



Myanmar Agriculture Network Newsletter (October-December 2021)

Dear Readers,

As we come to the end of another year, it's time to take a pause, look back, and reflect on what we have learned, what we have achieved (or not) and how we prepare for 2022.

2021 has been a challenging year for Myanmar predominantly due to the ongoing political unrests and the situation remains volatile and fluid.

The country's economy including agriculture and other sectors have been affected dramatically and the livelihoods of many thousands of people have been affected due to the political events which unfolded in February 2021. In a similar context, the activities and events which had been scheduled for 2021 could not be implemented due to unfavorable situations and occurrence of the COVID-19 third wave in Myanmar.

However, in the latter part of the year, MAN in collaboration with its members and partners managed to conduct a Rapid Market Assessment (RMA) on the Agriculture Sector, Women Empowerment Training and Potato Farmers Workshop in Southern Shan State as well as MAN's Working Groups Leaders Meeting respectively.

In looking back to the past 12 months, despite the hardships and hinderances we remain committed and believe that there are always ways to move forward through collaboration and sharing.

MAN would like to express our sincere and profound thanks to all our members and partners for their continued support and collaboration.

We would like to wish you all our readers a successful and prosperous year ahead.

Warm Regards,

Ye Htut

Country Director

Myanmar Agriculture Network (MAN)

Rapid Market Assessment

The Myanmar Agriculture Network (MAN) conducted a Rapid Market Assessment (RMA) to explore and identify the challenges and problems occurring in the agricultural supply chain-especially in rice, beans and pulses, coffee, onions, and tea so that the stakeholders can use them as a basis in making decisions for the betterment of the agricultural sector.

The RMA, released in late September both in English and Burmese, covers June, July, and August 2021. It discusses challenges such as disruption in banking sector and transportation, cash shortages, decreased market access and credits, and increased agri-inputs prices.

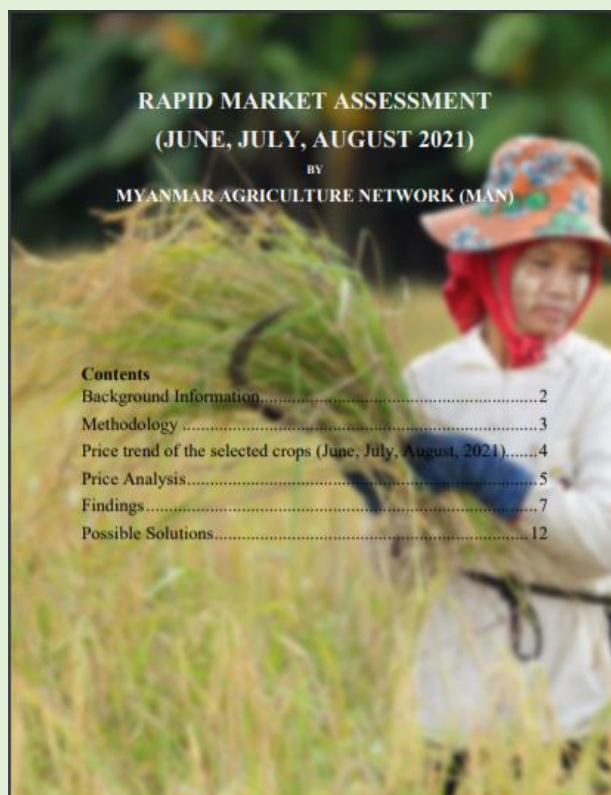
The report also offers possible solutions such as setting price floor, contract farming, marketing, and creating market, providing technical know-how, more investments in the agricultural sector and reducing procedures to get a permit to import agri-inputs.

Moreover, the Rapid Market Market Assessment (RMA) also presented the price trend of the major crops in the country. To read the report please visit these links [English](#) and [Burmese](#).

Meeting between UMFCCI and MAN's partners

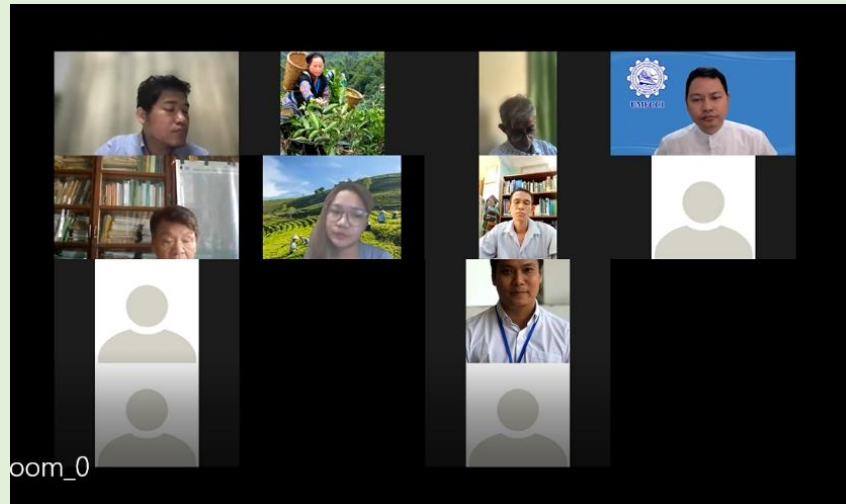
China, Myanmar' biggest trade partners have change import policies requiring all exporters and products to register at the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) and made compulsory labelling in Chinese or both in Chinese and English. These policy changes will come into effect by January 2022 and, thus, exporters from Myanmar like many others needed to comply and prepare for those changes in time.

At the request of Genius Coffee a prominent coffee exporter and member of MAN's Coffee Working Group, the Myanmar Agriculture Network organized an online meeting between UMFCCI and MAN's partners to explore ways and prepare for the changes. The participants at the meeting discussed how to help the exporters and disseminate



information on the policy changes with related actors and to take immediate steps to be in line with the requirements as stipulated by the new regulations of the Chinese authorities.

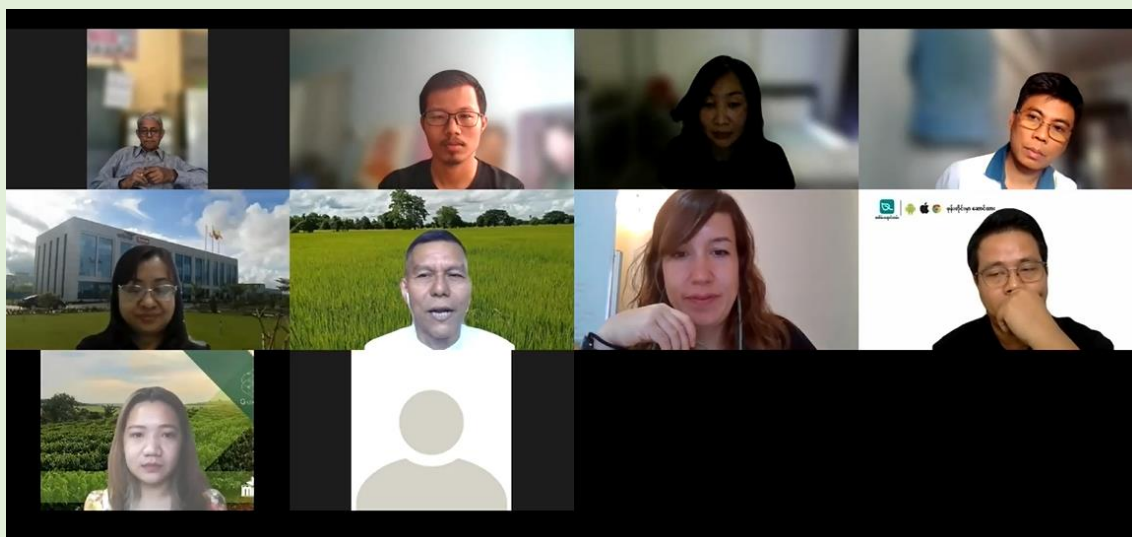
Moreover, the participants also agreed to collectively work on the preparations and to adopt the necessary adaptation to the policy changes.



MAN's Working Groups Leader's Virtual Meeting

The Myanmar Agriculture Network (MAN) held a Virtual Meeting on November 30 attended by MAN's Working Group Leaders and Co-leaders. At the meeting the MAN team presented an update of activities in 2021 and the planned activities for 2022 and beyond.

The participants actively participate and provide suggest for MAN's journey ahead and committed the continued collaboration and supports in the future.



Women Empowerment Training in Nyanpingyi Village

The Myanmar Agriculture Network, in partnership with Taungthu Tada - Bridge for Farmers, organized a three-day Women Empowerment Training in Nyanpingyi Village, Naungtayar Township in Southern Shan State from November 5 to 7. Topics in the training included financial management and farm record-keeping were discussed.

This program aimed to initiate a training opportunity for women from the rural remote communities and to explore the financial solution for their problems of transitioning from poppy growers to market crops. The women participants were trained and provided information and on how to become lead peers and to sharing their learnings within their respective communities to enhancing their livelihoods.

After the training, a Savings Group was formed in the village and the group was named “Nane Saw Kham Yam Mon Ban” (may the tea leaf farming be sustainable). The initiative attracts interests from other women at the villages as they ask for permission to join the group.



Potato Farmers Workshop in Aungban, Shan State



The Myanmar Agriculture Network organized a Potato Farmers Workshop in Aungban Shan State on December 14 inviting farmers from Shan State and Magway Region.

The aim of the workshop was to share the knowledge on the role of potatoes in the food and nutrition security of Myanmar, to provide information on advanced potato production with emphasis on improved potato varieties, and to provide integrated management of potato late blight and bacterial wilt disease.

Over (30) potato farmers actively participated in the workshop. After the training, the participants acquired information on advanced potato production and integrated management of potato diseases, became aware of importance of potato production on food and nutrition security in local community, and were able to share the knowledge to the other potato growers in their communities.

Following the workshop, U Myo Thein, one of the participants at the workshop, shared the knowledge on potato production and pest management he acquired during the workshop, with potato farmers from villages of Taunglar, Sharpin, Ngatpawpin, Taunggyiche, Myinmahti, Yeyaung, and Sinlel, in Kalaw Township, Shan State. Through his active knowledge-sharing sessions, U Myo Thein managed to disseminate his experience and learning from the workshop at least 200 farmers in Kalaw Township.



MAN's new member HEKS/EPER

The Myanmar Agriculture Network (MAN) welcomed [HEKS/EPER](#) as a new member of MAN's network.

HEKS/EPER supports development cooperation projects to combat poverty and injustice and advocates for a life in dignity for all people, in over 30 countries across four continents. At the same time, HEKS/EPER strives for systemic change through its development work – in Switzerland and worldwide.

HEKS/EPER provides humanitarian assistance around the world for victims of disasters caused by natural hazards and armed conflicts and supports the diaconal work of churches in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Through its programs in Switzerland, HEKS/EPER champions the rights and causes of refugees and socially underprivileged people.

In its projects around the world and in its work of raising awareness around development and social policy topics in Switzerland, HEKS/EPER places the emphasis on the four priorities of climate justice, the right to land and food, flight and migration, and integration.

