



Inception workshop of the project 'An integrated rural economic and social development programme for livelihoods improvement in the dry zone of Myanmar'

5 May 2015, Summit Parkview Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar

BACKGROUND NOTE

Introduction

The project titled '*An Integrated Rural Economic and Social Development Programme for Livelihoods Improvement in the Dry Zone of Myanmar*' aims to support integrated socioeconomic development in Myanmar's dry zone in the context of inclusive and sustainable development with special emphasis on livelihoods improvement and food security. To achieve this objective, it seeks to strengthen the capacities of policymakers, especially at the local level, LIFT development partners, and the private sector, to:

- (i) coordinate and share knowledge through the establishment of **knowledge sharing** and collaboration mechanism(s);
- (ii) **formulate policies and advocate** for rural development, poverty reduction, livelihoods improvement and food security in the dry zone of Myanmar.

Both the above will address the following three thematic areas:

- a. Technology transfer of improved and environmentally sound technologies for small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) available locally as well as in the region;
- b. Sustainable agriculture for poverty reduction;
- c. Agricultural engineering and farm mechanization for increased food security and poverty reduction.

The project is funded through the Livelihood and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) managed by the United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS) and led by the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA-ESCAP) in partnership with the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) and the Network Activities Group (NAG). The Department of Rural Development of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development of Myanmar (DRD-MLFRD) has been designated as the focal government agency to collaborate in the implementation of the Project.

The project activities include a wide range of interventions such as establishment of a Knowledge Resource Network, development of case studies and policy papers, curricula development and its translation, training workshops and policy dialogues.

An Inception Workshop is scheduled to be held from 5 May 2015 at Summit Parkview Hotel in Yangon.



Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund

Workshop objectives:

The overall objective of the Inception Workshop is to facilitate mutual understanding on this project and other ongoing and planned activities in the dry zone, and to identify opportunities for collaboration. The specific objectives are to:

- (i) seek views from current and potential partners and project participants on the project implementation strategy and workplan;
- (ii) discuss mechanisms for knowledge sharing and collaboration;
- (iii) identify training needs of the development partners;
- (iv) provide opportunities for networking.

Organization

The event is being organized by CAPSA and NAG in collaboration with APCTT and CSAM and with the support of DRD-MLFRD and UNOPS.

Participants

The Inception Workshop targets 25-30 participants from LIFT development partners working in the dry zone of Myanmar as well as representatives from the organizers and DRD-MLFRD.

Programme

The programme will comprise of presentations, group work, and plenary discussions. Please refer to **Annex I** for the provisional agenda.

For further information, please contact:

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Day 1: Tuesday, 5 May 2015

Time	Session	Activities
8.30 – 9.00 am	Registration	- Registration of participants
9.00 – 9.30 am	Inaugural session	- Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o NAG representative o DRD-MLFRD representative o UNOPS representative o CAPSA-ESCAP representative - Group photo
9.30 – 10.00 am	Coffee break	
10.00 – 11.00 am	Session 1: Setting the context: Dry zone of Myanmar	- Introduction to dry zone , NAG representative - Introduction to LIFT programme , UNOPS representative - Rural development strategic framework and priorities for dry zone , DRD-MLFRD representative - Dry zone livelihoods project overview , CAPSA representative - Discussion
11.00 – 11.45 am	Session 2: Introduction to group work	- Group work sessions overview , CAPSA representative - Introduction to thematic areas of dry zone livelihoods project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Transfer of environmentally sound technologies for SMEs, APCTT representative o Sustainable agriculture for poverty reduction, CAPSA representative o Agricultural engineering and farm mechanization, CSAM representative - Discussion/Q&A
11.45 am – 1.00 pm	Lunch	
1.00 – 2.00 pm	Session 3: Group work on needs and priorities	- Group work discussions Each of 3 working groups to discuss the following thematic areas in rotation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transfer of environmentally sound technologies for SMEs 2. Poverty reduction through sustainable agriculture 3. Agricultural engineering and farm mechanization Discussion to focus on the following dimensions of the above 3 thematic areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Stakeholders

Time	Session	Activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Opportunities for knowledge sharing c. Research needs d. Training needs and priorities e. Challenges and constraints
2.00 – 3.00 pm	Session 4: Group work presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentations by 3 working groups (10 min each) - Discussion
3.00 – 3.30 pm	Coffee break	
3.30 – 4.00 pm	Session 5: Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moderated discussion (CAPSA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Summary of needs and priorities o Adjustments to project implementation strategy and workplan, if any
4.00 – 4.15 pm	Session 6: Closing remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o CAPSA representative o DRD-MLFRD representative o UNOPS representative o NAG representative
4.15 – 4.30 pm	Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting Evaluation