

The Myanmar Agriculture Network Newsletter

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to provide you with our Second Quarterly MAN Newsletter of 2020. As the global population is grappling with the effects of COVID-19 we wish our readers' good health and strength to overcome this pandemic.

During the pandemic that has impacted on every aspect of life and businesses, we have managed to continue collaborating with all our Working Groups to review their existing activities and see how they can best serve the interests of small-stakeholder farmers in Myanmar.

We encourage you to continue your support for our work and hope this edition will provide you a snapshot of the agriculture sector as well as the activities of MAN's Working Groups. We welcome and value your comments and suggestions as always and count on your continued support for our activities in the future.

Warm Regards,

Ye Htut

Country Director

Myanmar Agriculture Network

Secretariat Updates

Appointment of MAN's new Working Groups Manager



We are pleased to announce the appointment of our new Working Groups Manager, Ms. Ngwe Thazin, who has joined MAN on 17th August 2020.

Ngwe Thazin graduated from Mawlamyine University majoring in Marine Science and holds a Diploma in Community Leadership and Social Studies from Kant Kaw Education Center, Thabyay Education Foundation. She is also pursuing a Diploma in Development Studies at the

Yangon University of Economics.

She has 3 years of experience in facilitation, coordination, engaging and strategic planning. She is actively involved in community development in Bago Region from 2016 to 2019. During her university life, she was a member of Mawlamyine University Students' Union. She has worked with Mosaic Myanmar as a Program Officer on social harmony.

Appointment of MAN's a new Communications Manager



We are pleased to announce the appointment of our new Communications Manager, Mr. Min Thu Aung, who has joined MAN on the 1st of September 2020.

Min Thu Aung holds a degree in English from the University of Monywa and studied International Relations at the University of Yangon and conflict transformation at the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies.

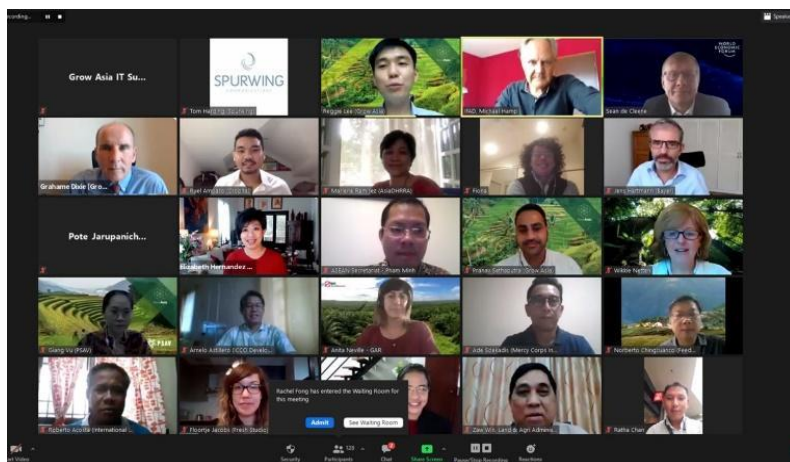
Min Thu Aung, coming from a farmer family, has years of experience in the media and communications industry. Before joining the Myanmar Agriculture Network, he worked as an Editor in Charge at the Myanmar Business Today, a weekly news journal focusing on business news, editing, and writing news articles covering various sectors of business. Before, he also worked as an international news editor at the Federal Times and a journalist at the Messenger News Journal.

In Country Webinar (14th July Tuesday 2020)

MAN's In-Country Webinar was held on 14 July 2020. U Tin Htut Oo, the Chairman of Agriculture Group, Yoma Strategic Holdings, and MAN Advisory Council Member, delivered the Opening Remark. Grow Asia's Executive Director Grahame Dixie also presented the Grow Asia Report on Progress and Future Strategy. The webinar received officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Bayer, Dana Facility, Burgundy Hills, DPULSACE, ICCO, Fresh Studio, GIZ, LOLC Myanmar, Impact Terra, Mercy Corps, Myanmar Coffee Associations, Proximity Designs, Thepwatana Company Ltd, One to Watch, USAID and Yoma Bank. At the webinar, the speakers and audience discussed Grow Asia's Country Partnership programs as well as activities related to MAN Working Groups, Partnership Diversity, Access to Market, Learning Exchange, Digitalization in Agriculture, and Standards.

For More Details [Read Here](#)

GROW ASIA FORUM (Aug 13th Thursday 2020)



[Grow Asia Virtual Forum 2020](#)

attended by over 196 participants took place on 13th August 2020. Opening remarks and welcome speech was delivered by Sumeth Pinyosnit Chief Executive Officer, Charoen Pokphand Produce Co-Chair Grow Asia Business Council. The [Grow Asia 2020 Progress Report](#) was presented by Grahame

Dixie, Executive Director of Grow Asia. The Forum included four Parallel Breakout Sessions on the following topics:

- Coordinating a Regional Response to COVID-19
 - Mainstreaming Gender in Agriculture and Food Systems in Southeast Asia
 - State of the Smallholder AgriTech Sector 2020
 - Opportunities for Collaboration with the Grow Asia Network
- During the second part of the Forum Call to Partnerships on Grow, Her: Empowering Women Agripreneurs, Green Fund – Financing Deforestation-free Agri-commodity

Production and Approached to Smallholder Farmers Profit Guarantee were also presented.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the ability to convene meetings in person, the increasing comfort of using virtual platforms has increased the number and diversity of attendees to the Forum, added richness to the Forum discussions.

The International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR)

Food System-related Initiatives in Myanmar Webinar, organized by the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), IDRC, and CIAT, was held on 3rd July 2020. The Webinar is the second in a series of conferences on Understanding Inclusive, Healthy, and Sustainable Food Systems for Policy and Practice in Myanmar.

Discussion topics included

- a) the Food System in the rural area and why it matters
- b) integrating nutrition, food security, and gender in Climate Resilient Agriculture Programming: Case of Myanmar Climate-Smart Villages;
- c) leveraging agriculture education in Myanmar to advance sustainable food systems and the challenges and opportunities in the value chain of food in Myanmar were discussed at length at the event.

For more information [Read Here](#)

Meeting with DG of MOALI

MAN Country Director held a meeting with U Kyaw Swe Linn, Director General of the Department of Planning of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI) on 27th July 2020 (Monday) in Nay Pyi Taw. The Country Director presented the Director-General a set of the Rapid Market Assessment document compiled by MAN, ICCO, and APF. The RMA provides a snapshot of challenges in the Rice, Sesame, Fruits and Vegetables, Pulses and Corn sectors and is aimed at providing an overview of the 5 sectors as well as a set of recommendations in addressing them.

Working Group Updates

MAN Working Groups' Leaders Conference Call (8th MAY 2020)

MAN organized an online conference with all the Working Groups' leaders on May 8 to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 on the businesses and industries and the long-term plan in the post-COVID time with a focus on small stakeholder farmers. The aim of the conference was to find ways to facilitate with the Working Groups to support the implementation of the government's COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP). For the detail [Read More](#)

Snapshot Briefing: Rapid Market Assessments of Five Agricultural Value Chains in Myanmar

During the COVID-19, many farmers, labourers, SMEs, and agri-business companies have been severely affected by the impacts of the virus and the restrictions needed to curb the spread. Effective responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic recovery of the agricultural sector will require a strong and more specific understanding of how key value chains are sustained, coordinated, and innovated.

This ‘Snapshot Briefing’ is compiled by Myanmar Agriculture Network (MAN), AgriProfocus (APF), and ICCO Cooperation to highlight some of the important dynamics, challenges, and space for interventions occurring in five key value chains in Myanmar. It is not meant to be comprehensive but meant to offer entry points for further multi-stakeholder engagement, coordination, and tailored actions.

AgriProFocus, ICCO Cooperation, and Myanmar Agricultural Network stand ready to support the inclusive and sustainable recovery of the agricultural sector in Myanmar. We encourage farmer groups, the private sector, and other business support actors to supplement the data and recommendations in this document. Together we can rebuild a food system, that is more resilient against future pandemics and benefit the well-being of Myanmar’s citizens.

Read this Snapshot Briefing to get more insights...

[**Snapshot Briefing \(English version\)**](#)

[**Snapshot Briefing \(Myanmar version\)**](#)



Upcoming Event

- **Target Product Profile Designing Workshop (TBC) – Mandalay Region**

