S.O.T. Systems of Timor
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Rua de Ai Meti Laran, Comoro, Dom Aleixo, Dili

JOB PROFILE

Tree-crop grower (coffee, candlenut, etc.)

Agrikultór ai-horis (kafé, kami'i no seluk)

Agriculture, fisheries & forestry · ISCO-08 6112

Tree-crop growers plant, care for and harvest trees and bushes such as coffee, candlenut, coconut and fruit trees, and sell the crop. Coffee is Timor-Leste's main export besides oil: in 2011 about 80% of non-oil exports, grown by more than 50,000 families.

TRAIN IN TIMOR	**Certificate II–IV** INDMO national certificates
COURSE LENGTH	**To confirm** No published source yet
IN TIMOR	**Priority** National plan 2011–2030
ABROAD	**No official programme yet** Australia PEV: any job, with a job offer
PAY IN TIMOR	**US$234 / month** Average for all skilled agricultural workers in Timor-Leste, not this job alone (Labour Force Survey 2021)

WHAT YOU DO

Plant: Choose which trees to grow and where; Grow seedlings and plant them out; Prepare the soil before planting.

Care for the trees: Prune old trees and replace them with new ones; Weed, mulch and add compost or fertiliser; Watch for pests and plant diseases.

Harvest and process: Pick ripe coffee cherries or collect nuts; Pulp, wash and dry coffee, or crack and dry nuts; Sort the crop by quality.

Store and sell: Store the crop dry and clean; Sell to buyers, cooperatives or exporters; Keep tools in good order and records of each harvest.

Based on the ILO description of ISCO-08 unit group 6112, Tree and shrub crop growers.

WHERE YOU WORK

Coffee gardens in the hills (Main areas in 2011: Aileu, Ainaro, Bobonaro, Ermera, Liquiçá and Manufahi); Candlenut (Grown in six districts, mainly for its oil); Coconut (About 40% of households had coconut trees in 2011); Other tree crops (Vanilla, cashew, cinnamon and nutmeg, among others).

Many growers work on family land, often on steep hills. The harvest season is very busy; the rest of the year is pruning, weeding and planting. A new tree takes years to give a crop: candlenut takes about four years from planting.

In 2011 more than half of the coffee area had old trees that gave little, and the plan said replanting and pruning alone could double production. The current Government plans to keep supporting organic, high-quality coffee and the renewal of coffee plantations.

IS IT FOR ME?

You are good at: Physical work on hills, Patience, Careful, steady work, Knowing plants, Basic maths for weights and sales.

You like: Being outdoors, Caring for the land, Planning for the future, Being your own boss.

Picking only ripe cherries and drying them well gives better coffee. The national plan wanted a simple quality grading system for coffee, and help for growers to buy better pulping machines.

TRAIN FOR IT IN TIMOR-LESTE

- **Certificate II in Tree Crops** · INDMO national certificate
- **Certificate II in Tree Crops Production** · INDMO national certificate
- **Certificate IV in Cultivation and Harvest Crop Tree** · INDMO national certificate
- **East Timor Coffee Academy (ETICA)** · Listed as an accredited higher-education institute in 2011. Current courses: to confirm.

Which centres teach these certificates, course length and fees: to confirm with INDMO. The directory never shows a number without a source.

WHERE IT LEADS

- **Farm worker** · Picking and packing; Certificate II in Horticulture (ISCO 9211)
- **Tree-crop grower** · Certificate II in Tree Crops, then Certificate IV
- **Agricultural extension officer** · University study at the UNTL Faculty of Agriculture (ISCO 2132 / 3142)
- **Your own coffee or 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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2. Government of Timor-Leste, Strategic Development Plan 2011–2030: cash crops, coffee, candlenut, coconut; higher-education institutions https://timor-leste.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Timor-Leste-Strategic-Plan-2011-20301.pdf
3. Programme of the IX Constitutional Government 2023–2028, §4.2.1 Agriculture and §4.2.1.1 Coffee Cultivation https://timor-leste.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/EN-Programa-IX-Governo.pdf
4. 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
5. UNTL faculties: Faculdade de Agricultura https://www.untl.edu.tl/estudo/faculdades/
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/tree-crop-grower/?lang=en