

Myanmar and FAO

Achievements and success stories

FAO Representation in Myanmar
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Chief

Electronic Publishing Policy and Support Branch

Communication Division

FAO

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

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Introduction

Myanmar economy did not undergo significant structural changes, even though it experienced different political and economical systems since its independence in 1948. The country is still an agro-based country in which agriculture sector is the backbone of the economy and main stay of rural economy.

Some 20 percent of Myanmar's 48 million people suffer from undernourishment, confirming that the nation has significant work ahead of it if it is to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of reducing the proportion of people suffering from hunger by half by the year 2015. Life expectancy is low at 57 years of age, while child mortality rates are high at about 107 per 1 000 live births.

Agriculture in Myanmar is the most important sector of the country's economy, contributing 42 percent to the country's gross domestic product (GDP). Agricultural exports are valued at \$379 million a year. The sector supports 70 percent of Myanmar's labour force. Rice is the major crop, covering about 60 percent of the country's total cultivated land area. Rice accounts for 97 percent of total food grain production by weight, and it is one of the main reasons that more than 98 percent of Myanmar's total water use goes to agriculture.

Myanmar became a member of FAO on 11 September 1947, and an FAO Representative Office was opened in 1978.

Over the past 30 years, FAO has provided assistance through some 100 national projects and many regional field projects that support crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry efforts. Projects also cover agriculture and rural investment planning, census, statistics, agricultural research, food and industrial crops, crop processing, food technology, plant protection, and animal health with a total budget of \$193 million since 1978.

FAO projects in Myanmar are funded from the Organization's own resources under the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) while others are funded through donor contributions (e.g. Australia, Austria, Italy, Japan, PricewaterhouseCoopers Charitable Foundation, Sweden, UK-DFID and the UN Central Emergency Response Fund.). The country further benefits from a number of FAO assisted regional and global programmes, including emergency operations and rehabilitation programmes, and the *Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases* (EMPRES).

1. Analytical summary

1.1 Struggling to overcome food insecurity

With hunger and undernutrition haunting large segments of Myanmar's population, food insecurity is a serious problem, particularly among the poor. To alleviate the plight of the hungry, FAO has implemented a series of targeted complementary programmes and projects that focus on the poorest and most hungry people in Myanmar.

The *Environmentally Sustainable Food Security Programme* (ESFSP), funded by Italy with a contribution of US\$5.3 million, is rebuilding farming, coastal fisheries and aquaculture livelihoods that suffered in the wake of cyclone Nagris. The ESFSP is also supporting small-scale fisheries in coastal mangrove ecosystems in the delta region and includes a specific project on special rice production in the dry and cold zones of Myanmar.

1.2 Improving the productivity of rice and other food crops

As rice remains the life and nucleus of Myanmar's political and economic wellbeing, the country is attempting to increase productivity and yield. The first-ever FAO project for rice crop development in the country assisted the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to train hybrid rice researchers, seed production supervisors and seed growers to carry out research and development activities on a sustainable basis and formulate medium-term hybrid rice development in Myanmar.



The project was designed to address issues of crop intensification and diversification, including the development of water harvesting and localized small-scale irrigation. It also worked to diversify income opportunities through enterprise development and small-scale livestock production. The project is focused on reversing a number of recent setbacks which led to lower rice harvests in 2010.

1.3 Fighting back after cyclone Nagris

When cyclone Nagris struck southern Myanmar on the evening of 2 May 2008 it left a trail of death and destruction, devastating much of the fertile Irrawaddy Delta and Yangon, the nation's main city. Nearly 85 000 people died and more than half that number were never found.

The storm's winds reached as high as 195 kilometres per hour at landfall, but most of the deaths it caused were caused by the tidal surge that drove inland from the sea.

Cyclone Nagris was one of the deadliest storms in recorded history. It destroyed 700 000 homes and killed three-fourths of the area's livestock. It sank half the fishing fleet and salted a million acres of rice paddies with its seawater surges.



FAO and other donors quickly began work to ensure a sustainable long-term recovery by establishing the Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordination Unit to deliver help to some 142 200 households in the Irrawaddy delta as well as 1 906 households in Rakhine

State. People who were affected by the cyclone were given farm inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, power tillers, draught animals, animal feed, veterinary services and fishing equipment as well as water pumps. These were the items most critically needed to get farming and fishing restarted after the disaster.



1.4 The livestock and fishery sectors

Avian Influenza first appeared in Myanmar in 2006, with over 600 000 poultry dying or being culled as a part of control measures. Since then, there have been four more waves of outbreaks, in 2007, 2010 and in 2011.

While outbreaks have been well-contained, Myanmar remains constantly at threat because the virus is present in duck flocks throughout the country. Additionally, cross-border poultry trade and wild birds remain as threats. It will not be possible to eradicate avian influenza in Myanmar. The current national strategy focuses on detecting and minimizing impact of outbreaks.

FAO has been strengthening government capacity to control the disease at country level since 2006, in collaboration with FAO efforts at regional and global levels. In Myanmar, the FAO programme has successfully built surveillance, epidemiology, diagnostic, and response capacity. For the first time in Myanmar, there is a national database, including geographical coordinates, of all commercial poultry farms. This contributes significantly to disease control planning. Also the first time, large-scale national surveillance programmes are being conducted utilizing networks of Community Animal Health Workers. The programme is also supporting a large-scale ‘paper-to-computer’ programme whereby data on animal populations and disease are entered into computers for analysis, for use in policy development.

FAO’s efforts in controlling avian influenza have been coordinated with those of WHO, in the human health sector, and UNICEF in communications. The programme is also a good example of collaboration with the private sector poultry industry.

Myanmar’s livestock sector occupies a significantly important role in meeting national requirements of draft animals, meat, milk and animal products. Agriculture development and rural socio-economic conditions consequently remain dependent on the status of health and productivity of livestock, as draft cattle. With UNDP funding, FAO assisted Myanmar’s livestock sub-sector as early as 1971, under project BUR/70/002 *Virologist (Tissue Culture)* with a total budget of \$433 965. The project provided expertise and equipment for the establishment of a tissue culture unit at the Veterinary Research Laboratory. As follow-up to this project, supplementary FAO assistance was provided to the livestock sector – see the table below.

Sr. No.	Project code	Project title	Year	Budget (US\$)	Remark
1	BUR/80/001	Development of animal virus vaccines – Phase II	1980	801 651	UNDP Funded
2	BUR/84/001	Development of animal virus vaccines – Phase III	1984	883 718	UNDP Funded
3	TCP/MYA/2251	Small-scale pig and poultry production in Border Areas	1992	167 375	FAO-TCP
4	TCP/MYA/4452	Strengthening vaccine production capacity	1995	230 000	FAO-TCP
5	TCP/MYA/6611	Assistance to small-scale livestock production in northern and western border areas of Myanmar	1996	350 450	FAO-TCP
6	TCP/MYA/3001	Small-scale dairy technology transfer and training	2003	358 000	FAO-TCP
7	TCP/MYA/3201	Dairy Cattle Improvement	2008	358 000	FAO-TCP

In the fishery sector, the following support was provided by FAO

Sr. No.	Project code	Project title	Year	Budget (US\$)
1	TCP/BUR/8903	Identification of potential fish farm sites	1978	12 000
2	BUR/77/003	Marine fisheries resources survey and exploratory fishing	1980	1 176 834
3	TCP/BUR/0108	Formulation mission for fresh and brackish water prawn farming	1980	10 000
4	TCP/MYA/4402	Assistance to fish disease control	1985	105 000
5	TCP/MYA/2352	Strengthening of fish disease diagnosis in hatcheries	1990	107 000
6	TCP/MYA/4553	Reformulation and strengthening of fisheries statistics system	1993	262 000
7	TCP/MYA/4554	Support to the Special Plan for prawn and shrimp farming	1995	204 000
8	TCP/MYA/0065	Upgrading the safety and quality of fishery products	2000	171 000

2. Selected successful FAO programmes

Throughout this Southeast Asian country, FAO is administering an overall programme of 16 active projects amounting to \$20 million in the cyclone Nagris-affected delta region, the central dry zone, and the northern Rakhine State. Donors include: Australia, Austria, FAO, Italy, Japan, PricewaterhouseCoopers Charitable Foundation, Sweden, UK-DFID and the UN Central Emergency Response Fund.

FAO's programme in the cyclone-stricken delta area covers food crops, livestock and fisheries. It focuses on livelihoods asset replacement and capacity building for people affected by the disaster. In the drought-prone zone, FAO initiated water management and crop

production activities, and in the western Rakhine State, the projects address chronic food insecurity by assisting backyard vegetable production and poultry rearing.

2.1 Projects that boost food production and food availability

Rice is central to the way of life in Myanmar – the staple of the national diet and the source of livelihood for the majority of its people. Efforts are underway to try to increase yields to 100 baskets per acre. One of the major components of the European Union funded project *Support for sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods in Northern Myanmar was the Special Rice Production programme (SRPP)*. In total, 319 025 metric tonnes (MT) of improved variety rice seeds were distributed to

5 082 farmers who further multiplied the seed for distribution at local level as Quality Declared Seeds. Agro-chemicals and organic fertilizers were distributed to 3 375 farmers. A survey showed that there was at least a 10-15 percent increase in crop yields as a result of these technological interventions.



A major constraint for successful dry-season crop production was lack of water. In response, the project distributed 82 water pumps to 820 beneficiaries, 360 watering cans to 180 people, 524 water carrying pots to 262 people and five earthen dams were built for 300 beneficiaries. Members of farmer's and women's groups received these benefits to help them sustain efficient water management and adequate irrigation. One drip irrigation system was also installed at one nursery.

Lack of livestock and increasing crop intensity were compelling farmers to adopt mechanization. The project distributed nine power tillers to 165 beneficiaries, two mobile seed processing plants with moisture metres to 60 beneficiaries, eight rice threshers to 80 beneficiaries, while 13 oil mills were established for 130 beneficiaries.

Some 45 beneficiaries received three rice mills. Two solar-powered refrigerator systems were set up, and five fruit tree nurseries were established for better natural resource management under the project.

In-kind and cash revolving fund schemes were developed for 127 groups. Some 6 273 landless, women-headed households and marginalized families were helped through the distribution of 19 900 chickens, 9 900 ducklings, 225 bucks, 140 female goats and 120 sows for better livestock management.

Concerted efforts were made to document the programme's core activities, including organization of scientific workshops and publication of technical proceedings and technical literature. Proceedings of the *Workshop on vegetables*, the *Workshop on Vectorial Project Analysis (VPA)* and the *Workshop on pulse crops* as well as a leaflet on biogas were published and distributed to the prospective users.

The target groups were comprised of small- and medium-scale farmers in the localities, as well as landless and vulnerable families. The total number of primary beneficiaries was estimated at 38 900 households. Secondary beneficiaries (family members of primary beneficiaries) totalled 272 300 persons. The tertiary beneficiaries included all of the population of the three townships, or about 910 000 people, including the non-farm population who were able to access cheaper food.

The project achieved the desired results and there was a visible impact in terms of increased crop yields and animal produce. Awareness about quality seed production was also greatly improved. The project implementation employed the people's participatory approach, so participants always felt they were owners of the project.

Project Title: Support for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods in Northern Rakhine State of Myanmar

Donor: The European Commission

Total budget: Euro 1 973 123 (100% financed by the European Commission)

Objectives: The project was designed to address three major immediate objectives:

Objective 1: Crop Intensification and Diversification including the development of water harvesting and localized small-scale irrigation systems and increasing food crop productivity and production.

Objective 2: Livelihoods Diversification and Enterprise Development aimed at expanding the range of income generating options and energy sources through small-scale livestock production (chickens, ducks, goats and pigs), value adding opportunities and biogas.

Objective 3: Capacity Building, Institutional Strengthening and Sustainability intended to create community level organizations to support objectives 1 and 2 and develop the technical and management skills and competencies of households, groups, communities and support service providers.

Concrete Outputs:

- 15-20% higher area under improved varieties
- 20-25% increase in total food production
- 35-40% increased amount of local seed multiplied
- 45-50% increased rice based double-cropping
- 10-15% increased number of trained personnel
- 15-20% increased number of improved breeds of small livestock
- 20-25% increased income of landless poor through livestock and share cropping.

The target groups were comprised of small and medium farmers in the localities, as well as landless and vulnerable families, and the total number of primary (direct) beneficiaries of the action was estimated at 38 375 and that of secondary beneficiaries (family members of primary beneficiaries) as 268 625.

2.2 Immediate response to Cyclone Nagris

Cyclone Nagris hit Myanmar on 2 and 3 May 2008 devastating major parts of the country's rice bowl, in particular Irrawaddy, Yangon and Bago Divisions. The disaster also caused significant damage to the livestock and fisheries sectors, on which the people of the delta depend for their livelihoods. The disaster killed 140 000 people and affected the lives of some 2.4 million others.

On 9 May 2008, the UN Flash Appeal for Myanmar Cyclone Nagris was launched. The appeal was revised on

10 July 2008, calling for funding of US\$481.8 million in aid – of which FAO assisted programmes amounted to a total of US\$40.9 million. On 31 May 2008, a comprehensive coordination mechanism – called the Tripartite Core Group (TCG), comprised of ASEAN, Myanmar and the UN – was officially established.

FAO responded immediately to the crisis by sending a formal offer of assistance to three key ministries, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Forestry. FAO had already started to provide immediate assistance to

cyclone Nagris-affected farmers and fishers with rice seeds, fertilizers, draught animals, power tillers, diesel, water pumps, fishing boats and fishing gear.

FAO right away approved eight emergency projects for recovery and rehabilitation of the agriculture, livestock, fishery and forestry sectors starting with the project *Emergency assistance to support the rehabilitation of the livelihoods of cyclone-affected families in Irrawaddy and Yangon divisions*.



In summary, FAO has implemented programmes amounting to US\$20 million in the cyclone Nagris-affected delta region, central dry zone, and the Northern Rakhine State. The FAO-assisted activities are implemented through the Emergency and Rehabilitation Coordination Unit (ERCU) established within the FAO Representative Office in Yangon following the cyclone.

A new coordination structure established by the TCG has taken over the recovery phase and FAO has been appointed as the lead agency for the *Delta Livelihoods Recovery Working Group (DLRWG)*. Almost two years after cyclone Nagris, the ERCU launched the *Livelihood and food security Trust Fund (LIFT) project for the delta communities* in April 2010. The overall goal of the *LIFT* project is to reduce extreme poverty and hunger in Myanmar. The project concentrates on enabling the delta communities to become more food secure through the replacement of productive assets, capacity building, and diversification of livelihood opportunities as well as through the provision of agricultural inputs. Together, FAO and agriculture cluster members reached over 200 000 Nagris-affected households in the delta.

List of cyclone Nagris Projects for Myanmar

Completed and closed projects							
Project Status	Project Symbol	Project Title	Actual EOD	Actual NTE	LTU	Total Budget (FPMIS)	Donor
Activities Completed	OSRO/MYA/806/CHA	Emergency support to restore food security in cyclone Nagris-affected areas through the provision of agriculture inputs and technical assistance	2008-2006	2008-2008	AGPS	\$2 000 000	UN CERF
Activities Completed	OSRO/MYA/804/UK	Emergency Support to the Restoration of Food Security in Areas of Southern Myanmar Affected by cyclone Nagris	2008-2007	2009-2003	AGST	\$4 000 000	UK
Activities Completed	TCP/MYA/3103	Emergency assistance to support the rehabilitation of the livelihoods of cyclone-affected families in Ayeyarwady and Yangon divisions	2008-2005	2009-2006	TCES	\$500 000	FAO

Project Status	Project Symbol	Project Title	Actual EOD	Actual NTE	LTU	Total Budget (FPMIS)	Donor
Activities Completed	OSRO/MYA/808/UK	Coordination of cyclone Nagris agricultural emergency and rehabilitation interventions	2008-2008	2009-2007	TCES	\$500 000	UK
Activities Completed	OSRO/MYA/805/SWE	Emergency supply of fishing gear, boat repair tools and fish processing implements, and aquaculture supplies to immediately restore food security for vulnerable fishermen and fish farmers affected by cyclone Nagris	2008-2006	2009-2007	FIIT	\$1 580 863	Sweden
Activities Completed	OSRO/MYA/809/PWC	Emergency support to restore food security and livelihoods for the most cyclone Nagris-affected farmers through distribution of draught animals for cultivation in Ayeyarwady and Yangon divisions, Myanmar	2008-2008	2009-2008	RAPG	\$490 000	Price Water Coopers Charitable Foundation
Activities Completed	TCP/MYA/3203	Damages and needs assessment and programme formulation mission for emergency and rehabilitation response to cyclone Nagris TCP Facility (Component 2)	2008-2003	2009-2007	TCES	\$135 000	FAO-TCP
Activities Completed	OSRO/MYA/802/ITA	Emergency support to restore food security for cyclone Nagris-affected farmers through the provision of agriculture inputs and technical assistance	2008-2007	2009-2009	AGPS	\$786 164	Italy
Activities Completed	OSRO/MYA/903/CHA	Empower marginalized landless, poor and vulnerable women headed household in Northern Rakhine State through vegetable and poultry productions support	2009-2004	2009-2012	AGPS	\$400 000	UN CERF
Activities Completed	OSRO/MYA/810/AUL	storing and improving preservation and processing capacity for the most vulnerable fishing households in the cyclone Nagris-affected area	2009-2001	2010-2004	FIIT	\$648 100	Australia
Activities Completed	OSRO/MYA/902/SWE	Emergency livelihoods support to cyclone Nagris-affected farmers and fishers in Myanmar	2009-2004	2010-2005*	AGPC	\$1 199 041	Sweden

Project Status	Project Symbol	Project Title	Actual EOD	Actual NTE	LTU	Total Budget (FPMIS)	Donor
Activities Completed	OSRO/MYA/905/UK	Integrated Shelter and Livelihoods Asset Replacement for Under Assisted Coastal Communities in 6 Village Tracts of Labutta	2009-2009	2010-2003	RAPG	\$260 706	UK
Activities Completed	OSRO/MYA/904/AUS	Support to dry-season crop production for small-scale farmers	2009-2008	2010-2007	AGPS	\$421 941	Austria
			Subtotal Activities Completed			\$12 921 815	
Ongoing projects							
Operationally Active	GCP/MYA/010/ITA	Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture Livelihoods in Coastal Mangrove Ecosystems	2009-2006	2011-2005	RAPI	\$1 250 000	Italy
Operationally Active	GCP/MYA/011/ITA	Support for Special Rice Production Programme (SRPP) in Ayeyarwady and Yangon divisions	2009-2006	2011-2005	AGPC	\$1 250 000	Italy
Operationally Active	GCP/MYA/012/ITA	Support to Immediate Rehabilitation of Farming, Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Livelihoods in the Cyclone Nagris-affected Areas of Myanmar	2008-2007	2010-2012	AGPS	\$2 785 515	Italy
Operationally Active	OSRO/MYA/901/JPN	Restoration of food security and agriculture-based livelihoods in the most cyclone Nagris-affected areas of the Ayeyarwady delta of Myanmar	2009-2001	2011-2001	RAPG	\$2 044 990	Japan
Operationally Active	OSRO/MYA/002/UNJ	Recovery of Livelihood Opportunities in the Delta	2010-2003	2011-2003	AGPS	\$1 042 499	UNJ
Operationally Active	OSRO/MYA/001/CHA	Enhanced Food Security and Livelihoods in NRS	2010-2003	2010-2012	AGPS	\$400 000	UN CERF
Operationally Active	OSRO/MYA/003/CHA	Post-floods restoration of food security and livelihoods in the Northern Rakhine State (NRS)				\$750 000	UN-CERF
			Subtotal Ongoing			\$9 523 004	
			Total Approved Funds			\$22 444 819	

Text box with list of projects to be added

2.3 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak in Myanmar

Myanmar has a growing poultry industry, and for many small-scale farmers, the establishment of a small layer chicken or broiler farm is a chance to improve income and move to production on a more commercial basis. However, avian influenza remains a serious threat to their livelihoods as well as to their health. FAO's support to the government's avian influenza control programme therefore has significant disease control and livelihood outcomes.

While the FAO programme is steadily building the capacity of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries to control avian influenza, the programme has significant spin-offs in building capacity to control other diseases. The success of the current programme has been recognized by the government, and in support of extending and broadening disease control efforts, FAO

and the LBVD have agreed on an Animal Health Priority Plan (2011-2015), a framework for further assistance.

The following AI projects are benefiting Myanmar

Immediate technical assistance to strengthen emergency preparedness for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). This project is supported by USAID. The project is now in its fourth phase.

Prevention and control of Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza. This project is funded by the Australian Government through AusAID and is in its second phase. The project is jointly implemented with WHO.

Improvement of prevention, control and eradication of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. This project is supported by the Avian and Human Influenza Facility, a multi-donor fund supported by eight donors including the European Union and administered by the World Bank.

Text box with list of projects to be added

1. Immediate technical assistance to strengthen emergency preparedness for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) – OSRO/MYA/702/USA

Donor: USAID

Budget: US\$1 775 000

Effective Date-January 2008, NTE-September 2011 (Phase IV extension)

2. Prevention and control of Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza – OSRO/MYA/601/AUL

Donor: AusAID

Budget: US\$1 129 962

Effective Date-June 2009, NTE-October 2011

3. Improvement of prevention, control and eradication of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza – OSRO/MYA/801/WBK

Donor: Avian and Human Influenza Facility, a multi-donor fund supported by 8 donors including EU and administered by the World Bank

Budget: US\$1 315 353

Effective Date-1 August 2008, NTE-30 June 2011

Success stories

1. Environmentally sustainable food security programme (ESFSP) – GCP/MYA/012/ITA

One of the FAO-ESFSP project components was to assist in the rehabilitation of 22 hatcheries by providing construction materials and equipment in order to increase the production of quality fish seed. Private interests owned some hatcheries, while others were run by the Department of Fisheries (DoF). One of them, the DoF Patheingyi fishery station, was responsible for fingerling production of rohu, common carp, silverbarb and Nile tilapia. This hatchery received a new water intake system and essential equipment enabling the station to carry out appropriate hatchery operations. After the rehabilitation, during the spawning season of 2010-2011, the station was capable of producing 30.5 million fish seeds, which is 13.7 percent more than the previous year's production. The station has also succeeded – for the first time in Myanmar – in producing seed of the *snakeskin fish*, also known as the *snakeskin gouramy*. This fish is in high demand at local and export markets, especially in China, and commands a high price after salting.

Myanmar possesses over 3 700 leasable fisheries into which DoF has introduced culture-based capture fisheries technology to enable greater fish production following the recent negative environmental impact caused by growing climate change. Among many fish species, the



gouramy is the most in demand because it is a hardy and fast growing specie.

2. Coffee smallholders (TCP/MYA/2903)

Enhancing livelihoods and income generation of Myanmar coffee smallholders through the development of value-added coffee improvement interventions started in June 2003. The project was designed to improve incomes and livelihoods of smallholder coffee producers in Myanmar, giving the beneficiaries better access to food as well as increased capacity to purchase inputs for enhanced food production.

3. Training in hybrid rice technology (TCP/MYA/6612)

As rice remains the nucleus of Myanmar's economic life, and the country attempts to increase rice productivity, the first-ever FAO project in Myanmar for rice crop development was *Training in hybrid rice technology* funded at US\$221 000. This assistance was provided by FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme and the objective was to assist Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to train hybrid rice researchers, seed production supervisors and seed growers to carry out research and development activities on a sustainable basis and support hybrid rice development in Myanmar.



4. Improved grain legume production technologies (TCP/MYA/0166)

Leguminous crops in Myanmar are under cultivation in different climatic zones such as the tropical high-rainfall area in lower Myanmar, the semi-arid central zone and the cool and high-altitude and rainfall zone of Shan State.

In order to increase productivity and production of grain legumes in these different cropping systems and agro-ecological situations, FAO implemented the US\$339 000 *Improved grain legume production technologies* project under its Technical Cooperation Programme and in close cooperation with the Myanmar Agriculture Service. As a result of this project, today Myanmar stands as the world's second largest exporter of beans and pulses after Canada.

5. Oil crops development (UTF/MYA/006/MYA)

The presently ongoing *Oil crops development* project in Myanmar is supported by a loan from the OPEC Fund for International Development to the amount of US\$12.31 million. The project established a certified seed multiplication programme to the value of US\$540 000 producing certified seed for various oils crops and supporting 6 000 small farmers in the project area to improve yields and quality of the grains.

The project further successfully supported the training of 31 post graduate students at universities in Asia and Europe for Ph.D. and MSc degrees in disciplines related to oil crop production and processing.

With the assistance of the project an edible oil standard laboratory was established to provide analytical support to the government regarding quality of edible oils for local consumption and exports and setting a national standard for edible oils in Myanmar in conformity with ASEAN standards.

In order to further improve the quality of edible oils in Myanmar and to introduce advanced technologies in oil processing the project is constructing a 200 tonne per day solvent extraction plant in Myanmar for the processing of various edible oil crops comparable to the latest standards and techniques used worldwide.

6. FAO honours a sugar cane farmer from Mandalay

In places where traditions are valued, change can come slowly. Rural Myanmar is such a place. Any visitor to this nation nestled between India and China can't miss the fact that much of the countryside is still farmland, inhabited by mostly poor rural dwellers.

Indeed, farmers are the backbone of the country. When Myanmar's farmers are doing well, Myanmar is doing well. One farmer who has done better than most is U Moe Win.

Born into a farming family in Phyote Khwe Village in Mandalay Division in 1955, U Moe Win was raised to till the soil.

His father planted sugar cane, and he continued that tradition when he inherited the family's 10 acres. Though change may come slowly in a place like Myanmar, change does come.

U Moe Win is a man who believes the future always has the potential to be better than the past, and so he made changes to the way he raised his sugar cane.

He did this after attending a training course given by the Myanmar Sugar Cane Association. He took what he learned back to his farm and began experimenting with different combinations of fertilizers and different watering regimes. He invested time and effort to try new things. Through trial and error, he found the optimum mix for his soil and his crop. The results were extraordinary.

Most sugar cane farmers harvest an average of 30 tonnes of sugar cane per acre each year. U Moe Win harvests between 40 and 45 tonnes. He is nearly 50 percent more productive than the average farmer.

That kind of success brings rewards. With his extra profits from his larger harvests, U Moe Win invested in more land, expanding his family's farm to 24 acres. When the time comes, his three sons and one daughter will have an even larger inheritance than he had.

U Moe Win's family isn't the only one benefiting from his success. In keeping with local traditions that value the community over individualism, he has shared what he has learned with his fellow villagers. Several of them are also harvesting more cane from their fields than ever before, and the man they can thank for that is U Moe Win.

Caring for your community, investing in knowledge and building a better future for farmers are traditions that are valued everywhere. They're traditions that will never die as long as there are farmers such as U Moe Win.

7. Increasing vegetable production in Myanmar

The availability of vegetables in Myanmar is less than 50 percent the recommended daily dietary intake of vegetables (300 g/day). An FAO assisted project provides the platform to highlight this key issue and initiating remedial action at national level.

With US\$2.9 million funding provided by the European Commission, an FAO project in Myanmar supports most needy people in the Northern Rakhine State through food, nutrient and livelihood security and natural resource management.

"The development of new technologies and their integration into farmers' social systems are of paramount importance in predominant agricultural economies such as Myanmar", said Imai Shin, the FAO representative in the country.

The project is providing modern scientific technologies for vegetable production, seeds and improved cultivars, and building stronger extension networks for the effective dissemination of relevant technologies.

Last year, the project distributed 15 MT of potato tuber seeds and 245 kg of vegetable seeds to farmers. Farmers were also given 12.5 MT of bio-compost (organic manure) for vegetable production. Farm yard manure, compost, green manure and other steps relate to increase the organic carbon content in the soil.

Fine hundred litres of bio-pesticide (Neem) and 15 knap sack sprayers were handed out for pest and disease management in vegetable crops, although Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the preferred plant protection technology. Chemical insecticides and fungicides were procured strictly for judicious use by the farmers, under the guidance of project scientists.

A workshop on vegetables for sustainable food and nutritional security was held at the Seed Division Compound in Yangon on 22 and 23 December 2008. Fifty participants attended, drawn from concerned departments of the Myanmar Agriculture Service (MAS), international non-governmental organizations and private seed companies, the World Food Programme and FAO.

The workshop drew up an action plan for upgrading technical knowledge and skills for fresh vegetable production and promoting local seed production; understanding the important role of and processes in vegetable-based small-scale enterprise development; emphasizing people's participation to improve rural livelihoods; and improving stakeholders' skills in forming a functioning group, with effective communication and technology use.

Bir Mandal, FAO's chief technical advisor of the project Support for sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods in Northern Rakhine State, noted that other parameters are important too, such as the provision of sufficient irrigation water, the development and utilization of modern vegetable seed varieties as well as selective small farm mechanization.

The project, which runs from November 2007 until the end of 2010, aims to empower farmers, landless poor and women headed household to produce more food; generate income through crops (rice, pulses, rape-seed mustard, groundnut and vegetable crops), livestock (poultry, duck and goat), oil mills and fruit tree nurseries; reduce ecological imbalance through the use of biogas plants; and develop and strengthen local capacities and institutions to ensure sustainability.

Vegetables are rich sources of carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins and minerals. An estimated two billion people in the world suffer from the lack of vitamins and essential minerals; most of them are women or children, particularly in the developing world, resulting in ill health, lack adequate physical and mental development and liable to various diseases including blindness.

8. Thailand and Myanmar take steps for collaborative approach to the management of the Mergui Archipelago

Government officials, scientists and representatives of non-governmental organizations from Thailand and Myanmar met late last month to discuss the joint management of the Mergui Archipelago, also known as the Myeik Archipelago in Myanmar.

The Mergui Archipelago is a unique area about one hundred times the size of Phuket that transcends the western borders of Myanmar and Thailand, from the Similan Islands in Thailand north to beyond the coastal town of Mergui in Myanmar. It contains some of the most highly productive fishing grounds in the Bay of Bengal, and world class reserves of coral reefs, sea grass beds, and old-growth mangrove habitats. In addition to these critical habitats, the area is characterized by a large number of rare and endangered species, such as marine turtles, sharks and rays, and marine mammals.



The Archipelago is also home to the famous Moken People – the so called sea gypsies who live on boats and lead a nomadic lifestyle among the islands.

Given its rich biodiversity, the Mergui Archipelago is coming under increasing pressure from urban development, tourism and fishing. The archipelago is not exempt from the impacts of climate change and rising water temperatures that are contributing to coral bleaching in some areas.

At conclusion of the workshop, the officials agreed to form an executive committee, comprising the government agencies which have mandates in the region to govern and regulate resource use; a multi-stakeholder advisory group to assist the committee in its deliberations; and a series of working groups to pull together information and undertake various analyses.



The executive committee is expected to meet again later in the year. In the meantime a programme of data collection, review and analysis, involving a wide range of government bodies, universities and non-government organizations will start soon. The goal of the activities is to inform management and improve governance that aims at the balancing of sustainable resource use and social well-being.

The meeting was opened by Khin Ko Lay, Director-General of the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries of Myanmar, and Nanthiya Unprasert, Deputy Director-General for Thailand's Department of Fisheries.

BOBLME's regional manager, Chris O'Brien, stressed that "Myanmar and Thailand have taken a tremendous step

forward for the management of a very important area and have demonstrated their serious commitment to working together to ensure the sustainable development and conservation of the Mergui Archipelago”.

“FAO is keenly looking forward to facilitate future activities of the committee and working groups through the BOBLME Project,” Mr O’Brien added.

The 5-year BOBLME project – involving Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand – aims to improve the lives of the coastal populations through improved regional management of the Bay of Bengal environment and its fisheries.

The project is funded principally by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Norway, Sweden, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the USA. The offices of the BOBLME project are located at the Andaman Sea Fisheries Research and development Centre complex in Phuket Thailand.

The Phuket workshop was the third in a series of meetings facilitated by the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project (BOBLME). The workshop and preceding meetings were ably facilitated by CORIN-Asia.

List of selected projects

Title	Symbol	EOD	NTE	Budget (\$)
Crop Protection Emergency Assistance for Flood Affected Regions	TCP/MYA/6601	1977	1977	123 908
Fisheries Training (Crash Courses for Deck Officers and Engineers)	TCP/MYA/8801	1978	1979	125 000
Pre-Investment Study on Bee-Keeping	TCP/MYA/8802	1979	1980	106 000
Formulation Mission-Fisheries	TCP/MYA/8903	1979	1979	12 000
Price Policy and Structure	TCP/MYA/8904	1979	1980	57 000
Training for the Development of National Parks and Wild-Life Reserves	TCP/MYA/0006	1980	1981	51 500
Supply of Oilpalm Seeds	TCP/MYA/0112	1981	1982	50 000
National Training on Agricultural/Rural Investment Project Preparation, Appraisal and Management	TCP/MYA/0111	1982	1983	216 000
Industrial Crops Development	MYA/81/005/ /01/12	1982	1990	1 804 370
Study of Transport and Storage of Jute and Investment Needs	TCP/MYA/2201	1982	1982	50 288
Development of Rice Parboiling	GCPP/MYA/015/ITA	1983	1994	1 364 826
Project Preparation and Training in Agricultural Census	TCP/MYA/2304	1984	1984	41 677
Plantation Crops	MYA/81/008/ /01/12	1984	1993	935 609
Identification, Preparation, Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Investment Projects (Phase II)	TCP/MYA/4401	1985	1986	249 883
Forest Research Institute	MYA/81/009/ /01/12	1985	1991	1 720 902
Animal Virus Vaccines (Phase III)	MYA/84/001/ /01/12	1985	1993	1 208 660
Study Tour on Agricultural Census	TCP/MYA/4504	1985	1985	33 003
Watershed Management Kinda-Dam (Phase I)	MYA/81/003/ /01/12	1986	1990	3 244 701
Forest Management and Inventory	MYA/85/003/ /01/12	1986	2000	4 790 328
Training Programme for Farm Level Irrigation and Water Management ** Cancelled **	TCP/MYA/4506	1986	1987	243 000
Biological Control of Pests	MYA/85/006/ /01/12	1986	1992	1 598 896
Agricultural Census	MYA/85/004/ /01/12	1986	1996	2 185 471
Training in the Use of Flexible Plastic Silos	TCP/MYA/6751	1988	1989	94 600
Operation of Parboiling Pilot Plant at Bassein	PFL/MYA/003/PFL	1988	1995	399 089
Industrial Crops Development (Phase II)	MYA/85/005/ /01/12	1988	1993	1 845 490
Agricultural Sector Project Formulation Mission	TCP/MYA/8851	1988	1989	125 300
Emergency Supply of FMD Vaccines	TCP/MYA/8952	1989	1990	276 600
In-Service Training on Agricultural and Rural Investment Project	GCP/MYA/018/SWI	1989	1994	985 213
Seed Farm Development	GCP/MYA/017/AGF	1989	1992	180 392
Food Crops Development	MYA/81/006/ /01/12	1989	1993	810 270
Training in the Use of Flexible Plastic Silos (Phase II)	TCP/MYA/8953	1990	1990	29 100

Title	Symbol	EOD	NTE	Budget (\$)
Pests and Pesticides Management	MYA/88/008/ /01/12	1990	1994	2 629 139
Plantation Crops	MYA/86/018/ /01/12	1990	1995	988 191
Reforestation Study	MYA/90/003/ /01/12	1990	1992	345 062
Workshop on Fishery Industries Development	TCP/MYA/0053	1991	1992	170 500
Border Integrated Agricultural Development	MYA/91/005/ /01/12	1991	1993	627 146
Myanmar – National Parks and Protected Area Management	MYA/91/015/ /01/12	1991	1994	223 414
Joint Needs Assessment for Border States Waand Shan	MYA/88/047/ /38/31	1991	1991	70 501
Pilot Fuelwood Production	MYA/86/010/ /01/12	1991	1994	10 016
Rehabilitation of Livestock Sector Following Floods	TCP/MYA/0156	1991	1992	150 000
Animal Health and Production Legislation	TCP/MYA/0157	1991	1992	34 000
Emergency Supply of Seeds	TCP/MYA/0158	1991	1992	165 000
Horticultural Development in the Hilly Regions	TCP/MYA/0052	1992	1993	228 000
Small-Scale Pig and Poultry Production in the Eastern Border Areas	TCP/MYA/2251	1992	1994	167 375
Dry Zone Development Programme	MYA/92/01T/ /08/12	1992	1993	52 187
Strengthening Fish Disease Diagnosis in Hatcheries	TCP/MYA/2352	1993	1994	197 000
Agriculture Development and Rehabilitation in Dry Zone	MYA/93/004/ /01/12	1994	1996	2 085 988
Watershed Development in Critical Areas	MYA/93/005/ /01/12	1994	1996	2 982 155
Sustainable Community Multi-Purpose Woodlots	MYA/93/003/ /01/12	1994	1996	1 965 035
Development of Ayeyarwady Mangroves	MYA/93/026/ /01/12	1994	1994	2 029 824
Watershed Development in Critical Areas	MYA/93/005/ /09/12	1994	1996	38 000
Sustainable Community Multi-Purpose Woodlots	MYA/93/003/ /09/12	1994	1996	38 000
Development of Ayeyarwady Mangroves	MYA/93/026/ /09/12	1994	1996	38 000
Sericulture Rehabilitation	TCP/MYA/4451	1995	1996	299 000
Strengthening Vaccine Production Capability	TCP/MYA/4452	1995	1996	76 000
Reformulation and Strengthening of Fisheries Statistics System	TCP/MYA/4553	1995	1997	262 000
Support to Special Plan for Prawn and Shrimp Farming	TCP/MYA/4554	1996	1997	303 970
Environmentally Sustainable Income and Food Security Opportunities in the Ayeyarwady (Mangrove Delta)	MYA/96/008/ /09/12	1996	1999	69 855
Environmentally Sustainable Income and Food Security Opportunities in Critical Watersheds (Southern Shan State)	MYA/96/007/ /09/12	1996	1999	70 517
Assistance to Small-Scale Livestock Production in the Northern and Western Border Areas	TCP/MYA/6611	1996	1998	230 000
Food Security and Micro-Income Opportunities in the Ayeyarwady (Mangrove) Delta	MYA/96/008/ /01/12	1996	1999	2 429 848
Environmentally Sustainable Income and Food Security Opportunities in the Dry Zone	MYA/96/006/ /01/12	1996	1999	2 517 371
Environmentally Sustainable Food Security and Micro-Income Opportunities in the Dry Zone	MYA/96/006/ /09/12	1996	1999	65 809

Title	Symbol	EOD	NTE	Budget (\$)
Environmentally Sustainable Income and Food Security Opportunities in Critical Watersheds, Southern Shan State	MYA/96/007/ /01/12	1996	1999	2 970 060
Training in Hybrid Rice Technology	TCP/MYA/6612	1997	1997	221 000
Community Development for Remote Townships (Chin/Rakhine/Kachin States)	MYA/96/009/ /09/12	1997	1999	42 025
Emergency Supply of Seeds to Flood Affected Farmers	TCP/MYA/6714	1997	1998	318 000
Assistance to Fruit, Vegetable and Flower Production	TCP/MYA/6713	1998	2000	180 500
Enhancing the Income of Small-Scale Farmers	MYA/98/003/ /08/12	1998	1999	167 008
Agricultural Market Information Service	TCP/MYA/8821	1999	2001	297 000
Food Security (Dry Zone)	MYA/99/006/ /01/12	1999	2002	2 847 750
Food Security (Shan)	MYA/99/007/ /01/12	1999	2002	2 322 846
Environmentally Sustainable Food Security and Micro Income Opportunities in Critical Watershed (Southern Shan State)	MYA/99/007/ /09/12	1999	2002	41 610
Sustainable Food Security (Ayeyarwady)	MYA/99/008/ /01/12	1999	2002	2 925 653
Environmentally Sustainable Food Security and Micro Income Opportunities in the Ayeyarwady (Mangrove) Delta	MYA/99/008/ /09/12	1999	2002	30 305
Support for Agriculture and Natural Resources Development in Northern Rakhine State	GCP/MYA/001/HCR	1999	1999	309 358
Environmentally Sustainable Food Security and Micro Income Opportunities in the Dry Zone	MYA/99/006/ /09/12	1999	2001	28 185
Agriculture and Natural Resources Management in the Northern Rakhine State, Union of Myanmar	GCP/MYA/002/HCR	2000	2002	556 326
Upgrading the Safety and Quality of Fishery Products (Recorded from TCP/MYA/0065)	TCP/MYA/9065	2000	2002	126 067
Upgrading the Safety and Quality of Fishery Products	TCP/MYA/0065	2001	2002	57 764
Formulation Mission for Agriculture Sector Review	MYA/01/006/ /08/12	2002	2003	29 973
Improved Grain Legume Production Technologies	TCP/MYA/0166	2002	2003	232 541
Home Gardening for the Rural Women	TFD-01/MYA/001	2002	2003	5 850
Assistance to the Census of Agriculture 2003	TCP/MYA/2801	2002	2003	297 000
Technical Support for the Integration of Myanmar's Agriculture into the ASEAN	TCP/MYA/2902	2003	2004	237 815
Myanmar Agriculture Sector Review – Analysis and Investment Strategy Formulation	MYA/01/008/ /01/12	2003	2004	874 390
Enhancing Livelihoods and Income Generation of Myanmar Coffee Smallholders through the Development of Value-added Coffee Improvement Interventions	TCP/MYA/2903	2003	2005	330 942
Support for Agriculture and Natural Resource Management in Northern Rakhine State	GCP/MYA/003/EC	2003	2004	634 191
Oil crop Sector Development Investment Support	TCP/MYA/2904	2003	2004	210 188
Small-scale Dairy Technology Transfer and Training	TCP/MYA/3001	2004	2006	350 450

Title	Symbol	EOD	NTE	Budget (\$)
Improved Grain Legume Production Technologies – Phase II of TCP/MYA/0166	TCP/MYA/3002	2004	2004	105 997
Farmer Participatory Seed Multiplication in Northern Rakhine State, Myanmar: Phase I	GCP/MYA/004/UNO	2004	2006	1 407 915
Support for Agricultural and Natural Resource Management in Northern Rakhine State of Myanmar – Phase II	GCP/MYA/005/EC	2004	2007	1 190 570
Emergency Assistance to Tsunami-affected Fishing Communities, Fishers cum Farmers, and Homestead Gardeners	MYA/05/001/ /01/34	2005	2006	804 000
Strengthening capacity and upgrading the Forest Research Institute Yezin	TCP/MYA/3003	2006	2007	203 000
Improving oil palm research, development and production	TCP/MYA/3101	2006	2009	205 000
Prevention and Control of Avian and Human Influenza in Myanmar	OSRO/MYA/601/AUL	2006	2011	1 129 962
Oil Crops Development Project (OPEC Fund)	UTF/MYA/006/MYA	2006	2011	6 239 263
TCP Facility	TCP/MYA/3102	2007	2008	278 717
Support to ex-poppy farmers and poor vulnerable families in border areas	GCP/MYA/008/WFP	2007	2009	182 320
Support for Sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods in Northern Rakhine State of Myanmar	GCP/MYA/009/EC	2007	2010	2 875 826
Immediate Technical Assistance to Strengthen Emergency Preparedness for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)	OSRO/MYA/702/USA	2008	2011	1 775 000
Dairy Cattle Improvement	TCP/MYA/3201	2008	2010	358 000
Improvement of prevention, control and eradication of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Myanmar	OSRO/MYA/801/WBK	2008	2011	1 315 353
TCP Facility	TCP/MYA/3203	2008	2011	215 002
Capacity Building and Technology Adoption for Sustainable Food Security in the Wa Special Region, Myanmar	TCP/MYA/3202	2008	2011	336 161
Emergency support to restore food security in cyclone Nagris-affected farmers through the provision of agriculture inputs and technical assistance	OSRO/MYA/802/ITA	2008	2009	786 164
Emergency support to restore food security in cyclone Nagris-affected areas through the provision of agriculture inputs and technical assistance	OSRO/MYA/806/CHA	2008	2008	2 000 000
Emergency assistance to support the rehabilitation of the livelihoods of cyclone-affected families in Ayeyarwady and Yangon divisions	TCP/MYA/3103	2008	2009	500 000
Emergency Support to the Restoration of Food Security in Areas of Southern Myanmar Affected by cyclone Nagris	OSRO/MYA/804/UK	2008	2009	4 000 000

Title	Symbol	EOD	NTE	Budget (\$)
Emergency supply of fishing gear, boat repair tools and fish processing implements, and aquaculture supplies to immediately restore food security for vulnerable fishermen and fish farmers affected by cyclone Nagris – (SIDA component n.7400343501)	OSRO/MYA/805/SWE	2008	2009	1 580 863
Immediate Rehabilitation of Farming, Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Livelihoods in the Cyclone Nagris-affected Areas	OSRO/MYA/807/ITA	2008	2010	3 120 000
Coordination of cyclone Nagris agricultural emergency and rehabilitation interventions	OSRO/MYA/808/UK	2008	2009	500 000
Emergency support to restore food security and livelihoods for the most cyclone Nagris-affected farmers through distribution of draught animals for cultivation in Ayeyarwady and Yangon divisions, Myanmar	OSRO/MYA/809/PWC	2008	2009	500 000
Restoring and improving preservation and processing capacity for the most vulnerable fishing households in the cyclone Nagris-affected area.	OSRO/MYA/810/AUL	2009	2010	648 100
Immediate Rehabilitation of Farming, Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Livelihoods in the Cyclone Nagris-affected Areas	GCP/MYA/012/ITA	2009	2011	2 785 515
Sustainable small-scale fisheries and aquaculture livelihoods in coastal mangrove ecosystems	GCP/MYA/010/ITA	2009	2011	1 250 000
Support to Special Rice Production	GCP/MYA/011/ITA	2009	2011	1 250 000
Restoration of food security and agriculture-based livelihoods in the most cyclone Nagris-affected areas of the Ayeyarwady delta of Myanmar.	OSRO/MYA/901/JPN	2009	2011	2 044 990
Sustainable community-based Mangrove management in Wunbaik Forest Reserve	TCP/MYA/3204	2009	2011	340 000
Empower marginalized landless poor and vulnerable women headed households in Northern Rhakine State through vegetables and poultry productions support	OSRO/MYA/903/CHA	2009	2009	400 000
Restoration of production capacity and food security for the most vulnerable farmers and fishers affected by cyclone Nagris	OSRO/MYA/902/SWE	2009	2010	1 295 584
Immediate support to dry season crop production for small-scale farmers affected by cyclone Nagris in the Ayeyarwady delta in Myanmar	OSRO/MYA/904/AUS	2009	2010	421 941
Integrated Shelter and Livelihoods Asset Replacement for Under Assisted Coastal Communities in 7 Village Tracts of Labutt	OSRO/MYA/905/UK	2009	2010	260 706
Planning for the 2010 Myanmar census of agriculture (MCA 2010)	TCP/MYA/3301	2010	2011	416 000
Community-based Food Security Project in Magway Township, Dry Zone, Myanmar	MTF/MYA/013/CSV	2010	2012	111 837

Title	Symbol	EOD	NTE	Budget (\$)
Recovery of Livelihood Opportunities in the Delta	OSRO/MYA/002/UNJ	2010	2011	1 042 499
Enhanced Food Security and Livelihoods in NRS	OSRO/MYA/001/CHA	2010	2010	400 000
Enhancement of Human Security for the Muslim Resident Population and other vulnerable persons in Northern Rakhine State, Myanmar	UNJP/MYA/014/UNO	2010	2012	774 038
Post-floods restoration of food security and livelihoods in Northern Rakhine State (NRS)	OSRO/MYA/003/CHA	2010	2010	750 000
Restoration of fishers' livelihoods in cyclone Giri affected area	OSRO/MYA/004/CHA	2010	2011	455 359
Food security through the strengthening of the institutional capacity for seed production	TCP/MYA/3302	2011	2013	385 000

FAO Representation in Myanmar
FAO Representative (vacant)

Seed Division Compound
Myanmar Agriculture Service
Yangon Insein Road, Gyogon, Yangon
Mailing address: P.O. Box 101, Yangon

Tel: (+95-1) 641 672
Fax: (+95-1) 641 561
E-mail: FAO-MMR@fao.org
Website: coin.fao.org/cms/world/myanmar