

# Agriculture in Aileu

With good levels of rainfall, a temperate climate and accessible transport to Dili, conditions in the Aileu area are optimal for farmers to try new crops. Supermarkets and restaurants in Dili are the driving forces in these moves and some consumers with a bit more money to spend, and changing culinary tastes, want to buy different vegetables such as broccoli and cauliflower, which until recently were impossible to buy in Timor.

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Some of these new crops in Aileu, such as rambutan, derive from Indonesia, and some from Australia, such as strawberries. Many local crops are still grown too and the quality and quantity has increased. Farmers supply pineapples, avocados, oranges, mangos, green leafy vegetables to the markets daily. Angunas, or small yellow trucks, ply the narrow roads between Aileu and Taibessi Markets in Dili with increasing frequency making it easier for farmers to get their products to the market. The new road has carved an hour off the trip that used to take 2 hours to traverse the 42 km.

*Newspaper article entitled 'Opportunities drive changes to agriculture in Aileu'*