

**Advancing Rural Community Resiliency and Sustainability in Asia**  
**12<sup>th</sup> AsiaDHRRA General Assembly**  
 7, 8, 10 December 2020  
 Online via Zoom

**HIGHLIGHTS OF OPERATIONS/ PERFORMANCE**  
**(2019-2020)**

**I. Developing and strengthening rural communities / rural peoples' organizations (RPOs)**

MyanDHRRA continues to intensify its partnership with 7 existing RPOs in 4 rural areas of Ayeyarwaddy region (EainMe, NgaPuTaw, Tharpaung), Shan State (Pekhon, Moebye), Kayin State (Thandaunggyi) and Yangon region (Thanlyinn). MyanDHRRA builds the RPOs organizational governance and management capacities, business planning and productivity, linkaging/networking and partnerships.

**RPOs strengthening**

MyanDHRRA widened community participation by building local capacities of 16 RPO leaders with 10 male and 16 female equipped with deeper understanding of concepts and approaches gained from the training given in early 2020 on Community Organizing and Community Development (CO-CD) that enabled leaders and members effectively organize and mobilize themselves for greater synergy and impact. The FGDs had been provided spaces for mentoring and coaching to further enhance local capacities in CO-CD as well as organizational development and management skills and policy work. Concretely, they have improved their skills in organizing and mobilizing their farmer-members in self-help initiatives while at the same time taking on leadership roles in the various capacities in their organizations.

Together with local NGOs mostly based in Yangon and 4 partner RPOs, MyanDHRRA developed knowledge and skills in constructive engagements with sharpened skills in negotiations, clearer understanding of varying and differing interests of stakeholders, and advocating for a win-win solution to a problem with government and other groups were gained from the Training in Constructive Engagement held in Feb 2020. They were able to identify strategies and essential activities on how to prepare for a policy dialogue covered inform, listen and consult, consolidate and report back. They could adapt how to take mutual consensus in agreeing to a solution, how to do the process, important elements of the process and shared what they learned from the experience.



*Community Organizing and Community Development Training on April 8, 2019*

### **Agri-services delivery**

Partner FOs gained geographic and altitude experience of various crops pattern and importance in agriculture, different planting materials used, solar system for renewable self-sufficient energy sources, and vermiculture. They gained awareness on the importance of local seeds, conservation and management practices, developed understanding about producers and consumers' rights; they organized village level seeds saving and management plan.

### **Generated/Improved trust and collaboration initiatives between and among FOs together with local township authorities**

The leaders of FOs like Lin YaungThit (LTYFO), and PeKhon Farmers' Network (PKFN) have developed good leadership as indicated by their final registration application at township level. Meanwhile, PeKhon FN successfully got an approval for a community managed forest of 1000 acres from the Forestry Department in May 2019.



*Township Level Policy Lobbying at Pekhon*

### **Community Participation**

Target FO representatives gained awareness about basic climate change and how farmer households and communities are greatly affected by climate change; they identified existing local adaptation strategies that minimized impact on climate change; gained confidence as local lead organizations in the June 2019 and 2020 World Environmental Day celebration as shown in the wider participation of communities together with multi-stakeholders in 6 select areas. About 100 young people participated in the 2 year annual celebration. Moreover, the Government of Forest Department has been provided some nursery trees to MyanDHRRA and FOs for world environment day for 2 years. All local member FOs developed partnership with Local Government likeminded authorities and CBOs in their areas. They have developed commitment with local government moreover, government are encouraging to become green environment in the community too. MyanDHHHA have good relationship with Forestry Department of Yangon Region, Forestry Institute, in Hmawbi as National, Hlawga Wild Park Authority, Yangon Region, and Environmental Conservation Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in National Level.

## **II. Engaging public programs/sector and private program/sector**

MyanDHRRA increased engagement with public sector at township level and few government agencies.

### **Climate Change Resiliency**

Climate Action on smallholder agriculture identified as priority thematic issue for the Regional Knowledge Learning and Policy Engagement Forum of AsiaDHRRA in 2018. The case study on rural communities' resilience on climate change was conducted by MyanDHRRA in KyoneTa Loke village, Eainme Township, Ayeyarwaddy Delta Region of Myanmar. It strengthened innovations, policy and program actions, and increasing awareness on impact of climate change to rural communities and smallholder agriculture. The representatives of farmers organizations discussed on climate change effect on their farming production which was contribute to the climate change study work in country. It has identified on how rural Myanmar people are affected and their coping strategies as well as how government policies mitigate it impacts to small scale rural farmers.

### **Responsible Agriculture Investment (RAI)**

The Responsible Agriculture Investment initiative is an opportunity for MyanDHRRA to reach out to and establish relationship and partnership with appropriate national parliament, CSOs although target results have not been fully achieved as COVID-19 intervened. The following are the concrete results to date, 1) formulated the national action plan for the youth participation in the RAI, 2) identified important gaps at the national and local capacities in the areas of policy, 3) established RAI core group with active organizations and individuals. MyanDHRRA could research the RAI Case Study; Genius (Shan High Land) Coffee production business in Ywar Ngan, Southern Shan State in Myanmar. It was successfully accomplished and fruitful results were obtained and that sample of Agri-business case study is good to share and connect for mobilizing to others who would like to start or already doing business to designing or redesigning their business according to RAI principles for the good sustainability impacts in their works.

### **ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication**

MyanDHRRA mobilized local CSOs and Private Sector upon the invitation by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Department of Rural Development for which AsiaDHRRA was instrumental; the mobilization enabled the CSOs and the Private Sector to formulate the CSO development agenda which they brought for to the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE) held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 04-08 November, 2019.

The participation of MyanDHRRA and other CSOs to the AMRDPE paved way for a better relationship between the CSOs add DRD as indicated by the invitations from the former as it launched its new project. From here on the platforms of Myanmar NGOs Network was formed and coordination intensified in the midst of Covid19 pandemic.



*11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication in Nay Pyi Taw*

### **III. Strengthening organizational capacities and services to partners**

MyanDHRRA improved and institutionalize organizational governance and management capacity by doing the following 1) accomplishments of project outputs with certain degree of quality, 2) regularity of management staff meetings, activity and project assessments and Executive Committee Meetings; 3) formulated Succession Generation Plan; 4) mid-term strategic plan review and assessment; 5) firmed up organizational structure and defined job descriptions.

For the MEAL training, we were able to access the organization profiling, FO growth monitoring to farmer organizations in order to aware of their current level of competencies and strategize on how to keep moving forward and developing new strategies for the next planning cycle. As a result, 4 FOs (KaHeeLu, KyoneTaLoke, NgaPuTaw, PeKhon) identified on the areas of strength and weakness of their organization. They have purposive plan to build communication with networking partners group, develop their confidence in networking with government departments, FOs profiling information are updated through discussion, and the land loose farmers were discussed for land return from military

grabbed area and the follow up with government-departments for it on the process.



*FO growth monitoring with PKFN on August 25, 2020*

#### **Contributing with partner organization of Agriculture and Farmers Federation of Myanmar (AFFM)**

MyanDHRRA led the Farmer Family Household survey process for AFFM during 1<sup>st</sup> July-15<sup>th</sup> August, 2020. MyanDHRRA mobilized to administer the survey and it was completely covered 75 households about 68% of total beneficiaries families of the project supported. This survey was undertaken in collaboration with AsiaDHRRA in light of coming up with an information of the socio-economic condition of members of its FFP-FO partners.

#### **COVID-19 Livelihood Assessment**

MyanDHRRA was able to complete FOs livelihood assessment survey to 4 FOs of KHLFO, LYTFO, PKFN and TWG. The survey covered 75% of member households in Ayeyarwaddy Region, about 50% of households in Shan State and above 90% in Kayin State. The result found that the main income crop, their livelihood security and their living during the pandemic period.

#### **IV. Other key significant achievements**

MyanDHRRA's capacity to develop and write project proposals and mobilize resources has increased; three of proposals were submitted to various donors such as ACDI VOCA, Bread for the World, Department of Rural Development, CWS, Misereor, and MAN

A new MyanDHRRA webpage ([www.myandhrra.com](http://www.myandhrra.com)) was developed and an organizational brochure also renewed as information material about MyanDHRRA and its works.