In 2012, the National Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NDFA), Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) Timor-Leste developed the National Aquaculture Development Strategy (NADS) 2012-2030 with technical assistance from WorldFish.

The New Zealand Aid Programme funded a 5-year project to support development activities identified within the NADS. The National Directorate of Aquaculture (NDA) takes a pivotal role in implementing the project, with WorldFish providing technology and training/mentoring support. The project, following a holistic approach, aims to greatly increase the amount of fish produced by aquaculture in Timor-Leste. Increasing supply will reduce the price of fish, making it more affordable for rural and urban poor.

**Timor-Leste National Aquaculture Development Strategy (NADS)**

- **Seed**
  - Upgraded government hatchery at Gleno with enhanced capacity to produce, maintain stock and distribute fingerlings of superior Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia (GIFT) since 2016.
  - Private hatchery established through public-private partnership (PPP) at Leohitu of Suco Balibo in Bobonaro municipality started its operation in April 2019 to complement government hatchery in GIFT fingerlings production for wider distribution to farmers.

- **Feed and Pond Fertilization**
  - Four feed formulations based on locally-available ingredients tested on-farm and promoted in combination with greening of pond water through manure and fertilizer application resulted in 3-fold increase in fish yield.

- **Better Management Practices (BMP) & Technology Transfer**
  - A suite of better management practices (BMP) appropriate for farming GIFT in Timor-Leste developed, tested and validated on-farm following a farmer field schools (FFS) approach—a group-based learning using participatory tools and techniques and published for dissemination.
  - Nine GIFT FFS clusters trained and functioning as self-help groups in Baucau, Bobonaro and Ermera municipalities.

- **Capacity Building**
  - NDA staff trained and mentored (both in-country and overseas) at central and local levels.
  - Online hatchery database system established for NDA.
  - Opportunities availed to locals for advanced hatchery and grow-out management training at the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand.

**PADTL project: Key achievements**

**Development of a sustainable aquaculture industry to reduce poverty and malnutrition and diversify rural livelihoods**

**Timor-Leste**

- **LAUTEM**
- **BAUCAU**
- **VIQUEQUE**
- **MANUFAHI**
- **MANUTUTO**
- **ATAURO ISLAND**
- **AILEU**
- **DILI**
- **LIQUIÇÁ**
- **ERMERA**
- **BOBONARO**

**Batugade**

**Balibo Vila Leohitu**

**Gleno hatchery**

**Laubono**

**Gariuai**

**Fatuquero**

**DiliPoetete**

**Uma Ana Ulu (2)**

**AINARO**

**COVALIMA**

**Oecussi**