

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Foci and Key Activities

1. In addition to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), several of Myanmar's development partners are in the process of reengaging in the country's agriculture sector and working with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation (MOALI). Recent external assistance projects are summarized in the table.

Major Development Partners

Development Partner	Program/Project Name	Duration	Amount (\$ million)
Agriculture, Natural Resources and rural development			
ADB	Emergency Support for Chin State Livelihoods Restoration Project ^a	2016–2019	10.0
	Enhancing Rural Livelihoods and Incomes ^a	2013–2017	12.0
IFAD	Fostering Agricultural Revitalization in Myanmar (FARM)	2014–2019	27.8
JICA	Irrigation Development Project in Western Bago Region	2014–2018	142.7
World Bank	Agriculture Development Support Program	2015–2021	100.0
World Bank	Ayeryarwady Integrated River Basin Management Project	2015–2020	100.0
LIFT	Dry Zone Programme	2015–2018	52.0
USAID	Fertilizer Sector Improvement Project	2014–2019	Not Available
AFD	Pumped Irrigation Project in the Central Dry Zone	2015–2018	3.4

ADB = Asian Development Bank, AFD = Agence Française de Développement, JICA = Japan International Cooperation Agency; IFAD = International Fund for Agricultural Development, LIFT = Livelihood and Food Security Trust Fund, USAID = United States Agency for International Development.

^a Funded by the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

2. IFAD's project will introduce regional and global best practices to develop a sustainable and scale-able model for smallholder agriculture and rural development across Myanmar's central dry zone. It will support land consolidation and development, productive infrastructure, agricultural and business services, and knowledge and capacity building to promote an inclusive development model in this zone. The project will directly benefit 37,600 households consisting of 183,400 people at an average cost of \$152 per beneficiary. The project aims to improve the economic status of poor rural women and men in the project area by increasing the incomes of smallholder and landless households. It adopts an inclusive development methodology that combines a smallholder irrigated land development model adopted by the MOALI with investment in services and financing for smallholders and landless households. The Irrigation Department is implementing civil works under force account.

3. JICA's irrigation development project in Western Bago Region aims to renovate and improve existing irrigation facilities and provide the equipment necessary to increase agricultural production, thereby helping to improve the living standards of farmers and to spur economic development. The target areas in Pyay and Thayarwaddy districts cover 87,527 hectares (ha), and the project will benefit about 117,000 people. Activities include (i) renovation of such irrigation facilities as main and distribution canals, maintenance roads, and canal structures; (ii) procurement of construction machinery; and (iii) consulting services for detailed design, tender assistance, and the supervision of construction. Project completion is scheduled for December 2018.

4. The objective of the World Bank's Agriculture Development Support Program is to increase crop yields and cropping intensity in existing irrigation sites in the Bago East, Mandalay, Nay Pyi

Taw, and Sagaing Regions. The irrigation and drainage management component seeks to make irrigation and drainage services in the project areas more responsive and reliable and increase the irrigation coverage. This will raise farm productivity and better distribute the benefits of irrigation between upstream and downstream users. The program will initiate the institutional change required to make irrigation services more responsive to the needs of farmers and finance the improvement and rehabilitation of irrigation and drainage infrastructure covering about 35,000 ha within up to eight irrigation schemes. It will initiate two or three small land improvement sites within these system areas.

5. The World Bank is working with the Government of the Netherlands, for the Ayeryarwady Integrated River Basin Management Project to help Myanmar develop an integrated water resource management strategy at a national level by supporting the preparation of a master plan, establishment of hydro meteorological systems, and the enhancement of navigation.

6. The Livelihood and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT), supported by many of Myanmar's development partners has several community-based social protection and agricultural advisory interventions ongoing.¹ LIFT is working with civil society organizations and the private sector in the country's dry zone through its dry zone program. Along with other assistance, the United States Agency for International Development is providing support for the application of balanced fertilizers in rice and rice-gram cropping systems. It is also working with the World Food Programme to provide emergency food assistance to communities affected by August 2015 floods. The European Union is providing support for rural development, agriculture, and food and nutrition security. It is channeling funds primarily through LIFT, but supporting land reform activities across the country separately.

B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

7. The government held the first Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum with development partners in January 2013, and agreed to establish joint government and development partner sector working groups to ensure effective coordination at the sector and/or thematic level and to promote development effectiveness in Myanmar. The agriculture and rural development sector working group established under this initiative, with MOALI as the co-chair on the government side, provides a formal platform for sector and project-level coordination and includes all the major development partners. ADB, along with the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development, is presently taking a lead role in the group's formulation of a coherent and systematic sector strategy, a medium-term expenditure framework, and an investment plan.

C. Achievements and Issues

8. The projects are at too early stage to have achieved results.

D. Summary and Recommendations

9. While the agriculture and rural development sector working group provides a formal mechanism for government and donor coordination, more frequent, informal discussions between development partners would improve the implementation and make projects more effective. This would be a channel for development partners to exchange information such as project management issues and to better support the government needs.

¹ LIFT is a multidonor trust fund that includes Australia, Denmark, the European Union, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. <http://www.lift-fund.org/>