



FACTSHEET

Improving Fishery Management in Support of Better Governance of Myanmar's Inland and Delta Fisheries



Introduction

Known as MYFish 2, the Improving Fishery Management in Support of Better Governance of Myanmar's Inland and Delta Fisheries project is funded by the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). It builds on the results of a previous ACIAR-funded project, Improving Research and Development of Myanmar's Inland and Coastal Fisheries (known as MYFish 1) which focused on institutional capacity building and supported an improved characterization of fisheries management systems in Myanmar. MYFish2 is going further by improving the understanding of existing fisheries governance, testing and monitoring innovative management options, and strengthening stakeholders' relationships toward better governance of natural resources in the priority fish production area of the Ayeyarwady Delta and the Central Dry Zone.

This project is led by WorldFish in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries (DoF) in Myanmar and engages with a broad range of partners through the Fisheries Research Development Network (FRDN). The research strategy for MYFish2 draws upon several existing conceptual frameworks on fisheries management, particularly adaptive co-management, to develop an analytical framework and research tools that will support the DoF, NGOs, universities, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and sector stakeholders to improve inland fisheries governance from social, economic and environmental perspectives.

Setting the basis for fisheries research in Myanmar

The FRDN is a multisectoral collaborative platform that aims to strengthen the research and development capacity of entities working in Myanmar's capture fisheries and aquaculture subsectors. The FRDN is overseen by a management committee, consisting of the DoF, Myanmar universities and the private sector, and encompasses a digital library program called the Fishery Information Center (FIC), which is managed by the DoF. The FIC gathers and disseminates research knowledge, which addresses a critical intersectoral research coordination gap in Myanmar (www.dof-myanmar-fic.org).



Key facts

- **Project name:** Improving Fishery Management in Support of Better Governance of Myanmar's Inland and Delta Fisheries.
- **Geographic area:** Ayeyarwady Delta (AD) and Central Dry Zone (CDZ)
- **Country:** Myanmar
- **Duration:** 4 years (13th March 2017 –31st December 2020)



Supporting policy strengthening and technical coordination

The Myanmar Fishery Partnership (MFP) is an initiative established to assist the Myanmar government in strengthening effective collaboration for the sustainable development of the country's fisheries sector. The MFP consists of DoF representatives, members of parliament, the private sector, CSOs, national and international NGOs and universities. It was initiated in 2016 to jointly formulate fisheries policy recommendations. Under the leadership of the DoF, the MFP now acts as a policy advisory and technical coordination group and meets biannually.

Objective

The project development goal is to maximize sustainable small-scale fisheries production in ways that provide equitable benefits to stakeholders in fish-dependent communities in the AD and the CDZ. The specific aim is to assess the various fishery management practices and evaluate their impacts in securing social, economic and environmental benefits for small-scale fishers. This will be achieved through the following:

- characterization studies of existing fishery management practices and the assessment of their performance on fish production and benefit distribution in key fish production areas
- field testing and adapting improved fisheries management approaches for different access arrangements in key fish production areas of the AD
- strengthening the R&D capacities of government, partners and fisheries organizations to improve the management of fisheries and associated natural resources and provide guidance for governance and policy development.

Anticipated results

The MYFish2 project expects to achieve the following four results:

- a comprehensive scientific assessment of Myanmar's inland fisheries management systems with knowledge and research data used by the DoF, sector partners and fishers that can be used to support the improvement of inland fisheries governance and sectoral policies
- sustainable management of priority fish producing areas with fishery product values enhanced and an improved equity among local resource users
- enhanced incomes, nutrition, food security and gender equity for small-scale fishing households, particularly vulnerable groups
- improved institutional capacity and intersectoral collaboration toward a better management of breeding and migration areas of commercially important inland fish stocks.

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