



## MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON ‘SCALING-UP INTERVENTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN MYANMAR’S DRY ZONE’

20-21 December 2016  
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### Introduction

Agriculture is among the most important sources of livelihood in the Central Dry Zone which is spread over Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing regions of Myanmar. It has been estimated that 58% of those living in the Dry Zone are farmers, while 25% are farm labourers<sup>1</sup>. However, the area suffers from many constraints which limit agricultural productivity and incomes such as uneven precipitation and water scarcity, inherently poor and fragile soils, inadequate access to quality inputs, inadequate access to credit and markets, weaknesses in extension services, labour migration and indebtedness. Climate change is another key challenge which is also aggravating the negative impact of the other constraints. This situation has resulted in a high incidence of poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition in the Dry Zone.

A wide range of stakeholders have been implementing interventions to promote sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture in the Dry Zone including Union government ministries and departments, regional governments, international and bilateral donors, international and local NGOs, University/research institutions, private sector and farmer/community-based organizations. These stakeholders have tried to address many of the constraints noted above. While there are instances of positive outcomes and successful interventions, overall progress towards attainment of sustainability has been limited when placed in context of the enormity of the task. There is a need to better assess successful programmatic interventions as well as those that have not worked well in order to learn lessons and exchange good practices that can be applied broadly. This can support replication and scaling-up of the successful interventions to reach more beneficiaries over wider areas, while enabling other stakeholders to avoid common pitfalls and bottlenecks. At the same time, it should be recognized that scaling-up of successful programmatic interventions requires an enabling policy environment. Hence an assessment of

<sup>1</sup> *Improving water management in Myanmar’s Dry Zone for food security, livelihoods and health* (International Water Management Institute, 2015), <http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Publications/Other/Reports/PDF/improving-water-management-in-myanmar-dry-zone-for-food-security-livelihoods-and-health.pdf>.

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existing policies as well as the institutions and processes involved in policy formulation and implementation is necessary as well.

In the above context, the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA, a regional institution of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)), the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) and Network Activities Group (NAG) in collaboration with the Department of Rural Development of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (DRD) will organize a '**Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Scaling-up Interventions for Sustainable Agricultural Development in Myanmar's Dry Zone**' from 20-21 December 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw. This event will be organized under the project titled '*An Integrated Rural Economic and Social Development Programme for Livelihoods Improvement in the Dry Zone of Myanmar*' supported by the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT). The project involves a wide range of analytical, capacity building and knowledge sharing activities such as development of case studies and policy papers, technical and policy workshops, and senior-level dialogues.

#### **Meeting objectives:**

The overall objective of the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue is to support scaling-up of successful policy and programme interventions for sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture in Myanmar's Dry Zone. In particular, the Dialogue aims to:

- (i) Enable a meaningful **assessment of policy and programme interventions** that can support replication and adoption of successful ones in the Dry Zone.
- (ii) Identify **key lessons and good practices** to scale-up successful interventions and discuss ways to overcome common barriers.
- (iii) Develop an **Action Agenda** to scale-up successful policy and programme interventions with the involvement of all stakeholders.
- (iv) Provide an opportunity for **knowledge sharing and networking** amongst public, civil society and private sector stakeholders in the area of sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture.

#### **Target Group**

A large number of senior-level participants from national and regional government, multilateral and bilateral organizations, academia, international NGOs, local civil society organizations (CSOs), private sector, and farmer groups are expected to take part in the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue.

#### **Programme**

The programme will comprise of presentations, panel discussions, participants' discussion, and group work. The outcomes of the research/analytical work by CAPSA, APCTT and CSAM under the project in various agricultural sub-sectors in context of the Dry Zone will also be presented. The provisional programme is enclosed.

The event will be conducted using a mix of English and Myanmar languages. Simultaneous translation services between English and Myanmar language will be arranged for the benefit of participants. Participants will be expected to take part in a meeting evaluation at the end of the event as well as a follow-up evaluation approx. 6 months after the event.

**For further information, please contact:**

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# PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 20 December 2016

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SESSION DESCRIPTION
8.30 – 9.00 am	Registration	- Registration of participants
9.00 – 9.40 am	Session 1: Inaugural session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opening remarks, Mr. Bobby, CEO, NAG</li> <li>- Inaugural remarks, Regional Government representative (<i>To be confirmed/TBC</i>)</li> <li>- Remarks, Department of Rural Development representative</li> <li>- Remarks, Mr. Masakazu Ichimura, Director, CAPSA-UNESCAP</li> <li>- Remarks, UNOPS representative</li> <li>- Meeting overview, Mr. Anshuman Varma, Knowledge Management Coordinator, CAPSA-UNESCAP</li> <li>- Self-introduction by participants</li> </ul>
9.40 – 10.30 am	Session 2: Keynotes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keynote I: <i>Scaling-up through innovation and partnerships: Perspective from the Asia-Pacific Region</i>, Mr. Masakazu Ichimura, CAPSA-UNESCAP</li> <li>- Keynote II: <i>Key opportunities and challenges for scaling-up agricultural development in the Dry Zone</i> (TBC)</li> <li>- Discussion/Q&amp;A</li> <li>- Group photo</li> </ul>
10.30– 10.50 am	Coffee break	
10.50 am – 12.00 pm	Session 3: Panel discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>From micro-level to macro-level impact: How can we bridge the gap?</i></li> <li>- Discussion/Q&amp;A</li> <li>- Summary by Moderator</li> </ul>
12.00 – 1.00 pm	Lunch	
1.00 – 2.45 pm	Session 4: Lessons from scaling-up successful interventions in the Dry Zone: Government-led interventions	<p><i>This session will discuss cases of national and regional government-led technical and policy interventions for agricultural development in the Dry Zone which have been successfully scaled-up. Lessons learned and good practices will be identified.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interventions for agricultural research, Department of Agricultural Research representative</li> <li>- Interventions for agricultural extension, Department of Agriculture (DOA) representative</li> <li>- Interventions for water resource utilization, Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department representative</li> <li>- Discussion/Q&amp;A</li> </ul>

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SESSION DESCRIPTION
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Interventions by Township or Regional administration, Magway Regional government representative</b></li> <li>- <b>Interventions by Township or Regional administration, Mandalay Regional government representative</b></li> <li>- <b>Interventions by Township or Regional administration, Sagaing Regional government representative</b></li> <li>- <b>Discussion/Q&amp;A</b></li> </ul>
2.45 – 3.05 pm	Coffee break	
3.05 – 4.30 pm	<b>Session 5: Some policy options for scaling-up agricultural development in the Dry Zone</b>	<p><i>This session will analyze some options for policy interventions that can support scaling-up of agricultural development in the Dry Zone</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Farmer-led seed enterprise development for enhancing access to quality seeds and income generation, Dr. Krishnan Srinivasaraghavan, Coordinator, Science, Technology and Innovation, APCTT-UNESCAP</b></li> <li>- <b>Promoting sustainable agricultural mechanization development, Ms. Lian Zhang, Operation Facilitator, CSAM-UNESCAP</b></li> <li>- <b>Scaling-up agricultural development through greater private sector involvement, Mr. Anshuman Varma, CAPSA-UNESCAP</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion/Q&amp;A</b></p>
4.30 – 5.00 pm	<b>Session 6: Wrap up of the Day</b>  Moderator: - <i>Dr. Myo Ma Ma Than, Program Manager, NAG</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Key messages from the day</b>  <i>(Reflections from participants)</i></li> </ul>

**Wednesday, 21 December 2016**

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SESSION DESCRIPTION
8.30 – 9.00 am	<b>Registration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Registration of participants</b></li> </ul>
9.00 – 10.15 am	<b>Session 7: Panel discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Recap of Day 1 &amp; overview of Day 2</b></li> <li>- <b>Role of non-government stakeholders in scaling-up agricultural development in the Dry Zone</b></li> <li>- <b>Discussion/Q&amp;A</b></li> <li>- <b>Summary by Moderator</b></li> </ul>
10.15– 10.35 am	Coffee break	
10.35 am – 12.00 pm	<b>Session 8: Lessons from scaling-up Successful</b>	<p><i>This session will discuss cases of non-government-led technical and programmatic interventions for agricultural development in the Dry Zone which have been</i></p>

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SESSION DESCRIPTION
	<b>Interventions in the Dry Zone: Non-government-led interventions</b>	<i>successfully scaled-up. Lessons learned and good practices will be identified.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Presentations</b></li> <li>- <b>Discussion/Q&amp;A</b></li> </ul>
12.00 – 1.00 pm	Lunch	
1.00 – 2.15 pm	<b>Session 9: Group work: Development of Action Agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Explanation of Group Work, Mr. Anshuman Varma, CAPSA-UNESCAP</b></li> <li>- <b>Group work discussions</b></li> </ul> <p>Working groups to discuss the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How can <b>Regional Governments</b> help in setting priority areas for scaling-up interventions for agricultural development in the Dry Zone?</li> <li>2. How can we <b>strengthen research-extension linkages</b> to scale-up successful technologies and innovations?</li> <li>3. How can we <b>mobilize more resources</b> to scale-up successful interventions?</li> <li>4. How can we <b>involve smallholders</b> in developing strategies to scale-up successful interventions?</li> <li>5. How can we improve <b>multi-stakeholder coordination and partnerships</b> to scale-up successful interventions?</li> </ol>
2.15 – 2.35 pm	Coffee break	
2.35 – 4.00 pm	<b>Session 10: Presentations on outcomes of group work</b> -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Working group presentations</b></li> <li>- <b>Discussion and development of Action Agenda</b></li> </ul>
4.00 – 4.30 pm	<b>Closing session</b>  <i>Co-Moderators for discussion on key learnings and reflections:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Mr. Anshuman Varma, CAPSA-UNESCAP</i></li> <li>- <i>Dr. Myo Ma Ma Than, NAG</i></li> </ul>	<b>Key learnings and reflections from participants</b>  <b>Closing statements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Mr. Masakazu Ichimura, CAPSA-UNESCAP</i></li> <li>- Department of Rural Development representative</li> <li>- <i>Mr. Bobby, NAG</i></li> </ul>
4.30 – 4.40 pm	<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Meeting Evaluation</b>