Photo: Michael Akester/WorldFish

FACTSHEET

Improving the Production, Nutrition and Market Values of Small-Scale Aquaculture in Myanmar's Shan State and Sagaing Region (INLAND MYSAP)

WorldFish

One-third of children in Myanmar suffer chronic malnutrition (stunting), 32 percent of children are moderately underweight and households spend on average 68 percent of total expenditure on food. Fish, which are rich in essential nutrients needed for growth and cognitive development, contribute over 70 percent of the animal-source protein in the national diet. Small fish, eaten whole with the head and bones, are especially rich in micronutrients such as calcium, vitamin A, iron, zinc and vitamin B12. Most fish consumed are captured wild, but fisheries (both inland and marine) are in decline due to overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices. Meanwhile, farmed fish are limited to localized areas and are often too expensive for poorer households.

Running until 2020, INLAND MYSAP supports the sustainable intensification of the small-scale freshwater aquaculture sector, improving the availability of and access to nutritious, affordable food and increasing incomes for poor and vulnerable households in four fish-deficient townships in Shan State and Sagaing Region. Activities have also been extended to Amarapura township in Mandalay Region. INLAND MYSAP is a sub-project under the Myanmar Sustainable Aquaculture Programme (MYSAP). WorldFish, through the CGIAR Research Program on Fish Agri-Food Systems (FISH) is implementing the project, which is funded by the European Union (EU) and the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Small-scale aquaculture is defined as a household pond with an area less than 0.5 acres (2023 m^2), which holds water for over six months per year. INLAND MYSAP will also work with rice-fish systems and community ponds of all sizes.

The project is designed to address several key constraints to sustainable aquaculture development, including:

- the availability of quality inputs like seed and feed;
- the proximity and capacity of hatchery and nursery facilities;
- biosecurity and disease management and control;
- the involvement of small-scale producers in the value chain;
- access to information.

In addition to developing small-scale aquaculture, INLAND MYSAP will support improved human nutrition, using household ponds as the entry point for nutrition interventions. Vegetable production will be promoted on fish pond and rice field embankments and in homestead gardens, and households will be encouraged to farm small fish species in polyculture with large fish species in their pond. As well as being nutrient rich and fast growing, small fish species can be more regularly harvested, contributing to both household nutrition and cash flow.

INLAND MYSAP will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 1 (no poverty) and SDG 2 (zero hunger).

The project will also contribute to FISH's development outcomes in Myanmar by 2022:

450,000 producer households adopt improved breeds, feeds, fish health and best management practices.

120,000 people, half of whom are women, no longer suffer from deficiencies in essential micronutrients, iron, zinc, iodine, vitamin A, folate and vitamin B12.

350,000 more women of reproductive age consume an adequate number of food groups.

400,000 people, at least half of whom are women, have exited poverty through livelihood improvements related to fisheries and aquaculture value chains.

> *INLAND MYSAP is making good progress towards its pro-poor, small-scale aquaculture and integrated agriculture (rice-fish) objectives to increase the availability of fish and improve gender-equitable incomes and human nutrition. A baseline survey has been carried out by Mekong Economics and extension service delivery is underway in five fish-deficient townships by Ar Yone Oo, BRAC Myanmar and Malteser International.*
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> ***- Mike Akester, Country Director, WorldFish Myanmar***

INLAND MYSAP will promote the increased frequency, quantity and quality of fish and vegetables consumed within target households. This will lead to greater dietary diversity and improved nutrition, particularly among women of reproductive age and children in the first critical 1000 days of life from conception to two years of age.

The project is targeting 1500 direct beneficiary households and 1500 indirect beneficiary households with its sustainable small-scale aquaculture and improved human nutrition messages.

INLAND MYSAP operates in Shan State and the Sagaing and Mandalay regions, which cover 41 percent of Myanmar's land area and 33.6 percent of the population. The project's activities encompass the promotion of small-scale aquaculture and improved human nutrition in five townships:

i) Kale, Sagaing Region
ii) Shwebo, Sagaing Region
iii) Kengtung, Shan State
iv) Pinlaung, Shan State
v) Amarapura, Mandalay Region

Partners

- The EU-funded project Myanmar Sustainable Aquaculture Programme (MYSAP) is co-financed by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).
- INLAND MYSAP, which is contributing to specific MYSAP objectives, is funded by the European Union (EU) and BMZ.
- The Myanmar Department of Fisheries (DoF) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) is the implementing partner institution.
- Ar Yone Oo, BRAC Myanmar and Malteser International have been awarded sub-grant agreements to provide extension and training services for 150, 256 and 250 direct beneficiary households in Kale, Shwebo and Kengtung townships respectively.

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