

Trip Report, East Timor

Forage tree workshops

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November 28<sup>th</sup> to December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004

### Summary:

We made presentations on agroforestry trees for animal fodder to the MAFF staff in Baucau and with three farmers' groups (Fatulia, Gariuai, and Vermasse). Pascoal Belo of the MAFF Baucau office spoke on agroforestry systems and tree planting, J. B. spoke on trees for animal forage, and John Powley spoke on ruminant and non-ruminant digestive systems (for the MAFF session only.) The presentations went well and the ensuing discussions with the farmers' groups were lively. The Fatulia group seems to be the most organized but all groups were good and all were excited about planting trees. Pascoal had reproduced Tetun-language handouts on agroforestry and tree planting that he and other collaborators with the MAFF had written. J. B. used laminated posters in Tetun to illustrate his talks and left a set in each community and one each with the MAFF office in Baucau and Viqueque. The posters were very popular with the farmers and led to a lot of discussion. A script in Tetun, Indonesian, and English accompanied each set of posters. We had planned to establish demonstration sites at the three sites, and we had trees ready to go, but we were unable to plant the trees because of the lack of rainfall. We only planted a few trees in Fatulia and these will need to be hand watered. The UH program staff in East Timor will plant the rest of the trees when they judge there is enough rainfall. Trees will be planted inside the perimeter fences of the community vegetable composting gardens established by the project. Most of the seedlings for the demonstrations have been produced by Pascoal Belo in his nursery in Triloca, Baucau, and some have been donated by Shane McCarthy of the CCT in Dili. Six species or varieties of forage trees will be tested at each site.

The forage tree workshops followed in a logical sequence from the needs assessed during the PRA and the nursery workshops presented in June. We assessed the farmers' needs in January, established nurseries in June, and planted trees in December. Pascoal Belo had made many improvements to his nursery since participating in the nursery workshop in June. He used root trainers and dibble tubes of various types, grew seedlings on benches, and improved his potting mix. The result was healthier seedlings which will be more able to survive droughts and harsh conditions when they are outplanted. Participants at the MAFF workshop were able to visit the MAFF nursery in Triloca and see how much better the seedlings look when grown with these improved techniques. While two MAFF forestry staff attended the forage tree workshop and saw the improved nursery, it is not clear how the Baucau nursery will serve as a demonstration for other nurseries across the country.

While foresters in Timor have been producing seedlings for decades, very few of these have survived the dry seasons, fires, and livestock. What has been lacking has been community outreach and community involvement in tree planting. By linking up the MAFF foresters with community groups, we are able get people the trees they want and

value and teach them about protecting their trees. The trees become the people's trees, not the government's. This change in perspective is the only thing that will make forestry successful in East Timor. The UH program has spent a lot of time on instruction on such things as species choice and container design, but the greater impact of the program will be in the relationship developed between the MAFF and the communities.

Domingos Periera, the MAFF forester in Viqueque, inquired about funding to set up his own forage tree demo in his district. The funding needed would be mainly for materials and labor to build a fence; he can get seedlings from Pascoal. Domingos has been attending all the UH workshops faithfully and has a nice reforestation project in Viqueque. J. B. and John visited last trip. At Francisco's recommendation, we asked that he write a proposal stating exactly what he needs and give it to Andre when Andre comes back.

During past trips, MAFF staff and farmers expressed an interest in bamboo propagation. We held a half-day workshop on bamboo propagation at the nursery in Triloca. We also instructed MAFF staff and UH staff in the use of digital cameras. J. B. has produced a spreadsheet database of over 90 different agroforestry trees in Timor and over 250 photographs. The spreadsheet includes scientific names of the trees, local names in several languages, and several photographs for each tree, mostly taken in East Timor. Copies of the database were given to MAFF staff, the Peace Corps, and the CCT.

Itinerary for J. B. Friday:

November 28<sup>th</sup>: Left Hilo.

November 30<sup>th</sup>: 23 hour layover in Guam because of Continental Airlines schedule. Met Joe Tuquero and Bel Soliven of Guam Forestry (not connected with East Timor project but UH forestry extension collaborators).

December 1: Was to meet World Neighbors staff in Bali and visit projects, but they cancelled the meeting. Obtained Indonesian-language books from World Neighbors program.

December 2<sup>nd</sup>: Travel to Dili. Met Mario Nunes, chief of MAFF forestry, and told him about the forage tree workshops. Met Angela Rodrigues and Chip Oliver of US AID and later Richard Stoll of US Peace Corps. Gave each CDs with copies of the presentations for forage trees, nursery trees, and the agroforestry trees for Timor database.

December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Met Shane McCarthy and David Boyce of the CCT. Gave CCT a full set of posters and printed scripts. Shane said that they are now beginning an outreach program and will use the posters; we discussed development of other educational materials for firewood/timber trees and coffee shade trees. Visited CCT nursery, procured some tree seedlings for planting in Fatulia. CCT has generously agreed to supply our project with *Leucaena* seedlings of two varieties so that we can compare them with the selected Hawaii variety. We also sent them some seed and they are producing two Hawaii varieties (Kx2 and LxL) alongside of the majority of their trees, which are Australian and Indonesian varieties. Met Elanor Tan of CRS and discussed the candlenut project. Gave her extension literature on candlenut.

December 4<sup>rd</sup>. Preparations for workshops in Dili. Met Jesunina Gomes, UH alumna, now working with the US Peace Corps.

December 5<sup>th</sup>. Sunday. Traveled to Baucau. Met Pascoal Belo, MAFF Baucau Forestry.

December 6<sup>th</sup>. Workshop forage trees and ruminant diets, MAFF Baucau. Assisted by PCVs Michael Jones and Aracely Leiva. Workshop attended by Baucau MAFF staff, two MAFF Dili forestry staff, representatives from the community groups, the minor seminary in Venilale, and Domingos Periera, MAFF forester in Viqueque. About 12 participants. PM visited MAFF nursery in Triloca and demonstrated the difference improvements made in the health of the seedlings. Conducted workshop on bamboo propagation.

December 7<sup>th</sup>. Traveled to Los Palos to visit Don Bosco agricultural school in Fuloro. Met Peace Corps Volunteers Charlotte, Melanie, and Russ in Los Palos.

December 8<sup>th</sup>. Conducted forage tree workshop in Fatulia and outplanted tree for three plots of one species. About 20 people attended the presentations and more participated in the tree planting. Assisted by Peace Corps Volunteers Jen and Ben Spencer, who attended workshop, and by Jose Ximenes.

December 9<sup>th</sup>. Conducted forage tree workshop in Gariuai and discussed their system of candlenut production. Translations by Aracely Leiva and Francisco Soares. About 14 farmers participated; the liurai selected those who had planted trees in the past. Notes on candlenut production in Gariuai below. Afternoon met with Jane Rosser, World Educational Foundation, consultant to CRS on the social dimensions of the candlenut project.

December 10<sup>th</sup>. Conducted forage tree workshop in Vermasse. Translations by Aracely Leiva and Francisco Soares. About 13 participants. Afternoon visited the Triloca nursery and worked with MAFF and UH staff on digital photography.

December 11<sup>th</sup>. Returned to Dili, met with Angela Rodrigues of US AID and Richard Stoll of the US Peace Corps.

December 12<sup>th</sup>. Travel to Bali; Continental flight to Guam late so flight diverted to Narita Airport in Japan.

December 13<sup>th</sup>. Return to Honolulu and Hilo.

## Appendix.

Candlenut information from a discussion with the liurai and farmers' group, Gariuai, Baucau.

December 9, 2004

J. B. Friday and Francisco Soares, University of Hawaii  
(note: group was all male and mostly over 40 years old.)

- ? Candlenut trees are all planted by someone. They do not grow wild.
- ? Candlenut trees are all owned by someone. They are planted on private land on farms.
- ? Candlenut seedlings are not eaten by goats. Cattle may accidentally trample them, however.

- ? In Indonesian times the government built a nursery in or near Gariuai and gave out many candlenut seedlings.
- ? Different individuals have planted different numbers of candlenut trees. The liurai has planted 100 trees and another farmer in the group has planted 200. Other people have no trees.
- ? People may only collect the nuts that fall from their own trees. Collecting nuts from underneath someone else's tree would be viewed as stealing.
- ? No one ever asks to harvest nuts from someone else's trees.
- ? Men, women, and children all collect nuts.
- ? A landowner may arrange to have someone else collect the nuts from his trees if he is absent or if he does not have the time or ability to collect them himself. In the case that he has someone collect the nuts for him, they usually share the nuts 50% for the owner of the trees and 50% for the collector, but the sharing arrangement depends on what the individuals negotiate.
- ? Farmers insisted that the price as of December 2004 is 3 ½ cents per kilogram of nut meats. Everyone agrees that the prices are very low but people still collect nuts because they need the money. In Indonesian times the price was as high as 70 to 80 cents per kilogram.
- ? People crack the nuts by tying them in a strip of palm leaf and smacking them on the ground.
- ? People said that they would be happy to plant many more candlenut trees if the price for the nuts were higher.