



TOMAK- FARMING FOR PROSPERITY (TIMOR-LESTE)

Expressions of Interest

World Education, Inc.

Organisation Details

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Organisation Profile/Areas of relevant expertise/Link to website([**Maximum 150 words**](#)**)**

World Education, Inc. (WEI, www.worlded.org) is a US and Australia-based non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of the poor through economic and social development programs. WEI is registered with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as a Private Voluntary Organization (PVO) and is an Australian Aid accredited Registered Charity in Australia (www.worlded.org.au). WEI works in over 25 countries in Africa and Asia, and in the United States. For more than 50 years, WEI has worked to provide training and technical assistance in formal and nonformal education and training across a wide variety of sectors, including sustainable agriculture and natural resources management, maternal and child health, nutrition education, integrated literacy, income generation, and school governance. In all these sectors, WEI works with local institutions to develop their skills and capacity to serve as more responsive agents to the development needs of their own communities.

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

WEI began working in Indonesia in 1991 to improve agricultural production and natural resources management with a network of Indonesian NGOs which trained farmers and farmer groups in integrated pest management (IPM) farmer field school (FFS) methodology. Since then, WEI has built a strong community-based sustainable agriculture program in Indonesia with community IPM as an entry point to all its activities. Through these programs, WEI established capacity to support community-based sustainable agriculture training and farmer networks by training thousands of farmers each year through season-long FFS and through village-level organizing to solve local agricultural problems.

WEI has long experience and deep expertise in how to improve production and minimize environmental impact with many commercial (and some subsistence) crops including rice,

vegetables, soybeans, mung beans, palm oil, rubber, cocoa and coffee. WEI has developed this expertise in a wide variety of ecological settings across the archipelago, including Kalimantan (West, Central and East), North Sumatra, Lampung, Central Sulawesi, Sumba, Sumbawa, West Timor and Timor-Leste. WEI possesses substantial knowledge and skill in providing technical assistance to farmers and extension workers to increase crop productivity, primarily by using the FFS methodology. WEI also has experience in providing training in value chain assessments, notably for cocoa in Kalimantan, but which can also be applied to other commercial commodities.

WEI's microfinance initiatives complement the agricultural technical inputs. WEI takes a livelihoods approach to community development, which places access to financial services within the broader social and economic context. In 2009, for example, WEI began working in Timor-Leste by providing technical and management support to a financial literacy project serving Timorese women. WEI aimed to improve local microfinance provider Moris Rasik's (MR) capacity to provide better services to their clients by improving their clients' knowledge around money management, small business development, and how to profit from loans. Today, WEI continues to work with MR on the *Teaching Financial Literacy Project Phase III*, a five-year MFAT-funded project to expand MR's non-financial services. The first project cycle in Ermera included the development of an agricultural training team within MR that provided clients with FFS-based training to increase the productivity and efficient management of coffee and vegetable crops. Currently, a major focus is providing non-literate and semi-literate clients in Bobonaro, Cova Lima, and Manufahi with basic numeracy and other foundational skills for improved financial capability.

Additionally, in 2013 and 2014, WEI played a technical role in the USAID-funded *Desenvolve Agricultura Comunitaria* (DAC) project in Timor-Leste by conducting a series of Training of Trainers in the FFS approach for DAC staff (of the contractor DAI), as well as farmers. Full FFS training was provided to 22 DAC staff, and 288 farmers from four districts (Bobonaro, Ermera, Liquisa and Aileu) were trained on how to more efficiently produce commercial vegetables that are in demand in the Dili supermarkets. As most of Timor-Leste's farmers are oriented toward subsistence production, WEI supported the DAC program to equip farmers with entrepreneurial skills and have helped project beneficiaries build business partnerships with supermarkets in Dili.

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.