



Managing Aquatic Agricultural Systems to Improve Nutrition and Livelihoods in Rural Myanmar (MYNutrition)



Introduction

The Managing Aquatic Agricultural Systems to Improve Nutrition and Livelihoods in Rural Myanmar (MYNutrition) project intends to adapt and scale up the successful innovative integrated aquaculture and fisheries/agriculture-nutrition linkages developed under the IFAD-funded Small Fish and Nutrition project in northeast and northwest rural Bangladesh in 2010-2013. This project engaged both women and men in the homestead production of carp and micronutrient-rich small fish species and vegetables, and increased production of indigenous fish (mostly small-sized) through community-based sustainable wetlands management and enhanced stocking.

MYNutrition supports existing interventions: it complements the LIFT-funded MYCulture and ACIAR-funded MYFish projects with integrated aquaculture and fisheries/agriculture-nutrition linkages respectively, while supplementing these projects with a scientifically sound, robust monitoring and evaluation framework, based on both quantitative and qualitative research methods.

MYNutrition will build on the methods and tools developed under MYCulture and MYFish to increase awareness and capacity of the Government of Myanmar and partner NGO staff in nutrition-sensitive agricultural interventions and research. The project will share its findings with government institutions and development partners for advocacy and scaling up of the successful innovations identified.

Myanmar



Key Facts

- **Project name:** Managing Aquatic Agricultural Systems to Improve Nutrition and Livelihoods in rural Myanmar (MYNutrition)
- **Geographies:** Ayeyarwady Delta and Central Dry Zone (CDZ)
- **Country:** Myanmar
- **Project duration:** September 2015– August 2018



Objectives

This project aims to improve the nutrition and livelihoods of poor, rural households in aquatic agricultural systems in Myanmar, through increased intakes of micronutrient-rich small fish and vegetables from home production, as well as increased household income. MYNutrition will adapt and pilot-test integrated aquaculture and fisheries/agriculture-nutrition linkages approaches, developed and practiced in Bangladesh, in targeted communities in Myanmar through:

- Improving production and productivity of household ponds and dykes, using innovative technologies that include small fish and carp in ponds, and micronutrient-rich vegetables on dykes and in homestead gardens;
- Increasing total and small fish production and fish species diversity in wetlands through sustainable management and enhanced stocking of micronutrient-rich small fish;
- Conducting behavior change communication to increase consumption of micronutrient-rich small fish and vegetables, especially in women and young children;
- Improving gender equity and women's empowerment; and
- Building capacity of national institutions (mostly Department of Fisheries and universities) and civil society partners in implementing, disseminating the integrated aquaculture and fisheries/agriculture-nutrition linkages approach and monitoring their outcomes.

Expected outcome/result

Result 1: Increased availability, access and consumption of micronutrient-rich small fish and vegetables in targeted households practicing aquaculture and fisheries in homestead and community ponds (1,700 households).

Result 2: Improved gender equity and women's empowerment, especially regarding intra-household food intake, agricultural practices and work load.

Result 3: Increased knowledge, awareness and training of national institutions (mostly Department of Fisheries and universities) and civil society partners in integrated aquaculture and fisheries/agriculture-nutrition linkages approaches.