



**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**

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**El Niño Timor-Leste Update:**  
**Corn harvest has started in the mountains.**

1/03/2016 – 15/03/2016

The rainfall pattern continues with sufficient rainfall in the mountains but insufficient or patchy rainfall along the coast. Many farmers have started harvesting throughout the mountains. Many rice fields are late in being planted or are at risk of not being established this year. A number of areas along the north and south coast continue to experience low rainfall.

**From West to East...**

**Oecusse** rains have continued in the mountains but along the coast it continues to remain dry. The corn in the mountains is growing well and nearing harvest. Rice in the mountains is in the vegetative phase. Coastal farmers are at risk of insufficient yields leading to food shortages.

*Dry land rice in vegetative phase in mountains of Oecusse showing incomplete germination on the rocky slopes. Photo: Lucia Branco*



*Comparison of crop lands in Oecusse – on the left a diverse and more productive field of rice, corn and pumpkin on terraced mountain slopes; on the right an unproductive field of stunted corn on coastal flat lands. Photos: Lucia Branco*

**Bobonaro:** Mountain areas have continued to receive sufficient rainfall and have started harvesting corn. Coastal areas of Atabae and Balibo continue to receive low rainfall with many farmers unable to establish crops. Many areas around the Loes river have started growing rice.



*Comparison of crops in the Atabae area, rice fields have not been established (left), a failed corn crop over-run by weeds (centre) and a cassava crop proving to be more resilient and productive (right)*

**Covalima** good rains have continued in the mountains with less rain along coastal areas. Along the coast some farmers have started to harvest corn. A lot of farmers have planted rice in Zumalai but in the Suai area rice fields have not yet been established.

**Liquica** has continued to receive good rains in the mountains with erratic and some intense rainfall along the coast. There are reports of rats eating the corn crops in the mountains.



*A comparison of two corn crops along the Loes river flats in Liquica: a well-developed but water stressed crop nearing harvest (left) and a crop planted later, water stressed and failed (right)*

**Ermera** has received sufficient rains. Many farmers are harvesting corn and a lot of rice fields have been planted.

**Dili** has received some rainfall in March but this has been insufficient for rain fed crops. Atauro is of particular concern. Many crops were established but due to insufficient rainfall these crops have failed to produce a yield with some farmers reporting no harvest from their corn. It is reported that some communities have turned to wild foods such as fruit and shoots from the sugar palm (ai kadiru). This period of food shortage has been compared to the 97-98 period which is known to be a severe El Nino period.

**Aileu** reports good crop growth with many farmers harvesting corn in Aileu Vila and Liquidoe. Rice crops are growing well. Unfortunately, many animals are still in low condition across the municipality.

**Ainaro** also continued to receive good rainfall with many farmers in the mountains harvesting their corn. Rice fields have not yet been established.

**Manufahi** has received good rainfall in the mountains with Same receiving 370mm over the last 4 weeks. Along the coast there has been less rainfall with Betano receiving 130mm with reasonable consistency. Rice fields are still not established.

**Manatuto** coastal areas continue to report low rainfall with wilting of crops. In the mountains the crops have performed well with farmers starting to harvest. Rice is close to harvest in the Soibada area. Animals are sick and some dying in Laclo and Natarbora areas.

**Baucau** In Baguia, Quelicai and Venilale farmers have received sufficient rain but in other areas the rainfall has been low over the first 2 weeks of March. Most areas have begun harvesting corn.

**Viqueque** is very dry along the coastal areas. In Viqueque town, only 2 days of rain totalling 35mm was recorded in the first two weeks of March. The maize is water stressed and the rice fields have not been planted.

*Failed corn fields in Uatulari and Uatu-Carbau, Viqueque.*

*Photo: Benvindo Jose Ernesto, CRS*



**Lautem** most areas have received insufficient rainfall except Tutuala. This is partly due to erratic rainfall with heavy rain events followed by no rain. A lot of animals are reported to have died in Iliomar and some animals have also died in Lautem and Tutuala. Some corn has been harvested in Los Palos and Luro.

### Alert

(areas that require monitoring):

- Atauro and Oecusse coastal areas due to failed crops

### Emergency Warning

(areas requiring immediate assistance):

- Coastal areas of Lautem and Viqueque at risk of food shortage

Farmers can be encouraged to store their maize harvests well in air tight containers. Those farmers considering planting a second crop in south coast areas are again advised to wait until the first good rains in April. The El Nino period is likely to end around May although at this stage it is still too early to make a confident prediction on whether this will transition to a neutral or La Nina phase.

Regards,

Samuel Bacon

Cropping Systems Advisor

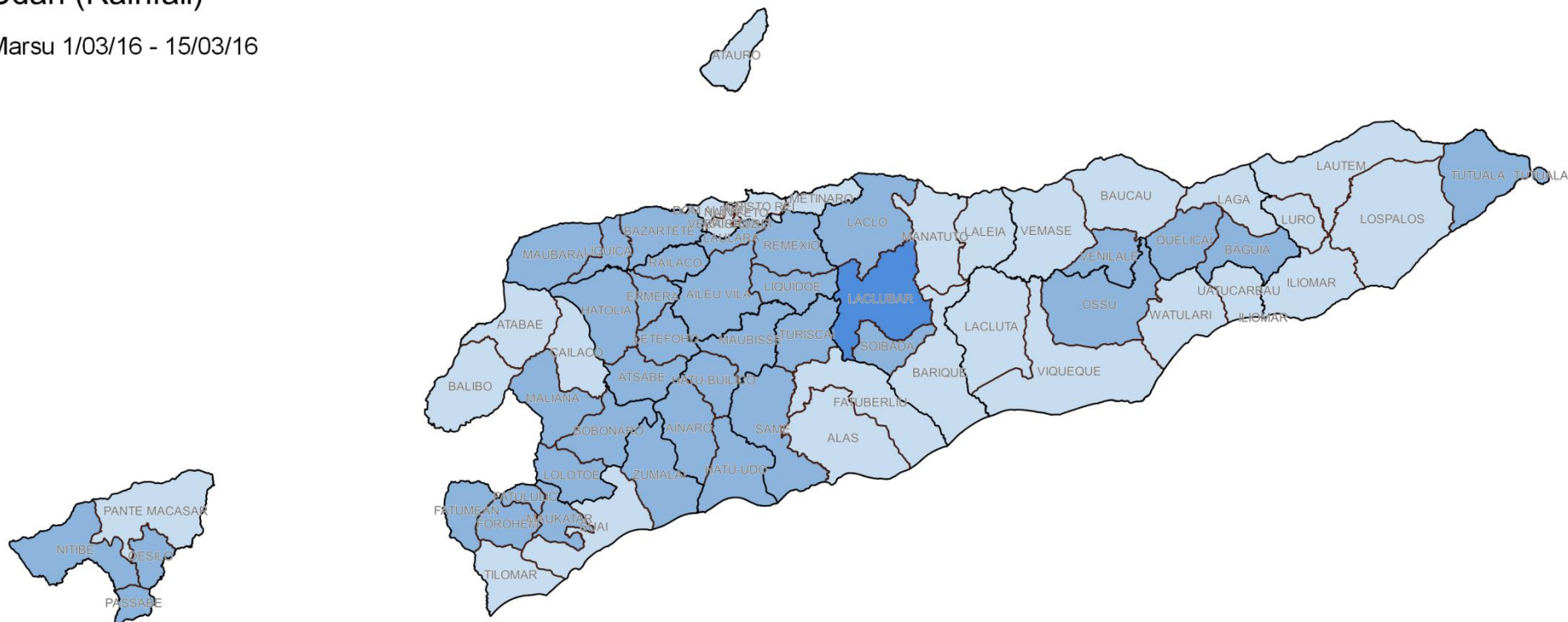
Seeds of Life

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# Udan (Rainfall)

Marsu 1/03/16 - 15/03/16



## Informasaun Mapa



Agricultural  
Land Use & GIS  
ALGIS  
Project - Engloha Land Use & GIS  
Timor-Leste

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Fini ba Moris

Produsaun: S. Bacon  
Data: 22/03/2016  
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 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)

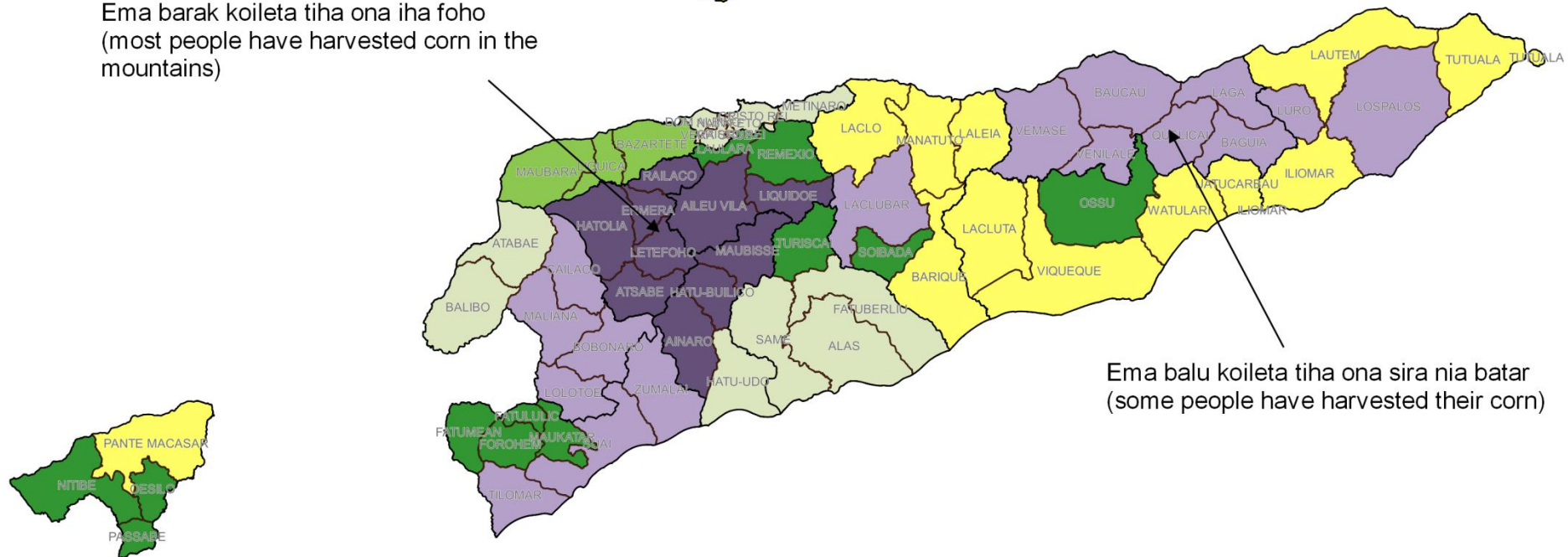
- udan lae iha (no rain)
- udan uitoan (little rain)
- udan naton (enough rain)
- udan boot (heavy rain)
- udan boot demais (v. heavy rain)

# Batar (Maize)

Marsu 1/03/16 - 15/03/16

Ema barak koileta tiha ona iha foho  
(most people have harvested corn in the mountains)

Problema iha Atauro nebee batar kuda tiha ona maibe isin lae iha  
(A problem in Atauro is that corn has been growing but the yield is very low - literally 'no body')



Ema balu koileta tiha ona sira nia batar  
(some people have harvested their corn)

## 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

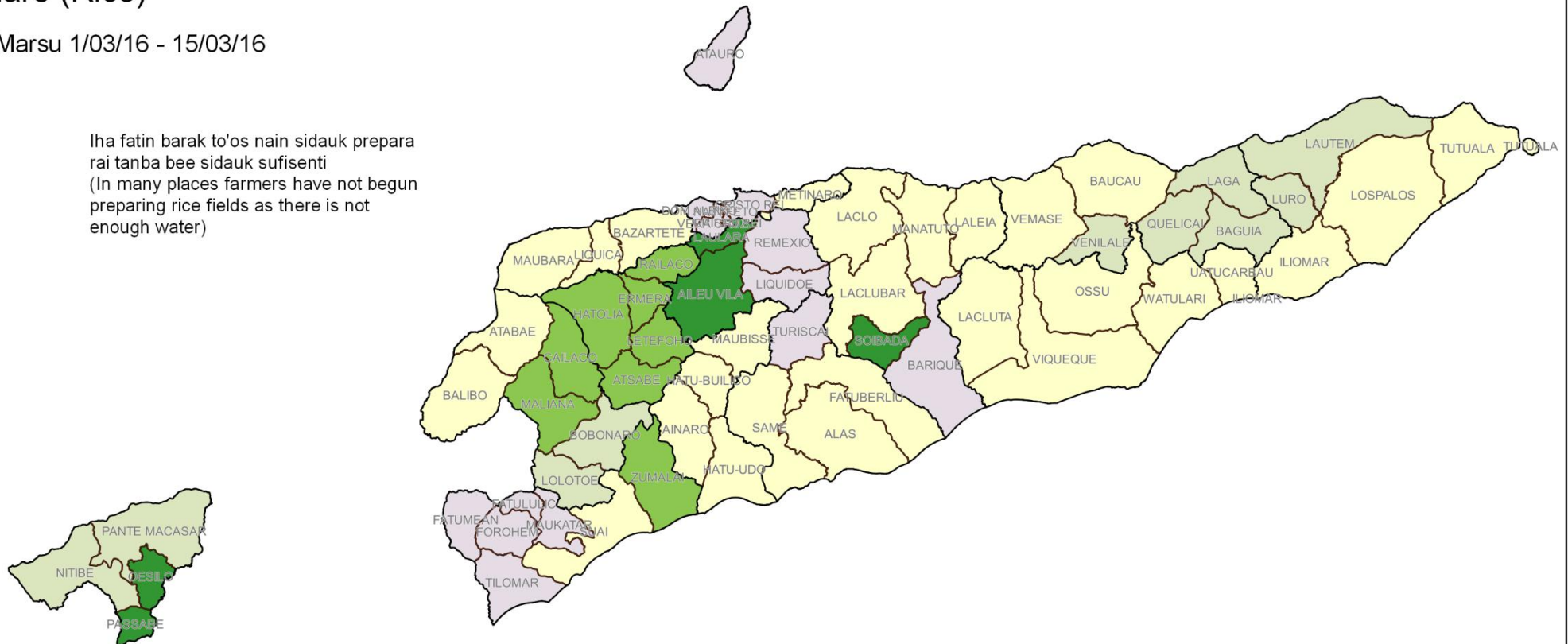
Batar (Corn)

- 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)
- barak mate ona (many failed)
- balu koileta ona (some harvested)
- barak koileta ona (many harvested)

Hare (Rice)

Marsu 1/03/16 - 15/03/16

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



## Informasaun Mapa



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**Agricultural  
Land Use & GIS**  
**ALGIS**  
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Skala: 1:1250000

## 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

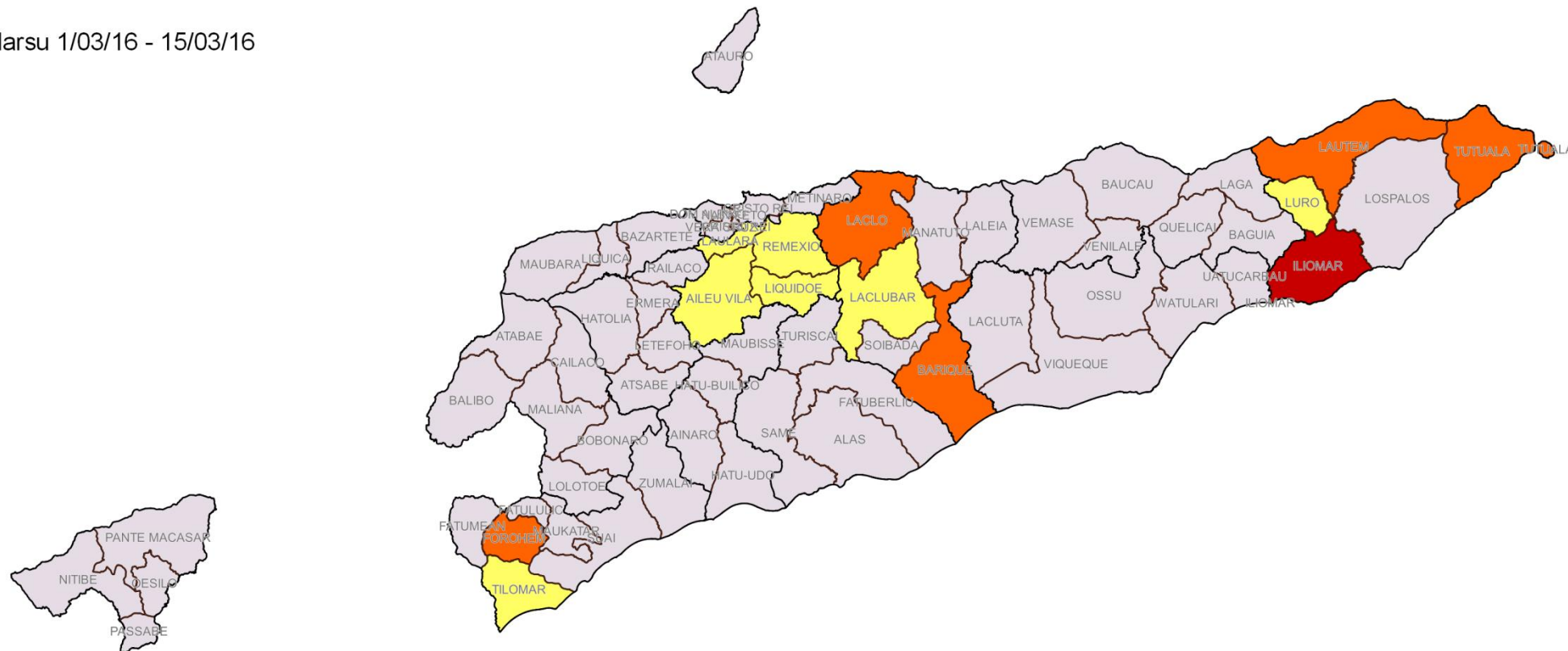
## Legenda

Hare (Rice)

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

# Animal

Marsu 1/03/16 - 15/03/16



## Informasaun Mapa



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Agricultural  
Land Use & GIS  
ALUGIS  
National Institute for Statistics of Timor-Leste

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## Informasaun Dadus

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). Dala ruma animal problema lae iha entaun ami husik hanesan "Dadus lae iha". (This map only shows information that has been received about animal condition usually from the Extension Coordinator. In some cases there is no problem with animals reported so it is left as "no data")

## Legenda

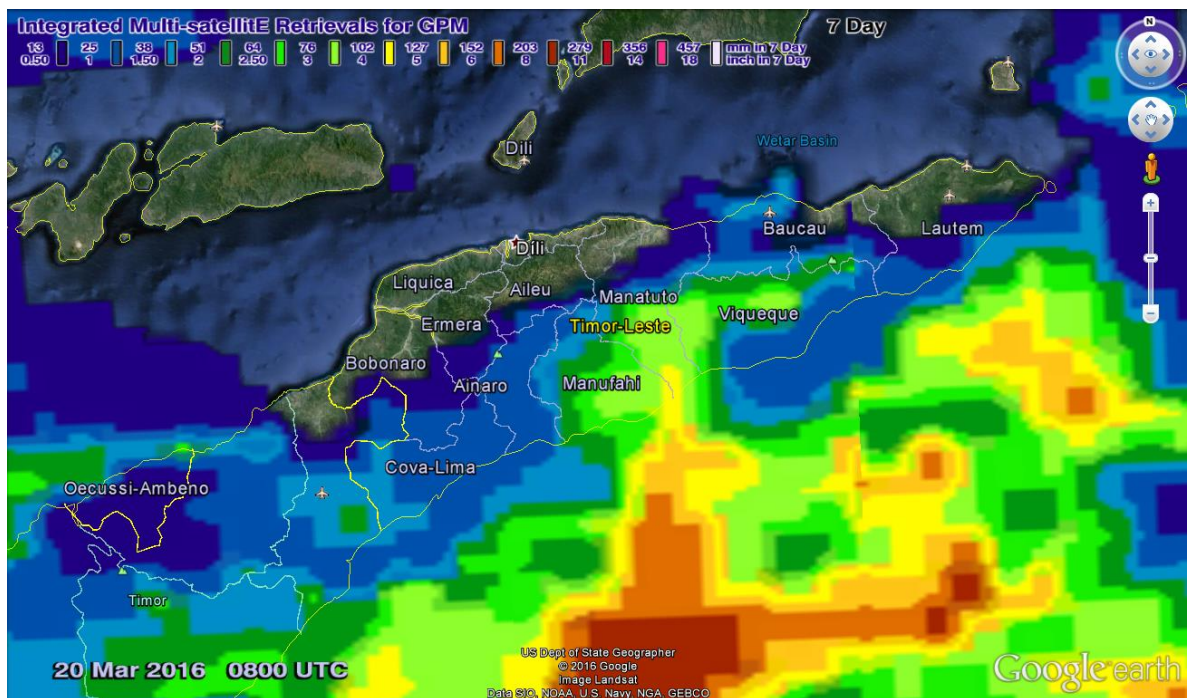
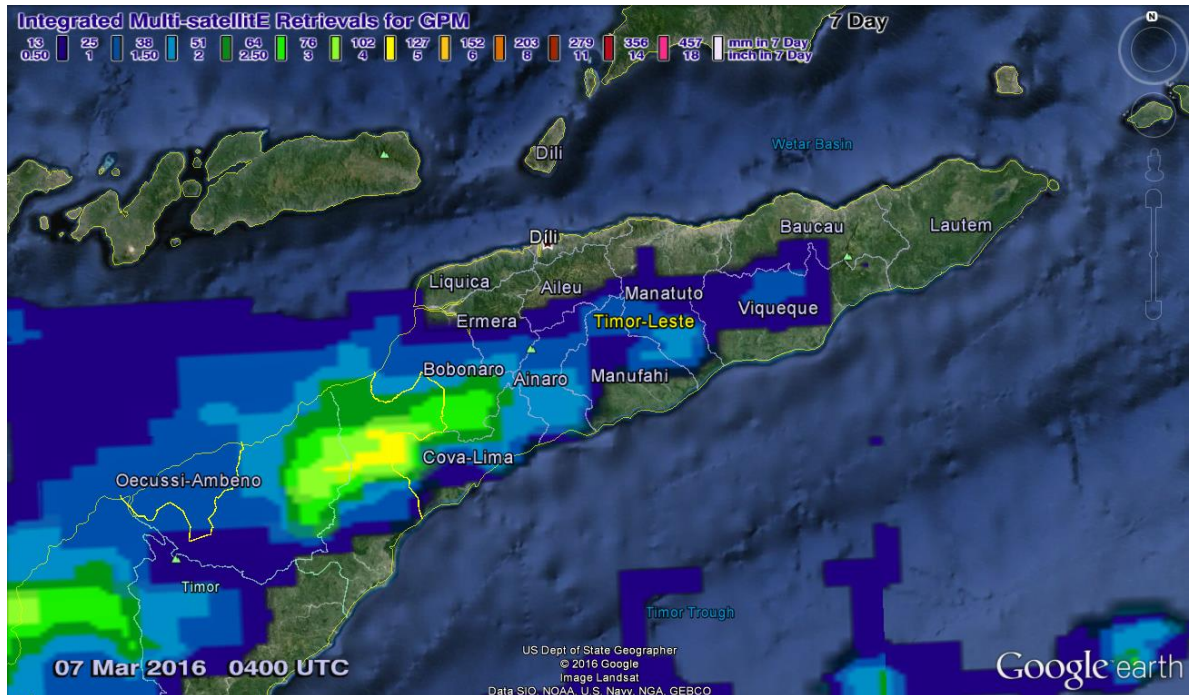
Animal

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

## Integrated Multi-Satellite Data for Rainfall

Note that in areas of blue shading the rainfall is insufficient.

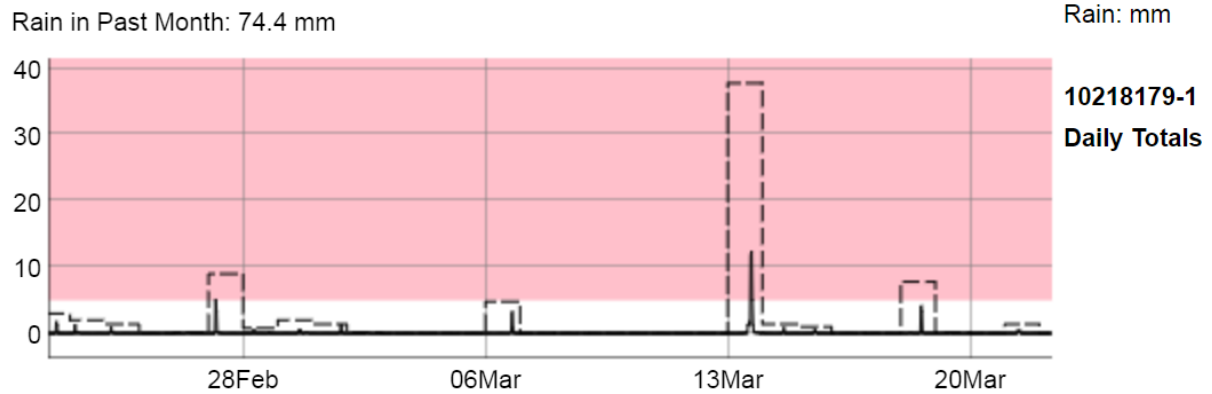
Rain in first half of March, 2016:



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

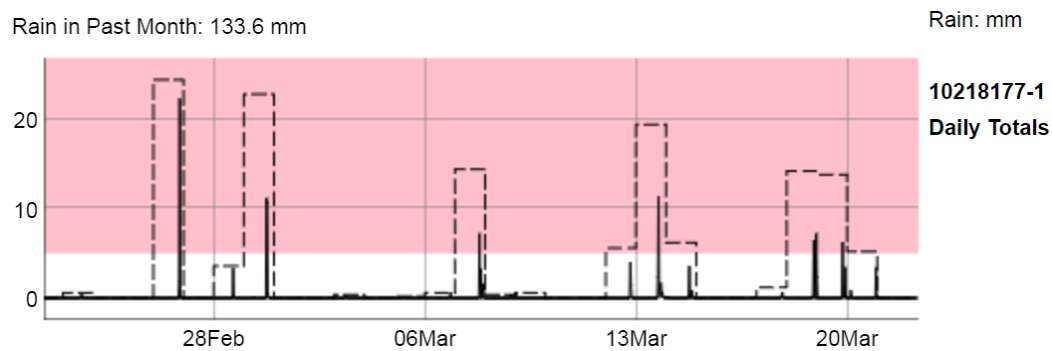
## Rainfall in February (note, scale on left hand axis varies)

**Oecusse** – still very little rain on the coast with only one reasonable rainfall of 38mm on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March

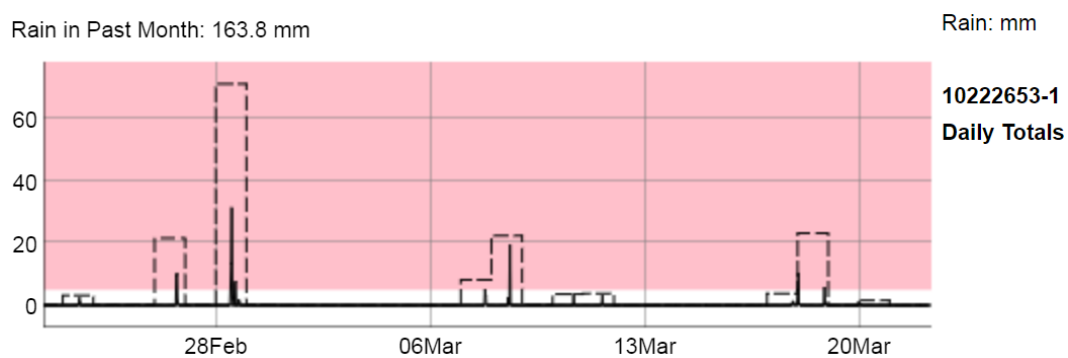


**South Coast** – note the long dry period

**Betano** – has received some more consistent rain over the last month but much lower than average.



**Viqueque** – very little rain has been received since 29<sup>th</sup> of February

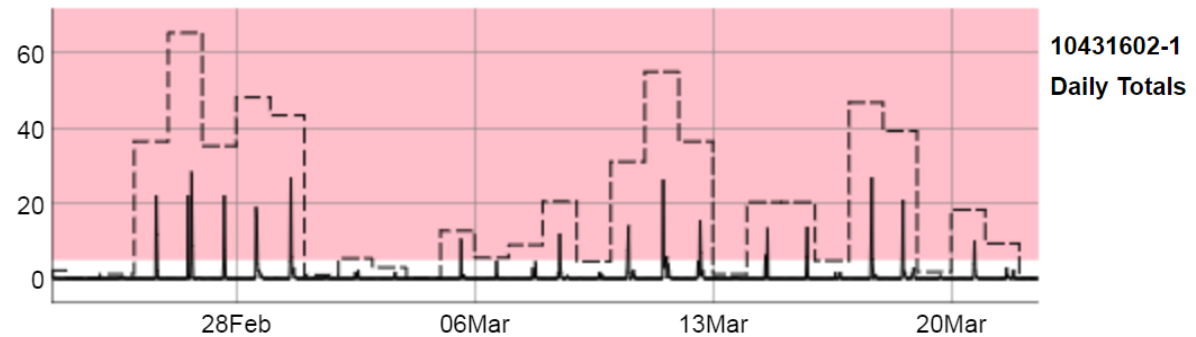


**Central Mountains** – showing consistent and sufficient levels of rainfall

**Laklubar** – consistent heavy rainfall “spikes” (concentrated rain events) totalling with 581mm!

Rain in Past Month: 581.5 mm

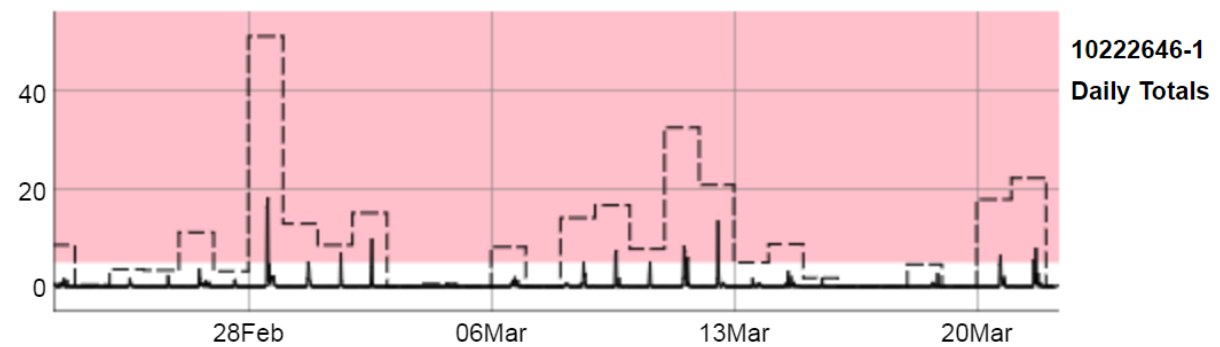
Rain: mm



**Flexia**

Rain in Past Month: 281.1 mm

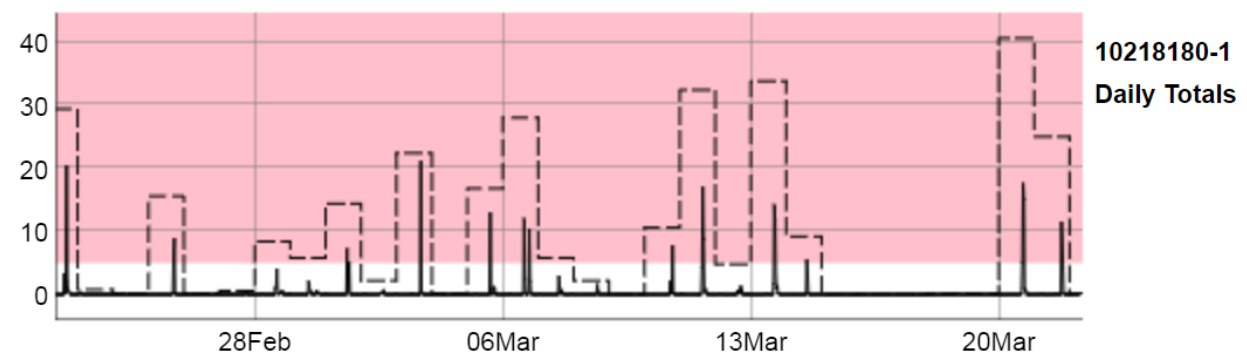
Rain: mm



**Quintal Portugal**

Rain in Past Month: 310.1 mm

Rain: mm

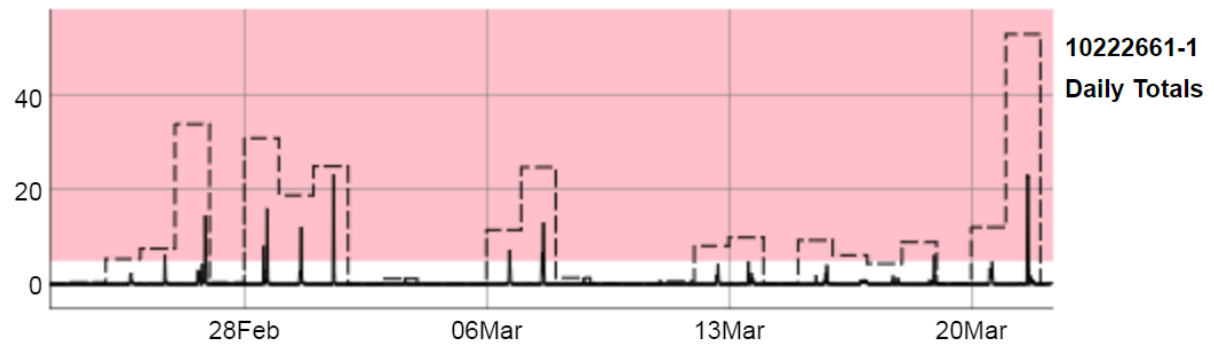


**Eastern Plateaus** – also received low rainfall in mid February

**Darasula** – although drier in the first half of March, the Baucau plateau has received another set of reasonable rain from the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Rain in Past Month: 276.9 mm

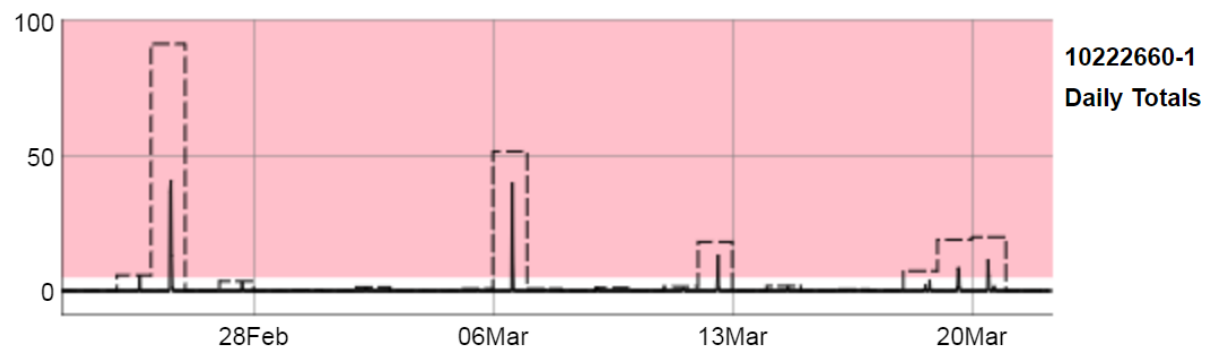
Rain: mm



**Los Palos** – rainfall has fallen again in March with periods of 5 – 7 days with no rain.

Rain in Past Month: 226.5 mm

Rain: mm



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