

VIRTUAL EXCHANGE LEARNING SESSION 2021

Introduction

The goal of the SUN CSA Myanmar is to unite civil society organizations in order to ensure a voice is given to a range of small, independent, regional and national organizations to contribute to the national dialogue on nutrition and achievement of SUN priorities. **The SUN CSA has funds to support exchange visits between civil society organizations** in order to foster cross learning and experience sharing aimed at strengthening coordination among CSA members and improving the implementation of nutrition activities. Starting from 2020, SUN CSA exchange learning visits were limited due to COVID-19 and coup starting from February 2021. However, CSA members, especially local organizations and CSOs need to explore knowledge sharing and support for adapting their projects in the context of crisis. Therefore, SUN CSA considered virtual exchange learning sessions to share knowledge and lessons learned among members.

Exchange Visit Planning and Preparation

At the last quarter of 2021, SUN CSA secretariat team proposed exchange-learning sessions to share lessons learned among CSA members and proposed some organizations to host the session. After discussion, Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Gret and World Fish organizations showed their interest to share lessons learned with CSA members and secretariat team planned to organize separate sessions at the end of November 2021. SUN CSA Myanmar invited all of our members to join different exchange learning sessions in November and December 2021. Total eight SUN CSA member organizations are interested to join the Member Exchange Learning Sessions. The applications are as follow:

Registration for WHH exchange learning session:

Sr. No	Name	Position	Name of Organization
1	Swe Zin Aung	Chairman	Sein Lei Aye Yar
2	Kyaw Zan Linn	Health coordinator	Good Neighbors International Myanmar

Registration for Gret exchange learning session:

Sr. No	Name	Position	Name of Organization
1	San Lin Oo	Head of Program	Myanmar Health Assistant Association (MHAA)

2	Qi Huang	Programme Officer	Health Poverty Action
3	Aung Thu Ya	Technical Officer	Health Poverty Action
4	U Kyi Thu	Chairperson	Gwa Township Farmers Union
5	Salai Kyi Soe Tun	M&E Officer	TDH-Italy
6	SweZinAung	Chairman	SeinLeiAyear
7	Thein Min Aung	Senior Nutrition Coordinator	Plan International, Myanmar
8	Paing Soe	Program Manager	Community Partners International
9	Kyaw Zan Linn	Health coordinator	Good Neighbors International Myanmar

Registration for World Fish exchange learning session:

Sr. No	Name	Position	Name of Organization
1	San Lin Oo	Head of Program	Myanmar Health Assistant Association (MHAA)
2	HuangQi	programme Officer	HPA
3	Aung Thu Ya	Technical Officer	Health Poverty Action
4	U Kyi Thu	Chairperson	Gwa Township Farmers Union
5	Salai Kyi Soe Tun	M&E Officer	TDH-Italy
6	SweZinAung	Chairman	SeinLeiAyear
7	Thein Min Aung	Senior Nutrition Coordinator	Plan International, Myanmar
8	Paing Soe	Program Manager	Community Partners International
9	Kyaw Zan Linn	Health coordinator	Good Neighbors International Myanmar

The plan of exchange learning session as follow.

1.WHH (Welthungerhilfe)

Date : 23th November, 2021

Time : 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Topic : Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Intervention

Registration link-https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-7RsAa2Earr6ZxUdLZj_Kd2eyZcte-5cEGr_kPbxU-Keg5w/viewform?usp=sf_link

2. GRET

Date : 25th November, 2021

Time : 2:00 pm -3:30 pm

Topic : Nutrition Sensitive agriculture Lesson learnt and adaptations experiences

Registration link - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScXEDflj-mgMIYA9oeFm-8pUQ5C-Q0iAg2-RBTQmMtEmb2Zzw/viewform?usp=sf_link

3. World Fish Myanmar

Date : 2nd December, 2021

Time : 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Topic : Fish for Livelihoods

Registration link- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-7RsAa2Earr6ZxUdLZj_Kd2eyZcte-5cEGr_kPbxU-Keg5w/viewform?usp=sf_link

Conducting the exchange learning sessions

The first session took place on 23 November 2021 from 10:00 am – 11:30 am. The host organization was Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and Sein Lei Ayeyar, Good Neighbors International Myanmar and Pin Lal Pyar Ye Phan Tee Shin joined the WHH virtual learning session. WHH shared the lessons learned from the project titled “Rice Seed Sector Development Project (RSSD), Ayeyarwady region” and shared on “**Nutrition Sensitive and Agriculture Intervention under the COVID19 pandemic crisis**”.

Nutrition Sensitive and Agriculture Intervention under the COVID19 pandemic crisis

- Project adapting to new situation related to COVID -19 Pandemic and political crisis in Myanmar through amending its approach and activities.
- Nutrition related activity integration by RSSD project



The participants were able to learn in depth about the projects, activities implementation and strategies of the host organization such as **Cash For Work: Industrial Road Development in Pathein, COVID 19 pandemic response, Nutrition Related Activity Integration and Nutrition Survey**. It was rewarding to learn the nutrition survey conducted by WHH. The participants actively learned the session shared by WHH and discussed for the following questions at the end of the sessions.

Questions and Answers

Q1: Is it ok for disabled beneficiaries to participate in CFW?

A1: Yes, it is ok for the beneficiaries to participate in CFW because the project adapted the work place for disabled beneficiary to work.

Q2: Dry food items weekly: Did dry food ration provide for the whole project or how long? For the procurement of dry food items, how do the project do?

A2: After nutrition survey, the project planned to provide the ration but cannot provide due to limitation from COVID-19 outbreak.

Q3: Which dose provided for multi-vitamin supplement?

A3: The project provided Multi-vitamin 1 od for 5 weeks and the project learned that CFW beneficiaries have more resistant to work under sunshine with this provision.

The second session was conducted on 25 November 2021 from 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm hosted by Gret. Total 8 organizations; TDH-Italy, Good Neighbors international Myanmar, Gwa Township farmers union, Plan International Myanmar, World Vision Myanmar, Welthungerhilfe, Myanmar Health Assistant Association, and Community Partners International, joined the session.



The participants learned the ATLAS project (Agro ecology transition by landless and small holders farmers) which was implemented with the objective to create the conditions for landless people's production systems in the Irrawaddy Delta to be more sustainable and resilient. The project also aimed:

- To reinforce the agro ecological diversification and intensification of production systems of small farmers
- To bring out producers organizations able to sustainably manage an extension service supporting the agro ecological transition.
- To improve the food diversity of rural households and the demand of vegetables coming from agro ecological farming.

The participants also learned the challenges faced by the project and discussed about the adaptation due to challenges. The participants learned success stories on

- Capacity strengthening of Agronomists, Technical record which is easy access for farmers by technical movies
- Skilling up of FFS leaders and better communication skills

At the end of the session, the participants asked Gret for sharing videos on key message transfer, and exchange learning between organic and chemical fertilizers. The participants explored to learn the supply chain of organic fertilizer and to share experience for challenges in dealing with local authorities during coup situation.

The 3rd exchange session by World Fish was organized on 2nd December 2021. Plan International Myanmar, World Vision Myanmar, Gwa Township Farmers Union, Community Partners International, and Good Neighbors International Myanmar joined the session. World Fish shared the approaches,

challenges and solutions for “Fish for Livelihoods (F4L)” project during coups situation. The project aimed to increase small scale aquaculture (SSA) production through strategic activities including improved land and water use, increase access to high quality inputs (feed, seed and equipment), capacity development and research into production, and access to credit. Then the project further develop Market-based System Approaches (MSA) and utilize those to increase access of food safe fish and fish products by poor people. Finally, the project aimed to deliver enhanced nutrition and WASH practices through social behavior change communication (SBCC) activities. The participants learned the challenges faced by the project during implementation and how to address them. Moreover, World Fish introduced “Shwe Ngar (Golden Fish) mobile application”. The Shwe Ngar mobile application is developed to provide an immediate solution in pockets of smallholders and to address challenges associated with aquaculture in Myanmar. The participants learned that this application helps fish farmers to enhance their knowledge on aquaculture and fisheries technologies, basic human nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene practices, and establishes linkages between fish value chain market actors. It also gives them an option to calculate and know the accurate feed composition for their ponds. The participants learned valuable modern knowledge on mobile application during World Fish Virtual Exchange learning session.

Evaluation of the exchange learning sessions

According to the evaluation done after each session, the participants showed their feedback as below.

- All participants joined these exchange sessions with their interest to learn the projects and practical experiences, to learn different approaches of nutrition intervention, to learn how to adapt and change the strategy under recent circumstances, and to exchange knowledge and experience among IPs
- The participants learned new knowledge such as Cash For Work activity, Nutrition Survey, Multiple approach of nutrition. Linkage of agriculture with nutrition, New idea for changing training approach, digital platform initiative regarding nutrition and agriculture awareness session and dissemination methods in field level, Community based Agro economic Project implementation and partnerships with private sector, nutrition and health actors and engagement in multiple platforms.
- The participants gave feedback that the knowledge learned from these exchange-learning sessions were helpful to apply in their project in future activities planning.
- Last but not the least, the participants suggested to conduct online exchange sessions as much as possible. The participants recommended that this is one of the learning channel among the member organizations and requested to conduct regularly and continuously.