

## About Bucoli Green



Bucoli Green is one of the largest commercial farms in Timor-Leste. Its produce includes vegetables such as bitter melon, long beans, short beans, chilli, eggplant and onion, with tomato being their main cash crop. Established in 2009 by Kenyan surgeon Dr. Philip, Bucoli Green has grown from 200m<sup>2</sup> to 25 hectares in the past ten years.





## Market Constraints

Agriculture production in Timor-Leste is challenging because there is limited knowledge of pest management and how to grow crops other than rice and maize. As Dr. Philip was managing all farm operations, the lack of technical supervision in the field made it difficult to increase production.

## Intervention

### INCREASING LOCAL HORTICULTURE PRODUCTION

-  Trialing of modern farming practices
-  Transferring knowledge to farm labourers

MDF's work with Bucoli Green aims to address low productivity in horticulture in Timor-Leste. To increase knowledge, MDF supported Bucoli Green by recruiting an international horticulture expert to review existing farm protocols and develop new practices, including pesticide and fertiliser application. Field staff were recruited to form the missing middle management roles, and technical and field staff received training and mentoring on the new practices.

By introducing various technical innovations and modernisation, the farm has had a major impact on the agricultural landscape in nearby locations. This knowledge transfer has improved composting, nursery systems, use of inputs and the way that the produce is sorted and graded.



*We used to use a traditional system that wasn't good for production. We didn't know how to plant properly and when the pests came we didn't have the knowledge about how to prevent them so production was not good. Now we plant in rows, we know about how to use pesticide, we have increased production and the amount of money that we earn. I was able to build my own house and support my children to go to school. Before it was difficult to find the money to send my children to school.*

**Bendita da Silva**, field staff, Bucoli Green.