

## Letters of Transmission and Support



### Gabinete do Primeiro Ministro

23 May 2013

Dear Ms Sethi,

On behalf of the Government of Timor-Leste I am pleased to endorse and fully support this application to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) to support our planned Sustainable Agriculture Productivity Improvement Project (SAPIP).

This application has been prepared by our Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and supports the implementation of our nation's *Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030*, of which agriculture has been designated as one of our three key strategic industries, as well as the Agriculture Strategic Plan and associated Mid-Term Operation and Investment Plans by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The development of the Ministry of Agriculture plans commenced in mid-2012 and was completed in early 2013 as we recognised that our previous GAFFSP Application needed strengthening in terms of agriculture sector planning. We are confident that this Application is fully compliant with the GAFSP guidelines.

The *Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030* provides for our agriculture sector to improve national food security, reduce rural poverty, support the transition from subsistence to commercial farming and promote environmental stability and natural resource conservation. The Government recognises the challenge of these tasks and this is why the sector's budget has been increased by 44%, from \$16.79 million in 2012 to \$24.12 million in 2013. In addition, we have allocated \$10 million for irrigation rehabilitation in 2013. We continue to strive to develop a productive and efficient agriculture sector which still supports 70% of our population and, and in the longer-term, will underpin and promote economic growth in rural areas and our nation as a whole.

As a developing post-conflict nation, Timor-Leste has many pressing needs with a limited fiscal capacity. We are fortunate that the agriculture sector is continuing to receive support from development partners who continue to work in close and productive cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. However, Timor-Leste would benefit from additional operating funds needed to conduct research and development programs, and to improve farmer services and training programs. Progress towards national targets, and the Millennium Challenge Goals, continues to be a challenge and we know that improved supplies of staple and nutritious foods will have a positive impact on nutrition levels.

I can assure the GAFSP Coordination Unit that GAFSP funds will be used to address the k  
agriculture issue in our country – that of self-sufficiency and sovereignty in staple and nutritious food.  
In addition, I have requested the Minister responsible for agriculture and fisheries to ensure that  
GAFSP funds do not duplicate or crowd-out development partners' or NGOs' support programs and  
projects. The GAFSP funds will be used for additional and new food production and rural income  
raising initiatives which cannot be funded from Government or development partner resources.

On behalf of the Government of Timor-Leste I endorse and fully support the application to the  
GAFSP Selection Committee which, if approved, would provide support to improve the lives of our  
people.

Yours sincerely,



**Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão**  
Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

**MS GEETA SETHI**  
**PROGRAM MANAGER**  
**THE GAFSP COORDINATION UNIT, MSN MC5-510**  
**THE WORLD BANK GROUP, 2201 PENNSY DRIVE**  
**LANDOVER, MD, 20785**  
**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**



República Democrática de Timor-Leste  
Ministério das Finanças



Gabinete da Ministra

*"Seja um bom cidadão, seja um novo herói para a nossa Nação"*

No: **00291** / V/GMF / 2013

22 May 2013

**The GAFSP Coordination Unit**

MSN MC5-510

The World Bank Group, 2201 Pennsy Drive  
LANDOVER, MD, USA 20785

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the V<sup>th</sup> Government of Timor-Leste, the Ministry of Finance is pleased to endorse this application from the Ministry of Agriculture Finance to the Global Agriculture Food Security Program (GAFSP) for funds to support the Sustainable Agriculture Productivity Improvement Project (SAPIP).

This application has been prepared by our Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries with support from the World Bank and cooperation from FAO, and complements the agriculture sector initiatives included in our National Strategic Development Plan which the Prime Minister launched in mid-2011. The Strategic Development Plan mandates Timor-Leste's agriculture sector to improve national food security, reduce rural poverty, support the transition from subsistence to commercial farming, and promote environmental sustainability and natural resource conservation. **A thriving agricultural sector, which still supports 70% of our population, will also promote economic growth in rural areas and our nation as a whole.**

Our application again focuses on the income and food/ nutrition security of our people through improved country-led public sector investment in increasing agricultural productivity, empowering farmers and linking them to markets, strengthening adaptive research and extension institutions, reducing risk and vulnerability, improving non-farm rural livelihoods, and strategic use of technical assistance. We are confident that our application addresses GAFSP's five component requirements

On behalf of the rural people of Timor-Leste, the Ministry of Finance is please to submit this letter of application to the GAFSP Selection Committee, and I look forward to receiving support from the Fund to improve our rural population's livelihoods.

Yours sincerely,

**Emilia Pires**  
Minister

cc.: H.E. Xanana Gusmao, Prime Minister, Government of Timor-Leste, RDTL  
H.E. Mariano Sabino, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, RDTL

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