S.O.T. SYSTEMS OF TIMOR

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+67077192122

Rua de Ai Meti Laran, Comoro, Dom Aleixo, Dili

JOB PROFILE

Farm / horticulture worker (picker, packer)

Traballadór to'os no ortikultura (ku'u no fakote)

Agriculture, fisheries & forestry · ISCO-08 9211

Farm and horticulture workers do the hands-on work on farms and orchards: digging, planting, weeding, picking and loading the harvest. Australia places Timorese workers in agriculture and horticulture through PALM, and New Zealand recruits seasonal workers for horticulture through RSE.

TRAIN IN TIMOR	**Certificate II** INDMO national certificate
COURSE LENGTH	**To confirm** No published source yet
IN TIMOR	**To confirm** No published source yet
ABROAD	**Australia · New Zealand** PALM and RSE seasonal work
PAY IN TIMOR	**US$164 / month** Average for all workers in elementary jobs in Timor-Leste, not this job alone (Labour Force Survey 2021)

WHAT YOU DO

Prepare the ground: Dig, rake and shovel soil; Spread fertiliser; Clear weeds and rubbish from the rows.

Plant and care: Sow seeds and plant young plants; Thin out and weed the plants; Water the plants and keep the rows tidy.

Pick and harvest: Pick fruit, nuts and vegetables by hand; Choose only ripe, good-quality produce; Fill bins and crates carefully so nothing is damaged.

Carry, load and clean: Carry, load and unload crops and supplies; Clean tools, equipment and work areas; Follow the team leader and safety rules.

Based on the ILO description of ISCO-08 unit group 9211, Crop farm labourers.

WHERE YOU WORK

Farms in Timor-Leste (Vegetable, rice, maize and coffee farms); Plant nurseries (Growing young plants and trees); Farms in Australia (Agriculture and horticulture under PALM); Orchards and vineyards in New Zealand (Seasonal work under RSE).

You work outdoors in heat, cold and rain, and you bend, lift and carry all day. Seasonal work abroad means months away from home.

Agriculture gives about a quarter of all jobs in Timor-Leste: 26.9% in 2021.

IS IT FOR ME?

You are good at: Hard physical work, Working fast and steadily, Following instructions, Teamwork, Getting up early.

You like: Being outdoors, Plants and the land, Seeing new places, Travelling for work.

English helps a lot if you want to work on farms abroad.

TRAIN FOR IT IN TIMOR-LESTE

- **Certificate II in Horticulture** · INDMO national certificate

This list is incomplete: INDMO has more titles than the published list. Course length and fees: to confirm with INDMO and each centre. The directory never shows a number without a source.

WHERE IT LEADS

- **Farm / horticulture worker** · Certificate II in Horticulture
- **Field crop & vegetable grower** · Certificate III in Crops Vegetable
- **Your own farm business** · Startups of Timor helps you start one

WORK ABROAD, SAFELY

- **Australia: Pacific Australia Labour Mobility** · PALM places Timorese workers mainly in agriculture, horticulture, meat processing, tourism, hospitality and aged care. Employers must pay at least the Australian award rate.
- **New Zealand: Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme** · Timor-Leste joined RSE on 28 April 2025. RSE helps employers in horticulture and vineyards hire seasonal workers from overseas.
- **Japan: new agreements** · In 2025 SEFOPE signed an agreement with a northern Japan association to recruit Timorese workers for elderly care and agriculture, especially horticulture and forestry. This route is new.

Never pay a fixer. Join only through SEFOPE, the Timor-Leste government office for work abroad. No one can sell you a place, and a real overseas job never asks you for a recruitment fee.

SOURCES

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3. Australian Embassy Dili, PALM training scale-up (sectors where workers are placed), 22 Aug 2025 https://timorleste.embassy.gov.au/dili/mr22082025.html
4. PALM Approved Employer Guidelines v2.1 (pay at the award rate), 27 Mar 2026 https://www.palmscheme.gov.au/sites/default/files/2026-03/PALM%20scheme%20Approved%20Employer%20Guidelines%20v2.1.pdf
5. Immigration New Zealand, Timor-Leste to be added to the Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme (from 28 Apr 2025) https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/news-centre/timor-leste-to-be-added-to-recognised-employer-scheme
6. Tatoli, Northern Japan Human Resource Development Association to recruit Timorese workers (elderly care, agriculture), 4 Apr 2025 https://en.tatoli.tl/2025/04/04/northern-japan-human-resource-development-association-to-recruit-timorese-workers/22/
7. Labour Force Survey 2021: Table 12 (top occupations), §4.2 (employment by sector) and Table 29 (average monthly wage by occupation group) https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/%40asia/%40ro-bangkok/%40ilo-jakarta/documents/publication/wcms_863064.pdf

From the Servisu jobs directory. Every figure has a source; "to confirm" means none yet. http://servisu.oftimor.com/jobs-directory/farm-horticulture-worker/?lang=en