

FAO Myanmar Newsletter

Message from FAO Representative

FAO Priorities in Myanmar

FAO's future interventions under the Country Programming Framework for Myanmar (2017-2022) will focus on three priority areas that include:

- ◆ **Enhancement of Food Security, Nutrition and Food Safety;**
- ◆ **Strengthening governance and sustainable management of land, forests, water resources and ecosystems;**
- ◆ **Enhancement of resilience of local communities and farming households to disasters, climate change and transboundary and emerging infectious disease risks.**

Welcome to the third edition of the FAO Myanmar Newsletter that highlights the accomplishments of the months from July to September of the year. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar became a Member of the Organization in 1947. This partnership was strengthened with the establishment of the FAO Representation in Myanmar on 18th October 1977 and the appointment of the first FAO Representative that took place in the following year in 1978.

Since the very beginning, FAO has been strongly committed to support the country in defeating hunger and achieving sustainable food and nutrition security in Myanmar. During the 40 year long journey we have implemented more than 250 national, regional and global projects and programmes. Some of these activities included technical and financial support to the Government on policy and capacity development for improved interventions in the agriculture sector, while others directly implemented at the field level which provided immediate and long-term support for rural livelihoods across the country. The achievements and milestones reached over the last

four decades would not be possible without a great support from our donors, development and humanitarian partners, international and national stakeholders, and most importantly without the Government and the people of Myanmar. Building on the success and experiences learned from the partnership over the past years, a new FAO Country Programming Framework for Myanmar for the years 2017-2022 is being developed to cover three priority areas of collaboration, with a strong focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

I look forward to challenges ahead and I wish to ensure that FAO stands ready to continue our support to the country towards achieving food and nutrition security and sustainable development in Myanmar for the benefit of the country and its people.

I hope you will enjoy reading this edition of the Newsletter!

Xiaojie Fan
FAO Representative in Myanmar

Formal Launching of the DRR Task Force and Drone Mapping Unit

On 29th August 2017, FAO together with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) and the Ministry of Education (MoE) officially launched the Disaster Risk Reduction Task Force and Drone Mapping Team. The launching ceremony, held at the Department of Agricultural Research, MoALI was opened by H.E. Dr. Aung Thu, Union Minister, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) and H.E. U Ohn Win, Union Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC). The establishment of the DRR Task Force and Drone Mapping Team is a result of joint collaboration between FAO with MoALI, and MoE, through the Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University (MAEU), and it is a significant step towards the implementation of the Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR). The Task Force will lead, with the technical assistance of FAO, the preparation of an Agriculture Sector Action Plan for DRR (ASAPDRR). It will not only strengthen national efforts to reduce vulnerabilities and foster more resilient livelihoods,



H.E. Dr. Aung Thu, Union Minister, MoALI and H.E. U Ohn Win, Union Minister, MoNREC during drone mapping demonstration.

farming systems and ecosystems particularly in rural areas; but also enhance application of modern geospatial technology (drones) for DRR in the agriculture sector. H. E. Dr. Aung Thu, Union Minister, MoALI highlighted that with the efforts of concerned ministries, the DRR Task Force in MoALI will coordinate Disaster Risk Reduction planning for the agriculture sector including crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries. H.E. U Ohn Win, Union Minister, MoNREC emphasized that the MoALI DRR Task Force and Drone Mapping Team will contribute to formulating DRR Strategies and building resilient livelihoods in Myanmar. He also stressed the importance of drone mapping in forestry sector in provision of real time information for decision-making. The establishment of the DRR Task Force and Drone Mapping Team was supported by FAO through joint efforts of FAO country, regional and headquarters offices, and financed by the generous contribution of the Government of Japan.



Xiaojie Fan, FAO Representative in Myanmar during official handover of the drone equipment to H.E. Dr. Aung Thu, Union Minister, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI).

Today's event confirms another advancement of Myanmar towards the achievement the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, in particular regarding disaster risk reduction and prevention of negative impacts of climate extreme events", said Xiaojie Fan, FAO Representative in Myanmar.

Boosting Nutrition in Peri-Urban Areas of Yangon

Myanmar is rich in diverse foods, however significant challenges are faced by urban and peri-urban population in terms of food security and nutrition. The problem of malnutrition often affects the poorest, as the food choices of the urban poor are limited by economic constraints or inadequate knowledge on nutrition and good nutrition practices. Su Su Lwin, a 38-years-old female, is one of the beneficiaries of the project “Promoting an Integrated Home Garden and School Garden Approach for Food and Nutrition Security in Myanmar” (TCP/MYA/3505). The project aims to improve food and nutrition security among school children and households, through the establishment of school and home gardens and enhancement of knowledge and good nutritional practices. Su Su Lwin participated in the education sessions and cooking classes organized by the project in Yangon’s Dala Township. The nutrition education sessions, enhance the knowledge on a diversified diet based on locally available foods, nutritious value of different food, basic hyg-



School girl targeted by the FAO project, Dala Township, Yangon.

Smallholder Training on Sustainable Timber Production and Value Chain Creation

The institutional and legal framework in Myanmar is moving towards a more enabling environment for smallholders and community forestry. In order to promote community forestry and smallholder forestry products, FAO launched the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) programme in 2013. The programme has three main pillars: 1) strengthen producer organization for business/livelihood and policy engagement; 2) catalyze multi-sectoral stakeholder policy platform with the Government; and 3) link local voices to global processes. Within the framework of FFF’s capacity building and learning program under pillar 1, FAO has been providing trainings on sustainable timber production and value chain creation for smallholder forestry product producers in Myanmar in collaboration with the Forest Department of MoNREC and the Myanmar Environment Rehabilitation-Conservation Network (MERN). The first training was organized at the Central Forestry Development Training Centre (CFDTC) in Hmawbi in May 2016 followed by second one in March 2017 in Patheingyi, Mandalay. Recently, the third training, organized in collaboration with the Forest Department, US Forest Service, CFDTC (Hmawbi), was held in Ya-



Beneficiaries in set up by the project hydroponic garden, Dala Township, Yangon.

-iene and health. “Prior to this project I was not used to eat pumpkin but now I have learnt about the nutritious values of this vegetable and I have started to cook it regularly,” said Su Su Lwin.

As the consumption patterns are shifting towards wider use of the processed food among peri-urban population, the beneficiaries were also sensitized on the risk associated with the consumption of such products and food label usages.

“During the cooking classes I have also learnt to add tomato at the end of cooking as in that way it [tomato] will not lose its precious nutrients. I also add much less salt than before. Prior to the FAO training I didn’t know all these things about cooking,” she added.

Su Su Lwin not only participated in the nutrition and cooking classes but she is also growing watercress and roselle in established by the project homestead hydroponic garden. Home and school gardens are not only increase consumption of nutritious foods but also promote healthy diet, nutrition education, the development of livelihood skills among the others. The project is expected to benefit a total of 225 beneficiary households, teachers and children from five schools, and it is aligned with the SDG2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.



Third training on a Sustainable Timber Production and Value Chain Creation, 28-31 August 2017, Yangon.

-ngon from 28th to 31st August 2017. A total of 30 participants from Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kachin States and Pegu, Ayeyarwady, Mandalay and Sagaing Regions attended the training. The objective of the training was to help smallholders and forest and farm producer organizations to improve their livelihoods through engaging in business-oriented forestry and agroforestry production systems for commercial and subsistence purposes. Moreover, the training encouraged the Community Forestry User Groups to learn technical and business skills, and entrepreneurship to strengthen community business development.

Evidence-Based Risk Management along the Livestock Production and Market Chain

As Myanmar is at risk of avian influenza A(H7N9), virus surveillance is carried out in locations considered high-risk for virus incursion, including international border areas. This routine surveillance has not yielded the H7N9 subtype, but the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories have detected H5N1 and H5N6 subtypes.

In response to avian influenza introduction risk, the FAO Myanmar Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Disease (ECTAD) team conducts a range of risk-mitigation initiatives. These included contingency planning and biosecurity training at farms and live bird markets. Building on the experience from HPAI-H5N1, disease control initiatives have been expanded to cover other highly pathogenic emerging animal and zoonotic diseases.

In response to this need, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) have supported FAO with the "Evidence-Based Risk Management along the Livestock Production and Market Chain" (OSRO/RAS/606/USA) project. The project that is going to be implemented in Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar was officially launched at the meeting on 24th of August in Yangon.

The project objective is to strengthen a multi-sectoral coordination for



effective management and control of HPAI and other emerging zoonotic influenzas and transboundary animal diseases (TADs); strengthening epidemiology capacities and networking at regional level; and finally strengthening evidence-based risk management along the livestock production and market chain.

Moreover, the project will contribute to reducing the spread of zoonotic influenza and other zoonotic Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) and in this way, minimizing the risk of contagion to other mammals and humans and the possibility of a pandemic for safer poultry production.



Supporting Livestock Survey

Myanmar is planning to conduct a national livestock survey in January 2018, the first such survey in over 20 years. The survey will yield data and information to guide a whole range of livestock sector policies including those related to government and private sector livestock services, domestic and export trade, and training and education for the sector. The survey will also provide valuable insights into the role that livestock play in the livelihoods of rural households. Teams of enumerators will collect data from about 1.5 million rural households throughout the country as well as commercial livestock farms. This data will be used to estimate the national livestock population. The national survey is based on proto-

-cols and guidelines developed and field-tested over the last twelve months by the FAO project "Improving Farmer Livelihoods in the Dry Zone through Improved Livestock Health, Productivity and Marketing" (UNJP/MYA/022/OPS) funded by the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT). FAO is supporting the training of government staff from the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) in all the processes from survey design through to data collection and data processing. The project is building government capacity in new technologies such as data management through mobile tablets and data capture software, as well as in GIS analysis of data.

Data from the survey will be of use to a large range of stakeholders including development agencies planning interventions to improve livelihoods.

Highlighted Events and Partnerships

- » 08-09 July, Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, FAO completed the **Evaluation of FAO's Contribution to the Myanmar Country Programming Framework (2011 – 2016)** and results were presented to the Government and key partners by the team led by Mr Masahiro Igarashi, Director of the Office of Evaluation on 08th September in Nay Pyi Taw and on 09th September in Yangon.
- » 05-07 July, FAO concluded consultation meetings with the Government, donors, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for the formulation of the **FAO Myanmar Country Programming Framework (2017-2022)**.
- » 15 July-02 August, Dry Zone, The **Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP)** completed design mission for the "Climate-Friendly value chain agribusiness sector" project.
- » 25-28 July, Dry Zone, FAO and the Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University assisted the **Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement** in the **post flood damage assessment** with the utilization of **drone technology**.
- » 13 July, Nay Pyi Taw, GEF-SLM project held the second **project steering committee meeting**.
- » 14 July, Nay Pyi Taw, FAO held an **inception workshop of the Agricultural Extension Modernization project**.
- » 25 July, Nay Pyi Taw, UN-REDD completed its third **Programme Executive Meeting**.
- » 13-14 July, Yangon, FAO Myanmar team received a **Training on Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)**.

Reflection from FAO Myanmar Team



Franz-Eugen Arnold, Chief Technical Advisor NFI-NFMS-REDD+

After 1.5 years of work for UNDP in Myanmar and having worked for FAO Myanmar during most of 2015 I have recently come back to FAO. Before coming to Myanmar I worked mainly in Latin America and also in Central Africa. However, living and working in here is quite special for me. Myanmar or Burma, as it was called formerly, was the first tropical country worldwide to establish a system of sustainable and planned management in tropical forests, long before other countries. This was done under the leadership of a German forester, Dietrich Brandis, who in the 19th century worked as a Conservator of Forests in the British Colonial Forest Service. Despite all the known problems in forest conservation here, a long tradition of sustainable forest management exists in the country, a tradition we can reconnect to and built on for developing successful FAO support to the enormous challenges the Forest Department and all stakeholders in forest conservation are facing.

Contact Us

Xiaojie Fan
FAO Representative in
Myanmar

FAOR Building
Seed Division Compound (DoA)
Insein Road, Gyogon Yangon,
Myanmar

Mailing Address:
PO Box 101, Yangon
Tel: +95 1 641672
Fax: +95 1 641561

Upcoming Events

- » 16 October, Nay Pyi Taw, **World Food Day celebration and panel discussion "Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development"**
- » 27 October, Yangon, **Celebration of 40th Anniversary of FAO presence in Myanmar, panel discussion "Food Security, Nutrition and Rural Development in Myanmar"**
- » 24-26 October, Nay Pyi Taw, **Food Safety Policy Workshop**.
- » 31 October - 01 November, Nay Pyi Taw, **3rd Meeting on Collaboration to Address Transboundary Animal Diseases in the Upper Mekong Sub-region, China – Lao PDR – Myanmar**.
- » 06-10 November, Nay Pyi Taw, **Dairy Asia: Towards Sustainability Climate Smart Livestock Investing in Sustainable Livestock**.
- » 20-22 November, Nay Pyi Taw, **Asia Regional Conference on Producer Organizations**.



World Food Day | 16 October 2017

Change the future of migration.

Invest in food security
and rural development.