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JOB PROFILE

Food-processing machine operator

Operadór mákina prosesa ai-han

Manufacturing & food processing · ISCO-08 8160

Food-processing machine operators set up, run and watch the machines that process and preserve food and drinks, and they check the quality of what comes out. The government plans to support agro-industry: turning meat, milk, fish and farm products into processed goods.

TRAIN IN TIMOR	**No national course listed** The list we have is incomplete
COURSE LENGTH	**To confirm** No published source yet
IN TIMOR	**Priority** Agro-industry, government programme 2023–2028
ABROAD	**No official programme yet** Australia PEV: any job, with a job offer
PAY IN TIMOR	**US$217 / month** Average for all plant & machine operators in Timor-Leste, not this job alone (Labour Force Survey 2021)

WHAT YOU DO

Run the machines: Set up the machine and check that it works; Load raw food such as grain, fruit, milk, meat or fish; Watch the machine and adjust speed, heat and timing.

Process the food: Mill, mix, cook or bake food; Preserve food by drying, freezing, smoking, salting or canning; Make drinks, and process products such as coffee or tea.

Check the quality: Check weight, colour and texture of the product; Take out products that are not good enough; Write down how much you produce.

Keep it clean and safe: Clean the machines and the work area; Follow hygiene and safety rules every shift; Report faults to your supervisor.

Based on the ILO description of ISCO-08 unit group 8160, Food and related products machine operators.

WHERE YOU WORK

Food factories (Processing and packing food); Agro-processing (Meat, milk, fish and farm products); Small industries (Salt, coconut oil, spices, bottled water); Bakeries & drink makers (Bread, biscuits, juice and water).

You often stand by a machine for a whole shift. Factories can be noisy, hot or cold, and hygiene rules are strict.

The government plans to keep investing in small industrial projects that produce salt, coconut oil and soap, spices and bottled water. The National Employment Strategy names light manufacturing among five priority economic areas, and wants more vocational training for the agro-food business.

IS IT FOR ME?

You are good at: Following steps carefully, Keeping things clean, Noticing when something is wrong, Teamwork, Standing for long hours.

You like: Machines, Food, A steady routine, Working in a team.

Basic reading and maths help you follow instructions, weigh products and keep records.

TRAIN FOR IT IN TIMOR-LESTE

- **No national certificate listed yet** · The published list of INDMO titles has no food-processing course, and that list is incomplete.
- **Agro-industry courses at technical secondary schools** · Planned with the Ministry of Education in the government programme 2023–2028. Status to confirm.

In its section on vocational training, the national development plan names agribusiness, manufacturing and processing among the areas that offer job opportunities. Course length and fees: to confirm.

WHERE IT LEADS

- **Factory worker** · Entry job on the production line (ISCO 9329)
- **Food-processing machine operator** · Learn to run and check the machines
- **Shift or line supervisor** · Leads a team of operators
- **Your own food-processing business** · Startups of Timor helps you start one

WORK ABROAD, SAFELY

- **Australia: Pacific Engagement Visa** · No official programme recruits Timorese workers for this job yet. Australia's Pacific Engagement Visa allows any occupation, but you need a job offer first.

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. National Employment Strategy 2017–2030 (Government Resolution 44/2017): priority economic pillars and agro-food training https://timor-leste.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/National-Employment-Strategy-2017-2030.pdf
4. Government of Timor-Leste, Strategic Development Plan 2011–2030 (2011), vocational training areas https://timor-leste.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Timor-Leste-Strategic-Plan-2011-20301.pdf
5. APTC, Timor-Leste Skills Strategy 2022, Annex I (INDMO qualification titles) https://24045200.fs1.hubspotusercontent-na1.net/hubfs/24045200/Files/Timor-Leste%20Skills%20Strategy%202023.pdf
6. Pacific Engagement Visa: any occupation, job offer needed (employer fact sheet 2025) https://pev.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-02/PEV%20for%20Employers%20Fact%20Sheet_2025.pdf
7. Labour Force Survey 2021, Table 29: average monthly wage of employees 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/food-processing-machine-operator/?lang=en