



# INCREASING QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF RICE FOR SMALL-SCALE FARMERS IN MYANMAR

Rice is the staple food of the people of Myanmar and rice farming contributes significantly to the livelihoods of the majority of the rural population, which constitutes 70 percent of the national total. Although rice is widely grown across Myanmar, significant quantitative and qualitative post harvest losses occur in rice, owing to improper practices during post-harvest operations such as harvesting, threshing, cleaning, drying, storage, and milling. Farmers have traditionally been reluctant to adopt science-based harvesting, post-harvest handling, processing and packaging practices due to a lack of awareness and inadequate training. In this context, effective methods were identified to improve harvesting, post-harvest handling, storage, processing, packaging and marketing of rice for farmers in Myanmar, in particular in the target areas of Nay Pyi Taw and Ayeyarwady regions.



## WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project was designed to raise awareness of the factors that compromise productivity, quality and safety in the rice supply chain, with a view to minimizing post-harvest losses, maintaining the quality and ensuring the safety of the crop. The project identified technology and provided training for farmers through Farmer Field Schools, in order to improve post harvest handling and processing and, by extension, significantly increase the income of rural farmers and other stakeholders within the rice industry.

## IMPACT

The Department of Agricultural Research will continue to test the technologies introduced, such as low-cost solar dryers. The improved technology and practices for post-harvest rice loss reduction piloted by the project have supported and strengthened the Government and private organizational structures. They have also encouraged farmers to adopt simple low-cost practices during harvest and subsequent post-harvest operations to promote effective rice quality maintenance and marketing strategies, ensuring both continuation and sustainability.

## KEY FACTS

**Contribution**  
USD 300 000

**Duration**  
September 2015 – December 2017

**Resource Partners**  
FAO

**Partners**  
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock  
and Irrigation

**Beneficiaries**  
Small-scale rice farmers, rice  
millers and traders

## ACTIVITIES

- Critical loss points identified, including harvesting and threshing, drying and storage.
- Training materials developed, including a code of practice for harvesting, post-harvest handling and processing of rice in Myanmar, with a focus on the promotion of Good Agricultural Practices and Good Manufacturing Practices, as well as Farmer Field School training manuals.
- 4 000 smallholder farmers (23 percent of them women) from selected townships in Ayeyarwady and Nay Pyi Taw regions trained through Farmer Field School on harvesting and post-harvest handling of rice.
- Five-day training of trainers conducted in February 2016 at the Department of Agricultural Research and attended by 60 officials, including extension officers, farmers, rice millers and technicians.
- Four field demonstration sites established in the selected townships of Maubin District and in the Nay Pyi Taw area, using existing knowledge-sharing centres to facilitate engagement and training/demonstrations between farmers and extension officers.
- 6 000 Farmer Field School training manuals, 28 000 polyethylene (hermetic) bags plus woven polypropylene bags, 25 moisture meters, five thermometer/hygrometers, two digital scales and 29 000 awareness-raising brochures distributed to farmers.



### Project Code

TCP/MYA/3504

### Project Title

Reduction of Post-harvest Losses along the Rice Supply Chain

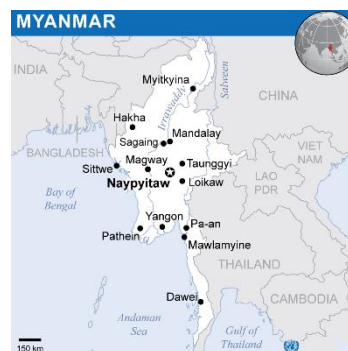
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