



## ACTION STORY

# INSTITUTU MATADALAN INTEGRADU - IMI

## Growing Knowledge, Growing Futures: A Snapshot from IMI's Horticulture Training Program

The team at IMI has had a big year rolling out the Direct Technical Training on Planting for Income – a hands-on horticulture training program aimed at boosting farmer knowledge, skills and confidence in sugarcane and other horticultural work.

### Where the Funds Went

Thanks to project funding, IMI was able to pay local facilitators and trainers, provide snacks and meals for participants, and supply food during both group discussions and evaluation sessions held at the IMI Office. These contributions helped make the learning environment comfortable and welcoming for everyone involved.

### Who Benefitted?

A total of 25 local farmers directly benefitted from the program, including 9 men and 16 women. Beyond those numbers, many other farmers from surrounding IMI-organised groups also expressed strong interest. While their activities aren't included in this report, they're keen to use what they've seen and apply it in their own communities.

## What They Learned

The training covered a wide range of important topics. Farmers explored the characteristics of sugarcane and different land-use systems. They learned both organic and chemical growing techniques, how to manage pests and water channels, and how to harvest and process crops. They also looked at the advantages and disadvantages of different farming systems.

On top of this, they were introduced to how their farming practices connect to broader economic, social, and cultural impacts, and how those relate directly to their income and everyday needs. They were also supported to plan their farming activities using a seasonal calendar.



## Challenges and Successes

Like any community project, this one faced a few challenges. These included inconsistent contributions from group members, limited cooperation from some participants, difficulty accessing fair markets for horticultural products, and a lack of basic infrastructure, especially nursery facilities.

Despite these challenges, the training delivered some outstanding results.



## Highlights and Achievements

Farmers now have a better understanding of how to manage their time, land, and resources more effectively. They gained practical skills in production planning and market coordination and even developed confidence to advocate for themselves with vendors, consumers, and other partners.

Many participants are now actively sharing what they've learned with others in their communities. IMI has become more than just a training organisation - it's now recognised as a source of motivation, guidance, and ongoing support.

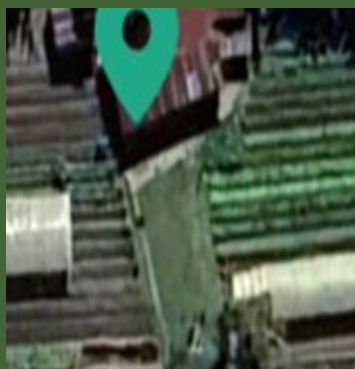
The farmers left feeling proud of their progress, motivated by their new skills, and ready to take action to improve their group's livelihood opportunities.



## IMI's Final Word

IMI isn't waiting around for government support – they're helping communities take action for themselves. While they'd certainly welcome support for horticultural materials, the bigger goal is to reduce unemployment by helping farmers become confident, capable professionals who lead by example.

This project showed that learning can lead to real action – and that action can lead to real change.



25 local farmers  
trained



5 stage  
programme



10 topics covered