

# DRAFT Agriculture Policy and Strategic Framework

## Towards Nutrition-Sensitive, Climate Smart Agriculture and Food Systems

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### Overview

We thank MAF and FAO for the opportunity to provide comments for this draft policy. We appreciate that this latest draft has taken into consideration many suggestions and feedbacks from the consultation process. This revised policy touches various fundamentals challenges in developing agriculture sector and provide some comprehensive strategies in the attempt to overcome those challenges. Nevertheless, we provide some feedbacks for the improvement of the policy.

### Specific analysis

Page	What the text said	Comments/Suggestions
4	To improve production sustainably, the policy challenge is how to enhance innovative and appropriate technologies suitable to the Timorese context, empower and incentivize farmers, promote private sector and create an enabling environment for trade that links producers to consumers/markets....	Comments: For the agriculture sector to be more prosperous it should be strategically well linked to other development priorities, mainly tourism and manufacturing.  Suggestion: To improve production sustainably, the policy challenge is how to enhance innovative and appropriate technologies suitable to the Timorese context, empower and incentivize farmers, promote private sector, create an enabling environment for trade that links producers to consumers/markets <b>and develop agriculture programs that create opportunities for agro tourism and food processing industry in household and community level.</b>
9	Guiding principles	Add one more principle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Fair Trade: focusing policy instruments to ensure that farmers get fair price and acknowledgment for their products and efforts, and are free of market manipulation.</b></li></ul>
11	By 2030, all the policies and strategies and measures are expected to result in the following:	Comments: the key to achieve what this policy aim to are farmers. We believe that it should be one of MAF priority to empower farmers.  Suggestion: add one more point to Key target and indicator <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>By 2030, at least 70% of farmers have possess adequate knowledges and skills about sustainable agricultural practices (including disease and pest control), production management (including post-harvest) and agriculture product marketing. Indicator: percentage of farmers that received trainings from MAF, NGOs, Universities, etc.</b></li></ul>

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12	The current land law (waiting for Presidential approval) has tried to accommodate various land ownership claims, with the objective of establishing “the real” owners.	Already promulgated by the current president
15	Irrigation and input subsidies: The Government shall pursue a fundamental change in policy namely putting less emphasis on investing in irrigated rice production and the development of unsustainable (not profitable) irrigation infrastructure and stimulate sustainable agriculture in the country.	Comments: Irrigation system is not only important for rice production. It is essential components in the development of other sub sectors, such as horticulture, fruticulture, aquaculture, etc. Suggestion: Irrigation and input subsidies: The Government shall pursue a fundamental change in policy namely putting less emphasis on investing in irrigated rice production and the development of unsustainable (not profitable) irrigation infrastructure and put more emphasis to develop small and medium scale irrigation system that will benefits horticulture, fruticulture and aquaculture production.
15	The government shall provide financial credits to farmers with zero interest rate as a replacement to subsidies;	Suggestion: The government shall provide financial credits to farmers with zero interest rate as a replacement to subsidies, with adequate training on management and monitoring (akompanhamentu).
17	Key strategic interventions	Comments: Timor-Leste has local wisdom and practices that should be preserved or developed, in the light of the government plan to develop agro or community based tourism. Suggestion: add this strategy The government should identify existing local ways of farming, such as the use of sarua, servisu hamutuk (harosan), buffaloes, traditional rituals, folksongs, and preserve or develop them for production purpose as well as attraction to agro tourists.
21	Private sector participation and public-private-community partnerships	Comments: We believe that the public-private-community partnership will only benefit farmers if they are organized under strong organization. Timor-Leste Constitution (art. 138) mentions Cooperative as one of the country important economic organization. Suggestion: add this strategy Cooperative should be promoted and considered as one of the key player in public-private-community partnership. Community should be encouraged to form or take part in the community or agricultural cooperative, to be better organized and have more bargaining power.




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