



# Sustainable Agricultural Development and Food Quality Initiative (SAFI)

## Background

Myanmar offers promising preconditions for a success- and bountiful agricultural sector, which represents the backbone of Myanmar’s economy. It contributes one third to the country’s gross domestic product (GDP) and employs two thirds of the working population, mostly in rural areas. With its abundant resources, diverse topography and proximity to major food markets, Myanmar has the potential to play a major role in regional and international food production.

To develop this potential and meet the requirements of modern food markets, Myanmar will have to increase agricultural productivity, establish compliance with international hygiene and production standards as well as implement a stable legal framework within a food sector focused on quality and safety.

## Objectives

The Sustainable Agricultural Development and Food Quality Initiative (SAFI) aims to support Myanmar’s government and private sector to rise to these challenges by enhancing the capacity of the country’s agri-food systems and its stakeholders to address the requirements of modern food markets.

To improve sustainable agriculture, food quality and food safety in Myanmar, the project will align with the vision of SAFI’s main project partner, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) in developing an “inclusive, competitive, food and nutritional secure and sustainable agricultural system contributing to the socio-economic well-being of farmers and rural people”.

Project name	Sustainable Agricultural Development and Food Quality Initiative (SAFI)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Shan State and further regions (to be defined)
Main project partner	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI), Department of Agriculture (DoA)
Duration	June 2017 to May 2021

## Approach and Key Activities

The project strategy directly addresses government concerns on food quality for domestic consumption and enhancing the access to potential high-quality export markets. SAFI’s approach focusses on three main areas of intervention, namely **policy support**, **value chain development** through pilot interventions and sustainable development partnerships with the private sector (DPPs) as well as the further **development of national educational institutions**.

To create conducive conditions enabling Myanmar’s agri-food systems to meet the quality and safety standards demanded by modern food markets, SAFI will implement a range of activities.

**Working field 1:** Strengthening the capacity of MoALI to enable the improvement of the legal regulatory framework for a food sector focused on quality and safety standards.

- Elaborate and amend strategies to enhance food safety and quality in crops
- Improve the national quality infrastructure system framework
- Support elaboration and amendment of laws relevant to food safety and quality
- Support the development of national standards with a focus on food safety and quality
- Set up an exchange forum on food safety and quality
- Develop a roadmap to enhance safety and quality standards and management

**Working field 2:** Sustainable strategies (pilot measures and Value Chain Interventions, VCI) will be set-up, supported and scaled-up as joint endeavours between all actors of the agricultural value chain to further a successful improvement in the quality of agro-food systems.

- Improve compliance with the trade of agro-chemicals and the application of pesticides



SAFI’s Engagement Cycle starts with a proponent’s idea and leads to interventions throughout the entire agricultural Value Chain.

- Support the capacity development of government inspection services
- Improve post-harvest management and eliminate quality loss (e.g. Aflatoxin development) during storage
- Support agro-food processors by introducing Good Hygiene Practices and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) in their facilities
- Enhance certification capabilities of producers (G.A.P., organic production) within the development of 10 VCI
- Guide the improvement of compliance processes for export
- Support 10 pilot measures (some as development partnerships with the private sector, DPP) along different food systems improving management and quality outcome

**Working field 3:** Strengthening capacities in public education (Yangon Agricultural University) and training institutions (State Agricultural Institutes, SAI) as well as raising awareness in civil society to bring about sustainable improvement in food systems.

- Develop a concept to establish a bachelor's degree in food safety and quality
- Introduce food safety and quality aspects in the vocational education (TVET) of SAI
- Support consumer organizations to run awareness campaigns about food safety and quality



## SAFI in the framework of national and global Developmental Challenges and Goals

Due to Myanmar's geographical location, current production practices and historical and cultural background, the following overarching issues need to be considered within the context and framework of the SAFI project:

### Climate Change Mitigation

Primary production (i.e. agriculture) will be severely affected by **Climate Change** impacts and face declining yields caused by various factors: Rising average temperatures, more frequent and extreme weather events, increasing drought occurrences, heavier and more erratic rainfall leading to erosion and the migration of insects and plant diseases into previously unaffected areas.

Through the promotion of sustainable agricultural production systems and education on matters of climate resilience, SAFI has the potential to increase the adaptive capacity of the target groups and reduce their vulnerability to Climate Change.

### Gender Sensibility

SAFI also considers the requirements of the BMZ **Gender Strategy** to ensure a gender-sensitive project implementation. Although women in Myanmar enjoy equality, some laws and customs still discriminate against women on grounds of religion and ethnicity, especially in rural areas. Most obstacles for gender equality stem from the lack of law enforcement, adherence to regulations and the availability of information. SAFI will address these challenges by working jointly with its partners towards institutionalizing the principles of gender equality within the agricultural sector (in the form of policy support and training opportunities).

### Overarching Development Goals

As a main partner of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, SAFI will further support agricultural development goals specific to Myanmar (Agricultural Development Strategy, **ADS** and the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, **MSDP**) and development goals of global interest spanning over all relevant areas of impact (Sustainable Development Goals, **SDG**).

Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

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As at April 2018

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