

## **TOMAK – FARMING FOR PROSPERITY (TIMOR-LESTE)**

### **TOMAK Supply Chain Partner - Expression of Interest (EOI) Form**

#### **Independent Advisory Services**

##### **Organisation Details**

Organisation Name: [Independent Advisory Services, Lda](#)

Organisation Type: (ie. NGO/ SME/ Company etc) [Company registered in Timor-Leste](#)

Business ABN/National Business Registration Number: [1217077 \(Timor-Leste\)](#)

Address: [Malinamoc Village, Comoro, Dili](#)

Country: [Timor-Leste](#)

Contact Person: [John Dalton](#)

Position: [Chief Executive Officer](#)

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*(Note: each organisation can provide contact details as per their preferred method of contact, above)*

##### **Organisation Profile/Areas of relevant expertise/Link to website**

**(Maximum 150 words)**

[Independent Advisory Services, Lda \(IAS\) was established in December 2014 to provide a wide range of technical and other advisory services in agriculture and rural development.](#)

[IAS provides technical services to all elements of smallholder farming systems including annual and perennial crops, small and large livestock, aquaculture and marine fisheries, agroforestry and community forestry, watershed and natural resource management and community development including women's economic empowerment, nutrition improvement and market based approaches to building agricultural value chains.](#)

[IAS offers experienced and proven technical assistance services in design, implementation, management and evaluation of development projects, particularly in Timor-Leste, including capacity building to empower local communities and their institutions to effectively manage change by applying good governance acquired through facilitated autonomous experiential learning.](#)

[IAS also offers a range of project support services including monitoring and evaluation, training, communications, IT support as well as financial management, transport, procurement and other key logistics.](#)

### **Brief summary of relevant experience (Maximum 500 words)**

IAS emerged in the final transition stages of Seeds of Life program with a view to preserve the program's legacy and expertise in support of agricultural and rural development in Timor Leste. The national and international expertise developed during the 15 years of implementing the Seeds of Life (SoL) program is second to none in Timor-Leste and is uniquely positioned to support vital improvements in agricultural productivity, commercialisation, farm family livelihoods and the lifestyles and living standards of the 130,000 farming families that comprise its 400 rural communities.

The company's stakeholders of Timorese and non-Timorese nationals have multiple years' experience in adapting agriculture and rural development programs to be effective in the unique and complex social, cultural and institutional situation ruling in the young nation. IAS non-Timorese stakeholders also have extensive team leader and development facilitation experience in Australia, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria and the Philippines.

As of September 2015, the company is providing GIS services and training to an American company contracted by USAID to manage a horticulture production and marketing, nutrition and natural resource management program in Timor-Leste. IAS has also fielded a Timorese consultant with an Australian company contracted by Australian Aid to manage a market development program to assist it establish a national association of 53 agriculture input shops in Dili and all 12 municipal towns across Timor Leste.

The latter was inspired by a national association of registered commercial seed producers (CSP) that this year will supply some 350 tons of high quality commercial seed of rice, maize and peanut, almost the total seed requirement budgeted by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, thereby enabling (i) MAF to avoid expensive importation of seed of uncertain quality, (ii) directing US\$600,000 to CSP producing commercial seed as part of each Municipal Seed System and (iii) saving MAF more than US\$200,000 overall.

This initiative is the direct result of IAS members of the SoL team going beyond the SoL3 program design to seize the opportunity to facilitate the development of an entirely new commercial seed industry in Timor Leste. From an initial pilot of three farmer associations in 2013 in the next cropping season a total of 65 CSP (>1,600 households) are authorised to produce 370 tons of commercial seed under the name *Fini ba Moris*, the brand of the National Seed System for Improved Varieties System (NSSRV) in accordance with specially developed Guidelines that assures quality control.

A further initiative involves offering CSP the opportunity to form savings and loans association. From a pilot in 2014 there are now 35 S&L being facilitated and mentored by a contracted NGO from Oecusse with an established track record in S&L formation. The older S&L are already proving to be a major stimulus to other community commercial initiatives and womens' economic empowerment.

Another initiative has involved linking with Coffee Cooperative Timor and Family Planning NSW to pilot an original approach to improving women's reproductive health, gender balance and reducing domestic violence by forming "Mens' Health Groups" at aldeia level.

*Note: This EOI is provided by the organisation to DFAT, with the understanding that it does not represent solicitation or constitute a request for proposal, nor is it a promise of any future work. It is solely for the organisation's details to be included in a public register on DFAT's website, of parties available in the overall market for possible involvement in any future delivery of Tomak in Timor-Leste.*