

**AGRICULTURE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN MYANMAR  
18<sup>TH</sup> CABI REVIEW CONFERENCE  
OXFORD**

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28<sup>th</sup> June, 2013

# Introduction

- Myanmar located at strategic area between world's biggest populated countries where above one-third of world's population over 7 billion reside: China with 1.3 billion. India with 1.2 billion and Bangladesh with 150 million.

## Location

Latitude: 9°32' - 28°31'

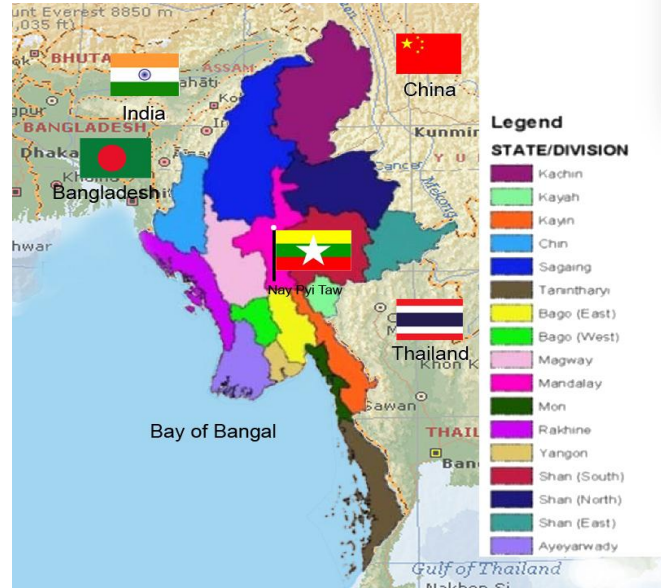
Longitude: 92°10' - 101°11'

### Land frontier:

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| with Thailand   | 2099 km |
| with Laos       | 235 km  |
| with China      | 2227 km |
| with Bangladesh | 272 km  |
| with India      | 1453 km |

### Sea frontier:

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Rakhine coastline     | 713 km  |
| Delta coastline       | 438 km  |
| Tanintharyi coastline | 1078 km |



- **Rich in natural resources**
- **70 % of population depend on livelihood in agriculture**
- **Out of total land area 67.66 million hectare, cultivated area at present is 11.93 million hectare (18% )**
- **Potential to go on with expansion of agricultural activities**



# Government Policy

- Step-by-step reform strategy in the areas of politics, economics and social
- National priority has been set on poverty reduction through socio economic development of people in rural areas who have their livelihoods based on agriculture.
- There are four areas of policy priorities:
  - Sustained industrial development to catch up with global economies while keeping up the momentum of agricultural reforms and attaining poverty alleviation and rural development
  - Equitable sharing of resources, both budgetary and foreign aid, among regions and states while promoting foreign and local investments for regional development
  - Effective implementation of people-centered development through community-driven, participatory approaches to improvements in education, health and living standards
  - Reliable and accurate gathering of statistical data and other information to better inform public policy decisions

# Key Policy Issues

- Food Security and Food Safety
- Poverty Reduction and Rural Development
- Participation of Private Sector
- Provision of sufficient irrigation water
- Development and utilization of improved varieties
- Adoption of improved agro- techniques
- Provision and support for agricultural mechanization
- Development of new agriculture land
- Export led economic development

# Approaches for addressing food security

- **Intensification of agricultural productivity**
  - an adequate agricultural credit program,
  - efficient utilization of improved seeds and fertilizer and
  - the development of domestic market
- **Diversification of market: establishment of commodity spot exchange**
- **Diversification of Crops and Farming Systems**
- **Development of agro-based processing industry**
- **Export market diversification**

# Poverty alleviation and rural development

- Reducing current poverty level of 26% to 16% by the year 2015
- In November 2011, the President announced a National Strategy on Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development focusing on eight strategic priority areas:
  - (i) Agricultural production;
  - (ii) Livestock and fisheries;
  - (iii) Rural productivity and cottage industries;
  - (iv) Micro savings and credit enterprises;
  - (v) Rural cooperative tasks;
  - (vi) Rural socio-economy;
  - (vii) Rural renewable energy, and;
  - (viii) Environmental conservation.

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**Strategic Areas  
to be emphasized  
for Agricultural  
Development**  
(Outcome from National  
Workshop)

Quality seed production and distribution

Proper application of fertilizers

Value-added production and agro-based industries

Conventional to mechanized farming

Rainfed to irrigated farming system

Research and development

Domestic and foreign investment

Accurate in agricultural statistics

Sustainable Market Access

Laws and regulations

Information and media

# Challenges for agriculture sector

- a lack of enabling policies
- efficient institutions
- appropriate technologies
- adequate infrastructure
- Investment
- consolidated database for rural statistics
- a poverty profile for all townships
- mainstreaming of landless households
- addressing land tenure issues
- viable livelihood options
- access to education and health services for rural population

# NATURAL DISASTERS IN MYANMAR

- While putting efforts on agriculture development, rural development and poverty reduction, Myanmar has been facing primary challenges like natural disasters which are the consequences and impacts of Global Climate Change.
  - Cyclone Nargis (2<sup>nd</sup> May 2008)
  - Cyclone Giri (2010)
  - Floods in Lower Myanmar (2011)
  - Earthquake in Sagaing & Mandalay Regions(6.8 Richter Scale) (10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2012)



2<sup>nd</sup> May 2008

# Needs for agriculture sector

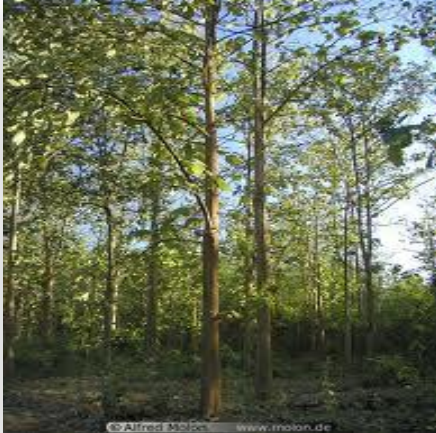


- At present, there are weaknesses in research, technology, market, capital, machineries and equipments and infrastructure for agriculture development. In livestock sector, demand for animal feed becomes higher as consumption of food products like meat and milk become increasing. Due to climate change, people have to face great loss of crops, animals and properties. Aforestation for conservation of environment is also required. Besides, sectoral academics, skill labours and human resources are required to be nurtured in order to surpass the challenges and supports and investments are also needed.





- To promote productivity for agriculture, livestock and fishery production, to face challenges of food security, to penetrate further into world's market it is crucial to select priority areas in agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry sectors.
- Currently per capita assistance available from international organizations and donor countries for 60 million people in Myanmar is very low. Foreign direct investment in agriculture sector in Myanmar is only 0.48 % of total investment and it is a least fraction of other sectors.



# On-going Projects with CABI

- (1) **“Agricultural innovation for smallholder famers in the Greater Mekong Subregion to improve food security, in the context of impact and adaptation to climate change and in favour of economic development” (2011-2016)**  
funded by DG EuropeAid
- (2) **“Intra-regional transfer of biologically-based plant protection technology to improve livelihoods of smallholder maize farmers in the Greater Mekong Subregion (2012-2015)”** funded by DG EuropeAid

Thank you very much for your kind  
attention.