**MAIZE VARIETY**

**SELE**

**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.

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

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

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

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

www.seedsoflifetimor.org

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
Seeds of Life | Fini ba Moris
Comoro, Dili, Timor-Leste | +670 7728 4730
**SELE — INCREASING MAIZE PRODUCTION IN TIMOR-LESTE**

### 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.

### 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.

### Variety information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Release name</th>
<th>Sele</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year released</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botanical name</td>
<td><em>Zea Mays</em> L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suited environment</td>
<td>At upland and lowland areas within the territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation name</td>
<td>LYDMR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breeder</td>
<td>CIMMYT (India)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seed colour</th>
<th>Yellow</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seed quality</td>
<td>Semi-flint (not hard)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant height at harvest</td>
<td>2.0m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to flowering&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>65 – 75 days after planting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to harvest&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>105 – 115 days after planting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weevil Resistance</td>
<td>Resistance similar to local varieties</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>1</sup> Faster at lower altitudes

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3. **Plant height at harvest**: 2.0m
4. **Time to flowering**: 65 – 75 days after planting
5. **Time to harvest**: 105 – 115 days after planting
6. **Weevil Resistance**: Resistance similar to local varieties

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3. **Botanical name**: *Zea Mays* L.
4. **Suited environment**: At upland and lowland areas within the territory
5. **Evaluation name**: LYDMR
6. **Breeder**: CIMMYT (India)