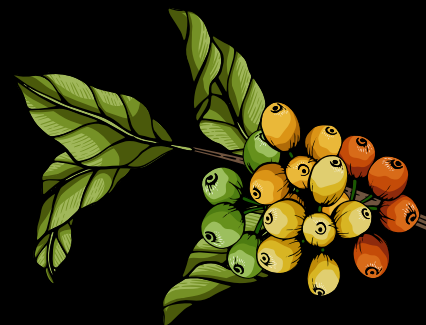




# Coffee from Timor-Leste

Bomdia! Every morning in Timor-Leste, you will hear people calling out, “Bomdia,” or ‘good morning’ in Timor’s Tetun language, to passersby. This is often accompanied by a friendly smile and the smell of unique Timorese coffee in cafés, offices and homes. Get your hands on a cup to meet our partners and experience the taste of Timorese coffee at the MDF stall at MICE’22.



## Asosiasaun Café Timor-Leste, ACT ✨

The Coffee Association of Timor-Leste (Asosiasaun Café Timor-Leste-ACT) was set up in 2016 as part of MDF’s work in supporting greater coordination among stakeholders in Timor-Leste’s coffee industry. It is a voluntary private sector association working to increase coffee production and improve coffee quality.

The formation of this association was pivotal in bringing together all coffee exporters, traders, baristas, and farmer representatives under one umbrella to discuss common issues and collaboratively improve productivity, establish standards, and expand international market access. Since then, an annual national coffee festival (**Festival Kafe Timor**) has been conducted in Timor-Leste to draw interest from industry players, government and international buyers.

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MDF's work with ACT centres on three components: (a) **Improving coffee quality** through setting up a coffee laboratory at the ACT premises to allow members to cup and test their coffee, and training members' staff with the aim of expanding their knowledge and skills in basic cupping and becoming Q-Graders; (b) **Improving coffee productivity** through promoting coffee rehabilitation, including **through raising awareness about the most suitable rehabilitation techniques**, such as stumping and pruning of coffee trees, and providing technical advice to members; and (c) **Marketing** Timorese coffee to the Australian market by connecting coffee producers with Australian-based roasters.



## Café Brisa Serena (Café Letefoho) ✨

Café Brisa Serena (CBS) is a coffee procurer and exporter based in Letefoho, Ermera, established by Japanese NGO Peace Winds Japan in 2011. CBS purchases coffee from local farmers in Ermera and Liquica Districts. As its core business model, CBS actively provides guidance and support to coffee farmers, from the farm to the processing factory. In addition, CBS has extensive marketing connections to boutique markets in the United Kingdom, United States of America, Japan, Australia, Singapore and New Zealand.

With MDF support, CBS established a comprehensive quality management system and a cupping laboratory. CBS has an overview of the quality of coffee plantations and harvests and a tracking system that helps them consistently grade and price the products for end buyers and improve coffee beans from farmers.

MDF also supported CBS to expand its coffee tree rehabilitation work, planting 5,832 casuarina trees in early 2022 intercropped with its coffee trees. These trees are estimated to offset 243,194 tonnes of CO2 and act as windbreakers and shade trees to reduce the impact of adverse weather on the coffee trees.



## Kape Diem ✨

Kape Diem is a coffee quality lab in Dili, Timor-Leste, that focuses on creating a community of learning to improve coffee quality.

In a 2009 cupping competition, they secured three positions in the top 10 for their coffee samples.

This validated Kape Diem's production methodology. Since then, they have grown from working with 8-10 farmer groups last year to more than 60 farmer groups currently, with the possibility of further growth. This growth will allow Kape Diem to source a greater volume of coffee from more farmers.

MDF supports Kape Diem with coffee tree rehabilitation. Kape Diem is working with 12 households in four municipalities – Aileu, Ainaro, Bobonaro and Ermera – to rehabilitate 1.98 hectare of coffee crops. Kape Diem and MDF expect this rehabilitation work to generate interest among more farmers to take on independent rehabilitation and have also provided some of the farmer groups with the tools for rehabilitation.

In addition to its rehabilitation work, MDF is supporting Kape Diem to set up a nursery in the Ainaro, Bobonaro and Ermera municipalities to generate coffee seedlings and other trees that will later be distributed to farmers in the respective municipalities. This is expected to lead to a new crop of coffee trees in the long term.

