



Irrigation rehabilitation

UNDP's support to East Timor is made up of 3 pillars

Infrastructure Rehabilitation **Sustainable Livelihoods** **Good Governance**

Project Brief

Project No: TIM/00/R55

Starting Date: August 2000

Location: Manatuto

Status: ongoing

Duration: 10 months

Executing Agency: UNDP/
UNOPS

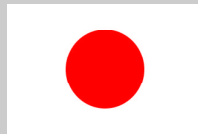
Budget Breakdown:

Japan: US\$ 3,360,000

Total: US\$ 3,360,000

Beneficiaries: Local
communities in Manatuto

**UNDP thanks the Government
of Japan**



The need

Agriculture in East Timor is the most important economic sector and provides the income for more than 71 percent of the population. Rice is the key food and cash crop. Today, the major impediments to rice cultivation are the shortages of irrigation water and the lack of cattle and tractors to speed up cultivation.

During the violence little of East Timor's irrigation system was damaged, however, repairs which are normally carried out during the dry season were neglected in the face of the crisis. Under previous regimes, maintenance was often neglected due to a lack of budget. To avoid a food crisis, the people of East Timor need urgent

assistance to boost the production of the agriculture sector.

UNDP's Response

Since October 1999, UNDP has been playing a key role in the irrigation sector. In rapid response to a potential food crisis, due to lack of cultivation during the rice planting season in Manatuto, UNDP has designed an irrigation project to rehabilitate the damaged rice watering systems.

This will enable farmers to wake their sleeping paddy fields. The rehabilitation work will also provide work for laborer and modern technology for rice cultivation will be passed onto farmers.

Expected results

√ The improvement of irrigation services to 1,680 ha of sleeping irrigation area and 1,400 ha of existing irrigation area.

√ An increase in the annual rice production.

√ An improvement in the access of the 19,100 people of Uatolari and Uatocarbau to markets and other facilities.

√ 100 employment opportunities created.

√ Fixed irrigation maintenance machine that can be used in other irrigation schemes.

√ Build management house for local CNRT agriculture committee or water user association.

fast facts

√ In 1997 the total rice harvested area was reported at around 21,700 ha, with an average rice production of 72,000 tons (paddy).

√ 90% of East Timor's population live in rural areas.

√ 71% of the population derive their primary income from agriculture.

√ The principal staple crops are rice and corn. Coffee and beef are produced for export.

√ The major impediments to rice cultivation are the shortage of irrigation water facilities, and, the lack of cattle and tractors.

√ The main rice crop in East Timor is grown in the wet season from November to March.