



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:
2 weeks of low rainfall putting some rice fields at risk.

16/04/2016 – 30/04/2016

A 2 week period of low rainfall at the end of April may mark the end of the wet season for many areas in Timor-Leste. For areas along the south coast it can be normal to have a short period of low rainfall before the second round of rains allow the possibility of a second crop. For those rice fields that are struggling to get enough water from irrigation systems, this period of low rain may prove to be very critical. Rice crops in the Maliana basin that are flowering are especially at risk. Most of the maize has been harvested. Reports have come in that the production was fairly good in the mountains however many coastal areas have had low production or total crop failure.

From West to East...

Oecusse received only 9mm of rain in the last month. Maize has been harvested with good production in the mountains but lower fields have failed. Dry land rice is now being harvested.

Bobonaro has received low rainfall. This is impacting on rice fields in areas around Maumali, Mautalo, Manapa and around Cailaco. Many fields are in flowering stage where water is critical for development but there has not been enough for all the fields. Rice fields around Maliana vila are doing well. (refer to extra map of the rice fields around Maliana)

Covalima had very little rain with extension coordinators reporting “no rain” over the last two weeks of April. The weather station only recorded a few millimetres of rain. Rice fields are growing well apart from the Tilomar area which has not been able to plant rice.

Liquica maize yields were good in the mountains but most coastal crops have failed. The rice fields along the Loes river are growing well.

Ermera rice fields are growing well. Some animals have poor condition in Posto Hatolia.

Dili has received some good rain on some days. Households continue to maintain kitchen gardens and market gardens for selling vegetables into the city. The police are enforcing government rules on penning of animals by putting down those animals (such as pigs) that are not penned.

Aileu has had only a little rain over the last two weeks. Rice continues to grow well in Aileu Vila and Laulara. Animals are in low condition with treatments being given to pigs, cows, goats and dogs.

Ainaro farmers in Hatu-Udo near the coast are planting their second crop of maize. Many farmers have now planted their rice in Hatu-Udo and Ainaro Postos.

Manufahi farmers are busy ploughing fields ready for a second season of maize. They hope to make up for low production in the first season. Rice fields are being prepared



Maize crop in Betano showing low production.
Photo: Asep Sewantini, 20/4/2016

especially in Caraulun where the irrigation system is working again after 12 years.

Manatuto corn fields have been harvested but rice planting has been delayed. Many farmers have been able to plant rice in Posto Manatuto and in Soibada, some farmers are starting to harvest rice.

Baucau many areas have been planted with rice however along the coast in Laga and Vemasse there is a shortage of water. The plateau received less than half the average historical rainfall for April.



Viqueque received a little rainfall. Many farmers along the coast are preparing fields for a second maize crop and some are planting rice (although less than normal). In Ossu, crops have performed well.

Rice fields being prepared in Uatulari with seedling beds.

Photo: Benvindo Jose Ernesto, 26/4/2016

Lautem has only received a little rain. Many farmers have harvested the corn and some have begun planting rice.

There has been some discussion about the possibility of a La Nina forming later in the year. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology is taking a conservative approach stating the likelihood of La Nina forming is 50%. The months of April and May are difficult to predict the ENSO outcome. A La Nina means increased rainfall and possibly good news for farmers with second season crops in Timor-Leste during the dry season. In any case the outlook is more positive for Timor-Leste.

Finally, some encouragement to buy local produce where there is surplus and re-distribute to areas of need. With the onset of El Nino some corn was bought from the Los Palos plateau in September, 2015, from surplus stock. It has just been re-distributed to needy families along the Lautem coast and to Atauro. Along the west coast of Atauro, a few farmers who've received drums and kept them for food storage will have their drums topped up with corn to help them through this difficult period. We hope this will send a message about the importance of good storage for food security.

As food stocks are set to become low in many areas later this year, consider buying surplus stocks now from areas like Los Palos and fill those yellow drums already distributed by the Maize Storage Program.

Regards,

Samuel Bacon

Cropping Systems Advisor

Seeds of Life

samuel.bacon@seedsoflifetimor.org

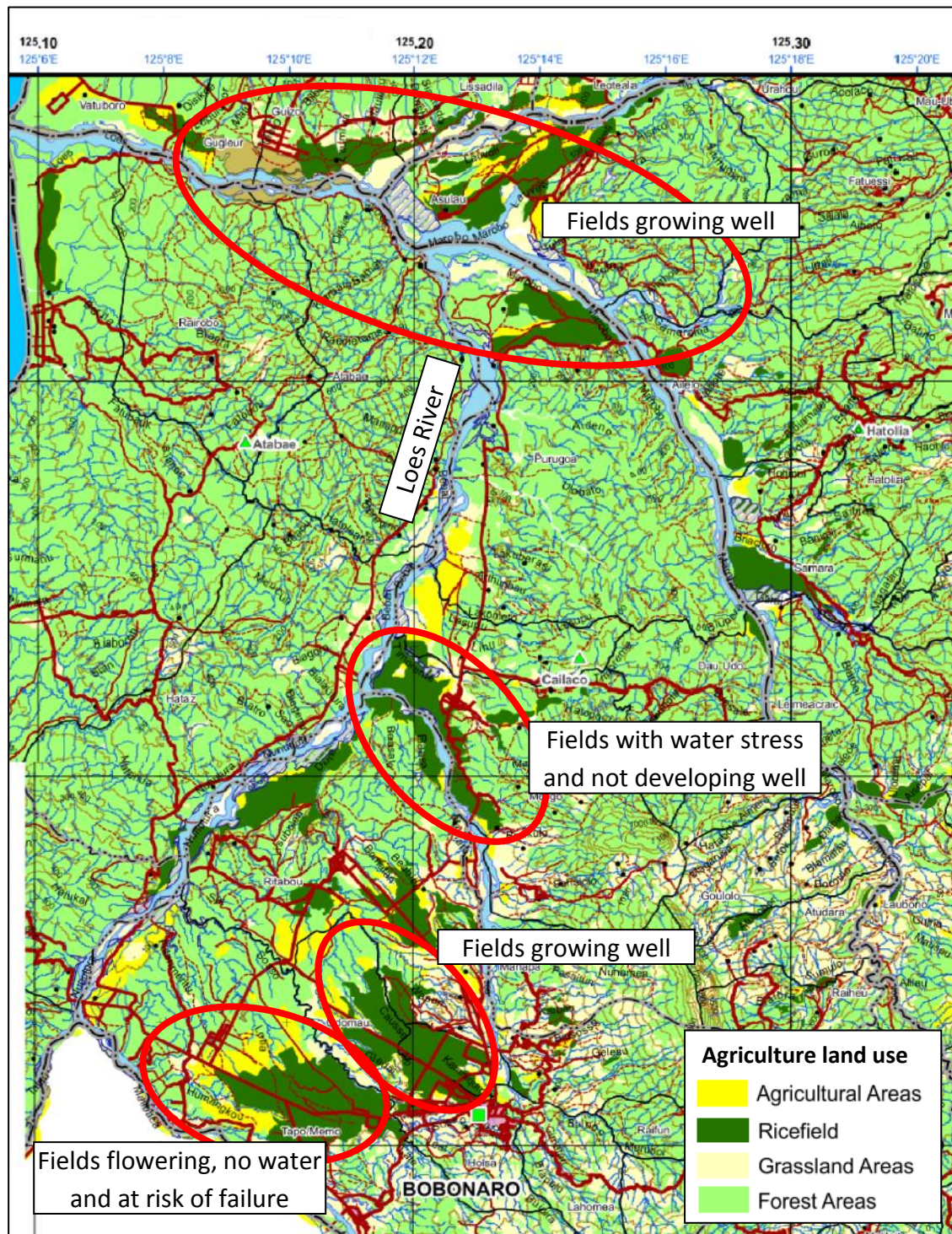


Surplus maize from Los Palos on its way to west coast, Atauro

Photo: Samuel Bacon, 3/5/2016

Diagrammatic map of rice field conditions in the Maliana Basin

April, 25th, 2016



Original Map source: Seeds of Life, Municipal Land Use Map, by Petronilo Munez, Jr.

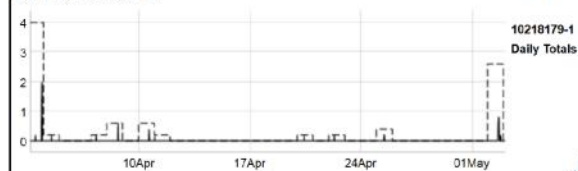
Current rice field information: Wayan Tambun, Regional Advisor, Seeds of Life.

Udan (Rainfall)

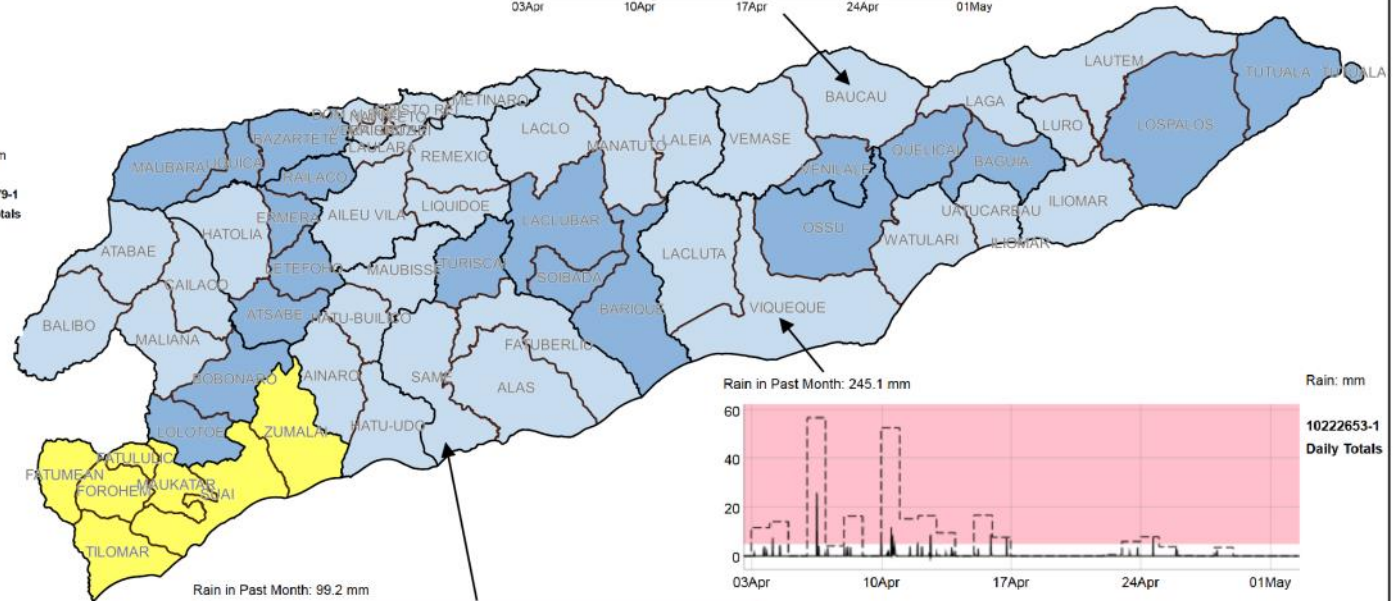
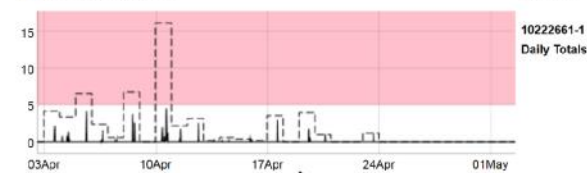
Abril 16/04/16 - 30/04/16

Iha fatin barak udan menus los iha fulan Abril semana 3 no 4
(in many places there has been very little rain in weeks 3 & 4 of April)

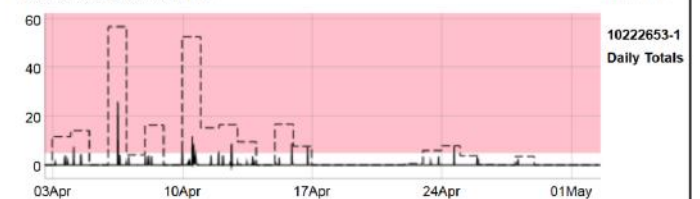
Rain in Past Month: 9.2 mm



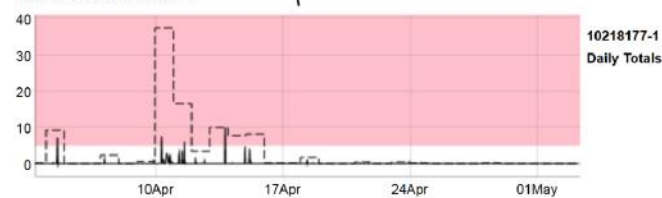
Rain in Past Month: 56.3 mm



Rain in Past Month: 245.1 mm



Rain in Past Month: 99.2 mm



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.



Seeds of Life
Fini ba Moris

Produsaun: S. Bacon
Data: 4/05/2016
Projeksaun: WGS84
Lokasaun: S -8.8o, E 125.8o
Skala: 1:1250000

Informasaun Dadus

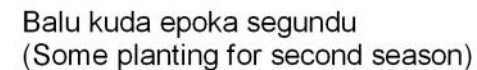
Kona ba Udan:
Udan lae iha - iha lora ida mos lae iha durante semana rua
Udan uitoan - udan ne'ebé la sufsente ba to'os
Udan naton - udan diak ba ita nia to'os
Udan boot - udan liu buat ne'ebé ita preseiza
Udan boot demais - udan estraga to'os ka fatin

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)

Abril 16/04/16 - 30/04/16



Produsaun menus maibe sira fila rai hodi
kuda fali.
(Low maize production but they are
ploughing in order to grow again)












**Agricultural
Land Use & GIS**
ALGIS
Institute of Agriculture, University of Illinois
Thayer Loefer

Produsaun: S. Bacon
Data: 4/05/2016
Projeksaun: WGS84
Lokasaun: S -8.8o, E 125.8o
Skala: 1:1250000

Kona ba Batar:
La kuda - seidauk 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

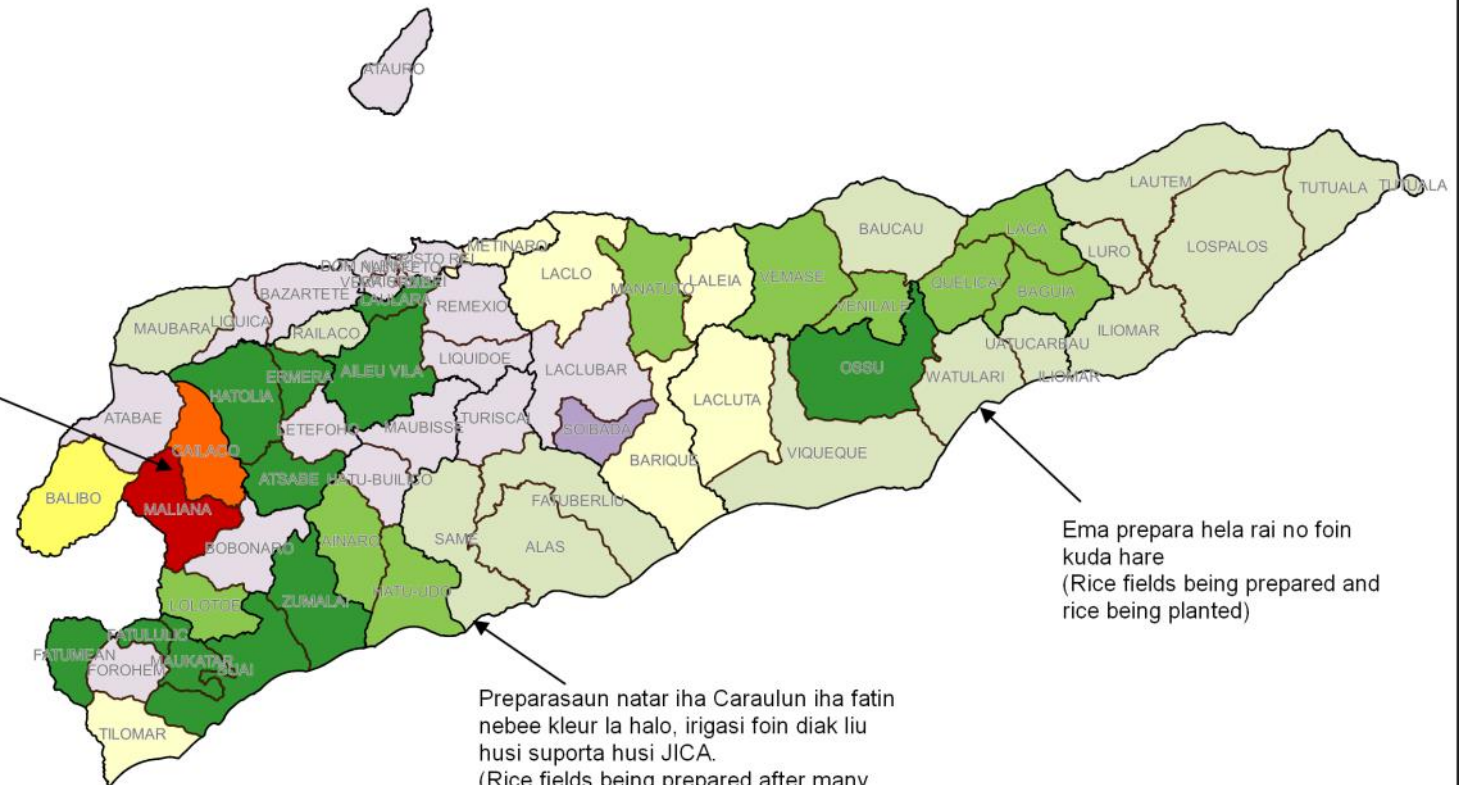
Batar (Corn)

-  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)

bril 16/04/16 - 30/04/16

Natar balu risku atu mate tanba bee menus durante tempu funan
(Some rice fields at risk of failure due to lack of water at flowering)



Ema prepara hela rai no foin kuda hare
(Rice fields being prepared and rice being planted)

Preparasaun natar iha Caraulun iha fatin nebee kleur la halo, irigasi foin diak liu husi suporta husi JICA.
(Rice fields being prepared after many years of no production due to rehabilitation of irrigation system in the Caraulun area supported by JICA.)

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

Informasaun Mapa



Agricultural Land Use & GIS
ALUGIS
Division of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries
Vila Verde

Dadus iha geral deit liu husi husu agrikultor sira iha posto administrativo.
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Seeds of Life
Finii ba Moris

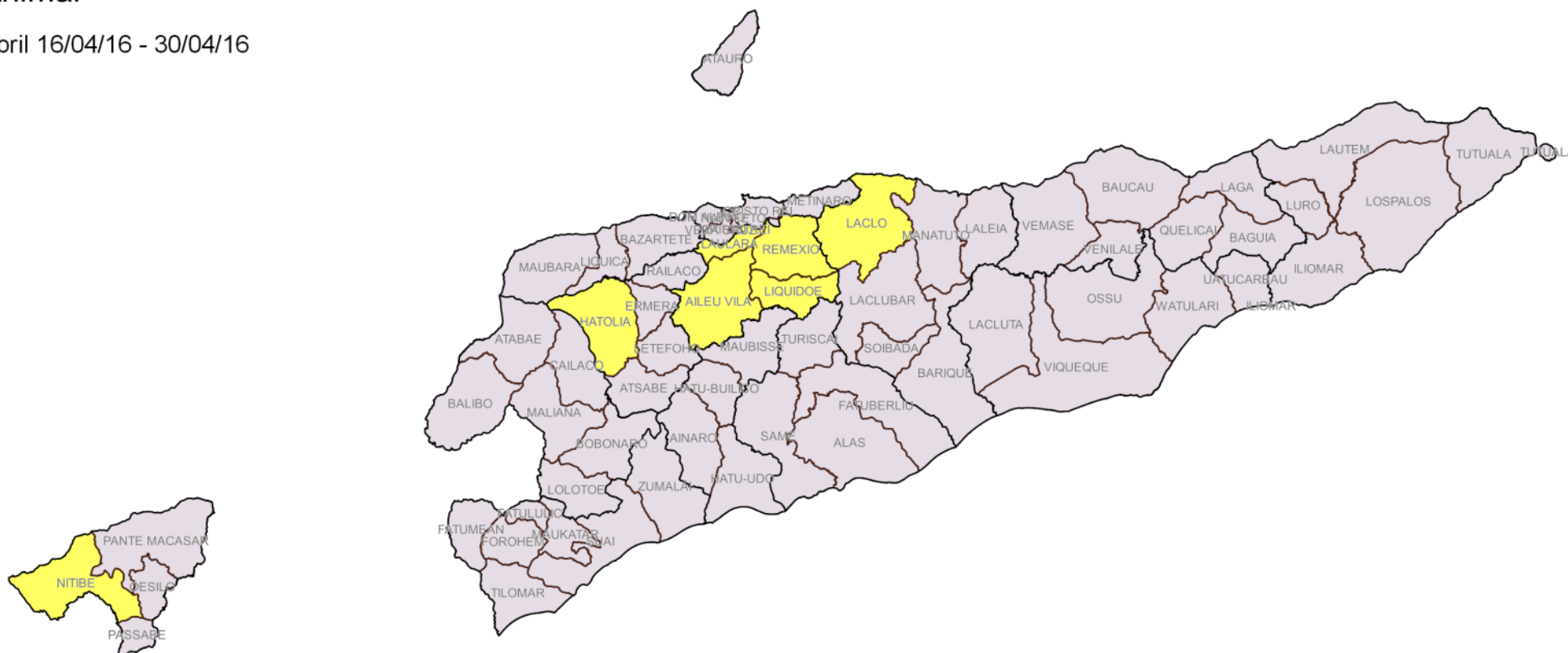
Produsaun: S. Bacon
Data: 4/05/2016
Projeksaun: WGS84
Lokasaun: S -8.8o, E 125.8o
Skala: 1:1250000

Informasaun Dadus

Kona ba Hare:

La kuda - seidak 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

Abril 16/04/16 - 30/04/16



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**Agricultural
Land Use & GIS**
ALGIS
University of Agriculture, Canada & Indiana
Yinuo Luo

Seeds of Life
Fini ba Moris

Produsaun: S. Bacon
Data: 4/05/2016
Projeksaun: WGS84
Lokasaun: S -8.8o, E 125.8o
Skala: 1:1250000

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")

Animal

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

Integrated Multi-Satellite Data for Rainfall

Rain (or lack of) in last week of April:



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

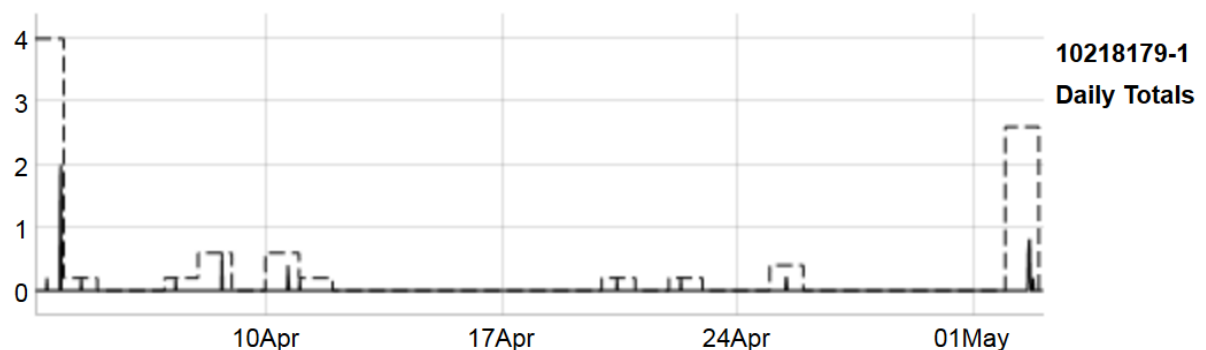
Rainfall in March (note, scale on left hand axis varies)

Data courtesy of ALGIS Agromet Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Most data delivered through the recent weather station upgrade to Hobo RX3000 automatic weather stations.

Oecusse – very little rain along the coast for Oecusse (April historical average: 89mm)

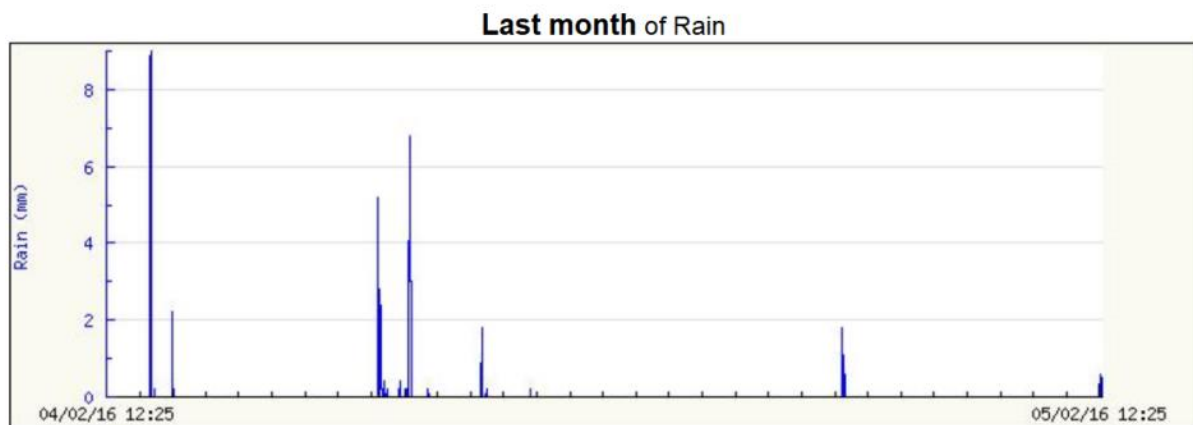
Rain in Past Month: 9.2 mm

Rain: mm

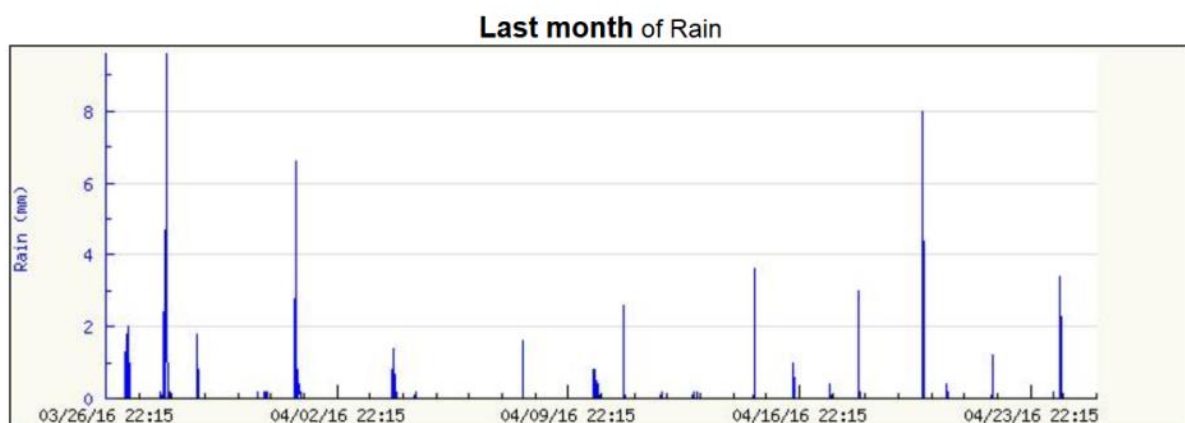


Graphs from Sites with Data Garrison Stations:

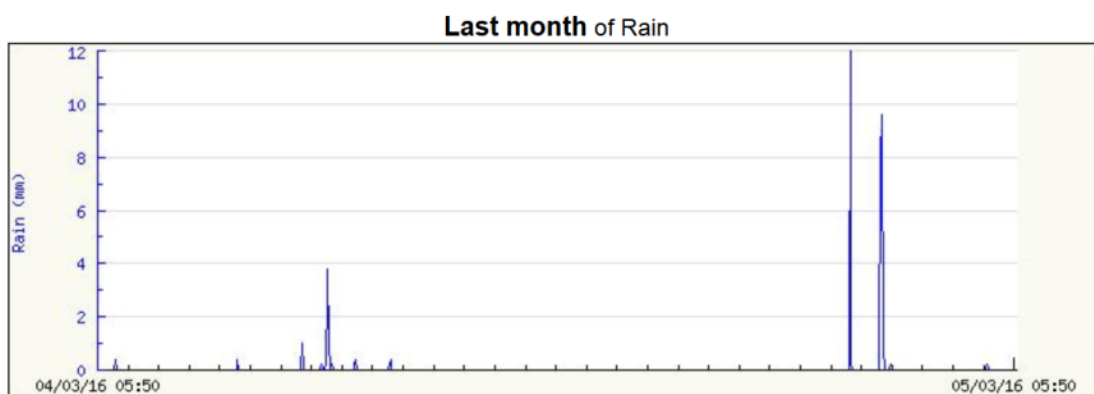
Fohorem – virtually no rain in the last two weeks in Covalima mountains (April historical average: 128mm)



Fazenda Algarve – Rainfall in the mountains of Liquica (April historical average: 149mm)



Atauro – Only three rain events totalling approximately 36mm (Vila) Atauro during April (April historical average: 87mm)

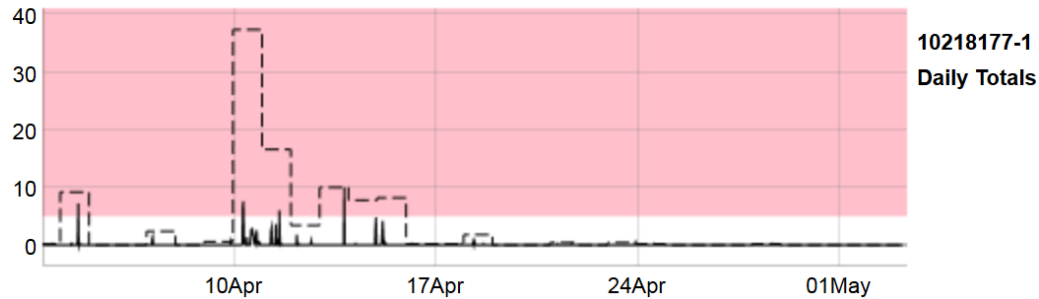


South Coast – a dry 2 weeks

Betano – A dry two weeks after some reasonable rains, but note that this is nearly average rainfall. May is historically Betano's wettest month of the year. (April historical average: 102mm)

Rain in Past Month: 99.2 mm

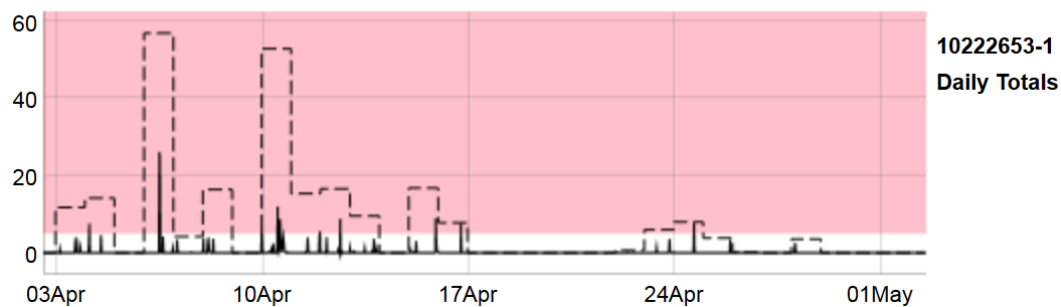
Rain: mm



Viqueque – A good start to the month delivered above average rain to Viqueque but the last 2 weeks have been fairly dry. (April historical average: 210mm)

Rain in Past Month: 245.1 mm

Rain: mm

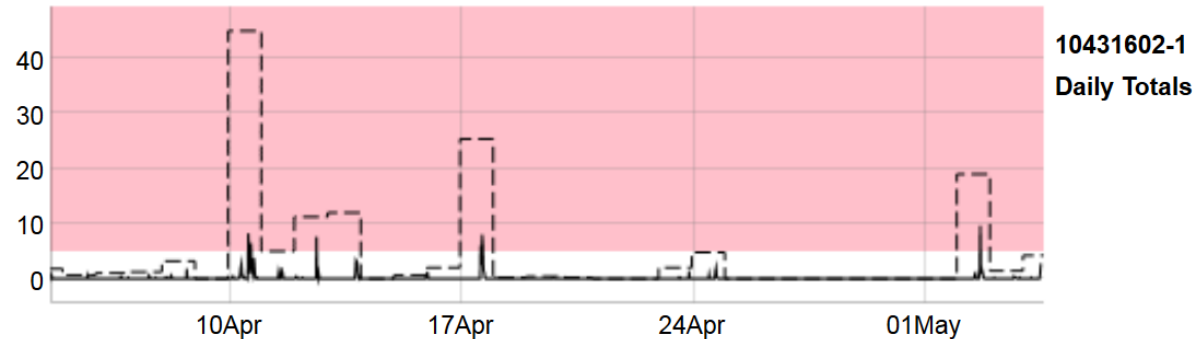


Central Mountains – low rainfall in last two weeks

Laklubar – After Laklubar’s record rainfall months totalling over 1000mm in February and March, the rainfall in April has been below average. (April historical average: 190mm)

Rain in Past Month: 141.2 mm

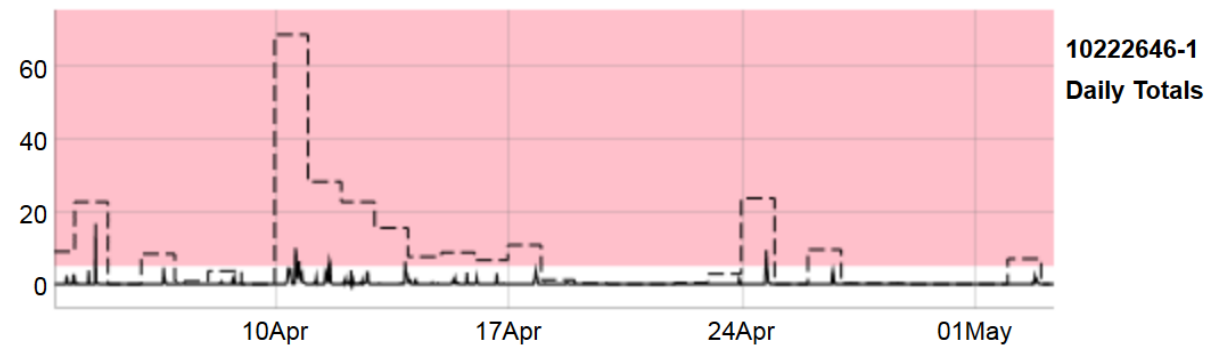
Rain: mm



Flexia - low rainfall in last 2 weeks around Fleixa (Hato-Builico April historical average: 250mm)

Rain in Past Month: 259.9 mm

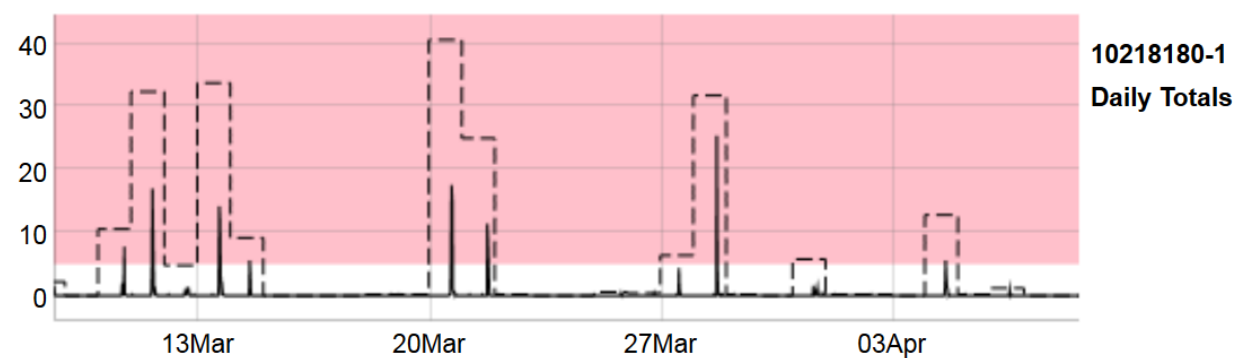
Rain: mm



Quintal Portugal – above average rainfall in Aileu (April historical average: 121mm)

Rain in Past Month: 219.1 mm

Rain: mm

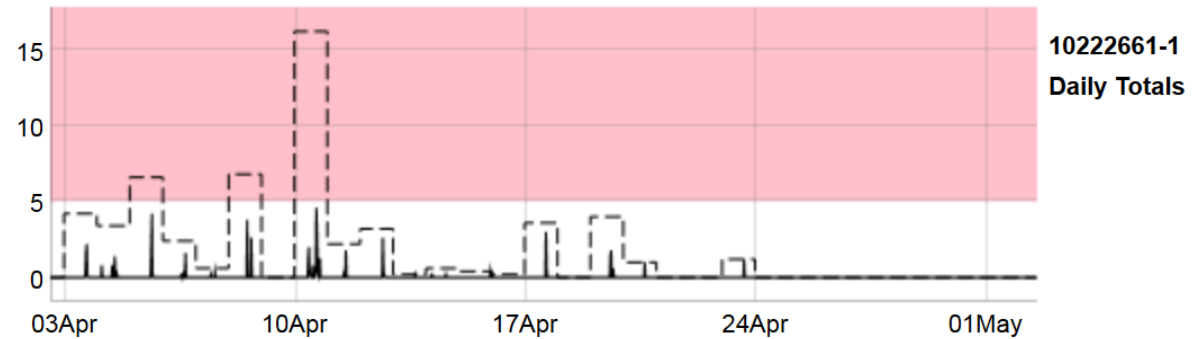


Eastern Plateaus – again low rainfall in last 2 weeks

Darasula – Very low rainfall on Baucau plateau especially in 2nd half of April. (April historical average: 131mm)

Rain in Past Month: 56.8 mm

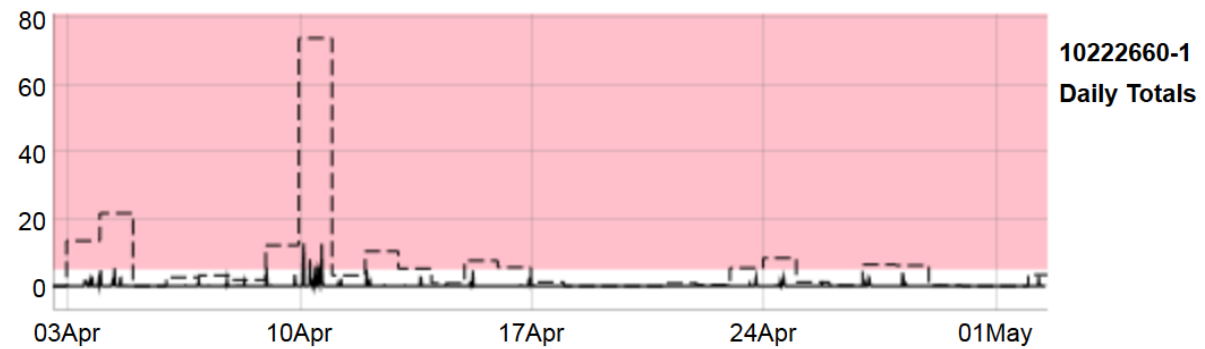
Rain: mm



Los Palos – After heavy rain there has been little follow up rain (good for drying the harvest). (April historical average: 207mm)

Rain in Past Month: 196.0 mm

Rain: mm



Up-to-date real Weather Data at: <http://timoragriresearch.weebly.com/>