

Conference: Timor-Leste agroforestry landscapes, typology, ecological and socio-economic resilience, carbon stock and diversity.

During 2nd Agroforestry Fair, Dili, Timor-Leste, February 26-27th 2022

The fair on Agroforestry, within the framework of the programme "Ai ba Futuro - PSAF¹" took place in Dili, the capital of Timor Leste. This programme is funded by the European Union and the German Cooperation. The event is organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAP) and GIZ. CIRAD, GIZ's partner in this programme, presented the first results of the research on traditional agroforestry systems in the eastern regions of the country.

During this fair was presented:

Agroforestry in Timor Leste, Socio-technical and ecological key factors

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This work was conducted from January 2020 to February 2022 with the participation of several researchers from Forests and Societies, Eco&Sols, Tetis and Innovation units, 4 students from the National University of Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL) and 1 student from the Montpellier SupAgro national school of agronomy and AgroParisTech. The agronomist sent by CIRAD to coordinate the work on site presented the methodological tools used and the typology of the 5 main agroforestry systems integrated in the landscapes of the study area. These systems were analysed in terms of their ecological and socio-economic resilience. The conclusions of this first study show that Timorese agroforestry systems have a strong potential to store carbon in soils and above-ground biomass as well as to contribute to a balance of household food and economic resources through their diversity of functions. In order to improve the resilience of these systems, various challenges need to be addressed, including the improvement of national and international value chains to secure markets and consequently increase the productivity of the systems. Technical constraints in the fight against diseases (animal and plant) and pests were also noted during the field studies. The presentation concludes with the need to enhance the value of these Timorese agroforestry systems, through the support of consumers and institutions in order to preserve their heritage value.

¹ PSAF : Partnership for Sustainable AgroForestry