



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR LESTE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Seeds of Life - PO Box 221, Dili Timor-Leste



Seeds of Life
Fini ba Moris

‘Improved food security through increased productivity of major food crops’.

El Niño Crop Monitoring

1/11/2015 – 15/11/2015

A few good rains have been received in the central highlands with some localised rains occurring over a few days in the west and around Baucau. In some places, farmers report dark clouds and spitting rain but then it passes over. On the Baucau plateau, heavy rains were experienced around Triloka but around 7 kilometres away there was no rain.

Planting of corn is well under way around Turiscae, Soibada and Laklubar following good rains. Some farmers who planted early in the mountains of Liquica are experiencing serious difficulties with no follow-up rain. They are also experiencing difficulty with coffee trees that are wilting and dying in some cases. The area of Liquica should be monitored more closely over the next few weeks.

The live data coming in from Laklubar shows how the soil moisture increases by steps as more rains are received. Water holding capacity for the soil in Laklubar town appears to be around 15-20% and this is considered by farmers to be good enough for farming. They received 14mm on the 5/11/2015 and then follow-up rains from the 8th to the 13th of November.

The MAF Director of Viqueque advised that the most important mitigation action to *El Nino* in their circumstances is to have good supplies of sweet potato and cassava cuttings to plant in December and January. He thinks that these crops will likely prove more resilient under such conditions.

SoL has 27 sweet potato cutting centres which are predicted to produce between 1-2 million cuttings by January for distribution. They may also be able to generate 200,000 – 500,000 cassava cuttings with the best production occurring in Liquica. If organisations are interested in accessing these stocks please contact Seeds of Life for more information.

Supplies of velvet bean for increasing soil organic matter and Morungi seed packs for increasing nutrition resilience and animal health can also be ordered.

We appreciated feedback from MAF staff, ALGIS, CRS, CARE, and Camoes/GCCA project

Regards.

Samuel Bacon

Cropping Systems Advisor

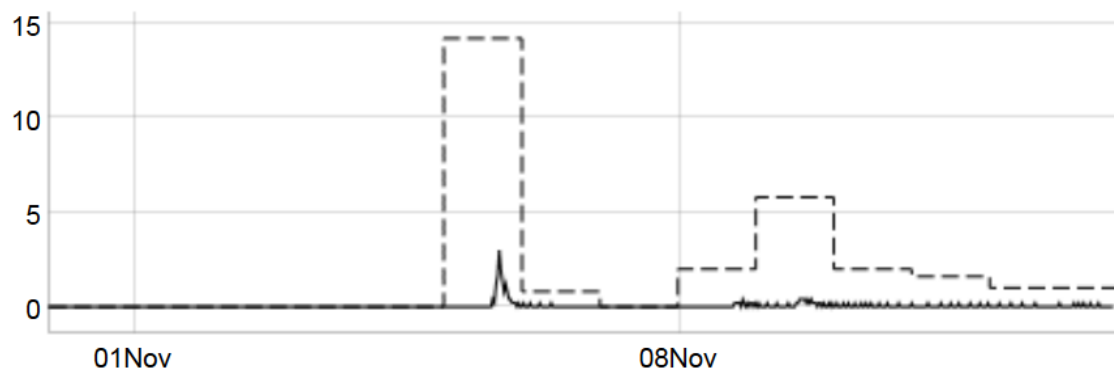
samuel.bacon@seedsoflifetimor.org

- ✓ Warn farmers to wait for rain.
- ✓ Help to fix water systems.
- ✓ Prepare good fences.
- ✓ Plant drought tolerant varieties.



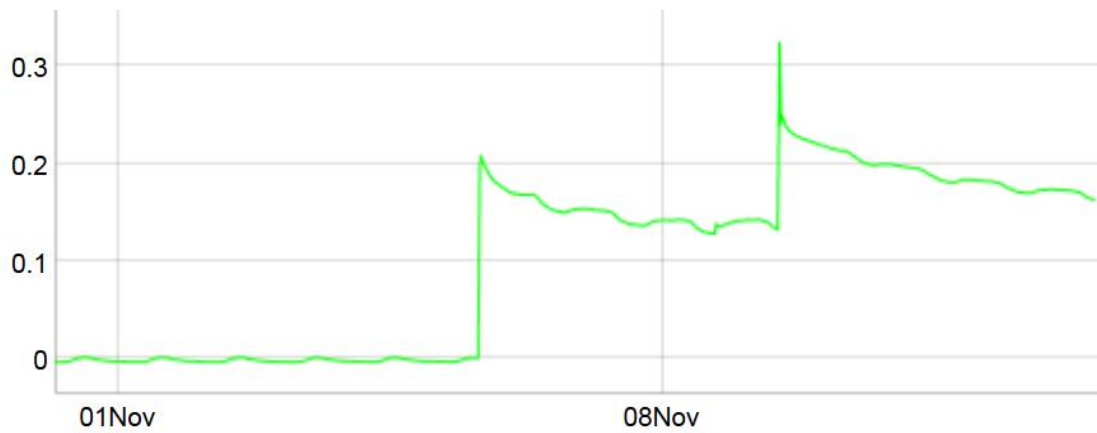
Laklubar:

Rain in Past Month: 28.4 mm

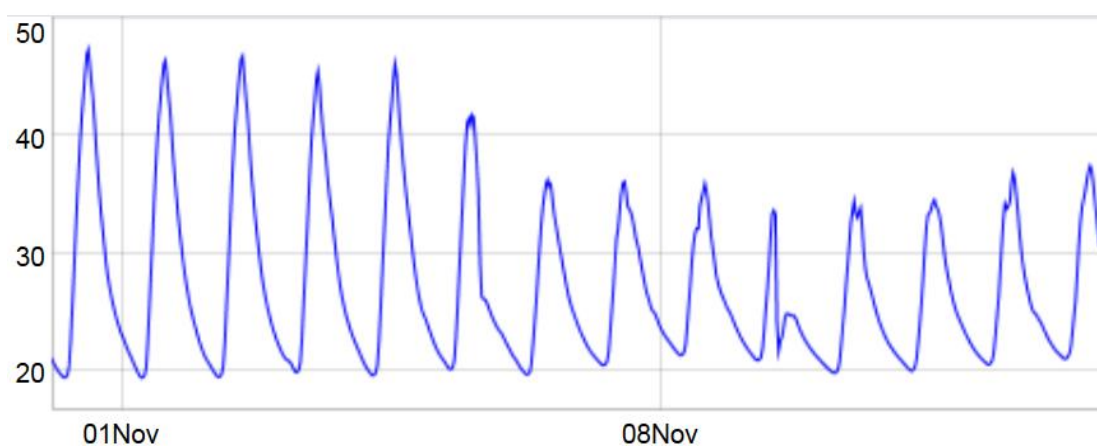


Graph below shows water content in soil (m^3/m^3) with a soil moisture sensor 10cm below surface.

Note how the moisture rises with the first rain, and tops up again but drains to holding capacity.



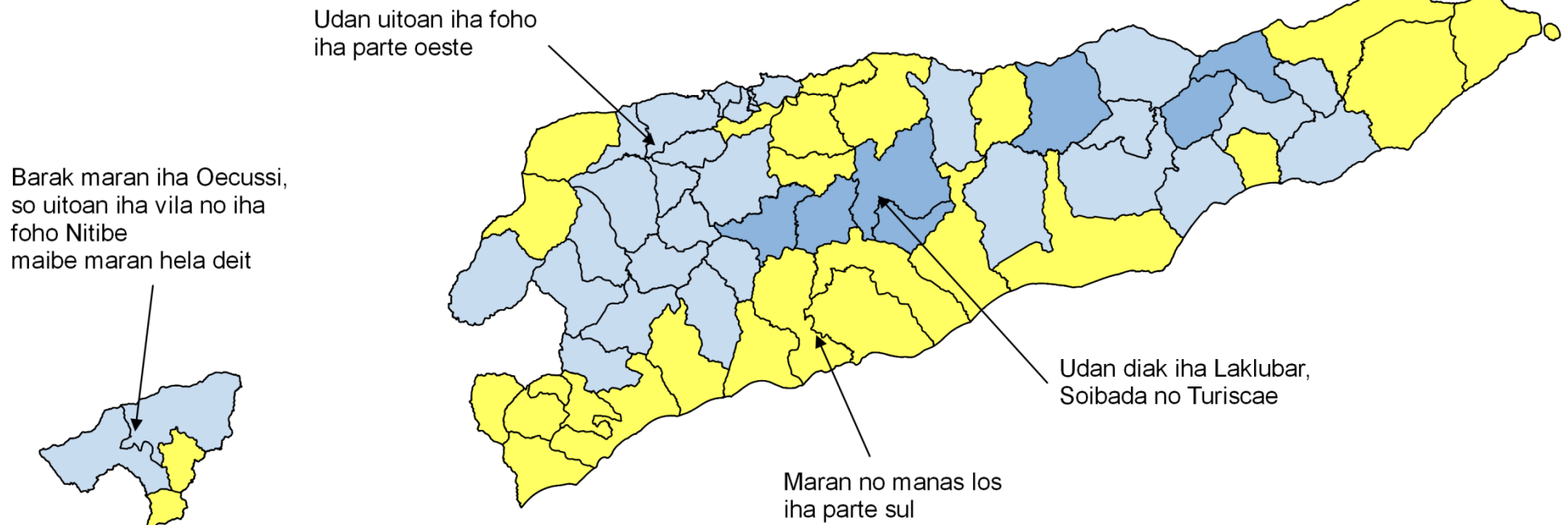
Graph below shows soil temperature at 5cm depth (oC) – very hot before rains!



More live weather data at: <http://seedsoflifetimor.org/climatechange/climate-data/>

Udan

Outobru 1/11/15 - 15/11/15



Informasaun Mapa



Dadus iha geral deit liu husi husu agrikultor sira
iha posto administrativo.
Se karik sala ruma favor ida kontatu ba
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Seeds of Life
Fini ba Moris

Produsaun: S. Bacon
Data: 13/11/2015
Projeksaun: WGS84
Lokasaun: S -8.8o, E 125.8o
Skala: 1:1250000

Informasaun Dadus

Kona ba Udan:

Udan lae iha - iha loron ida mos lae iha durante
semana rua

Udan uitoan - udan ne'ebé la sufsente ba to'os

Udan naton - udan diak ba ita nia to'os

Udan boot - udan liu buat ne'ebé ita preseiza

Udan boot demais - udan estraga to'os ka fatin

Legenda

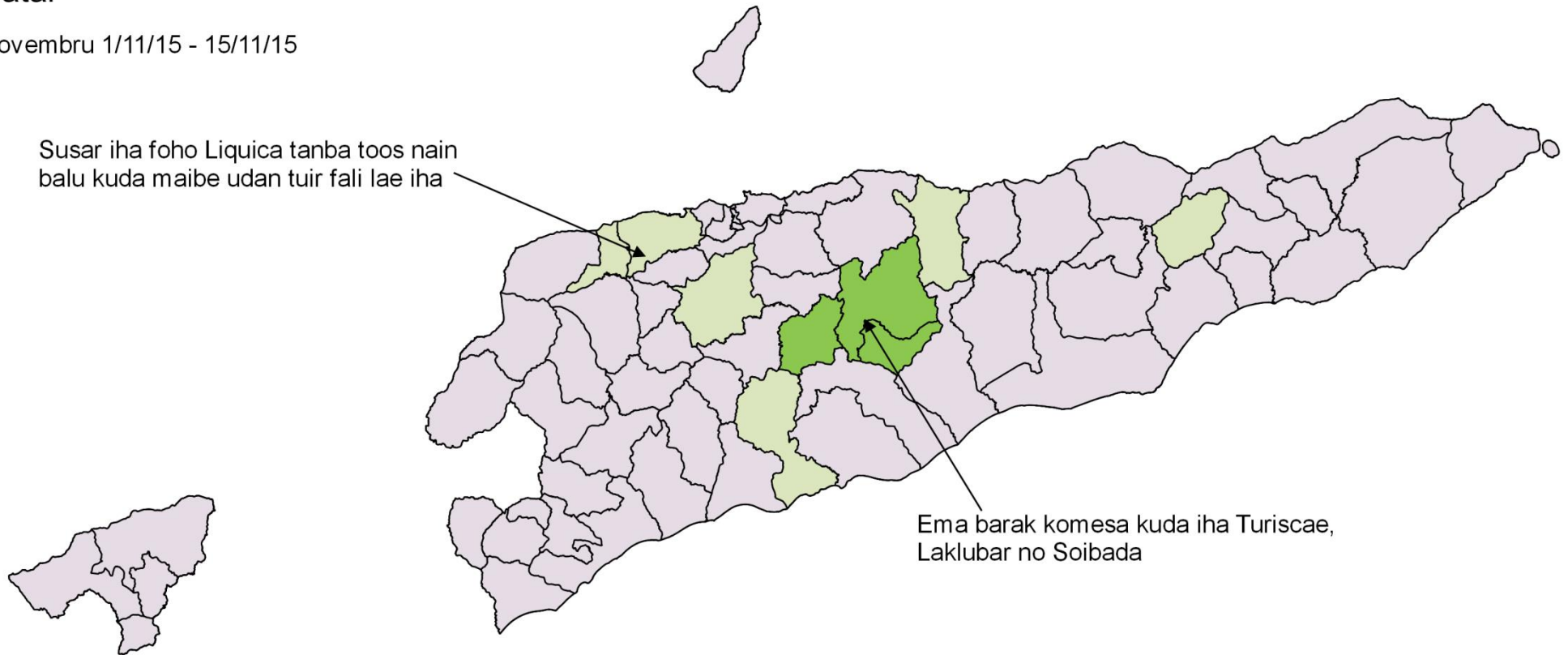
Udan (rain)

- udan lae iha (no rain)
- udan uitoan (low rain)
- udan naton (enough rain)

Batar

Novembru 1/11/15 - 15/11/15

Susar iha foho Liquica tanba toos nain
balu kuda maibe udan tuir fali lae iha



Ema barak komesa kuda iha Turiscae,
Laklubar no Soibada

Informasaun Mapa



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Informasaun Dadus

Kona ba Batar:

La kuda - sidauk kuda batar

Moris diak - batar lao diak no buras

Namlaik - batar komesa sae aat tanba udan menus

Balu mate - mate iha fatin balu deit

Barak mate - batar barak mate iha Posto Admin

Legenda

Batar (Maize)

- la kuda (not planted)
- balu kuda ona (some planted)
- barak kuda ona (many planted)

Outlook for the coming week

Modelled rainfall forecast from Bureau of Meteorology indicates dry weather over the weekend with patchy showers developing by middle of next week more likely in the west. Prediction accuracy decreases after 2-3 days. (Source: <http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/charts/viewer/index.shtml>, accessed 13/11/2015)

