Evidences

Study #4077

Contributing Projects:

● P1967 - 2.4.9 Support to Myanmar Policies
● P667 - 2.1.4 Rural-Urban Linkages and Agri-Food System Employment

Part I: Public communications

Type: OICR: Outcome Impact Case Report
Status: On-going
Year: 2020

Title: Findings from the Myanmar Agriculture Policy Support Activity inform the Government of Myanmar’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Short outcome/impact statement:
Research conducted under the Myanmar Agriculture Policy Support Activity – led by IFPRI in partnership with Michigan State University and funded by USAID with support from PIM – informed the government’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic and contributed to the decision of the Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank to invest USD 430M in loans to farmers.
Outcome story for communications use:
In Myanmar as elsewhere, COVID-19 and the measures taken to control the spread of the disease resulted in challenges for economic growth and social wellbeing. At the onset of the crisis, Myanmar Agriculture Policy Support Activity (MAPSA) policy notes [1] [2] [3] using modeling results and lessons learned from other countries to predict the impacts of COVID-19 and mitigation efforts on the Myanmar economy were disseminated to the Economic Remedy Committee for COVID-19. A note on lessons from India’s lockdown [3] led the Chair of the Committee to acknowledge the importance of the agricultural sector in managing the crisis and suggest the inclusion of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation (MOALI) in the Committee [4].

A MAPSA policy note [5] used in consultations with government and development partners contributed to the Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank’s decision to allocate USD 430 million in loans to farmers to offset the economic impact of COVID-19 [6]. In addition to supporting farmers directly, the loans led to higher input purchases and increased hiring of tractor services and labor, with positive impacts on the rural economy.

MAPSA findings were shared by the MOALI in a Facebook live event with the State Councilor, along with MOALI’s action plan under the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan. In a significant departure from the MOALI’s initial coping strategy which had been focused on stockpiling rice, home gardens and loans to livestock SMEs [7], the new action plan included several MAPSA recommendations to stimulate economic recovery, such as reopening the manufacturing sector, continuing policy support to the agrifood system and expanding social protection coverage.

The MAPSA recommendations were presented to the Agriculture and Rural Development Sector Coordination Group, UN Socio-Economic Working Group, INGO Forum, Cooperation Partners’ Group (coordination mechanism for international cooperation partners in Myanmar) and American Chamber of Commerce [8]. These presentations led the MOALI to start using AgGDP+ (an innovative PIM metric used to estimate the total value added generated by all value chains) projection tool [9].

The USAID Feed the Future coordinator in Myanmar wrote that the MAPSA paper assessing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Myanmar’s economy using the PIM’s Social Accounting Matrix multiplier model [12] was “the first work that showed a clear-eyed projection of the GDP growth rates” and referred to the MAPSA team as “the go-to-folks for a data-driven assessment of the agricultural sector and rural/urban household food security” in Myanmar [13].

Links to any communications materials relating to this outcome:
- https://tinyurl.com/yhqqlte7
- https://tinyurl.com/yzf8xe6f
- https://tinyurl.com/yh67kyqv
- https://tinyurl.com/yg378jg7

Part II: CGIAR system level reporting
Link to Common Results Reporting Indicator of Policies: Yes
Policies contribution:
- 721 - Findings from the Myanmar Agriculture Policy Support Activity contribute to decision on USD 430M loan program to farmers by Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank (https://tinyurl.com/2loabkk4)

Stage of maturity of change reported: Stage 1

Links to the Strategic Results Framework:
Sub-IDOs:
- Conducive agricultural policy environment
- Conducive environment for managing shocks and vulnerability, as evidenced in rapid response mechanisms

Is this OICR linked to some SRF 2022/2030 target?: Yes

SRF 2022/2030 targets:
- # of more people, of which 50% are women, meeting minimum dietary energy requirements
- # of people, of which 50% are women, assisted to exit poverty

Description of activity / study: <Not Defined>

Geographic scope:
- National

Country(ies):
- Myanmar

Comments: <Not Defined>

Key Contributors:
Contributing CRPs/Platforms:
- PIM - Policies, Institutions, and Markets

Contributing Flagships:
- F2: Economywide Factors Affecting Agricultural Growth and Rural Transformation

Contributing Regional programs: <Not Defined>

Contributing external partners:
- MOALI - Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (Myanmar)
- MOPFI - Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry (Myanmar)
- USAID - U.S. Agency for International Development

CGIAR innovation(s) or findings that have resulted in this outcome or impact:
Measures of agri-food system gross domestic product (AgGDP+) Myanmar Social Accounting Matrix Rural Investment and Policy Analysis model

Innovations:
- 1396 - Measures of agri-food system gross domestic product (AgGDP+) and employment (AgEMP+) (https://tinyurl.com/2zunjsbd)
- 345 - Rural Investment and Policy Analysis model (https://tinyurl.com/2lxa3wcw)
Elaboration of Outcome/Impact Statement:
In Myanmar as in other countries, COVID-19 and the measures taken to control the spread of the disease resulted in challenges for economic growth and social wellbeing. At the onset of the crisis, Myanmar Agriculture Policy Support Activity (MAPSA) policy notes [1] [2] [3] using modeling results and lessons learned from other countries to predict the impacts of COVID-19 and mitigation efforts on the Myanmar economy were disseminated to the Economic Remedy Committee for COVID-19. A note on lessons from India’s lockdown [3] led the Chair of the Committee to acknowledge the importance of the agricultural sector in managing the crisis and suggest the inclusion of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation (MOALI) in the Committee [4].

A MAPSA policy note outlining options to mitigate the threat to the agricultural sector and rural households from declining incomes [5] used in consultations with the government and development partners contributed to the Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank’s decision to allocate USD 430 million in loans to farmers to offset the economic impact of COVID-19 and sustain the rural economy [6]. There is an exact correspondence between the loan amount per acre and the MAPSA recommendation [6].

MAPSA findings were shared by the MOALI in a Facebook live event with the State Councilor, along with MOALI’s action plan under the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan. This action plan, which was presented as aiming to address the reductions in trade flow, export and border trade, remittances and rural income – reductions highlighted in the MAPSA outputs – significantly departed from the MOALI’s initial coping strategy focused on stockpiling rice, home gardens and loans to livestock SMEs [7].

Recommendations to stimulate economic recovery were presented to the Agriculture and Rural Development Sector Coordination Group, UN Socio-Economic Working Group, INGO Forum, Cooperation Partners’ Group (main coordination mechanism for international cooperation partners in Myanmar) and American Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar. These recommendations included reopening the manufacturing sector, continued policy support to the agrifood system and expanding social protection coverage [8]. These presentations led the Department of Planning of the MOALI to start using the PIM AgGDP+ projection tool [9].

After participating in a MAPSA webinar on findings from a phone survey [10], the Director General of the Department of Planning of the MOALI requested the MAPSA team for advice on cost-effective interventions to increase food security for the most vulnerable [11].

References cited:

Quantification: <Not Defined>
Gender, Youth, Capacity Development and Climate Change:

Gender relevance: 0 - Not Targeted
Youth relevance: 0 - Not Targeted
CapDev relevance: 1 - Significant
Main achievements with specific CapDev relevance: Virtual trainings were conducted for MOALI staff on the AgGDP+ projection tool.
Climate Change relevance: 0 - Not Targeted

Other cross-cutting dimensions: No
Other cross-cutting dimensions description: <Not Defined>
Outcome Impact Case Report link: Study #4077

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