting, storage, processing of agricultural products and marketing.

The farmer-stock holders have the first right to serve in the corporation as paid labor in his farm. They shall provide the farm labor requirement of the farming corporation. For such effort they shall be compensated in terms of labor wage.

Farmer-stock holders get benefits two (2) ways: a) wages for providing farm labor and b) dividends from the corporation after each fiscal year.

⁴ See Chapter 10 for the details.

Table L.2-1 Village Administration Form in Manatuto District

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Village	No. of sub-village (= aldeia)	No. of sub-aldeia	Head	Members	Establishment and selection of the members	Other information
Ahili	3	7	Chief of village	Secretary 1 Staff 3 (to help the secretary in the past)	The chief of the village had been the secretary for 20 years, and became the chief 1.5 years ago. The three staff were chosen by CNRT, but they do not exist anymore.	The head of sub-aldeia should take care of land property and political issues in the area.
Ateas	4	-	Chief of village	Secretary 1	The chief of the village has been the secretary since 1975.	
Meabet	2		Chief of village	Secretary 1 Staff 3 (finance, development, society)	This structure was formed by the DFO in Indonesian time. The head and members were selected by the community people.	Each of the two aldeias in this village have own chief and assistant (assistant = the chief of the sub-aldeia)
Sau	2	12	Chief of village	Secretary 2 Staff 3 (development, socio culture, civil administration)	This structure was set up by CNRT. The father of the chief of the village was the Lixari, and the current chief was selected by the elders' council. This was finally agreed by CNRT, but the people do not support him as the chief.	The village representatives are the following 5 people: 1. The person from the previous monarchy 2. Traditional chief (elders' council) 3. Representative from OIT 4. Representative from OMI 5. Representative from church

Table L.3-1 Existing farmers' and fishers' organizations (including the women's groups) in Manatuto District

Village	Form	Description
Ailili	Farmers' groups	There are 3 groups, and the average number of the members are 20. The farmers prepare land and harvest together in the irrigation area. They also grow maize outside of the irrigation area in the rainy season.
	Irrigators association	The chief of the village is the leader currently. This role rotates among the four villages.
	Fishers' groups	There are 5 groups with the average number of 3.
	Elders' councils	There are 3 elders in the council (=advisers' group) at village level, 6 elders at aldeia level (2 each in 3 aldeias), and 14 elders at sub-aldeia level (2 each in 7 sub-aldeias)
	Women groups (OMT)	Activities are sewing, weaving, basket making and traditional clay-pan and pot making.
Ateas	Elders' councils	There are 4 elders.
	Fishers' groups	There are 30 groups in the village, and the average number of the fishers is 4 to 5. The groups are expecting motors and fishing nets to purchase from the government (TFET). A fisher said he owns a boat, and borrows an engine and fishing net. He shares the
	Youth leaders (OJT)	They used to plant paddy.
	OMT	Activities are sewing and clay-pan making.
Maabat	Farmers' groups	There are 7 groups in the village. The average number of the members is 4. The activities are to plant and harvest paddy together. No activities for vegetables. They have currently no activities because of the irrigation problem in the system.
	Irrigators association	This has been existing since previous time. The structure has not changed, but only the number of the members has increased. The chief of the village is the top of the irrigators association and responsible for water distribution. Every farmer pays the se
	OMT	In Indonesian time, women's groups were called PKK. They had the same activities but different members from the OMT.
Sau	Farmers' groups	The group of the farmers said they organize a group for paddy production. The number of the member is 10.
	Irrigators association	They plant, harvest and market paddy together. They also control water and clean canals.
	Fisher's groups	One fisher said 5 people in the same house uses a boat. 3 owners (the interviewee as the owner of the boat and owners of engine and fishing net) share the catch equally.
	Hand tractor group	There is 1 group for using the hand tractor given by JICA (for land preparation. The tractor cultivates 0.5 ha, and the farmer pays for fuel only).
	OMT	The activities are sawing training, weaving
	Traditional family group	There are 5 members to produce ceramic pans. The women group used to have the oven for the pan production, but it was burnt. Today they collect wood and buffalo manure instead.

Note: The above organizations are the ones mentioned by the chiefs of the villages and other people when interviewed. There would be other types of the organizations in the