MYANMAR STATUS REPORT
31 January 2006

Coordination:
In Myanmar, FAO is collaborating with UNDP to provide assistance to tsunami affected fishers; in the agriculture sector, FAO is supporting 1200 farmers in the worst affected tsunami areas of Pyinsalu Sub-township, Laputta, Ayeyawady Division.

FAO is partnering with the Mangrove Service Network, a local NGO, in the distribution of both agriculture and fishery inputs. The transportation of the agriculture inputs had started in middle of August while reconfirming the beneficiaries. Immediately after completion of reconfirmation process, distribution of the inputs started on 10 September, 2005 and all of the agriculture inputs were distributed.

Fisheries:
In the fisheries sector, FAO held two training workshops in July on fishnet making which were designed to improve the skills of women in net-making and income generating activities. The procurement of about 100 boats and accessories, as well as 700 tiger mouth fishing nets were made. The procurement orders for long lines, tiger mouth nets were issued on 28 September, 2005 and for 32’ fishing boats and 20’ fishing boats were issued on 5 October, 2005. At the end of November, 2005, 45 numbers of 20’ boats and 16 numbers of 32’ boats were already built. And at the end of December, 57 numbers of 20’ boats and 30 numbers of 32’ boats were built and 17 boats were installed with engines. Now, at the end of January, 2006, 67 numbers of 20’ boats and 32 numbers of 32’ boats and all 32’ boats were installed with engines. Forty five numbers of 20’ fishing boats and 16 numbers of 32’ fishing boats were handed over to the beneficiaries on 18 January, 2006. The other 22 numbers of 20’ boats and 16 numbers of 32’ boats will be handed over again in 1st week of February, 2006. In November, 700 tiger mouth nets, and 67 long lines were received and paid. These tiger mouth nets were distributed on 2 November and 22 November, 2005 in two batches. The distribution of the sixty seven long lines was also commenced on the end of November, 2005. The 5-days Post Harvest Fishery Training Workshops were held in three villages during 19-23 September, 26-30 September and 3-7 October, 2005. These training workshops are planned to create income generation options with value added products. A fisheries backstopping mission lead by Mr Thomas Moth Poulsen was carried out from 23-29 May 2005. Another fisheries backstopping mission of Mr. Thomas Moth Poulsen made a visit from 30 October to 5 November 2005. The fishing gear technician from the Department of Fisheries began duties in October 2005 to check the specification of the fishing nets, fishing gears, and boats. The gill nets were shipped from Thailand arrived on 10 December, 2005 and via Bago Vessel and floats and leads on 9 December via inland. These gill nets were cleared from custom on 6 January, 2006 and these were checked by the fishing gear technician at the same day and are within the specification. These gill nets were sent to Pyinsalu for distribution and expected to be distributed on 1st week of February, 2006. Fifty tiger mouth nets were also procured on 2 December, 2005 and distributed on 20 January, 2006.

Agriculture:
Procurement of agricultural inputs consisting of rice seed, sunflower seed, fertilizers, and different varieties of vegetable seeds, seedlings and hand tools has been completed. The distribution of agricultural inputs commenced on 10 September and completed 25 of October. Due to savings of expendable equipment – agriculture inputs, 120 baskets of mung bean and 1 200 mango seedlings were procured for distribution. These were already distributed in November 2005.

Two training courses were carried out for the agriculture sector, the home gardening and post harvest management training, and field crops training in three villages. Each of the trainings has 5 days duration and 21 trainees in each village and commenced on 19 September 2005 and completed on 7 October 2005. These trainings intend to increase the
income, introduce appropriate cropping patterns and cropping techniques, create more job opportunities, and empower women.

Agriculture backstopping missions were carried out by Dr. Yuji Niino (FAORAP) from 7 to 13 August 2005 and Dr. Aun Chuan Peter Ooi (FAORAP) from 6 to 11 November, 2005.

**Additional Budget:**

Further funding was provided by the Government of Japan. The following activities will be implemented using the generous resources provided to FAO Myanmar.

**Fisheries:**

More gill nets and tiger mouth nets were ordered and this will fulfil the amount of fishing nets lost by the affected beneficiary fishers.

**Agriculture:**

Tender invitation for mung bean, cow pea, and black gram seeds; urea, rock phosphate, and gypsum fertilizers; rhizobium bio-fertilizer; insecticides and fungicides; thresher, winnower, sprayer, and pH/Salinity meter were issued on 16th November with the closing date of 21 November. The selection of appropriate bidders was already done and procurements will be made soon. These agriculture inputs will be used for double cropping after rice harvest. Using additional budget 36 MT of Urea, 60 MT of Rock Phosphate, 24 MT of Gypsum and, 3.6 Kg of Rhizobium fertilizer, 1425 baskets (45.8 MT) of Cow pea, 450 baskets (14.5 MT) of Mung bean, 275 baskets (8.84 MT) of Black gram were procured distributed at last week of December, 2006.