



Workshop on “Best Practices in Farmer-led Seed Enterprise Development for Improving Seed Quality and Enhancing Revenue Generation”

08 - 09 November 2016, Mandalay, Myanmar

Workshop Report



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Executive Summary

APCTT in partnership with the Network Activities Group (a national NGO), Myanmar and the Department of Rural Development (DRD), Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development (MLFRD), Myanmar organized a **Workshop on “Best Practices in Farmer-led Seed Enterprise Development for Improving Seed Quality and Enhancing Revenue Generation”** in Mandalay, Myanmar from 08 -09 November 2016. The workshop was part of the capacity building activities under the project titled *‘An Integrated Rural Economic and Social Development Programme for Livelihoods Improvement in the Dry Zone of Myanmar’* which is funded by the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT - <http://www.lift-fund.org>) and aims to support livelihoods improvement and food security in Myanmar’s Dry Zone that suffers from a high incidence of poverty.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- i. Understand the challenges and constraints in farmer-led seed enterprise development especially in the dry zone of Myanmar; and
- ii. Identify solutions for overcoming challenges as well as to learn best practices in establishing effective and efficient farmer-led seed enterprises in the dry zone of Myanmar.

Thirty three participants (including 33.3% women) attended the event representing lead farmers, farmer association representatives, NGOs and LIFT implementing partners involved in seed production, key nodal agencies of the government including Department of Agriculture and Department of Agricultural Research (DAR), and the private sector (entrepreneurs as well as representatives from seed farms.

The workshop was led by qualified International and national experts and was conducted in a participatory and interactive mode with active engagement of the participants. During the workshop, the constraints in farmer-led seed enterprise development in the dry zone of Myanmar was brainstormed with the participants through interactive discussions to identify key challenges and technical barriers encountered during various stages of seed enterprise development. Based on the observations, few best practices and solutions for overcoming those challenges and barriers in seed enterprise development were shared with the participants. This workshop also involved reviewing few case studies of successful farmer-led seed enterprise models implemented elsewhere and explored options for replicating this business model in the dry zone of Myanmar. The participants also made presentations on the possible business models for farmer-led seed enterprise development in Myanmar that emerged out of the group discussions. These business models were reviewed by other groups and several suggestions were also received to improve the practicality of these models.

Feedback received from participants in the wrap up session was very positive. While 12.5% of the participants perceived the overall meeting as excellent, the rest 87.5% rated the workshop as good. In addition, 54.2% of the participants felt that they would be able to use all or most of the knowledge gained though the workshop. Overall, the workshop helped to strengthen the capacities of participants in terms of understanding and applying best practices in farmer-led seed enterprise development for improving seed quality and enhancing revenue generation.

Workshop on “Best Practices in Farmer-led Seed Enterprise Development for Improving Seed Quality and Enhancing Revenue Generation”

08 - 09 November, 2016, Mandalay, Myanmar

Workshop Report

I. Introduction

Access to good quality seed is the primary need for farmers around the world and seeds form the backbone of crop production systems. Over 90 percent of the crops in developing countries are still planted with farmers’ traditional varieties and farm-saved seeds. Public sector entities, universities, governmental organizations and international research organizations have emerged as the major source of new varieties and quality seeds of food crops, particularly for the smallholder farming community. In recent years, there has been a shift in focus from predominantly public sector led seed production to a business model based on private sector led seed production. However, private seed companies tend to concentrate on production of hybrid seeds, especially of high-value crops for large scale farmers who could financially afford higher prices. In many countries, small holder farmers receive little attention from the private sector due to low profit margins for these companies. Creation of effective and efficient small scale, farmer-led seed enterprises is essential for ensuring access to good quality seeds for smallholder farmers as well as to provide a functional linkage between the formal and informal seed sectors. The formal seed sector is the primary source of new crop varieties. The informal sector is the primary link to farmers’ and traditional knowledge, especially requirements for new varieties, inputs and services¹.

In the case of Myanmar, more than 90% of the seeds used for most crops are farm saved seeds, while many improved varieties have been developed by research for a large number of crops. A more advanced private production and marketing system has been developed only for vegetables and hybrid maize while for most other crops the performance of the seed value-chain is rather limited². Most of the Development Partners, (I) NGOs and government projects focus on the public seed system. The public-private seed system is much less developed in Myanmar. In addition, there are limited interventions in improving the informal and intermediary seed systems which still provide around 95% of seed to farmers for most crops, and are crucially important for conservation and use of plant genetic resources and climate adaptation strategies³. For crops like hybrid rice, hybrid maize, (hybrid) vegetables and ornamental seeds, and to a lesser extent seed potatoes there are very good business opportunities for seed production and sales in Myanmar. There is an urgent need to establish and nurture efficient farmer-led seed enterprises that can cater to the needs for good quality seeds for smallholder farmers while providing an additional source of rural employment as well as revenue generation.

APCTT in partnership with the Network Activities Group (a national NGO) and the Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI) of Myanmar organized the **Workshop on “Best Practices in Farmer-led Seed Enterprise Development for Improving Seed Quality and Enhancing Revenue Generation”** in Mandalay, Myanmar from 08 -09 November 2016. The workshop was part of the capacity building component of the project titled *‘An Integrated Rural Economic and Social Development Programme for Livelihoods Improvement in the*

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1839e/i1839e00.pdf>)

² Pathways for Developing the Seed Sector of Myanmar: A Scoping Study, Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen UR (CDI) (<http://edepot.wur.nl/363488>)

³ Ibid

Dry Zone of Myanmar which is funded by the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT - <http://www.lift-fund.org>) and aims to support livelihoods improvement and food security in the country's Dry Zone that suffers from a high incidence of poverty.

II. Workshop objectives and programme

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- i. Understand the challenges and constraints in farmer-led seed enterprise development especially in the dry zone of Myanmar; and
- ii. Identify solutions for overcoming challenges as well as to learn best practices in establishing effective and efficient farmer-led seed enterprises in the dry zone of Myanmar.

The programme comprised of presentations and discussions on the constraints in farmer-led seed enterprise development in the dry zone of Myanmar, identifying key challenges and technical barriers encountered during various stages of seed enterprise development, and learning best practices and solutions for overcoming those challenges and barriers (the detailed programme is enclosed as Annex I). As part of the analytical work of the project, APCTT is developing a case study on 'Policies, Institutions and Processes to support Value Chains for Seed Development for Pulses, Legumes and Oil Crops in the Dry Zone of Myanmar' through engagement of a local expert. The results of this case study were also presented during the workshop to complement the learning and for getting feedback from the participants.

English-Myanmar and *vice versa* language translation services were provided by the host during the workshop. This was a time consuming process which reduced the time available for discussions, but was nonetheless necessary for conduct of the workshop.

III. Participants and resource persons

Thirty three participants representing a diverse stakeholder group including lead farmers, farmer association representatives, NGOs and LIFT implementing partners involved in seed production, key nodal agencies of the government including Department of Agriculture and Department of Agricultural Research (DAR), and the private sector (entrepreneurs as well as representatives from seed farms) actively participated in this workshop. Thirty three percent of the participants (08) were women.

The workshop was led by qualified International and national experts and resource persons as follows:

- (1) Mr. Min Han, Director, Department of Rural Development (DRD), Mandalay Region, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
- (2) Mr. Thet Zin Maung, Director, Seed Division, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, NayPyiTaw
- (3) Dr. J.P. Yadavendra, Former Senior Scientist and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Unit Head, Anand, India
- (4) Mr. A.V. Poomurugesan, Executive Director, Kazhi Kadaimadai Farmers Federation (KKFF), Tamil Nadu, India

The list of participants is enclosed as **Annex II**.

IV. Discussions and key learning outcomes

Introduction and workshop background: The workshop was inaugurated by a Senior Official of the Department of Rural Development (DRD), Mandalay Region, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. He presented an overview of various Government initiatives and discussed about the

challenges and opportunities in farmer-led seed enterprise development for improving seed quality and enhancing revenue generation. He stressed upon the importance of strengthening capacity of all relevant stakeholders associated with the farmer-led seed enterprise development process in several aspects such as knowledge enhancement, provision of finance, seed distribution, quality control and private sector investment. The stakeholders include farmers, Government extension staff, private sector companies and the credit sector as well. The APCTT representative presented a background of the project and the workshop aimed at knowledge-sharing and capacity building of relevant stakeholders in Myanmar. The inaugural session was concluded with a round of self-introduction by participants and a brief discussion on their expectations from the workshop.

Constraints to seed enterprise development: The workshop commenced with presentation and discussion on the current scenario of seed enterprise development in Myanmar highlighting various constraints faced in the development of seed enterprise sector in the country. The key outcomes of APCTT case study on value chains for seed development in Myanmar were also shared with the workshop participants. The discussion focussed on several areas to improve the seed enterprise sector such as human resource development, training and education, private sector investment, establishment of seed testing laboratories, and so on. The participants were shared with information on India's seed production system as a case study and provided knowledge on the characteristics of formal and informal systems of seed production. The discussion focussed on the basics of a farmer producer organization, cooperative vs. producer company, and characteristics of a seed producer company.

Farmer-led seed enterprises - opportunities and challenges: A discussion was held to understand the characteristics, opportunities and challenges in the development of farmer-led seed enterprises. The participants were provided necessary knowledge and information on various aspects of farmer-led enterprises such as: the vision, mission, objectives and principles; activities, outputs and outcomes; and the economic and social impacts. The participants were provided expert advice on establishing a seed producer company, developing business and marketing plans, conflict management and risk mitigation aspects.

Seed quality control: Various field techniques for improving seed quality were discussed and shared with the participants. These include: seed treatment with biofertilizers and biocontrol agents, transplanting and spacing of younger seedlings, efficient use of fertilizers, avoidance of pesticides, harvesting and threshing techniques, drying and packing techniques and storage techniques. The participants were apprised about the benefits of using the above methods for seed quality improvement.

Open forum on constraints to farmer-led seed enterprise development: An open forum discussion was held among the participants on various constraints in the development of farmer-led seed enterprises in the context of Myanmar. While the participants shared their experiences and practices, their specific questions and concerns were addressed by the participating international and national experts.

Best practices in farmer-led seed enterprise development: The participants were provided knowledge on various practices in developing a farmer-led seed enterprise with the help of a practical case study on rice seed production by Jagannath Crop Producer Company, Mayurbhanj, Odisha, India. The discussion covered relevant topics such as process of company formation, business planning process, challenges faced during company formation, seed distribution and other business activities.

Case Study of Kazhi Kadaimadai Farmers Federation, Tamil Nadu, India: Another case study on Kazhi Kadaimadai Farmers Federation, Tamil Nadu, India was presented as an example of a farmer-led seed enterprise. The discussion focused on good practices related to seed business programme, different models of seed production process, and allied business services to farmers in the areas of marketing, crop insurance and consultancy.

Group exercise: A Group exercise was conducted to develop blueprint of an appropriate business model for seed enterprise development in the dry zone of Myanmar. The participants were divided into four groups and provided seven key questions to discuss and develop their proposed models for developing seed enterprises in Myanmar. The proposed model types were: Public-private Company with farmers as stakeholders (Group 1); NGO promoted farmer cooperative model (Group 2); Private sector cooperative with involvement of Government (Group 3); and Private Company (Group 4). These models were presented by the individual Groups followed by elaborate discussion to assess their feasibility of adoption in the Myanmar context.

Open forum: In the final open forum session of the workshop, the participants discussed specific action points necessary for the development of viable seed enterprises primarily led by farmers in Myanmar. The international and national experts shared their comments and suggestions on different aspects and possibilities of seed enterprise development in the country. This session saw active engagement of participants who shared their experience and thoughts that helped articulate the recommended action points. The feedback indicated that the workshop was well received by the target participants.

V. Conclusion

This workshop focused on brainstorming on the constraints in farmer-led seed enterprise development in the dry zone of Myanmar and identifying possible solutions and business models to address this issue. There was active engagement of various stakeholders representing lead farmers, farmer association representatives, NGOs and LIFT implementing partners involved in seed production, key nodal agencies of the government including Department of Agriculture and Department of Agricultural Research (DAR), and the private sector (entrepreneurs as well as representatives from seed farms). Based on the observations, few best practices and solutions for overcoming those challenges and barriers in seed enterprise development were shared with the participants. This workshop also involved reviewing few case studies of successful farmer-led seed enterprise models implemented elsewhere and explored options for replicating this business model in the dry zone of Myanmar. The workshop deliberations helped APCTT to develop a blue print of an appropriate business model for seed enterprise development in the dry zone of Myanmar.

The workshop was led by qualified International and national experts and was conducted in a participatory and interactive mode with active engagement of the participants. The workshop realized the importance of focusing on capacity building of various stakeholders in the seed farmer-led seed enterprise development process in Myanmar through a wider multi-stakeholder engagement. It highlighted the need for all stakeholders to share knowledge, experiences and best practices to achieve the desired outcomes which would not help policy makers in planning and implementation but also in strengthening the capability and skill of relevant stakeholders associated in the seed enterprise development process.

The workshop was interactive between the international experts, Myanmar policy makers and the target beneficiaries with active engagement of the participants in the discussion. Feedback received from participants at the end of the workshop was positive and impressive. Most of the participants indicated that they found the workshop useful in terms of enhancing their knowledge and skill (detailed results of the workshop evaluation are enclosed in **Annex III**). Finally, the workshop made key recommendations towards developing viable farmer-led seed enterprises in Myanmar and building capacities of relevant stakeholders to help them address the problems and challenges in various stages of the seed enterprise development process. A farmer-led, NGO promoted seed enterprise model was recommended and endorsed by most of the participants as the most suitable business model for the three provinces namely, Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing in the dry zone of Myanmar.

Annex I: Workshop Programme

Day 1: Tuesday, 8 November 2016

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SESSION DESCRIPTION
8.30 – 9.00 am	Registration	Registration of participants
9.00 – 10.00 am	Session 1: Inaugural session	<p>Inaugural Address – Mr. Min Han, Director, Department of Rural Development (DRD), Mandalay Region, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation</p> <p>Background to the Workshop – Dr. Krishnan S. Raghavan, Coordinator, Technology Transfer, APCTT-ESCAP</p> <p>Self-introduction of participants and a brief discussion on expectations from the workshop</p> <p>Group Photo</p>
10.00– 10.20 am	Coffee break	
10.20 am – 12.00 pm	Session 2: Constraints to seed enterprise development	<p>Topic 1: Current Scenario of Seed Enterprise Development in Myanmar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Thet Zin Maung, Director, Seed Division, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, NayPyiTaw <p>Topic 2: Key Outcomes of APCTT’s Case Study on Value chains for Seed Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Satyabrata Sahu, Coordinator, Technology Transfer, APCTT-ESCAP <p>Topic 3: Briefing on the Workshop : JP Yadavendra and AV Poomurugesan</p> <p>Topic 4:</p> <p>Seed production system India : Formal and Informal Pathways to Bridge the Demand and Supply Gap</p> <p>Topic 5:</p> <p>A. Background: Farmer Producer Organization</p>

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SESSION DESCRIPTION
		<p>B. Cooperative v/s Producer Company</p> <p>C. Characteristics of a Producer Company</p> <p><i>Resource Person:</i> Dr. JP Yadavendra, Former Senior Scientist and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Unit Head, Anand, India</p>
12.00 – 1.00 pm	Lunch	
1.00 – 2.30 pm	<p>Session 3:</p> <p>Farmer-led seed enterprises: Opportunities and challenges</p>	<p>Topic 6:</p> <p>A. Vision, mission, Objectives and principals of farmer enterprise</p> <p>B. Activities, outputs and outcomes</p> <p>C. Economic and social impacts</p> <p><i>Resource Person:</i> Dr. JP Yadavendra, Former Senior Scientist and ICAR-Unit Head, Anand, India</p> <p>Topic 7:</p> <p>A. Establishment of Seed producer Company (SPCs) and development of business and marketing plans</p> <p>B. Challenges, conflict management and risk mitigation</p> <p><i>Resource Person:</i> Mr. A.V. Poomurugesan Executive Director - Kazhi Kadaimadai Farmers Federation (KKFF), Tamil Nadu, India</p>
2.30 – 3.30 pm	<p>Session 4: Seed quality control</p>	<p>Topic 8: Techniques for Improving Seed Quality</p> <p><i>Resource Person:</i> Mr. A.V. Poomurugesan Executive Director - Kazhi Kadaimadai Farmers Federation (KKFF), Tamil Nadu, India</p>
3.30 – 3.50 pm	Coffee break	
3.50 – 5.00 pm	<p>Open forum on constraints to farmer-led seed enterprise</p>	<p>Discussion on various constraints to seed enterprise development</p>

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SESSION DESCRIPTION
	development	Moderator: Dr. Krishnan S. Raghavan, Coordinator, Technology Transfer, APCTT-ESCAP
5.00 – 5.15 pm	Session 5: Wrap up of the Day	Key Learning Points Resource Person: Dr. JP Yadavendra, Former Senior Scientist and ICAR-Unit Head, Anand, India

Day 2: Wednesday, 9 November 2016

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SESSION DESCRIPTION
8.30 am – 10.00 am	Session 6: Best practices in farmer-led seed enterprise development	Topic 9: Jagannath Crop Producer Company, Mayurbhanj, Odisha, India ; Rice Seed production – An example Resource Person: Dr. JP Yadavendra, Former Senior Scientist and ICAR-Unit Head, Anand, India
10.00– 10.20 am	Coffee break	
10.20 – 12.00 pm	Session 7: Case Study of Kazhi Kadaimadai Farmers Federation, Tamil Nadu, India	Topic 10: Kazhi Kadaimadai Farmers Federation, Tamil Nadu, India –An example of a farmer-led seed enterprise Topic 11: Seed Marketing Opportunities and Challenges Resource Person: Mr. A.V. Poomurugesan Executive Director - Kazhi Kadaimadai Farmers Federation (KKFF), Tamil Nadu, India
1.00 – 3.00 pm	Session 8: Group Exercise	Development of a farmer-led enterprise development model for the dry zone of Myanmar and presentations Resource Persons: Dr. JP Yadavendra, Mr. A.V. Poomurugesan, Dr. Krishnan S Raghavan and Dr. Satyabrata Sahu
3.00 – 3.20 pm	Coffee break	
3.20 –4.50 pm	Session 9: Open Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A on Best Practices in farmer-led seed enterprise development • Summary of workshop outcomes • Follow up actions Moderators: Dr. Satyabrata Sahu, Coordinator,

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SESSION DESCRIPTION
		<i>Technology Intelligence, APCTT / Dr. JP Yadavendra</i>
4.50 – 5.00 pm	Session 10: Closing remarks	Closing Remarks - <i>Dr. Krishnan S Raghavan, APCTT-ESCAP</i> - Representative, Network Activities Group (NAG)
5.00 – 5.15 pm	Evaluation	Meeting Evaluation

Annex II: List of Participants

National Participants

- 1) Mr. Thet Zin Maung; Director, Seed Division, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation; Nay Pyi Taw; Tel: 09095070782.
- 2) Ms. Win Win Myint; Deputy Director, Seed Division, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation; Nay Pyi Taw; Tel: 092012453.
- 3) Ms. Yi Yi Wai, Assistant Director, Seed Division, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation; Nay Pyi Taw; Tel: 09250182071.
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- 7) Mr. Aung Phyo Wai; Township Cooperative Officer; Cooperative Department; Pyaw Phwe Township; Tel: 064-49047, 09-402558612; Email: khinhlamyintcoop@gmail.com.
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- 9) Ms. Khin Myat Swe, Assistant Director, Department of Agriculture; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation; Mandalay Region; Tel: 092032907
- 10) Mr. Zaw Win; Vice Chairperson; Sagaing Farmer Association; Ayartaw Township; Sagaing Region; Tel: 09780919896; Email: mgkyaw.1556@gmail.com.
- 11) Mr. Aung Myint; Sagaing Farmer Association; Shwebo Township; Sagaing Region; Tel: 09975506823; 09400451554; Email: uaungmyint.sbo@gmail.com.
- 12) Mr. Khin Maung Win; Director; Department of Agriculture; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation; Magway Region; Tel: 095240805; 063-23156; Email: doa.mgy.mgy@gmail.com
- 13) Mr. Han Nyunt; President; Regional Level Farmer Development Association; Magway Region; Tel: 09-259195201.
- 14) Mr. Soe Naing; Chairperson; Farmer Union; Magway Region; Tel: 09401574095.
- 15) Mr. Sein Maung, Farmer; Mandalay Farmer Association; Tatkone Township; Tel: 09797663150; 09420766388.
- 16) Mr. Tun Linn Aung; Farmer, Mandalay Farmer Association; Sintgaing Township, Mandalay Region; Tel: 0943137306; Email: dstunlinnaung@gmail.com.
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- 21) Ms. Khin Thuzar Htun; Project Coordinator; Golden Plain Livelihood Development Services Co-op Ltd; Yangon, Tel: 09421043668; Email: thuzar@gpmyanmar.org.
- 22) Ms. Nu Nu Yi; Manager; Shan Maw Myae Co.,Ltd.; Yangon; Tel: 01-370969, 5045897; Fax: 01-370969; Email: nunuyi07@gmail.com
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- 24) Mr. Han Nyunt, Project Advisor, MAPCO, Agrochemical Business Unit, Myanmar Rice Federation, Yangon, Tel; 09-5388389,09-799246450; Email:uhannyunt63@gmail.com
- 25) Mr. Kyaw Ye Maung, Manager, Triplene oil mill, Myingyan Traders Association, Tel; 09798879001, Email: tripleneoilmill@gmail.com
- 26) Dr. Hnin Ei Phyo, Deputy Staff Officer, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation; Mandalay Region; Tel: 092025090; Email: mdydrd.dpt@gmail.com
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Experts and Consultants:

- 3) Dr. J.P.Yadavendra, Former Senior Scientist and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Unit Head, Anand, India, E-mail: jpykmw99@gmail.com, Tel: +91 9427301663
- 4) Mr.Poomurugesan, Executive Director, Kazhi Kadaimadai Farmers Federation(NGO), Tamil Nadu, India, E-mail: kkffadmin@gmail.com ; Tel: +91 9486402397

Network Activities Group (NAG) staff:

- 5) Ms. Myo Ma Ma Than; Program Officer, NAG; Yangon; Myanmar; Email: myomamathan3@gmail.com; Tel: +95 18010751, 09254913560.
- 6) Ms. Khin La Pyaye Win; Knowledge Management and M&E Officer; NAG, Yangon; Myanmar; Email: lapyaye@gmail.com; Tel: 09971402057.

Annex III: Workshop Evaluation Summary

Introduction

The workshop was aimed at understanding the constraints, identifying possible solutions, and evolving the blueprint of farmer-led seed enterprise development system in the dry zone of Myanmar. Twenty four participants including 33% (8) women who took part in the event responded to the feedback survey. The participants included 11 representatives from government ministries or departments (45.8%), 2 from international NGOs (8.3%), 7 from local NGOs (29.2%), and 4 from the private sector (16.7%). 36.4% (8) of the participants were from various LIFT implementing partner agencies.

The workshop evaluation form used for obtaining feedback from participants is enclosed as Annex IV.

Understanding the training content and content coverage

A large majority (95.8%) of the participants who responded to the corresponding question in the survey confirmed that they had understood all of the workshop content. Furthermore, 82.6% of the participants felt that the workshop had covered all the areas that they expected to learn about.

Usefulness of the content

Participants were invited to rank the usefulness of the training content and quality of processes and logistics from 'excellent' to 'weak'. Scores were given for each evaluation criteria: weak – 1, average – 2, good – 3, and excellent – 4. The table below presents the results. In terms of content, the participants evaluated each of the key technical sessions. All the sessions received over 80% of excellent or good ratings by over half the participants. The average score for all content was calculated as 2.9 (4 – the highest).

Content	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Average (2)	Weak (1)	Average Score
Constraints to seed enterprise development (Session 2)	8.3%	75.0%	12.5%	-	2.96
Farmer-led seed enterprises: Opportunities and challenges (Session 3)	8.3%	75.0%	16.7%	-	2.92
Seed quality control (Session 4)	16.7%	70.8%	12.5%	-	3.04
Best practices in farmer-led seed enterprise development (Session 6)	4.2%	79.2%	16.7%	-	2.88
Seed Marketing Opportunities and Challenges (Session 7)	8.3%	70.8%	12.5%	4.2%	2.87
Development of a farmer-led enterprise development model for the dry zone of Myanmar and presentations (Session 8)	8.3%	75.0%	12.5%	4.2%	2.88

Relevance of new knowledge and ability to use it

More than 95% of the participants who responded to the corresponding question felt that the workshop had equipped them with the right knowledge to improve the way they work. The participants felt that they would be able to use all (4.2%) or most (50.0%) or about half (41.7%) of the knowledge gained though the workshop.

All (5)	Most of it (4)	About half (3)	A little (2)	Nothing (1)
4.2%	50.0%	41.7%	4.2%	-

The workshop evaluation form asked the participants that rated “all”, “most of it”, or “about half” to list key learnings they obtained in the workshop. Some of the learnings mentioned by the participants were:

- Key constraints related to farmer-led seed enterprise development
- Seed quality control techniques and best practices
- Various business models related to seed enterprise development
- Promoting farmer led enterprises
- Stakeholder analyses and value chain improvement
- Market opportunities and various ways to generate revenue for farmer-led enterprises

Changes/improvements to be made as a result of the workshop

Some changes or improvements that participants pointed out they are planning to make in their work as a result of the workshop were:

- “To explore possibilities of establishing farmer-led seed enterprises in partnership with Myanmar Rice Federation.”
- “To ensure equitable participation of women in the seed enterprises”
- “To apply best practices related to innovative financing and institutional management.”
- “To be aware of various models of revenue generation while establishing and operating farmer-led seed enterprises.”
- “To work in partnership with federal and provincial government agencies as well as private sector for enhancing distribution of quality seeds produced by farmer-led enterprises”
- “To maintain seed quality throughout the process of production and distribution”.

Whether planning to act as a Trainer

When asked whether participants planned to act as a trainer to train others, 86.4% of those who responded answered ‘Yes’ and 13.6% answered ‘No’.

Some of the groups that participants planned to train included:

- Local farmers
- farmers organizations
- Agriculture extension staff
- Youth of village development committee
- University students
- Farmers’ co-operatives and on-farm researchers

Some of the focus areas for the planned training were:

- Agricultural production techniques
- Technology, seeds, finance, equipment etc
- Climate resilience agriculture

Quality of processes and logistics

Participants were invited to rank the quality of processes and logistics from ‘excellent’ to ‘poor’. Scores were given for each evaluation criteria: poor – 1, fair – 2, good – 3, and excellent – 4. The table below presents the results.

In terms of processes, majority the participants rated the agenda and flow as excellent or good. For facilitation and feedback, 75% of the participants considered them to be excellent or good. The average score for processes was calculated as 3.13 (4 – the highest).

In terms of logistics, on average more than 41% of the participants considered them excellent and more than 52% rated them good in all categories together. The average score for logistics was calculated as 3.43 (4 – the highest).

		Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)	Average Score
Process	Agenda and flow	33.3%	58.3%	4.2%	-	3.30
	Facilitation and feedback	16.7%	58.3%	20.8%	-	2.96
Logistics	Pre-meeting communication	41.7%	58.3%	-	-	3.42
	Meeting facilities	45.8%	50.0%	4.2%	-	3.42
	Accommodation	50.0%	33.3%	-	-	3.60
	Food	41.7%	54.2%	-	-	3.43
	Administrative assistance during the meeting	29.2%	66.7%	-	-	3.30

Meeting expectations

For 63% of the participants, the meeting met their expectations to a very large (4.2%) or large extent (58.3%). For the rest 38% of the participants, the meeting met their expectations to a moderate extent.

Very large (4)	Large (3)	Moderate (2)	Small (1)
4.2%	58.3%	37.5%	-

Meeting overall

From the workshop evaluation forms received, all of the participants perceived the meeting as excellent (12.5%) or good (87.5%). Nobody perceived it to be either fair or poor.

Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)
12.5%	87.5%	-	-

Aspects to be improved in the future

This section indicates the key areas that can be taken into consideration in the organization of similar events in the future. These areas are based on the suggestions that participants expressed during the evaluation:

- More field studies and meetings in the central dry zone
- Develop new technology and ideas relevant to current situation and local agricultural context
- To support transport and accommodation of participants
- Union level staff should be invited
- More group work exercise
- Three day workshop is preferred
- More governmental officers and administrators should be invited to participate
- More agricultural experts and farmers should participate
- Logistic arrangements should be more effective

- The present workshop agenda is tight

Other comments

- "This is a workshop with fantastic purposes and training approach."
- "These workshop ideas are relevant to today's agricultural needs."
- "Great! It is a workshop of participants from different townships"
- "I like this workshop so much because it focused on farmer-led seed enterprises in rural areas."
- "Too tight agenda for proposed activities."
- Other dry zone cities or townships should be selected for workshop venue.

Annex IV: Workshop Evaluation Form

Workshop on “Best Practices in Farmer-led Seed Enterprise Development for Improving Seed Quality and Enhancing Revenue Generation”

08 –09 November 2016, Mandalay, Myanmar

Evaluation Form

1. **Name (optional):** _____

2. **Gender:** Male Female

3. **Organization Type (tick one):**

	Government ministry or Department
	Non-governmental organization (international)
	Non-governmental organization/civil society (local)
	University/research institute
	International or bilateral organization
	Private sector
	Other (please specify) _____

4. **Is your organization a LIFT Implementing Partner?** Yes No

5. **In which region of Myanmar do you work?** -----

6. **Did you fully understand all workshop content?** Yes No

If not, please specify what elements you did not understand:

7. **After the workshop, how would you rate your knowledge and understanding of:**

	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Average (2)	Weak (1)
Constraints to seed enterprise development (Session 2)				
Farmer-led seed enterprises: Opportunities and challenges (Session 3)				
Seed quality control (Session 4)				
Best practices in farmer-led seed enterprise development (Session 6)				
Seed Marketing Opportunities and Challenges (Session 7)				
Development of a farmer-led enterprise development model for the dry zone of Myanmar and presentations (Session 8)				

8. Has the workshop equipped you with the right knowledge to improve the way you work?

Yes No

If 'not', why not?

9. Is there an area that you expected to learn about but the workshop did not cover?

Yes No

If 'yes', please specify what area:

10. How much of what you learned (knowledge and skills) will you be able to use in your work?

All (5)	Most of it (4)	About half (3)	A little (2)	Nothing (1)

If you answer "A little" or "Nothing", please give the reasons why:

11. If you answer 'All' or 'Most of it' or 'About Half', please list maximum of THREE.

12. a. What are you going to adopt or change in your daily work and long term work plan as a result of this workshop? If nothing, please respond to question 12b.

12. b. If you are not going to adopt or change anything in your daily work and long term work plan as a result of this workshop, please provide a brief reason:

13. Are you planning to act as a trainer to train others in using any of the new knowledge and skills?

Yes No

If 'yes', please specify who (what target group) you are likely to train and what content (knowledge, skills and practices) you will probably include in the training.

If 'not', why not?

14. How would you rate the usefulness and quality of the meeting in terms of processes and logistics?

		Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)
Process	Agenda and flow				
	Facilitation and feedback				
Logistics	Pre-meeting communication				
	Meeting facilities				
	Accommodation				
	Food				
	Administrative assistance during the meeting				

15. To what extent did the meeting meet your expectations? (*tick box*)

<i>Very large (4)</i>	<i>Large (3)</i>	<i>Moderate (2)</i>	<i>Small (1)</i>

16. How do you rate the meeting overall? (*tick box*)

Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)

17. What aspects of the meeting could be improved in the future?

18. Do you have additional comments on the overall meeting, on what you liked or disliked?

Thank you for your inputs!