MYANMAR STATUS REPORT

31 March 2006

Coordination:

FAO is collaborating with UNDP to provide assistance to tsunami affected fishers and farmers. In the agriculture sector, support is being provided to 1,200 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 fisheries inputs.

Fisheries:

In the fisheries sector, 22 20-foot boats and 16 32-foot boats were handed over in February, 2006. Gill nets were distributed to fishers in Pyinsalu and an additional 4,011 more gill nets and 146 tiger mouth nets were ordered, thus fully replenishing fishing nets lost by fishers. The gill nets are expected to arrive to Myanmar in early April, 2006. Furthermore, 131 ice boxes (200 litre-capacity), 67 top lanterns and 32 sets of signal lamps were purchased and distributed in March. Transportation and distribution is also underway for 32 sets of engine spare parts, 32 tool boxes, and 361 life jackets.

Training on repair and maintenance of boats and engines was carried out at Aung Hlaing Village in March for five days to 32 trainees. Further training on fishing Gears and fishing within the fisheries law was also carried out in the villages of Aung Hlaing and Lay Yin Kwin to 54 trainees.

A fisheries technical backstopping mission was carried out to provide technical backstopping in fisheries, assess project impacts, and provide recommendations for improved practices.

Agriculture:

The procurement of 2,100 kg of insecticides, 3,400 kg of fungicides, and 28 sprayers were procured and distributed in February 2006. Four pH meters were also procured and distributed in March and four salinity meters were procured and distribution plans are underway. The installation of 28 threshers and 16 crop cleaners is on-going and expected completion is expected for early April 2006.

Training on horticultural crop production and protection was carried out at Lay Yin Kwin, Thit Pote, Aung Hlaing, and Kaing Thaung villages in Pyinsalu Sub-township to 30 trainees in each location. Training on crop production technologies was also carried out at Lay Yin Kwin, Thit Pote, Aung Hlaing, and Kaing Thaung villages in Pyinsalu Sub-township to 30 trainees in each location.

A technical backstopping mission of Dr. Yuji Niino (FAORAP), Land Management Officer from the Regional Asia Pacific Office in Bangkok visited Myanmar in March to provide assistance in technical issues, assess impact of agriculture projects, and provide recommendations for improved practices.

Activities with Implementing Partners:

Letters of Agreement were signed between FAO and Mangrove Service Network in February 2006 for transportation, storage, and distribution of inputs and between FAO and Adventist Development and Relief Agency for beneficiary assessment and project evaluation.