

NUSA TENGGARA ASSOCIATION (NTA), INC

Report on the Australian Monitoring Team's Visit to Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) in May-June 2013, and on the NTA's Sponsored Activities in NTT in January-June 2013



Improved cocoa and other crops in a Flores plantation

Colin Barlow and Ria Gondowarsito visited Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) from Friday, 3rd May to Tuesday, June 5th 2013. They spent two weeks in Flores, and two and a half weeks in West Timor. They were accompanied throughout by Ir. Don Bosco, the new Project Manager, and joined in West Timor by Ibu Ruth Radja, Regional Director. Ibu Ruth could not go to Flores since her brother was seriously ill. Bernadette Davis from Mossy Point, NSW, accompanied the team for 6 days in Flores, being interested in linkages between the Flores and Eurobodalla women. She proposed a *tenun ikat* training course for the latter in Flores. Penny Godwin from Canberra joined the team for 10 days in West Timor, helping in mapping and offering to assist in future institutional grant applications. Anton Usmanij from Mildura was in West Timor for 5 days, internally auditing the NTA's Indonesian accounts. The team was accompanied in Besi Pa'e, central Timor, by Pak Andre, now the local manager for that area. The team linked up in each location with responsible extension officers. Its visit timetable is below.

1) General

The NTA works in rural areas of NTT with its counterparts NTA Kupang (Flores and West Timor), the YPMF (Flores) and the YPMPS (Semau island off West Timor). The NTA employs 22 extension officers and 5 specialist advisers, mostly living in or near villages for which they are responsible. Ir. Don Bosco is the Project Manager of the NTA . He took over on June 1st from Ir. Andreas Nuwa, who following a second stroke cannot walk more than a few metres.

This report deals with the Monitoring Team's visits to sponsored activities in **Education**, **Small Infrastructures**, and **Income-generation**, and with progress in January-June 2013. Activities were undertaken by a total of 58 schools and 192 *kelompok* or cooperatives, where each of the latter involved 10-15 households. The NTA works in five target areas of Nusa Tenggara Timur, comprising the *kabupaten* (shire) of Sikka in Flores, two *kecamatan*s (counties) on Semau island, and the three *kecamatan*(s) of West Kupang, East Kupang and Amanuban Selatan on the West Timor mainland (see map on p.9).

The team interacted closely with staff of the *Balai Penelitian Teknologi Pertanian* (Research Institute for Agricultural Technologies) in Flores and West Timor, the *Badan Ketahanan Pangan dan Penyuluhan* (the Body for Food Security and Extension) in Flores, and the *Dinas PPO* (Education Department) in Flores and West Timor. The NTA has MOUs with both the *Balai* and the *Badan*, and several officers from each organization are seconded to it. The team reported on progress to the heads of all these organizations, as well as to the *Bappeda Kabupaten* (Shire Planning Agency) in Flores. Indicators of the NTA's performance in 2012-2013 are tabled below, while personal accounts of project participants will be added in due course.

The weather in target areas in January- June was mostly wet, but dry periods in February and March reduced the maize crop. The plentiful rain left much groundwater, and a potential for irrigating vegetables in July-September. Agricultural and livestock production in NTT are mostly primitive, with low yields and qualities. People in isolated communities find it hard to learn about new technologies, and things are worsened by negative attitudes to risk. But progressive men and women exist in all communities, and the NTA believes that efforts to promote development should be partly focused on them. Rural incomes in NTT are one sixth of the Indonesian average, and NTT is one of the poorest regions in the world.

The highlights of NTA-sponsored activity in January-June 2013 were successful teacher training, a range of small improvements to school facilities, further advances with household water supplies and toilets, big increases in cocoa production, and the spread of vegetable cultivation utilizing new water supplies. Around 10,000 persons benefited from these activities. Reports on most sponsored activities are available in Indonesian, while reports on the monitoring team's final meetings with counterpart NGOs are available in Indonesian and English.

2) The *Kabupaten* (Shire) of Sikka, Flores

The NTA works with the YPMF in a target area stretching 60 kms from the town of Maumere, and involving 5 *kecamatan* (see map on p.9). It cooperates in these places with 23 primary and secondary schools and 75 *kelompok*. The area is mountainous and volcanic with rich soils, and has good potentials for cocoa at heights over 300 metres. The sponsored activities in Sikka cover 18 villages, each with 800-1,200 people. The following were the main NTA-sponsored activities and achievements in Sikka (see map on p.9) in January-June 2013, and the team's comments:-

Program	Activities and Achievements	The Team's Observations
Education	<i>General library training</i> for 2 days in late May at a Maumere hotel. This was attended by 46 teachers, focusing on the <i>guru honor</i> or locally employed people responsible for school libraries. It was led by the chief librarian of Ledalero High Seminary, Ibu	The speedy follow-up with individual visits maintains the momentum of improvement. The team observes that library standards vary greatly, although the overall level is reasonable. Ibu Wiske and Pak Alfonso will report soon

Education (cont'd)	Wiske, and included a visit to the Seminary library. Ibu Wiske & Pak Alfonso, the library facilitator from the YPMF, are following up this training by visiting all sponsored school libraries.	on library training. They will also comment on whether shifting general training from a hotel to the more advanced school libraries, as is done in West Timor, might be appropriate.
	<i>Improvement of school infrastructures</i> , concentrated on less well-endowed and remote schools, largely missed out in government programs. The 38 packages of infrastructure improvement included new libraris, library shelves, repair of floors, walls & windows, & provision of desks/chairs.	This program is highly popular, and makes huge differences to students' and teachers' conditions and their outputs. It draws in <i>orang tua</i> or parents, who provide labour and management and hence become more engaged in school affairs.
Small Infrastructures outside schools	<i>Establishment of 52 15,000 litre tanks and 24 household toilets</i> reflected strong progress. Most members of the 90 NTA/YPMF <i>kelompok</i> now have a tank and a toilet. These people are ready to move to 'productive activities', including cocoa, other tree crops, vegetables and small livestock.	The 15,000 litre tanks are key facilities. They fill up during the rains, and can be replenished from water tankers or government water pipes. They (& household toilets) boost health, while tanks save time in collecting water and can be used for vegetables.
Income-generating Activities	<i>Improvements to cocoa and other tree crops</i> proceeded faster than expected, with around 120 cultivators from farms surrounding the fifteen NTA/YPMF demplots adopting new techniques with training and credit from extension officers. The project was assisted by the <i>tim kompas</i> , a group of 15 volunteer farmers conducting budgrafting & other activities.	Participant farmers were advised and trained regularly by both NTA/YPMF extension officers and BPTP specialists. But progress is slow, with 5 years needed to get new trees into production. This year the NTA/YPMF are establishing several seedling nurseries to meet expected large demand during planting next December.
	<i>Irrigation of 11 small vegetable gardens</i> owned by selected womens' <i>kelompok</i> , using water from tanks. This is being commenced on an experimental scale, with irrigated cultivation from June onwards.	These gardens save household expenditures and earn extra cash, permitting more water to be bought for further vegetable production. The project needs ongoing extension.
	<i>Making tenun ikat</i> in 25 womens' <i>kelompok</i> was greatly encouraged through NTA credit, and secured substantial regular income, adding substantially to household returns. The team noted the generally high standard of these products.	Assistance with natural dyes and access to Jakarta and European markets is being given by Ibu Alfonsa from Nita. She takes the cloths, sells them at higher prices, and passes back returns to the women.
Musyawah on Monday, 6 May	A <i>One-day musyawarah</i> in Maumere, was attended by 184 participants (70 per cent women) from schools and <i>kelompok</i> taking part in NTA/YPMF programs. Participants dividing into 5 'discussion <i>kelompok</i> ', each of which had active discussions. One person from each <i>kelompok</i> then presented recommendations at a final plenary session.	Delegates commented that they much appreciated NTA/YPMF programs. Teachers emphasized the need for training, while <i>kelompok</i> dwelt on requirements for better relations between <i>ketua</i> and members, and the need to move to productive activities with help from new technologies.

3) The two Kecamatan(s) (Counties) on Semau Island

The NTA works with the YPMPS throughout Semau island (see map on p.9), cooperating with 19 mainly primary schools and 87 *kelompok* in 15 villages. The area is level to undulating and moderately fertile, with

good potentials for seaweed, vegetables and cattle. To many this island is a magical place, with numerous cultural attractions.

The activities, achievements and observations in January-June 2013 were as follows:-

Program	Activities and Achievements	The Team's Observations
Education	<i>Teacher training</i> in Kupang for 2 days in the syllabus and accreditation system was conducted by Bapak Pdt. Mes D. Beeh, an educational specialist, in late December, 2012. This concentrated on encouraging individual teacher initiative, and on enhancing understanding of the 'new Jakarta syllabus with its thematic' approach.	85 Semau and West Kupang teachers were trained. The training was widely appreciated and greatly assisted understanding of the new syllabus. It was especially helpful to <i>guru honor</i> , the 40 per cent of locally recruited untrained teachers. All teachers said they would like certificates on the next occasion.
	<i>General library training</i> for 1 day at an advanced library in northern Semau and an advanced library in southern Semau. These sessions were each attended by over 20 teachers, with two teachers from each school. They were led by Pak Frans Wayan, chief librarian at the Catholic University in Kupang. Pak Frans and Ibu Ruth are following up these sessions with 'individual' training, spending 3-4 hours in each school.	After discussion with Pak Frans and the teachers it appears 'decentralized' training is better than the previous centralized event in Kupang. The team also observes that although there are 10 outstanding libraries, standards of many libraries remain low, with poor organization and inadequate attention. It has suggested that Pak Frans & Ibu Ruth concentrate on these facilities.
	<i>Improvement of school infrastructures</i> , again concentrating on items missed in government programs. The 8 packages of infrastructure improvement include provision of libraries, supply of library shelves, remaking broken floors, walls & windows, providing toilets, & furnishing desks/chairs.	There are many <i>sekolah jauh</i> (distance schools) being established, and these in particular need better infrastructures. Often such schools, which are much favored by local parents, merely comprise primitive leaf huts constructed by local communities.
	<i>Award of scholarships</i> , with 10 scholarships per school and a total of 150 scholarships given to poor students chosen by teachers. The scholarships are worth Rp120.000 per student.	This program is unexpectedly effective, and has continued 6 years. The teachers comment that students purchase shoes, books & utensils, with their motivations being much improved
Small Infrastructures outside schools	<i>Establishment of 7 tanks, 5 wells, 20 household toilets and 11 peripheral fences</i> , reflecting strong progress in these activities. The tanks are concentrated in areas with water tables at 30 metres or more, and notably in Uiboa, Bokunusan and Letbauan (see map on p.9), although they are useful elsewhere. The wells are concentrated in Uitefu Besar. Fences are being established around cropping areas in many places.	Standards of tank construction on Semau have greatly improved since they were first introduced 5 years ago, and local builders are now good at making them. Many wells in Uitefu Besar are used for irrigating vegetables, and the vegetable <i>demplots</i> to be being established on Semau by Pak Don and the BPTPI encourage this. The fences around crops are crucial in keeping out wandering animals
Income-generating Activities	<i>Seaweed production</i> has been boosted following introduction of a new <i>ais2</i> ('ice')-resistant variety from Madagascar. The previous variety was decimated by <i>ais2</i> , and farmers incomes were drastically lowered.	The new variety was introduced in early 2013 by the ex-Bupati of <i>kabupaten</i> Kupang. The team notes that it confers major benefits, being disease-free with similar harvesting periods, yields and

Income-generating Activities (cont'd)	This new variety has been planted by thousands of seaweed farmers on the island. The NTA is supporting production through rotating credit, which is supplied for each season.	prices. The NTA is continuing to investigate new possible varieties. The rotating credit support of seaweed is going well, with most credit being returned at the end of the season.
	<i>Irrigation of vegetables including garlic</i> by 15 NTA/YPMPS <i>kelompok</i> . This continues, and 2 <i>demplots</i> have been established, one in northern Semau and one in southern Semau. Pak Don and Pak Leki (from BPTP) will supervise planting of improved seeds and subsequent good management.	These <i>demplots</i> are keenly welcomed by farmers. The team hopes they can perform a role similar to the cocoa <i>demplots</i> in Flores, becoming centres of extension from which improvement spreads to surrounding cultivators. The new seeds come from the BPTP.

4) The *Kecamatan* of West Kupang, West Timor Mainland

This is a hilly area west of Kupang city, but with flat lands by the sea (see map on p.9). It is populated by Rotinese migrants who arrived in the 1950s. The higher lands are suitable for cattle, but there is scope for vegetable cultivation, given access to water. NTA Kupang does not have a counterpart NGO in this area, working directly with participants and cooperating with 7 primary schools and 10 *kelompok* in 4 villages. The people are most receptive to improvement, with good prospects of advance.

The activities, achievements and observations in January-June 2013 were as follows:-

Program	Activities and Achievements	The Team's Observations
Education	<i>Teacher Training.</i> 15 teachers were included with those from Semau at Pak Mes' 2-day training in Kupang.	The comments for Semau apply.
	<i>General library training.</i> Pak Frans conducted general library training to 15 teachers at one outstanding school library	There are 2 <i>sekolah jauh</i> without libraries. These need urgent attention with books and training at each school.
	<i>Improvement of school infrastructures.</i> 2 packages with contents similar to those on Semau.	The comments for Semau apply.
	<i>Scholarships.</i> 10 scholarships per school to 4 schools.	The comments for Semau apply.
Small Infrastructures outside schools	<i>Establishment of 2 x15,000 litre tanks, 3 x wells, 6 x household toilets and 4 x peripheral fences.</i>	The fences are assisting profitable cultivation of flat areas near the sea, keeping out wandering livestock.
Income-generating Activities	<i>Provision of one hand tractor, 4 x water pumps, 18 goats and one vegetable demplot.</i> The <i>demplot</i> will be established in June/July, and will introduce new vegetable varieties and techniques.	The hand tractor has enabled new areas for <i>padi</i> and vegetables, while water pumps have increased irrigated areas. The <i>demplot</i> should encourage improved varieties & methods

5) The *Kecamatan* of East Kupang, West Timor Mainland

The NTA works in Manusak and Naibonat villages, adjacent to the experiment station of the BPTP. This is a new settlement area, involving migrants from other parts of NTT and Timor L'Este. The area is flat with a high water table and relatively fertile soils, being suitable for rainfed *padi*, corn and vegetable production. There is a nearby large market at Oesau. NTA Kupang does not have a counterpart NGO in this area, working directly with participants and cooperating with 2 long-standing and 1 new *kelompok* in 2 villages.

The migrants mainly came after 1980, and like most new *pendatang* are hard to work with. The NTA has written off 4 earlier *kelompok* in East Kupang, after several years of attempted cooperation had failed. But improvement prospects are excellent, given that people cooperate with the NTA.

The activities, achievements and observations in January-June 2013 were as follows:-

Program	Activities and Achievements	The Team's Observations
Income-generating Activities	<i>Provision of one hand tractor and one vegetable demplot, along with introductory training of members of the new kelompok.</i> The hand tractor was used for preparing farms of participants planting <i>padi</i> , vegetables and maize. The <i>demplot</i> will be established in June, introducing new vegetable varieties & methods	The hand tractor has cut labour in cultivation, enabling more timely crop establishment and cultivation of bigger areas. Rotating credit repayments on the tractor are regular, and the machine is well maintained. Members of the new <i>kelompok</i> are keen to start improvement activities.

6) The *Kecamatan* of Amanuban Selatan, West Timor Mainland

The NTA in Amanuban Selatan operates in the villages of Mio and Eno Neten. The location of these villages, each with 800-1,000 inhabitants, is traditionally known as Besi Pa'e, and was the site of the Australian Livestock Project in the 1980s. The NTA works here with 5 primary schools, one high school and 20 *kelompok*. The area is remote, mountainous and dry with limited good soils, and people are extremely poor. They are very slow indeed to adopt new innovations and methods, but can benefit greatly from them.

Program	Activities and Achievements	The Team's Observations
Education	<i>Teacher Training</i> for 1 day in the syllabus and accreditation system. This training by Bapak Pdt. Mes Beeh in the village hall at Mio concentrated on encouraging individual teacher initiative, and on enhancing understanding of the 'new Jakarta syllabus with its thematic' approach.	Training of 35 local teachers was conducted in late January, 2013, in cooperation with trainers from the Dept of Education in So'e. The training especially assisted <i>guru honor</i> or locally recruited teachers, and gave everyone an appreciation of the new syllabus.
	<i>General library training</i> for 1 day at an advanced library in Mio. This session was attended by 19 teachers, and led by Pak Frans Wayan. Pak Frans and Ibu Ruth are following up these sessions with 'individual' training, spending 3-4 hours in each school.	While the Mio library is good and teachers learned from its example, most other libraries are poorly managed. Pak Frans will spend greater time in these libraries, trying to work through more progressive teachers.
	<i>Sponsorship of kindergartens.</i> The NTA continues to support four kindergartens, paying teachers' salaries and providing help with facilities. The kindergarten at Oenoni has moved from the local baby clinic or <i>posyandu</i> to a new multipurpose building at the school. Construction was assisted by the NTA and undertaken by the community.	These kindergartens are going well, with attendances of around 30 children per kindergarten. The NTA is encouraging these schools to link more closely with the Department of Education in So'e, with a view to the latter paying salaries. The teachers report monthly, and have been inspected by the Department.
	<i>Improvement of school infrastructures.</i> The 2 packages of infrastructure improvement, include provision of a library building, supply of library catalog boxes and shelves, peripheral fences, and toilets.	All infrastructure improvements are proceeding slowly, needing careful attention and encouragement from local extension officers. Parents need to be encouraged to participate.

Education (cont'd)	<i>Award of scholarships</i> , with 10 scholarships per primary school and a total of 50 scholarships given to poor students.	This program is very effective, and students' motivations are much enhanced through scholarship awards.
Small Infrastructures outside schools	<i>Establishment of 1 well and 1 experimental water tank.</i> The well by the river at Bangkono was dug by an NTA <i>kelompok</i> at Oenoni, which is 6 kms away. It has good water all the year round. The work on the tank has been delayed by bad weather but now been commenced by the tank specialist Pak Pong from Semau, along with members of <i>kelompok</i> Nekmese at Kobenunu.	The well has greatly improved water availability for both Oenoni and Bangkono residents, with over 50 families benefiting. Until now there has been no good water for Oenoni people in the dry season. The tank work progresses slowly, but is strongly supported by the village head who sees big potential for further tanks.
Income-generating Activities	<i>Provision of one water pump, credit for improving house floors, and two vegetable demplots.</i> The water pump is being used to irrigate vegetables beside the river at Mio, and is being moved between sites. The vegetable demplots were established in June.	Tomatoes and green vegetables are already being watered, and look good. Many house floors made of earth are being progressively cemented in a big improvement. The <i>demplots</i> are doing well, and are attracting wide interest amongst local farmers.
	<i>A one-day musyawarah</i> for the Besi Pa'e area was held at the village hall at Mio on Wednesday, 29 th May. 52 representatives of local schools and <i>kelompok</i> attended, and broke up into one discussion group for teachers and one for farm families. NTA staff and the monitoring team attended the meeting, and if asked questions took part in the discussions. As in Flores, women took a big role in the meeting. A talk was given by the manager of the Samamora Credit Union, and some people have joined this Union.	Teachers commented on the need for more training of the largely untrained teachers in this area. They also requested that the NTA should supply more textbooks, since they don't get any from the Department of Education. Members of household cooperatives noted difficulties in communication between cooperative heads and members, especially in returning rotating credit. They requested more participation by extension staff.

7) Final Remarks

The Monitoring Team is pleased with the big further advances during the last half year. It is also happy with the further general improvement in community relations with the NTA and its counterparts, believing this will lead to improved understanding and better results. The Team again judges that we should keep a balance between helping more progressive groups quickly securing good results, and other more cautious and poverty-stricken families finding it hard to move and requiring much encouragement and guidance. The NTA looks forward to a further year of progress in 2013-2014, hoping there can be increasing Australian participation in efforts made.

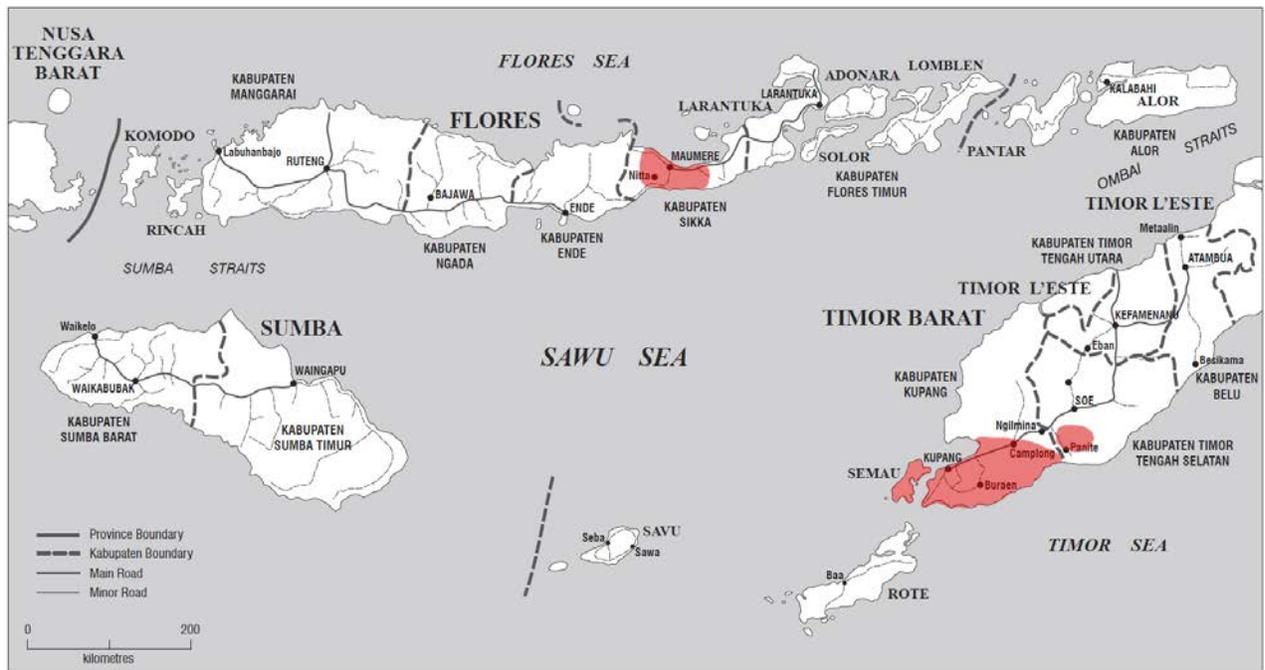
Canberra, Monday, 1st July, 2013.

Indicators of Achievement by NTA Australia in cooperation with NTA Kupang, the YPMF, & YPMPS, West Timor & Flores, Indonesia, 2012-2013¹

Education	July-Dec, 2012	Jan-June, 2013	Total for 2012-13
Schools (mostly primary) with sponsored activities	57	58	58
School students connected to sponsored activities	6,270	6,380	6,380
Kindergartens with sponsored activities	16	17	17
Kindergarten children in sponsored activities	470	493	493
School library books distributed	1,600	0	1,600
Teachers trained in the KTSP curriculum & related matters	66	85	85
Teachers trained in library management (general training)	72	87	85
Scholarships provided to poor children	-	240	240
School and kindergarten buildings improved or erected, & school facilities provided (packages comprising new roofs, walls; floors; new furniture; libraries; water tanks; volley ball courts; other equipment; fences; toilets & wells)	48 packages	49 packages	97 packages
Program Participants' Comments			
Student: 'I love going into the new library – I'm finding out so much more about the outside world'			
Teacher (locally recruited and untrained): 'At last I'm beginning to understand our syllabus, and how we should teach. This is a big encouragement to me'.			
Principal of a school in West Kupang: 'It's great for the kids to have proper toilets. Up to now we've been managing with a temporary facility – a hole in the ground surrounded by a rough fence – and it's not at all sanitary'.			
Scholarship recipient: 'I've used part of my money to buy shoes and to get a second-hand uniform'. I enjoy school more, and no longer feel embarrassed'.			
Mum of a kindergarten student: 'Now my son's so much better prepared for primary school. He also enjoys learning so much'.			
Small Infrastructures & Income-generation			
<i>Kelompok</i> /small cooperatives with sponsored activities ²	118	192	192
<i>Kelompok</i> members involved with sponsored activities	1,770	2,880	2,880
Ferro-cement 15,000 litre water tanks	67	50	117
Household toilets	73	37	110
Seaweed farmers helped with equipment ³	150	204	354
Lady weavers helped with credit, equipment and training ³	302	20	322
Vegetable farmers helped with training and equipment ⁴	85	180	265
Peripheral fences around cropping areas (usually 1-3 hectares per area) used by groups of farmers	7	13	20
Cocoa & coconut demonstration farms, & cocoa & coconut farmers receiving monthly training	15 farms 320 farmers	15 farms 304 farmers	15 farms 320 farmers

Small Infrastructures & Income-generation (cont'd)	July-Dec, 2012	Jan-June, 2013	Total for 2012-13
Number of <i>musyawarah</i> (including cocoa field day/village meeting and school festival), and total persons attending	2 with 1,500 participants	2 with 236 participants	4 with 1,736 participants
Program Participants' Comments			
Household member: 'Our new 15,000 litre tank has hugely improved our family situation, including our health. This is one of the best things the NTA has contributed to our communities'.			
Seaweed farmer: 'I used to survive on growing corn and a few root crops. My income was small, and I lived a very restrictive life. Since seaweed was established here through the NTA our incomes have quadrupled, and although we've had problems with ice fungus I've improved my house and have a motor cycle. All my family is better off'			
Lady weaver: 'Credit from the NTA and YPMF has helped us to increase our weaving and improve our product. We're looking forward to teaching our Australian friends (women from Mossy Point, NSW, who're going to visit their Indonesian colleagues in November) how we do some of our weaving'.			
Cocoa farmer: 'My husband and I have planted over 300 improved seedlings, and are using other inputs supplied by the NTA and YPMF. We're looking forward to getting much higher yields and incomes.'			
Musyawarah participant: 'We like attending the musyawarah since it gives us a real opportunity to comment on what the NTA is doing, and to make suggestions for new activities to support'.			
Financial Summary⁵			
Total improvement funds disbursed	\$95,313	\$99,635	194,948
Estimated value of counterpart services from communities	67,672	70,741	138,413
Estimated value of voluntary services by Australian monitoring team ⁶	113,422	117,569	230,991
Total estimated value of all services	276,407	287,945	564,352

1. Where the same persons/institutions took part in both 6-month periods, they are only included once in the annual total.
2. Each *kelompok* member had a family of 4-5 persons. Training is not included in these activities.
3. Rotating credit, repayable into an NTA special account after 6-12 months.
4. Mainly through the *demplots*, along with water pumps, piping and hand tractors.
5. The exchange rate \$1.00 = Rp10.000 is used.
6. These are charged at 30 per cent of commercial consultancy rates for those concerned.



MAP 2. Nusa Tenggara, Timur Province, INDONESIA