

AUSAID AND SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FUNDING TO SUPPORT CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITY IN EAST TIMOR

START DATE: 1 July 2009

COMPLETION DATE: 30 June 2012

Introduction

The South Australian Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) with financial support from AusAid undertook capacity building programs in East Timor to contribute to the country's economic and social development. The project was implemented by Premier Mike Rann, and managed by Dennis Mutton, Special Advisor to the Premier and Cabinet. Dr Roz Averis from DPC was project coordinator and Areti Lauriello and Corey Ogilvy supported project operations.

The project aimed to enhance the management and policy skills of senior East Timor public servants in specific areas of need such as infrastructure, agriculture and natural resource management.

The program ran over 3 years and the selected candidates from East Timor completed two 12-week work placements in SA under the guidance of mentors the SA Governments. Mentors visited East Timor to assess the training needs of candidates.

Dr Phil Glatz (SARDI) was invited to act as a mentor for an Agriculture candidate Pedro De Deus who was a technical assistant in Animal Production at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in Dili.

Prior to the arrival of the participant in SA, Dr Phil Glatz visited East Timor in Aug 2009 to assess the training needs of the candidate and in Sep 2011 made a return visit with Dennis Mutton who opened the cattlefeed facility completed as part Pedro's training.

Work Program for Pedro De Deus

Work Program developed for Pedro in PIRSA/SARDI for 12 weeks from Aug 2009 was as follows;

1. Induction.
2. Design village scale beef feedlot and forage system based on farm development principles (3 weeks).
3. Develop demonstration plan for feed lot considering similar work in Indonesia (3 weeks).
4. Extension methods-workshops, fact sheets and other media (1 week).
5. Research site visits (2 weeks).

6. English writing skills (2 weeks).
7. Presentation skills (1 week).

A further 12-week visit was made by Pedro in Aug 2011 and Rural Solution SA (RSSA) staff mentored Pedro including field trips to SA regions. Staff who supported Pedro were Jay Cummins, Albert Singh, Sean Miller, Rod Miller (Acting Executive Director of Rural Solutions), Robert Rahaley (Deputy Executive Director, Biosecurity, Chief Veterinary officer), Malcolm Anderson (Manager Animal Disease surveillance), Craig Johns, Prof Wayne Pitchford (University of Adelaide), Bruce Hancock (RSSA) and Ian Macfarland (RSSA). Dr Don Plowman gave Pedro the opportunity to train with PIRSA/SARDI.

Work Program for Pedro in East Timor after initial training in SA

1. Construct feed lot facility
2. Commission facility
3. Run demonstration trial
4. Run workshops with village farmers

Executive Summary of Work Program Outputs

Pedro de Deus was trained by PIRSA/SARDI scientists in beef nutrition, forage systems, feedlot design, animal health, budgeting, research operations and extension techniques and he established a small demonstration beef feedlot with a capacity of eight head of stock in a village just outside Dili. East Timor cattle are traditionally raised on low-quality pasture that is scarce during the dry season. Finishing them in a feedlot allows them to grow faster, which means better quality cattle, getting to the market sooner and higher income for the village farmer. Pedro established a demonstration feedlot that operated well and brought in other local farmers to see how the system worked. Pedro's aim was set up another seven feed lot units of similar capacity built in other parts of the country as demonstration units.



Pictured at Roseworthy Campus during chicken trials, from left, are Papua New Guinea trainee Anton Kapua (Crawford Fund Trainee), Phil Glatz, research farmhand supervisor Evelyn Daniels and Pedro De Deus from East Timor



Phil Glatz meeting Laurencio Borges Fontes (Director General of MAF in East Timor)



Calisto da Costa Varela, National Director for Livestock and Veterinary Services in East Timor meeting with Roz Averis and Dennis Mutton



Cattle feedlot set up by Pedro De Deus in East Timor



Pedro De Deus collecting data from cattle in feedlot



Dennis Mutton and Roz Averis with village family at opening of the feed lot facility by Dennis