



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

16/11/2015 – 31/11/2015

The last two weeks have seen some good rains in some areas of the central western region of Timor-Leste. The central, eastern and southern regions generally did not receive good rainfall. Some areas who planted early in November are quite concerned about the lack of follow-up rains but this was alleviated at the end of November and further rainfall across much of the nation in early December.

Western Region

Oecussi had some good rain in the mountains but only minimal rain along the coast. There has been some planting of maize such as Noi Mutin (white maize). Bobnaro has had some rain in the mountains but planting has not commenced over most of the region during this period. Emera has generally had good rains although some wilting of crops was reported in subdistrict of Ermera. It is expected that this will have been alleviated by recent rains. Covalima still remains very dry and hot and some farmers are in very difficult circumstances. Good information from Covalima is difficult to get. Particular concern is for the mountain regions of Covalima. Suco Deudet, Bobonaro, on the border of Covalima reported that springs were dried up and many animals were dying. By the end of November that had received some good rain. Ainaro had received some rain on the southern slopes however Turiscae is very dry. Farmers are concerned about the crops they planted on the rains in early November. Manufahi is still waiting for rain but the rains in early December may result in more planting.

- ✓ Keep seed in reserve in case of crop failure.
- ✓ Prepare for delayed intercropping of velvet bean with maize
- ✓ Prepare good fences.

Central Region

Dili remained dry and most farmers have not begun planting except for those who have access to irrigation. Aileu had generally received good rains throughout the 2nd half of November and most farmers have planted their maize. Manatuto has experienced difficulty across the district. Some farmers who planted in November are having difficulty with rats eating newly emerging corn plants. This comes on the back of significant crop losses last year due to rats. Around Laklubar, corn was beginning to suffer from water stress but this was alleviated by rains in early December. The southern coast still remains dry. Manufahi is still waiting for rain but the rains in early December may result in more planting.

Eastern Region

At the eastern end farmers had still not received good rains. Throughout Viqueque it remains very dry. Farmers in Ossu report that springs have dried up. Baucau has received some light rains but many farmers have not yet planted their maize. There is particular concern for the northern slopes of Lautem. Luro farmers are reporting that springs have dried up and many animals are dying. It remains dry throughout Lautem and Tutuala and even wild deer on the island of Jaco are dying for

lack of drinking water. Light, patchy rain has fallen on the Los Palos plateau and farmers are keen to begin cropping.

Alert (areas that should be monitored for difficulty)

- Oecussi, especially in lower regions due to late rain.
- Covalima, especially in mountains for springs drying up
- Atauro, no rain received
- Lacluta and surrounding areas, no rain received
- Lautem, northern and southern slopes for springs drying

Information provided is based on the best reported information at time of writing. In many areas it is difficult to corroborate information and we appreciate further information to clarify the situation in local areas. We appreciated feedback from MAF staff, ALGIS, CRS, CARE, and Camoes/GCCA project

Regards.

Samuel Bacon

Cropping Systems Advisor

samuel.bacon@seedsoflifetimor.org



Udan

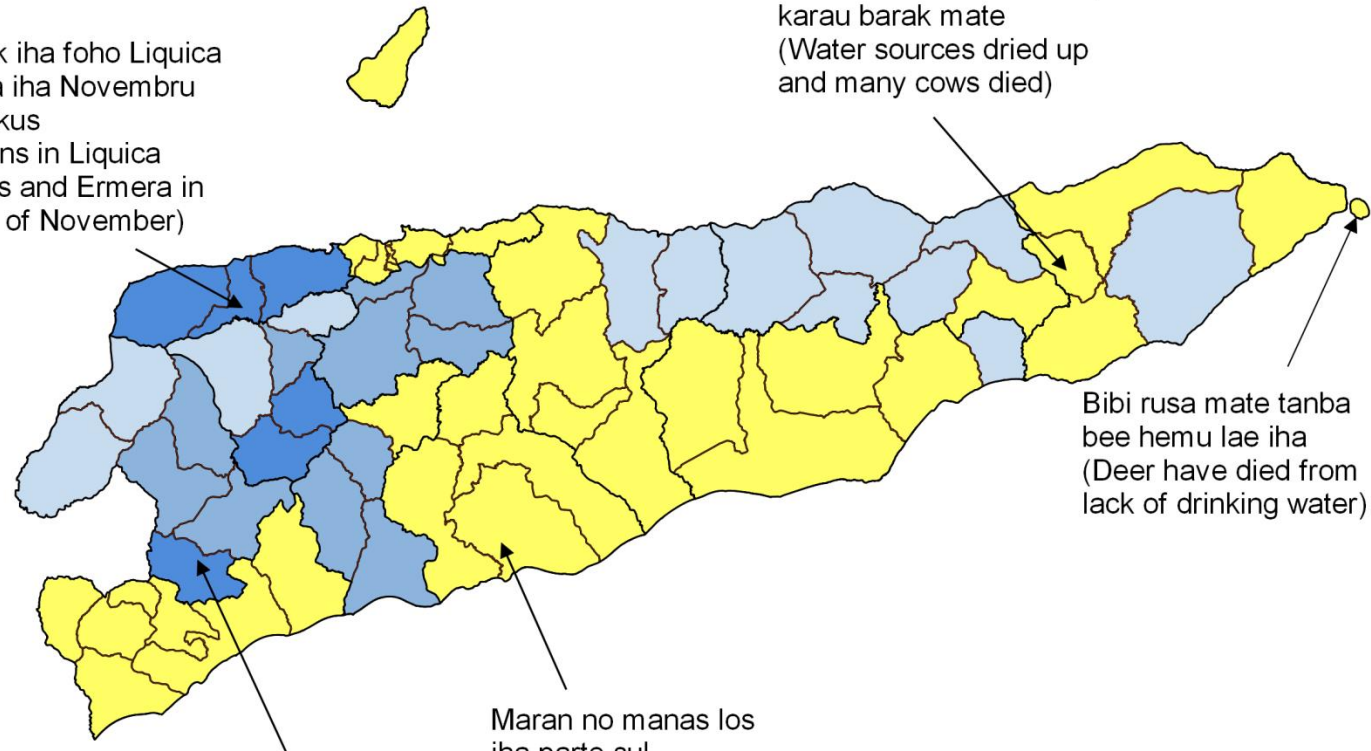
Outobru 16/11/15 - 30/11/15 Udan diak iha foho Liquica no Emera iha Novembru semana ikus
(Good rains in Liquica mountains and Emera in last week of November)

Luro - bee matan maran, karau barak mate
(Water sources dried up and many cows died)

Bibi rusa mate tanba bee hemu lae iha
(Deer have died from lack of drinking water)

Maran no manas los iha parte sul

Suco Duedet susar los no bee matan maran
(Suco Deudet says water sources dried up and animals dying)



Informasaun Mapa



Dadus iha geral deit liu husi husu agrikultor sira iha posto administrativo.
Se karik sala ruma favor ida kontatu ba samuel.bacon@seedsoflifetimor.org.



Agricultural Land Use & GIS
ALUGIS
Division of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries
20000 scale

Seeds of Life
Fini ba Moris

Produsaun: S. Bacon
Data: 3/12/2015
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

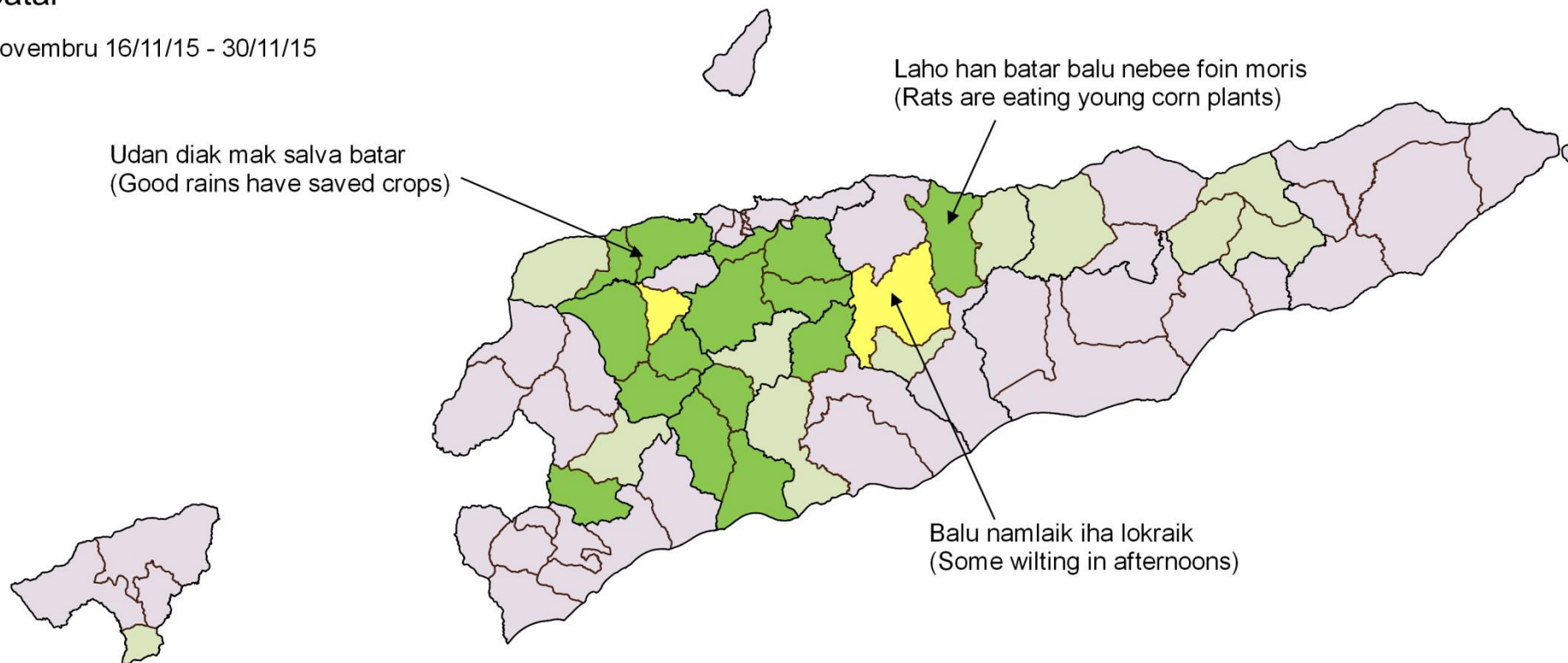
Legenda

Udan (Rain)

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

Batar

Novembru 16/11/15 - 30/11/15



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

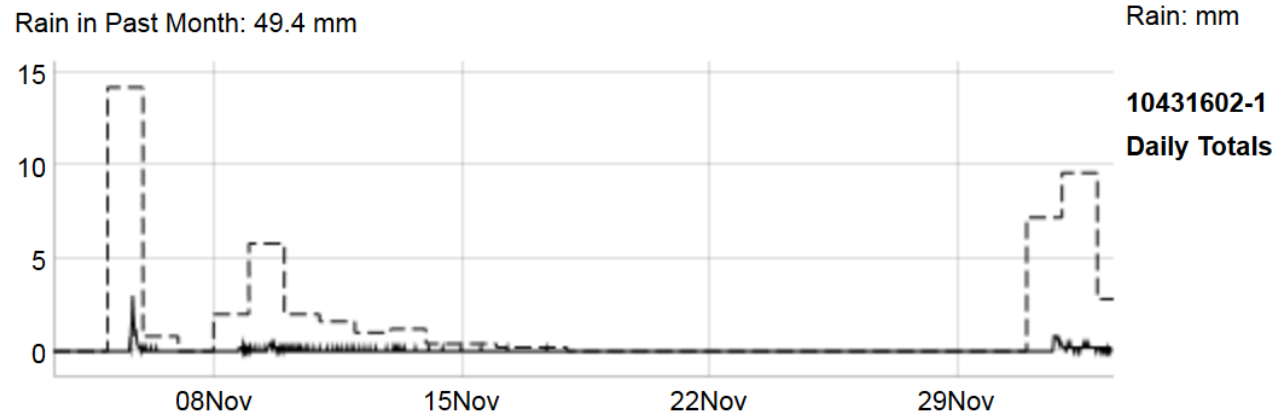
Barak mate - batar barak mate iha Posto Admin

Legenda

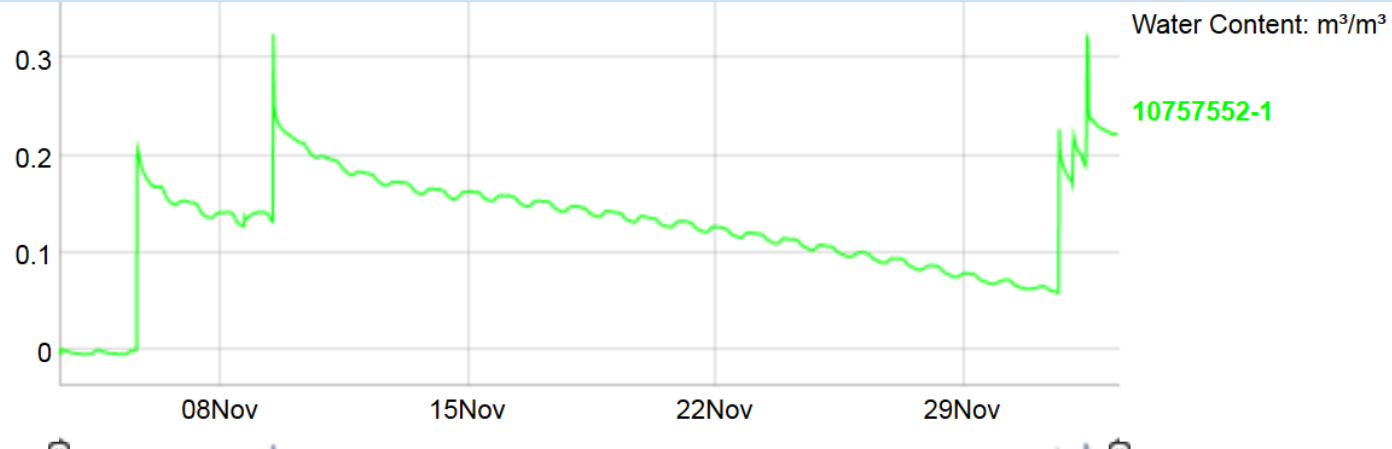
Batar (Maize)

- la kuda (not planted)
- balu kuda ona (some planted)
- barak kuda ona (many planted)
- moris diak (growing well)
- namlaik (wilting)

Rainfall in Laklubar showing example of rains in early November without follow-up rains until early December:



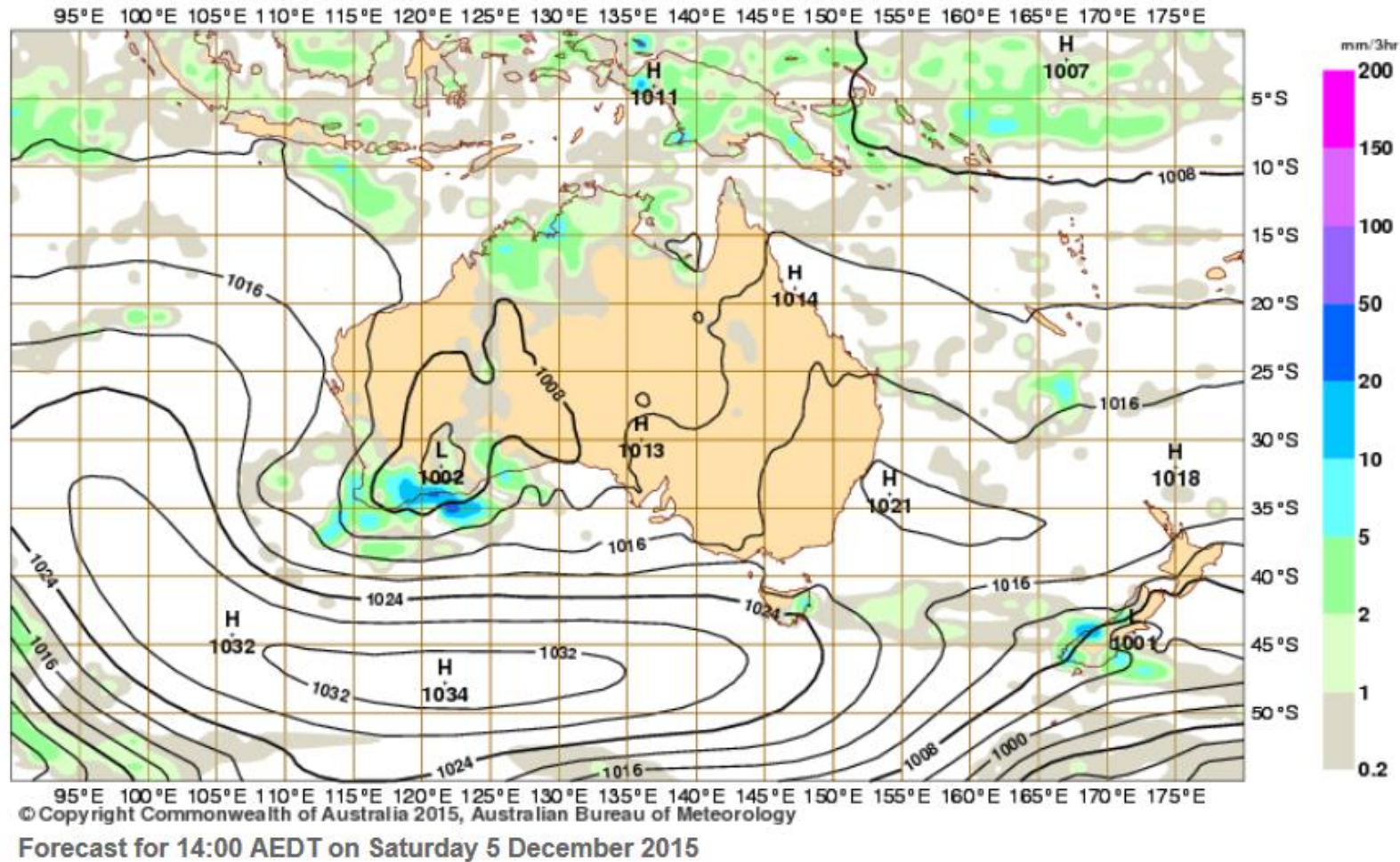
The graph below shows soil moisture declining leading to crops starting to wilt by late November. Follow-up rains have replenished soil moisture content.



Live data sourced from: www.seedsoflifetimor.org

Outlook

After some good rain in early December, this may dry up again over the first week. Below shows rainfall forecast map for Saturday, 5/12/15, 2pm



Source: <http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/charts/viewer/index.shtml> accessed 3/12/2015