



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

El Niño Timor-Leste Update: Extra rains are helping farmers but also contributing to livestock sickness.

16/02/2016 – 29/02/2016

Consistent rains have continued across the central mountains of Timor-Leste. Many areas along the coast have also received more rainfall to help farmers with crops. There are still a number of smaller areas along the south coast and north coast that are still having difficulty with crops wilting. The rainfall and new growth is contributing to a variety of diseases in livestock especially in the mountains. Short season corn is close to harvest in the mountains. There is a lot of rice field preparation in some areas such as Maliana and Baucau mountains however many areas are still late in planting.

From West to East...

Oecussi has received more good rains in the mountains, however some areas along the coast still need rain and crops are wilting. Some areas in Oesilo also need more rain. Some coastal sucos in Posto Pante Macassar are still at risk of crop failure. Some farmers near the coast are planting rice but dam construction in Tono river is impacting fields in some areas.

Seed plot in Lifau, Oecussi, insufficient rain has reduced plant density and production. Photo: Wayan Tambun, SoL



Bobonaro: Most Admin Postos received good rains except Atabae and Balibo (especially along the coast). Most of the crops in these Postos are wilting. Farmers are very busy with preparing rice fields and seedlings in on the Maliana plain down to Cailaco. Farmers in Atabae have not yet prepared their rice fields.

Preparation and planting of rice in Tunubibi, Maliana. Photo: Wayan Tambun, SoL

Covalima in the mountains there have been good rains including 180mm in Fohorem. Along the southwestern coast of Tilomar crops and rains are good but moving east through Suai there was less rain and some crop wilting and in Zumulai no rain was reported. In Zumulai the rice is growing well but other areas have not yet planted.

Liquica again received some destructive rainfall which knocked over corn in Bazartete and damaged roads. In coastal areas in Liquica 3 days of no rain led to peanuts wilting due to sandy soils. In the mountains, corn is growing well and some early corn (sweet corn) is being sold along roads. Other

corn is ready to harvest in the next few weeks. Rice fields are being prepared along the Loes river on the southern side of the Liquica mountains.

Ermera has received good rains and crops are growing well. Some maize plots in Atsabe, Hatolia, and Letefoho will be ready to be harvested in next two or three weeks. Farmers are very busy with preparing rice seedlings and doing land preparation along the Loes river in Hatolia. Landslides have occurred in some places between Tibar and Railaco, and between Ermera and Letefoho.

Dili has received some good rain and crops are growing well. Atauro has received better rains in February with more planting. Atauro has received less rain with only 32mm in Vila in the last 2 weeks.

Aileu has continued to receive good and consistent rainfall with 339mm received over the last 4 weeks. Unfortunately, this consistent rain has led to a lot of sickness with animals across the Municipality. Serious skin diseases are affecting pigs, goats and horses. Cows and goats have intestinal disease. Chickens are also reported as sick in Laulara. High winds have caused maize lodging in some areas of Laulara and Liquidoe.

Ainaro has received good rain across the municipality with crops growing well. Rice has been planted in some areas of Ainaro Admin Post and Hato-Udo. At the top of the range in Fleixa, consistent rains fell totalling 350mm over the month.

Manufahi has again received only patchy rain fall with an extended dry period during the middle of the month at both Betano (158mm in Feb) and Same (414mm). The dry period was followed by 2 days of good rain at the end of the month. Rice fields are still not planted.

Manatuto has received only a little rain along the north coast areas of Laclo and Manatuto town resulting in wilting of corn. On the south coast fewer rains are reported with corn wilting and animals getting sick. Continuous rains have fallen in the mountains with 560mm falling in Laklubar (their February average is 357mm). In Soibada, the rice is nearly flowering.

Baucau has received further rains in the mountains with 417mm received over February in Darasula. Rice has been planted in some mountain areas. Along the coast it has been dry and rice fields have not been planted due to lack of rain in the rivers (such as in Baguia). One farmer reported in Uaigae, Vemasse, that at least 30 cows had died in their suco.

Dead buffalo ni Uaigae, Baucau, indicates further problems of water hole contamination and spread of disease through dead animals. Photo: Sabilio, SoL



Viqueque is still in need of rain along the coast. A lot of maize is reported to be wilting in hotter lower altitude areas. In Viqueque, no rain was received for 2 weeks followed by heavy rain of 73 mm on 28th of February.



Lautem has received some rain in the last half of February including in Tutuala. Many cattle in this area are reported to be dying due to the abundance of new grass shoots resulting in stomach difficulties. Coastal areas are still receiving very little rain with corn still not planted in many of the north coast sucos. On the plateau, little was received rain over 2 weeks and then a heavy downpour of 91mm falling in 1 hour on the 25th of February.

A field in Euquisi, Lautem, prepared in 2015, still lays bare in mid-February due to lack of rain. Photo: Venancio De Jesus, Fraterna

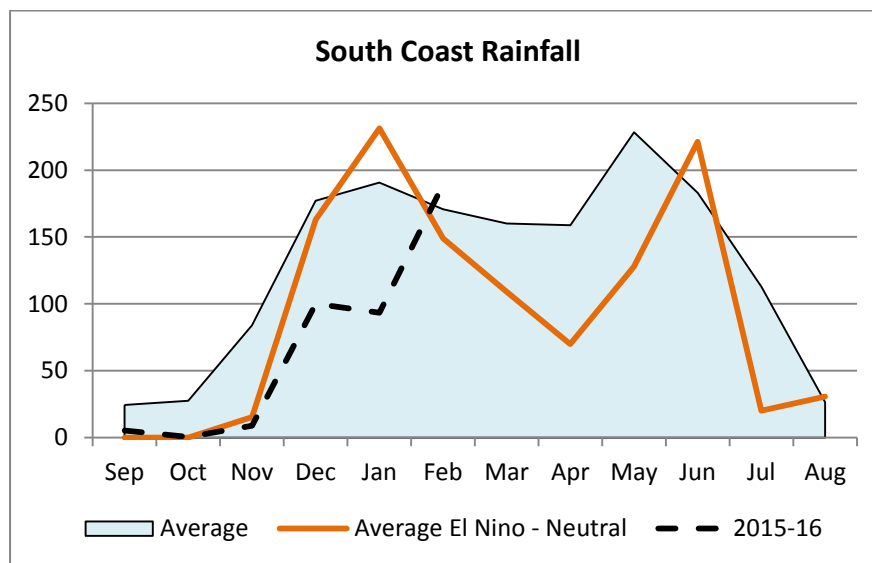
Even though good rains continue to fall across the central mountains and in some coastal areas there are still a few coastal areas badly in need of steady rain. Rains that have brought relief to some areas are also contributing to animal disease.

The dry season is expected to come early although this depends on whether this El Nino is followed by La Nina. El Nino has now begun to weaken to moderate levels however the SOI is still fluctuating around -13 (scores below -8 indicate El Nino). Neutral conditions are only slightly more likely than a La Nina event. It is likely that the El Nino will break down during the 2nd quarter of 2016 which is typical of the cycle.

Farmers in north coast areas that have not yet had a successful crop are now unlikely to get in a crop before the dry season. In agro-ecological zones 5 & 6 along the south coast and the eastern plateau of Los Palos farmers traditionally plant a second crop around April and May. The question is, should they plant earlier with a possibly early finish to the rains or wait until April as normal? In the 1965-66 El Nino (not followed by La Nina) there was a drop in rainfall during March and April. Although it is difficult to make a recommendation, we suggest that farmers hold off on planting a second season crop until early April. Then, if good rains fall, try to plant as quickly as possible and then pray that they get enough rain. If a La Nina follows then it is likely that further good rains will come.

Emergency Warning (areas that require immediate assistance):

- Coastal areas of Lautem and Viqueque losing crops and animals.



The graph shows rainfall progress across the south coast compared to average. Note the risk of less rain in March and April. South coast farmers should wait until early April for second crop planting then try to get the second crop in quickly.

Regards,

Samuel Bacon

Cropping Systems Advisor

Seeds of Life

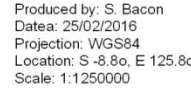
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Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Data combined from Posto Monitoring every 2 weeks


Data combined from Posto Monitoring every 2 weeks



Impact on crops

- Very low impact - received good rains most of the time and report good crop growth.
- Low impact - reported some concerns but are coping with the impact.
- Moderate impact - multiple periods of low rain and wilting of crops.
- High impact - some crop failures and are experiencing significant difficulties.
- Severe impact - Long periods of little or no rain and have lost many crops, often with animals dying.

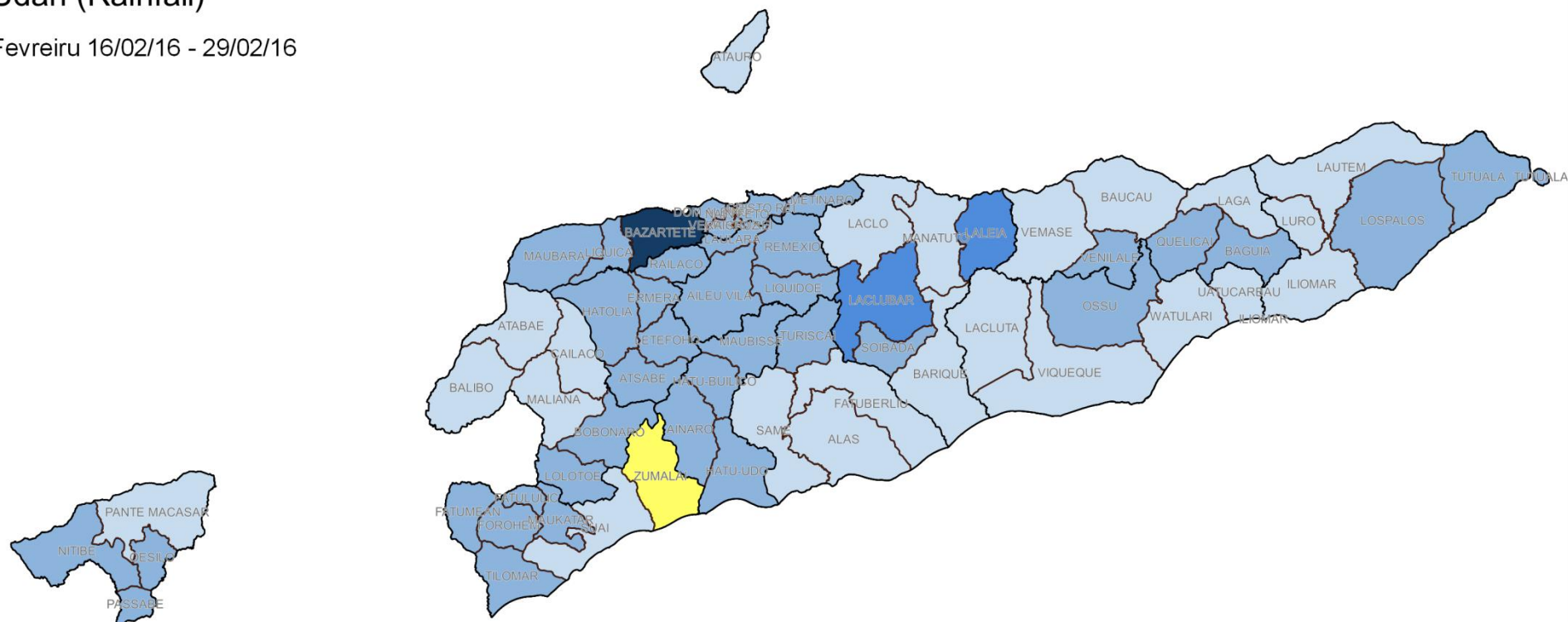
Animal Deaths Reported

-  Yes - Indicates areas that reported some or many animal deaths over multiple periods

This map combines a weighted analysis of rain and maize failure from November to mid February based on fortnightly information supplied from Administration posts. For example, lack of rain and many crops failing in January or February is weighted more highly than reports of no rain in November.

Udan (Rainfall)

Fevereiro 16/02/16 - 29/02/16



Informasaun Mapa



Dadus iha geral deit liu husi husu agrikultor sira
iha posto administrativo.
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**Agricultural
Land Use & GIS**
ALGIS
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Seeds of Life
Fini ba Moris

Produsaun: S. Bacon
Data: 4/03/2016
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 sufrente 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)

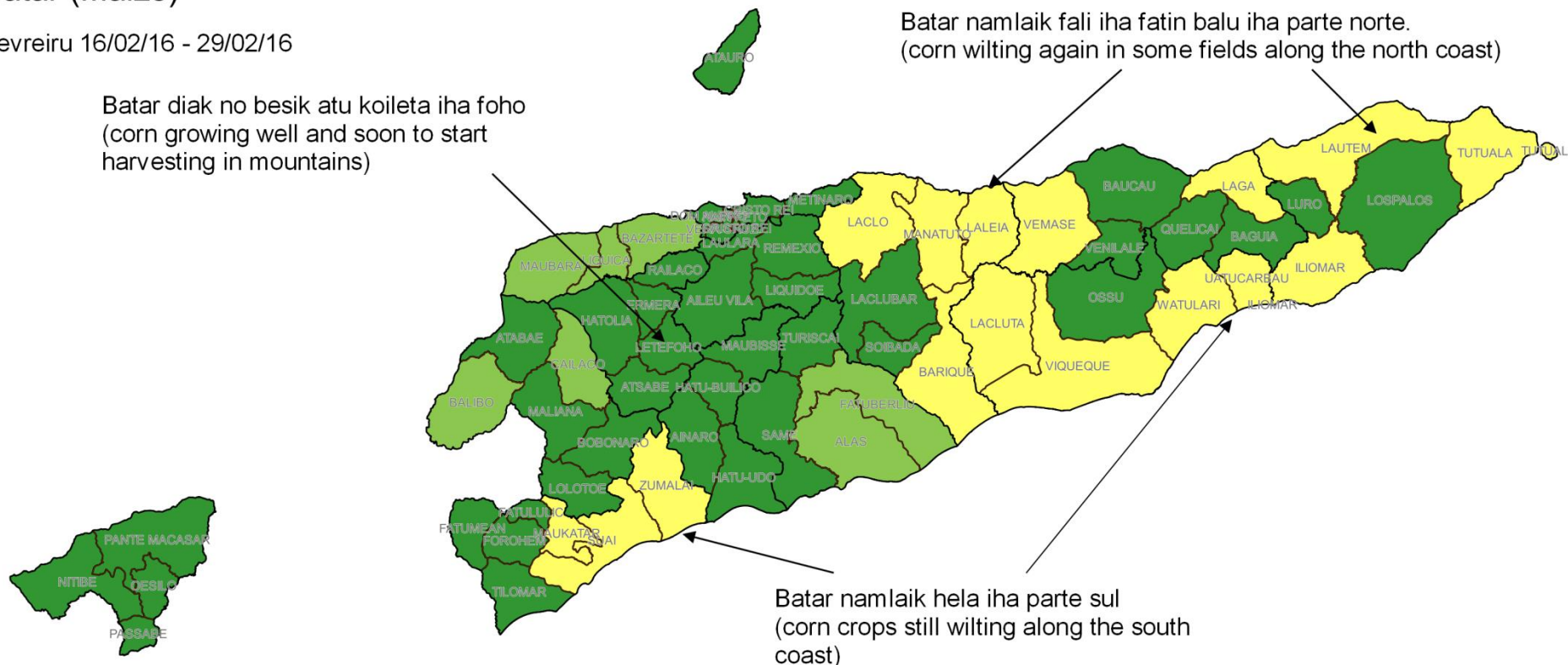
-  udan lae iha (no rain)
-  udan uitoan (little rain)
-  udan naton (enough rain)
-  udan boot (heavy rain)
-  udan boot demais (v. heavy rain)

Batar (Maize)

Fevreiru 16/02/16 - 29/02/16

Batar diak no besik atu koileta iha foho
(corn growing well and soon to start
harvesting in mountains)

Batar namlaik fali iha fatin balu iha parte norte.
(corn wilting again in some fields along the north coast)



Batar namlaik hela iha parte sul
(corn crops still wilting along the south coast)

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 (corn)

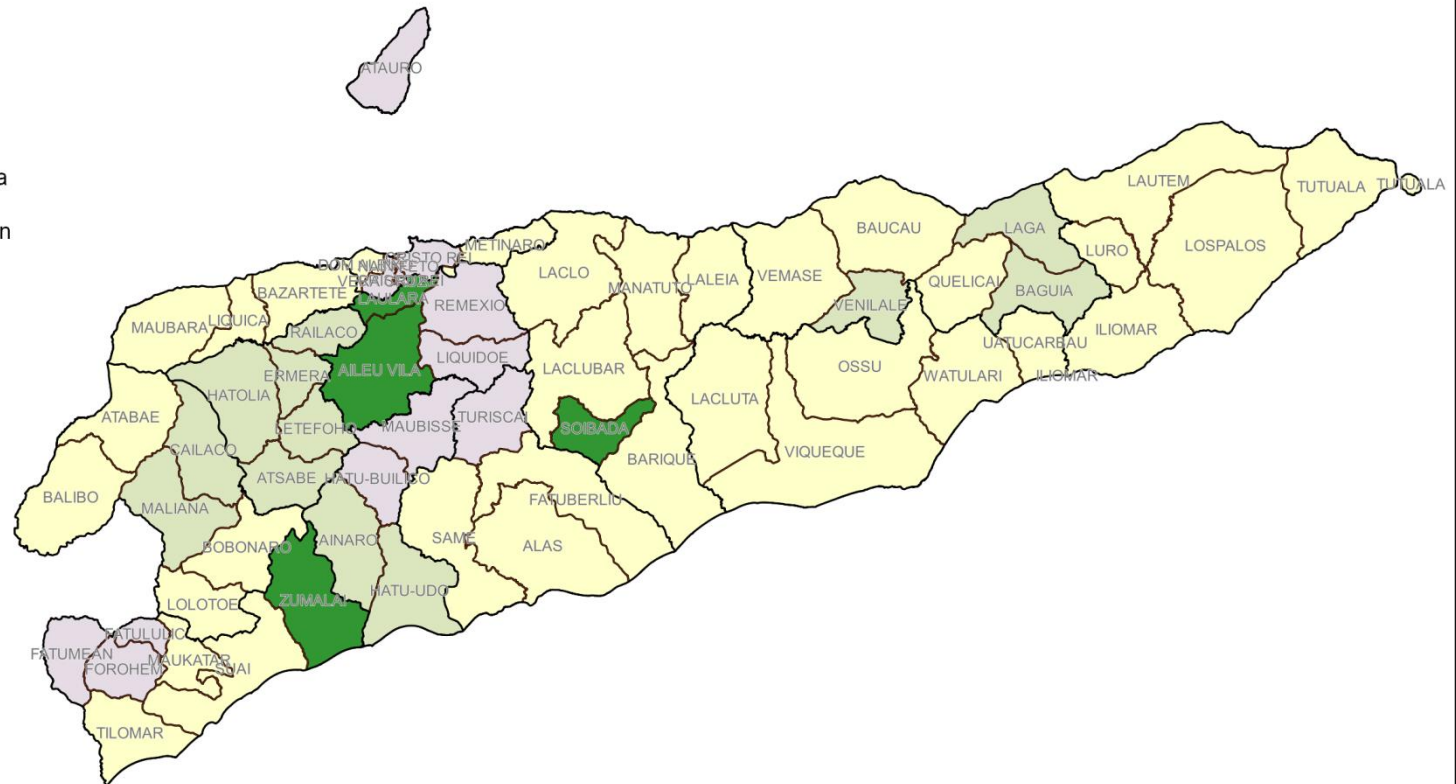
- la kuda (not planted)
- balu kuda ona (some planted)
- barak kuda ona (many planted)
- moris diak (growing well)
- namlaik (wilting)
- balu mate ona (some failed)

Hare (Rice)

Fevreiru 16/02/16 - 29/02/16

Iha fatin barak to'os nain sidauk prepara rai tanba bee sidauk sufisenti
(In many places farmers have not begun preparing rice fields as there is not enough water)

Haree rai maran kuda tiha ona maibe natar ho irrigasaun seidauk
(Dry land rice has been planted but irrigated rice not yet)



Informasaun Mapa



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Informasaun Dadus

Kona ba Hare:
La kuda - sidauk kuda hare
Balu kuda ona - iha fatin balu, laos P. Admin hotu
Moris diak - hare lao diak no buras
Namlaik - hare komesa sae aat tanba bee menus
Balu koileta - iha fatin balu sei koa hare
Balu mate - mate iha fatin balu deit
Barak mate - hare barak mate iha Posto Admin

Legenda

Hare (Rice)

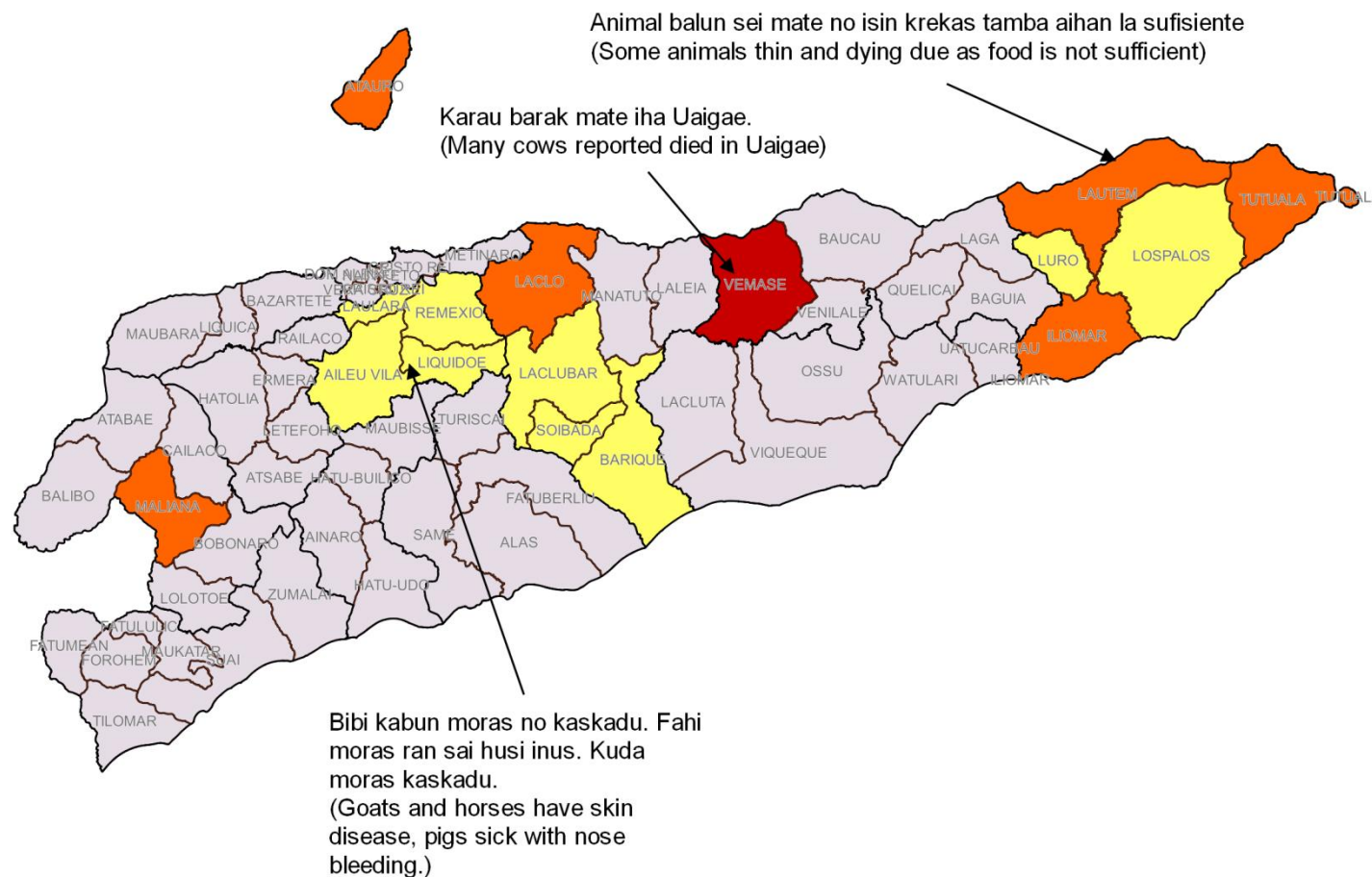
- la kuda (not planted)
- seidauk kuda (not yet planted)
- balu kuda ona (some planted)
- barak kuda ona (many planted)
- moris diak (moris diak)

Animal

Fevreiru 16/02/16 - 29/02/16

Mapa ida ne'e hatudu deit fatin ne'ebe ita hetan informasaun kona ba animal nia kondisaun iha geral husi Koordinator Extensionista (se informasaun iha).

(This map only shows information that has been received about animal condition usually from the Extension Coordinator.)



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.



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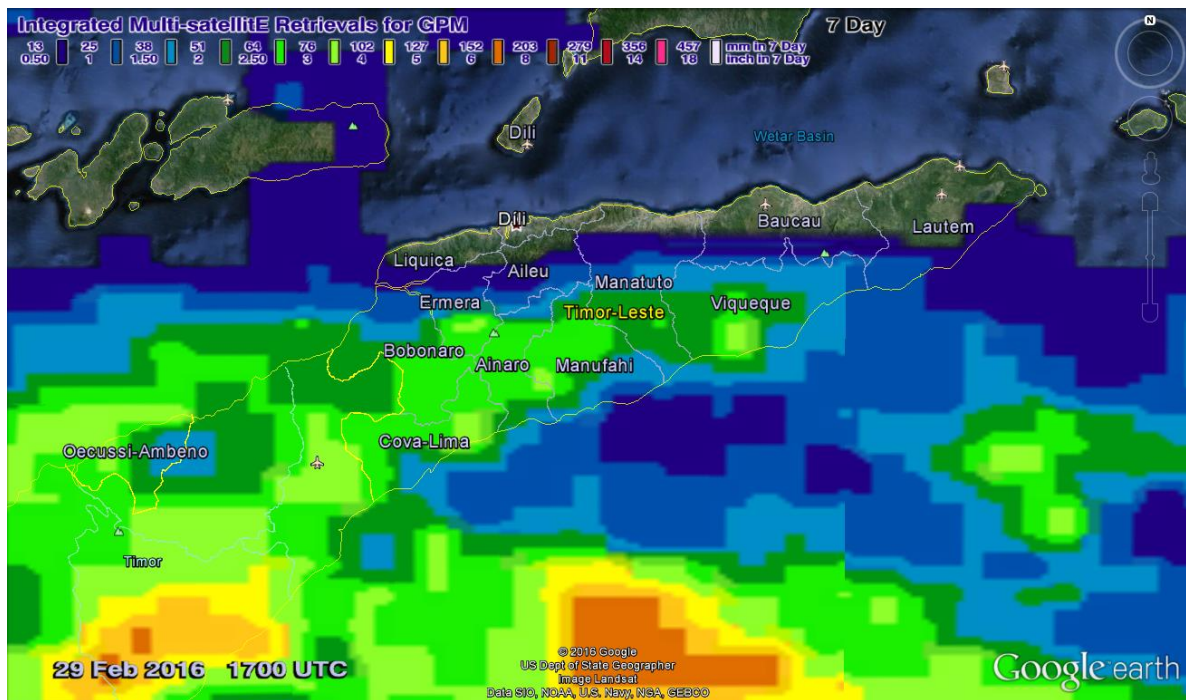
Legenda

Animal

- Dadus lae iha (no data)
- Krekas (low condition)
- Balu mate (some died)
- Barak mate (many died)

Integrated Multi-Satellite Data for Rainfall

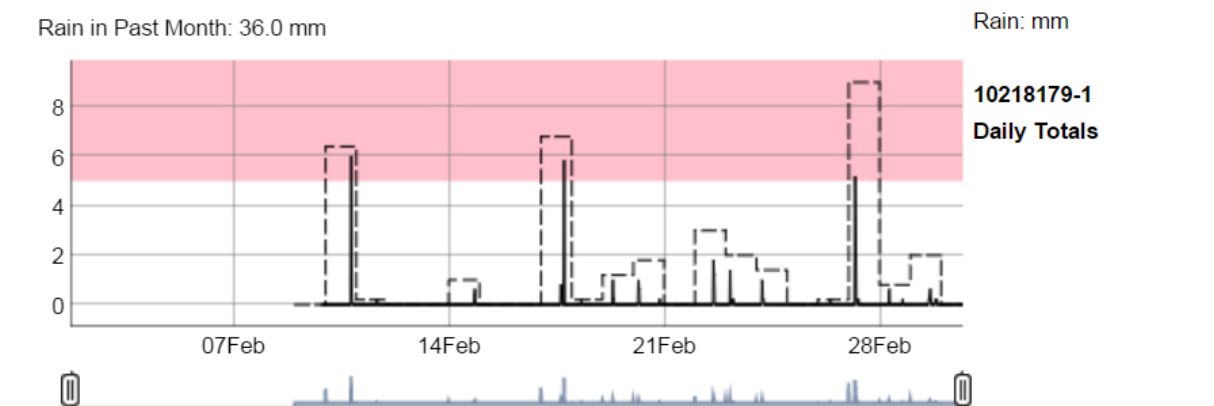
Rain in last week of February, 2016:



Source: <http://pmm.nasa.gov/data-access/google-earth>

Rainfall in February (note, scale on left hand axis varies)

Oecussi – very little rain, 36mm, on coast since 10th Feb.

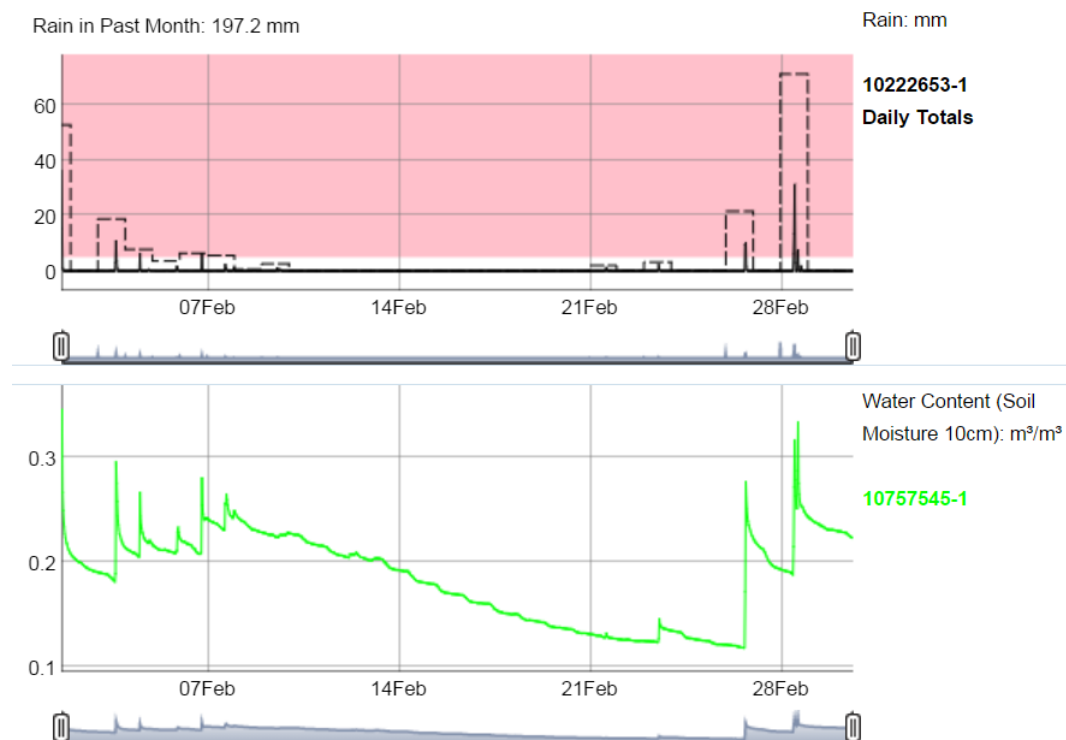


South Coast – note the long dry period

Betano



Viqueque

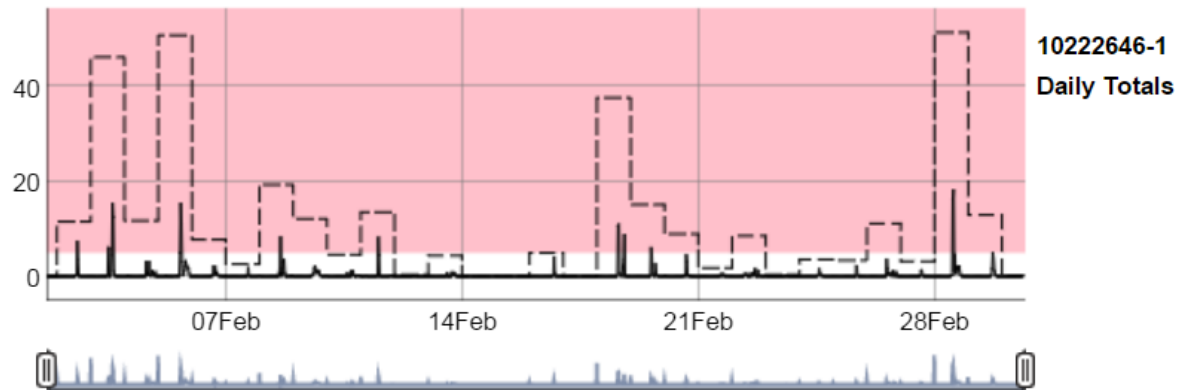


Central Mountains – showing consistent rainfall

Flexia

Rain in Past Month: 349.9 mm

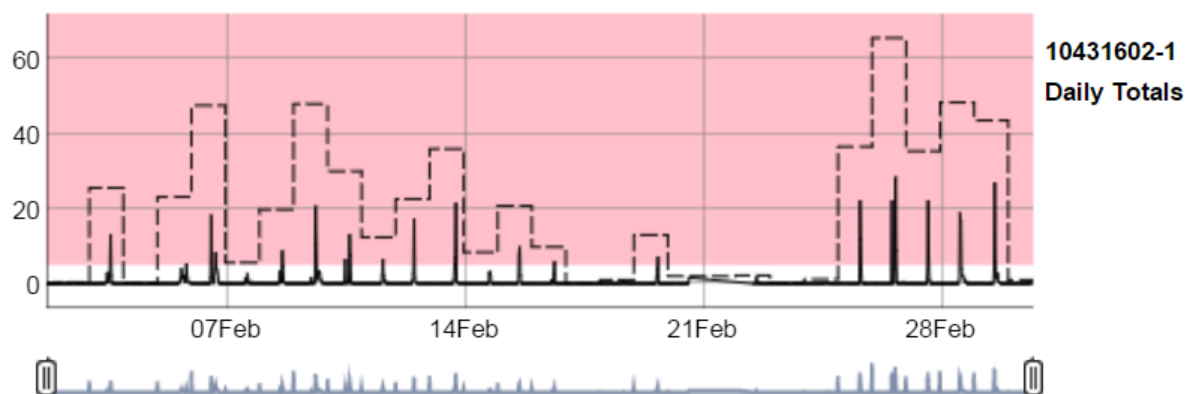
Rain: mm



Laklubar

Rain in Past Month: 560.7 mm

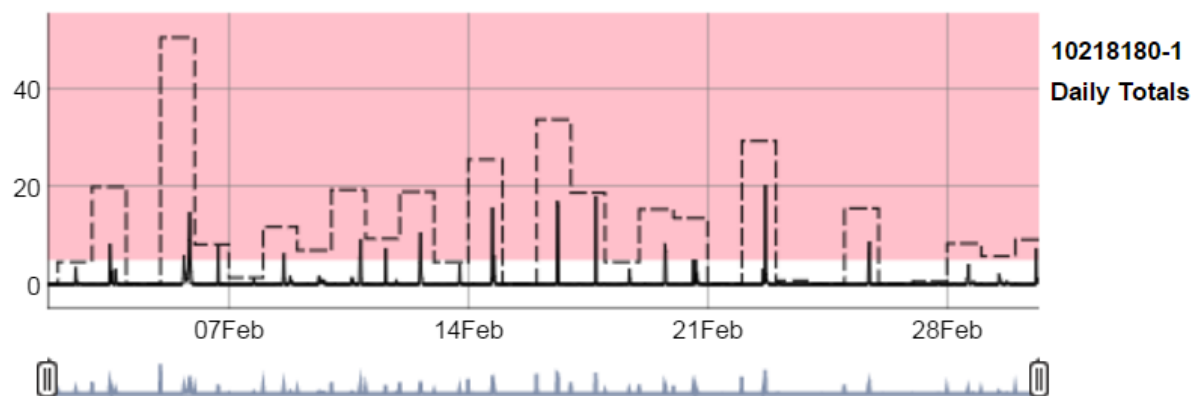
Rain: mm



Quintal Portugal

Rain in Past Month: 338.7 mm

Rain: mm

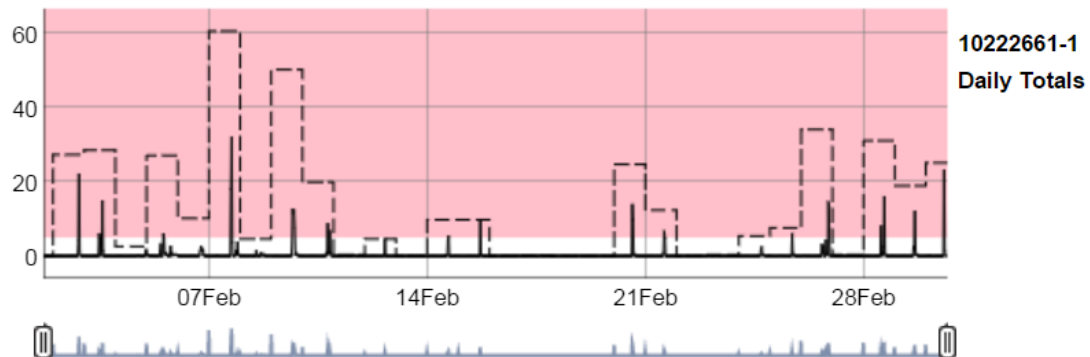


Eastern Plateaus – also received low rainfall in mid February

Darasula

Rain in Past Month: 417.3 mm

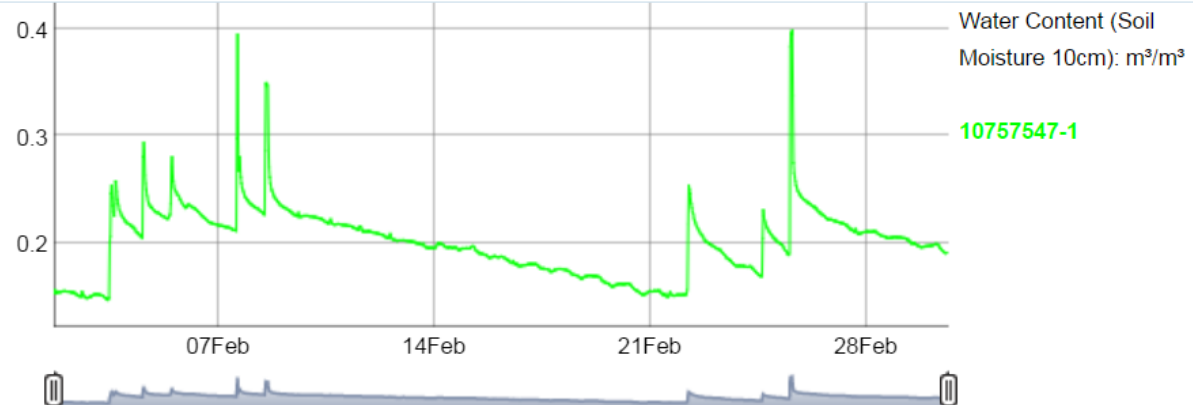
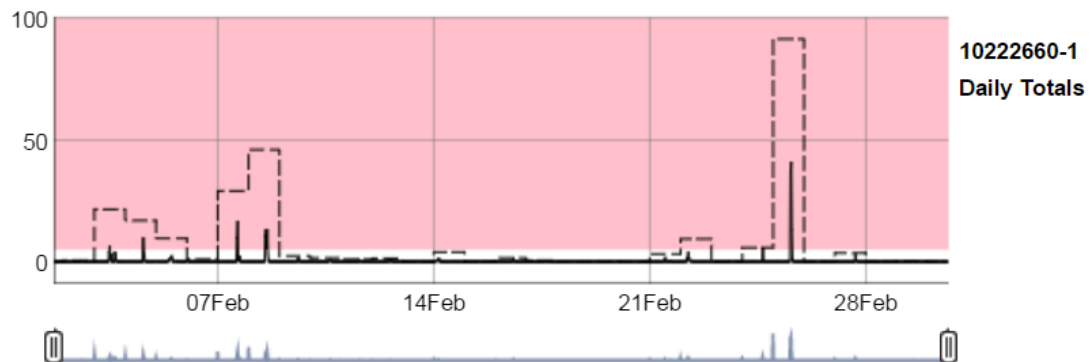
Rain: mm



Los Palos

Rain in Past Month: 252.1 mm

Rain: mm



More Climate Data at: <http://timoragriresearch.weebly.com/>