



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# Improvement of data collection on fisheries and aquaculture production: Pilot System for the Yangon Region

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Target Area:** Yangon Region

**Donor:** FAO Technical Cooperation Programme

**Contribution:** USD 250 000

**Project Code:** TCP/MYA/3601

**Government Counterpart (s):** Department of Fisheries (DoF) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI)

**Beneficiaries:** Staff of DoF, fishers, fishing-dependent communities, and society as a whole

**Implementation Period:** 2.6 years (October 2016 to April 2019)



## BACKGROUND

The fisheries and aquaculture sector in Myanmar is an essential activity for the provision of food and livelihoods to a large number of people in rural areas and contributing to economic activity for the employment. Since 1905, Myanmar has developed legislations for fishery management and the fishing industry of the country. However, in the 1980s, the introduction of trawling method in coastal waters caused the considerable conflict between traditional fishermen and trawlers. This led to the amending of the fisheries law to provide a more comprehensive legal framework to manage fisheries in national waters.

In recent years, FAO has been noting a continuous and impressive increase of the capture and aquaculture production officially reported by Myanmar. Marine catches reported in 2013 increased 5.5 times more than those in 1996 and inland water catch statistics have been growing at a pace of 15.5% per year since 1999. In addition, species breakdown of capture fishery statistics is very poor, with marine catches reported only by 3 highly aggregated specie items and no breakdown at all for inland water catches.

Knowledge of the status and trends of capture fisheries, including socio-economic aspects, is a key to develop a policy and for better decision-making and responsible fisheries management. It is necessary at the national level for the maintenance of the food security and for describing social and economic benefits of fisheries. Those data is also essential for assessing the validity of fisheries policy and for tracking the performance of fisheries management. Considering an increase in the number of countries taking up a scheme of decentralized management of fisheries, more accurate and updating information should reach to the community level and result in a better-informed public that supports efforts to manage fisheries and aquatic resources in a responsible manner.



FAO Strategic Objective 2

**Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable**



# OBJECTIVE

The project is aimed for developing better knowledge of the exploitation of fisheries resources and livelihoods of fishing communities, contributing to more sustainable development of fisheries for food security and poverty alleviation.

In the medium term, the project will contribute to the decision making on management, planning fisheries development and national policy on food security and poverty reduction in fishing communities.

In the long term, the project will support the regular provision of reliable information that would allow the sustainable management and development of fisheries resources.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project takes the following actions to assess the current data collection system and provide recommendations for the improvement:

- Development of a standardized data collection system for fisheries and aquaculture with overall guidelines, appropriate data collection forms, and correct and transparent raising and estimation procedures.
- Implementation of in-depth analyses to validate the data collected through the fisheries and aquaculture module of the Myanmar Census of Agriculture 2010.
- Introduction of digitalized system instead of paper based system for the collection of structural data and production data.
- Implementation of institutional changes to manage the new system.



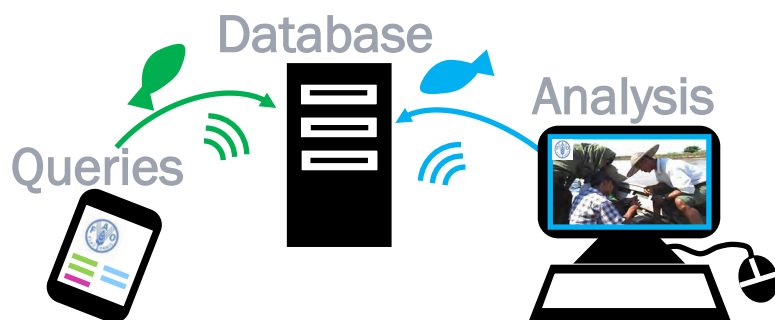
## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The project brought important achievements below:

- Re-designed the fisheries data collection form for web-based data collection forms.
- In April 2017, mobile phone application for marine open-water fisheries was developed.
- In August 2017, mobile phone application for inland open-water fisheries was also developed.
- Built OpenArtFish (Approaches, Rules and Techniques for Fisheries statistical monitoring) MS Access databases.
- Web-based database built by IT using pHp/MySQL/SQL and installed in 16 laptops of the townships.
- Server was successfully installed.

With the further progress in last year, the project is implementing the activities summarized below:

- Finalizing web-based database and transfer to the server.
- Setting connection between laptops/tablets and web-based database from server.
- Data collection of the continuous 12-month fisheries data comprised of Marine, Aquaculture, Inshore fisheries, inland fisheries, lease fisheries, open-water fisheries.
- Analysis of the collected data from web-based database and access database.
- Development of queries and reporting facilities in web-based databases.
- Monitoring and assessment to townships fisheries offices.



The project supports achievement of

