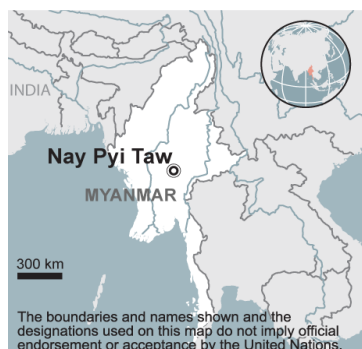


Farmer participatory seed multiplication in Rakhine State, Myanmar



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: Myanmar

Duration: March 2004 to December 2006

Implementing UN Agencies: FAO

Other Implementing Partners: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

Budget: \$1,450,152.45

Key Words: Agricultural development; food security; capacity-building

BACKGROUND

One of the poorest regions of Myanmar, the Northern Rakhine State is isolated, underdeveloped and densely populated. The region is prone to natural disasters such as floods, cyclones and mudslides that threaten its fragile infrastructure and further exacerbate its limited access to the rest of the country. Preceding this project, villages in the northern Rakhine State experienced chronic food insecurity estimated at

an annual food deficit of 20,000 to 40,000 metric tons by the World Food Programme (WFP). Meanwhile, high population density and the shortage of agricultural land for farmers had increased the gap between the demand for food and the supply available, a situation which was further compounded by the arrival of some 250,000 returnees from Bangladesh.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In order to close the gap between locally consumed and locally produced food, the project sought to (i) increase crop production by providing high-quality seeds of locally adapted crop varieties that generated higher yields; (ii) improve the capacities of institutions to multiply

crop seeds and train staff and farmers in seed production techniques; and (iii) support the production of registered and certified seeds by local farmers by setting up a certified seed production system.

BENEFICIARIES

With a focus on the returnee settlements in Sittway township, the project benefited local farmers who increased their yields and incomes by producing certified seeds of improved crop varieties. Additionally, the communities benefited from the establishment of a local seed laboratory that assumed responsibility over seed

diversification and the provision of training to farmers. In the long run, the communities also benefited from an increase in locally grown food, which brought about a certain stabilisation of food security in the area.