



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# Sustainable cropland and forest management in priority agro-ecosystems of Myanmar



## HIGHLIGHTS

**Target Area:** National level and five pilot Townships (Ayeyarwady Delta: Labutta, Chin State: Mindat and Kanpetlet, Central Dry Zone: Nyaung U and Kyaukpadaung) in Myanmar

**Donor:** Global Environment Facility (GEF)

**Contribution:** USD 6 183 031

**Project Code:** GCP/MYA/017/GFF

**Government Counterpart (s):** Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI), Forest Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC)

**Beneficiaries:** About 3,500 farming families for learning and promoting Climate Smart Agriculture techniques/practices at 71 Farmer Field School, 200 representatives from relevant Government Departments, Yezin Agricultural University and Service Providers trained on Climate Smart Agriculture Concept and Techniques, 9 Communities participating in Community Based Forest initiatives, 150 forestry staff trained

**Implementation Period:** 5 years (July 2016 to June 2021)



## BACKGROUND

Myanmar is highly vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather conditions. Changing rainfall patterns, increasing temperatures and rising sea level have negative impact on agricultural production which can lead to food insecurity. Insufficient legal regulatory and institutional frameworks and limited capacity among key stakeholders in developing and implementing improved practices for the management of productive landscapes (agricultural lands and forests) are key barriers for Myanmar to effectively cope with the impacts of land degradation and climate change.

In order to address identified barriers and respond to the national needs, FAO coordinates the implementation of a project entitled **“Sustainable cropland and forest management in priority agro-ecosystems of Myanmar”** in close collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC), and the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI).

It is expected that by adapting Climate Smart Agricultural and Sustainable Forest Management systems, that are more resilient to climatic trends and changes, production can be sustainably increased and achievement of national food security and development goals will be enhanced. By signing the Paris Agreement, Myanmar has sent a very clear signal about pursuing a low carbon development path. This is further backed up by national initiatives such as the development of the National Climate Change Policy and sector strategies like the Myanmar Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy. The project is therefore well aligned with the national development agenda.



FAO Strategic Objective 2

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

# OBJECTIVE

The project objective is to build the capacity of farming and forestry stakeholders to mitigate climate change and improve land condition by adopting Climate Smart Agriculture and Sustainable Forest Management policies and practices.

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will support farming and forestry stakeholders to mitigate and adapt to climate change and improve land condition. This will be achieved by facilitating the adoption of strengthening current practices of Sustainable Land Management (SLM), Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). The project pursues an innovative approach for integrated land use planning, capacity building at all levels, community involvement and promoting and upscaling best practices for Sustainable Forest Management and Climate Smart Agriculture across the landscape.

The project will help dismantle the key barriers to effectively cope with the impacts of land degradation and climate change by supporting Myanmar to set in place the tools required to generate CSA, SLM and SFM benefits across the productive landscape by introducing participatory and integrated approaches. It will also strengthen relevant policy and regulatory frameworks; generate replicable models for Climate Smart Agriculture and for community-based forest management; and, set in place a program for capture, dissemination, and national uptake of best practices. At field level, the project is active through demonstrating relevant models for CSA practices through Farmer Field Schools (FFS), promoting SFM practices through community forest initiatives and promoting integrated land use planning in following five pilot Townships in three different agro-ecological zones: i) Upland/hill Pilot Site, ii) Coastal/Delta Zone Pilot Site, iii) Central Dry Zone Pilot Site.



Farmer Field Day at FFS Demonstration on Chickpea, Nyaung-U

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

During the initial year of the project, a series of stakeholder consultations and needs assessments were conducted at community, township and national level. Since July 2017, the project has moved into the implementation phase and has made significant progress such as establishing project field offices in the pilot areas (3 offices), selecting Service Providers, putting in place Letter of Agreements (seven for CSA and two for SFM), developing FFS curriculum and training materials, establishing 71 FFS sites in the five pilot Townships, formation of FFS Committees and inputs distribution, establishing a National CSA Centre at Yezin Agricultural University, conducting training on knowledge management and organizing two national level workshops on Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Frameworks for SLM, SFM and CSA practices in Myanmar. In addition, four batches of trainings of trainers (ToT) on "CSA and FFS Establishment and Operationalization" was conducted in Labutta, Nyaung-U and Mindat for representatives from DoA and Service Provider. The project performs many of its activities through close collaboration with Government partners and INGO/NGOs. The project outputs that will be delivered during the initial phases of the intervention will include:

- CSA, SFM, SLM and Community Based Forest Management curricula and training materials for capacity building at all levels.
- Curriculum development for academic and training courses, value chain analysis and training materials development for establishment of farmer field schools and community based forestry initiatives in the pilot townships.
- Establishment and operationalization of a national CSA Centre at Yezin Agricultural University.
- Piloting the use of GIS in support of integrated land use planning at District Level.



Field Visit during Training of Trainers on Climate Smart Agriculture and Farmers Field School, Mindat, Chin State, 9-11 April 2018

The project supports achievement of

