

ACT Myanmar Forum Activity (July-November 2019)

ACT Joint Project Activities

Agro-Ecology, Conservation Agriculture (CA) and Slopping Agriculture Land Technology (SALT) Training for capacity building for keys farmers and staff.

From July-October 2019, the ACT Joint Project team conducted the Joint Agro-ecology & CA and SALT agriculture training.

The purpose of the workshop was:

- Understanding the concept of agro-ecology, CA, SALT agriculture and Climate Smart Agriculture and their development process.
- Developing skills in organizing CA and Agro-ecology, CA and SALT Agriculture Trainings in Communities
- Developing skills in designing curriculum based on training needs.
- Developing counseling skills required to guide and coach the trained potential farmers and group of community.



Note; the group photo was taken after the training

The training was mainly for the key farmers of the project targeted villages. However, the project team decided to let project staff join the training in order to improve skills and gain knowledge so that they would later on follow the activity. The training was conducted twice during 2 to 3 days. It was mainly focused on knowledge-sharing about Agro-Ecology, CA and SALT agriculture approach to key farmers. Freelance consultant U Thein Su, a retired Associate Professor, was given the above topic explaining in detail the concept, showing video clips, slides of his research studies and some practical and research photos. Participants got to know the new approach concerning Conservation Agriculture, SALT and Agro-Ecology. Since it was a new approach, it seemed to be impossible to believe and apply for somebody who works in a traditional way of cultivation. However, after the training, most of the participants felt very grateful to have applied, as it seemed very easy for them in the real world.

LWF-ACT Joint Project Farmer Field School Training on System of Rice Intensification (SRI)

From June to August 2019, the LWF joint project team organized the SRI agriculture training for key farmers from Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State, Myanmar. The System of Rice Intensification (SRI)-approach was introduced to farmers. After the training, Climate Smart Agriculture techniques, which they learnt at the Farmer Field School, were applied for growing rice in Me Laung Lay village of Hlaing Bwe Township.

In this project, farmer groups from 10 villages were trained intensively in Farmer Field School. The Farmer Field School established a SRI Demonstration Plot near SRI demo plot at Me Laung Lay village of Hlaingbwe Township. In the practical session. Farmers were trained to do the seed selection, natural fish amino foliar, and field practical soil test. After attending the Farmer Field School training, they again applied the Sub 5 demo plots at their villages.

The SRI system method can reduce the GHG emission from agriculture – especially from rice fields – by 46.6%. The significant changes of the training were:

- Farmers became interested in SRI and will apply it in the next season
- SRI is a climate smart agriculture for sustainable approach
- SRI is resistant to pest and climate change
- The Farmer Field School is the first model of extension.
- Farmers discuss/share about the new technology at the township level.



Note: SRI Nursery plan for their demonstration plot



Note: the group photo was taken at Farmer Field School nearby Paddy field, Me Laung Lay village of Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State, Myanmar



Note: the photos were taken while giving the SRI-Farmer Field School training to key farmers, Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State, Myanmar



Note: the photo was taken while farmers were harvested their SRI paddy together at their demonstration plot field, Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin

KBC-ACT Joint Team Exposure trip (18-22 November 2019)

KBC-ACT Joint organized an exposure trip from 18 to 22 November to Mandalay and Pyin Oo Lwin. It was intended to our targeted farmers and project staff in order to strengthen their ideas on agriculture to produce quality products with systematic agricultural technics for increasing their incomes. Furthermore, the intention of this trip was to introduce our targeted farmers to get to know the concept of agriculture as business for sustainable livelihoods. Farmers were from our target villages from Thandaunggyi, Hlaingbwe and Kyarinseikgyi Township, Kayin State, Myanmar.



Note; the group photo was taken in front of Post-Harvest Technology Training Center, Pyin Oo Lwin, Myanmar

Objectives of the exposure trip were:

- 1) To learn the foundational livelihood, coffee production and integrated community development
- 2) To exchange and share experience among partners from KBC Farmers and Model Farmers from Pyin Oo Lwin
- 3) To learn post-harvest technics of crops
- 4) To learn the ideas of quality farming products (GAP and organic) to strong market linkage access in order to increase income
- 5) To strengthen the ideas of agri-business (farming to small business)
- 6) To develop a learning agenda and action points to apply in project activities and interventions for coming years.

Expected outcomes from the exposure trip were

- Farmers and Staff improved knowledge of post-harvest technics and how by-products are turned into value added products.
- Coffee farmers learnt the coffee production process
- Farmers and staff gained ideas for creating small businesses
- Learning how farmers are meant to produce quality products and access to the market.



Note; the group photo was taken at the Myint Nge Organic Family Farm, Pyin Oo Lwin, Myanmar