



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS



# MYANMAR-FAO PARTNERSHIP:

CONNECTING KNOWLEDGE,  
APPLYING TECHNOLOGY



# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

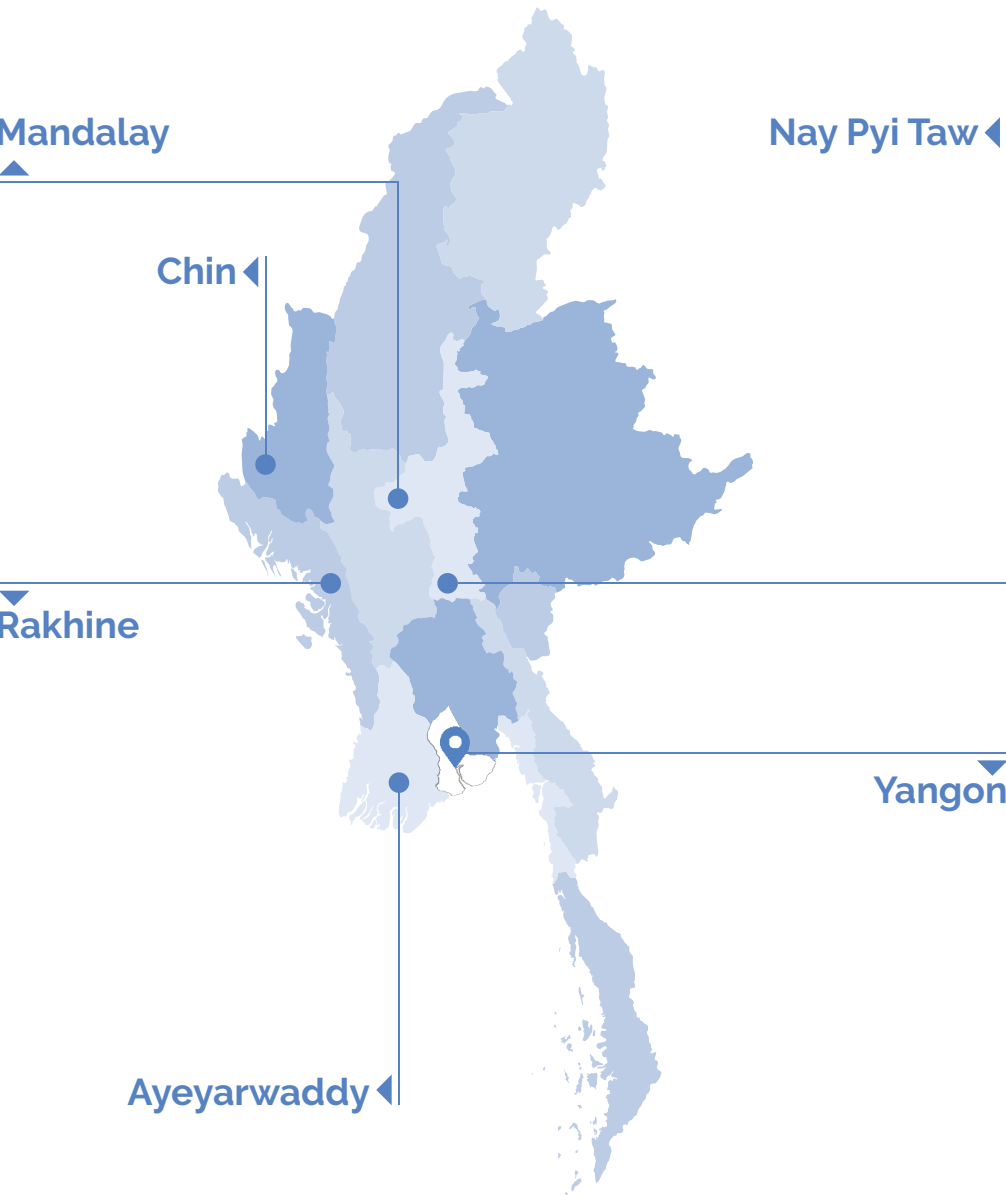
Globally, FAO has identified five key priorities in which it can best apply and leverage its knowledge, expertise and experience.

-  Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
-  Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
-  Reduce rural poverty
-  Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
-  Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises



Special thanks to; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER)

# FAO PRESENCE IN MYANMAR



# FAO MANDATE

FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. With 194 Member Nations, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide. Myanmar became a Member State in 1947, with the subsequent establishment of an FAO Representation Office in 1977. Its mandate is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

In partnership with governments and developmental partners across all levels, FAO works to develop and implement supportive policy and institutional environments, effectively contributing towards the overall alleviation of poverty.



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN THE 2030 AGENDA**

*Food and agriculture cut across all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and lie at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda. With an integrated approach aimed at tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger while sustainably managing natural resources, the Strategic Framework of FAO is intrinsically aligned with the SDGs.*

**FAO maintains the world's largest and most comprehensive statistical database on food and agriculture.**



## COUNTRY CONTEXT

As the second largest country in Southeast Asia, Myanmar has one of the lowest population densities in the region. The country has embarked on a historic path of political and economic transformation and reform, leading to rapid economic growth over the last several decades.

The agricultural sector is the backbone of Myanmar's economy, contributing to:

- 30 percent to national GDP
- 68 percent of rural population relies on crop husbandry and livestock for their livelihoods and incomes

## MYANMAR: A SNAPSHOT



POPULATION:  
54 million people

RURAL POPULATION:  
70 percent

POVERTY RATE:  
28.4 percent



11 percent of GDP is compromised for the costs of child malnutrition



29 percent of children under five years old are stunted;



Myanmar ranks amongst the top 3 countries in the world affected by weather related events

## CHALLENGES AND EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES



Myanmar has made considerable improvements over the last three decades in decreasing poverty and in improving the nutrition situation. However, nearly one in every three children suffers from chronic malnutrition. Improvements of the food security and nutrition situation across the country will be achieved by:

- Improving agricultural productivity, diversity and safety while at the same time creating an enabling land tenure environment;
- Improving rural livelihoods to enable access to a balanced food basket;
- Increasing awareness of nutritious and diverse food.



Myanmar possesses rich biodiversity and diverse ecosystems. Integrated approaches are required to preserve the country's natural resources and increase the resilience of ecosystems and communities by:

- Increasing the understanding of climate-related vulnerabilities and risks across the agriculture sub-sectors and their value chains;
- Adopting integrated technologies and practices to systematically increase resilience against both climate and disaster risks;
- Preventing and reducing the effects of land degradation and deforestation while supporting responsible management of land and improving tenure over land, forests and fisheries;
- Promoting sustainable water usage and conservation techniques.



Myanmar is experiencing extreme weather events and climate change with several significant natural disasters over the last ten years, and the country is also vulnerable to transboundary animal disease and pest emergencies. Resilience will be enhanced through:

- Improving Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and disease control strategies and policies;
- Strengthening agricultural practices for sustainable livelihoods and food security;
- Providing agriculture inputs and strengthening household and community assets.



## GOVERNMENT POLICIES

FAO and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have been working closely in strengthening their partnership. FAO's interventions are well aligned with the main priority areas of the Government of Myanmar and the Organization is committed to providing continuous support in contribution to the achievement of the following key strategies and plans:

- Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP)
- Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS)
- Multi-Sectoral National Plan of Action for Nutrition (MS-NPAN)
- Agriculture Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (AAPDRR)
- Myanmar Reforestation and Rehabilitation Programme (2017-2026)
- National Environmental Policy
- Myanmar Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Master Plan (2018-2030)

## FAO'S CONTRIBUTIONS

Building upon the Organization's global foundation, FAO Myanmar has built a growing repository of evidence-based experience, data and knowledge to support the implementation of pro-poor, nutrition-sensitive, sustainable and equitable solutions in agricultural and rural development. This is accomplished through integrated sectoral and multi-sectoral approaches, continually incorporating technology, information and lessons learned to strengthen capacities and guide future interventions.

## INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Technology and Innovation is at the heart of FAO's approach and are integrated across all three priority areas of FAO Myanmar's Country Programming Framework (2017-2022). FAO, in collaboration with its partners, has successfully implemented several key strategies. Through knowledge sharing amongst key stakeholders, FAO aims to increase the scope, scale and reach of its initiatives. Amongst others, several key achievements to-date include:

- Establishing the first National Climate Smart Agriculture Centre in Myanmar, at the Yezin Agricultural University, which serves as a knowledge management and research center;
- Use of geospatial data, tools and approaches to address challenges related to insufficient data and promote co-ownership of partner institutions and communities;
- Developing Crop Suitability Assessment Tool, a GIS tool that captures satellite imaging and relevant data (i.e. rainfall, soil characteristics, etc.) to produce information on the best crop suitability and assisting integrated land use planning, based on regional climatic trends;
- Using drones to generate near-real time and scientifically robust information to strengthen work on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) including Early Warning – Early Action and Emergency Response, Community-based Vulnerability Assessments and Planning, Land Use Mapping and Participatory Land Use Planning processes;
- Streamlining the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) in Myanmar. VGGT is a toolkit and learning-based program which focuses on the responsible management of land and tenure in the context of agricultural investment.

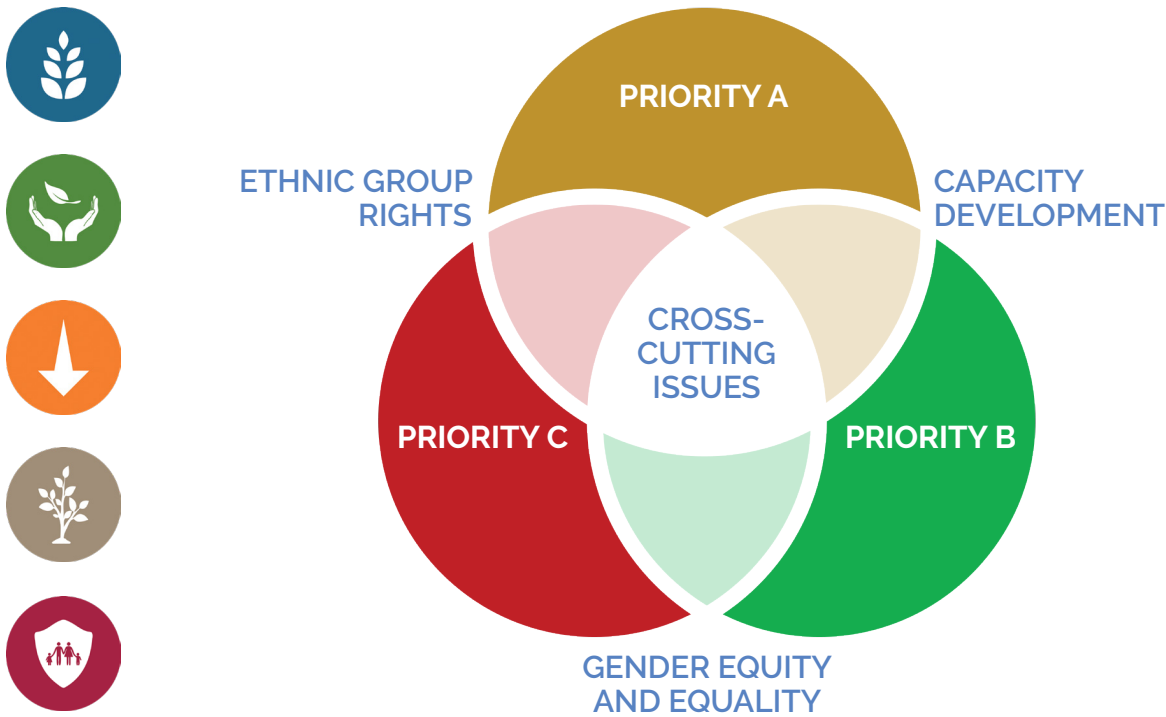
# FAO COUNTRY PROGRAMMING FRAMEWORK FOR MYANMAR 2017-2022

FAO Myanmar's Country Programming Framework (CPF) outlines the priority areas of its support to and partnership with the Government of Myanmar from 2017 to 2022, focusing on three main priority areas:

**PRIORITY A: Enhanced Food Security, Nutrition and Food Safety**

**PRIORITY B: Strengthened Governance and Sustainable Management of Land, Forest, Water Resources and Ecosystems**

**PRIORITY C: Enhanced Resilience of Local Communities and Farming Households to Natural and Humanitarian Disasters, Climate Change and Transboundary and Emerging Infectious Disease Risks**



## PRIORITY A

Enhancing food security, nutrition and food safety across Myanmar is a priority area for FAO, and a fundamental component to alleviating poverty, while improving the overall health and well-being across communities. FAO will continue:

- Supporting the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation to implement the three strategic pillars of the Agriculture Development Strategy - namely governance, productivity and competitiveness;
- Enhancing the capacity of Government Institutions to facilitate participatory and inclusive planning for agriculture and nutrition, at national and sub-national levels, in contribution to the Government's Multi Sectoral National Plan of Action for Nutrition;
- Supporting the National Land Use Council and its working committees to align land legislation with the National Land Use Policy;
- Sustainably and inclusively boosting agriculture diversification and productivity (crops, fish and livestock), enhancing agri-food value chains by engaging key actors and promoting Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and healthy dietary habits at the household level, as well as scaling up of Farmer Field Schools demonstrating Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices;
- Strengthening farmer livelihoods through improved livestock health, productivity and trading systems, while supporting the National Livestock Baseline Survey and contributing to national policy development, in collaboration with the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.



## PRIORITY B

FAO considers climate change a top-line priority as it threatens our ability to ensure global food security, alleviate poverty and achieve the SDGs. Sustainable and innovative solutions are required to not only mitigate but also adapt to the effects of climate change, while building sustainable natural resources management practices in Myanmar. FAO will continue:

- Supporting the Government, particularly the Ministry of Natural and Environmental Conservation, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, and the National Land Use Council as well as other relevant stakeholders by promoting governance, policy and strategy formulation, enhancing regulatory frameworks and strengthening tenure arrangements, in line with the principles of the National Land Use Policy and hence the Voluntary Guidelines (VGGT);
- Developing sustainable cropland and forest management in priority agro-systems of Myanmar by promoting the adoption of Sustainable Land Management (SLM), Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and CSA practices, in accordance with the Paris Agreement and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+);
- Strengthening the resilience of fisheries and aquaculture-dependent livelihoods in Myanmar by assisting key stakeholders through climate-related awareness raising, piloting new practices and information sharing;
- Promoting sustainable water resource management by providing technical assistance to build capacities in water accounting and auditing, to underpin evidence-based improvements in water policy and practice.



## PRIORITY C

FAO is focused on assisting Myanmar in shifting to proactive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) approaches. This includes a comprehensive range of Disaster Risk Management systems and approaches, which are pivotal in mitigating the effects of natural and human-induced disasters. FAO will continue:

- Promoting the adaptation and application of existing sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and frameworks for DRR and CCA, through supporting the implementation of the Agriculture Development Strategy, Agriculture Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction, CSA Strategy and Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction to enhance and facilitate coordinated and integrated action;
- Strengthening the detection, prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases (TAD), zoonotic emerging infectious diseases (EID) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through a One Health approach;
- Supporting agriculture, livestock and fisheries stakeholders through the dissemination of agro-climatic information, 'Early Warning – Early Action' systems and Community-based Disaster Risk Management (DRM);
- Providing technical assistance to develop evidence-based risk management strategies, leading to enhanced planning and decision-making, resilient value chain development and programming within key sectors, contextualized to the needs of communities;
- Protecting, restoring, and enhancing resilient agricultural (including fisheries and livestock) livelihoods of human-mediated crises and natural disasters effected communities in context-sensitive regions by reducing their food and nutrition insecurity, and ensuring communities can produce sufficient diversified foods.



► Sero-surveillance for Early Detection of Avian Influenza conducted as an FAO contribution, in providing immediate technical assistance to strengthen emergency preparedness for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

► FAO contributes to strengthening livelihoods by providing agricultural assistance through its Humanitarian Response Plan.

► "Effect of Rice Varieties on Methane Emission" is demonstrated by the Climate Smart Agriculture Centre as part of promoting Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) practices in Myanmar.

► FAO supported the cash for work for the rehabilitation/ renovation of ancient ponds in Daing Kyi and Daing Kya villages, Mrauk U Township, Rakhine State.



FAO promotes Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices through Farmer Field Schools.



FAO promotes nutritional education to families and communities through integrated home and school gardening approaches in Myanmar.



R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen visited Myanmar in 2018 to support the application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, considering climate and pollution impacts.



FAO UN-REDD Programme Myanmar is supporting the upcoming National Forest Inventory (NFI), including soil and sediment sampling in permanent NFI plots. Mangroves are essential in tackling the negative effects of climate change due to their high carbon storage function.

FAO is at the forefront of technology and innovation for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation.



H.E. Dr Aung Thu, Union Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and Ms Xiaojie Fan, FAO Representative in Myanmar, inaugurating the opening of the National Climate Smart Agriculture Center at Yezin Agriculture University.



H.E. Dr Aung Thu, Union Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and H.E. U Ohn Win, Union Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation during a drone mapping demonstration.

## FAO AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR



H.E. U Henry Van Thio, Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, H.E. Dr Aung Thu, Union Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and Ms Xiaojie Fan, FAO Representative in Myanmar at the World Food Day 2018 celebration ceremony.



H.E. U Ohn Win, Union Minister of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation participating in a UN-REDD National Programme field activity.



The Research Vessel Dr Fridtjof Nansen, owned and operated by FAO and Norwegian Institute of Marine Research, arrived in Myanmar on 24 August 2018 to conduct a survey on fisheries resources and marine ecosystem. Senior Government officials, ambassadors and representatives from UN agencies on-board the Vessel at the port-call ceremony in Yangon Industrial Port.



Ms Kundhavi Kadiresan, Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, and Ms Xiaojie Fan, FAO Representative in Myanmar observing CSA practices in a Farmer Field School site in Nyaung U.



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