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Myanmar Sustainable Aquaculture Programme (MYSAP)

Background

With a coastline of nearly 2,000 km, several large estuarine delta systems as well as permanent and seasonal freshwater bodies of a total of 82,000 km², Myanmar provides habitats for a considerable diversity of aquatic species. Fisheries and aquaculture account for the main source of animal protein and micronutrients in domestic diets. The sector directly employs approx. 3 million people and provides livelihoods for up to 15 million. Amid the recent return to international markets, the country's rich aquatic resources offer many opportunities for a thriving economy to create jobs and export earnings.

However, due to unsustainable management of marine and inland fisheries, wild stocks have rapidly declined over the past decades. This significantly threatens both nutrition and income particularly in rural areas, where 70% of the population live. Myanmar is among 24 "high-burden" countries, ranked by the largest number of chronically malnourished children under the age of five. Therefore, aquaculture development has become a priority area for the Myanmar Government, which recently launched a largescale campaign to tackle malnutrition.

Jointly implemented by the Myanmar Department of Fisheries and Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the Myanmar Sustainable Aquaculture Programme (MYSAP) works to intensify aquaculture in a sustainable way. With the European Union as the main funding agency, followed

by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Programme will work with all members of aquaculture value chains. This includes farmers, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government and Non-Governmental Organizations, the private sector and academia.



Project Name	Myanmar Sustainable Aquaculture Programme (MYSAP)
Commissioned by	The European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).
Project Regions	Sagaing, Shan, Ayeyarwady and Rakhine
Political Partner	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
Duration	2017 – 2021
Budget	22,250,000 Euro

Objectives

MYSAP seeks to support the sustainable intensification of the aquaculture sector, thereby realizing its potential for food security, nutrition and livelihoods.



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Key Activities

The Programme takes a comprehensive sector approach, in particular by:

1. Establishing a conducive institutional and policy context for the inclusive and sustainable development of aquaculture, i.e. facilitating the consultation and drafting process for the National Aquaculture Development Plan.
2. Ensuring higher quality service provision to aquaculture producers, including for fish health and hygiene, as well as higher education and vocational training.
3. Providing predictable, cost-effective inputs for small-scale aquaculture farmers, including the promotion of natural, integrated farming systems and local hatcheries.
4. Building more efficient, resilient and sustainable freshwater and coastal aquaculture value chains, including mangrove reforestation and the promotion of smallholder shrimp polyculture.
5. Enhancing access to fish and nutritional impact in fish-deficit areas.
6. Creating decent work opportunities for the most vulnerable, including women.

The programme will focus on the improvement of processes and products from freshwater and coastal aquaculture i.e. input supply, production, product transformation, trade and consumption. Major beneficiaries are the local population and SMEs in the

inland fish-deficient states of Sagaing and Shan as well as the coastal states of Ayeyarwady and Rakhine.

The target group includes over 250,000 smallholder farmers and other stakeholders involved in the sectors, e.g. 25,000 smallholder rice farmers, who could improve their income by application of rice/fish culture or shifting to aquaculture production, as well as landless workers who can benefit from new employment opportunities.



Map: University of Texas Libraries

Freshwater value chains



Carp Tilapia Macrobrachium

Coastal value chains



P. monodon Mud crab Polyculture fish species

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