

**“ MYANMAR ROUNDTABLE 2012: UNDERSTANDING
THE CHANGES, REALIZING THE OPPORTUNITIES ”**



**Doubletree by Hilton,
Kuala Lumpur**

July 9-10, 2012



**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION
YEZIN AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**

Unleashing Myanmar's Potential Agricultural Perspective

By

**Tim Htut (Ph. D)
Rector**



Changes



Political Change

- ❖ Elected government continue building a stable, peaceful and developed nation

Economic Change

- ▶ To have harmonious momentum among the state, regional organizations, cooperatives, NGOs, civil societies and Private enterprises, etc.
- ▶ Transforming to industrialized nation based on agriculture
- ▶ People centered approach: welfare oriented, inclusive development

Importance of Agriculture

- ▶ Contributing around 32% to GDP: planed to reduce
- ▶ Employed 60-70% of workforce
- ▶ Increasing agricultural productivity and rural development as keys to national development plan
- ▶ Land-Man Ratio is about 0.43ha/caput
- ▶ Average agricultural holdings is about 2.5 ha
- ▶ Percent of irrigated land to agriculture is around 18.1%



Land Potential

Table 1. Land Use among neighbor countries

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total land area (million Acres)</i>	<i>Agricultural land (million Acres)</i>	<i>Percent</i>
World	32,132	3,773	11.7
Asia	8,348	1,329	15.9
Myanmar	167	30	17.9
Thai	126	47	36.9
Vietnam	77	23	30.4
Indonesia	448	92	20.5
Malaysia	81	19	23.1
Philippines	74	25	34.5
Laos	57	3	5.8
Cambodia	44	10	23.0
China	2,305	303	13.1
Bangladesh	32	21	66.8
India	735	418	56.9

Source: Myanma Agriculture in Brief (2010)

Mechanization Potential

Table 2. Number of tractors

<i>Country</i>	<i>Number of tractors (Number)</i>
WORLD	29,310,418
ASIA	9,917,735
MYANMAR	11,784
THAI	830,000
VIETNAM	163,000
INDONESIA	5,200
PHILIPPINES	63,000
LAOS	1,080
CAMBODIA	4,475
CHINA	2,063,528
BANGLADESH	3,000
INDIA	3,149,000

Source: Myanma Agriculture in Brief (2010)

Rural Development Policy

- ▶ Only with rural development, will there be alleviation of poverty (Farmer centered)
- ▶ Increasing productivity (resource based to knowledge based, diversification and intensification)
- ▶ Vertical expansion will play significantly
- ▶ Consumer-driven or market-driven
- ▶ Reducing cost of production saving input through best management practices



Contd:

- ▶ Effective microfinance and credit programs
- ▶ Agricultural education, research and extension (Lab to farm approach)
- ▶ Income diversification (off-farm income)
- ▶ Subsistence to commercialized farming
- ▶ Post-harvest technology
- ▶ Better way of input supply (promoting farmer support services)
- ▶ Forming rural cooperative communities and farmers' organizations

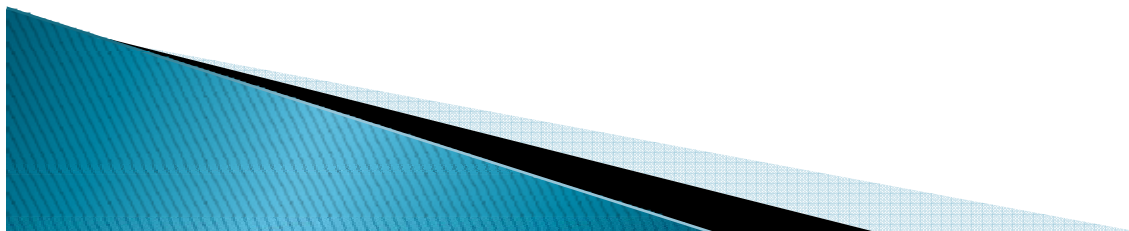




The Role of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI)

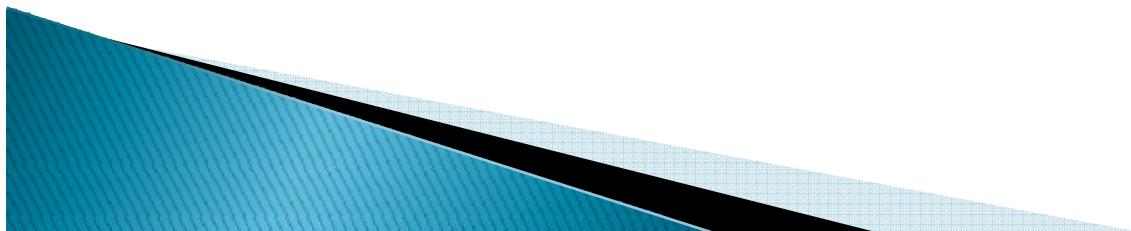


- ▶ Implementing agricultural and rural development policies
- ▶ Twelve departments in MOAI
 1. Minister's Office
 2. Department of Agricultural Planning
 3. Department of Agriculture
 4. Department of Irrigation
 5. Agricultural Mechanization Department
 6. Settlement and Land Record Department



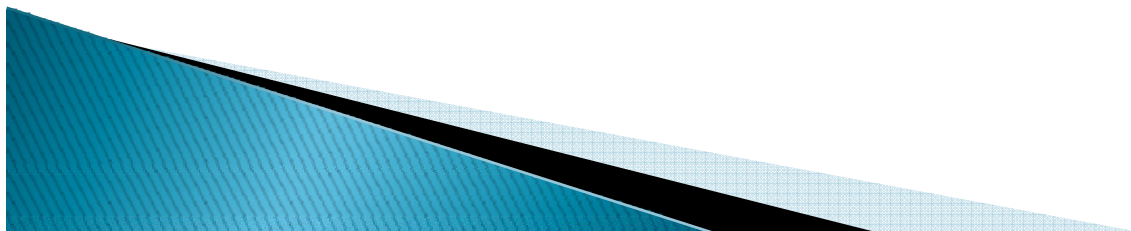
Contd:

7. Water Resource Utilization Department
8. Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank
9. Department of Agricultural Research
10. Survey Department
11. Yezin Agricultural University (YAU)
12. Myanmar Industrial Crops Development Enterprises



5 key policy elements for doubling farm incomes

- ▶ Ensuring profits and sustainable market for crop and crop products
- ▶ Using marketable crop varieties and good quality seeds
- ▶ Applying good agricultural practices and best management practices
- ▶ Efficient utilization of chemical fertilizers and manures along with other inputs
- ▶ Saving seeds and reducing production costs and transaction cost



3 important tasks for MOAI

- ▶ Seed sector development
- ▶ Training and Education
- ▶ Research and Development

- Irrigation
- Mechanization
- Hybridization
- Utilization of modern production technology
- Education



Reforms of MOAI

1. Reform for Land Management and Administration
2. Reform for Advanced Agricultural Practices and Seed Industry
3. Reform for Water Resource Management
4. Reform for Agricultural Mechanization
5. Reform for Advanced Agro-based Industry

Contd:

6. Reform for Human Resource Development
7. Reform for Research and Technology Development
8. Reform for Credit Services
9. Reform for Market Information Services

Nurturing good institutional practices (GIP) and culture (GIC) is the basic requirements for reform process

Strategy for reforms

- ▶ Reforms will be implemented based on bottom-up initiatives considering the following facts:
 - Time Frame
 - Financial Investment
 - Loan and financial assistance
 - Technical assistance
 - Human resource development
 - Research and development

Bottom-up is necessary for decision making
but top-down is essential for implementing




Changing Paradigm of Agriculture

- ▶ Food Security and widening social safety nets
- ▶ Poverty Alleviation
- ▶ Bio-energy Development
- ▶ Adaption to Climate Change
- ▶ Knowledge-based Agriculture
- ▶ Capital Intensive Agriculture
- ▶ Scientific farming complemented with better and extensive supply Chain

Participatory mode will play significantly.



The Role of Educational Institutions in New Paradigm of Agriculture

- ▶ Providing leadership, management and planning skill
 - ▶ Training to get awareness on natural resource management
 - ▶ Producing well-trained graduates
 - ▶ Collaboration in Universities-network, Research-Institutions-network
 - ▶ Initiating new trend of research based on farmers' field problems
 - ▶ Participation in National Policy Research (NPR)
 - ▶ Outreach extension
- 

Constraints for Agricultural Institutions Development

- ▶ Shortages of well-trained scientific and technical staff
- ▶ Probability of government budget cuts
- ▶ Low levels of funds for operational expenses
- ▶ Low salary levels and poor incentives for research staffs
- ▶ Inadequate personnel management procedures and policies
- ▶ Inadequate research priority setting, planning and programming
- ▶ Inadequate establishment between education, research and extension



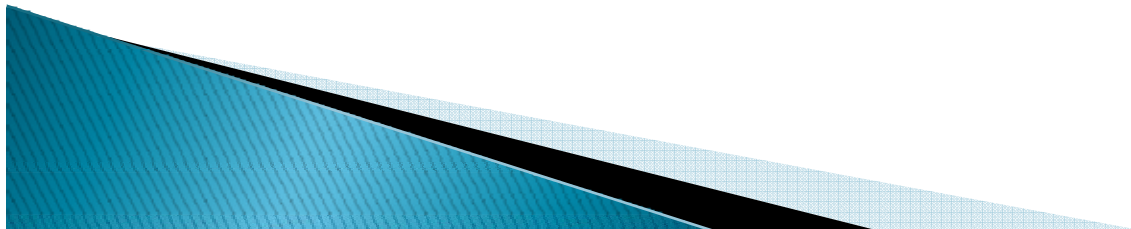
Towards better education and research

- ▶ Sufficiently coherent to national research policies and programs to guide university research
- ▶ Defining clear university research policy and administrative structure
- ▶ Fulfilling adequate research budgets



Contd:

- ▶ Excessive turnover of academic staff, particularly of senior staff jeopardizing leadership and continuity
- ▶ Balancing heavy teaching loads and increasing involvement in research
- ▶ Interdisciplinary and systems approaches to research and training
- ▶ Linking with other faculties of comprehensive universities



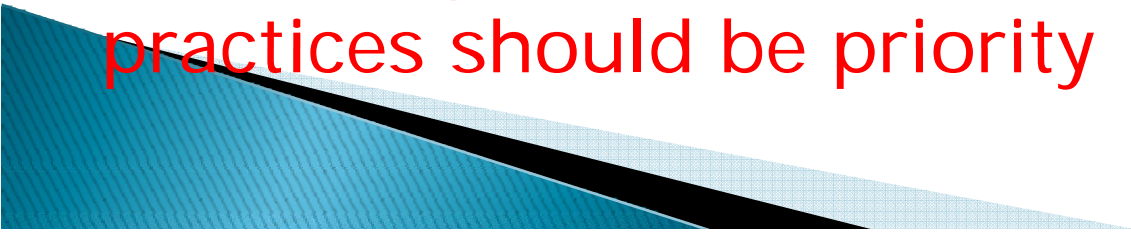
Strengthening HRD in Agriculture

- ▶ Increasing the priority given to agricultural education
- ▶ Refocusing education projects to outcomes
- ▶ Increasing agricultural education investment
- ▶ Increasing equity of access to agricultural education
- ▶ Encouraging greater role of political participation
- ▶ Encouraging flexible and autonomous management
- ▶ Increasing cooperation between education partners


Potential Investment in Agricultural HRD

- ▶ We, therefore, need education partners not only for HRD but also for rural development and economic growth
- ▶ Education partners mean cooperation with donors and other agencies as both multilateral and bilateral
- ▶ Particularly focus on their aid on HRD

Promoting public education for democratic practices should be priority

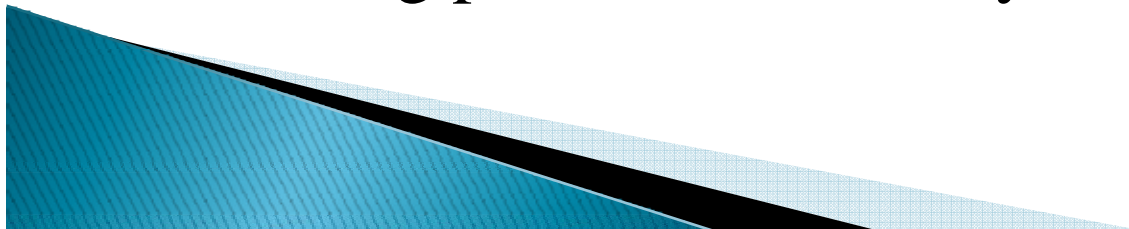


Achieving Myanmar' potential along with Agricultural HRD

- ▶ Leadership and support from funding agencies
 - ▶ State government support
 - ▶ Demand for agricultural graduates
 - ▶ Improved agrarian structure of Myanmar
 - ▶ International organizations support
 - ▶ Continuity and commitment of leaders
 - ▶ A pool of high quality students
 - ▶ An openness to internal and external evaluation
- 

Strategic approach for Institutional Strengthening

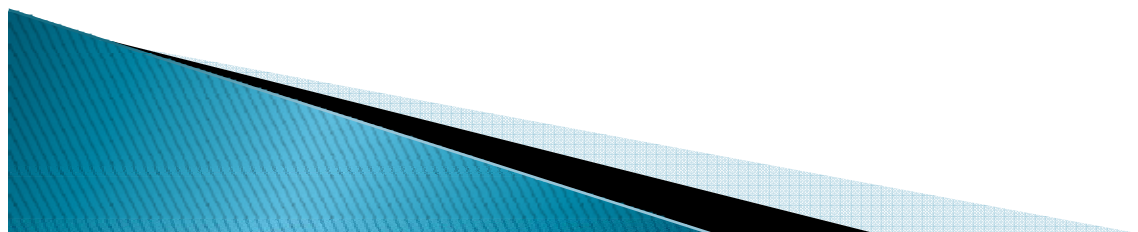
- ▶ Establishment of departmental development principles
- ▶ Scrutinizing and improving educational curriculum and technological approach
- ▶ Implementation and assessment (reassessment) of effective strategic plan
- ▶ Reassessment and reconstitution of healthier organization
- ▶ Strengthening of need-based Research and Development activities
- ▶ Promoting public education system in all fields



Key messages

To be able to realize the potentials

- ▶ Prioritization
- ▶ Skill building
- ▶ Developing good institutional practices and culture
- ▶ Improving interconnectivity
- ▶ Well formulated investment strategies



A scenic landscape featuring a dense plantation of tall palm trees in the foreground. The ground is reddish-brown soil. In the background, a hill is covered with numerous ancient, reddish-brown stupas or pagodas, characteristic of the Bagan region in Myanmar. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The text "THANK YOU" is overlaid in the center of the image in a light blue, serif font.

THANK YOU