



**Flanders**  
State of the Art

A photograph of three young green seedlings with two leaves each, growing out of dark, rich soil. The seedling in the center is in sharp focus, while the two on either side are blurred. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

**AGRICULTURE**

**IN MYANMAR**

**FLANDERS INVESTMENT & TRADE MARKET SURVEY**



# AGRICULTURE IN MYANMAR

Report 2020



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## Paddy

In FY 2016-2017 paddy production amounted to about 25 million tons and decreased by 0.02%. The production is expected to further decrease due to climate changes such as higher temperatures, drought, flooding and other. The sector is also challenged by its demand of water, land, fertilizers, pesticides and greenhouse gas emissions.

Also the domestic consumption of milled rice is expected to decrease due to changing consumer habits in favor of fast food and baked goods.

The “Climate Smart Rice Project” funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and the Swiss Agency for Development (SDC) will introduce sustainable standards and best practices to 4,000 smallholders over the coming three years to boost the sector’s production. The project will be implemented by a consortium of partners including UN Environment, the Sustainable Rice Platform, Helvetas Myanmar and PRIME Agri Group according to UN Environment.

### 2.2.1 Pulses

Pulses production decreased by 8.7% from 4.6 million tons in FY 2016-2017 to 4.2 million tons in FY 2017-2018. The export in Metric Ton/MT<sup>1</sup> decreased by 3% in the same period.

India is the major customer for pulses followed by Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Dubai, Malaysia, Indonesia, China (Taipei), Japan and European countries.

The export as well as the production of pulses is expected to further decrease due to the lower demand from India and the pulled down price of pulses.

### 2.2.2 Oilseed crops

Oilseed crops production decreased by 1.6% from 2.4 million tons in FY 2016-2017 to 2.36 million tons in FY 2017-2018 due to the shortages of peanut meal and the by-product of milling (which is used as livestock feed).

The decline of oil mills is affected by the increasing production cost, the yearly price rise of raw materials and the weak policy on the production side.

Qualified oil extracted from oilseeds is limited due to the focus on domestic consumption with small-scale oil millers using undeveloped oil extraction technology.

### 2.2.3 Maize

Maize production increased by 4.3% from 1.8 million tons in FY 2016-2017 to 1.9 million tons in FY 2017-2018, whereas the maize export approximately decreased by 37% in the same period (worth USD 9 million or 48,000 tons).

According to Mordor Intelligence “Myanmar Corn Seed Sector Analysis – Growth, Trends, And Forecast (2019 – 2024)”, hybrid maize corn cultivars occupy a 95% share in the corn seed sector whereas open-pollinated varieties only count for 5%. The government has a collaboration with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) to develop commercial hybrids which are suitable for the agro climatic conditions in the country. Currently, most of the seed providers in the country are foreign investors from Thailand and China.

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<sup>1</sup> MT = metric ton, 1000 kg



- 6.4% to Southeast Asian countries (Malaysia 0.46%, Indonesia 2.9%, Singapore 1.7%, Philippines 0.6% and Vietnam 0.7%);
- 0.11% to Middle East countries;
- 0.5% to other regions of America;

The export of rice is expected to increase by 20% in FY 2019-2020 due to the high demand from China following the MoU on an additional rice export quota of 100,000 tons that was signed in April 2019 between Myanmar and China.

The total import value of all products in Myanmar in FY 2017-2018 was USD 18,687.0 million. Some of Myanmar's major import items in the agricultural sector are: edible oils; sugar; fertilizers; rubber; wheat flour; spices and taste powder. There are no detailed data available of imported items per country.

### 3. UTILIZATION OF FERTILIZERS

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## 4.2 SEED

Poor quality seeds result in the poor agricultural sector of the country. High-quality seeds account for less than 10% of the total quantity used by the country's farmers. 90% of those high-quality seeds are only used by maize growers while less than the remaining 10% of the seeds are used in the cultivation of rice, oil crops, beans and pulses.

According to the World Bank, the supply of certified paddy seeds only meets about 1% of the demand. The Department of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation recently developed "[The Road Map for Myanmar's Seed Sector: 2017-2020](#)" which estimates that the farmers have access to less than 10% of certified rice seeds and less than 1% of certified seeds for other crops.

## 4.3 CLIMATE CHANGE

According to the Global Climate Risk Index (released by the Environment think tank Germanwatch), Myanmar ranks among the top 3 of most affected countries by weather-related events. In recent years, the climate change has been characterized by changing rainfall patterns, increasing temperatures and extreme weather throughout the country and some examples are presented below according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization:

- Drought commonly occurs in the dry zones Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions.
- Cyclones, storm surges, heavy winds, floods were usually observed in the coastal areas, mainly the Rakhine Coastal State, Ayeyarwaddy Delta and Mon State.
- High temperatures occur in flat regions in the Central Dry Zone.
- Intensive rains occur in Tanintharyi, Yangon, Rakhine, Ayeyarwady and Mon State/Region and other parts of the country.
- Sea level rise was observed in coastal regions/ Ayeyarwady Delta.

The impact on the productivity of the agricultural sector is high due to the combination of poor agricultural techniques, the sudden destruction of cultivations by severe hazards, droughts and erosion of soils in the long run.

## 5. RECENT GOVERNMENT POLICY REFORMS RELATED TO AGRICULTURE & ECONOMY

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- In February 2018, the Ministry of Planning and Finance released a draft version of the **Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP)** with five main goals, including economic stability and private-sector growth. The MSDP is to be aligned with the 12-point Economic Policy of the Union of Myanmar, with the objective of building up the economic community of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- Since August 2018 there is a **new Myanmar Companies Law** that requires companies to re-register under the law, allowing foreigners to own up to 35% of local companies.
- On 7 June 2018 the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation launched the [Agriculture Development Strategy and Investment Plan](#). It contains three pillars: governance (including planning, policy, monitoring and evaluation, and other outcome areas), productivity (including research, extension, irrigation, mechanization and other outcome areas) and market linkages and competitiveness (including business environment, intellectual property rights, food quality, safety and other outcome areas).



## 6.4 OPPORTUNITIES

Despite these challenges, the agricultural sector has the potential to see rapid growth with the introduction of better access to capital for farmers, greater availability of better seeds, more modern logistics and an increased use of technology. The government itself is initiating projects in order to improve this sector with the goal of increasing exports such as USAID Food Security Policy Project, a five-year investment co-financed by the U.S Agency for International Development (USAID) and Food Security Fund (LIFT), Country Partnership Strategy with Asian Development Bank (ADB) (2017 – 2021) focusing on three sectors inclusive of agriculture and irrigation, rural infrastructure development and private sector initiatives. Moreover, Ooredoo Myanmar and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed MOU to strengthen the implementation of Sustainable Enterprises and Agricultural Development (SEAD) project for 2 years to develop Myanmar's Dry Zone in promoting climate resilient farming practices.

The weaknesses and challenges faced by local companies in the sector provide opportunities for foreign companies to do business and enhance capacity. Foreign companies should focus on the following main areas:

- Supply of products and technology (seeds, fertilizers, agrochemical products, agricultural machinery, irrigation systems, pre and post-harvest technology);
- Production and processing industries (crop production, value-added processing, refinery, canning and research & development);
- Wholesales market industries (agricultural cooperatives);
- Service industries (credit and insurance services, quality food safety institution, consumer bodies, service support for supply chain);
- Aquaculture.

## 7. REFERENCES

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- Myanmar Statistical Year Book 2018



## 8. ADDENDUM

### 8.1 INDUSTRY CONTACT INFORMATION

Ministry	Contact Person	Department	Contact
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI)	U Kyaw Min Oo Director General	Department of Agriculture and Irrigation Office No.15, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar	<a href="#">Please contact FIT Yangon</a>
	Dr. Nang Hseng Hom Rector	Yezin Agriculture University Yezin, Zeyar Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw 15013, Myanmar	<a href="#">Please contact FIT Yangon</a>
Ministry of Commerce (MOC)	U Aung Soe Director General	Department of Trade Office No.3, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  No. 228-240, Strand Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar	<a href="#">Please contact FIT Yangon</a>
Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relation (MIFER)	U Aung Naing Oo Director General/Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relation Building No.1, Naypyitaw, Myanmar	<a href="#">Please contact FIT Yangon</a>
Ministry of Planning and Finance (MOF)	U Thant Zin Lwin Director General	Directorate of Investment and Company Administration No.1, Thitsar Road, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar	<a href="#">Please contact FIT Yangon</a>
Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC)	H.E U Thaung Tun Chairman	Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) No.1, Thitsar Road, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar	<a href="#">Please contact FIT Yangon</a>

## 8.2 RELATED ASSOCIATIONS IN MYANMAR

Association	Address	Contact
Myanmar Rice Millers Association	29, Min Ye Kyaw Swar Road, Ward (8), Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, Myanmar	<a href="#">Please contact FIT Yangon</a>
Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers Association	Building 42, Ground Floor, 2nd Street, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, Myanmar	<a href="#">Please contact FIT Yangon</a>
Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association	29 Min Ye Kyaw Swa Street, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, Myanmar	<a href="#">Please contact FIT Yangon</a>
Myanmar Paddy Producers Association	29 Min Ye Kyaw Swa Street, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, Myanmar	<a href="#">Please contact FIT Yangon</a>
Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Export Association	5th Floor, Min Ye Kyaw Swar Street, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, Myanmar	<a href="#">Please contact FIT Yangon</a>
Myanmar Agro-based Food Processors and Exporters Association	5th Floor, 29, Minyekyawswar Road, Yangon, Myanmar	<a href="#">Please contact FIT Yangon</a>
Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association	127,40th St., Ward (9), Kyauktada Township, Between Maha Bandoola Road and Merchant Road, Yangon	<a href="#">Please contact FIT Yangon</a>
Myanmar Perennial Crop Producers Association	Shwe Pazun Bakery, Bogyoke Road, Yangon, Myanmar	<a href="#">Please contact FIT Yangon</a>
Myanmar Rice Federation	No. 29, UMFCCI Tower, Level 9, Minyekyawswar Road, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, Myanmar	<a href="#">Please contact FIT Yangon</a>
Myanmar Fertilizer Seed And Pesticides Entrepreneurs Association	95/A, 2nd Floor, Kyaik Waing Pagoda Road, 8 Miles Business Centre, Hlaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar	<a href="#">Please contact FIT Yangon</a>
Myanmar Oil Palm Producers Association	64 Waizayantar St, Ward (8), South Okkalapa Township, Yangon, Myanmar	<a href="#">Please contact FIT Yangon</a>



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