Description

Agronomic adaptability

Sele is well adapted for cultivation in Timor-Leste. The crops are planted either in rows or randomly spaced 75 cm to 1 m apart with 2-3 seeds per hill. This maize variety produces high yields without requiring fertiliser, however if fertiliser is applied the yield will be higher.

Storage

Evaluations during 2009-2011 illustrated that Sele is more resistant to weevil damage, similar to the average of local varieties when stored using traditional methods. It is best practice to store the grain airtight drums.

Disease, insect and pest reaction

Sele is resistant to weevil damage.

Yield and quality

Sele is an open pollinated variety with yellow grain and is considered to be sweet by consumers in Timor-Leste.

Name	Sele	Local
Mean yield (t/ha) from 2007-2012	2.3	1.6
Yield advantage over local varieties in on farm demonstration trials (%)	41	-
Yield advantage over local varieties at research station (%)	50	-

Interested in getting seeds?
Please contact the MAF Office in your district

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
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MAIZE VARIETY

SELE

SELE has:

- **big maize cobs**
- **high yields**
- **a 43% yield advantage over local varieties in both low and uplands**
- **a sweet taste**

SELE — INCREASING MAIZE PRODUCTION IN TIMOR-LESTE

Variety information

Release name	Sele
Year released	2007
Botanical name	*Zea Mays* L.
Suited environment	At upland and lowland areas within the territory
Evaluation name	LYDMR
Breeder	CIMMYT (India)

Background

Maize is the main food crop in Timor-Leste and is relied on for food security by farmers. Five higher yielding open pollinated varieties introduced by CIMMYT early in the 2000s have consistently returned yield advantages in excess of 50%. One of these varieties is Sele.

Description

Seed colour	**Yellow**
Seed quality	Semi-flint (not hard)
Plant height at harvest	2.0m
Time to flowering[1]	65 – 75 days after planting
Time to harvest[1]	105 – 115 days after planting
Weevil Resistance	Resistance similar to local varieties

1. Faster at lower altitudes

Impacts

Economic benefits

Maize is mainly grown for household consumption in Timor-Leste, however small amounts are also sold in local markets to generate income.

Social benefits

Cultivation of Sele will provide an alternative planting option for subsistence maize growers in Timor-Leste. Its higher yields and good eating qualities should help it contribute to greater food security in the country.

Environmental benefits

Sele originated from the CIMMYT breeding program using conventional breeding techniques. It is not a genetically modified organism (GMO). Sele will increase the diversity of the current genetic pool in Timor-Leste.