Supporting for the reduction of food insecurity and malnutrition

Nutrition is at the heart of FAO’s core mandate and is prioritized as the first of three pillars in FAO Myanmar’s Country Programme Framework (2017-2022). The EU-FAO Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) Policy Facility is one of FAO’s main mechanisms for promoting food security and nutrition in Myanmar. The FIRST partnership is primarily aimed at linking land, sustainable agriculture and nutrition technically and strategically. It has done so by anchoring its work in a number of nationally-owned policy processes, namely the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS), the Multi Sector National Plan of Action for Nutrition (MS-NPAN), and National Land Use Policy to accelerate progress to achieve SDGs 1 and 2.

To strengthen the technical foundation for agriculture-nutrition linkages, FAO is currently developing two complementary tools under a Technical Cooperation Project titled "Technical assistance in development of strategic tools for planning agriculture diversification and dietary improvement". In addition, FAO is gearing up to implement the FAO-ADB Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) in the central dry zone.

Matching FAO’s expertise to Myanmar’s development priorities

FAO’s assistance in Myanmar is shaped by the Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2017-2022, which is centered on three priority areas:

- Vulnerable people benefit from better nutrition, food security and food safety and from poverty alleviation through improved agricultural productivity
- The productivity of natural resources is improved and that ecosystems are conserved, including forests, land and water resources
- Communities and authorities are more resilient and responsive to natural disasters as well as to transboundary and emerging infectious diseases

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Promoting sustainable land and forest management

In line with the country’s strategy to pursue a climate-smart development path, and considering challenges related to the need for sustainable land use, FAO is promoting sustainable forest management (SFM), climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and sustainable land management (SLM) practices. It is doing this through the implementation of the “Sustainable Cropland and Forest Management in Priority Agro-Ecosystems of Myanmar” project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project is contributing to Government efforts to dismantle the constraints that currently prevent a broad application and upscaling of best practices for climate-smart agriculture, including sustainable forest and land management. Furthermore, by building national capacity at all levels, the project aims to assist the Government in its efforts to improve related legislation and policies as well as providing support to communities.

Improving livelihoods through livestock productivity and animal health assistance

FAO has been successfully implementing a project to enhance technical, managerial and policy capacity of Government officials, private-sector parties and smallholder farmers in the development of the livestock sector. This project is implemented in collaboration with the Livestock, Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) within the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI). FAO’s intervention comprised a wide range of initiatives, with highlights including development of national policies on Community Animal Health Workers and support to a National Livestock Survey to estimate livestock populations to inform policy. In addition to reviewing trends, opportunities and gaps in the livestock sector at national, subnational, regional and international levels, FAO provided guidance and training to LBVD, Myanmar’s University of Veterinary Science (UVS), to veterinarians and extension workers. Capacity building in data collection and management within Government and fashioning of public-private partnership approaches has also been features of the project. The project has a good prospect of moving to a second phase based on the success of the project to date.

FAO also continues to provide support for the detection, prevention and control of transboundary emerging infectious animal diseases and antimicrobial resistance as well as the improvement of Government capacity in veterinary laboratory proficiency and epidemiology.

Enhancing resilience of communities to natural and humanitarian disasters and climate change

FAO’s work on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and resilience has formed programmatic partnerships with the Myanmar Government. FAO has facilitated the preparation of the Agriculture Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (AAPDRR) with MoALI and has supported the use of innovative DRR technologies and approaches. This approach promoted the humanitarian-development nexus, which increases sustainable access to services and livelihood opportunities for all people, regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity or citizenship status.

The FAO Myanmar Emergency Programme is currently intensifying its emphasis on resilience to human induced and natural disasters through peace building and conflict sensitive multi-sectoral projects that link humanitarian interventions with crisis response and development. The projects designed and implemented so far, focus on mainstreaming DRR, improving agricultural, livestock and aquaculture productivity, food and nutrition security, reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience.

FAO and MoALI are also implementing the GEF-LDCF project “FishAdapt” which aims to strengthen the adaptive capacity and resilience of fisheries and aquaculture-dependent livelihoods, while at the same time promoting sustainable management of water resources and ecosystems.

Supporting the Climate Change Mitigation action through REDD+

Myanmar is implementing a four-year UN-REDD National Programme to establish a REDD+ architecture according to the Warsaw Framework. FAO is mainly supporting the development of the Forest Reference Level (FRL) and the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and contributing to the Safeguard Information System (SIS) and the REDD+ Strategy, together with UNDP and UNEP. Myanmar’s FRL will be technically assessed in 2019, with the main objectives being to support climate change mitigation efforts and facilitate access to potential funding sources for results-based payments. The NFMS includes the Satellite-based Land Monitoring System (SLMS) and a National Forest Inventory (NFI). The main outputs of the SLMS are spatial data and mapping products. The NFI is the main source for data on biomass and carbon density in forests and landscapes as well as other forest and tree related attributes.