



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# FAO support to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) in Myanmar

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Target Area:** Six townships in the Central Dry Zone (CDZ)

**Donor:** Myanmar - Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)

**Contribution:** USD 5 000 000

**Project Code:** GCP/MYA/027/GAF7

**Government Counterpart (s):** Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI)

**Beneficiaries:** 35 000 households (equivalent to 154 000 persons)

**Implementation period:** 6 years (September 2018 to May 2024)

## BACKGROUND

The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) is a multilateral mechanism for the assistance of the implementation of pledges by the G20 in Pittsburgh in September 2009, which is designed to improve incomes and food and nutrition security in low-income countries by boosting agricultural productivity. In March 2017, the GAFSP Steering Committee approved to allocate USD 27 million to Myanmar, of which USD 22 million will be administered by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and USD 5 million by FAO for technical assistance. The GAFSP initiative is a joint effort of ADB and FAO building on complementarities and synergies in the interventions by the two agencies.

In the Central Dry Zone (CDZ) of Myanmar, nearly 25 percent of the population is under the national poverty line and about 50 percent are landless. The CDZ rural poor are also affected by a high incidence of malnutrition and food insecurity. Stunting and wasting rates each range between 20-30 percent, with the highest incidence in dryland farming zones compared with flood plain and irrigated areas. Over 50 percent of women age 15-49 years old are anaemic.

The theory of the implementation of the project is based on a premise that a market-driven approach is needed to help smallholder farmers sustainably increase their income and improve their livelihood, food security and nutrition. For the development of agriculture, tailored technical, infrastructural, credit access and organizational support are supposed to increase the productivity and product quality of smallholder producers and disadvantaged rural groups involved in commercially-oriented pulse and oilseed production and marketing systems. Those improved access and support also benefit them from increased inclusion in profitable agriculture value chains through business relationships with other private actors (traders, processors, exporters, etc.). As a results, the coordinated access and supports meet market demands and, overall, contribute to national agricultural growth.



FAO Strategic Objective 1



Help eliminate hunger,  
food insecurity and malnutrition

FAO Strategic Objective 4

Enable inclusive and efficient  
agricultural and food systems







# OBJECTIVE

The project objective is to create an enabling environment that reduces the incidence of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition among the rural poor of the project area. The project aims to simultaneously strengthen the effectiveness, sustainability, equity, climate resilience and nutrition outcomes of the interventions through the combination of value chain improvements targeted to small producers, brokers, traders and processors with specific poverty reduction, climate smart, nutrition and land administration interventions.

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed activities of GAFSP will be implemented by ADB and by FAO. The specific FAO interventions are part of the GAFSP grant and are designed to support implementation across all main GAFSP funded activities. The FAO-implemented activities are following four core sections :

## GAFSP IN MYANMAR

### Dissemination of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

Limited knowledge of farmers on improved crop production is considered as one of the constraints along the agricultural commodity value chains. Inadequate field and crop management leads to increased cost of production, low yield, and sometimes insufficient quality. The Project will support delivering technical knowledge including (i) private sector driven interventions (enterprise to farmer extension); (ii) building capacity at farm and rural community level through targeting lead farmers and encouraging farmer to farmer extension; (iii) selective application of the Farmer Field School approach; and (iv) Information and Communication Technology based approaches such as help lines and mobile phone-based platforms.

### Nutrition improvements

To ensure that agriculture productivity and income contribute to an improvement in nutrition, education based on a thorough understanding of people's dietary and care practices is crucial. The intensive multi-sectoral coordination and engagement to avoid duplication and ensure the scaling-up of effective interventions, leveraging impact through complementary activities; (ii) capacity development of township administration on nutrition; (iii) a Social and Behaviour Change Communication theory of change to encourage nutrition-promoting practices in project villages with the ultimate aim of preventing stunting by instilling life-long healthy habits.

### Promotion of off-farm rural employment

In rural villages, significant proportion of village households do not have land secured by land certificates and access to any common land for grazing. The lack of employment opportunities outside the busy times including the crop production seasons, particularly at harvest time has led to some household members moving to other parts of Myanmar or to neighbouring countries. The project will aim to provide both the opportunities to acquire the skills to start a private business and being employed. A survey on off-farm rural development opportunities in the CDZ will be conducted and subsequently, interested groups of target households will receive training to assess their own capacity and needs to develop life skills (basic numeracy, literacy and financial literacy) which provides the opportunity to self-assess the household's capacity.

### Capacity Development for Monitoring and Evaluation

Current main focus of the reporting system of Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar reporting systems is not on M&E information that can be used to inform the project management team and multilateral donors on project implementation and processes. The project will implement: (i) integrating the GAFSP M&E system into the M&E system being established in MOALI; (ii) establishment of data collection capacity; (iii) establishment of M&E capacity at central level in MOALI for coordination, implementation and data analysis; (iv) capacity development on M&E of decentralized staff and project beneficiaries; (v) developing a proper management information system to collect, collate and manage the M&E information required by the stakeholders; and (vi) implementing a series of workshops and conferences to share project achievements.

The project supports achievement of

