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Ministry of Agriculture,
Livestock and Irrigation



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

**Formulation and Operationalization of National Action
Plan for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development through Agriculture
(NAPA)**

**National Consultation on Direction and Guidance for Future Course
of NAPA Report**

*Hotel Hilton, Nay Pyi Taw
20 May 2016*



Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund



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1. Introduction

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) are providing technical and financial support respectively for the formulation of a *National Action Plan for Agriculture* (NAPA) intended to provide strategic guidance and support to the implementation of the *National Strategy on Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development* (NSPARD). The project was signed between FAO and LIFT during September/October 2013 and subsequently between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (GoRUM) and FAO in April 2014. The inception workshop of the project was held on 24th May 2014 and a Project Steering Committee (PSC) set up in June 2014 with the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development (MoLFRD), as its Chairperson. The progress of the project has been monitored through PSC meetings, the third of which was held on 16 March 2016.

The project has already completed 13 out of 21 sub-sector/thematic studies under Phase I and one on Food Safety and Quality Standards marked for Phase –II. These sub-sector/theme area studies were intended to provide an analysis of the main issues in Myanmar’s agriculture. A draft interim report (I-NAPA) was prepared on the basis of the 13 Phase-I studies and revised as per the inputs received from verification workshops, comments from line ministries and from LIFT. The revised report was presented at the National Consultative Conference (NCC) held on 10-11 August 2015 and subsequently at the 3rd PSC meeting. The 3rd PSC:

- (i) Endorsed the I-NAPA report;
- (ii) Approved a no-cost extension of the project till 30 June 2016; and
- (iii) Approved the proposed work plan, including holding of a National Consultation towards the end of May 2016 to appraise the progress and outputs of the Phase-I of the project to the new government and seek their feedback and guidance for the implementation of future course of NAPA.

2. Objectives

The National Consultation was organized with one principal objective:

- *To provide an overview of NAPA including the outputs of Phase-I and to seek guidance of the new government for the implementation of Phase-II of NAPA.*

3. Outputs

As expected the following outputs were produced from the consultation:

- Direction and guidance for the future course of NAPA through address of the H.E. Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, deliberations of Focus Group Discussions and views expressed by panel members; and

- The consultation significantly enhanced the understanding about NAPA among union and state / region level government officers, members of Parliament and other relevant stakeholders who are expected to play important role in the implementation of NAPA Phase-II.

4. Participants

A total of 127 persons from various agencies participated in this national consultation:

- Policy makers and senior level government officers of the NAPA line ministries including PSC members and NAPA Focal Points representing various ministries / departments;
- Minister of Agriculture or top official from each of the 15 States / Regions of the country;
- Chairmen of Parliamentary Committees related to agriculture and rural development;
- Selected development practitioners drawn from various government and non-government agencies and other relevant stakeholders / advisors; and
- Representatives of selected UN agencies (UNICEF, WFP), and international development agencies like USAID, EU, etc.

The list of participants is provided in **Appendix-IA**.

5. Conference Format

The conference was organized under five sessions including a short inaugural session, three technical sessions and a final valedictory session. The 1st Technical Session provided the background and an overview of the project including the progress of implementation followed by a presentation on summary of the findings and recommendations of the Phase-I report (Interim NAPA or I-NAPA). The 2nd Technical Session provided opportunity for the participants to contributing through extensive exchange of ideas and experience during interactive focused group and plenary discussions. Three parallel Group Discussions were organized as below:

Group - 1: Issues confronting agriculture and allied sub-sectors

Group - 2: Opportunities

Group - 3: Priority indicative interventions

The 3rd Technical Session was a Plenary where findings and recommendations of the three Discussion Groups were presented followed by open discussion. The Panel discussion session was given adequate time for the panel members to come up with their observations, conclusions and ideas. Provision was also made for a short Valedictory Session to formally conclude the consultation.

6. Proceedings

The National Consultation (NC) was held on 20 May 2016 at Hotel Hilton in Nay Pyi Taw. The detailed agenda is provided as **Appendix-1B**. The Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu was invited as the Guest of Honour to deliver the inaugural address which was followed by opening remarks by the FAO Representative in Myanmar Ms. Bui Thi Lan and Representative of LIFT Fund

Board Mr Andrew Kirkwood. Dr. Sumiter Singh Broca, the Lead Technical Officer of NAPA and Senior Policy Officer of the Economic, Social and Policy Assistance Group, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok gave a brief overview of the project. The Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation also participated in the inaugural session.

Inaugural Session

H. E. Dr. Aung Thu, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation delivered the inaugural speech. H.E. lauded the role of agriculture in contributing to the national economy and in providing the primary source of livelihoods to the majority of the rural population that are severely inflicted by poverty. He recognized poverty as a pervasive issue and stated that poverty alleviation was a priority in the national development agenda of the new government. He observed that NAPA was relevant to this agenda and well in line with the development priorities of the government. He advised that the findings and recommendations of Phase-I of NAPA need to be nurtured for the development of a strategic, comprehensive and integrated poverty alleviation and rural development policy framework by strengthening the interdisciplinary and synergistic coordination among the relevant sub-sectors. H. E. envisaged NAPA as an overarching strategy for the development of equitable, inclusive and pro-poor growth which would ultimately lead to the mitigation of pervasive rural poverty. He also believed that reorganizing the MOALI, having merged agriculture, livestock, fishery, cooperatives and rural development ministries/departments, is now better suited to facilitate and accelerate poverty alleviation and rural development through agriculture by reducing internal barriers and enhancing interdepartmental coordination. He expected that the National Consultation would play an important role in connecting NAPA Phase-I to Phase-II across two political regimes by providing feedback, new ideas and direction. H. E urged all participants to actively participate and contribute by their constructive comments and suggestions and Panel members to provide concrete guidance for the success of NAPA. The full speech is provided in **Appendix-1C**.

Ms. Bui Thi Lan, FAO Representative in Myanmar said that she was highly pleased to see such a large audience representing the government and other development agencies. She expressed her appreciation to H.E. for inviting concerned Members of Parliament and senior government officers of the new government to discuss NAPA. Ms. Lan informed that the FAO had been waiting for an opportunity to apprise the new government of NAPA's main findings and seek guidance from the new government for the future course of NAPA. She mentioned that while policy formulation is a long process, NAPA has completed its diagnostic phase and is poised for the policy framing phase which would be supported by an investment plan. NAPA, with the financial support from LIFT, had completed 13 out of 23 sub-sector/ theme area studies. Out of these, Extension and Nutrition were added at the recommendation of the National Consultative Conference (NCC) held during August 2015. Indeed, these two are highly important, since agriculture is critical not only for livelihoods and food security but also to enable rural populations to fight stunting and malnutrition. Extension services also has an increasingly important role to play in future, assisting the farmers not only in the selection of crops and appropriate technology, but also to guide them in envisioning their long term future and the kind of alternative approaches they would need to help them escape poverty. She also highlighted the importance of diversification of agriculture and livelihoods. FAO has been working on NAPA since 2014 and had followed a participatory approach, seeking active participation and guidance of the government and as well as listening to the grass root communities. By taking all these inputs into

account, the gap between the findings and recommendations of Phase-I (Interim NAPA) and the priorities, policies and mandate of the new government can be identified. FAO would like to request the focal point government officials to work together with FAO in addressing the problems and removing barriers while appreciating recommendations and new directions. She informed the Workshop that FAO has been working on seed policy, animal health policy and also on the study of rice sector with the help of IRRI. However, there is a need for a comprehensive and long term plan for this area. She ascertained that the agriculture in Myanmar will continue to move forward under the strong partnership of the new government and the FAO.

Mr. Andrew Kirkwood, Representative of the LIFT Fund Board considered his participation in the National Consultation a great opportunity to interact with other partners for the common purpose of developing a new vision for the development of Myanmar's agriculture sector with the right vision and enabling policy, most of the people will return to Myanmar to make the country the food basket of Asia. The LIFT consortium has been supporting the development of Myanmar in a collaborative and cooperative way. To make Myanmar a food basket, the energy, thinking and resources of public, private sector and civil societies have to be utilized in a cooperative and collaborative manner. NAPA has been supported by LIFT and regarded as a strategic approach for poverty alleviation and poverty reduction in Myanmar. In this respect, the findings of the 13 thematic studies conducted by NAPA are expected to be highly useful in the development of country's agriculture sector. LIFT has also been involved in other similar initiatives including the White Paper produced by the National Economic and Social Advisory Committee for the New Vision of Myanmar Agriculture Sector. LIFT is also supporting a study on "Review of Agricultural Policy and Public Expenditure". He observed that reforms have been initiated and some progress has been made in agricultural development. He opined that the time has come to develop good policies that focus on providing supporting technological inputs to farmers and helping them diversify towards high value outputs. New initiatives in water management, land tenure, village infrastructure development would also be required for the development of Myanmar's agriculture sector, he added.

Dr. Sumiter Singh Broca gave a brief introduction to the project. He clarified that, unlike the earlier FAO technical assistances provided in 2003 and 2004, which was focused on the overall development of agriculture, poverty alleviation through agriculture was the key point of NAPA. He emphasized the need for the investment plan as it would be very difficult to implement the project without such support. He emphasized that Phase-I had been completed with the studies of 13 sub-sector/theme areas and added that the capacity of government agencies had also been enhanced so they could respond to the identified issues. Developing the capacity of the host government so that it can better respond to sectoral issues by working together with all stakeholders has been a major pillar of FAO's assistance. He further added that the purpose of the National Consultation (NC) was to inform stakeholders about NAPA, progress of its implementation, the findings of the Phase - I and to seeking guidance for the continuation of the project to Phase-II.

Technical Session-I: Overview of the project including Summary of Findings and Recommendations of Phase-I

The CTA of the NAPA project Dr. Dilip Kumar briefly explained about the format and purpose of the National Consultation. He also gave an overview of the project including its background, objectives, expected outputs and the principles being followed in the formulation process of NAPA. He informed the participants that a total of 13 technical studies were conducted in Phase I of the project and the synthesis document based on these technical studies was presented at Township and State/Regional level verification workshops. The final document that was developed after incorporating the comments and observations of the verification workshops was further reviewed and finally endorsed by the National Consultative Conference (NCC) in August 2015 as well as the 3rd Project Steering Committee Meeting in March 2016 .

Dr. Sumiter Singh Broca, the LTO of the project presented a summary of Interim NAPA (I-NAPA) including the findings and recommendations. He clarified that the Interim NAPA was not a strategy document *per se*, but rather offered a number of conclusions and recommendations for consideration by a wide range of stakeholders, including Government, agricultural producers, civil society and the private sector. He further clarified that Phase I was a diagnostic phase under which comprehensive assessments of 13 sub-sectors and theme areas were conducted covering history, status, constraints and opportunities, and proposed sectoral priorities, based on existing secondary materials: 2003/2004 Myanmar Agricultural Sector Review, Census and Survey data, interviews with various stakeholders, interactions with relevant institutions and visits to key agro-ecological zones of the country. On the other hand, the final NAPA, which is expected to be produced during Phase-II of the project, would be a real strategy document. He added that the Phase II would identify actions required to implement agreed priorities and a supporting investment plan. He emphasized the importance of small holder farmers in the context of NAPA and informed that although there was no standard farm holding size for smallholders in Myanmar, it is generally assumed that their holding size is less than 5 acres in the AEZ, but more in saline and mountainous areas. From a risk assessment standpoint, they are not attractive to capital inputs. Small farmers also suffer from high rate of malnutrition resulting in low productivity. He explained that the agriculture strategies for poverty alleviation through agriculture required focus on:

- i. Strengthening livelihoods of smallholder households not only in crops, livestock & fisheries, forest resources and community resources, but also through income from agricultural and non-agricultural wages, rural non-farm activities, and remittances;
- ii. Strengthening their capacity to manage and cope with risk; and
- iii. Improving their nutrition by strengthening access to sufficient, safe, nutritious and hygienic food. This would require the public provision of complementary inputs, such as clean water and sanitation.

Dr. Broca went on to present key findings of Phase I as:

1. Investments should focus on actions to strengthen the livelihoods of smallholders by formulating the agriculture policies that give priority to ensuring that smallholders can benefit from agricultural sector development for poverty alleviation; and
2. Investments should be comprehensive, covering both farm and non-farm activities, since smallholders depend not only on income from crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry, but also from the other off-farm activities.

He emphasized that interventions were needed in relation to securing sustainable access to natural resources, He also highlighted the role of an extension system in facilitating improvement in small holders' productivity and thus deserving a high public investment so that it can cover the entire rural supply chain: production, post-harvest and value addition, services, shocks and non-farm employment. Private sector investment is equally important and, hence, measures are required to encourage private sector investment that benefits smallholders. He also outlined recommendations for Phase II such as addressing climate change and shocks, public policy to protect the livelihoods of smallholders to shocks, and the challenge of cross-cutting issues including attention to nutrition (in the context of the Zero Hunger Challenge). Since it was not included in Phase I, the comprehensive investment plan covering short, medium, and long term plan for nutrition needs to be articulated in Phase II. Other issues that need to be addressed include:

- The structure and functioning of an effective integrated extension system covering crop, livestock, fishery and forestry and natural resource management;
- A clear, concrete holistic investment plan; and
- Institutional, policy & legislative measures that need to be in place at National, Regional, and Local level.

Myanmar farmers are resourceful and hardworking. This is underscored by the various parameters used to assess agricultural productivity including rice yields among the selected Asian countries. However, based on parameters such as per-capita dietary energy intake, per capita dietary energy intake from cereals, percentage of population undernourished, percentage of children under 5 stunted and percentage of children under 5 underweight, it appears that there is much to be done.

Technical Session-II: Group Discussion

The participants were divided into three groups to discuss the following three broad areas:

Group - 1: Issues confronting agriculture and allied sub-sectors

Group - 2: Opportunities

Group - 3: Priority indicative interventions

Highlights from Group Presentations

Group -1 discussed constrains and issues related to smallholder farmers. The discussion was co-chaired by Pyi Thu Hluttaw and Amyo Tha Hluttaw, State and Regional Agriculture Ministers. Other members of the group representing concerned ministries, development and donor agencies and INGOs took active part in the group discussion.

Major constraints and issues highlighted were related to extension, policy and law enforcement, rural financing, management of natural resources, livelihood diversification, climate change and natural disaster related risks, lack of employment opportunities in rural areas and poor rural infrastructure. The group discussion was facilitated by U Myo Chit.

Group-2 discussion was facilitated by U San Thein and the **focus was on available opportunities for poverty alleviation and rural development through agricultural development.** The participants of

the group included personnel from various line ministries and departments, three Members of Parliament, one Regional Minister for Agriculture and two DDGs and two Directors from Finance Dept., Ministry of Finance & Revenue. U San Thein explained the objectives and purpose of NAPA and the topic assigned to the group. There were some arguments regarding the farm holding size as these determined the definition of small holders. However, it was generally agreed on the following:

- 1 – 5 acres – small farmers
- 5- 20 acres – medium farmers, depending upon the locality, farm assets, and farm family sizes, etc.

The following opportunities were identified by the group:

- There is a need to promote locally adaptable crops.
- Areas such as micro-finance, crop insurance, inventory credit system, hire purchase system, etc., required to be introduced and mainstreamed. For successful implementation of the above opportunities, the prerequisite activities should be carried out targeting behavior changes of farmers' and putting them on business mode. It was also noted that social mobilization is a crucial tool to bind small farmers into groups to allow them gaining collective power which would facilitate and improve their access to various government and non-government sponsored development projects and programmes.
- The group also stressed the importance of certain areas such as: nutrition sensitive agriculture, climate resilient agriculture, application of information technology, unified extension services to cover all aspects of farming (crops, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture, etc.); developing entrepreneurial capacity and skills (technical, social mobilization, financial management, etc.) creation of community crop assembly markets, promotion of R&D, enhancing level of investment in agriculture, promotion of home grown organic fertilizers and its use, and inclusion of small holders' farmers in National Export Strategy (NES).

U Daw Thin Thin Aye recorded the proceedings and U Myint Lwin presented the outputs of the group.

Group-3 concentrated their discussion on indicative areas for interventions. The discussion was facilitated by U Kyaw Thu and the output of the group was presented by Dr. Ohnmar Khaing. Recommended interventions include:

- Supporting farmer organisations and granting formal recognition to such organizations;
- Strengthening and formation of an integrated extension system including creation of community resource centres to cater the need of small holders' farmers;
- Strengthening of research system and their interlinkages with extension;
- Sustainable supply of quality seed and breed which are also tolerant to extreme weather conditions;
- Other measures included rehabilitation of community pasture lands; easy access to institutional finance for small-scale farmers and also for small and medium enterprises; pilot schemes for agricultural insurance; development of rural infrastructure including, energy, road communication, irrigation, market, etc. Establishment of a Fisheries and Marine Science university; Development of agro-eco-tourism; Strengthening of agricultural database including digitized soil and land map; Promotion of community managed fisheries; Policy to encourage private sector investment in

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agriculture, diversification of family farming activities including small-scale livestock, aquaculture; and Recovery mechanism from the impact of natural disaster, etc.

Details of group presentation is attached as **Appendix-1D**

Technical Session –III: Plenary

The session was chaired by Dr. Tin Htut, Permanent Secretary, MoALI. Other members of the panel were U Khin Maung Maw, DG Department of Fisheries; U Khant Zaw, DG, Department of Rural Development; U Hla Myint Aung, DDG, Department of Agriculture; U Thaung Naing, DDG, Department of Cooperative; U Aung Htun Khaing, DDG, Department of LBV; U Khin Maung Yee, Permanent Secretary, MNREC; Ms. Bui Thi Lan, FAOR; Dr. Sumiter Singh Broca LTO, FAO RAP; and Mr. Andrew Kirkwood, LIFT Fund Board representative.

The Chairperson initiated the discussion by stating that poverty is more widespread and intense among rural communities who are the mainstay of the agriculture sector. He observed that the issue itself is blurred and addressing the problem is even more complicated and complex. We are yet to come up with very clear and concise policy for addressing this problem of rural poverty alleviation. With NAPA in place, the government of the Republic would be in a better position to tackle the poverty alleviation. He thanked FAO for coming up with NAPA and to LIFT for the financial support to make NAPA materialize. He added that the Republic now had a long term plan, composed of a series of 5 year short term plans, the call of the day is for a precise, comprehensive, concise and long term poverty alleviation strategy for rural poor communities the mainstay of the agriculture sector. Where food security is concerned, there is confidence that the country is secure from a national standpoint. However, there is no data on a regional and household standpoint.

Remarks by Panel members:

U Hla Myin Aung, DDG, DoA observed that the underlying cause of poverty among small holders farmers is the lack of capital to invest that can ensure a sustainable income and bail them out of poverty. He stressed the importance of access to credit, technology and market as critical areas for intervention for poverty alleviation at the level of smallholder farmers and in order to be globally competitive, our smallholders farmers also need to be quality conscious about their product.

U Khin Maung Maw, DG, Department of Fisheries gave an overview of the management regime for fisheries and aquaculture resources. He informed that the inland fisheries are managed under the supervision of the State and Regional Departments of Fisheries while marine fishery is under the jurisdiction of the Union Department of Fisheries.. He also explained about the management of coastal and off shore marine fisheries resources and measures undertaken to avoid conflict between the fishers of these two waters and to ensure sustainable management of resources.

He observed that better coordination and active participation of the Department of Fisheries and its personnel, Parliamentarians, State and Regional governments, local government institutions and fishing

communities are critically important for responsible management of resources for sustainable dividend. With regard to aquaculture he informed that the respective State / Regional Departments do issue recommendations for land use permit to those who want to make a living on aquaculture. He informed that aquaculture is also encouraged in dams but with some restrictions. Natural water bodies and lakes are given on lease for the use and development of fisheries.

The Chairperson observed that R and D institutions are quite weak in fisheries and livestock sectors which require priority attention for strengthening. He also stressed the need for the conservation of fish and other aquatic biodiversity.

U Aung Htun Khaing, DDG of LBVD gave his opinion that the livestock sector deserves the same status as the agriculture sector as it provides nutritious food and additional cash income to the rural poor households to enable them to sustain their livelihood and face and contain shocks from natural disasters. He informed the participants that the pasture area has drastically declined during the last twenty years due to the injudicious use, encroachment and other causes. Surprisingly pasture land tenure is not under the jurisdiction of LBVD, but it is kept under Administration Departments. He mentioned that there is a direct relationship between decline of pasture land and negative impact on human nutrition which is critically important for the first 1000 days of a child's. He also pointed out that a policy for easy import and export of livestock needs to be developed for the benefit of livestock farmers and explained that the LBVD is now formulating such policy. The current law does not support the operation of market in nutritious meat products as livestock are not allowed to be slaughtered unless they are 16 years old, injured, or unproductive.

The Chairperson observed that there is need for a comprehensive plan for the development of the livestock sector. He further added that interconnectivity between the livestock and agriculture sector as well other concerned ministries is important not only for the reclamation and rehabilitation of pastures but also to promote other farming practices like bee cultivation. Rules and regulations for livestock market, and slaughter house with due considerations to food safety and quality issues deserves revision.

Mr. U Thaug Naing DDG, Cooperative informed about the reform process which is taking place in the cooperative sector to bring its focus exclusively on poverty alleviation. He stated that the three main activities that the department would include as: Macro Capital Loan; Higher Purchase facilities for the farmers for agricultural equipment and machineries; and scaling up Farmers' Cooperative Associations to provide farm machineries on hire. He informed that the loan portfolio has increased from K30 billion to as high as K518 billion.

The Chairman informed that Cooperatives play very important role in countries like Japan and Israel. Myanmar Cooperative needs to be reformed and strengthened to make it more farmers friendly. He further added that reorganization of MoALI by merging MoC, MoLFRD, and MoAI into an overarching organization is a forward looking step towards institutional reforms to make Myanmar cooperatives more oriented towards farming communities.

Mr. U Khin Maung Ye Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Conservation stressed the need for multi-dimensional support to farming communities at the village level. He shared certain activities of the Forest Department in this regard including development of community forestry in as

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many as 300,000 acres across the country where communities are allowed to get benefit from forestry and agro-forestry and are allowed to collect non forest products from the restricted forest area to support their livelihoods. The Greening Department is engaged in constructing small dams, renovation of lakes, tube wells in those areas to facilitate rainwater harvesting and to mitigate water scarcity during summer.

Dr. Tin Htut opined that non timber forest products are very important for smallholder farmers who live in restricted forest areas. He underlined the need to tackle the changeling issues of massive deforestation and watershed management. He brought up the issue of Inle Lake which is facing the problem of rapid siltation.

Mr. Andrew Kirkwood of LIFT stated that the MoALI has to play an increasingly important role under the New Government for the development of agriculture sector. While referring to the vibrant group discussions and panel discussion he observed that all have laid emphasis on helping farmers through offering technology, options for diversification of farming practices and so on to achieving higher yield and now it is for the new government to make this happen. He stressed on three critical areas for poverty alleviation: water management, land tenure security and development of rural infrastructure. He also highlighted the need for harnessing the potential of ground water for irrigation, as currently only 6% of groundwater resources are used for irrigation in Myanmar. He was in close agreement with Dr. Tin Htut that poverty alleviation is as complicated as a jigsaw puzzle and hence there is need for a clear background picture. Likewise, for accomplishment of poverty alleviation a very clear and concise vision is needed and the new government needs to lead the coordination efforts involving the development partners to develop this vision. He informed that NAPA has been assigned the responsibility of collecting, compiling and synthesizing all elements in the form of the I-NAPA report which required a tremendous amount of work. When the final report is handed over, it would be the responsibility of all parties to implement its recommendations in a coordinated manner. He expected that the new government would coordinate and encourage the participation of private sector, CSOs, and development partners to making the programme of poverty alleviation a success. He also viewed that the coordination among various departments and line ministries is equally pertinent.

The Chairman assured that the government would play the pivotal role to nurture the participatory and inclusive approach for the success of Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development.

Ms. Bui Thi Lan appreciated the efforts of the participants of the three discussion groups to find gaps in the Interim Report. . She informed that in addition to 13 sectoral / theme areas studies which were conducted during Phase I, additional studies such as policy, institutions, climate change, extension and nutrition would be conducted during Phase-II of NAPA.. She pointed out that one of the groups had spelled out the importance of a coordinated and integrated land use management policy encompassing agriculture, livestock, fishery and forestry for the development of agriculture for poverty alleviation and ensuring food security. She informed that FAO has been assisting the government on land tenure security and policy guidance documentation. She stressed the need for a comprehensive and reliable statistical system to measure the development in food security and other areas related to poverty alleviation and rural development in Myanmar. She further added that without the reliable statistical system it is not possible to shape appropriate policy and long term strategy. She also stressed on promoting public-private-partnerships with clear Terms

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of Reference and a clear understanding of what each party's responsibilities are. Private sector and farmers have to be strong and competitive in Asian and global markets. She also informed that the NAPA investment plan is not only a checklist of priorities but also to help the government by providing larger options for prioritization of interventions.

Dr. Tin Htut accepted the importance of a reliable statistical system in the formulation of policy and strategies. He clarified that the prioritization process need to consider government policies, political sensitiveness, technical feasibilities and environmental sustainability.

U Khant Zaw, DG, DRD informed that DRD is the Government Department responsible for Implementation of NAPA in partnership with FAO. He took the opportunity to thank all government departments for their active participation and their inputs, FAO for technical assistance and LIFT for providing financial support. He informed that NAPA formulation process followed a highly participatory and inclusive approach. A series of consultations were organized with stakeholders representing various government departments, farmers and their organizations, CSO, private sector, development partners, and also with coverage to various agro-ecological areas encompassing dry, hilly, coastal, and deltaic zones. He appreciated the efforts of participants of the discussion groups and assured them that findings of the three discussion groups would be suitably used, especially because many of those findings are already included in the Interim report. He also informed that issues like climate change, insurance and investment would be examined in Phase-II of NAPA. He observed that although there are many financial services and institutions in the country under the government, non-government and private sector domain but there exists a big gap in fulfilling the credit needs of farmers, especially smallholder farmers. He asserted that the rural financial system with the possibility of inclusion of credit guarantee insurance would be considered during Phase-II to help smallholders access institutional credit without collateral. The investment plans under Phase-II of NAPA would be smallholders' friendly and well in line with the policy of the new government and would also encourage private sector participation in the development endeavor. The ownership mindset of all stakeholders is of paramount importance for the success of NAPA, he added. He also brought out the issue of extension of repayment period and recommended that it should be extended up to five years and be incorporated in the investment plan. He indicated that in Phase-II the focus need to be on small-holder farmers, inclusion of private sector and development priority in line with the priority of the new government. He mentioned that NAPA project cost is only 1.7 million USD and if the outputs are appropriately applied and used it can pay a huge dividend.

U Yan Lin, Chairperson of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development Committee of the Parliament (Pyi Thu Hluttaw) informed that pesticide, fertilizer and seed laws are being examined in the Parliament (Hluttaw) for appropriate revision. The proposal for the expansion of field extension staff, food safety and social protection are also examined. Participation and effective coordination among the public, private, farmers and CSOs are very important.

U Sein Win, Chairperson of the Farmers and Workers Committee of the Parliament (Pyi Thu Hluttaw) observed that the Parliament acts as a bridge between the people and the government and encourages people to suggest, comment and even complain if needed. He further added that land law needs to be revised and the

issue is also under the active consideration of the Parliament. He opined that farmers should have right to choose the crops they like to cultivate. He also informed that the pasture land belongs to the local communities and hence the community has the right to decide the use of pasture lands. He also announced that according to Section 19, land will not be confiscated any more. He encouraged farmers to take interest in farm business and stress the need for establishing Farmers' and Producers Organizations.

Dr. Khun Win Thaung the Chairperson, Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery Development Committee of the Parliament (Amyo Tha Hluttaw) informed that there are as many as ninety farmers' organizations in Kachin State. He urged the government staff to listen to people and to be accountable to the people.

U Ba Myo Thein: Chairperson of the Farmers' Committee of the Parliament (Amyo Tha Hluttaw) reminded that this government is chosen by people and the people are to be involved in the development activities.

Closing Remarks

Word of thanks was delivered to all participants for the devotion and participation for the whole day by Ms. Bui Thi Lan, Mr. Andrew Kirkwood and the Chairman Dr. Tin Htut.

7. Conclusions derived

- NAPA is relevant to the development priorities of the government and the findings and recommendations of Phase-I of NAPA are useful for the development of a strategic, comprehensive and integrated poverty alleviation and rural development policy framework for Myanmar.
- Phase-II of NAPA to be developed as an overarching strategy for the development of equitable, inclusive and pro-poor growth leading to mitigation of pervasive rural poverty in Myanmar.
- Reorganization of the MOALI by merging agriculture, livestock, fishery, cooperatives and rural development ministries/departments is now better suited for the development of NAPA Phase-II and to facilitate and accelerate poverty alleviation and rural development through wider farming system perspective, reducing internal barriers and enhancing interdepartmental coordination.
- Phase-II focus need to be on small-holder farmers and their empowerment by making it easier for them to get organised into groups in order to gain collective power and better access to information, knowledge, services, technology and markets and cope with risk and shocks.
- Strengthening livelihoods of smallholder farming households requires support to both farming and non-farming activities such as crops, livestock, fisheries, forest resources, wages, other non-farm activities and remittances.
- There is potential for further crop yield and income enhancement through improved efficiencies in the R&D and extension delivery systems. Development and transfer of technologies which are better suited to small holder farmers including resilient agriculture, nutrition sensitive agriculture, conservation agriculture, integrated farming, etc., are important for the farmers to intensify, diversify and integrate their farming practices for enhanced productivity and profit. However, Agricultural Research, Extension and Education institutions are weak and so the coordination mechanism among them.

National Consultation on Direction and Guidance for Future Course of NAPA Report

- Farmers need multidimensional services at the village level encompassing agriculture, livestock, fishery, cooperative, forestry, etc., that calls for higher public investment in extension so that it can cover the entire rural supply chain. There is also need to develop an appropriate institutional and operational setup to ensure effectiveness and efficiency of the unified extension system. .
- Institutional, policy & legislative measures need to be in place at National, Regional, and Local level.
- Private sector investment is equally important in agriculture and, hence, measures are required to encourage private sector investment that benefits smallholders.
- Easily accessible and affordable institutional credit with extended terms of repayment is a critical need for small holder farmers. Private sector investment needs to be encouraged in this area.
- Common property natural resources such as forest, fisheries, water areas and pasture land need to be best used for developing sustainable livelihoods for rural poor communities through community participated management approaches with due consideration to conservation of aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity and protection of habitat deserves attention.
- Application of ICT to increase access of smallholders, marginal farmers, and poor households to good agricultural practices, technologies, and information in order to diversify and improve income of smallholders, marginal farmers, and poor households.
- A reliable and comprehensive statistical system is essential to support formulation and periodical assessment of policy and strategies in the agriculture and rural development sectors.
- In order for Myanmar's agriculture to be globally competitive, productivity of water, land, labour and product quality has to be improved. Quality and food safety aspects need to be promoted among smallholder farmers too. Small farming households also suffer from high rate of malnutrition resulting in low productivity.
- Policy changes to the Land Law will be needed to address the issue of changes to land use, land tenure and land management system, that will be identified during the village planning process.
- Interventions are needed in relation to securing sustainable access to natural resources, expanding the number and value of assets, increasing net income and improving nutrition, strengthening capacity to manage and cope with shocks and developing rural enterprises and other employment as key to poverty alleviation through agriculture.
- Investment plans need to be clear, concrete and comprehensive covering short, medium, and long term interventions. Prioritization of interventions should take into account government policies, political sensitiveness, technical feasibilities and environmental sustainability.
- Sharing ideas, energy and resources between farming communities, public and private sector and civil societies need to be utilized in a cooperative and collaborative manner. Coordination among various departments and line ministries of the government is equally important.

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Appendix-1A

Formulation and Operationalization of National Action Plan for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development through Agriculture (NAPA)

National Workshop on Direction and Guidance on Future Course of NAPA

Hotel Hilton, Nay Pyi Taw

(UNJP/MYA/020/OPS)

Attendance list

Date: 20.05.2016

| Sr. No | Name | Designation | From Where | Telephone/email | Signature |
|--------|---------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 | HE. Dr. Aung Thu | Union Minister | Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | | |
| 2 | HE. Dr. Tun Win | Deputy Union Minister | Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | | |
| 3 | U Yan Lin | Chair Person | Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development Committee, Pyi Thu Hluttaw | 09 261607887 | |
| 4 | U Sein Win | Chair Person | Farmer and worker Committee, Pyi Thu Hluttaw | 09 250569235 | |
| 5 | Dr. Khun Win Thaung | Chair Person | Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development Committee, Amyo Thar Hluttaw | 09 263807044 | |
| 6 | U Ba Myo Thein | Chair Person | Farmer Committee, Amyo Thar Hluttaw | 09 43154949 | |
| 7 | U Aye Maung Sein | Member | Nay Pyi Taw Council | 09 420700939 | |
| 8 | Dr. Tin Htut | Permanent Secretary | Department of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | | |
| 9 | Dr. Khin Zaw | Permanent Secretary | Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | 067 408046 | |
| 10 | U Kyaw Ngwe | Permanent Secretary | Department of Cooperative, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | 067 410028 | |

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Attendance list

Date: 20.05.2016

| Sr. No | Name | Designation | From Where | Telephone/email | Signature |
|--------|------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------|
| 11 | U Khin Maung Ye | Permanent Secretary | Ministry of Resource and Environmental Conservation | | |
| 12 | Dr. Tun Lwin | Deputy Permanent Secretary | Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | 067 408053 | |
| 13 | U Mya Thein | Minister | Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry, Kachin State | 09 43022027 | |
| 14 | U Boss Ko | Minister | Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry, Kayah State | 09 459002008 | |
| 15 | U Saw Myint Oo | Minister | Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry, Kayin State | 09 49782225 | |
| 16 | U Man Hin Darl | Minister | Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry, Chin State | 09 459004006 | |
| 17 | U Kam Zar Mone | Minister | Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry, Sagaing Region | 09 256189246 | |
| 18 | U Myint San | Minister | Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry, Tanintaryi Region | 09 250469748 | |
| 19 | U Aung Zaw Naing | Minister | Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry, Bago Region | 09 423699076 | |
| 20 | U Soe Myint | Minister | Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry, Magway Region | 09 459014006 | |

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| Sr. No | Name | Designation | From Where | Telephone/email | Signature |
|--------|------------------|------------------|--|-----------------|-----------|
| 21 | U Soe Than | Minister | Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry, Mandalay Region | 09 459015005 | |
| 22 | U Tun Htay | Minister | Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry, Mon State | 09 784635296 | |
| 23 | U Kyaw Lwin | Minister | Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry, Rakhine State | 09 450719371 | |
| 24 | U Han Tun | Minister | Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry, Yangon Region | 09 8628098 | |
| 25 | U Sai Lone Kyaw | Minister | Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry, Shan State | 09 5210547 | |
| 26 | U Tin Htwe | Hluttaw | FWC | 09 262636416 | |
| 27 | U Kyaw Min Oo | Director General | Department of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | 067 410009 | |
| 28 | U Khin Maung Maw | Director General | Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | | |
| 29 | U Khant Zaw | Director General | Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | | |
| 30 | U Aung Phyu | Director General | Cooperative Department | 067 410038 | |

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| Sr. No | Name | Designation | From Where | Telephone/email | Signature |
|--------|---------------------|-------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------|
| 31 | U Hla Myint Aung | Deputy Director General | Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | | |
| 32 | U Thaung Naing | Deputy Director General | Department of Cooperative, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | | |
| 33 | Daw Nyo Nyo Win | Deputy Director General | Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | | |
| 34 | U Myint Oo | Deputy Director General | Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | 09 8610179 | |
| 35 | Dr. Hla Tun Thein | Director | LBVD, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | | |
| 36 | U Saw Lah Paw Wah | Director | DOF, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | 09 5187124 | |
| 37 | Dr. Thaung Naing Oo | Director | Forest Department, Ministry of Resource and Environmental Conservation | 09 448533635 | |
| 38 | Daw Nyo Mee Swe | Director | DRR | | |
| 39 | U Thu Ya Soe | Director | DOA | 09 5300591 | |
| 40 | U Ko Ko Maung | Director | Finance | 09 5138671 | |

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|--------|--------------------|--------------------|--|-----------------|-----------|
| 41 | Daw Kyi Kyi Than | Deputy Director | Department of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | 09 787952448 | |
| 42 | Daw Kyi San | Deputy Director | Planning Department | 067 407270 | |
| 43 | Daw Win Win Myint | Deputy Director | DOA | 09 2012453 | |
| 44 | U Ye Khaung | Deputy Director | DRD | 09 43018216 | |
| 45 | Dr. Khin Myat Nwe | Deputy Director | LBVD | 09 250187894 | |
| 46 | U Aung Tun Khaing | Deputy Director | LBVD | 067 408468 | |
| 47 | Dr. Aung Naing Oo | Deputy Director | DOF | 09 250166970 | |
| 48 | U Hlaing Min Maung | Deputy Director | MNREC | 067 405070 | |
| 49 | U Zay Yar Swe | Assistant Director | Department of Consumer Affair | 09 2018591 | |
| 50 | Daw Than Than Swe | Assistant Director | GAD | 067 412411 | |

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|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| 51 | U Maung Maung Kyaw | Assistant Director | PBANRND | 09 49332827 | |
| 52 | U Hset Naing Htun | Assistant Director | DRD | 09 33076363 | |
| 53 | Daw Aye Aye Swe | Assistant Director | Planning | 067 407270 09 448541572 | |
| 54 | Daw Yin Yin May | Assistant Director | DRD | 09 420700072 | |
| 55 | Daw Khin Ma Ma San | Assistant Director | DRD | | |
| 56 | U Nyan Win Paing | Assistant Director | DRD | | |
| 57 | U Nyan Win Maung | Assistant Director | Cooperative Department | 067 410338 | |
| 58 | Daw Nant Thar Aung | Staff Officer | Budget Department | 09 967967887 | |
| 59 | Daw Thein Thein Htwe | Staff Officer | DSW | 067 404251 | |
| 60 | Daw Khin Thida Theint | Staff Officer | COOP | 09 451238385 | |

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|--------|-----------------------|--|---|-----------------|-----------|
| 61 | Daw Thu Zar Win | Staff Officer | PBANRD | 067 459353 | |
| 62 | Dr. Pan Siam Kam | Assistant Regional Officer | DAR | 09 49203897 | |
| 63 | Daw Nyo Mee Swe | Staff Officer | RRD | 09 973573899 | |
| 64 | Mr. Andrew Kirkwood | Fund Director | Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) | | |
| 65 | Mr. Harald Kreuzscher | Programme Officer | Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) | 09 450034649 | |
| 66 | Ms. Claudia Antonelli | Chair Person of LIFT fund board | EU | 09 250190697 | |
| 67 | Leslie Marbury | Agricultural Officer | USAID | 09 5419517 | |
| 68 | Ms. Stefania Dina | Agriculture and Rural Development Specialist | Asian Development Bank | | |
| 69 | Pavit Ramachandram | Senior Environment Specialist | Asian Development Bank | | |
| 70 | Ms. Bu Thi Lan | FAOR | FAO | | |

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| Sr. No | Name | Designation | From Where | Telephone/email | Signature |
|--------|---------------------|--|--|-----------------------|-----------|
| 71 | Dr. Sumiter Broca | Senior Policy Officer | FAO | Sumiter.Broca@fao.org | |
| 72 | Dr. Dilip Kumar | CTA | FAO | | |
| 73 | Mr. Andrea Berloff | Emergency Coordinator | FAO | | |
| 74 | Mr. Murray Maclean | CTA | FAO | | |
| 75 | Mr. Trevor Self | Governance, Environment, & Climate Change Officer | FAO | | |
| 76 | Dr. Aung Swe | AFAOR | FAO | | |
| 77 | U Tin Htut Oo | Consultant | Agribusiness and Rural Development Consultants Co. Ltd. | | |
| 78 | U Naing Lin Oo | | Agribusiness and Rural Development Consultants Co. Ltd. | | |
| 79 | U Ziwa Naing | SG | MAW | 09 250069535 | |
| 80 | Daw Phyu Yamin Myat | | Agribusiness and Rural Development Consultants Co. Ltd. | | |

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|--------|--------------------|---|---|--|-----------|
| 81 | Daw Show Ei Ei Tun | | Agribusiness and Rural Development Consultants Co. Ltd. | | |
| 82 | Mr. Stephen Parker | USAID- PSOA | Agribusiness and Rural Development Consultants Co. Ltd. | | |
| 83 | Ms. Leslie Marbury | Director (Economic Growth Office) USAID | Agribusiness and Rural Development Consultants Co. Ltd. | MarburyL@state.gov | |
| 84 | Dr. Myint Lwin | National Facilitator | UN REACH (Nutrition) | 09 440410688 | |
| 85 | Ms. Thin Thin Aye | Programme Policy Officer | WFP | thinthin.aye@wfp.org | |
| 86 | U Nay Myo | Agriculture and Livelihood Officer | LIFT | NayM@unops.org 09 43017340 | |
| 87 | Daw Myat Khet Nyo | | LIFT | myatn@unops.org | |
| 88 | Dr. Htet Kyu | National Network Coordinator in Myanmar | GRET | htetkyu@gret.org; htetkyu@gmail.com | |
| 89 | Dr. Ohnmar Khaing | Program Manager | ACIAR | | |
| 90 | Francesw Foletn | ADB | ACI | | |

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| Sr. No | Name | Designation | From Where | Telephone/email | Signature |
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| 91 | Naing Lin Oo | Program Manager | ARDC | nainglinoo@gmail.com | |
| 92 | Khun Thein Soe | Agriculture | USAID | ktsoe@usaid.gov | |
| 93 | U San Thein | National Consultant | NAPA, FAO | 09 5039087 usanthein@gmail.com | |
| 94 | U Myo Chit | National Consultant | NAPA, FAO | 09 5197919 myo.myo.c@gmail.com | |
| 95 | U Kyaw Thu | National Consultant | NAPA, FAO | 09 5041514 | |
| 96 | U Saw Hlaing | National Consultant | NAPA, FAO | 09 5140713 | |
| 97 | U Hla Min | National Consultant | NAPA, FAO | 09 450046613 | |
| 98 | U Kyaw Kyaw Thwin | National Consultant | NAPA, FAO | 09 250230576 | |
| 99 | Dr. Le Le Win | National Programme Coordinator | NAPA, FAO | 09 43107706 | |
| 100 | U Moe Sam | Programme Assistant | NAPA, FAO | 09 421162535 | |

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| Sr. No | Name | Designation | From Where | Telephone/email | Signature |
|--------|----------------------|------------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 101 | Naw Phyoo Thandar Oo | Secretary | NAPA, FAO | 09 250175713 | |
| 102 | U Hla Tun | OFFICE | | 09 8634436 | |
| 103 | Daw San San Win Aung | Deputy Staff Officer | DRD | | |
| 104 | U Thein Zaw | Deputy Staff Officer | DRD | | |
| 105 | Daw Su Su Latt | Deputy Staff Officer | DRD | | |
| 106 | Daw Aung Aung Moe | Deputy Staff Officer | DRD | | |
| 107 | Daw Ami Aung | Deputy Staff Officer | DRD | | |
| 108 | Daw Soe Soe Thaung | Deputy Staff Officer | DRD | | |
| 109 | Daw Htay Htay Lwin | Deputy Staff Officer | DRD | | |
| 110 | Daw Toe Toe Aung | Upper Divisional Clerk | DRD | | |

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Date: 20.05.2016

| Sr. No | Name | Designation | From Where | Telephone/email | Signature |
|--------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 111 | U Zin Ko Aung | Lower Divisional Clerk | DRD | 09 400501626 | |
| 112 | Daw Aye Thuzar Tun | Lower Divisional Clerk | DRD | | |
| 113 | Yi Mar Win | | MRTV | 09 420702846 | |
| 114 | Myint Myint Khaing | | MRTV- Radio | 09 420734435 | |
| 115 | Lae Yin Myint | | MRTV | 09 420788950 | |
| 116 | Thet Thet Naing | | MWD/TV | 09 401534671 | |
| 117 | Soe Htay | | MWD/TV | 09 25056817 | |
| 118 | Kyaw Kyaw | | SKY NET | 09 420780438 | |
| 119 | Ko Ko Naing | | MRTV | 09 250870695 | |
| 120 | Tin Oo | | MWD Daily | 09 254939354 | |

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| Sr. No | Name | Designation | From Where | Telephone/email | Signature |
|--------|-------------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 121 | Kaung Hsu Thar | | SKY NET | 09 400469945 | |
| 122 | Nyein Chan Htwe | | MWD/TV | 031 74274 | |
| 123 | Dr. Myint Swe | Media | MOALI | | |
| 124 | U Pyae Phyo Maung | Media | MOALI | | |
| 125 | Aung Khaing Zaw | Media | MOALI | | |
| 126 | U Aung Naing | Media | MOALI | 09 977253938 | |
| 127 | U Ko Ko Soe Nyunt | Media | MOALI | 09 448535498 | |

Formulation and Operationalization of National Action Plan for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development through Agriculture (NAPA)

National Workshop on Direction and Guidance on Future Course of NAPA

Venue: Hotel Hilton

Date: 20 May 2016

Agenda

| | |
|--|--|
| 8:00 – 8:30 | Registration |
| <i>Inaugural session</i> | |
| 08:30 – 08:40 | Welcome address: H. E. Dr Aung Thu, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation |
| 08:40– 08:45 | Welcome remark: Ms. Bui Thi Lan, FAO Representative in Myanmar |
| 08:45– 08:50 | Welcome remark: Mr Andrew Kirkwood, LIFT Fund Board |
| 08:50 – 09:00 | Brief introduction about the project encompassing background/ objectives/ and outputs produced (FAO) |
| 09:00–09:30 | Photo Session and Tea / Coffee break |
| <i>Technical Session – I : Introduction and Overview</i> | |
| Co-Chaired by: DG, DOP (MOALI) and DG, DRD | |
| 09:30 – 9:45 | Presentations on background, format of the workshop and progress of implementation of Phase I - Dr. Dilip Kuma , Chief Technical Advisor, FAO Representative in Myanmar |
| 09:45 – 10:15 | Summary of findings and recommendation of Phase-I (I-NAPA) including recommendations of the NCC – Dr. Sumiter Singh Broca, Senior Policy Officer, Socio-Economic Development and Policy Support Group, FAO regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), Bangkok |
| 10:20 –10:35 | <i>Coffee Break</i> |
| <i>Technical Session – II:</i> | |
| 10:35 – 12:30 | Feedback and ideas from NAPA line ministries/departments of the government, international development agencies including LIFT Fund board, non-government organizations, resource persons etc., through interactive focused group discussions by holding three parallel discussion groups on a common topic as below: - <i>Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development through Agriculture</i> <i>i. Issues and constraints; ii. Opportunities; and iii. Indicative interventions</i> |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | <i>Lunch</i> |

**Opening Speech addressed by Union Minister at
National Consultation on Formulation of National Action Plan for Poverty Alleviation and Rural
Development through Agriculture
20 May 2016, Hilton Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw**

Good Morning,

Chairmen of Hluttaw committees, state and regional agricultural ministers, Ms. Bui Thi Lan, FAO Representative in Myanmar, Representatives of UNICEF and WFP, Representative of LIFT Fund Board Mr. Andrew Kirkwood, dignitaries representing various international development organizations and agencies, Permanent secretaries of concerned line ministries, Director generals, PSC members, focal points staffs distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,...

I welcome all of you at the National Consultation of NAPA (*Formulation of National Action Plan for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development through Agriculture*) jointly organized by the FAO and the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

Poverty, which is concentrated more in rural areas, is the biggest challenge our country is facing with and hence poverty alleviation in rural areas is on the top of the national development agenda of our government. This is also true that agriculture is the mainstay of our rural population and one of the biggest contributors to our national economy. Though there are challenges but there is also huge potential and wide ranging opportunities in the agriculture sector which could be harnessed by bringing positive changes in the agriculture sector. This calls for detailed and deeper analysis of various sub-sectors of agriculture including livestock, fisheries and forestry and other related aspects such as soils and water, land tenure, rural finance, cooperatives, vulnerability and climate change, on-farm and non-farm rural employment, agro-processing and value addition, food safety and quality standards, etc. Based on the findings of such studies only we may be able to develop a meaningful, implementable and robust programme for poverty alleviation and rural development through agriculture.

I am pleased to note that NAPA is quite relevant to our priority development focus. I understand that during the Phase-I of the project, NAPA has been able to conduct detailed technical studies on 13 sub-sectors and theme areas. It shows that half work has already been done. We need to make best use of the findings and recommendations of the Phase-I for developing a strategic and comprehensive plan of action encompassing development of various sub-sectors of agriculture and rural development, strengthening of inter-sectoral linkages and synergies, policy and institutional reforms, etc., without losing continuity.

I am also highly impressed with the approach being employed for the formulation process. Inclusiveness and active participation of stakeholders at all levels have been emphasised to ensure that a broad diversity of views are captured as well to promote ownership of the project by all relevant parties. Further, representation of various ministries through their focal points is important to develop a comprehensive and integrated development plan to avoid competition and instead, foster complementation. By involving the government officials from various ministries and departments the project has also developed their capacity in conducting sectoral analysis and participatory planning. I also realise that participation of line ministries and their departments from the very beginning of the planning phase is also likely to ensure effective and quality implementation of NAPA.

National Consultation on Direction and Guidance for Future Course of NAPA Report

I foresee that NAPA is going to provide us a long term pro-poor development framework focussing on agriculture dependent rural communities who form the majority of our population.

The recent reorganization of our various ministries / departments especially the merging of agriculture, irrigation, livestock, fisheries, rural development and cooperative as the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is going to provide better institutional set up for the implementation of a comprehensive and integrated cross sectoral programme NAPA is expected to come out with.

This national consultation is one of the important steps in the transition of NAPA Phase-I to NAPA-Phase-II. This consultation is expected to discuss the findings and recommendations as presented in the form of Interim NAPA and to seek guidance with regard to any further study, priority areas for development, policy and institutional issues and indicative areas for future interventions.

Therefore, I would like to request all participants to give your valuable comments and suggestions on findings and recommendations of each and every sectors of Interim NAPA. Also, it is my special request to the representatives from ministries and departments concerned who are taking responsible for Agriculture and Rural Finance Sectors to discuss more about your sectors presented in findings and recommendations of Interim NAPA.

Guidance provided in these lines would add great value to the Phase-II of NAPA: formulating investment plan for various sub-sectors of poverty alleviation and rural development through agriculture. It is hoped that all participants will actively participate and discuss with your views and opinions in this consultation.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for showing your interest and sparing your valuable time to contributing to the development of a plan of national relevance and priority. I wish for a quality and fruitful deliberation and useful recommendations to guide the future course of NAPA formulation.

Thank you.

NAPA National Workshop Group Presentation

Group I

Constraints and Issues

Extension

- Lack of access of small holders to Extension system for solving soil fertility, sustainable crop intensification.
- Lack of human resources and facilities of extension staff accessible to farmers.
- Lack of all coordinated extension involving public, private, farmer, and CSO.
- Lack of extension system working together with smallholders farmers for crop intensification.

Policy, Law Enforcement

- Need to enforce pesticide, fertilizer, and seed law, involving the relevant law enforcement departments.
- Need to develop food safety law.
- Need to enforce fish capture law and regulation.
- Awareness of farmer to pesticides law, systematic use of pesticides.

Rural Financing

- Lack of Farmer and producer organization
- No long term and mid-term credit facilities
- Not enough credit amount for unit area

Sustainable Natural Resources Management

- No coordinated land use patterns among forestry, agriculture and fishery
- Poor water use efficiency/ poor water harvesting
- Soil fertility degradation due to the misuse of chemical & fertilizer
- Lack of soil conservation technology

Livelihood diversification & Intensification

- High migration rate due to the lack of job opportunity
- Lack of access to the rural energy
- Poor rural infrastructure investment

Climate Change: Risk management

- Poor resilience technology
- Poor mitigation strategy
- Lack of social protection program

Rural employment

- Poor of job opportunity
- Migration
- Poor interest

Group II

Opportunities

- Small holder and medium holder farmers are inclusively considered locally adaptable crops should be promoted.
- Strengthening on
 - microfinance activities
 - Crop insurance
 - Inventory Credit System
 - Hire purchase system
 - Prerequisite activities should be measure for farmers' behavior changes activities and Agri-business transformation approach
 - Community social mobilization
- Initiate Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture
- Encourage Climate Resilience Agriculture
- Encourage to form small holder farmer groups
- Apply IT technologies in technology transfers, market information and micro finance activities
- Increase investment and strengthen agricultural extension services
 - Entrepreneur capacity
 - Technical capacity
 - Financial management capacity
 - Extension services must cover crops, livestock, fishery and community level forest
- Promote community crop assembly markets
- Promote R & D
- Promote home grown organic fertilizer production and utilization
- Promote small holder farmers inclusion in Nation Export Strategy (NES)

Group II

Indicative Intervention

Communication/Transparency

- Government support to form organization officially farmer organizations in order that to get the voice of farmer
- Market information/intelligence
- Integrated Extension System for good communication creating community resource centers for small holder farmers
- Investment on data and M&E
- Participatory HR concept.
- Third party independent assessment for Environment/Social Impact Assessment

National Consultation on Direction and Guidance for Future Course of NAPA Report

Climate Change

- Sustainability seeds /breeds affected by extreme weather.
- Private sector will give a pivotal role to help it.
 - Pasture is disappeared due to land cessation, which could affect to animal health

Financial Inclusion

- Access to finance plus support for business development.

Agriculture

- Policy reforms on monopoly in agriculture
- Pilot scheme for Agricultural Insurance
- Tax incentive to attract investment
- Legal base policy (regulatory reform)
- Infrastructure, extension and technology for agricultural development

Cross-sector

- Support for agro Ecotourism as a complementary intervention
- Strengthening Research-Extension and farmers linkage
- Vocational training for community/eco-tourism through private sector participation
- To relieve extra processes in local administrative office
- Recovery mechanism against to natural disaster

Soil/Water

- Updates of National Soil Maps
 - Digitalization of land maps
- Renovation of current irrigation system
- Operational system of irrigation/Hydrologist

Livestock/Fishery

- Support to solve the land conflict
 - Small holder need to apply land for fish pond
- financial assistance in fishing pond
- To expand community fishing area
- To extend pasture for livestock breeding
- Law enforcement for animal emigration to other countries
- To identify the migration route
- To drop the system of Licensee and free open market domestically.
- To encourage of small-holder livestock' business
- Establish university for marine sciences