



Development of Rice Fish Systems (RFS) in the Ayeyarwady Delta, Myanmar (MYRice-Fish)

Project brief

July 2018 to June 2019

Project Summary

The project aims at improving the productivity and profitability of rice-fish systems (RFS) in Myanmar, with a focus on favorable agro-ecological zones in the Ayeyarwady delta.

The main achievement regarding the three main objectives for this reporting period :

1. **Characterization of rice-fish systems in the Ayeyarwady delta**
A characterization study was completed and is currently being expanded in terms of scope i.e., providing a more detailed understanding of social and environmental benefits and their distribution, and as a basis for long term monitoring. Further research is under way to determine the fate of early (1990s) rice-fish experimental trials led by the Departments of Fisheries and Agriculture in the Delta.
2. **Identify improvements in rice-fish production and management systems that optimise gender-equitable income, food and nutritional outcomes .**

Participatory appraisal work has commenced in demo sites with a team of social scientists using established methods to obtain social data layers for a baseline. This is also an opportunity to understand existing benefits from (wild) capture-based fisheries in rice systems, how these benefits accrue, in what ways and for which stakeholder groups . Findings will contribute in supporting an improved and more equitable distribution of benefits.

3. **Strengthen the capacity and enabling environment for research, dissemination and uptake of improvements in rice-fish systems**
Capacity building has included sowing rice in rows with a drum-seeder, pest control using integrated pest management (IPM) techniques and minimal pesticide use, best management practices for nutrient management, the selection of fish, and fish feeding regimes. Policy influence and influential messaging have been ongoing.



Research country
Myanmar

Donor
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

Project duration
2017 – 2021

Budget
USD 1.8 million

Partner

- International Rice Research Institute - IRRI
- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation - MOALI Myanmar

Contribution to Outcomes



2 Innovations

- I. Social, political, environmental and technical adjustments for viability of rice-fish systems in Myanmar ([Read more](#))
- II. Land-use modelling, scenarios and decision-support tools to optimize integrated fish-agri food systems ([Read more](#))



1 Outcome Impact Case Report

The Government of Myanmar extends the promotion of integrated farming systems to accommodate more fish for smallholder farmers ([Read more](#))



1 Policy contribution

Significant advances in the policy dialogue on land-use reform to further assist the Government of Myanmar implement its Agriculture Development strategy ([Read more](#))



1 Publication

Mark Dubois, Michael Akester, Kimio Leemans, Shwu Jiau Teoh, Alex Stuart, Aung Thant, Nilar Shein, Mansoor Leh, Palal Moet, Ando Radanielson. (5/8/2019). **Integrating fish into irrigation infrastructure projects in Myanmar: rice-fish what if....**

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Dunois M. Development of Rice Fish Systems (RFS) in the Ayeyarwady Delta, Myanmar Annual Report July 2018 to June 2019

Link: <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12348/3961>

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