

## STDF 486

# IMPROVING FOOD SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE WITH SPS MEASURES TO INCREASE EXPORT REVENUES IN THE OILSEEDS VALUE CHAIN IN MYANMAR



JANUARY – MARCH 2017 – ISSUE N°3

*The STDF project on improving food safety and compliance with SPS measures along the oilseed sector value chain was launched in October 2015, with the aim of addressing food safety and SPS-related issues to increase export revenues of stakeholders along the oilseeds value chain in Myanmar.*

*Through these newsletters, the reports on the progress of the ongoing project are made available to the beneficiaries involved and to all other interested parties.*

## 1. Improving compliance with GAP and SPS measures by Farmers

*January 2017, Mandalay, Myanmar*

What a better resolution to kick-off the New Year to start from the foundations that sustain the efficient functioning of the entire value chain of actors involved in Myanmar oilseed sector?

Indeed, ITC-STDF Project Team planned and successfully concluded the **First Mission on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures** awareness and trainings for the targeted groups of beneficiary farmers.

GAP and SPS are part of a much broader concept towards improving food safety and compliance with local, regional, and international standards for a variety of plant and animal based food and value chains. Starting from farms, it is necessary to deeply understand farmers' current practices and raise awareness on the use of production methods that reduce the impact of agricultural practices on the environment (usage of quality seeds, pest control, pesticide use and harvest and post-harvest practices) and ensure the quality and safety of the products.

Mr Wayne Hancock, who not only had previous experience in GAP and farmer field school on Peanut in Malawi, but is also the climate change agricultural expert in the ADB Project Design Team in Myanmar, has been selected as Agriculture expert to conduct the training of Trainers (ToT) and Inception Workshop for Farmers.

## ToT and expert capacity building training programme on GAP

Out of Four days of theoretical and practical training conducted at Mandalay Chamber of Commerce, **20 selected Trainees** (16-DoA nominated extension staffs, 1-farmer and 3-participants from NGOs) have enhanced their technical and outreach capacities to assist farmers to produce safer oilseeds.

The Trainer of Trainer program was based on improving trainees' understanding of adult learning approaches coupled with increased understanding of SPS, GAP, MRL's and issues on food safety.

Trainees were very responsive to a different approach to training and actively participated at the workshops in front of farmers and their peers.

The fifth day, a field trip to Kula Village in Kyaukse Township had been organized for all the trainees to consolidate the lesson learned with practical demonstrations.



## Farmers' Inception Workshops

Back to back with the ToT training four 1-day Inception workshops have been conducted in the three target regions to enhance farmers' knowledge and awareness on quality and food safety aspects of oilseeds for export, on applicable SPS measures and GAP (pest and diseases management, usage of quality production inputs, harvest and post-harvest practices, phytosanitary and food safety standards).

While Government agencies are promoting GAP as part of national policy, there is a lack of understanding of GAP concepts and requirements among key stakeholder and a very superficial perception of this even within agriculture. Farmers' feedback and discussion highlighted the issues they currently face and the need for a much larger and longer-term mechanism to improve GAP adoption.



*Regional Minister, Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation opened two of the events held respectively at Mandalay Chamber of Commerce and at Monywa City Hall, Sagaing Region.*

Several participants from Government department, private sector association, collectors, processors and agricultural chemical

and machinery companies attended these events.



During the workshops, buyers and exporters provided very useful inputs for farmers in raising issues they have with food safety and quality while farmers focused on returns from adopting GAP. The project will continue to incentive these interactions so all parties can understand and jointly address the underlying issues.

A small machinery demonstration was also observed and discussed with farmer groups the following day at the workshop.

## Workshops Agenda

Date	Location	Participants	
21.01.2017	Mandalay	<b>TOT</b>	<b>109</b>
		Women	24
		Farmers	69
		Collectors	4
		Processors	5
23.01.2017	Sagaing	<b>TOT</b>	<b>136</b>
		Women	25
		Farmers	91
		Collectors	6
		Processors	1
25.01.2017	Magway	<b>TOT</b>	<b>130</b>
		Women	20
		Farmers	100
		Collectors	2
		Processors	1
26.01.2017	Aunglan	<b>TOT</b>	<b>116</b>
		Women	30
		Farmers	70
		Collectors	2
		Exporters	5

## Follow up field visits and GAP coaching

February – March 2017

- **15 extension officers** have been released by the Department of Agriculture (DoA) to conduct part time visits for a period of two year to the assigned group of farmers, based on collected expressions of interest, their overall experience, qualifications and availability.
- As per request of ITC and MoC, DoA has also supported the recruitment of Ms Wah Wah Hlaing, National Consultant on GAP, who conducted field visit together with the NPM to Follow up on the establishment of the farmer groups and continue the ToT and farmers' training on GAP and SPS measures.



### Field Visit Agenda

Date	Location	Participants
24.03.2017	Kyauk Pa Daung, MDY	1 Farmers Group
25.03.2017	Magway	1 Farmers Group
26.03.2017	Magway township	4 Farmers Group
27.03.2017	Aung Lan, MGW	4 Farmers Group
28.03.2017	Aung Lan, MGW	4 Farmers Group
29.03.2017	Nyaung U, MDY	1 Farmers Group

29.03.2017	Taun Thar, MDY	1 Farmers Group
30.03.2017	Myin Gyan, MDY	2 Farmers Group
30.03.2017	Nga Hto Gyi, MDY	2 Farmers Group

### GAP Mission Highlights

- The trainees collectively developed a set of CCP's for each oilseed crop (sesame, groundnuts, and sunflower) to be the basis for a GAP manual that will be drafted by the IC. The objective is to consolidate in one final tool the training methodology and programme for farmers on GAP including hands-on training and monitoring plan for the adoption of GAP practices and compliance with SPS measures.
- Side by side with 2017 DoA programme on GAP training, ITC project aims to support Myanmar government to build an effective GAP process and increase understanding and awareness among staff to support the farmers;
- As a pilot, this activity would benefit from further support to integrate more options for farmers to scale GAP implementation such as machinery pools, village level micro-finance, and access to appropriate inputs such as certified seed, registered pesticides and fertilisers.



## 2. Follow Up with Collectors and GHP<sup>1</sup> at storage facilities

In a continuous process of establishing and strengthening linkages along of the oilseed value chain, the project keep on creating dialogue opportunities between the various beneficiaries to make them able to share inputs and work together to reach an overall impact on improving food safety along the chain.

In particular, open discussions between farmers and collectors have been incentive to investigate possible linkages and to initiate a contract farming system.

- Representatives from Triple Nine Great Integrity, Myint Myat Taw Win, Lwin Phyo, La Pyae Wun Collectors Agencies and project beneficiaries have been invited to attend the farmer inception workshops held in their regions to share and discuss their experiences on participating in the GHP training with ITC project;

### Visit to the Collectors

ITC National Project Manager visited Myint Myat Taw Win collector facility in Magway on 25 February 2017 and another facility outside Magway on 25 March 2017 to follow up on the training on Documentation and Hygiene.



<sup>1</sup> Good Hygiene Practices

## 3. Updates on status of HACCP<sup>2</sup> implementation

After the initial Gap assessment, regular visits and coaching activities to each of the 10 beneficiaries processing enterprises have been conducted by the assigned TcCs to advance and monitor the status of HACCP implementation.

- The Roadmap of next steps agreed between the TcCs and top management has been drafted and submitted by some of the companies;
- The Letter of Intent for participating enterprises has been drafted, translated and sent to MoC to be signed for further distribution among the beneficiary enterprises for their signature according to their procedures;
- The ToR for Trainers- cum-Counsellors (TcCs) has been translated, circulated and signed by TcCs;
- Lead TcC Ms. Shwe Sin coordinated the communication and the flow of document between them, the project team in Geneva and the International Consultant on Food Safety Dr. Namrata Wakhloo and Skype call meetings have been held to reach out all TcCs to discuss and exchange inputs on their assigned tasks.

<sup>2</sup> Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points

*Every oil mill is urged to be certified by the Ministry of Health. I would like to suggest FDA to facilitate the oil mills to participate in the certification environment and support them to have access to training*

Quote from the presentation speech of U Ko Ko Gyi, Chairman of Oil Miller Association at the workshop of Mandalay



**!** **Two new oil millers** filled the EoI application forms to participate in the project and further steps have been scheduled at the beginning of April to include them as beneficiaries.

**!** **Ms. Khine Thandar Kyaw** joined the TcCs Team



## 4. Market Linkages for Export

After an accurate collection of marketing material and export data, the beneficiaries processor enterprise BOOKLET, which include the 10 oilseeds companies' profiles, have been released to increase their marketing visibility and be handed out to potential interested international buyers.



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**Business Profile**

**Key Business Details**

AMH was established in 2002 with the name of our mother. The term "AMH" means mother in English. We are a private company, our business is based on traditional recipe of production and we used modernized technology to produce quality products. product of oil and sesame oil. Currently AMH is one of the top leading quality product of oil and sesame oil producer in Myanmar.

- Business Model:** Provision of quality products through whole sales and retail distributors across the nation
- Key Activities:** Peanut and Sesame Oil production, Trading of various sesame, Trading of oilcakes
- Services:** Whole sales / Retail sales / Online sales / Door to door distribution

**Company Highlights:** Peanut and Sesame Oil production, Trading of various sesame, Trading of oilcakes

**Products:**

- Premium Peanut Oil (1L - 5L - 10L - 15L - 20L)
- Premium Sesame Oil (1L - 5L - 10L - 15L - 20L)
- Oil Cakes

## Highlights from the Italian market

**2 February, Rome:** ITC attended at the **Myanmar Country Day** organised by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Italian Embassy and took the stage to present the ITC-STDF project, achievements and opportunities for partnering. Several positive feedbacks were collected for potential collaboration in the area of packaging, agricultural machineries and research institutions. Further steps have been undertaken to explore more concrete possibilities.

**In February, a purchasing request of 3 Flax-containers (20.000 kg each) for refined sesame oil was submitted by Ruata Goccia d'Oro.**

## Other Project Related Events



- **Donor Round Table Meeting on National Export Strategy** (2 February);
- **Myanmar Trade Fair** (23 February, Magway – 2 March, Mandalay);
- **ADB Workshop** on SPS, GAP and food safety (Naw Pyi Taw, 13-15 March) attended by two representative from Maou Oak Shaung and Shwe Tha Zin company previously selected by NPM;
- **Myanmar Edible Oil Miller Association CEC meeting** (5 March, Mandalay)



## What is next?

**3-5 April: Induction training on HACCP and food safety** for Mandalay TcCs and the new applied one, to assess and consolidate the knowledge acquired so far.

Following, gap assessment to the two new applied companies to be conducted;

**24 April -12 May: 2<sup>nd</sup> Mission on GAP and SPS** to continue with the capacity building process of trainers and practical training on pre-harvest measures for the 20 identified farmers groups in each region before the planting season

**May – June: 2<sup>nd</sup> Mission on GHP, HACCP and food safety** for the processors and collectors.



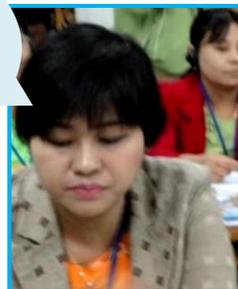
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## HACCP Trainers-cum-Counsellors participating in the project



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Lead TCCs  
Mandalay



**HAN THI HTUN**  
Lab Technician,  
MITS Yangon



**THAN TUN  
WIN,**  
Inspector,  
MITS Yangon



**SAN MYA MYA  
WIN,**  
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**MOE NAING,**  
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**HLA MOE  
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