

FOREWORD

Praise to God who has given me mercy so that I can carry out a study and skill development course which will be valuable for me and my community.

The purpose of a study application is a learning concept carried out in different locations and environments. It is an activity that is usually carried out for the purpose of improving life, increasing perceptions, improving systems, determining new strategies, and others. In the preparation of this report, there were a few obstacles that I faced such as spelling, grammar and tenses. Please understand that English is not my first language.

This report is based on the helpful experiences that I had gained during my 2 months in Australia.

Finally, I would thank all those people who helped me and, hopefully, this report can provide information and can help the readers, especially for those people who are going to undertake experiences similar to what I had with companies or farms that I have been involved with. I believe this report is far from perfect and still has many limitations. I hope it is helpful in informing the experiences of others who follow in my footsteps

If there are errors in the writing of this report later, I really hope for criticism and suggestions from readers.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Comparative studies are an activity carried out with the aim of adding understanding and knowledge that will be applied in the future. Activities like this are certainly very good for personal development and for the benefit of the communities to which the participants belong.

The definition of comparative study itself is a learning concept carried out in different locations and environments. It is an activity that is commonly carried out for the purpose of improving quality, expanding business, improving systems, determining new policies, improving ability and regulations, and others.

Comparative study activities are carried out by interest groups who visit or meet certain objectives that have been prepared and take place in a relatively short time. The aim for me has been to compare the conditions in my village with the conditions and facilities that exist in the farms and workplaces I visited while in Australia.

The result is the collection of new methods and practises for use back in my village.

1.2 Purpose of Conducting Study

The main purpose of conducting a comparative study is to dig up as much information as possible that can be gained technically. The aim is that the knowledge gained, and skills developed may be used in my village. Comparisons can be made, and improvements implemented that will assist in the development of future activities in the short and long term. So, in other words, the purpose of this comparative study is:

1. To add to my understandings about other places
2. To gain new experiences
3. To compare my place with other places
4. To increase knowledge and skill

1.3 Benefits of conducting study programs

By participating in the ROYCE and JEAN ABBEY Vocational Scholarship Program, I can find out what are our strengths and weaknesses in terms of practice. I can also compare the differences in procedures, tool usage, and other things between East Timor Farming and Australian Agriculture.

CHAPTER II

COFFEX

COFFEE ROUSTING AND PACKING

1.1 Travel Description

On Friday, September 9, 2022 at 14:00 I departed from East Timor airport for Melbourne as a student on a ROYCE AND JEAN ABBEY VOCATIONAL Scholarship program which was provided by Camberwell Rotary, Victoria. On my arrival I was provided with accommodation at the Brothers Residence in Saint Kilda which was organised and well prepared by Mr. Don Jago (Camberwell rotary) and Brother Frank Thomas Hennessy, Brother Bernard Gartland and Sr. Rita Hayes. Because of distance I had to move from Saint Kilda to Brunswick where I could easily access Cofex 58 Dawson Street Brunswick

1.2 The coffee process

I come from a family coffee farm, in Timor Leste so I already knew how coffee grows and the beans are processed. My parents have developed this farm as a preparation for the following generations of my family.



Coffee provides a most valuable income to the farmer which is harvested once in a year in Timor Leste. It only pays 45 c/ kg and it's all worked by hand(manual) labour. Compared with my experiences in Railaco Kraik I found the processes and methods very different at Coffex, Brunswick.



When I first came to coffex I wasn't sure what I was going to do during the 2 weeks, because all the equipment they use is far more advanced compared with what we have back at home but it all happened to me like a dream. All the staff and workers were very welcoming to me, encouraging me to participate as a coffee farmer in their industry. I learned more than I thought I would about coffee processing from beans to customer. These are the skills that I gained during the 2 weeks:

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|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| ❖ Rousting | ❖ Boxing | ❖ Deliver to customer |
| ❖ packing in different bag | ❖ Assisting the main person in machine operating | ❖ Marketing |
| ❖ Collecting bags from messing | | ❖ barista |

CHAPTER

II

LT's EGG FARM

After participating for two weeks at the coffex company, as a Student based on the program that was arranged by Camberwell Rotary, Melbourne, I moved to the LT's FARM in Werribee, located to the west of Melbourne.

Timor Leste is a young nation which gained independence in 1999 after an election which was assisted by UN and other neighbour countries, including Australia. After independence was gained the people were happy to be free from the murders and destruction and able to make their own choices in life.

Most people in Timor Leste still rely on farming as a chief source of income.

When I was at Werribee I lived with a family whom I hadn't met before (Peter and Caren). They both are very generous and kind, and they welcomed me to their home as a part of their family.

The LT's Egg Farm is located in Werribee South, Victoria, where I spent one week learning about egg farming. Brian Ahmed is a Director of the LT's Egg Farm, a business started by his ancestors more than 100 years ago. Today it is a big supplier of eggs around Melbourne, using modern Technology.

It surprised me when I first came to LT's farm, because eggs are a very fragile things to handle, if we compare to the coffee beans once they have fallen to the ground you are still able to use them, but eggs once they fall and break they are of no use. In this situation people on farms around the world are more concerned about diseases, which may harm animals or plants.

From what I have learned at LT's Farm there is more control by using modern technology in each stage especially in:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|------------|
| ❖ Graining | ❖ Temperature | ❖ Cleaning |
| ❖ Light operations | ❖ Feeding | ❖ Manure |

I saw how the issues I mentioned above were handled the staff at LTs Eggs farm and I was encouraged to assist with these issues. I was given experience on how the workers deal with these issues every day. I also learned how to work on graining eggs with machines and packing.

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NURSERY FARM

The general manager of the nursery farm at Werribee South was also involved at the Rotary Club in Melbourne, as a President 2019-2020. These people also organised my homestay and nursery farm experience when I was in Werribee. After a week in LTs farm I moved to the nursery farm for a week to learn about how seeds and plants grow in a farm. Based on what I have been doing it's totally different from what I had seen in Timor Leste.



At the nursery farm I was able to see how the plants were grown from seedlings. This involved meshing by putting seeds into trays. They were then moved into the shade house and when they had grown the plants were sent long distances to the customer as well as to local businesses.

During that week I learned more about modern farming, assisting directly on how nursing farm dealt with the farmers as their customers by observing directly how plants are grown in a farm. I was also able to visit one of the farms where they are supplied by the nursery with plants which they grow hydroponically. This method surprised me because I thought plants could only grow in soil, but they can also grow in water.

These are the activities that I was involved with during the week:

Seed to the trays (meshing)

Laying trays in a shade house

Observing how to send plants long distances

Assisting the staff and observing farms who get supplied with plants from the nursing farm

Visited hydroponic farm

Water system at nursing farm and hydroponic farm

GOAT FARM

On 16 October I left Saint Kilda to go to one of the goat farms which are located in Meredith Melbourne. It was there that I learned about milking goats. We left home after lunch and I was driven by Br frank. When we arrived there we met with a Family (Robert and Glenda) who I was going to stayed with for 3 days. They were very nice, welcoming us to their home. Robert and Glenda have been involved in Rotary for a few years and they know the owner of the farm very well, but they also have a cattle farm which mainly for meat, after that they took Br. Frank and me to show us the farm.

The Davies Goat Farm has 800 goats and they produce about 2,300 litres of milk each day. The processed milk is mostly used to produce cheese by another company which cost \$1.50/ litre.

During my 3 days at the goat farm in Meredith I learned more about goats which could support me in a free range at home. We usually have a problem with a Skin diseases and brown eye which harm goats, sometimes we can't save them, but when I was at goat farm I found the answer to this problem. I was told that the Skin diseases come from inside their body which causes them to lose their hair, and it can be solved by using antibiotics. Pink Eye can be cured with Terramycin. These two diseases (Skin disease and Pink Eye) are the main problems with free range farming.



Additional Activity

Besides the activities listed above I had on my itinerary during 2 months in Melbourne, I also participated in some programs facilitated by Br Frank Hennessy and Dom Jago (Rotary) that I was involved with as a participant and learner.

1. On 10th of October I went to DIK(donation in kind)with Mr Don Jago to observe and greet the staff at DIK who work there to support people in need, specially regarding the shipping goods and materials from Melbourne To Timor Leste.
2. on 12th October I participated in a ceremony at PARADE COLLEGE which included the opening of a new building for plumbing students. I was accompanied by Br. Frank Hennessy and Sr. Rita Hayes.
- 3.After the ceremony I was invited to have a day at the Tecnocorp Company. They use the Auto Cad Program which they use to design their projects. While I was there I was able to see how the engineer works with the program .

CONCLUSION

I wrote this short report based on what I observed and learned during 2 months in Melbourne. I'm grateful that I was able to participate as a student on a ROYCE AND ABBEY SCHOLARSHIP through Camberwell Rotary club. With this opportunity I was given the chance to learn more about life, especially in agriculture and production.

The skills and knowledge that I gained during my time in Melbourne will be worthwhile for me back in my village and specially my family.

Before I end this report I would like to thank and express my appreciation to everyone at Camberwell Rotary Club who decide to give me this opportunity and to support me in every way. I would like to thank Sister Rita Hayes and Br Frank Thomas Hennessy who supported me during the 2 months in Melbourne. Through their efforts and kindness I gained much from the experience and they have made me feel proud to be a Timorese in Melbourne.

Norberto Soares

ROYCE AND ABBEY SCHOLARSHIP

Student Exchanges

9 September 2022-26 October 2022