




**MID-TERM EVALUATION REPORT
LOCAL INITIATIVES FOR FOOD-SECURITY TRANSFORMATION**

Submitted to
CARE ÖSTERREICH
and
CARE INTERNATIONAL TIMOR – LESTE

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ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

%	Percentage
CBDRM	Community Based Disaster Risk Management
CCF	Christian Children's Fund
CDEP	Centro Do Desenvolvimento Da Economia Popular
CF	Community Facilitator
CITL	CARE International Timor-Leste
CNA	Community Needs Assessment
CVRA	Capacity, Vulnerability, and Risk Assessment
DA	District Administrator/ District Administration
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DDMC District	Disaster Management Committee
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EC	European Commission
ER	Expected Result
FFD	Farmers Field Day
FG	Farmers Group
HH	Household
IG	Income Generation
INGO	International NGO
Kg	Kilogram
LIFT	Local Initiatives for Food-Security Transformation
LNGO	Local NGO
Logframe	Logical Framework
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
NDMD	National Disaster Management Directorate
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NFSC	National Food Security Commission
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PDRA	Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PSF	Promosaun Saude Familiar (Community Health Volunteers)
PTD	Participatory Technology Development
SALT	Sloping Agriculture Land Technology
TAHA	Tane Hamutuk
TOT	Training of Trainers
WN	World Neighbours

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local Initiatives for Food-security Transformation Project (LIFT) is a 4-year project supporting 3,000 food insecure vulnerable households in Liquica and Bobonaro districts in Timor-Leste to address the underlying causes of food insecurity. Donors for the LIFT project are the European Commission and Austrian Development Cooperation (ADA); the grant holder is CARE Österreich and the implementing agency is CARE International Timor-Leste (CITL). Total cost of the project is EUR1,500,000 with 90% contribution from the European Commission, 5% from ADA and 5% from CARE Österreich. The project incorporates four inter-related strategies: (1) Promoting the empowerment of vulnerable women, men and youth groups to access social and agricultural support services, (2) Increasing agricultural production and productivity, (3) Increasing availability of improved seed through seed production at the household level, and (4) Mainstreaming community-based disaster risk management for sustainable production systems. Though said to be started January 2007, conflict in the country in February-April 2007 delayed hiring of project staff, which began in July 2007. The project conducted a mid-term evaluation in April 2009, and this executive summary highlights the findings of the evaluation.

The evaluation was conducted in a participatory manner involving a range of stakeholders, including an external evaluator, project staff, partners, and beneficiaries. The process undertook desk review, field visit, observation and stakeholder consultation. Field visits covered: nine interactions with 67 female and 76 male individual farmers who were mostly the members of farmer groups, representing 5 women's groups and 8 mixed men's and women's groups in 7 project sites; consultations with two NGO partner organisations working in the field (CDEP and TAHA); and three government line agencies in Bobonaro district (District Administrator, District Health Services and MAF). The activities in the observations included six water harvesting ponds, two home gardens, two corn shelling machines, one SALT, one forest nursery, two vegetable nurseries, one heap method compost, two cooking demonstrations, local and Sele corn seed production, and six fuel drums with corn seeds in Bobonaro, Malilait, Vatuvou, Gugleur, Molop, and Atuaben villages (Sucos). Interactions were done also with Dili-based concerned officials of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) and NDMD, three EC-funded NGOs working on food security (CCF, Concern, Oxfam), and three other international development agencies - GTZ, World Vision and Seeds of Life. The evaluation team members also participated in the National Food Security Workshop organised jointly by MAF, EC-FS INGOs and World Vision. The evaluation mainly focused on assessment of past performance considering relevance and appropriateness, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability.

Main findings of the evaluation

Relevance and appropriateness

Project relevance: The project is found relevant as it was developed on the basis of the priority needs of communities to be served and priority strategies of the host country – Timor-Leste. It is consistent with the needs and priorities of the target groups, CARE strategies for supporting vulnerable people, food security policy and poverty reduction strategy of the government of Timor-Leste, and the EC's priority area of sustainable development. It is therefore, worth continuing.

Project appropriateness: The project is appropriate from various aspects. The objective, activities, target groups, and approaches are coherent to produce the results of the four interrelated strategies. It is consistent with the demand and priority needs of beneficiaries. It is comprehensive as well as manageable within the stipulated time. It includes activities and strategies that address all four dimensions of food security - availability, access, utilisation and stability. In this connection, the integration of disaster risk management in the community is complementary to the main theme of food security as well as to the participatory and community driven approach of the project. Likewise, the nutrition education is highly relevant to address the utilisation dimension of food security. Increased agriculture yield is suitable for increased access by making food available at the community and household levels.

Piloting and expansion approach: The general approach taken by CARE/LIFT to promote the technologies was to conduct on-farm trials and demonstrations in a small scale in the beginning, evaluate the technology from farmers' perspectives, and then go to the large scale expansion of the technologies preferred by farmers.

Group formation strategy: Forming two types of farmers groups – (i) women only members and (ii) mixed groups with women and men is found to be a good gender strategy that not only provides opportunity for participation through mixed groups but also ensures women's role in decision making through 'women only' groups. This strategy is appropriate when women are yet to develop capacity to articulate their needs and priorities competently with men. Likewise, gender inclusive staffing and introduction of technologies that serve women's practical needs, such as low-cost labour-saving corn shelling machines, are also appropriately tailored activities for gender sensitivity and gender equity.

Effectiveness

Reaching target beneficiaries: CARE/LIFT has almost achieved what has been planned against the plans for two years. It has directly reached 92% of the target population, covering 2,771 out of the 3,000 target households (HH). It has made plans to reach the remaining target HHs before mid-2009. Work is fully underway in 17 out of the 21 planned Sucos, and steps have been taken to cover the other four Sucos, where group formation has already begun. The project has formed 186 farmers groups comprising the 2,771 HHs. The groups are either formed with membership of women only or mixed women and men. There are 45 women-only groups and the remaining 141 groups are mixed. In total, 59% of the groups' composition is women, and of the women members, 7.3% are women who are also heads of the household. Moreover, participation of women in the mixed groups is 46%.

Technologies promoted: The project-promoted technologies include improved seed varieties, improved storage techniques, labour-saving technologies, improved conservation techniques, soil enrichment practices, and home gardening. Improved varieties promoted include two corn varieties (Sele and Suwan-5), and one peanut variety (Utamua). It has also promoted two storage techniques, namely airtight fuel/metal drums and Super Grain Bags. The labour-saving device includes mainly the low-cost corn-shelling machine. Conservation techniques cover the sloping agriculture land technology (SALT), agro-forestry nursery, and water-harvesting pond. The sustainable soil enrichment technologies include legume-based mixed cropping and legume mono-cropping, liquid organic fertiliser, organic compost, organic pest control, and promotion of bean as a cover crop. In addition, nutrition promotion practices such as cooking demonstrations, balancing the use of locally available foods, hand washing, and home gardening are promoted.

Changes in knowledge and skills of the beneficiaries: Farmers' knowledge and skills, to some extent, in the above-mentioned technologies were found to be fair to good. Many of the farmers reported accurately when and how to use the technologies. Some of the farmers, however, were not using the technologies appropriately. For example, we saw Super Grain Bags overloaded and not properly placed, and corn shelling machines under-used due to not knowing how to fit different sizes of corn cob into the machine.

Successful and less successful technologies: Of the above technologies, the successful technologies, from the farmers' perspectives, included all except corn storage in Super Grain Bags. Though it worked well with some farmers who kept the bag in an elevated house (with metal barriers), the bags were damaged by rats for the majority of the farmers, who had stored on the floor. Among the successful technologies, the technologies preferred most by farmers were water harvesting ponds, home gardening, corn seed production and storage, peanut seed production and storage, and corn shelling machines. These technologies were also liked by non-programme farmers in the neighbourhood and project staff from other agencies like MAF, GTZ, Oxfam and Concern. Corn seed storage in airtight fuel drums has been cited as an excellent technology by other stakeholders as well.

Feedback from stakeholders: The project has already gained appreciation from different stakeholders such as MAF, SoL, NFSC, NDMD, GTZ, Concern, Oxfam and others, for its selection and application of appropriate technology, providing feedback to resource centres, building linkages with stakeholders, and providing feedback on policy issues regarding food security. It has initiated developing and demonstrating a sustainable agriculture development model based on a micro-watershed approach while incorporating and integrating inter-related dimensions. According to the CARE/LIFT model, other activities, such as sloping agriculture land technology, home gardening, and preparing and using organic compost and liquid fertilisers, are linked to the water harvesting pond, as the latter is the common denominator to the others.

Disaster risk management and nutrition education: The project, however, is lagging behind schedule in terms of forming village level disaster risk management plans, conducting cooking demonstrations and providing transport facilities to some of the field staff. The reasons for delayed achievement are the late formation of Disaster Management Committees by the government, a

shortage of human resources in health and nutrition in the country, and the driving skills of some of the staff, respectively.

Efficiency

Mechanisms for efficiency: The project is efficiently managing the resources to a large extent by using a cost-sharing approach, developing good relationships with resource centres, and developing synergy on staff expertise. The project has used a cost-sharing approach. Accordingly, beneficiary farmers groups contribute labour and local materials, whereas the project meets costs for purchased (other) items. On average, the cost is shared 35% by farmers and 65% by the project. Similarly, the project has sometimes received quality planting materials for trials and demonstration free from the associate partner – Seeds of Life/MAF - in exchange for providing feedback on the performance of the trials and demonstrations. Next, the project has given tasks to the staff based on their skills and has made reinforcement arrangements. According to this, staff roles are complementary to each other, and they are closely monitored and supervised. Though the project has established baseline data, regularly conducted quarterly review meetings, and organised monthly action planning, quarterly review at sub-district level and joint monitoring with partners have not yet been practiced, as these are in the process of preparing appropriate tools.

Working relations with government, associate, and NGOs: The project has developed good working relations with closely related government and non-government organisations at various levels ranging from grassroots to national. Government agencies include MAF, Ministry of Health, National Disaster Management Directorate, and their district and sub-district offices. The project's relation with these agencies is in terms of receiving and giving resources and sharing information.

At the grassroots level, the project signs a memorandum of agreement with farmers groups in the presence of the local government (Suco leaders) to work with community people. The village level problem analysis and actions to address problems are prepared jointly by community people and local governments with facilitation by the project. Project partnerships with government authorities at sub-district and district levels are also working well. The district administrators see CARE/ LIFT as a good partner rather than a competitor, as do officials of MAF and Health at the respective level. MAF agencies are seeking support of the project in developing the capacity of their recently recruited extension workers. For the project, supporting them in capacity building is important, as their role in project sustainability is crucial. The project's relationship with national agencies, committees, and projects, especially MAF, NFSC, and NDMD, is equally good. There is good understanding between government agencies and the project that their roles are complementary. Government agencies are eager to get more support from the project, and the project is equally eager to get more government support for the benefit of the target population. Likewise, the project's relation with INGOs supported by EC for food security is of high quality. They share information regularly, use common advocacy tools, approach government together, and use good practices of other agencies. Further, the project has also developed working relations with non-EC INGOs/agencies working on food security issues such as World Vision International and GTZ. A very strong relationship exists between the CARE/LIFT project and the Seeds of Life Project. SoL (Associate of CARE/LIFT Project) provides quality planting materials to the project either free of cost or at the government rate, in addition to providing CARE/LIFT staff with training on seed production and storage. The project reciprocates SoL by providing records and farmers' feedback on on-farm trials and demonstrations.

Sustainability and indicative impact

Incremental crop yield of improved crop varieties over local: Though farmers could not get the desired yield from seed production of improved seed varieties of corn and peanuts in the first year due to low rainfall and late planting, second year corn production was good. The farmers were of the opinion that they would be food secure for an additional one month from the increased yield. The latest crop cut sample survey (20 locations) undertaken in March/April 2009 by the project revealed that improved varieties of corn (Sele and Suwan-5) produced 61% higher yield than local varieties. Similarly, Utamua – an improved variety of peanuts - produced 14% higher yield than local varieties (5 locations). Detailed records on crop yields and feedback of farmers growing the improved varieties of corn and peanuts are yet to be collected, since the corn grains and peanuts were just harvested during the field visit for this evaluation.

Technology adoption: Farmers have kept seeds of the new varieties for the next planting season. They have also indicated that they would continue the production of seed as well as use seed from this year for general cultivation in the next season. They also expressed the desire for separating corn grains with corn shelling machines, keeping corn seeds in airtight fuel drums, using organic fertiliser, making compost and using it in vegetable home gardens, and using energy efficient LED lamps that

reduce indoor pollution. For other technologies, farmers are still evaluating them, as they are in the trial and demonstration stage.

Capacity building of farmers groups and NGOs: Though there is increased capacity of the members of farmer groups in some technical aspects, capacity is much below the required level. Their skills in group management are also equally low, as they have not even maintained the group book provided by the project. Due to the late start of the project, emphasis was placed on implementation of technical activities, and time for capacity building on management aspects was short. Similarly, the capacity of the service providing agencies of the government, especially the MAF extension workers, is yet to be developed, as they are fresh graduates and newly recruited. Linkage of farmers groups to them is not yet established, as the extension workers are still in an orientation stage and yet to be familiarised with farmers. Besides government agencies, the capacity of partner NGOs is also low, as are their relations with farmers groups. In such a situation, the project has a challenging role in developing the capacity of not only the farmers groups, but also the partner NGOs and government agencies so that approaches and technologies promoted by the project are sustained after its phase out.

Conclusion

The overarching conclusion of this evaluation is that the project has largely achieved the set targets for the past two years and is heading in the right direction to achieve the remaining targets for the next two years. The project focus for the past period was mainly on group formation and conducting trials and demonstrations of agricultural technologies at the group level in order to familiarise farmers to them. The remaining period of the project will be challenging in terms of building the capacity of the farmer groups, adoption of tested and demonstrated successful technologies by the target population, achieving a balance among agricultural activities, nutrition promotion and disaster risk management, and ensuring that services provided by the project and success stories generated through project interventions are continued after the project phase out. To meet these challenges, the project needs to be locally adaptable and creative, rather than providing uniform solutions in the use of procedures, methods and approaches.

Recommendations

Recommendations are made to address weaknesses in the project, identify strategies that should be continued or can be strengthened, and maximize the impact, sustainability, reach, and efficiency of activities.

Strategies to continue

1. **Pay special attention to capacity building:** Capacity building of staff and partner NGOs on facilitation, PDRA, CNA, PRA and technical aspects is an important area. Most CARE/LIFT staff and partner staff, especially frontline workers, are young persons not well-versed in facilitation skills or participatory methods of community empowerment.
2. **Balance promotion of local vs improved cultivars:** While promoting exogenous cultivars, CARE/LIFT pays attention that endogenous strains are not endangered. CARE/LIFT, therefore, should continue to promote both local as well as improved seeds to conserve agricultural biodiversity.
3. **Continue and replicate the cost-sharing approach:** The project has successfully demonstrated a cost-sharing arrangement for project support activities with its target beneficiaries. This is an excellent model of creating community ownership of activities and avoiding free distribution of inputs and materials. This practice should be replicated to other projects and agencies.
4. **Scale up integration of complementary technologies:** CARE/LIFT has piloted the integration of SALT, organic composting and home gardens with water harvesting ponds, and farmers' responses were highly positive. Where appropriate, it is important that CARE/LIFT scales up this integration so that technologies introduced under the SALT approach are successful. It also simplifies monitoring demonstrations of nurseries, composts and home gardens nearby the ponds.
5. **Expand labour saving technologies for women:** With the increased yield in corn, there is a greater quantity of corn to be shelled and pounded at the household level. As corn-shelling and pounding activities are normally done by women, the increased yield may have a negative impact on their workload. To respond to this problem, CARE/LIFT has introduced the labour-saving and affordable corn-shelling machine. CARE may also consider introducing a low-cost corn pounding machine to reduce women's drudgery, on a cost-sharing basis as per the existing practice.
6. **Expand environment-friendly technologies:** Continue the expansion of organic composting, liquid fertilisers, and organic pesticide preparation, as these technologies are preferred by farmers as well as being environmentally friendly.

Areas for improvement

7. **Ensure transport facilities for all field staff:** Some staff still lack motorbikes. According to the staff, lack of a vehicle was one of the factors in low project visits by those staff. It is recommended that the project procure needed vehicles without delay to increase staff field mobility.
8. **Assess effectiveness of seed storage in Super Grain Bags:** Airtight plastic bags for seed storage has been successful for some farmers and a failure for others. From the discussion with a limited number of users, successes were noticed in those households who had stored the plastic bag in an elevated store house (bou laten), while those who stored it in their main house faced problems with rats. It is recommended to assess the effectiveness of this technology among the farmers with success and failure cases and find ways to increase the effective use of the technology in future.
9. **Address seed diversity in storage technologies:** To meet needs for bio-diversity preservation, farmers must preserve seeds of different cultivars separately. In the case of corn, there are two introduced varieties and one local variety requiring seed preservation every year. CARE/LIFT support for seed storage should address these diversities.
10. **Improve monitoring and supervision of farmers groups:** We noticed that the farmers groups' books were half filled. We strongly recommend that project staff pay special attention to systematic monitoring and supervision and reporting back to the project management.
11. **Increase financial transparency:** Farmers knew the quantity of materials that came to their group but were not able to tell the price of items that they received. CARE/LIFT might increase transparency by providing price information to farmers and field staff.
12. **Involve staff in procurement of materials:** According to staff, many of the materials supplied to farmers were of good quality. In some cases, the materials did not meet standards. Their suggestion was that staff be involved in procurement processes to improve quality of materials.
13. **Provide orientation to agriculture staff to promote simple nutrition information:** Nutrition education is not going as per other components of the project. Unavailability of qualified staff has hampered the nutrition program. Reorienting existing agriculture staff to simple health and nutrition messages—such as awareness raising on malaria, sanitation, etc.—could be done for the time being.
14. **Initiate formation of Disaster Management Committees with the help of NDMD and DDMC:** CARE can use its good working relationship with the NDMD in supporting it to establish Disaster Management Committees at the Suco level. This initiative can help build capacity in integrating DRM issues in local level planning processes to sustain food and livelihood security.
15. **Revise logframe:** The CARE/LIFT logframe needs to be refined with clear, objectively verifiable indicators. CARE/LIFT should involve field staff to refine the logframe so as to increase their ownership and make the project more realistic.
16. **Develop expenditure plan for the remaining period of the project:** It is also recommended that CARE/LIFT and field staff develop an expenditure plan in key areas indicated in this report.

Maximizing results

17. **Pilot group savings scheme:** Group cohesion is an important ingredient for community development. CARE/LIFT may want to introduce group savings schemes on a small scale, as it is a powerful tool for strengthening groups and encouraging them to take on some activities on their own.
18. **Build relations with new MAF extension workers:** With the recent deployment of MAF extension staff at the Suco level, CARE/LIFT should pay attention to building a strong partnership with them and help strengthen their capacity in various ways, including in CARE/LIFT technologies and gender approaches.
19. **Find new food items that can be made from corn:** The project may investigate methods for making a variety of food items from corn, as farmers tend to purchase rice by selling corn.
20. **Set up seed banks:** CARE/LIFT has supported farmers to produce high yielding corn seed with the condition that the group return to CARE/LIFT the same quantity of seed after harvest. This seed could be used in establishing a community seed bank overseen by Suco/aldeia leaders.
21. **Explore potential for marketing products:** Legumes and vegetables produced by farmers are not totally consumed at HH level. The market study that is expected to take place shortly should explore the possibility of marketing the legumes and vegetables – raw as well as processed items.
22. **Together with MAF and other INGOs, scale up successful good practices:** Some approaches and technologies promoted by CARE/LIFT and proven successful could be scaled up and spread within and beyond the project districts through MAF and other development partners/networks.

23. **Build on micro-watershed approach:** To build on experiences from the existing micro-watershed approach, CARE/LIFT will have to go further to integrate multi-purpose tree plantations on stream banks, small scale dams to slow and capture water, and plant leguminous crops in contour.
24. **Extend the project by six months:** The project would cover eight cropping seasons if started and completed on time as per the project document (Jan 2007 – December 2010). With the late start (July 2007), there will be at the most seven cropping seasons that the project is likely to cover. Looking at the needs of the farmers and considering the under-spent status of the project, it is logical that the project extends for six months to compensate the lost cropping season within the approved project cost. Moreover, capacity building of farmers groups has also been shortened due to the delay in the project start up. This also demands compensation of time.

Table of Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	2
ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS	3
1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
2. INTRODUCTION	12
2.1 Background of the Project	12
2.2 Purpose of the Evaluation	12
2.3 The Objectives of the Evaluation	12
2.4 Methodology	12
2.5 Limitation of the Evaluation	14
2.6 Organisation of the Report	14
3. FINDINGS	15
3.1 Relevance and Appropriateness	15
3.2 Effectiveness	17
Technologies Promoted to Target Beneficiaries	17
Working Approach	18
Achievement against Logframe	20
3.3 Efficiency	27
Staffing Structure in Relation to Implementing Activities	27
Cost Sharing Mechanism	28
Collaboration with Local Government, Partners and Other Stakeholders	29
Monitoring and Supervision	30
3.4 Impact	31
Changes in Community Members' Practices, Ideas and Beliefs	32
Achievements to-date of the Program Interventions	32
Linkage of Farmer Group with Government and Civil Society Organisations	34
Perception of Farmers and Other Stakeholders about the Project	35
Budget against Logframe/ Project Proposal	36
Gender Equality	37
3.5 Sustainability	39
Adoption of Approaches/ Technologies/ Techniques Promoted by the Project	39
Exit Strategy	41
3.6 Coherence	42
4. VISIBILITY	43
5. OVERALL ASSESSMENT	44
6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	46

6.1 Conclusions	46
6.2 Recommendations	47
ANNEXES TO THE REPORT	50

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background of the Project

CARE has been working in Timor-Leste since 1994 and is currently the largest INGOs in the country with over 230 staff. CARE works in all 13 districts of Timor-Leste with specific focus on Liquica, Bobonaro, and Covalima districts covering a range of thematic areas. Local Initiatives for Food-security Transformation Project (LIFT) is one of the several projects undertaken by CARE. LIFT is a 4-year project (1 January 2007 to 31 December 2010) that supports 3,000 food insecure vulnerable households in Liquica and Bobonaro districts to address the underlying causes of food insecurity. The Donors for the LIFT project are the European Commission (EC) and the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADA), the grant holder is CARE Österreich. CARE International Timor-Leste (CITL) is implementing the LIFT project on behalf of CARE Österreich. The project builds upon CARE's past experience working in the target areas incorporating four inter-related strategies:

- Promoting the empowerment of vulnerable women, men and youth groups to access social and agricultural support services
- Increasing agricultural production and productivity
- Increasing availability of improved seed through seed production at the households level, and
- Mainstreaming community-based disaster risk management for sustainable production systems

The project aims to address food security in an integrated manner that combines agricultural productivity with community health and nutrition as well as agro-business activities. The project is being implemented in 21 Sucos with 186 farmers groups in Maubara sub-district of Liquica District and Bobonaro sub-district of Bobonaro District covering about 2,771 households (see Annex 1 for Map of Project Area). Within 186 farmers groups, 45 farmers groups are 'women only' groups and rest are mixed groups- men and women. 7.3% of women members are from women headed households.

Though the project was supposed to start in January of 2007, it actually started in full-fledged manner in July 2007 due to security problems. Initial two months (August –September) were devoted to baseline survey starting actual fieldwork in October 2007. Upon the completion of almost two years, CARE decided to undertake a mid-term evaluation of the project hiring an external consultant to review activities undertaken and outputs achieved during the first two years of project implementation. (see Annex 2 for ToR for Evaluation). This report is the outcome of the evaluation.

2.2 Purpose of the Evaluation

The purpose of the consultancy was to conduct a participatory review of the effectiveness/ efficiency, and impact/sustainability of the CARE/LIFT project to provide recommendations for the project implementation in remaining period of the project.

2.3 The Objectives of the Evaluation

- Assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the project
- Assess the impact and sustainability of the project
- Lessons learned of the project and recommendations for the remaining period of project implementation.
- Measure the indicators as provided in the logical framework of the project

2.4 Methodology

The evaluation was expected to assess mainly the effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability, and relevance/ appropriateness based on two-year implementation and make recommendations for the remaining time of the project. Keeping this in mind, the evaluation methodology was designed accordingly. While designing and implementing methodology, we considered also the evaluation guidelines developed by the DAC Working Party on Aid Evaluation of the European Commission.

The evaluation used both quantitative and qualitative methods and result-oriented participatory approaches. The quantitative method was used to analyse the internal project monitoring data and the qualitative method included the interactions with farmers and other stakeholders and field observation. At the onset, an evaluation team was formed consisting evaluation consultant, national and international project managers as well as women empowerment officer as members of the evaluation core team. They were involved in planning, methodology development, and fieldwork including participation in meetings with stakeholders and drafting report as well as sharing feedback for final report.

The evaluation used desk study and field visit. Desk review covered review of documents provided by CARE, development of methodology, data analysis, draft report preparation and final report preparation. Field visit covered seven field observations, nine interactions with 67 female and 76 male individual farmers who were mostly the members of farmer groups, consultations with two NGO partner organisations working in the field (CDEP and TAHA), and three government's line agencies in Bobonaro district (District Administrator, District Health Services and MAF). Interactions were done also with DILI-based concerned officials of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) and NDMD, three EC- NGOs on Food Security (CCF, Concern, Oxfam), and three other international development agencies - GTZ, World Vision and Seeds of Life. The evaluation team members also participated in the National Food Security Workshop organised jointly by MAF, EC-FS INGOs and World Vision.

Places and farmer groups were selected purposively considering the activity intensity, remoteness and gender perspective. Though the plan was to visit 8 to 10 Sucos, due to time required for intensive discussion, we visited only six Sucos (Atuaben, Bobonaro, Gugleur, Malilait, Molop and Vatuvo). Other Sucos were not visited also because the evaluation team was able to capture all diversities of the project in the visited six Sucos. There were five women's groups (from Anapal, Hametin, Taemeas, Bobonaro villages) and eight mixed groups of men and women of two relatively more remote (from Anapal and Maubu villages) and five relatively less remote sites.

The activities in the observations included six water harvesting ponds, two home gardens, two corn shelling machines, one SALT, one forest nursery, two vegetable nurseries, one heap method compost, two cooking demonstrations, and local and Sele corn seeds, and six fuel drums with corn seeds in Bobonaro, Malilait, Vatuvo, Gugleur, Molop, and Atuaben Sucos.

Separate checklists were prepared for farmers, CARE/LIFT staff, implementing NGO partners, EC-NGO group on food security, and government agencies. A detail of the methodology (see Annex 3) including the evaluation team members (see Annex 4) and a list of stakeholders consulted (see Annex 5) is given in Annex-1. The evaluation specifically focused on the following factors:

Appropriateness and Relevance

- Project objectives, target groups and activity to produce results
- Consistency of the project with beneficiary needs, demand and priority (men vs women)
- Relevance/appropriateness of the procedures/ processes/ approaches.

Effectiveness and Efficiency

- Effectiveness/appropriateness of technologies promoted to target beneficiaries for boosting agriculture production
- Monitoring and evaluation tools design and use
- Current staffing structure in relation to implementing activities
- CARE's approaches in working in a participatory manner with communities
- Roles of Specialists Officers/Project Officers/Field Officers, and Nutrition and Health Facilitators
- Collaboration with local government, partners and other stakeholders
- Cost benefit relationship of approaches used
- Integration of nutrition

Impact and Sustainability

- Changes in community members practices, ideas and beliefs in regard to agricultural technique, natural resources management, health (including nutrition and hygiene), and disaster preparedness (men vs women)

- Achievements to date of the program interventions: agriculture practices (increased productivity and increased diversity) seed production and storage techniques, income generation/cash crops, nutrition promotion and integration of Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) for risk mitigation
- Communities perceptions on program interventions and transparency (men vs women)
- Relationships with key government and civil society stakeholders
- Feasibility of Disaster Risk Management targets considering watershed approach and government processes
- Progress to date against the project proposal, logframe (see Annex 6) and budget
- Sustainability/adoption of promoted approaches/technologies/techniques
- Exit strategy
- Unintended impacts on women's and girls' labour
- Recommendations for increasing spending
- External factors (such as environmental and political) and their effect on activities

2.5 Limitation of the Evaluation

Though the evaluation triangulated information from various sources, interviews with members of farmer groups and consultations with stakeholders were important sources of qualitative information. The interviews and consultations were mostly conducted with the help of a translator as the principal evaluator and interviewees did not share the same language. Some information might have been lost in between and some questions and responses might have been understood differently. Similarly, observations were done in a limited number of sites of the project using purposive sampling method; random sampling was not done. Selection biases cannot be ruled out. Because of the above limitations, there might not have been reality accurately reflected for the whole project area with the information collected from the limited number of the sites and discussing with a limited number of the target groups.

2.6 Organisation of the Report

The report is organised into six chapters. This first chapter is the executive summary. The second chapter provides general information about the project and evaluation covering background, purpose, objective and limitation of the evaluation. This also deals with evaluation methodology. Chapter three is about findings. It analyses appropriateness and relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability, and coherence of the project using specific indicators to each group. It deals with technical and managerial aspects covering working approach, collaboration, cost-sharing, technology promotion, structure and monitoring and evaluation; change in behaviour, physical achievements, and expenditure pattern; gender equality, and exit strategy. Chapter four deals with visibility of the project. Chapter five gives overall assessment. The chapter six provides recommendations and conclusion. Annexes are given at the end of the report.

3. FINDINGS

3.1 Relevance and Appropriateness

The CARE/LIFT project is implemented in Maubara sub-district of Liquica district and Bobonaro sub-district of Bobonaro district. Both sub-districts are among the least developed areas of the country and people are mostly vulnerable to food insecurity as shown by various reports including the CARE food security baseline survey 2008. At the time when the project was designed, there were almost non-existent service providers including the government extension workers. Both sub-districts are vulnerable to drought, crop pests, flood and soil erosion, strong wind and post harvest storage loss of the major crops. The project was designed to address these local issues comprehensively using the food security framework. The project is consistent with the needs and priorities of the target groups, CARE strategies for supporting vulnerable people, food security policy and poverty reduction strategy of the government of Timor-Leste and EC's priority area-1. The project, therefore, is highly relevant from all corners.

More specific information about the appropriateness of certain aspects of the project is given below.

Project objectives, target groups and activity to produce results. Target groups of the project are women and men vulnerable to food insecurity and they were reached accordingly. Unlike many agricultural development projects that have only food production focus, this project is designed from the perspective of women and men farmers vulnerable to food security by incorporating all four dimensions of food security to improve their food security condition. To achieve the above objective, project has four result areas related to capacity building of target group, increase agricultural production, securing seed at household level and capacity strengthening of local government to respond to the risk mitigation. The activities of the project are set accordingly to get the results and likelihood of achieving results is very high.

Consistency of the project with beneficiary needs, demand and priority. Participatory disaster risk analysis (PDRA), community needs assessment (CNA) and baseline survey findings (see Annex 7) showed the drought, pests, strong wind, soil erosion, flood, and low crop yield in the project area. These reports also indicated that women than men were affected more with the increased intensity of vulnerability. In our observations we found this information reflecting the ground reality. The project activities are appropriately directed towards addressing these factors by introducing drought and wind tolerant corn varieties and forming 'women only group' and mixed group of farmers, for example.

Piloting and expansion approach. According to this, innovative technologies are first introduced and carried in a small scale, allowed for undergoing screening process by users and expanding to wider area if preferred by them. This approach is beneficial to both beneficiaries and CARE/LIFT. To beneficiaries, it provides an opportunity to exercise innovative practices in a small scale, learn steps involved in carrying out the activity and assess its performance from users' perspective. To CARE/LIFT, this helps ascertaining that the technologies are suitable for the local context. Promoting a technology without piloting may be detrimental, if the promoted technologies fail in a large scale.

Seed production and storage approach. Obtaining certified quality seed from the agriculture farm of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), planting seeds with special care to maintain genetic purity, saving seeds locally for next planting in airtight device and distributing the seed for planting in wider area by farmers' groups in community land are major activities undertaken in this approach. This approach helps not only in increasing area under improved seed thereby increasing productivity and production but also makes farmer self-sufficient in seed. It also helps not only the food security but also the food sovereignty – a step advanced to food security leading to ensure rights of farmers to food.

Flexibility and responding to needs of changing context. EC's flexibility in allowing the implementing agency to respond the changing context is appreciative. EC allowed CARE/LIFT to respect the recently developed health policy for discontinuing the Village Health Committees as originally proposed. Similarly, EC's permission for changing storage device from 1000 litre Silo to 200 litre fuel drum as the later was more appropriate, affordable and manageable is also a commendable step. The flexibility and adjustment approach of the project is appropriate as it saves time, energy and

resources for productive endeavour and is encouraged that it continues this good approach in remaining period of the project.

Site selection. Site selection was appropriately made considering the intensity of poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition; absence of other agencies currently working on agriculture and food security sector; high potential for making a difference in agriculture and food security; opportunity of integration with CARE's other projects; and willingness of farmers to participate in project interventions. Limiting project activities in two districts, two sub-districts was also a good strategy not only to provide intensive services, monitoring and supervision but also to reduce the mobility and management cost rather than covering same of number of households in many number of sub-districts.

Integration of DRM and nutrition education. CARE/LIFT has fully integrated disaster management into the long-term development objective. In fact, one of the four components of the project is disaster management. It has also integrated nutrition as one of the activity areas. This way, the project has rightly intended to address issue of food security in a comprehensive manner covering availability, access, utilisation and stability dimensions of food security.

Comprehensive package for capacity building. Project's provision for building capacity not only of farmer groups but also the partner NGOs, government staff, and local government is also a good intention. This helps not only for project to make implementation easy, it also leads to sustainability as the increased knowledge and skills of the government and local people on food security issues remains at local level.

Gender sensitivity in technology introduction and extension. Consideration of gender issues in technology dissemination is a right thinking. Separating grains from corncob by a low-cost corn-shelling machine has reduced women's workload substantially in two ways. On one way, the work efficiency has increased by machine over the hand shelling. On the other hand, the corn shelling workload has also been shared with men, as working with machine is a fun for them. Similarly, as corn shelling is women-dominated work, increased yield of corn due to introduction of new corn variety would have been extra work burden for women, if the corn shelling machines were not introduced.

There was also labour saving from the introduction of sealed drum for storage. Using the drum for seed storage, women no longer need to dry the seed and store the seed time to time as in conventional practice. This has also saved considerable time of women.

Water harvesting ponds were just introduced to farmers group preferably to women group for the promotion of home garden. Both home garden and water harvesting pond would save women labour as there is no need to walk long distance to buy the vegetables. Moreover, ensuring access of water close to home garden will reduce time required for irrigation. All these savings of labour directly benefit to women as these jobs are normally carried out by women.

Mung bean and vegetables are the new crops that were introduced for crop diversification and have provided productive employment opportunities for both men and women to some extent. Introduction of compost making techniques was also labour saving technology as communities can prepare compost in their village using local materials. Had there no such techniques, women members had to buy fertilizers from outside resulting into loss of their time, energy and money.

Gender inclusiveness in staff pattern and farmer group. CARE/LIFT has gender balanced staff especially the frontline workers. Out of existing 12 frontline Community Facilitators seven (58%) are women. Presence of women facilitators made easy for motivating, mobilising and organising the women in group and participate in development activities. The project has also made special arrangement in farmer group where two types of groups are formed: the women only group and mixed group of women and men. Accordingly, women's presence in the farmer group is almost 59%.

Working through group. Working through groups was a good strategy as well. Though program was given to the group of vulnerable people in the community, it also benefited non-vulnerable indirectly. For example, some farmers reported that they shared the seeds of improved corn with their neighbours last year. With the increased production of seeds of corn and peanuts in 2008/09, more farmers group are able to share the seeds with their neighbours or exchange the seeds with food grains. Improved techniques to prepare organic compost and liquid fertilisers practiced by members of farmers group can be easily replicated to non-group members through farmer-to-farmer extension. CARE/LIFT farmers' group members have already developed some of these skills and they will remain in the village as resource persons to teach others, as and when required. This has helped in

promoting cohesion in the community (Exclusion creates social tension). The structure of the group is appropriate as MAF is going to promote its extension services through a farmers' group approach. The group approach is not only cost effective but it also promotes exchange of information/ experiences/ skills among the members and provides a forum to voice their needs and priorities with service providers. Average size of the farmers group in CARE/LIFT project is 15 members ranging from 8 to 25. Experiences from elsewhere indicate that group size is ideal when it is between 10-20. Bigger group size beyond 20 is difficult to manage. And smaller group would be too costly for project or service provider to provide services. However, size of the group should be determined by level of homogeneity among the members. If group members are from diverse background then the group should be kept small. If not, then even 20-25 members will not do any harm. In case of CARE/LIFT beneficiaries, the groups were found largely homogenous and having a size of 15 to 20 members is appropriate.

3.2 Effectiveness

Effectiveness in this evaluation was assessed on the basis of the extent to which the CARE/LIFT intervention's objectives were achieved, or are expected to be achieved, taking into account their relative importance. Specifically, the effectiveness took into account the technologies promoted to target beneficiaries by CARE/LIFT, working approach, and achievement against logframe. The discussion on these aspects is provided below.

Technologies Promoted to Target Beneficiaries

The project-promoted technologies included improved seed, improved storage techniques, labour saving technologies, improved conservation techniques (SALT and water harvesting pond), soil enrichment practices and home gardening. Improved varieties promoted include 2-corn varieties (Sele and Suwan-5), and 1-peanut (Utamua). It has also promoted two storage techniques namely the airtight fuel/metal drum and Super Grain Bag. The labour saving device include the corn-shelling machine. The conservation techniques covered the sloping agriculture land technology (SALT), agro-forestry nursery and water-harvesting pond. The sustainable soil enrichment technology includes legume-based mixed cropping and legume mono-cropping, liquid organic fertiliser, organic compost, and organic pest control and promotion of bean as a cover crop. In addition, nutrition promotion practices such as cooking demonstration, balance use of locally available foods, hand washing, and home gardening are promoted.

Table 1. Number of Farmers Groups in which CARE/LIFT promotes certain technologies

Technology	Unit	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10 (projected)	2010/11 (projected)
Corn Sele and Suwan 5	Group	0	49+13*	115	200	200
Peanut Utamua	Group	0	49+18	25	100	150
Sweet potato Hohrae-1	Group	0	0	11	125	180
Sweet potato Hohrae-2	Group	0	0	11	125	180
Sweet potato Hohrae-3	Group	0	0	11	125	180
Fuel/metal drum	No.	0	26	250	350	0
Super Grain Bag	No.	0	0	2500	0	0
Legume-based mixed Crop (redbeans, soybeans)	Group	0	40	0	50	10
Legume mono cropping (mungbean as second crop)	Group	0	50	25	100	130
Liquid organic fertiliser	Group	0	35	104	105	110
Organic compost	Group	0	2	50	105	110
Organic pest control	Group	0	35	104	105	110
Bean as a cover crop	Group	0	10	8	100	150
Cooking demonstration	Group	0		11	45	45
Balance use of locally available foods	Group	0	35	45	45	45
Home gardening	Group	0	35	104	105	110
Hand washing	No.	0	0	300	500	100
Water harvesting Ponds	No.	0	0	40	60	0
SALT	No.	0	5	10	35	15

Note: FY starts from July to June. * = x no. of on farm demonstration + x no. of seed production plots

The technologies were first demonstrated in small scale at farmers' field as on-farm trial and demonstration. The demonstration and trials were assessed using participatory techniques with farmers. The farmer preferred technologies were then scaled up to other farmer groups and farmers. Some of the technologies have also been scaled up beyond the project boundary either through other agencies or directly by farmers. Such technologies, for example, include corn-shelling machine through Oxfam; and Sele corn seed and Utamua peanut seed directly by neighbouring farmers.

A total of 22 water-harvesting ponds were constructed as of March 2009. Additional 10 ponds are at the stage of completion. In our field visit, we observed a 30,000 litre capacity pond being constructed and same capacity of five ponds had already been constructed with CARE/LIFT providing plastic liner costing US\$ 230 and pond digging tools. Labour for pond construction was volunteered by the group members. Farmers have irrigated vegetables planted in about 300 square meters land wherein water collection is done only from rainwater harvest. The area could be more where the pond has access to reliable water source even during the dry season. Farmers told that the lands for pond construction and vegetable plots, in many cases, were of individual farmers with whom farmers' group has made verbal understanding that they would be planting vegetables as long as the group wants to cultivate vegetables in dry seasons. This agreement should be recorded in the group record book. In one case (Anapal) we found the pond and vegetable land belonging to community land.

Working Approach

The general working approach of the project included introduction of project to community, participatory disaster risk assessment, group formation, agreement with group, action plan preparation, training of trainers, activity implementation, activity monitoring, and gender inclusion. These are briefly described below.

Project introduction: The project conducted socialisation workshop under the leadership of Suco chief where community members including Aldeia chief, and women were invited. In this introductory workshop, project briefing was done including project objective, scope, activities, target group, working approach, donors and roles of community and project staff.

Participatory disaster risk assessment (PDRA): Following the project briefing, PDRA was conducted with community people using a number of PRA tools such as Venn diagram, seasonal calendar, gender analysis, transect map, the risk and resource maps, and food utilisation chart. This followed the community need assessment (CNA) focussing on four components of the project. During the CNA information was collected from men and women on current status, desired change, and activities needed to realise the desired change.

Group formation: Vulnerable group of people and vulnerable villages were identified with the help of local leaders-Aldeia leaders, other local leaders in the Suco and Aldeias. The communities were encouraged to form gender balanced mix group and women group. In the beginning, though there was tendency of men to participate as group members, it was corrected later motivating men to send their female members in the group.

Agreement with group. An agreement was signed with farmers group which served as an indicator of acceptance of the programme as per CARE principles.

Group strengthening: Activities related to group strengthening were carried out after the formation of the group in two aspects as follows:

- **Institutional aspect:** This aspects covered group decision-making, gender inclusion, conducting meeting, negotiation skills, accountability and transparency, group rules and regulations, group managed community farming and linkage development;
- **Technical aspect:** This aspect included activities related to orientation, participation in training, demonstration, exposure visit, counselling, conducting and evaluating on-farm trials and other technical activities.

Plan preparation and action plan—In the process of plan preparation, CARE/LIFT staff collected request from farmers group to address their priority needs from group. This request was triangulated with the information collected during the PDRA and CNA. Staff of CARE/LIFT in consultation with partner NGO staff and other stakeholders, mapped the demand with the technological suitability and made the decision on the request. This way, demand driven plan was prepared. Once the plan was made, action plan detailing the roles and responsibilities of FG, CARE/LIFT and local government (Suco and Aldeia) was prepared. The action plan was prepared with standard framework of what, when, who, where, how and by whom.

Training: CARE/LIFT provided training to Community Facilitators, partner NGO staff and selected representatives of farmer groups in the project sub-districts on such topics as seed production and storage, home gardening, organic fertilisers, water harvesting and SALT. After the training, the participants of the TOT prepared action plan for implementation.

Activity implementation: Pre-implementation orientation of the activity to be implemented was provided to the farmer group by Community Facilitator. Seeds, tools and materials were provided to the group. Group decided the sites for activities implementation. Based on the group decision, activities were implemented with technical support of project staff including Community Facilitators. A good cooperation was there in community in implementing activities where male members of the community helped women members in the group to carry out specific tasks that are generally done by men in the community. For example, men did digging of water harvesting pond in women group.

Activity monitoring: After the implementation of the activity by the community, group members provided feedback to the Community Facilitator (CF) on the performance of the technologies including crops, varieties, labour saving devices, improved storage practices and others. The project, based on the feedback, has refined the action plan for the coming season, to some extent.

Gender inclusion: In congruence with the CARE/LIFT project gender strategy, women members in the community were encouraged to actively participate in activity planning, implementation and monitoring. A two-pronged strategy was used to involve women in the project activities by forming group of (1) women only members and (2) mixed group of women and men. There are now 45 'women only' groups and 141 mixed group where about 46% are women. This way, there are 59% women and 41% men in the 2, 771 mobilised target beneficiaries. This has been possible due to special arrangement made in making the project staff gender balanced. In staff hiring, special attention was given to recruit women staff and that also from the community itself to the extent possible. It is worth to note that there is a gender balance also in NGO partners participating in the CARE/LIFT project. This strategy also proved to be effective in ensuring women's participation and motivating men to cooperate women in group activities. Regarding quality of their participation, in 'women only' groups we found their active participation. They were open, were able to articulate their concerns and demand for solutions to their problems. They told that they wanted to prove to the men that they can also do the quality things equally with men. In the mixed group of women and men, we found mixed results. In some places they were very vocal, they were the ones participating actively in our interaction. This level of participation was not found in other mixed groups. There the women were passive and they used to speak when it was specifically asked to them.

This analysis indicates that the project has worked closely with the community people using participatory approach.

The project, however, did not conduct the well-being or wealth ranking of the households. The reasons given for not conducting the wealth ranking were late start of the project and the staff had to immediately rush for implementing the activities related to main season crops; there would be automatic inclusion of food insecure households as the size of the food insecure households was very big (90%); and Suco leaders' inputs, that the project gathered, would be adequate to select the vulnerable households. Though this worked well in many areas, our discussion with farmers in Anapal showed that programme farmers there were not as food insecure as the farmers in other areas. If the project got time for conducting wealth ranking of the households, this area perhaps, would not have been selected.

Achievement against Logframe

Reaching Target Group

CARE/LIFT has almost achieved its target beneficiaries what has been planned by LIFT project against the time of two years. It has reached directly over 90% of the target population covering 2,771 out of the target household (HH) of 3,000. It has made plan to reach remaining target HHs before mid-2009. Works are in full fledged in 17 out of the 21 planned Sucos and initiations are taken to cover other four Sucos where group formation has already begun. The project has already formed 186 groups comprising of 2,771 HHs. The groups are either formed with membership of women only or mixed of women and men. There are 45 women only groups and remaining 141 groups are of mixed type. In total, there are 59% women in group composition and in the total women members, 7.3% are women who are also head of the household.

Overall Objective

The overall objective of the project is to improve food security and strengthen the resilience of farming households in two western districts of Timor-Leste, thereby contributing to the government's food security policy. The real intention of the project is to increase food security for 70% of target group by the end of the project. The specific objective of the project is that 3,000 vulnerable households in target communities in Liquica and Bobonaro Districts have increased year round access to adequate quantity of diverse food in a sustainable manner. Though it is too early to assess, symptoms are visible that the project can achieve the specific objective and contribute to the government's food security policy. However, the objective either is ambitious or not clearly phrased as it relates to year round food security. It is almost not practicable to achieve year round food security of all target population which is over 90% in food insecure condition for at least 1 month and more. The gain from incremental yield increase would be in the range from 1-3 months per household. Hence, achieving an **year round food security** of target households require incremental yield to support additional 5-6 months which is too ambitious to achieve from the use of available technology.

Expected Results

The project has four result areas: strengthening of community based organisation, increasing agricultural productivity, increased access to seed, and integration of CBDRM in their planning process.

1. Strengthening of community based organisation.

This result area has three indicators to assess the extent to which the result has been achieved.

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| <p>Three indicators for strengthening community based organisation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75% of women and men in FGs members demonstrate improved skills, knowledge and practices for sustainable agriculture • District government (MAFF, DA, Health) and service providers engage in planning community initiatives • 75% of FGs report increased access to inputs and use of MAFF or project extension services |
|---|

Practicing sustainable agriculture: The logframe targets are not specific in some cases. Practices of sustainable agriculture were not defined in the project document. Though the project document has

not defined what agricultural practices are sustainable, project promoted sustainable agriculture include corn and peanuts seed production, corn seed storage, low-cost corn shelling machine, SALT, home garden, organic liquid fertiliser and organic compost. The target to each practice was not fixed in the project document. The project has set the milestone to each practice based on which this assessment is made (see Annex 8 for target and progress against sustainable agriculture practices). According to the set milestone, about 45% of women and men in farmer groups have practiced sustainable agriculture as per project monitoring data. Among those who interacted with us in the process of this evaluation, most of them were able to name technologies and methods of sustainable farming.

Engagement of government staff in planning: Regarding district government engagement in planning community initiatives, they are involved as and when required. MAF has been involved in community level training on seed production and storage techniques, CBDRM, home gardening, and exposure visit to water harvesting ponds. Staff of these organisations worked as a resource person, provided information about the services and functions of MAF to communities. Likewise, District Health Service Office facilitated by inviting family health volunteers working in the Sucos of CARE/LIFT project for the training organised by CARE (CARE/LIFT, Malaria and Nutrition Projects). Their engagement, however, was not to the level of requirement as they had limited number of staff who were only recently deployed in the districts.

Integration of interrelated components: CARE/LIFT has piloted integration of SALT, organic compost and home garden to water harvesting ponds and farmers' responses were found highly positive to these technologies. Where appropriate, it is important that CARE/LIFT scales up this integration so that technologies introduced under the SALT approach are successful. It is also easy for monitoring demonstration of nursery, compost and home garden nearby the pond.

Access to inputs and services: In respect of increased access to inputs and extension services, farmers solely depended on CARE/LIFT as the presence of MAF at both sub district and Suco level was limited due to shortage of staff and resources as of December 2008 as per the information obtained from farmer groups during our visit to them.

Group management: Though the logframe does not have the indicator relating to group management, we tried to assess the capacity of group in terms of its governance process focusing specifically on the decision process. We found that the groups were conducting meeting as and when needed basis. Decisions in the meeting were generally done on a consensus basis. We also noticed the dominating role of chairperson, in some cases. In the mixed group, women in many cases, observed silence unless asked specifically. In some cases, however, we found women playing proactive role even in the mixed group. In the 'women only' group, women used to have greater level of discussion according to the group members that we interacted.

2. Increasing agricultural productivity has four indicators against which assessment is made.

These are:

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| <p>Four indicators of increasing agricultural productivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>30% increase in HH annual crop yields and # of varieties grown by the end of the project</i>▪ <i>50% of farmer group members adopting two or more new/improved sustainable agricultural practices</i>▪ <i>70% of women groups have established home gardens</i>▪ <i>70% of trained women groups demonstrate using improved food storage and preservation, hygiene and nutrition practices by the end of the project</i> |
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The latest crop cut survey data show a record of 61% increase in corn yield in cropping season of 2008/09 in the group plots where improved corn was grown over the local cultivars. This cannot be said that there was 61% increase in household annual crop yield as the corn was planted by group in a plot. It is possible only when increasing numbers of farmers adopt high yielding practices in their household production, which may be achievable in the coming corn season and recorded in April 2010. Regarding the peanuts, yield increment of Utamua was 14% over the local in 2008/09. As the

formation of Rhizobium bacteria in peanuts is generally more in the following years than the first year if planted in the same land; it can therefore, be expected of higher yield in the coming years.

Table 2. Corn yield in group plots - improved vs local variety in different Suco of Bobonaro Sub-District 2009

SN	Suco	Group Name	Yield (kg) improved	Yield (kg) Local	% more yield	Variety	Mountain OR Plain
1	Bobonaro	Hametin	2760	1680	64	Sele	Mountain
2	Bobonaro	Haburas	2976	1560	91	Sele	Mountain
3	Lourba	Gumer 1	2280	1540	48	Sele	Mountain
4	Lourba	Gumer 2	2640	1000	164	Sele	Mountain
5	Malilait	Taimea/Colobete	2040	1320	55	Sele	Mountain
6	Malilait	Taimea	2400	1600	50	Sele	Mountain
7	Atuaben	Mugis	2688	1820	48	Sele	Mountain
8	Atuaben	Aisabe	3168	1920	65	Sele	Mountain
9	Colimau	Maunia 1	2712	1780	52	Sele	Mountain
10	Colimau	Atublogo	2808	1600	75	Sele	Mountain
11	Molop	Anapal 1	4080	1880	117	Sele	Plain
12	Molop	Anapal 2	2160	2000	8	Sele	Plain
13	Carabau	Atumanuru	3120	1800	73	Sele	Mountain
14	Carabau	Nunubuti 2	1632	1200	36	Sele	Mountain
15	Carabau	Nunubuti 3	1776	1240	43	Sele	Mountain
16	Lour	Tosgolo	1848	1060	74	Sele	Mountain
17	Lour	Olo olo	1752	1180	48	Sele	Mountain
18	Tebabui	Atupae 1	1776	1240	43	Sele	Mountain
19	Leber	Bucuk 1	1992	1400	42	Sele	Mountain
20	Leber	Lebertaz	1896	1340	41	Suwan 5	Mountain
	Average		2425	1508	61%		

Note: Yields were recorded by LIFT M&E Team from 5mx5m = 25 sqm land for each local and improved variety (Sele and Suwan -5) in March and April 2009 from 10 selected Sucos over 20 locations.

Source: CARE/LIFT Crop Cut Survey 2009

Estimated household crop yield information was taken from farmers during this evaluation. The annual average data reported by farmers for four years show that there have been gradual increases in yield over the years except in the year 2007/08. The low yield in year 2007/08 was due to prolonged dry spell according to farmers.

Table 3. Yearwise yield of major crops (kg).

Crop	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10 Projected
Corn	170	135	179	208
Peanut	30	17	42	40
Mungbean	2	2	2	1
Cassava	83	59	89	142
Sweet potato	6	6	6	6

Total	291	219	317	397
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The farmers told that the increased yield helped an additional food security of one to two months for the respondent farmers. According to them, the year 2007/08 had low yield due to dry weather. The yield increase in year 2008/09 was due to good weather as well as due to the use of improved corn varieties they received in year 1 (2007/08) for seed production. The expected yield for the year 2010 is estimated by farmers under the three conditions (i) suitable weather condition, (ii) timely planting the crops and (iii) increased area under the improved corn and peanut varieties by individual farmers as the improved seeds are locally available at household level and farmers are interested to plant them.

By using recall method, respondent farmers provided yearwise income from various sources. Major sources of the income were coffee, tais (special Timor hand-woven cloth), vegetables, animal sale and cake sale for majority of the farmers. The year-wise income does not show any distinct pattern. There is not significant change between the years. Here again, whatever small changes are there, it is not yet the time that the project should claim the changes brought in by its interventions.

Regarding farmer group members adopting sustainable agricultural practices, more than 50% of the farmers groups have used fuel drums for storage (see Annex). Adoption of fuel drums for storage is rapidly increasing with the access of drum by the farmers group. More than 85% of total target beneficiaries have grown improved variety of corn as per the project monitoring data.

Similarly, home garden was established by all 35 women groups existing at the time of carrying out home garden indicating 100% achievement.

Regarding hygiene and nutrition practices, demonstrations on cooking, washing hands and energy efficient lamps were carried out among women groups to raise awareness and skills on the importance of nutrition and hygiene practices. These practices were at the demonstration stage and are expected to be expanded after their evaluation from farmers' perspective. Despite this, the nutrition education is not progressing well as other components of the project, as some activities under the nutrition component have recently been implemented. Getting human resource in nutrition and health is difficult in Timor-Leste. CARE/LIFT was able to get 2 out of 3 staff with several rounds of advertisement. Out of two recruited staff, one did not want to go to Bobonaro district considering CARE/LIFT activities being implemented in remote areas and another left after 4 months and joined the government. Unavailability of staff has hampered the nutrition program. While the vacant post is in the process of hiring, reorienting existing staff on agriculture for the time being could be done for small kind of information—such as awareness raising on malaria, sanitation etc.

3. Increased access to seed has three indicators as given below.

<p>Indicators of increased access to seed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>All farmer groups have received training and at least 80% demonstrate applying training in seed production, seed storage and quality control on their farms</i> ▪ <i>70% of trained farmer groups have established seed production plots</i> ▪ <i>70% of farmers report adequate quantity of improved seed available at HH level by the end of project</i>

Training was received by 2,550 members of 163 groups and all members were involved in seed production and storage. Likewise, all 163 farmer groups established one each seed production plot of improved varieties of corn. Except in one group, 8 out of 9 groups that we interacted told that they have adequate quantity of improved corn seed available for next year planting.

The farmers have a tradition of keeping seed at home. They have kept the seeds of new variety of corn (Sele and Suwan-5) and peanuts (Utamua). The seeds are kept at group level this time. The household seed production, however, is yet to be done. It is learnt that farmers would plant the new seeds in their own land, in addition to community land and leased private land. Farmers' knowledge in selecting of good cob and good grains for seed is increased as they accurately explained with us the technical arrangements required for seed production and seed storage. It is good to note that the project management is conscious about that agricultural biodiversity is maintained through seed preservation of local cultivars—not trying to cover entire area by introduced varieties.

4. Integration of CBDRM in their planning process has also three indicators:

Indicators for integration of CBDRM in planning process

- All villages have developed and implemented disaster risk management (DRM) plans, and reviewed annually to measure progress
- District and sub-district level DRM plans developed that integrate village DRM plans by the end of the project
- At least 50% of farmer groups have representatives participating in DRM forums and present policy-related concerns to NDMO

The DRM plans were developed in 4 Sucos out of 21 Sucos. Low achievement was due to late formation of Disaster Management Committee of the government which is pre-requisite for preparation of DRM plan.

District and sub-district plans have not been prepared so far as this was not the target of this evaluation period.

DRM forum is not created as it is deemed unnecessary as the government authorised DDMC is in existence for the same purpose. Project has rather made a plan to strengthen the existing DDMC than creating a parallel structure.

Delay in socialising the national policy in the district levels by the NDMD have hampered timely formation of disaster management committees at Suco, sub-district and district level. These are prerequisites for the orientation, planning and implementation of DRM activities of CARE/LIFT. Waiting for government action on their own might take long time due to their limited human and material resources. This situation would affect timely implementation of the project activities. CARE may use its good working relation with the NDMD in supporting it to establish Disaster Management Committees at Suco levels in coordination with existing District Disaster Management Committees. These initiatives help build their capacity in timely establishment of Suco level DMCs and also in integrating DRM issues in local level planning process to sustain food and livelihood security.

Activities

The activity implementation status is given in Table 5.

Table 5. Activities corresponding to Expected Result.

Activities		Progress
Activities corresponding to Expected Result ER1		
A1.1	Select Sucos and conduct capacity, vulnerability and risk assessment (CVRA) in target communities	Selected 21 Sucos. Conducted PDRA in 21 Sucos.
A1.2	Develop and implement capacity development plan for improved agricultural practices, natural resource management and storage practices	Capacity development plan for 17 Sucos developed. And activities are underway to promote improved agriculture practices, natural resource management and storage practices.
A1.3	Strengthen village councils and develop environmentally sustainable village development plans in all target villages	In 4 of the 21 Sucos villages development plan developed. In remaining Sucos, it is underway.
A1.4	Facilitate linkages/coordination between FGs, district MAFF agencies and service providers	On-going activity both at sub-district, district and national level.
A1.5	CARE, Oxfam and CONCERN develop and share best practices in relevant districts to feed into national planning, policy and practice	CARE, Oxfam, Concern and CCF share good practices. Examples, storage support to communities, labour saving technology.
Activities corresponding to Expected Result ER2		
A21.	Based on CVRA, develop and implement Participatory technology development (PTD) in target villages	PTD was done for corn, peanuts and cover crops.
A2.2	Organize training in PTD and home gardens and establish on-farm demonstration plots and home gardens in each village	35 home gardens established in 2008. 104 home gardens are planned in 2009. 49 on-farm trials of corn, 49 on-farm trials of peanuts carried out in 2007/08.
A2.3	Organize field visits for FGs and Demonstration plot field days for non-participating villages	Farmers field visits organised for corn, peanuts, cover crops, storage techniques (drums) and labour saving technology.
Activities corresponding to Expected Result ER3		
A3.1	Organize training workshops in seed production, processing, storage and quality control	TOT (both initial and refresher) on seed production and storage was carried out in two sub-districts in 2008 January and November.
A3.2	Based on assessment of on-farm trials, establish seed production plots in each village	163 farmer groups engaged in seed production. All villages (18 villages were covered in seed production.
A3.3	Organize training workshops, especially for women groups in nutrition, food storage, preservation, health and hygiene	On-going activity. Cooking demonstration, hygiene and sanitation related orientation and demonstration were done in 12 women groups.
Activities corresponding to Expected Result ER4		
A4.1	Strengthen institutional structures at village, sub-district and district levels for Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)	Assisted 21 Suco to prepare participatory disaster risk assessment and community need assessment. DMC formed in 4 Sucos. 3 of the 4 Sucos were assisted for preparing village action plan.

A4.2	Improve the capacity of village councils in risks and resource mapping and implement natural resource management plan in all target villages	In 21 Sucos, village risk and village resource maps developed. In 4 Sucos, village vision maps also developed.
A4.3	Organize a district level forum for CBDRM and facilitate advocacy and policy related concerns to National Disaster Management Office	The concept of establishing DRM forum is dropped due to government's more focus on strengthening DDMC and avoiding any parallel committees in the district.
A4.4	Conduct and documents community action on DRM, resource management and livelihood vulnerability reduction	Community Action Research is underway in both districts - Bobonaro and Liquica.

3.3 Efficiency

The efficiency criterion concerns how well the various activities transformed the available resources into the intended results (sometimes referred to as outputs), in terms of quantity, quality and timeliness. In this evaluation, the efficiency is assessed looking at the staffing structure in relation to implementing activities, collaboration with local government, partners and other stakeholders, monitoring and supervision, and cost-sharing mechanism.

Staffing Structure in Relation to Implementing Activities

CARE/LIFT has provision for a total of 23 staff comprising of an expatriate and 22 national staff. The duties of the staff are assigned from project component and management perspective. Number of staff at district level is assigned based on the programme weight. The staff force of the project includes International Project Manager (1), National Project Manager (1), Women Empowerment Officer (1), Disaster Risk Management Officer (1), Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator (1), Data Entry and Monitoring Officer (1), Project Officer (2), Community Facilitator (10) nutrition/health facilitator (3), and driver (2). The frontline workforce is the 10-Community Facilitators including those from NGO partners. This human resource has performed well and is adequate to empower the target communities of 3000 farm families. The 1:300 agent-client ratio is comparable with the ratio of other developing countries. Though staff concern was about their heavy workload in the past two years, given the increased level of capacity with target population, there is more likely of lessening the workload of the staff. Similarly, most of the time consuming activities such as establishment of groups, on-farm trials, seed multiplication, preparation of water harvesting pond which are the more time requiring activities have almost finished in the past years leaving room for quality improvement and some scaling up. However, if additional specialised activities were planned, separate person for each specialty area would be required to guide the facilitators on the added specialty.

Roles of Project Staff

An extensive discussion was held with project staff to assess their roles and responsibilities and explore the possibilities of using their skills and expertise in more effective and efficient ways. The following roles of the concerned staff currently found appropriate are also assessed to be worth continuing. Major roles of Specialists Officers are:

National Project Manager-- staff supervision and monitoring, coordination with district actors, facilitating community group formation and strengthening, assisting in planning and distribution of inputs, follow up procurements, and facilitating managerial and technical training.

Disaster Risk Management Officer - assisting district, sub-district and Suco in DRM issues especially in orientation of CBDRM; assisting Suco in preparing village action plan; providing technical training on DRR and sustainable agriculture to staff and partner NGO staff; assisting organising cross visits and FFD; carrying out planning and evaluation of on-farm trials; and conducting orientation on agro-forestry and conservation techniques.

Women Empowerment Officer – Motivating, mobilising and organising women members in group formation; encouraging participation of women in farmers' groups; ensuring gender balance in the farmer group; ensuring participation of women-headed HHs in farmer group; conducting gender analysis for each activity using sub-sector approach; participating in national and district forum in gender related topics; collecting and maintaining gender disaggregated data.

Project Officers - Overall management of district including staff, activities and resources; conducting PDRA and CNA in the community; monitoring and supervising field activities and staff; preparing monthly, weekly and fortnightly plans and reviewing them; providing technical assistance to field officers; coordinating with sub-district administrators and district MAF office and Suco chiefs; assisting in community level training; presenting sub-district plan and progress in monthly and quarterly meetings.

Community Facilitators (Field Officer including partner NGO staff) – facilitating for group formation; providing group training and orientation; collecting group demand based on the priority needs of the group; assisting group activity implementation; assisting project level activities in selecting farmers for participation; distributing tools, seeds and other materials; keeping records of events; facilitating in signing agreement between FG and CARE; collecting feedback from groups on the activities implemented by them.

Nutrition and Health Facilitators – extending nutrition and health program to women farmers; encouraging women farmers to establish home gardens; conducting cooking demonstration; promoting personal, household and community hygiene and sanitation; providing training to family health volunteer, locally called as PSF, on health and nutrition; coordinating with staff of CARE malaria project to get resource person for training on malaria issues.

Mapping of roles of each staff with activity

The staff roles are complementary to each other. For example, women empowerment officer encourages women members to undertake home garden; agriculture officer provides technical support to establish home garden; and nutrition and health facilitator provides information on the importance of home garden products for addressing malnutrition. The reinforcement from different experts has created greater power to convince the women members on establishing, using and sustaining the home gardening.

Project has demonstrated flexibility to adjust the changes brought in by the external context. Examples of such flexibility included discontinuing the formation of Village Health Committees as originally proposed and implementing the recent government structure of working through PSF, change in storage device from 1000 kg capacity of silo to 500 kg capacity of fuel drum. These changes were made in response to the priority, need, and appropriateness from farmers' perspective as well as the cost factor.

Capacity of the Staff

We tried to assess the technical as well as community mobilisation capacity of the field staff conducting formal and informal interactions and observing their behaviours with farmers. We found, both staff of LIFT and partner NGOs strong in technical aspect such as explaining the methods and techniques of implementing the project activities. But their capacity in community mobilisation was not equally strong. Most of both CARE/LIFT staff and partner NGO staff, especially those working as frontline workers, are young persons and are not well-versed to facilitation skills as well as participatory methods to community empowerment. The staff did not get the opportunity to undergo required level of orientation about the community mobilisation. They had to rush for conducting technical activities immediately upon their recruitment as the main season crop planting was coming close. Their capacity in this respect needs to be improved.

Cost Sharing Mechanism

CARE/LIFT has used a cost-sharing model of development. According to this, farmer group share local materials and local labour whereas CARE/LIFT provides materials that are not locally available and requiring cash for purchase. On an average, farmer group shares 35% of the total cost whereas share of the CARE/LIFT is 65%. (See Table 3 for details of item-wise costs shared between the project and farmer group). The local labour (US\$ 3 per day) and material cost is calculated based on the prevailing local rate collected by the project.

Table 3. Cost sharing arrangement between Farmers Group and CARE/LIFT Project for selected activities.

SN	Activities	Contribution (USD)		Total Cost USD	Remarks
		LIFT	Group		
1	Water Harvesting Pond	381.70 65%	208.60 35%	590.30	LIFT – plastic liner, 50m hose pipe, refreshment FG - unskilled labor, skilled labor, stones, fencing, thatch
2	Metal Oil Drums for seed storage	24 80%	7 20%	31	LIFT – Metal oil drum FG - USD 3 for 5 kg corn seed, USD 2 for pellet, USD 2 for cleaning
3	Seed Drying Tarpaulin Sheet	14 87%	2.40 13%	16.40	LIFT – two pieces of tarpaulin sheet for one group FG - 4kg of corn seeds
4	Energy Efficient LED Lamp	3.25 68%	1.50 32%	4.75	LIFT – 1 piece of Energy Efficient LED Lamp FG – 3 pieces of AA size batteries
5	Labour saving low-cost corn shelling machine	12 80%	3 20%	15	LIFT – 1 piece of machine FG – 1 wooden plank with stand to support the machine
6	Improved variety of corn seed	11.25 50%	11.25 50%	22.50-	LIFT – 15 kg for 15 members at planting time FG – 15 kg return to LIFT after harvesting
7	Super Grain Bag	2 100%	0 0%	2	LIFT – 50 kg airtight plastic bag FG – No contribution
8	Compost	0 0%	10 100%	10	LIFT – No contribution except orientation from Field Officer FG – Bamboo, cow-dung, ash, legume tree leaf, soil, labour
	Overall Cost per Group	448.20	243.75	691.95	
	Overall % of contribution	65%	35 %		

The cost sharing strategy of CARE/LIFT is very important in increasing ownership of beneficiaries to the project.

Collaboration with Local Government, Partners and Other Stakeholders

Partnership modality

There is a good working relationship between CARE/LIFT and stakeholders at various levels ranging from grassroots level through national level.

Grassroots level partnership. At the grassroots level, CARE/LIFT has formal relationship with local government such as Aldeia and Suco. A memorandum of understanding/ agreement signed by Suco chief and CARE/LIFT project manager serves as a document of formal partnership. The MoU contains roles of community, Aldeia and Suco as well as roles of CARE/LIFT. According to the MoU, community provides local resources and labour whereas external resources and expertise are provided by CARE/LIFT. Village level plans are prepared with the active involvement of Suco and Aldeia council members as well as group leaders. There have been active involvements of Suco council members including Aldeia leaders in undertaking situation analysis, identification of priority needs, identification of internal and external resources, suggesting activities to address the identified needs and prepare village action plan. Their involvement has also been noteworthy in the identification of vulnerable sites and groups. Likewise, Aldeia leaders also participated in preparing the action plan of the group as a group member where applicable. Group leaders' participation included activity selection, deciding on selecting the sites for farmer field day and nominating members for participation in field visit, training and workshop. Our assessment is that local leaders (Suco/Aldeia/group) had actively participated in planning community initiatives.

District and Sub-district level partnership. Similarly, CARE/LIFT's formal relationship is also with sub-district and district administration. This relationship is mainly in the areas of Suco selection, security related issues in the district and sub-district, and information sharing and creating a conducive working environment. CARE/LIFT has also relationship with district government agencies especially the representative of MAF, District Administration Office and District Health Office. Monthly meetings are organised at district and sub-district with government agencies. The district government agencies are engaged in planning community initiatives, as and when required. However, limited presence of government service providers (MAF and Health) has constrained their effective participation. Due to shortage of staff at MAF and absence of other service providers in the village, their participation in planning has been limited to district headquarters only. The planning is not extended to Sub-district and Suco where participation is more required. It is expected that this situation is likely to be improved in near future as MAF has already recruited Suco level extension staff.

EC-NGOs on Food Security. Excellent relationship is there between CARE/LIFT and other EC-supported INGOs namely the Oxfam, Concern, CCF, and WN. They share good practices, implement some activities jointly, develop common working strategy and advocacy tools to feed into national planning, policies and practices. They also pool resources to implement some activities of common interest. Pooling resources for organising the National Food Security Workshop was an example of their resource pooling and sharing. The influence of this group is well-recorded in the MAF policy making process as the latter seeks inputs and feedback on national level policy document related to agriculture and food security.

Relationship with non-EC NGOs. There exists good working relationship between CARE/LIFT and other service providers in local area. CARE/LIFT and World Vision have entered in a partnership with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. Though their working areas in four Sucos are same, the clearly defined roles and responsibilities between them has helped, to a large extent, reduce activity duplication.

Relationship with Associate Partner. There is excellent working relation with Seeds of Life Project/MAF. Seeds of Life project, operating within Ministry of Agriculture, is the only associate partner of CARE/LIFT that has been providing support in the following areas:

- providing seeds and samples of improved seeds and storage techniques, respectively, especially corn, peanuts and sweet potatoes;
- support to CARE/LIFT staff for training on seed production and quality control;

- technical advice on planning and evaluation of on-farm trials and promoting seed production and storage techniques;
- sending its Technical Officers as a Resource Person in the training and workshops, related to on-farm trials, seed production and improved storage techniques, organised by CARE/LIFT;
- making available research and extension publications such as leaflets, brochures and Annual Report related to crop varieties and storage techniques;
- provide technical advice and suggestions on the guidelines and strategies prepared by CARE/LIFT project on seed production, varietal verification and improved storage techniques;
- sharing research and farmers feedback on on-farm trials of food crops and storage techniques, and vice-versa.

Moreover, Seeds of Life Project remained always keen on sharing its experiences with EC funded NGOs (CARE, Concern, Oxfam and CCF) working on Food Security. For 2007/08, Seeds of Life provided seeds of Suwan-5 corn, Utamua peanuts, and velvet bean free of cost for on-farm demonstrations. Planting materials of sweet potatoes were received by the project free of cost from SoL in 2008/09. In 2008/09 cropping season in November/December 08 also, it provided improved seeds of corn and peanuts (2,500 kg of corn and 250kg of peanuts) released by the government at government's standard price.

In our specific query about the CARE/LIFT activity and approach that they liked most, many of the stakeholder organisations mentioned the seed storage device (fuel drum), corn shelling machine, flexibility of CARE/LIFT and proactive nature of project manager for coordination and cooperation. In our question of area of improvement of CARE/LIFT, some of them suggested to concentrate in the same Suco, whereas others told to expand in the nearby currently operating Bobonaro district. Some of them suggested strengthening linkage with field staff of other agencies working in the same Suco. Their suggestion was also about developing leader farmers and disseminating CARE/LIFT lessons to other areas in partnership with other agencies such as MAF. No one, however, was able to respond to our query of what activity of the project should be stopped.

Monitoring and Supervision

CARE/LIFT has used action and reflection approach in monitoring and refining action plan on the basis of review of the past performance. Reviews are done annually, quarterly, monthly and weekly. Participants in the reviews are project staff and staff of NGO partners. Monthly and weekly breakdown of the planned activities are done at sub-district whereas quarterly and annual reviews are done at project management level directly. Though weekly and monthly breakdown of planned activities in project management level are done in sub-district for each site and staff, monthly review of progress is done at project level in Dili during monthly progress review and planning meeting. However, while it is good to review first at sub-district level before reviewing at the project level, lack of electricity in sub-district limits the computer use and making electronic progress report.

Monitoring is in-built in the project management with regular data collection and reporting by junior staff to the senior staff and by sub-district office to Dili office. Monitoring of field level activities is done by Project Officers stationed at the sub-district. In addition, thematic officers make also field visit to monitor and supervise activities there. Further, national and international project managers also go to the field and monitor field activities.

Data are generated either by direct observation or by conducting survey based on the nature of activity. For example, number of farmers and number of group are recorded from observation whereas yield estimate, level of satisfaction of beneficiaries about the project is by conducting survey. Farmer feedbacks are obtained in several ways including the farmer field day. The participating and non-participating farmers involved in performance evaluation of a technology provide opportunity to gather information on the level of satisfaction from the benefits of the technology. This is recorded and placed in database of the project that is used for preparing periodic reports and in evaluation of the project.

The project officers and partner NGOs report to project manager who prepares periodic reports and submits to Assistant Country Director (Programme) at monthly basis and CARE Österreich at quarterly and annual basis. On the basis of annual interim report prepared and submitted by the CARE/LIFT Project Manager, CARE Österreich reports to the European Commission.

Improvements Needed in M&E

Sub-district review

Before presenting the progress report to project manager, the project officer may review the progress in sub-district. This would shorten stay of all staff at Dili and this time could be utilised in field by reviewing and preparing sub-district level progress report and plan while providing services to beneficiaries at the same time.

Joint monitoring

Joint monitoring and supervision together by MAF and local governance bodies such as Suco chief and sub-district administrator would increase opportunity for sustainability and up scaling. It is better that CARE/LIFT discusses the agenda of joint monitoring and supervision with concerned stakeholders and come up with a workable modality.

Training to staff involved in monitoring

Staff expressed their low level of capacity to carry out monitoring and manage database. In response to this, CARE/LIFT organised a training on how to conduct monitoring, how to analyse data, especially the participatory monitoring, in February 2009; what is now needed is ongoing mentoring in M&E.

Updating of group book

The project has provided a record keeping book to each group. This has become one of the good tools for transparency and maintaining accountability of group leaders to group members. If well-maintained, the book can give important information which could be used for monitoring and planning. In our observations, we found that the group book, in many cases, was half-filled up. Field staff should pay attention to this and encourage farmer groups to timely and properly fill the group book and use the information for planning activities of respective group.

Improvement in logframe

Some of the logframe indicators are ambiguously stated creating difficulty in monitoring the results. Project may revise the indicators using SMART criteria while involving all project staff so that field level monitoring is easily understood and ownership of staff to the project activity is increased.

Transparency

Transparency was assessed by considering the knowledge of farmers on: the types of support (seeds, tools, training, construction materials) farmers groups received, the cost of materials provided to them by the project and budget, and expenses of project activity carried by them. Many members of the farmer groups that we interacted knew name and number of the activities that CARE/LIFT provided to them. The introduction of Group Book to the farmers was the appropriate tool for promoting transparency and maintaining accountability of group leader to group members. Most farmers' groups have recorded, to some extent, types of activities and supports they received from the project. Farmer groups, however, did not know the price of the materials provided to them. Our interaction with the project staff also confirmed that the price information was not provided to the farmers. We also noticed that the project management has now realised that providing price information is important for enhancing trust between the project and beneficiaries; and has expressed willingness to provide price information in future. This indicates that project has maintained some level of transparency and is likely to improve it for the remaining period of the project.

3.4 Impact

Impact is generally defined as positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. This being a mid-term evaluation, the long-term effects were not considered, as they have not been produced yet. Rather the direction toward which the project was moving was assessed. To assess the indicative impact of the project, the benefits derived by project beneficiaries and their attitude toward the interventions were measured. Included in the assessment were changes in community members' practices, ideas and beliefs, achievements to-date of the program interventions, linkage of farmer group with government and civil society organisations, progress to-date against the project proposal, perception of beneficiaries toward the project, logframe and budget, adoption of promoted approaches/ technologies/ techniques, gender equality, and exit strategy.

Changes in Community Members' Practices, Ideas and Beliefs

Changes in community members' practices, ideas and beliefs were assessed in regard to agricultural technique, natural resources management, health (including nutrition and hygiene), and disaster risk reduction.

Agricultural techniques

The agricultural technologies that were introduced by CARE/LIFT and success in the farmer field were practiced by farmers also in the ensuing season where applicable. For the technologies that were introduced in the immediate previous season, farmers expressed willingness to practice them in the coming season. The saving of seed of corn and peanuts by almost all groups that participated in the seed production is a strong indicator for the likelihood of adopting the agricultural techniques promoted by CARE/LIFT. Likewise, labour saving corn shelling machine and airtight metal drums are well received by farmers as almost all farmers indicated that they would continue these technologies and practices in the coming seasons and years. Our interactions with farmers showed that they are not reluctant to change their agricultural practices and beliefs if the new practice addresses the problems from their perspective.

Natural resource management

The technologies related to natural resource management promoted by CARE/LIFT were water harvesting pond, SALT, cover crop and mixed cropping, crop rotation, organic liquid fertiliser and compost. Among them, organic liquid fertiliser and compost are well adopted by farmers as reported in the project monitoring and provided information by farmers during the evaluation fieldwork. The water-harvesting pond is highly accepted as it was the number one intervention preferred by group members while conducting pair-wise ranking of the technologies in connection of this evaluation. Other technologies given above are in the stage of evaluation and concrete information can be inferred in next year. Despite that empirical information are yet to be obtained, the members in the farmer group with whom we interacted showed positive reactions about these technologies.

Health and nutrition

There has not been any commendable change in the health and nutrition aspect thus far as the home garden which is a key element considered in the project to address the nutrition aspect is still at the promotional phase. However, farmers were somewhat aware of the importance of eating diverse foods including vegetables and legume grains as reported by them. This indicates that there would be change in the eating habit of farmers in the coming years with the increased availability of vegetables in home gardens and the legume grains through legume-based mixed cropping and cover crops.

Disaster risk reduction

Droughts, pests, floods, soil erosion and wind are the major disasters identified in the CARE/LIFT working areas. Improved corn varieties (Sele and Suwan-5) that are relatively resistant to drought condition and strong wind have been adopted by majority of the farmer groups. All of the farmer groups, we visited during the evaluation have adopted airtight metal drum for seed storage as a mitigating measure against problem in storage pest such as weevil and rats.

Achievements to-date of the Program Interventions

Achievements on agriculture practices (increased productivity and increased diversity) seed production and storage techniques, income generation/cash crops, nutrition promotion and integration of Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) for risk mitigation were measured using documented results and verifying with selected farmer groups.

Increased productivity and increased diversity

The increase in yield of improved corn varieties for the year 2007/08 (25%) and 2008/09 (61%) as well as 14% increased yield of improved peanuts in the year 2008/09 over the local cultivars as shown by crop-cutting data indicate that there has been significant increase in the productivity of major crops in the project site (Refer to Table 2). 90% of the farmers who participated in on-farm-demonstration of corn in 2007/08 have continued cultivating the improved varieties in cropping season of 2008/09. This indicates the high rating of the varieties by target beneficiaries. The reason for preferences are high yield, relatively resistant to drought conditions and strong wind, big cob size with full sheath cover of the cob, sweet in taste and easy to pounding, two cobs per plant, and resistant to pest. However, the new varieties are not as good tolerant to weevil as the local varieties. In response to the weevil

susceptibility, CARE/LIFT has advised farmers to consume Suwan-5 first or store in super grain bag. Farmers in our interactions confirmed the above characteristics of the Suwan-5 variety of corn.

In case of peanut, farmers preferred the improved cultivars Utamua in terms of its resistant to high rainfall, resistant wind, and big kernel size and relatively higher yield (14% in 2008/09) than local. According to farmers, size of seed is too big to eat by wild birds. The variety has compensated the weaknesses of the local varieties that are susceptible to pest, wind and high rainfall conditions. In some places the farmers planted the seed in second year (2008/09).

The addition of new varieties without diminishing the prevailing varieties of crops indicates that there has been increased diversity in crop varieties. More importantly, we found that project is well aware of preserving biodiversity in agriculture.

Seed production and storage techniques

Local varieties of corn are low productive, tall and thus susceptible to lodging due to wind and partially sterile. The project site is characterised by high post harvest storage loss (up to 30%), tradition to preserving seed by farmers, no seed supplied from outside, a system of bartering seed with corn grain and beans, loan providing in kind, and a cash scarcity. Household food insecurity is a major problem. CARE/LIFT devised a workable model of making improved seed locally available with no/low additional cost. According to CARE/LIFT model, improved certified seed variety recommended by MAF is supplied to the group of the farmers on revolving scheme. The seed is given to each group at the rate of one kg for each group member. The seed is cultivated normally in a single plot using the seed production standards. The produced seed is preserved in an airtight metal drum also provided by the project at subsidised rate. The drum is charged for 5 kg seed (worth of \$4). In addition, community bears the cost for wooden pellet which is required to place the bin for protecting from moisture. The seed is distributed in the next planting season among the group members. In addition to the bin, farmers are supported with Super Grain Bag individually to keep corn for consumption. The super grain bag technology, however, has been successful only in a limited number of households. The bag was damaged by rats for majority of the farmers. Initial observations and interactions with 30 farming households indicated that the technology was successful with the farmers that kept the bag at the elevated structure with metal barrier for rats; in other places the super grain bag that were put on the floor were damaged by rats. However, a quick assessment is suggested to understand other reasons for success or failure of this technology instead of jumping into conclusion at this stage.

Income generation/cash crops

To date, there is little achievement in income generation in the project. Yet substantial potential exists for this in the remaining year of the project. Legume beans are considered as a cash crop to generate income. Though 49 on-farm trials were conducted in 2007/08, yield record could not be collected due to military operation in search of then rebel leader in the project site. The peanut crop has good local market as the products of this crop are sold at local market and schools and has potential of generating income. In addition, 1000 kg of another cash earning crop mungbean (green bean) seeds were distributed to the farmer groups to plant as a second season crop. Further, some farmers sold vegetables produced at their home garden to local fiesta and earned some cash income. The above three interventions are expected to generate additional income in the remaining period of the project. Upon the completion of the 47 micro-water harvesting ponds, it is likely that more quantity of vegetable in dry season would be produced, part of which would go to the market. Other potential income generating activities will be determined in the upcoming market study.

Nutrition promotion

Home gardening, cooking demonstration, hygiene and sanitation, and training for family health volunteers are some of the activities undertaken under the nutrition promotion programme. Home gardening was done in 35 groups in 2007/08 which has been expanded to 104 groups in the following year. Out of the 35 home gardens, 28 were successful but seven home gardens were in poor condition due to shortage of water during the crop growth period. Responding to the water shortage, project has initiated water harvest technologies successful in trapping rainwater and providing irrigation during dry season. In addition to vegetable farming, the water harvest technology is useful in irrigating small agro-forestry nurseries, other high value trees and preparing organic fertiliser. After meeting the household consumption during the production period, the vegetables thus produced are likely to be sold for income generation.

Cooking demonstration was first conducted in a group with 15 women members so as to raise awareness on balance diet out of locally available food items in 2008. This was expanded with 187 women members and children of 10 women groups. In addition to providing the important information,

techniques to prepare food without losing nutrients were practically demonstrated. It is good to note that CARE/LIFT is going to demonstrate the technique to remaining 34 women groups in 2009, thus covering all 45 women groups on cooking demonstration. As of yet, there is no evidence of changing food utilization in the household.

Community based disaster risk management (CBDRM) for risk mitigation

CARE/LIFT has incorporated disaster risk management as one of the components of the project so as to respond the vulnerability affecting food security. After the approval of the National Disaster Management Policy by Timor-Leste parliament, Ministry of Social Solidarity formally launched the policy in March 2008. In first phase, socialisation of the policy was done by National Disaster Management Directorate (NDMD) in the districts of Bobonaro, Oecussi, Lautem and Ermera only in the beginning of 2009. In remaining nine districts including Liquica the socialisation on the policy is planned in the months of May and June 2009. These recent initiatives by the government affected the management of CBDR.

Information obtained from the participatory disaster risk assessment (PDRA) conducted by CARE/LIFT was used in identifying the areas of interventions in all 21 Sucos and preparing village action plans in four Sucos to implement the risk mitigation activities. The village action plan had not been prepared in other Sucos due to that the Suco Disaster Management Committees are yet to be formed by the local government. Village risk maps and village resource maps are available in all Sucos which are being used massively for planning and monitoring CARE/LIFT interventions.

Linkage of Farmer Group with Government and Civil Society Organisations

Linkage of the farmer groups with government is in an initial stage as the government service providers have recently been recruited. The extension agents were recruited in September 2008 and their deployment to sub-district was recently done. The extension workers are still in the process of knowing the situation in their respective sub-district. Their contact to the farmers and farmer groups is just started. Therefore, the relation of farmer groups to the government extension workers is yet to be established. Despite this, the strategy of MAF and CARE/LIFT project is to strengthen relationship between the extension workers and farmer group. This strategy was also strongly advocated in the recently organised the National Food Security Workshop held on April 14, 2009, organised jointly by MAF and EC FS NGO Coordination Group. The decentralisation initiative of the government to be implemented in Bobonaro district soon with a motive to improve the service delivery and governance at local level also has strategy to provide integrated services to farmers by strengthening linkage between government and civil society organisations. In the remaining two years, CARE/LIFT would have to facilitate proactively to strengthen relations between farmer groups and government extension workers.

The civil society organisations working in the CARE/LIFT project areas include partner NGOs, and humanitarian international organisations. The relation of farmer groups with partner NGOs TAHA and CDEP is very good and is in the process of further strengthening. After the phase out of the project this relationship would be continued as the NGOs are locally based and operated. Though the capacity of the partner NGOs is not to the level of working independently on their own, it is expected that their capacity would be strengthened while working with CARE/LIFT for the remaining period.

The relationship of farmer groups with the international humanitarian organisations has been recently established while undertaking some of their activities with them. It is presumed that the relationship would be further strengthened by empowering the farmer groups to access information, inputs and services from these organisations. Like with government agencies said above, CARE/LIFT's facilitating role to build the capacity of farmer group to establish and strengthen relations with civil society organisations would have to be proactive so that farmer groups can get support from these organisations.

In nutshell, the current relationship of farmer group with government and civil society organisations is in an initial stage requiring proactive role of CARE/LIFT so that it is further strengthened in the remaining project period.

Feasibility of Disaster Risk Management

Large-scale watershed management falls under the jurisdiction of the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC). CARE/LIFT would have to work as per the government policy in close

coordination with DDMC. In case of small watersheds, local initiatives could be promoted by CARE/LIFT with focus on managing soil, water and biodiversity while improving income and protecting other natural resources. CARE/LIFT has already initiated the micro watershed approach by integrating water harvesting pond, protection of the water source, SALT, preparing organic compost and liquid fertilisers and establishing home gardens. In remaining period, building on the experiences from the existing integrated concept of micro watershed approach, CARE/LIFT would have to move further to integrate multi-purpose tree plantation on the bank of stream, small scale dam to reduce speed of water and harvest it to the crop field, and planting leguminous crops in contour. CARE/LIFT has already completed DRM plan in four Sucos using the micro watershed approach. Suco councils are in the process of forming SDMC in remaining Sucos. CARE/LIFT has a plan to complete the formation of SDMCs in remaining 17 Sucos by end of June 2009. This would help strengthen the institutional structure at Suco level which ultimately integrates DRM in local level planning by local government. It is good to note that CARE/LIFT has planned to assist sub-district offices to establish sub-district disaster management committees and continue to strengthen these structures at Suco, sub-district and district level during the remaining period of the project.

Perception of Farmers and Other Stakeholders about the Project

Perception of Farmers toward the Project

Farmers' perception toward the project in terms of the process and technologies were collected through various questions and techniques including the pairwise ranking and informal discussions. The perception of farmers toward the process and technologies was highly positive. They liked the participatory group approach of the project. Both women and men told that it was due to the group approach that their interactive capacity has been developed. They mentioned benefits of working together. They also told that they have more 'we feeling' now than before. According to women group members, their confidence that they can also do the things like men can do has been increased. They expressed that such kind of group approach should be continued. Some of the farmers, however, expressed their concern of more time required in participating in the project activities. The perception of non-programme farmers about more time requiring in participating in project activities was high. In fact, as they told, it was one of the reasons why they did not participate in the project activities. The participating farmers rather than complaining the amount of time, told that activities were not timely implemented due to project supplying the improved seeds of corn and peanuts relatively late in 2007 planting season.

Regarding the technologies that they liked most included water harvest pond, home garden, corn seed production and storage, peanut seed production and storage, and corn shelling low cost machine. The water harvest pond was rated number one by those who had constructed it, as it was the lifeline for other activities. Home garden was selected as the vegetables produced from the garden had direct cash earning capacity in addition to complementing household consumption. Corn as well as peanut seed production and storage was selected on the ground of high yield received from the new varieties and making the high yielding seed locally available. In addition, farmers also selected corn-shelling machine as an important technology as it increased the work efficiency and reduced the drudgery of women from separating grains from cob. Farmers also told that they like the energy efficient LED lamp that was introduced to improve the health and hygiene. Though this was the general trend, male and female differed a bit in technology selection. Though the pond was number one for both genders, men preferred corn seed production and storage, home garden and low-cost corn shelling machine. Women's preference went to home garden after water harvest pond followed by corn seed production and storage, low-cost corn shelling machine and peanut seed production.

In addition to these positive reactions, farmers also provided some information that could be taken lessons for improvement. First year supply of new variety of corn seed was somewhat late and Super Grain Bag provided by CARE/LIFT project got damaged due to rat attack. This late supply of the seed resulted late sowing and low harvest. Timely supply of materials including home gardening seed was also not always regular. They also informed that the number of tools and materials supplied was less than required.

In regards of transparency, they knew the number of materials supplied and activities implemented. They also knew the amount of money directly given to the community. What they did not know was the price of materials supplied by the project. Farmers' reaction about not getting the price information was none when asked specifically. However, the field level project staff told us that the farmers asked them the price of the items supplied to them.

Perception of Project Staff toward the Project

Project staff's response to farmers' reactions were positive. Staff also rated that seed storage, water harvest pond, corn shelling machine, energy efficient LED lamp, SALT, organic liquid fertiliser, and compost as effective technologies. Among the technologies, they made comments on compost, water harvest pond, and SALT. Regarding compost, their suggestion was that the compost should be ready before the planting of home gardening seed sowing. Plastic of two water harvest ponds were punctured by people of other community, reasons of which is not known. CARE/LIFT staff's suggestions to seek solutions between the communities through Suco leaders is appropriate. Regarding SALT, their suggestion was to include a variety of fruits rather than limiting to pineapple, banana and leguminous trees.

Perception of LNGO Partners toward the Project

Discussions with both partner LNGOs (TAHA and CDEP) were held on issues related to perception about approach/ modality, area of improvement in terms of financial management process, managerial/ social support, technical support system, coordination/ networking, process of planning and monitoring and assessment was done on the internalisation of food security concept and project approach by them.

Both LNGOs are relatively new. They are in the process of developing their own capacity in terms of learning techniques to empower community. They considered CARE as a partner, not donor in real sense only in letter of agreement. They told that the existing financial management system and planning and monitoring process was good for them and they did not mention anything to improve. One of their major concerns was their continuity with CARE even after the current project is phased out. They were also expecting CARE to facilitate them to connect with other donors. TAHA NGO was expecting two motorbikes as per agreement. The LNGOs perceived the working modality of the project good in terms of developing partnership with local NGOs, building institutional capacity of NGO with both material and technical supports, using participatory approach in decision-making, and flexibility of the project. They have understood and internalised food security as a holistic approach that takes into account different dimensions. They suggested to include also tourism in the food security project to increase the income of the people. They also perceived the technologies selected by project appropriate that reflected the needs and priority of communities.

Perception of other Stakeholders toward the Project

Other stakeholders such as the government agencies, EC supported NGOs on food security, non-EC NGOs working on food security perceived the project well designed and implemented in close coordination with them. They liked proactive facilitating role of the project in bringing different stakeholders in one place and share good practices and lessons learned. They laid emphasis on strengthening interrelationship in future so as to improve understanding between and among them.

Budget against Logframe/ Project Proposal

As of February 2009, the project has spent approximately 32% of the available budget. The main reasons for low spending by the project were observed as follows:

- CARE/LIFT delayed start up of field activities of the project due to the social violence (February – April 2007) immediately after the signing of the project with EC. As a result, it led to delay in hiring of project team (project manager in end of June, National project manager in 3rd week of February 2008 and other support staff in from mid August 2007). The under-spending of budget was also due to that the project did not pay the salary of national staff for eight months, international staff for six months because of their late recruitment.
- CARE/LIFT working approach to pilot activities in small scale, evaluate those using participatory approaches in year 1 and 2 and scale up the successful activities in year 3 and 4. This approach demands low spending in the beginning and high spending after the trial/piloting phase of the project.
- CARE received seeds of corn, peanuts and velvet bean (lehe) free of cost for on-farm demonstrations and seed production in 2007/08 cropping season from SoL.
- Project approach to increase farmers groups in CARE/LIFT working Sucos in phasewise manner in year 1, 2 and 3.
- Project approach to provide minimum essential support to farmers groups allowing farmer groups to share their cost for greater ownership of the activities supported by programme (see Table 3).

Looking at the project working approach, expenses pattern of the budget is largely justifiable. The project can increase expenses in the remaining period:

- Project, in the year 1 and 2, has established successful practices and technologies among the selected target beneficiaries. From the third year onward, the successful technologies preferred by farmer groups can be scaled up to all the farmers groups. This means there will be more expenses on programme budgets in the remaining periods.
- There are some interventions that are rated by farmers groups as more essential activities where project can allocate more expenses. Examples include, improved seed storage techniques through airtight metal drums and water harvesting ponds.
- Project also should consider changing priorities of target beneficiaries with the increase in food production of agricultural crops as a result of project interventions. Examples, there are some areas (e.g. Anapal Aldeia) where development of market facilities (e.g. market stall) has become necessary now than before.
- Project can invest on efforts on institutionalisation of farmers groups to Suco farmers associations or sub-district level farmers association.
- Government has recently deployed extension workers in each Suco. As fresh graduates they may have good theory background of agriculture production but their capacity in the practice of innovative approaches and alternate technologies is yet to be developed. Since the sustainable service provision after the project phase out depends largely on the capacity of the government extension workers, the project, in collaboration with MAF, may support in the area of capacity building of newly hired MAF Extension Officers, Extension Supervisors, Food Security Officer through training and exposure visits, and other materials where project expenses are expected to occur.
- In our interaction with the Food Security Advisor of MAF and Head of the Food Security Department cum Secretary to the National Food Security Committee suggested for joint publication of good practices that CARE/LIFT has developed. Project budget could also be spent in this activity.
- Purchase of vehicles for staff is urgently needed. This will help keep the budget expenses balanced.

Considering the above areas, it is suggested that project makes an expenditure plan for the remaining period in the light of recommendation from mid term evaluation and operates activities accordingly.

Gender Equality

CARE/LIFT has developed a gender strategy to ensure that both women and men are actively participating in project interventions, making decisions about what food security related activity to carry out, are getting benefits from the project interventions and that participating in the project interventions does not increase but helps for balancing the overall workload. Recognising that women as compared to men have lower status, excessive workload, discrimination, poor health and nutrition, food insecurity, lower participation and lower consultation, poor education and information, and less organised; many interventions are focused to women so as to address these issues with an intention of creating gender balance in the project. To realise these, CARE/LIFT has set working gender targets to ensure 50% participation of women in project activities including training, staff hiring, and organising group.

Table 4. Gender target and achievement

Results	Targets/Indicators	Achievements
1. Women have improved capacity to implement and manage community projects	1.1 At least 40% of members in Farmer Groups are women.	There are 59% members in farmer group
	1.2 Each group receives orientation on group management	Group management orientation received by all 45 women groups
2. Women have better knowledge of improved agriculture production; health, sanitation and hygiene techniques	1.1 Ensure one gender session is integrated in all types of training	Taking place
	1.2 Ensure women actively participate in the training	Taking place
	1.3 At least 20% of the women farmers group have at least one contact with district based offices	Not yet due to absence of MAF extension workers in village
3. Women's participation in	3.1 70% of all proposals must directly	Not yet (IG not started yet, will

income generation (IG) activities has increased	<p>benefit women</p> <p>3.2 At least 20% of women farmer group link with service providers</p> <p>3.3 80% of women farmer groups acquire at least one type of agriculture inputs</p> <p>3.4 At least 40% of all IG participants are women</p>	<p>be started after market study)</p> <p>Not yet due to absence of MAF extension workers in village</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Not yet (IG not started yet, will be started after market study)</p>
4. CARE/LIFT local NGO partners are actively involved in promoting CARE/LIFT gender strategy	<p>4.1 NGO partners internalize gender issues and explicitly reflect in their publications and reports</p> <p>4.2 In each district, one Gender Focal Person from partner NGO is active and ensures that they maintain working targets of gender, where applicable, in their assigned Sucos.</p> <p>4.3 Ensure 50% of NGO staff work for CARE/LIFT are women</p>	<p>Not yet. LIFT has planned to achieve this through reflection of gender issues in NGOs brochure, leaflet, HR policy and gender disaggregated progress report from its staff.</p> <p>NGO women staff working also as gender focal person</p> <p>Yes</p>
5. CARE/LIFT staff are actively involved in promoting the CARE/LIFT gender strategy	<p>5.1 Gender policies are reflected in reports and actions</p> <p>5.2 All staff have participated in gender training</p> <p>5.3 Gender disaggregated data is available for all major activities supported by CARE/LIFT</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>

The gender activities also include forming women only group, integrating gender as a cross cutting theme rather than as a separate training, hiring a Women Empowerment Officer working full time for the entire duration of the project and tailoring activities to women's needs.

The Table 4 indicates that CARE/LIFT has achieved some gender related targets but some targets are yet to be achieved. Many targets which are not achieved yet are achievable within the remaining time of the project given the proper attention paid by the project. Some targets are related to the progress of other organisations such as extension services of MAF. For linking women farmer group to other service providers, CARE/LIFT might have to facilitate the service providers on building their capacity so that they are capable of linking to women farmer groups.

3.5 Sustainability

Sustainability is generally defined as the continuation of benefits from a development intervention after major development assistance has been completed. In this evaluation sustainability is assessed based on interventions repeatedly carried out by target beneficiaries, indications that they would continue the interventions, capacity of target beneficiaries as well as capacity of government institutions to provide services to beneficiaries, linkage of target beneficiaries with the service providing agencies, external factors affecting sustainability were analysed. These are briefly discussed below.

Adoption of Approaches/ Technologies/ Techniques Promoted by the Project

Many of the technologies, techniques and approaches introduced by CARE/LIFT are at the trial stage. Farmers are still in the process of evaluating them. It is therefore, a bit early to assess their actual adoption rate. However, some of the technologies were used by farmer groups also in second year by evaluating the performance in the year of introduction. The technologies that the farmer group used in second year include corn seed production of varieties Sele and Suwan-5, Utamua peanut seed variety, and separating corn grains by a low-cost machine. There were other technologies that farmer group tried, evaluated and expressed their willingness to use in coming seasons include keeping corn seeds in airtight fuel drum, using organic fertiliser, making compost and using it in vegetables in home garden, use of energy efficient LED lamp.

Technology introduction and dissemination through group was the approach introduced by CARE/LIFT to the farming community. Farmers are realising the benefits of working together. Though this is mandatory to get any CARE/LIFT support at this time, farmers expressed that they would continue it. The following activities promoted by CARE/LIFT would also bind them together to get the benefits from them:

- Water harvesting pond
- Slopping agriculture land technology (SALT). All members in group are involved in establishing, nurturing, using benefits and conserving.
- Metal oil drum for storing seed in group
- Seed production plots

In addition, introducing group savings scheme would also be a strong binding factor of group.

Participatory planning process is also in initial stage. It definitely takes long time for farmer groups, Aldeia leaders and Suco leaders as well to practice this process on their own. Under the changing context where government is introducing decentralised planning process, it is expected that this process would continue even after the project is phased out. Under the decentralisation, there would be one sectoral plan of the government by integrating plans of different agencies including NGOs. The point here is that the CARE/LIFT promoted activities and process would be a part of the government plan thereby getting continuity even after the project.

Technologies promoted by CARE/LIFT are simple looking from the farmers' perspective. Some of the technologies are simply modified what farmers have already been doing. For example, seed keeping for next planting season is a continuing process from generation to generation. The project intervention in this aspect was to store seed in the airtight vessel so that weevil attack is prevented which was one of the significant problems that farmers were facing. The simplicity in introduced technology indicates that farmers would be continuing it until another better technology is accepted.

Local ownership: When asked whose activities they were involved in, all of the farmers responded that they were involved in their own activities supported by CARE/LIFT. This indicates their ownership to the activities. The ownership to the programme/activity leads to sustainability.

Capacity of farmers, local authority, Village council, LNGO

Attempts were made to assess the knowledge, skills and attitude of farmers towards the technologies and practices. Many of the farmers knew the name of improved corn and peanut varieties, their cultivation practices, home gardening techniques, heap method of composting, preparing organic fertiliser, storing seeds in fuel drum, and preparing water harvesting pond. Some farmers knew also using the "A" frame for contour making. They also told that they knew importance of diversified food as they participated in the cooking demonstration. Though there is a strong attitude of farmer groups to continue the technologies that they have seen, known and practiced in a limited area in group, their

level of knowledge and skills is not adequate. Flaws of not properly using technologies and process were found in some places indicating the need for continued support in capacity building of farmers.

The group members though rightly expressed the importance of working together, the groups are not well matured as they have recently been formed. Writing minutes, organising meetings, making participatory decision, keeping records of decisions as well as keeping records of activities and materials were not properly done indicating the needs for strengthening their capacity in these areas. Similarly, though government has revitalised the extension system, the newly appointed extension workers need to undergo a series of capacity building activities especially in the area of innovative and participatory approaches. Likewise, participation of local governments in planning process is also a recent development. This also requires long-term exercise. Emergence of use of local NGOs as agents of change is also a recent phenomenon in Timor-Leste. Their capacity is yet to be developed. **One of the noteworthy developments is that an environment of realising that they can do much while joining hands than working alone is created.** Capitalising this conducive environment, CARE/LIFT might facilitate to increase the connectivity between and among these agencies so that the services that the farmers are currently getting from the CARE/LIFT would be continued from these agencies to farmers.

Linkage of farmer groups with LNGOs, government institutions and donor community

Except in some areas where farmers told that they approached the government for irrigation, others clearly mention that their current linkage is limited to CARE/LIFT. However, government has recently deployed agriculture extension workers in Suco and the government is coming with good intention of working through farmer groups in close coordination with other agencies including LNGOs and INGOs. It can be assumed that farmer group would have expanded linkages with government and other agencies and vice versa. Through the expanded linkage, farmer group would be getting technical services from government agencies that they are getting now from CARE/LIFT.

Financial Sustainability

Financial sustainability is meant how the activities would be financed after the current grant ends. In congruence with the project document, financial sustainability in this evaluation was assessed looking at the demand responsive activities, availability of improved seeds at household level, storage facilities at the household level to keep the improved seeds and improving diversity of available food for consumption and diversification of income.

Demand responsive activities: Project has devised activities based on the demand of the farmer group at the time when the participatory disaster risk analysis and community needs analysis were done. Based on the analysis, activities were selected, agreement to implement the activities was signed between CARE/LIFT and farmers groups in the witness of Suco/Aldeia leaders, and plans for implementation were made.

Availability of improved seeds at household level: Project has laid much emphasis in this activity and has made improved seed available at group level. In the remaining period, the seed would be cultivated by individual farmers that would generate extra income through increased productivity. Farmers mentioned that they have received more than 50% increase in the yield of improved corn over the local cultivars in 2008/09 cropping season. The recent crop cutting data shows an average of 61% increase of improved corn seeds over the local cultivars which validate the qualitative feedback of farmers. The increased yield of the varieties would encourage farmers to preserve seed at local level.

Storage facilities at the household level to keep the improved seeds: Farmer groups have stored improved corn seed grains of varieties Sele and Suwan-5 in airtight fuel drums thereby securing seed for the next planting season. The corn seeds are planted in two seasons at group level and plans are there to distribute to farmers to plant in individual plots as there is abundant seed stored. Farmers told that they would continue planting them as they have given higher yields than local corn.

Diversity of available food for consumption and diversification of income: Though some farmer groups derived cash from the home gardening and corn seed selling, it is in a very small form. Some new varieties of crops are introduced without endangering the local cultivars. There is a somewhat increased diversity in terms of crop variety, especially in corn, sweet potato and peanuts. Likelihood of increased diversity in food is there as more vegetables are produced in CARE/LIFT supported home gardening.

External factors and their effect on activities

Earlier reports have indicated that security issues resulted by the political instability were the external prime factors affecting the project activities. These includes: (i) social violence in 2007 February – April where deteriorating security situations did not allow CARE/LIFT project to operationalise in the field. This incidence (since it is politically rooted) led delayed hiring of the project manager and subsequently the project team. (2) Equally important was also the increased political and social tension after the assassination attempt to President and Prime Minister on 11 February 2008. There was an intensive military search operation going on to capture rebel leader and followers of the rebel groups who were thought hiding in the forest of Ermera District which is surrounded by CARE/LIFT project districts of Liquica and Bobonaro. As a result, CARE could not mobilize its field staff and additional field activities till early May 2008. Both of these incidences that were unintended events by the project, have impacted on its speed of doing the activities.

There are some other factors that were not foreseen before by the project but are now considered to likely affect some of the project activities. These include:

- a) Slash and burn bush practice of cultivation: Bush fire and shifting cultivation were observed common practices in Liquica district and though less frequently occurring in Bobonaro district. As there is no established mechanism to curb it legally, the practices have likelihood of being continued. To change the situation, CARE/LIFT can take up this issue along with EC Food Security NGOs group as a common advocacy area to lobby with the government to bring appropriate legislations to control these practices. At the same time, CARE/LIFT along with other like-minded agencies can address these issues while developing participatory Village Action Plan including DRM Plan and NRM Plan for the Sucos they work. CARE/LIFT could also raise these issues at different policy forums such as Food Security Technical Working Group, National Food Security Committee, National CBDRM Working Group and MAF in Project Harmonization Meeting. A collective effort with MAF and other agencies working on agriculture and natural resource management including disaster could be other approach to address this problem.
- b) Suco Election: As the government is planning a General Election for electing Suco council members in next September 2009, there is a need to fine-tune all village action plan, DRM plan and NRM Plan in all Sucos. The current plans, established by old Suco council Members, require ratification from the new council members once the election is held.
- c) Capacity building of newly recruited MAF Extension Officers: With the hiring of new Extension Officers in 2008 and 2009 by MAF, there is expectation from MAF for providing capacity building support for these staff. As CARE/LIFT has established some good practices and its staff are relatively experienced than MAF's new Extension Officers, there is a strong need for CARE/LIFT to familiarise its good practices with them. These can be done through arranging exposure visits, provision of seeds, tools and materials and also providing practical training to MAF Extension Officers, as and when required. Since, these issues were not visualised by the project in its design stage, it is strongly recommended to address this unforeseen but important issue by the project in the remaining period of the project. This support is also crucial for sustaining the project activities by farmers group after the phase out of the project.

It is known that CARE/LIFT has already mainstreamed first issue as one of its policy issues for advocacy. It may also fine-tune its Village Action Plan, NRM Plan and DRM Plan with newly elected Suco Council Members in its working Sucos after the election is held for new political representatives in the Suco scheduled September 2009.

Exit Strategy

CARE/LIFT has developed an exit strategy based on maturity indicators for major interventions. The maturity indicators are developed on farmer group, agricultural productivity and diversification, agro-forestry and water conservation technology, seed production, seed storage, integration of DRM issues in local level planning, and capacity building of partner NGOs. As these are the major activities of the project, developing indicators against each of them is appropriate.

The key indicators against each activity given above are also quite relevant. For example, group maturity indicators are

- i) Farmers group has active committee and general members
- ii) FG has collective activity to continue.

- iii) FG has a meeting as and when required
- iv) FG establishes functional linkage with one or more service provider
- v) At least 50% members of each FG have adequate knowledge and skills to use improved agriculture practices
- vi) FGs are consulted for their inputs/problems to include in local planning at village level

In addition, one of the indicators to be added could be **FG has joined the Suco level cooperative society** developed with support of the project.

Except this, indicators developed by CARE/LIFT are appropriate and relevant (see Annex 9).

3.6 Coherence

The activities undertaken were coherent to the development policy of poverty reduction and equality through sustainable development. The establishment of SALT, increased yield and reduced storage loss of corn without the use of chemicals are environmental friendly technologies that have been practiced by target group are the concerns of not only the EC but other agencies, government of Timor-Leste, and the community. These results are likely to mutually reinforce one another. These results are also likely to contribute other EC policies, are in line with the Timor-Leste government's priority area of food security and CARE international's poverty eradication and social justice.

4. VISIBILITY

CARE/LIFT project is implemented in remote areas where presence of other agencies is minimal. For some of project sites, CARE/LIFT was the first development project after several years of gap. In our meetings with them, farmer groups appreciated CARE/LIFT very much. Officials of government agencies such as MAF, NDRMD and District Administration also spoke very high of the project. The achievements of the project were also appreciated highly by team leader of SoL project, coordinator of GTZ's agriculture and rural development project, as well as the officials of Oxfam, Concern, and CCF. They specially highlighted the seed storage technology and water-harvest technology. One can easily see the corn seed kept in airtight water drum and water harvest pond year round. The signboards kept in different places also have increased the project's visibility. It is not only that the project is visible, more importantly; it has earned the good image.



LIFT Project Banner



Sign seed production training (refresher)



Woman from Farmers Group Liquica displaying LIFT activities in World Food Day 2008



Water harvesting pond Tebabui, Bobonaro



Seed drum



Corn – comparison local to introduced

5. OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The overarching conclusion of this evaluation is that the project “Local Initiatives for Food Security Transformation” has largely achieved the set target for the past two years and is in the right direction to achieve the remaining targets for in next two years. The project focus for the past period was mainly on group formation and conducting trials and demonstrations of agricultural technologies at group level in the process of familiarising them to farmers.

Project achievements for past period were satisfactory in terms of achieving the set physical targets. It reached over 90 percent of total households set in the project document. It over achieved the target set for women members in the group. Given the short period, the performance of the groups in terms of participating in project activities such as corn seed production and storage, separating grains of corn by using corn shelling machine, making and using organic solid and liquid fertiliser, water-harvest pond, nursery raising of vegetables for home gardening, nursery raising of forest trees to use in sloping agriculture land technology (SALT), and contour making for SALT was satisfactory. Groups were also performing well in terms of pooling labour of group members for group activities, distributing benefits to group members and increasing ‘we’ feeling among the group members to some extent. Looking from the angle of ‘reach and impact per person’, the project has been largely effective.

Project devised a cost-sharing mechanism for activity implementation. Farmer groups contributed over one-third of the total costs in terms of kind, in an average. Project paid only for materials and technologies requiring purchase from outside. Therefore, the project was less costly for donor. Though the costs were shared, quality was maintained well. This way, the project is considered efficient.

The project activities were liked not only by target group of the project, but also that some technologies promoted by the project were highly appreciated and used, to some extent, by other agencies such as Oxfam, Concern Worldwide and more importantly the Ministry of Agriculture. One such technology was airtight fuel drum for corn seed storage. The project impact therefore, was not limited to its target groups but reached beyond them.

Almost all farmer groups who received on-farm trials in cropping season of 2007/08, planted seeds in 2008/09. The farmers groups who engaged in seed production in 2008/09, among those we met, all have kept the improved corn seed for next planting season for 2009/10 in the airtight fuel drum provided by the project on cost-sharing basis. In many cases, they have replanted the improved corn. Likewise, peanuts were also replanted by those farmer groups who grew this in 2007/08 and those farmers who were engaged in seed production in 2008/09, have stored the seeds for planting in coming season of 2009/10. Farmers said that they would continue this and other beneficial practices for long time. This indicates the sustainability of the project activities.

Together with these good results of the project interventions, there were also some grey lines. As project was started late, it had to skip some of the important steps such as wealth ranking and intensive orientation to staff regarding community empowerment, their way of dealing with community and about participatory tools and techniques due to urgent need to start production activities to catch the planting season. Missing these activities affected the selection of target beneficiaries in some areas and social issues of staff to deal with community. In Anapal all target households were not as food insecure as in other Sucos. Also, a few field staff said that they did not have adequate social skills to deal with the farmers and conduct well-being ranking.

The nutrition education is yet to gain the momentum as the related activities such as cooking demonstration and personal hygiene and sanitation have recently started. Likewise, DRM has not progressed well as per expectation due to the government’s delay in forming the Suco level committees.

Not all technologies promoted by the project were giving benefits to farmers. The Super Grain Bag seed storage technology was not successful with many farmers due to mainly rat damage. Even the highly successful corn seed production in many areas was not equally successful in some areas. Similar cases were found also in peanuts seed production of introduced cultivars.

The remaining period of the project is challenging in terms of building the capacity of the farmer groups, adoption of tested and demonstrated successful technologies by target population, and

ensuring that services provided by the project and success stories generated through project interventions are continued after the project phase out. To meet these challenges project needs to be more local than providing uniform solution as well as more creative than becoming rhetoric in the use of procedures, methods and approaches.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

In the past two years, the project CARE/LIFT concentrated efforts on group formation and technology introduction and verification through the group. In group formation, it paid attention to make the group gender balanced. To achieve this, the project formed two types of groups: 'women only' group and group mixed of women and men. Following this strategy, 186 gender-balanced groups were formed with membership composition of 59% women and 41% men. The project reached already 92% of the total of 3,000 households targeted in the project document. Given the short period and little-exposure of beneficiaries to such process before, this could be considered as a remarkable achievement. Though groups were formed and activities implemented through the gender balanced groups, the capacity of the groups, in almost all cases, is low. Not only the farmer group, capacity of the service providing agencies of the government is also a matter of concern as the service providers have recently been recruited and are mostly the fresh graduate. Because of the low capacity of both service providing agencies and farmer groups, the latter had have to depend on CARE/LIFT for the agriculture related technical services including food production, food storage, income generation, food utilisation and understanding and practicing the risk mitigating strategies.

Farmer groups participated in the trial, demonstration and evaluation of new agricultural technology. Such technologies included the corn and peanuts seed production, vegetable production through home gardening, water storage in water harvest pond, irrigation of home garden, harvesting rainwater, storage of corn seeds using airtight fuel drum, preparation and use of organic compost and liquid fertiliser in home garden. As the result of participation, their knowledge and skills are improved, to some extent, as is their positive attitude toward these technologies. They also got additional yield of corn and peanuts to some extent. As a result of increased production, farmers, as they said, were able to reduce food insecurity for a month, in many cases. By virtue of their nature, the trials and demonstration were conducted in small areas, mostly at group level. The technologies that the farmers liked most were water harvest pond, home gardening, seed production and storage of corn indicating thereby wide-scale application by individual farmers in coming season. The technologies that were not yet confirmed whether good or not, included storing corn in super grain bag, three new varieties of sweet potatoes need to be further verified and evaluated.

Farmers have kept seeds of improved corn and peanuts at group level to distribute them to the individual farmers for next season plantation. Working in group the farmers, in many cases, have gained knowledge in improved corn cultivation, seed selection and storage. The project is careful to uphold agricultural biodiversity by maintaining both local as well as exogenous strains of crops including corn. The fuel drum storage technique that the project promoted in the project area has also attracted the attention of other food security related government and non-government organisations.

CARE/LIFT has incorporated disaster risk management as one of the components of the project so as to respond the vulnerability affecting food security. The project has rightly incorporated the disaster risk management at all stages of project cycle. Assessing the disaster risk in participatory way in community using participatory tools and techniques and developing the village plan based on this information is right approach and project needs to continue it in the remaining period. However, the village plans are made only in four Sucos out of 21 Sucos that the project would have made so far. The low achievement in this area was mainly due to the late formation of Disaster Management Committee of the government which is pre-requisite for preparation of DRM plan and is out of the control of the project management. It is good to note that project is proactively searching some viable and practical ways to speed up the DRM plan formation with close coordination of related government agencies with the purpose of mainstreaming community-based disaster risk management for sustainable production systems.

The project is under-spent. The justification for under-spent such as salary saving due to late start, project approach to piloting in small scale in the beginning, cost-sharing mechanism between farmer groups and project, and free supply for materials by associate partner for trials and demonstrations is logical. Project has shown interest in developing the expenditure plan focusing on priority activities of the farmer groups. Project management has also shown interest in remaining open to further improve the governance, including transparency, by providing information on activity and cost to the staff and farmer group.

The main attention of the project so far has been to make the food available at household level through increased production. This strategy is good given the livelihoods of target beneficiaries' dependent almost solely on agriculture. Together with this availability dimension of food security by reducing vulnerability, income generation through alternative options so as to increase household access to food; and diversification in food consumption by all members of the target household so as to improve nutrition status need to be focused in a balanced way in the remaining period of the project. Given the present level of capacity of project staff, partner NGOs, government service providers and the farmer groups, the remaining period is highly challenging for the project. To meet the challenges, it is good to note that project management has initiated fine-tuning the logframe and is considering seriously to develop expenditure plan as well as responding to these issues more creatively.

6.2 Recommendations

1. Group cohesion is an important ingredient for community development. Though many activities supported by CARE/LIFT are complementary to enhancing group cohesion (Water harvesting pond, slopping agriculture land technology, metal oil drum for storing seed in group, continuing seed production in common property land, home garden, corn shelling machine), CARE/LIFT may think of introducing group savings scheme in small scale, as it is a powerful tool for enhancing group cohesion and undertaking some common activities on their own. This also would help project to form cooperative or association as envisaged in the project document.
2. Capacity building of staff and staff of partner NGOs on facilitation, PDRA, CNA, PRA and technical aspects is also area for consideration. Most of both CARE/LIFT staff and partner NGO staff, especially those working as frontline workers, are young persons and are not well-versed to facilitation skills as well as participatory methods to community empowerment. Given this situation, it is important that project pays specific attention to building capacity of them.
3. With the recent deployment of MAF extension staff at Suco level, it is important that CARE/LIFT familiarises the technologies practiced by farmers with the help of CARE/LIFT to the newly appointed by government extension workers. CARE/LIFT also pays attention to building a strong partnership between CARE/LIFT and government extension agents and help strengthen their capacity by various ways including familiarising CARE/LIFT technologies and gender approaches.
4. Some staff still lack transport facilities even that they have developed the driving skills which was thought a pre-requisite for providing the project vehicle in the beginning. According to the staff, lack of vehicle was one the factors of low project visit by some staff. It is recommended that project procures needed vehicles without delay and provides to the staff to increase their field mobility.
5. There are mixed responses from farmer group members on adoption of airtight plastic bag for seed storage. This has been successful in some farmers and a failure in other farmers. From the discussion with limited number of users, it was found that successes were noticed in those households who had stored the plastic bag in the alleviated store house (bou laten), while other farmers who stored the plastic bag in their main house had faced problem from rat. It is recommended to assess the effectiveness of this technology among the farmers with a success and a failure cases and find ways to increase the effective use of the technology in future.
6. Project is now at the stage of promoting some exogenous cultivars that were tried, preferred by farmers and found technically beneficial and complementary. While promoting the exogenous cultivars, CARE/LIFT as a food security project, pays attention that endogenous strains are not endangered. CARE/LIFT therefore, should continue to promote both local as well as improved seeds to conserve agricultural biodiversity.
7. Under the need for preserving bio-diversity, farmers require preservation of seeds of different cultivars separately. In case of corn, there are two introduced varieties and one local variety requiring seed preservation every year. CARE/LIFT support for seed storage should address these diversities.
8. CARE/LIFT has piloted integration of SALT, organic compost and home garden to water harvesting ponds and farmers' responses were found highly positive. Where appropriate, it is important that CARE/LIFT scales up this integration so that technologies introduced under the

SALT approach are successful. It is also easy for monitoring demonstration of nursery, compost and home garden nearby the pond.

9. Project may also initiate searching and promoting elsewhere proven technologies for making a variety of food items from corn as farmers have tendency of purchasing rice by selling corn. Corn is more nutritious than rice.
10. We noticed that the farmer group books were half filled up. This could be improved through a systematic monitoring and supervision by project staff and reporting back to the project management. We strongly recommend that project staff pay special attention to monitor the activities. It is especially important in the areas where farmers have not been exposed to such technology/practice before.
11. Project has successfully demonstrated a cost sharing arrangement for project supported activities with its target beneficiaries. This has been an excellent model of creating community ownership on activities and avoiding free distribution of inputs and materials from the project. This practice should be replicated to other projects and agencies as a good practice.
12. Farmers know quantity of materials that came to their group. They were, however not able to tell the price for items that they got. CARE/LIFT might provide price information to farmers of each item provided to them. This would help increase transparency on the part of the project. More importantly, it is better that CARE/LIFT management discusses prices of materials with field staff who would ultimately pass this information to the farmers.
13. In an extensive interaction with CARE/LIFT staff, it was known that many of the materials supplied to them and farmers were of good quality. In some cases, the materials were not meeting the standard. Their suggestion was that the CARE/LIFT staff be involved in procurement that would help positively to improve quality of materials.
14. CARE/LIFT has supported farmers with high yielding corn seeds to produce seed at the household level with a condition for group to return same quantity of seed after harvest to CARE/LIFT. CARE/LIFT has also supported farmers' groups with metal drum and tarpaulin for seed drying with a condition that they would return 5 kg of seed against the drum and 4 kg of seed against the a set of two tarpaulins. The seed thus collected by CARE/LIFT in one Suco would be a total of about 180 kg. This seed could be used in establishing a community seed bank for disaster risk management under the leadership of Suco/Aldeia leaders. This community seed bank approach could be piloted in a small scale before expanding it to larger area.
15. Legumes and vegetables produced by farmers are not totally consumed at HH level by them. Market study that is expected to shortly take place should explore the possibility of marketing the legumes and vegetables –raw as well as processed items.
16. Continue expansion of organic compost (heap method) and liquid fertilisers and organic pesticide preparation as these technologies have been preferred by farmers, as these can be prepared using locally available plant and animal products and as these technologies contribute to improve environment by improving soil condition biologically.
17. Nutrition education is not going well as other components of the project due to that some activities have recently been implemented under this component. Reorienting existing staff on agriculture for the time being could be done for small kind of information—such as awareness raising on malaria, sanitation etc.
18. With the increased yield of corn, there is more quantity of corn to be shelled and pounded at household level. As corn-shelling and pounding activities are normally done by women, increased yield may have negative impact on their workload. To respond to this problem, CARE/LIFT has introduced the labour saving and affordable device – the corn-shelling machine. Farmers in many places appreciated the efficiency of the machine and demanded more number of machines. CARE/LIFT may think of providing more number of the machines. Moreover, CARE may also think of introducing low-cost corn grinding machine to reduce women's drudgery on cost sharing basis as per the existing practice.
19. Delay in socialising the national policy in the district levels by the NDMD have hampered timely formation of Disaster Management Committees at Suco, sub-district and district level. CARE/LIFT

may use its good working relation with the NDMD in supporting it to establish Disaster Management Committees at Suco levels in coordination with existing District Disaster Management Committees.

20. CARE/LIFT logframe needs to be refined with more clear objectively verifiable indicators. CARE/LIFT may follow the SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time bound) approach in defining the indicators. While designing any project, including refining logframe, it is better that CARE/LIFT involves field staff so as to increase their ownership and make the project more realistic.
21. It is also recommended that CARE/LIFT develops an expenditure plan in the key areas as indicated previously together with field staff.
22. Some approaches and technologies (e.g. group based seed production and storage technique, labour saving technology, integrated approach of water harvesting with home garden and SALT, etc.) promoted by CARE/ LIFT and proven successful could be scaled up and spread within and beyond the project districts through MAF and other development partners/networks.
23. In remaining period, building on the experiences from the existing integrated concept of micro watershed approach, CARE/LIFT would have to move further to integrate multi-purpose tree plantation on the bank of stream, small scale dam to reduce speed of water and harvest it to the crop field, and planting leguminous crops in contour.
24. The project would cover eight cropping seasons if started and completed in time as per the project document (Jan 2007 – December 2010). With the late start (July 2007), there will be at the most seven cropping seasons that the project is likely to cover. Looking at the need of the farmers and considering the under-spent status of the project, it is logical that the project extends for six months to compensate the already lost one cropping season within the approved project cost. Moreover, capacity building of farmer groups has also been shortened due to the delay in the project start up. This also demands for the compensation of time.

ANNEXES TO THE REPORT

The report includes the following annexes:

- The Terms of Reference of the evaluation
- The names of the evaluators
- Detailed evaluation method
- Logical Framework matrices
- Map of project area
- List of persons/organisations consulted
- Literature and documentation consulted

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- Logical Framework matrices – Progress against the Indicators
- Literature and documentation consulted
- Target and progress against the sustainable agriculture practices
- Exit Strategy of LIFT Project

Annex 1: Map of the LIFT Project Area

Location(s)

Country(ies), region(s), town(s)

Country: Timor-Leste

Districts: Bobonaro and Liquica

Sub-districts : Bobonaro and Maubara



Annex-2. TOR for LIFT Project Mid Term Evaluation

CARE International in Timor Leste

TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR): Evaluation Consultant for Mid-term Evaluation

Project to be evaluated:	Location Initiatives for Food-security Transformation Project (LIFT)
	Funded by: European Commission and ADA
	Duration: 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2010
Job Title:	Evaluation Consultant
Location:	Dili, Timor Leste, with travel to regions
Start date:	4th of April 2009
Minimum Input:	24 days

PURPOSE

Local Initiatives for Food-security Transformation Project (LIFT), a 4-year project (1 January 2007 to 31 December 2010) is supporting 3,000 food insecure vulnerable households in Liquica and Bobonaro districts in Timor-Leste to address the underlying causes of food insecurity. The Donor for the LIFT project is the European Commission (EC), the grant holder is CARE Österreich. CARE International Timor-Leste (CITL) is implementing the LIFT project on behalf of CARE Österreich. The project builds upon CARE's past experience working in the target areas. Project incorporates four inter-related strategies:

- Promoting the empowerment of vulnerable women, men and youth groups to access social and agricultural support services
- Increasing agricultural production and productivity
- Increasing availability of improved seed through seed production at the households level, and
- Mainstreaming community-based disaster risk management for sustainable production systems

Project aims to address food security in an integrated manner that combines agricultural productivity with community health and nutrition as well as agro-business activities. The project is being implemented in 20 Sucos with 177 farmers group in Maubara sub-district (Liquica District) and Bobonaro sub-district (Bobonaro District). Within 177 farmers groups, 45 farmers groups are 'women only groups' and rest are mixed groups- men and women.

The purpose of the consultancy is to conduct a participatory review of the effectiveness/ efficiency, and impact/sustainability of the LIFT project to provide recommendations for the project implementation in remaining period of the project.

SCOPE

The Evaluator will review activities undertaken and outputs achieved during the first two years of project implementation.

The objectives of the evaluation are as follows:

The evaluation will measure the impact of the LIFT Project among the target beneficiaries and will report on achievement of objectives and specific project targets set out in the logical framework and proposal. The Internal Interim Reports also provide more specific information on sub-activities, whose outcomes also need to be evaluated.

- Assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the project
- Assess the impact and sustainability of the project
- Lessons learned of the project and recommendations for the remaining period of project implementation.
- Measure the indicators as provided in the logical framework of the project.

Specifically, the evaluator will assess the following project outputs:

Effectiveness and Efficiency:

- Effectiveness/appropriateness of technologies promoted to target beneficiaries for boosting agriculture production
- Monitoring and evaluation tools design and use
- Current staffing structure in relation to implementing activities
- CARE's approaches in working in a participatory manner with communities
- Roles of Specialists Officers/Project Officers/Field Officers, and Nutrition and Health Facilitators
- Collaboration with local government, partners and other stakeholders
- Cost benefit relationship of approaches used

Impact & Sustainability:

- Changes in community members practices, ideas and beliefs in regard to agricultural technique, natural resources management, health (including nutrition and hygiene), and disaster preparedness
- Achievements to date of the program interventions: agriculture practices (increased productivity and increased diversity) seed production and storage techniques, income generation/cash crops, nutrition promotion and integration of Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) for risk mitigation
- Communities perceptions on program interventions and transparency
- Relationships with key government and civil society stakeholders
- Feasibility of Disaster Risk Management targets considering watershed approach and government processes
- Progress to date against the project proposal, logframe and budget
- Sustainability/adoption of promoted approaches/technologies/techniques
- External factors (such as environmental and political) and their effect on activities

TASKS

- Comprehensive review of project data and related documents made available by CITL
- Development and utilization of evaluation tools for the mid term review of the LIFT project in Liquica and Bobonaro Districts based on the outputs specified
- District and field visits and facilitating participatory evaluations (Ahead of the evaluator's arrival, CITL will identify and arrange meetings with government officials, community representatives, Project Officers/Field Officers, Nutrition and Health Facilitators, and other relevant stakeholders. In addition, CITL will arrange all logistical needs for district and field visits)
- Discussions with key project staff (district and Dili based international & national staff to be arranged ahead of time by CITL)
- Following the district visits, debrief will be conducted with program management to review the findings of the field work.

- Analysis of the data and submission of final report and recommendations for the final 2 years of the project (CITL will share this report with the EC, program participants, partners, government INGOs and other stakeholders)

TIMELINE

The evaluation will take place over 24 days.

Begin evaluation: 4 April 2009

Draft Report due: 25th April 2009

CARE Feedback on Draft Report: 4th May 2009

Final Report due: 10th May 2009

Suggested timeframe:

- Preparation in Dili – 5 days
- Liquica District Visit – 5 days
- Bobonaro District Visit – 7 days
- Debrief with CARE Management Team, Dili/EC Dili Office – 1 day
- Report preparation – 6 days

LIAISON

Assistant Country Director (Programme), Programme Coordinator, LIFT Project Manager and LIFT National Project Manager, district based project staff, stakeholders from national and local government, partner local non government organizations and community members in Liquica and Bobonaro Districts.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

Essential knowledge and experience of a high order are required in the following areas:

- Relevant academic background (Masters Degree preferred)
- Experience with participatory monitoring and evaluation methodologies
- A high level of understanding and analysis of rural/community development particularly in sustainable livelihoods and/or food security
- Experience in developing and implementing a project review (EC experience preferred)
- Previous experience in writing final Evaluation Reports for international donors

Personal Attributes & Skills:

- A high level of English language
- A high level of Bahasa Indonesian or Tetun language skills-Desirable
- Proven oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work with a translator
- Experience working with people of different cultures
- Able to work under pressure and meeting deadlines
- Excellent analytical skills
- Flexibility
- Patience
- Commitment to social justice and gender equity
- Experience of traveling and working in remote locations and with basic facilities

ANNEX-3: DETAILED EVALUATION METHOD

LIFT: MID-TERM EVALUATION

METHODOLOGY OF THE EVALUATION

The evaluation assessed mainly the effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability, and relevance based on two-year implementation and has made recommendations for the remaining time of the project. Keeping this in mind, the evaluation methodology is designed accordingly.

General Methodology

The evaluation uses both quantitative and qualitative methods and result-oriented participatory approaches. At the onset, an evaluation team is formed consisting evaluation consultant, national and international project managers as well as women empowerment officer as members of the evaluation. They were involved in evaluation development through draft report preparation and feedback for final report.

This evaluation used desk study and field visit. Desk review covered review of documents provided by CARE, development of methodology, data analysis, draft report preparation and final report preparation. Field visit covered field observation, interaction with individual farmers, members of farmer groups, consultation with NGO partner organisations working in the field, government's line agencies in district, sub-district as well as Aldeia leaders. Field visit also included interactions with MAF, EC-partners on Food Security and NGO partner at Dili. A list of stakeholders for consultation is given in Annex-6.

Evaluation Team

The evaluation team was formed considering areas of expertise, capability in translating English into Tetum and vice-versa and gender aspect. The team members were:

Gana Pati Ojha – Overall responsibility for evaluation

Buddhi Kunwar – Project management including monitoring and database

Tome Guterres – Local perspectives of the project as well as translation

Domingas Casamira – Gender and social inclusion from local perspective

Translator --

Field visit

Field visit was carried out in 4 out of the 21 LIFT Sucos of the two project sub-districts. The Sucos were selected in a way to capture all diversities by activity, geography, demography and culture within the project area.

Selection of Respondent Participants

Within the selected geographical area, individual respondent/participants were selected by considering gender and socio-economic aspects.

Selection of Farmer Groups

Farmer groups were selected in the way that all project activities represented at both more remote and less remote areas implemented by both women and men. Therefore, both women farmer group and mixed group were selected in each Suco.

Sampling Method

Purposive sampling was done to select sites as well as respondents with the intention of capturing as much diversity as possible within the project activities implemented area.

Instruments for Information Collection

Checklists were prepared and used to collect the information. Checklists for individual farmers, farmer group members, project staff, implementing partner organisations and other stakeholders are prepared and attached at end of this methodology. Similarly, observation of field activities and field records were done with help of checklist.

Data Analysis

As the evaluation was participatory, data analysis started at field level itself jointly by all team members of the evaluation. Analysis continued at Dili upon return from the field. Analysis was done as per the framework provided in the ToR considering also the guidelines developed by the DAC Working Party on Aid Evaluation of the European Commission. It analysed project effectiveness and efficiency as well as impact and sustainability. It also analysed relevance and appropriateness as well as exit strategy.

Effectiveness and Efficiency was analysed considering the following factors:

- Effectiveness/appropriateness of technologies promoted to target beneficiaries for boosting agriculture production
- Monitoring and evaluation tools design and use
- Current staffing structure in relation to implementing activities
- CARE's approaches in working in a participatory manner with communities
- Roles of Specialists Officers/Project Officers/Field Officers, and Nutrition and Health Facilitators
- Collaboration with local government, partners and other stakeholders
- Cost benefit relationship of approaches used
- Integration of nutrition

Impact and Sustainability, likewise, was analysed taking into account the below given factors:

- Changes in community members practices, ideas and beliefs in regard to agricultural technique, natural resources management, health (including nutrition and hygiene), and disaster preparedness (men vs women)
- Achievements to date of the program interventions: agriculture practices (increased productivity and increased diversity) seed production and storage techniques, income generation/cash crops, nutrition promotion and integration of Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) for risk mitigation
- Communities perceptions on program interventions and transparency (men vs women)
- Relationships with key government and civil society stakeholders

- Feasibility of Disaster Risk Management targets considering watershed approach and government processes
- Progress to date against the project proposal, logframe and budget
- Sustainability/adoption of promoted approaches/technologies/techniques
- Exit strategy
- Unintended impacts on women's and girls' labour
- Recommendations for increasing spending
- External factors (such as environmental and political) and their effect on activities

Appropriateness and relevance was analysed allowing for

- Project objectives, target groups and activity to produce results
- Consistency of the project with beneficiary needs, demand and priority (men vs women)
- Relevance/appropriateness of the procedures/ processes/ approaches.
-

Report Preparation

The evaluation report was presented as per the following format:

Executive Summary

Introduction

Findings

- Relevance and Appropriateness
- Effectiveness
- Efficiency
- Impact
- Sustainability
- Coherence

Visibility

Overall Assessment

-
-

Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

Recommendations

Annexes

Annex-3.1

Proposed stakeholders for interaction

Farmers of different categories including women and men

Farmer Group leaders

Project staff

District Administrator, National Disaster Management Directorate,

MAF (national and district office)

District Health Services Office

Seeds of Life project

Partner NGOs (TAHA, CDP)

EC-Food Security NGOs (Oxfam, Concern, CCF)

NGOs/ INGOs working in the project sites (World Vision, GTZ)

2.

3. ANNEX-3.2

List of Possible Items Observed

On-farm trials (sweet potato, cover crops)

Home garden

Water harvesting techniques (Plastic based pond)

Sloping Agriculture Land Technique (SALT)

Organic fertiliser- Rapid composting techniques (heap method compost)

Labour saving techniques (Low-cost Corn shelling machine)

Energy efficient lamp (hygiene promotion and health)

Improved storage techniques (Air tight fuel drum, superGrainbag)

Seed (corn, peanuts)

Cooking demonstration with women group (Nutrition)

Group book (Records of minutes, materials, group plan, DRA and other records)

4. ANNEX-3.3

5. CHECKLIST FOR LIFT STAFF

Effectiveness and Efficiency:

- Effectiveness/appropriateness of technologies promoted to target beneficiaries for boosting agriculture production
 - Description technologies promoted to target beneficiaries
 - Project staff's responses to farmers' reaction
 - How can technologies be made better appropriate?
- Monitoring and evaluation tools design and use
 - Review of M&E Tools
 - Flaws in M&E Tools
 - Suggestions for improvement
- Current staffing structure in relation to implementing activities
 - Staff by theme
 - Activity assignment to staff
 - Staff performance
 - Staff reactions on work load
- CARE's approaches in working in a participatory manner with communities
 - Plan preparation
 - Activity plan
 - Activity implementation
 - Activity monitoring
 - Capacity building
 - Participation from gender perspective
 - Participation from food security perspective
- Roles of Specialists Officers/Project Officers/Field Officers, and Nutrition and Health Facilitators
 - Roles of each above
 - Mapping of roles of each staff with activity
 - Duplication and gap
- Collaboration with local government, partners and other stakeholders
 - Partnership modality
 - MoU/ MoA
 - Resource sharing
 - Information sharing
 - Overlap
- Cost benefit relationship of approaches used
 - Cost per farmer of this project
 - Cost per farmer of other projects
 - How can this project be made less costly? (Staff)
 -

Impact & Sustainability:

- Changes in community members practices, ideas and beliefs in regard to agricultural technique, natural resources management, health (including nutrition and hygiene), and disaster preparedness
 - Compare with baseline data
 -
- Achievements to date of the program interventions: agriculture practices (increased productivity and increased diversity) seed production and storage techniques, income

generation/cash crops, nutrition promotion and integration of Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) for risk mitigation

- Logframe target,
- Baseline data,
- Achievement to date ()

- Relationships with key government and civil society stakeholders
 - Coordination mechanism practiced
 - Information sharing
 - Resource sharing (Financial, human, materials, tools, techniques)
 - Weaknesses
 - Suggestions for better coordination
- Feasibility of Disaster Risk Management targets considering watershed approach and government processes
 - Review of studies done before
 - Discussion with project staff
 - Discussion with Suco, Sub-district and district committees
- Progress to date against the project proposal, logframe and budget
 - Achievement against logframe
 - Budget against logframe/ project proposal
 - Mapping budget against activity implementation
- Sustainability/adoption of promoted approaches/technologies/techniques
 - Adoption rate
 - Good practices
 - Participation in planning, implementation and monitoring of interventions
 - Village development plan linking to government plan at district level
 - Simplicity of the technology
 - Capacity of farmers, local authority, Village council, LNGO
 - Linkage of farmer groups with LNGOs, government institutions and donor community
 - Local ownership
 - Financial sustainability
 - Demand responsive activities
 - Seed at HH
 - Storage facilities at HH to keep the seed
- External factors (such as environmental and political) and their effect on activities
- Relevance
 - Relevancy of the project
 - Relevancy of project objectives, target groups and activity to produce results
 - Relevance of the procedures/ processes/ approaches.
 - Logframe
 - Exit strategy
 - Gender perspective
 - Integration of nutrition

6. CHECKLIST

7. ANNEX-3.4

8. INDIVIDUAL FARMER DISCUSSION

A. General information

Name of respondent:

Date of discussion:

Aldeia:

Gender:

LIFT activities in which respondent is involved

Activity	Tick mark
On-farm trials (sweet potato, cover crops)	
Home garden (Broad leaf mustard)	
Water harvesting techniques (Plastic based pond)	
Sloping Agriculture Land Technique (SALT)	
Organic fertiliser- Rapid composting techniques (heap method compost)	
Liquid organic fertiliser	
Labour saving techniques (Corn shelling machine)	
Energy efficient lamp (women's hygiene promotion)	
Improved storage techniques (Air tight fuel drum, superGrainbag)	
Seed production (corn, pea nuts)	
Cooking demonstration with women group (Nutrition)	

1. Who proposed the LIFT activities?

2. Benefits from the project

3. Yield from farm activity ()

Activities	Yield (kg/hectare)				Expected yield	Remarks
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10		

4. Income from off-farm activity (\$)

Activities	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10 (expectation)	Remarks

5. Comparing condition in 2006 and now (2009) of the HH and respondent with reasons

- Food security (months)
- Education (Children going to school) Knowledge/ information and sources
- Health/ nutrition
- Income and source

- Employment (Farm and Off-farm)
 - Physical assets (House, watch, mobile)
 - Outmigration
 - Self confidence, Prestige, Mixing up with other people
 - Overall condition
6. Change in household on
 - Crop/business diversification
 - Cropping intensity
 7. Process in implementation
 8. Participation in group activities (male / female)
 - Regular in meeting
 - Group IGAs
 - Community plan making
 - Training
 9. Access to services / linkages – ag extension services
 - a. Access to inputs
 - b. Access to MAF extension service
 - c. Access to LIFT extension service
 10. Perception about LIFT project
 - Technical support from project
 - Quality of materials received
 - Ideas and beliefs in regard to
 - a. agricultural technique,
 - b. natural resources management,
 - c. health (including nutrition and hygiene), and
 - d. disaster preparedness
 11. Knowledge about the cost of materials received
 12. Knowledge about the programme, budget and expenses of LIFT activities in the community
 13. Labour requirement (women/men) – change in workload, decision-making, benefit sharing pattern
 14. Three best LIFT activities/process that you would continue as such (with reasons)
 15. Three LIFT activities/process that you would continue with improvement (with reasons)
 16. LIFT activities/process that you would drop out (with reasons)
 17. After the project, what would you do to continue it?
 18. Food secure month with own agri product and regular income
 19. How does the family manage food for non-secure months
 20. What are the things that you do not like about LIFT? More time required for participation?
 21. Any remarkable change in your life and/ or in your family during the last two years?
 - How was that happened?
 - Who encouraged the happening?
 - What were the roles of LIFT program in the remarkable change?

9. ANNEX-3.5

10. GROUP DISCUSSION

A. General information

- Name of group _____ Address _____
 Number of respondents: _____ Date of discussion _____
- Composition of community (Ethnicity, economic classes)
 - Composition of group (Male, female, ethnicity, economic classes)
 - Total number of HH in community
 - Total number of HH members in group
 - Year and month of group formed
 - Salient features of group/ group status

LIFT project related group activities

1. How was the LIFT project introduced in your group?
2. Participation in site, activity and target group selection

Activity	Tick mark
On-farm trials (sweet potato, cover crops)	
Home garden (Broad leaf mustard)	
Water harvesting techniques (Plastic based pond)	
Sloping Agriculture Land Technique (SALT)	
Organic fertiliser- Rapid composting techniques (heap method compost)	
Liquid organic fertiliser	
Labour saving techniques (Corn shelling machine)	
Energy efficient lamp (women's hygiene promotion)	
Improved storage techniques (Air tight fuel drum, superGrainbag)	
Seed production (corn, pea nuts)	
Cooking demonstration with women group (Nutrition)	

3. Planning, implementation and monitoring process (social inclusion and gender equality)
 - Planning process
 - Implementation process
 - Action reflection process
4. Comparing condition in 2006 and now (2009) of the group with reasons (better of who and worse of who)
 - Food security
 - Education
 - Health/ nutrition
 - Income
 - Employment (Farm and Off-farm)
 - Out Migration
5. Change in community

- Crop diversification
 - Cropping intensity
6. Participation and empowerment of group (Present condition)
 - Group formation process
 - Resource supplied by project
 - Access to services and inputs from other service providers (eg, MAF)
 - Reaction about suitability of technologies
 - Benefits derived from the technologies
 - Likelihood of sustaining the good practices
 - Expansion of good practices in larger areas
 - Others
 7. Decision process
 - Consensus
 - Majority
 - Chairperson making alone
 - Role of LIFT staff
 -
 8. Transparency and methods used
 9. Beneficiaries of LIFT activities (Minorities, women HH head, rich, poor, ultra poor)
 10. Coordination (GLAs, other project)
 - Coordination mechanisms
 - Service delivery mechanism
 - Satisfaction over the services provided by government and LIFT
 11. Perception about LIFT project
 - Technical support of project
 - Quality of materials received by the group
 - Three best LIFT activities that the group would continue as such (with reasons)
 - Three LIFT activities that require improvement (with reasons) to continue by the group
 - LIFT activities that the group would drop out (with reasons) from next season
 12. Suggestions for improving LIFT project
 13. Any remarkable change in this group during the last two years?
 - How was that happened?
 - Who encouraged the happening?
 - What were the roles of LIFT program in the remarkable change?

11. ANNEX-3.6

12. INTERACTION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

MAF (national and district office)

District health office

NGOs/ INGOs working in the project sites (World Vision, GTZ)

A. General information

Name of stakeholder and organization:

Address

Number of respondents:

Date of discussion

B. Project related information

1. Involvement of Stakeholder with LIFT project through
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

2. Coordination (Planning, implementation)
 - a. Engagement in planning of community initiatives
3. Remarks about LIFT project
 - a. Approach
 - b. Selection (Site, target group, activity)
 - c. Planning process
 - d. Implementation modality
4. Any good practice of the LIFT project used by your organisation
5. Perception about LIFT
 - a. Good things that LIFT should continue
 - b. Things where LIFT should make improvement to continue
 - c. Anything that LIFT should stop

13. ANNEX- 3.7

14. PARTNER ORGANIZATION

(TAHA, CDEP)

A. General information

Name of FO: Address
Number of respondents: Date of discussion

B. Project related information

1. Approach/ modality of involvement with LIFT Project
2. Perception about approach/ modality
3. Capacity building
4. Area of improvement of
 - Managerial/ social support
 - Technical support system
 - Coordination/ networking
5. Process of planning and monitoring
6. Internalisation of food security concept and project approach by FO
7. Sustainability
8. Scaling up strategy
9. Exit Strategy
10. Achievability of project target outputwise
11. Hindering factors of achieve project output
12. Suggestions for improvement in logframe outputs
 - Support system
 - Appropriateness

15. ANNEX- 3.8

16. INTERACTION WITH EC-WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

17. (FOOD SECURITY)

EC-Food Security NGOs (Oxfam, Concern, CCF)

A. General information

Name of stakeholder and organization:

Address

Number of respondents:

Date of discussion

B. Project related information

1. Involvement of Stakeholder with LIFT project through
 - Workshop
 - Exposure visit
 - Others
2. Area collaboration
 - i. Common monitoring indicators
 - ii. Good practices identified and shared
 - iii. Strategies for advocacy of the issues that affect food security
 - iv. System of data compilation and presentation to EC, Govt
3. Coordination (Planning, implementation)
4. Remarks about LIFT project
 - Approach
 - Selection (Site, target group, activity)
 - Planning process
 - Implementation modality
5. Any good practice of the LIFT project used by your organisation
6. Perception about LIFT
 - Good things that LIFT should continue
 - Things where LIFT should make improvement to continue
 - Anything that LIFT should stop

18. ANNEX-3.9

19. INTERACTION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

(Seeds of Life project)

A. General information

Name of stakeholder and organization:

Address

Number of respondents:

Date of discussion

B. Project related information

1. Involvement of Seeds of Life with LIFT project through
2. Area collaboration
 - i. Dissemination of recommended seed varieties
 - ii. Good practices identified and shared
 - iii. Strategies for advocacy of the issues that affect food security
 - iv. Feedback sharing and incorporation of shared issues in research activities
3. Coordination (Planning, implementation)
4. Remarks about LIFT project
 - Approach
 - Selection (Site, target group, activity)
 - Planning process
 - Implementation modality
5. Any good practice of the LIFT project used by your organisation
6. Perception about LIFT
 - Good things that LIFT should continue
 - Things where LIFT should make improvement to continue
 - Anything that LIFT should stop

Annex- 4

EVALUATION TEAM

Gana Pati Ojha – Overall responsibility for evaluation

Buddhi Kunwar – Project management including monitoring and database

Tome Guterres – Local perspectives of the project as well as translation

Domingas Casamira – Gender and social inclusion from local perspective

Annex 5:**a) List of persons and organisations visited by MTE Evaluation Team:**

Names	Position	Agency/Organisation
Rob Williams	Team Leader	Seeds of Life/MAF
Francisco dos Rosario	National Director	NDMD, Dili
Antoninho Carveihra	Head, Food Security Department, cum Secretary, National Food Security Steering Committee	MAF
Lynne Kennedy	Livelihood Advisor/Coordinator	Oxfam, Dili
Carlos Bascillo	Team Leader	CCF, Dili
Tapan Barman	ACD Program	Concern, Dili
Jose da Cruz	Head, District Health Services	Maliana
Lauriano Serrano	District Nutrition Coordinator	Maliana
Aderito dos Santos	Act. Chief, MAF	MAF Bobonaro
Antoninho Maia	Food Security Officer	Bobonaro
Flamiro M. Dos Santos	Director	TAHA Liquica
Staffs of CDEP	Partner NGOs	CDEP
All LIFT	LIFT	Liquica and Bobonaro
Domingos Martins	District Administrator	Maliana
Aldiea leader/Suco Leaders	Malilait, Bobonaro, Atuaben, Molop, Vatuvo, and Gugleur Sucos	Liquica and Bobonaro
Heimo Heringa,	Food Security Advisor	MAF
Dr. Georg Deichert	Agriculture Advisor	GTZ RDP II Project Maliana

b) List of Farmers Met by Evaluation Team

One farmer group (mixed group) from Gugleur, Maubara

sn	Name	Suco	Aldeia	Male	Female
1	Isabel Soares	Gugleur	Laotecas	x	
2	Agustino Nunes	Gugleur	Laotecas	x	
3	Capolina Tores	Gugleur	Laotecas		x
4	Domingas de Jesus	Gugleur	Laotecas		x
5	Ermilinda Soares	Gugleur	Laotecas		x
6	Fexiana Soares	Gugleur	Laotecas		x
7	Julio Soares	Gugleur	Laotecas	x	
8	Juliu Teus	Gugleur	Laotecas	x	
9	Juviana De Jesus	Gugleur	Laotecas		x
10	Lusinda Lopes	Gugleur	Laotecas		x
11	Jelia Lopes	Gugleur	Laotecas		x
12	Orlando De Jesus	Gugleur	Laotecas	x	

One farmer group (mixed) from Vatuvo, Maubara

sn	Name	Suco	Aldeia	Male	Female
1	Celestino Soares	Vatuvou	Laotecas	x	
2	Domingos de Jesus	Vatuvou	Laotecas	x	
3	Carlos Alves	Vatuvou	Laotecas	x	
4	Mariano de Jesus	Vatuvou	Laotecas	x	
5	Maria	Vatuvou	Laotecas		x
6	Amelia	Vatuvou	Maubu		x

Two farmers groups (one men and one mixed group) from Atuaben

sn	Name	Suco	Aldeia	Male	Female
1	Agusta Soares	Atuaben	Tailete		x
2	Agustino Afonso	Atuaben	Tailete	x	
3	Anita Soares	Atuaben	Tailete		x
4	Delima Guterres	Atuaben	Tailete		x
5	Balbina Valenti	Atuaben	Tailete		x
6	Dominggos Fernandes	Atuaben	Tailete	x	
7	Fernanda Barreto	Atuaben	Tailete		x
8	Filomena Afonso	Atuaben	Tailete		x
9	Florentina de Jesus	Atuaben	Tailete		x
10	Fosnanda Barreto	Atuaben	Tailete		x
11	Francisca Soares	Atuaben	Tailete		x
12	Honorina Godinho	Atuaben	Tailete		x
13	Isabel de Oliveira	Atuaben	Tailete		x
14	Itoneva Godinho	Atuaben	Tailete		x
15	Josefa Soares	Atuaben	Tailete		x
16	Josga Soares	Atuaben	Tailete		x
17	Leonel de Araujo	Atuaben	Tailete	x	
18	Lino dos Santos M	Atuaben	Tailete	x	
19	Manuel Cardoso	Atuaben	Tailete	x	
20	Manuel do Rego	Atuaben	Tailete	x	
21	Marcal Moniz	Atuaben	Tailete	x	
22	Marcal Nunos	Atuaben	Tailete	x	
23	Natercia Magno	Atuaben	Tailete		x
24	Saulus Mauloko	Atuaben	Tailete	x	
25	Sidonio Gusmao	Atuaben	Tailete	x	

26	Zelia dos Santos	Atuaben	Tailete		x
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One farmer group (women)) from Malilait

sn	Name	Suco	Aldeia	Male	Female
1	Agusta dos Santos	Malilait	Taimea		x
2	Aida Soares	Malilait	Taimea		x
3	Domingas de Jesus	Malilait	Taimea		x
4	Justino Lopes	Malilait	Taimea	x	
5	Maria Fatima	Malilait	Taimea		x
6	Maria Lourdes	Malilait	Taimea		x
7	Martina de Jesus	Malilait	Taimea		x
8	Miguel da cunha	Malilait	Taimea	x	
9	Olandina de Jesus	Malilait	Taimea		x
10	Sabino Vicente	Malilait	Taimea		x
11	Venancio Lacu	Malilait	Taimea	x	
12	Veronica dos Santos	Malilait	Taimea		x
13	Zelia Lopes	Malilait	Taimea		x

Six farmers group (two women and four mixed farmers group) from Molop

sn	Name	Suco	Aldeia	Male	Female
1	Balbina dos Santos	Molop	Anapal		x
2	Balbina Misquita	Molop	Anapal		x
3	Bernadino da Silva	Molop	Anapal	x	
4	Bernardo de Jesus	Molop	Anapal	x	
5	Calistro Maia	Molop	Anapal	x	
6	Carota dos Santos	Molop	Anapal		x
7	Casimiro de Jesus	Molop	Anapal	x	
8	Casimiro pereira	Molop	Anapal	x	
9	Claudino Amaral	Molop	Anapal	x	
10	Dominggas dos Santos	Molop	Anapal		x
11	Esteve Maia	Molop	Anapal	x	
12	Fernando de Jesus	Molop	Anapal	x	
13	Fernando Moniz	Molop	Anapal	x	
14	Filomena de Jesus	Molop	Anapal		x
15	Flaviano Moniz	Molop	Anapal	x	
16	Francisca dos Santos	Molop	Anapal		x
17	Francisco dos Santos	Molop	Anapal	x	
18	Geralda de Jesus	Molop	Anapal		x
19	Henriqueta de Jesus	Molop	Anapal		x
20	Herculano Cardoso	Molop	Anapal	x	
21	Ilda dos Santos	Molop	Anapal		x
22	Ingracia de Jesus	Molop	Anapal		x
23	Jacinta de Jesus	Molop	Anapal		x
24	Joanina dos Santos	Molop	Anapal		x
25	Jorge da Silva	Molop	Anapal	x	
26	Jose Lobato	Molop	Anapal	x	
27	Julio Barreto	Molop	Anapal	x	
28	Justina M de Jesus	Molop	Anapal		x
29	Lino Freitas	Molop	Anapal	x	
30	Lucia de Jesus	Molop	Anapal		x
31	Luciana Moniz	Molop	Anapal		x
32	Luisa de Jesus	Molop	Anapal		x
33	Madalena dos santos	Molop	Anapal		x

34	Manuel da Costa	Molop	Anapal	x	
35	Marcos de Jesus	Molop	Anapal	x	
36	Marcos de Jesus	Molop	Anapal	x	
37	Marcos pereira	Molop	Anapal	x	
38	Maria de Jesus	Molop	Anapal		x
39	Mariano Maia	Molop	Anapal	x	
40	Mateus da Silva	Molop	Anapal	x	
41	Moises dos Santos	Molop	Anapal	x	
42	Natlia Dos Santos	Molop	Anapal		x
43	Paul de Jesus	Molop	Anapal	x	
44	Paul Goveia Leite	Molop	Anapal	x	
45	Reinaldo da Costa	Molop	Anapal	x	
46	Salvador Moniz	Molop	Anapal	x	
47	Tobi Moniz	Molop	Anapal	x	
48	Vasco de Jesus	Molop	Anapal	x	
48	Vicente Paicexo	Molop	Anapal	x	
49	Adelina dos Santos	Molop	Anapal	x	
50	Afonso de Jesus	Molop	Anapal	x	
51	Agapito de Jesus	Molop	Anapal	x	
52	Agustino da Silva	Molop	Anapal	x	
53	Agustino marques	Molop	Anapal	x	
54	Ajinha dos Santos	Molop	Anapal	x	
55	Alberto de Jesus	Molop	Anapal	x	
56	Alfredo pereira	Molop	Anapal	x	
57	Angelino Carvaleira	Molop	Anapal	x	
58	Aniceto de Jesus	Molop	Anapal	x	
59	Anjelica de Fatima	Molop	Anapal		x
60	Arnaldo Moniz	Molop	Anapal	x	
61	Helder Barros Moniz	Molop	Anapal	x	
62	Jeronimus Sako	Molop	Anapal	x	
63	Domingos Pires	Molop	Anapal	x	
64	Bruno de Jesus	Molop	Anapal	x	
65	Crominho Moniz	Molop	Anapal		x

One farmer group (two women and four mixed farmers group) from Bobonro

sn	Name	Suco	Aldeia	Male	Female
1	Natalina de Jesus	Bobonaro	Laktil		x
2	Marcelina Sequera	Bobonaro	Laktil		x
3	Palmira Moniz	Bobonaro	Laktil		x
4	Maltida Oliveira	Bobonaro	Laktil		x
5	Flora Moniz	Bobonaro	Laktil		x
6	Cecilia Henriques	Bobonaro	Laktil		x
7	Maltida Oliveira	Bobonaro	Laktil		x
8	Julia do Carmo	Bobonaro	Laktil		x
9	Matilda Oliveira	Bobonaro	Laktil		x
10	Jecinta Henriques	Bobonaro	Laktil		x

One farmer group (two women and four mixed farmers group) from Bobonaro

sn	Name	Suco	Aldeia	Male	Female
1	Mateus da Silva	Bobonaro	Laktil	x	
2	Justino Moniz	Bobonaro	Laktil	x	
3	Bendita	Bobonaro	Laktil		x
4	Alipoio Maya	Bobonaro	Laktil	x	

5	Grasiano Henriques	Bobonaro	Laktil	x	
6	Carlito	Bobonaro	Laktil	x	
7	Arcanjo Henriques	Bobonaro	Laktil	x	
8	Sipriano BAreto	Bobonaro	Laktil	x	
9	Marcelino Sequeria	Bobonaro	Laktil	x	
10	Guilhermino Govieia	Bobonaro	Laktil	x	

Summary:

Total = 143

Men = 76, Women = 67

Annex-7

Literature and Documentation Consulted

An updated Action plan of LIFT
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Jon Barnett, Suraje Dessai, and Rojer N. Jose (2007). Vulnerability to climate vulnerability and change in East Timor.
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LIFT – Staff and positions
LIFT- 2nd Interim Narrative Report (April 2008 – March 2009)
LIFT-1st Interim Narrative Report (January 2007 - March 2008)
Local Initiatives for Food Security Transformation (Project Document)
Logframe Based Progress for the period from January 2007 to March 2009
Monitoring and Supervision
PDRA reports
Practical tools to organise Farmers' Field Day
Quality Standards of Lift Activities
Roles of Local Organizations on Highland
Synopsis of NGO food security programme for Tomr-Leste, Delegation of the European Commission to Indonesia, Brunei and Timor-Leste
Water management for micro-watersheds in Orissa, India
Watershed Management Northern, Thailand



Austrian
Development Cooperation



EXIT STRATEGY OF LIFT PROJECT

December 2008

CARE International Timor Leste
Local Initiatives for Food-security Transformation
(LIFT)
Bairo Pite, Dili

‘EXIT STRATEGY’ OF LIFT PROJECT

Why Exit Strategy?

LIFT project has introduced a number of interventions to its target beneficiaries over the project period. Since the project will be phased out from December 2010, it aims to ensure that its activities are well adopted and sustained after the project period with out external support. The exit strategy will be started to specific activities through out the project period depending on the nature of interventions and types of support required. LIFT will follow exit strategy for some activities at any time when key maturity indicators are met.

What are the criteria for exit strategy?

Following are the maturity indicators for different interventions implemented by LIFT Project. Meeting of all or majority of these indicators determine the time for following exit strategy at FGs.

Interventions	Maturity Indicators	Time required
Farmers Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vii) Farmers group have <u>active</u> committee and general members viii) FG has <u>collective activity</u> to continue. ix) FG has a <u>meeting as and when required</u> x) FG establishes <u>functional linkage with 1 or more</u> service provider xi) At least 50% members of each FG have adequate <u>knowledge and skills to use improved agriculture</u> practices xii) FG are <u>consulted</u> for their inputs/problems to include in local planning at village level xiii) <u>FG are linked with MAF Extension Services</u> xiv) FGs are developed into cooperatives. xv) <u>FGs are federated into a Sub District Level Farmers Association</u> 	<p>3-4 years</p> <p>If 70% or more criteria met, we can plan for following exit strategy.</p>
Agriculture Productivity and Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Improved variety <u>covers at least 25% of land</u> in the main season ii) <u>Diverse crops</u> are grown (both improved and local) iii) <u>Labour savings technology is promoted</u> to reduce negative impact of technology on gender 	<p>3-4 years</p> <p>If 70% or more criteria met, we can plan for following exit strategy.</p>
Agro-Forestry and Water Conservation Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) <u>Water harvesting ponds are established and used</u> ii) SALTs are in practice iii) Contour is made <u>as per technical requirement</u> iv) Water is <u>economically</u> used for home garden OR semi-commercial production purpose. v) Farmers Group <u>able to make and apply “A”frame</u> for making contour across the 	<p>3-4 years</p> <p>If 70% or more criteria met, we can plan for following exit strategy.</p>

	slope.	
Seed Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) FG can explain <u>the importance of quality seed</u> ii) FG know how to select <u>seeds from cobs</u> iii) FG stores the <u>seed in airtight containers</u> iv) FG knows <u>three simple techniques</u> to know drying of seeds (biting corn, testing on cement/store, test using water bottle) v) FG knows <u>why seeds need to be replaced</u> in 3-4 years vi) <u>Seed production and maintenance are in place</u> at FG or household level 	<p>3-4 years</p> <p>If 70% or more criteria met, we can plan for following exit strategy.</p>
Seed Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) FG continue <u>seed storage at airtight bins</u> without technical support from service providers/project ii) FG know <u>how to clean and use the oil drum</u> for storage iii) FG puts the airtight fuel drums <u>on pellet</u> 	<p>2-3 years</p> <p>If 70% or more criteria met, we can plan for following exit strategy.</p>
Integration of DRM issues in local level planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Each Suco has developed a <u>Village Action Plan</u> with support from LIFT ii) Each Suco <u>initiate actions</u> to address identified problems mentioned in VAP iii) Suco council chief and secretary <u>understand about CBDRM.</u> iv) Suco establishes <u>Disaster Preparedness Committees.</u> 	<p>3-4 years</p> <p>If 70% or more criteria met, we can plan for following exit strategy.</p>
Capacity building of partner NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Partner NGOs have <u>HR policy</u> in place ii) Partner NGOs have <u>technical capacity</u> to implement similar activities iii) Partner NGOs have adequate <u>management capacity</u> iv) Partner NGO able <u>to access fund</u> from 1 or more donors 	<p>3-4 years</p> <p>If 70% or more criteria met, we can plan for following exit strategy.</p>