

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

Second Short Term Five Year Agriculture Policies and Plans

Current landscape of agriculture sector in Myanmar

About 70% of the population in Myanmar resides in rural area and agriculture sector being their main economic activities. Agriculture sector contributes 30% of national GDP, however the land based benefits being obtained by the farmers are extremely low and so also is the socioeconomic status of them.

Socioeconomic status of the farmers was further adversely affected by the phenomena of climate change, and natural and others disasters. In particular unpredictable weather changes occurring almost on annual basis in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis in 2008 caused tremendous losses and damages in agriculture sector. On the other hand, significant shortcomings to implement effective actions on meaningful and systematic forest and soil conservation measures had accelerated soil quality and fertility deterioration. The consequences were that most farmers were unable to come out from vicious cycle of low incomes and indepthedness and due to various reasons they became landless. Thus, with the intension to uplift the socioeconomic condition of farmers and improve the performance of agriculture sector, the ministry is committed to focus on supporting the development of national economy through effective implementation of correct and concrete policies and programmes.

Vision

Ensuring food security and boosting the production of highly profiting farm produces and products for export markets aiming to improve the socioeconomic life of peoples under framework or sustainable development.

Mission

The following programmes are to be implemented:

- Programmes to ensure food security and safety, balance diets intake.
- Establishment and/or identification of reliable markets for agriculture, livestock and fisheries products.
- Development of market oriented land based production system.
- Improvement of the availability and accessibility of capital investment, inputs, technical know-how and needed infrastructures.
- Creation of an enabling environment for primary farm producers and investors.

- Development of effective and efficient supportive mechanisms in pursuance of up-lifting the national socioeconomic life and developing national economy.
- Development of sound research and extension service programmes and human resource development initiatives.

Goal

The followings are goals of the ministry.

- To focus on the improvement of food security and safety, and balanced diets intake during the period of the second five years short term plan.
- Full compliance of the established quality standards of the crops, meat and fish products as required by the markets in place.
- Improvement of good operational practices for agriculture, livestock, and fish production are in place aiming to ensure safety of consumers and environment from the danger of plant protection related activities.
- Crops, livestock, and fisheries production groups and cooperatives are formed aiming at sustaining the development of agriculture sector.
- Seed industry and development of good performing animal breeds and fish species are - improved, developed and disseminated.
- Development initiatives for agro-based industry, small scale industries, vocational educational activities, and rural infrastructure development are in place.
- Development initiatives on research and extension service programmes, and human resource development are in place.

Objectives

- To improve food security and safety, and balanced diets intake during the period of the second five years short term plan.
- To ensure that farmers are enjoying their rights fully and experiencing the emerging economic benefits in person.
- Small scale farmers, livestock keepers and fisher folks gathered into groups or cooperatives aiming to modernize and improve performance of the entire sector based on the newly gained knowledge and experience and in which women participation is incorporated.
- Planning and implementing programmes of rural road construction, rural infrastructures development, land use management and small scale production industry with the intension to sustain the development of existing farmers' socioeconomic situation.
- To assist in securing needed technologies and financial assistance from local and external sources for further improvement and development of crop, livestock and fish production sector as well as cooperative sector.

- To assist the enhancement of producing high quality grain, meat and fish products for external markets.
- To assist the improvement and development programme of agro-based industry, small scale industries, and vocational education.
- To assist in getting increased access to local and external investment sources for agriculture sector.
- To actively support the coordination work to ensure full participation all stakeholders involved in poverty alleviation programme, agriculture sector development programme, and sustainable rural development programme.

Policies

The followings are policies related to agriculture sector of Myanmar.

- Right of land ownership, production of crops, livestock and fish policy.
 - Water resources utilization of policy.
 - Investment and procurement of farm machineries and equipment policy.
 - Research, technology, inputs and human resource related policy.
 - Natural environment conservation policy.
- A. Right of land ownership, production of crops, livestock and fish policy.
- All farmers involving in the production of crop, livestock and fish, in accordance of the existing Laws farm land, are eligible to have the right of tilling, using and transferring (selling, mortgaging, lending, exchanging, giving away and inheriting) the land in which they are now working.
 - Farmers have freedom of choice to undertake any farming activities (agriculture, livestock, fishery) which are economical viable and profitable, in the farm land they are granted for use, and arrangement will be made for emergence of legalized insurance system.
 - Freedom of choice to grow any crops during summer time which are economically viable, will be granted.
 - Formation of farmers groups, livestock groups, and fisher folks groups to enhance production of all sectors and protect their rights as well as assets will be undertaken and supported so that the existing socioeconomic condition is improved nationwide.
 - Assistance will be provided for new farm land development activities aiming to disseminate these new lands to landless, farm labors and poor small farmers.

- Reform measures ensuring the emergence of good governance will be undertaken through upgrading staff capacity and through improving service delivery.
- Modification/ adjustment, addition, cancellation and insertion of existing law and by law of agriculture sector, in accordance with prevailing conditions, and formulating and enacting needed new laws will be undertaken.

B. Water resources utilization policy

- Necessary measures will be undertaken so that duly completed irrigation dams, canals and water pumping stations become more effective and efficient.
- To assist the construction and maintenance of village-owned dams in different states and regions.
- To explore the possibility of using underground water for agriculture/livestock/fishery related activities without adversely affecting natural environment and water resources.
- Construction and maintenance of inland and sea dykes to prevent fresh and brackish water intrusion causing flooding, and excavation of drainage canals in flood prone areas of different regions/states with priority.
- To ensure effective utilization of irrigation water from completed dams for monsoon rice cultivation.
- To establish Water User Groups in regions and states aiming to ensure effective utilization irrigation water.
- Based on naturally available water resources arrangement will be made to ensure availability of rural drinking water.

C. Investment and procurement of farm machineries and equipment policy.

- To assist in having access to financial help, loan, credit, capital investment and inputs for the implementation of agriculture, livestock and fishery activities and cooperative activities.
- To support the use of locally adaptable and good quality farm machineries and to effectively linked with the transformation process of modernized agricultural mechanization system.
- To support increased use of advanced machineries and equipment concerned with agriculture, livestock and fishery sectors including post-harvest and value added machineries and equipment to enhance the production of high quality products.

- To support the establishment of people centered financial facilities, such as revolving fund, microfinance, block grant so as to improve the livelihood and incomes of rural population.
- To support agro-based industry through upgrading of factories and related production technologies, and enhancing the production of value added products for export using advanced machineries and equipment.

D. Research, technology, inputs and human resource related policy.

- To support private sector participation in sector wise Research and Development activities and extension services for dissemination of information on newly developed technologies.
- To support close collaboration with international organizations aiming at enhancing exchange of latest technical information concerned with agriculture, livestock and fishery sectors.
- To develop and release good quality seed of high yielding crop varieties which are resilient to climate change and tolerant to pests and diseases; to conserve plant, livestock, fish genetic resources; to develop and release highly productive and performing livestock and fish strains which are resilient to climate change and tolerant to diseases.
- To establish close collaboration with concerned national institutions and organizations for the protection and conservation of biodiversity.
- To train highly qualified sector wise technicians and assign them in their specific and specialized areas in which they excel.
- To support sector-wise education and extension programme for the farmers, livestock and fishery workers.
- To establish a research council at national level covering all sectors.
- To establish and operate vocational training centers aiming to fill the gap of skilled farm labor shortage in rural areas.
- To focus on establishing small scale enterprises and industries in rural areas.
- To design and implement systematic use of agrochemicals (fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and other chemicals/utilities related to agriculture and livestock, animal health care drugs) programme in compliance with international norms and standards.
- To establish basic infrastructure and upgrade existing ones to monitor and inspect production process to see if processed products (agriculture, livestock, fisheries) are safe and of good quality for local consumption and export markets.

E. Environmental conservation policy.

- To collaborate with local and external organizations in the areas of having access to necessary technologies for agriculture, livestock and fisheries which are resilient to climate change; basic infrastructure establishment; capacity building of concerned departments and associations - aiming to mitigate losses and damages caused by natural disasters.
- To empower farmers, livestock rearers, and fisher folks by improving their socioeconomic status so as to be able to better respond to climate change and natural disasters.
- Natural ecosystem conservation and sustainable use/management, mitigation of soil fertility degradation, reclamation of soil fertility, and mitigation of biodiversity losses will be undertaken.

Programme of works

Detailed programmes of works are as follows.

Landownership related programme of work.

1. To assist in settling of rice land and other lands grabbing in accordance with existing laws and procedures.
2. To focus on developing vacant, fallow and waste lands into new crop and livestock zones and ensuring that lands already allocated are being effectively and practically used as planned.
3. Assistance to the farmers will be provided if their lands are confiscated to get compensation fee or reimbursement fee or new lands as replacement in accordance with the law.
4. New crop lands will be developed in certain potential areas for allocation to landless farmers and farm workers who are tilling the lands and residing in villages but lacking financial resources and to assist in securing land ownerships right.
5. Provided that the newly allocated crop lands complete with land use right (developed from vacant, fallow and waste lands) are not used as foreseen earlier, these lands will be taken back by the state in accordance with existing laws.
6. Provided that rice lands remains fallow (unused) without sound justification will be taken back by the state in accordance with existing laws.
7. Focus will be made on drawing correct land map, soil classification and grading using improved technology. Out of those land not yet surveyed but has potential for effective use, will be surveyed and recorded.
8. Support will be provided in developing systematic records on shifting cultivation being practiced in highland hilly regions; valuing traditionally and culturally adopted land

rights by different ethnic groups; developing unused land into cropland; introducing Slopping Agriculture Land Technology (SALT) for adoption.

9. To support the emergence of crop insurance policy in collaboration with concerned government departments and organizations.
10. To introduce e-Government and One Stop Service system in implementing agricultural activities.
11. Standard Operating Procedure will be formulated for adoption by either farmers groups or livestock groups or fishery group on one side and by private company on the other side to ensure that both parties involved in the contract farming are benefiting.
12. Farmer groups, livestock groups, fisher folk groups and cooperative societies will be formed legally at various administration levels, such as village, village tract, township, district, state/region.
13. Support be provided to small holder farmers to have equal opportunity in having access to land ownership right, technology and markets to guarantee sustainable development in agriculture sector.

Water resources utilization policy related programme of work

1. Water provision projects beneficial to the regions will be formulated and implemented in different localities.
2. Renovation and maintenance work will be carried out for existing dam, irrigation/drainage system.
3. Renovation and maintenance work for water storage reservoir , small dams and ponds, depending on readily available water resources and necessity of the region, will be carried out so as to be able to provide water for agriculture and livestock activities, household use including drinking water, and regional greening activities.

Investment and inputs provision policy related programme of work

- To search for local and external assistance, credits and investment for the development of agriculture/livestock/fishery sector, cooperative sector and rural development sector.
- To search for technology and seed money for investment for the development of agro-based industry, small scale industry, livelihood/household income generation activities.
- To facilitate procurement of machineries required for agriculture, livestock, fishery activities by linking with concerned departments, organizations, groups, bank, co-op societies, and private companies – negotiation for delayed payment by farmers with installments and provision of after sale services are also to be facilitated by the ministry.
- Provision of small machineries is prioritized to support small holder farmers and small scale livestock keepers for effective use in their day to day agriculture, livestock and

fishery activities – with the goal of developing, step by step, into mechanized farming system.

- Provision of support to manufacture farm machineries and equipment for use in agriculture, livestock and fishery activities.
- Procurement of needed inputs, such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, feeds, drugs and other inputs will be coordinated so that farmers and livestock rearers have directly access to suppliers and pay less.
- Awareness raising, regular inspection, notification, punishment of adulteration will be supervised in coordination with relevant departments and organizations to ensure that no fake products (fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides, seeds, day old chick, animal feeds and drugs) is in the markets, that they are in accordance with prescribed quality and standard, that suppliers/vendors abide by the existing laws, and finally that the right products are bought and used in the right ways.
- Technical supports are provided so that farmers can produce natural fertilizers by himself and for its own use.
- The expend seed production farms and zones, demonstration plot for farmers, livestock zones and fishery zones aiming to sufficiently supply locally adaptable seeds and provide proven technologies.
- Support for emergence of financial facilities, such as Revolving Fund, Microfinance, Block Grant, Commercial Bank (for procurement of farm machineries) will be provided as loan to partially cover production cost of all crops including perennial crops, and to improve the livelihood and family incomes of rural households.

Production of quality export, finished, value added products for export – Programme of works

- Support for the development of value added production sector using primary products of agriculture, livestock and fishery sector, and to find ways so as to successfully compete well in the international markets.
- Support for technology dissemination and provision of financial assistance to enhance the emergence of value added activities.
- Coordination support in getting sufficient local and international market information in good time.
- Sanitary, phytosanitary, quarantine, quality inspection and supervision related regulations and procedures of importing countries will be strictly followed for export items of agriculture, livestock and fishery sectors.

- Provision of support for the development of improved animal husbandry and balanced nutrition based on new technology so as to enhance the production good quality animal and animal by-products.
- Throughout the value chain of agro-business, Public Private Partnership – PPP mechanism involving government, private company and producers will be designed and adopted to guarantee equity in profit sharing.
- To support for creating an enabling environment to guarantee full participation of the government, private company and producers throughout the agro-business value chain and for mobilizing local and external investment fund into the sector.
- To support for development of Wholesale Markets aiming to create a reliable and firm market offering profitable prices for farm produces.
- To support for participation in important events such trade fairs, seminars, and workshops organized in the country and abroad, aiming to have access to good markets for agriculture, livestock and fishery products.

Research and development of extension services related programme of work.

- Upgrading of laboratories aiming to develop basic infrastructure and expending the construction as needed; installation of advanced laboratory equipments and apparatus for agriculture, livestock and fishery sectors.
- For the development of research activities, technologies and human resources, short term and long term training programmes will formulated and implemented to have competent specialized professionals for all agriculture, livestock and fishery sectors.
- Farmers' education programme will be implemented to ensure that only registered pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers are used and good agriculture practices are adopted by the farmers – aiming to protect soil degradation and environmental pollution.
- Carry out research activities focusing on the development of good agronomic practices resilient to climate change, and on efficient and effective use of soil and irrigation water.
- An agriculture, livestock and fishery research council will be formed to formulate research policy and to supervise all relevant activities.
- To implement research work focusing on the development of high yielding crop varieties with good quality, which are adaptable to specific localized conditions (water/soils etc) and having market preferred characteristics; and development of good livestock breeds and fish species.
- To implement research work focusing on postharvest and processing technologies so as to mitigate losses of crop, livestock and fish and to improve quality of finished products.
- For the development of seed industry, property right of new crop varieties will be protected. Improvement of local fish species and animal breeds as well as enacting

necessary laws concerning with conservation and protection of local fish species and animal breeds aiming at developing livestock breeding programme, will be undertaken.

- To develop a system allowing close collaboration among government departments, private companies and concerned NOGs in research activities.

Natural environment conservation policy related programme of work

- Focus on conservation and protection of ecology and natural environment will be made for the emergence of sustainable agriculture, livestock and fishery activities.
- Genetic resources conservation will be undertaken in collaboration and coordination with technical committees, relevant departments and experts.
- In the implementation rural infrastructure development programme, full respect of Environmental and Social Management Framework will be observed.
- Conservation and control of soil erosion and degradation in hilly, sloping, watershed areas will be undertaken in coordination among concerned departments. Awareness raising and education programme will be undertaken with technical experts to mitigate soil erosion caused by water and wind in the dry zones - such as soil conservation methods, good agriculture practices, water harvesting and effective use.
- To release time bound agriculture, livestock and fishery related weather information to be supportive of further development of each sector and to prevent and mitigate unnecessary damages and losses.
- To implement good agriculture, livestock and fishery practices – such as conservation agriculture, organic agriculture, good agriculture practices - GAP, development and use of biotic-abiotic stress tolerant varieties (heat tolerance, salt tolerance, drought tolerance, deep water tolerance), land use management, green water management, good animal husbandry practices –GAHP.