

# Assessing the spread of maize seed growers groups

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## Introduction

Seeds of Life supported MAF to establish Community Seed Production Groups (CSPGs) in sucos all over Timor-Leste. This started in 2011 with 280 CSPGs in seven districts, and by the end of 2015, there were 1,191 CSPGs in 339 sucos in the 13 districts. In 2013, in two sucos CSPGs associated to form Commercial Seed Producers (CSPs), and by late 2015, there were 69 CSPs in 63 sucos.

Specifically for maize, by the end of 2015 there were 694 CSPGs and 42 CSPs growing maize in 297 sucos.

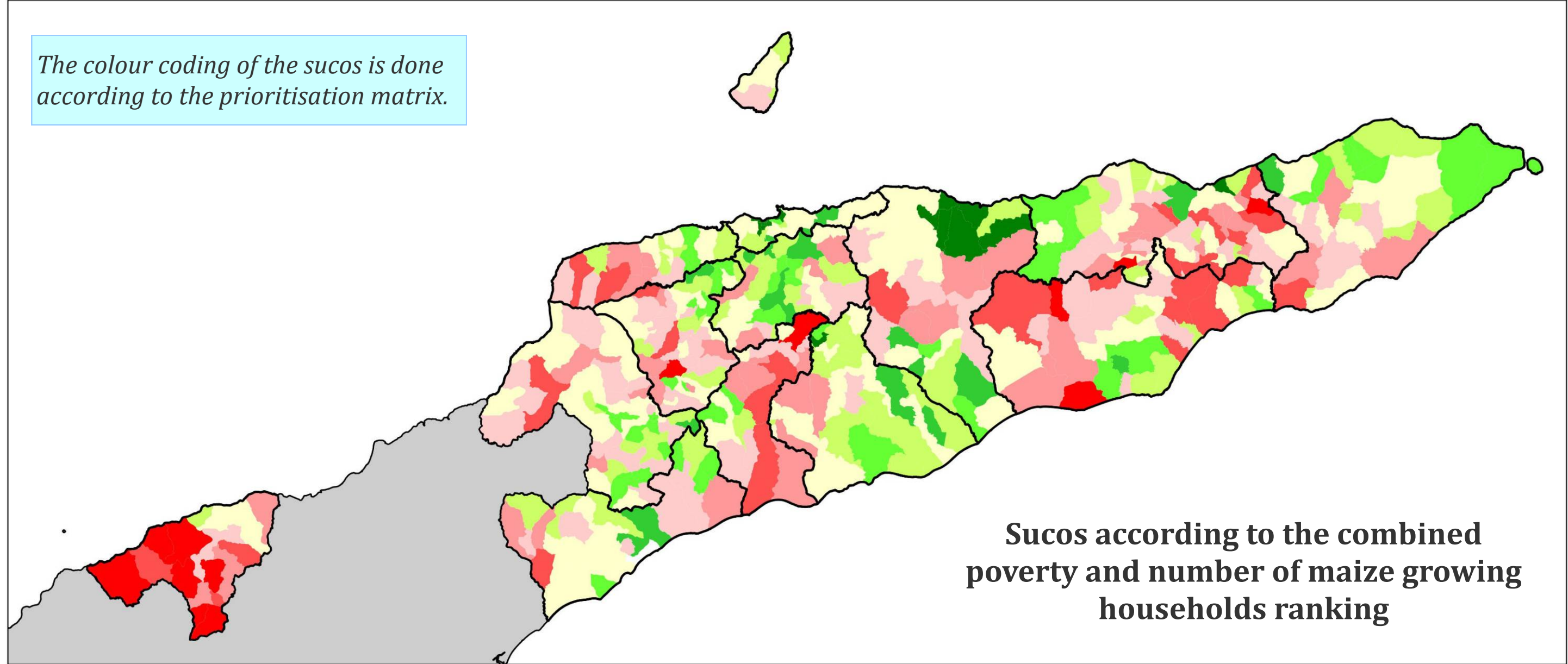
There is a wide diversity between the sucos of Timor-Leste; in some – mostly urban – sucos, hardly any people grow maize, in other sucos nearly every household grows maize. Some sucos are considered poor and poorly serviced; other sucos are much better off.

This raises the question: **To what extent are the maize seed growers groups strategically located? Are they servicing the poorer sucos and/or the sucos where most of the maize growing farmers live?**

## Assessment approach

- The assessment of the spread of maize seed grower groups for poverty and number of maize farmers is done in four steps.
- Using the 2010 census data, all sucos are ranked by their number of maize growing households. These are divided into five similar-sized groups, with a value “1” assigned to the top quintile, with the most households (i.e. between 1,732 to 337 maize growing households), and so on until “5” for the quintile of sucos with the fewest maize growers (i.e. less than 87 households)
  - A similar categorization into five groups is done for the suco poverty ranking from the ADB publication “Least Developed Sucos” (ADB 2013), with “1” for the poorest quintile of sucos, and “5” for the ‘richest’ quintile.
  - The combination of the ‘maize growing households ranking’ and the ‘suco poverty ranking’ gives an overall priority ranking. Poor sucos with many maize growing households have a higher priority for program expansion than ‘richer’ sucos with few maize growing households. The combination of the two rankings results in a **prioritisation matrix** as shown on the right. It groups all of Timor-Leste’s 442 sucos into one of nine categories.
  - The suco priority ranking is then compared with the spread of the maize seed growers groups, either as CSPGs or CSPs. For each box in the matrix the number of sucos with and without maize seed growers groups can be counted.

Prioritisation matrix



## Results

Two-thirds of all sucos have maize seed grower groups, either as CSPGs or as CSPs. In four districts there are such groups in 90% or more of the sucos.

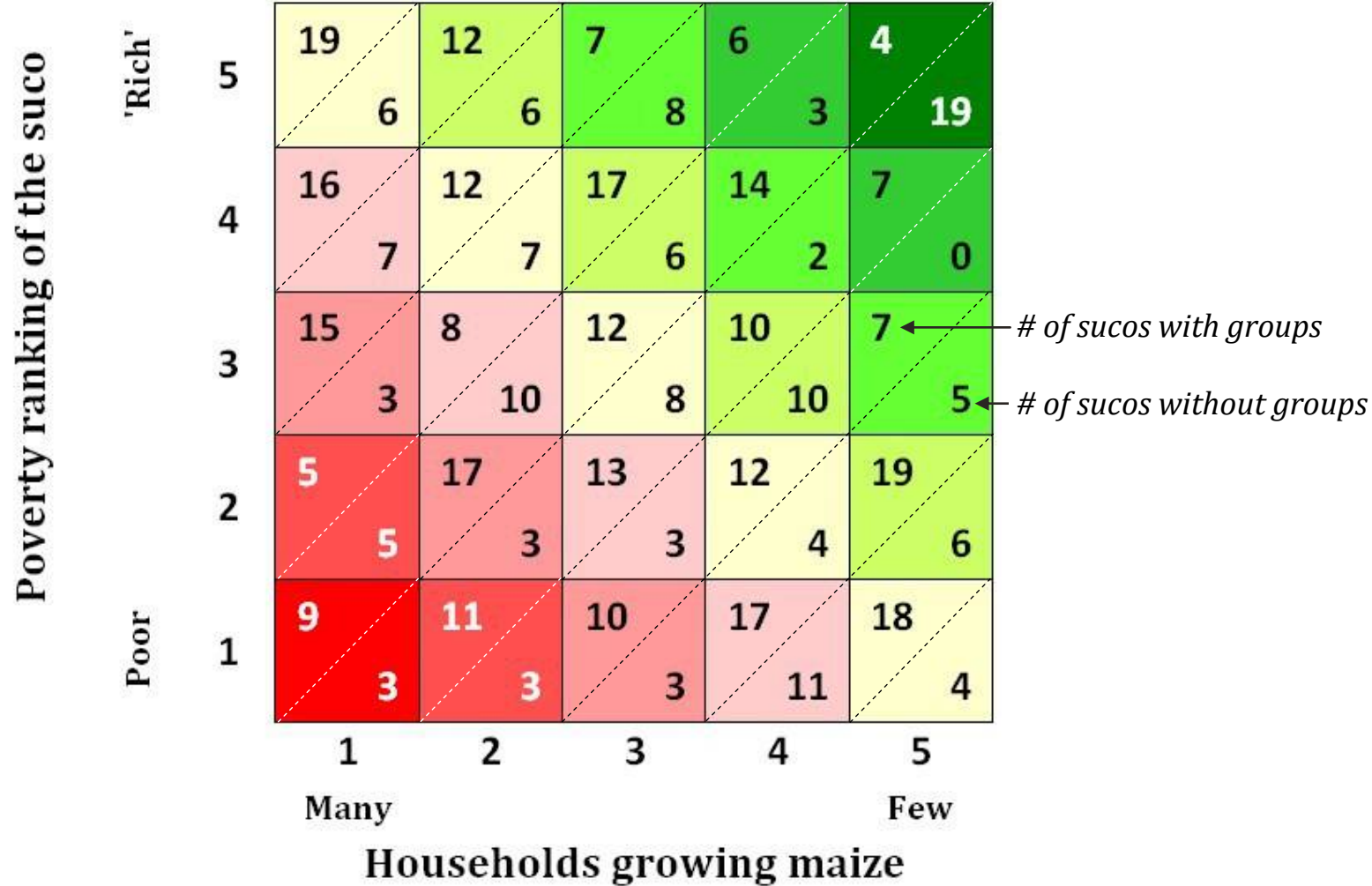
Number of sucos with maize seed grower groups in the 13 districts

District	Groups of poverty / crop growers ranks									Number of sucos		% of sucos with maize groups
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	with maize groups	in district	
Aileu			4	4	4	10	3	3		28	31	90%
Ainaro	1	2	6	5	4	1	1			20	21	95%
Baucau		4	9	9	10	6		1	1	40	59	68%
Bobonaro		2	2	9	10	2	4	1		30	50	60%
Covalima		1	3	6	6	9	3	1		29	30	97%
Dili				2	1	2				5	31	16% (*)
Ermera		1	2	8	6	4	4	1		26	52	50%
Lautem		1	2	2	9	7	6	1		28	34	82%
Liquiça			2	1	4	4	2			13	23	57%
Manatuto			2		5		1	3	2	13	29	45%
Manufahi			3		6	7	2	1	1	20	29	69%
Oecusse	7	2	3	2	2	1				17	18	94%
Viqueque	1	3	4	6	6	5	2	1		28	35	80%
Total	9	16	42	54	73	58	28	13	4	297	442	67%
Total sucos in sub-group	12	24	51	85	102	86	43	16	23	442		
% of coverage	75%	67%	82%	64%	72%	67%	65%	81%	17%	67%		

(\*) If only counting the 10 rural sucos in Dili, this becomes 50%

The figure below shows, for each poverty / maize farmers combination, the number of sucos with (top left corner) and without (bottom right corner) maize seed growers groups.

Number of sucos with and without maize seed growers groups



The formation of maize seed growers groups in sucos situated in the left lower cells of the matrix should have higher priority than group establishment in the sucos situated in the right top cells.

## References

ADB 2013. Least Developed Sucos, Timor-Leste. Pacific Studies Series, ADB, Manila, the Philippines

NSD (National Statistics Directorate) 2011. Population and housing census of Timor-Leste, 2010, Volume 4: Suco report, National Statistics Directorate and United Nations Population Fund, Dili.