

## Completion of CAPSA's project "An Integrated Rural Economic and Social Development Programme for Livelihoods Improvement in the Dry Zone of Myanmar"

The Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) announces the completion of a project of "An Integrated Rural Economic and Social Development Programme for Livelihoods Improvement in the Dry Zone of Myanmar" at the end of June 2017.

This two and a half year project focused on enhancing the capacity of policymakers, smallholder farmers, agricultural mechanization practitioners, and other stakeholders to (i) coordinate and share knowledge, and (ii) formulate appropriate policies and advocate for rural development, poverty reduction, livelihoods improvement and food security in Myanmar's Dry Zone. Major achievements and impacts of the project include:

- Knowledge resources: 6 training materials, 11 workshop reports, 5 policy briefs, 5 case studies and other communication materials have been developed and made available in both English and Myanmar languages. These resources are available on <http://uncapsa.org/?q=lift-publications>
- Capacity-building events were held for at least 340 participants from government representatives, local and international NGOs and CSOs, agricultural machinery private sector/entrepreneurs as well as local communities.
- Recommendations on institutional strengthening include research and analysis collaboration, knowledge networking in national and regional forums, knowledge and call centres, resource mobilization and other schemes to support evidence-based and participatory decision-making processes.

The project was launched in November 2014 and implemented by ESCAP Regional Institutions: the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA-ESCAP) as a leading agency, the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM in partnership with the Network Activities Group (NAG) as well as the Department of Rural Development of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (DRD-MoALI) of Myanmar. Funding was provided from Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) managed by the United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS).

The project result was presented to Myanmar Department of Rural Development (DRD) Director General, Mr. Khant Zaw and Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI), Dr. Tin Htut in Nay Pyi Taw on 15-16 June 2017. While expressing appreciation to ESCAP for successful completion of the project, Mr. Khant Zaw confirmed the Department's continued efforts to sustain impacts of the project by disseminating knowledge products of the project. Dr. Tin Htut expressed his expectation to ESCAP, and CAPSA in particular, for stronger partnership with MoALI in the coming years, in strengthening institutional capacity to achieve sustainable agricultural development in Myanmar.