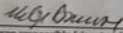


FINAL REPORT DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS

Danish grantee(s)	Agriculture Development Denmark Asia (ADDA)		
Partner organisation(s)	Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development (MIID)		
	Myanmar Organic Growers and Producers Association (MOGPA)		
Title of the intervention	Organic Agriculture for Livelihood Improvement for the Pa-O Ethnic Group, Myanmar (ORGAP2)		
Name and email of contact person	brunse.helge@gmail.com		
Reference number	21-3628-CSP-UI		
Country	Myanmar		
Period of the intervention	1 April 2022 – 29 February 2024		
Total budget	1,998,738.29 DKK	Actual expenditure	2,000,65.50

28.05.2024

Date



Person responsible (signature)

HELGE BRUNSE

Person responsible (in capital letters)

FINAL REPORT

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Total budget	1,998,738.29 DKK	Actual expenditure	2,000,265.50

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1. Overall results

1.1 Summarise (in max. 10 lines) what changes the intervention has contributed to.

- Enhanced farmers' capacities and production. The adoption of climate-smart and organic practices, coupled with training initiatives, significantly increased ginger and chili production and profits.
- Expanded livelihood opportunities and market access. The formation of the Ginger and Chili Producers' Association (GCPA) facilitated collective selling systems and diversified market channels, resulting in premium prices for their high-quality produce and fair access to inputs, thus strengthening rural communities' market viability.
- Empowered women participation. Through Women Saving Groups (WSG), the project empowered women in decision-making processes, provided financial safety nets, promoted entrepreneurial mindsets, and offered secure platforms for interaction, thereby enhancing community cohesion and women's representation in local governance.

1.2 Describe the results achieved for each of the intervention's outcomes (objectives or goals). Use your indicators as a basis for the description.

Outcome	Indicator	Means of verification	Achievements
1. Improved farmers capacities and enhanced production through the adoption of climate smart and organic practices	- 600 farmers (40% women) increase their average agriculture main crop (CSA) production by 20%	- Farming groups registration forms	624 farmers increased production, 47% women
	- Input prices for main crops (CSA) are reduced by 10%	- Training reports and documentation - Production records	Only organic VS conventional: chili 21% reduction, ginger 9% reduction
Outputs	Activities	Target Indicators	Status
1.1 New villages and additional crops are selected	1.1.1 Baseline survey	1 baseline survey conducted	Completed
	1.1.2 Participants selection	600 farmers are selected (300 pilot phase + 300 first phase)	Completed, 624 farmers selected, 47% women
1.2 Farmers increase their knowledge and practices on organic and climate smart farming	1.2.1 Training plan preparation and design of Farmer Field School (FFS)	Training manuals and FFS schedules are prepared	Completed
	1.2.2 Inputs purchase plan organization	20 input purchase plans are prepared	Completed, all 20 plans
	1.2.3 CSA monthly training conduction	1 training per month (16) per 20 villages (tot. 320 sessions)	Completed, 360 sessions
	1.2.4 Seed bank system implementation	20 seed banks are constructed (10 already existing)	20 seedbanks system established
	1.2.5 Post harvest and monitoring solutions	post-harvest solutions in place in each village (20)	Completed
	1.2.6 Exchange visit	1 visit per year (tot. 2) are conducted	1 conducted
1.3 PGS certification process is completed	1.3.1 Design training manual and agenda	1 training manual is developed	Completed
	1.3.2 Conduct 3 steps PGS trainings	3 trainings steps PGS training are conducted	Completed

	1.3.3 Trial monitoring and peer review among PGS groups	1 trial session per year (tot. 2)	Completed
	1.3.4 Issue of the PGS certifications	20 PGS certificates are issued (for 300 PGS farmers, 30 per each village (20))	Completed

The project piloted the introduction of organic and CSA practices in 20 villages in Southern Shan, encompassing Hopong and Hsihseng townships, as the principal strategy to enhance farmers' resilience. This component was led by MIID. Following the selection of participants and target villages (refer to Annex 1 – Initial village survey report), the project focused on promoting updated cultivation techniques for organic ginger and chili, conventional garlic, groundnut and maize. A total of 646 individuals (47% women) from 20 villages completed 360 training sessions (18 per village), conducted using the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach (see Annex 2 - Manuals and guidelines). Seed banks' system and collective selling centers were established in all villages to facilitate seed access for the upcoming cropping season. However, in 7 villages it was not possible to build the infrastructure and household-based seed-saving solutions were preferred due to difficulties in obtaining shared spaces. Post-harvesting and value addition solutions were tested, and participants were trained to provide farmers with better market opportunities for higher-quality products (refer to Annex 3 – Marketing and value addition training report). One exchange visit was conducted with a representation group of 30 farmers to the DoePyiThit Agri-Development company (report attached in Annex 15), it was not possible to have more visits due to government regulations prohibiting the movement of groups of people.

Through collaboration with MOGPA, the project successfully introduced the Participatory Guarantee System to all participating farmers by conducting the 3-step PGS training system and testing peer review as part of their operations. Details of this approach and manuals are provided in Annex 4 - MOGPA reports, Annex 5 PGS farmers.

As a result of the activities, the project has partially achieved its outcome 1 goals. The results are as follows:

- Crop production increased for all crops, ranging between 2% and 31%:

Yields/acre (Kg)	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	% of increase	Notes
<i>Maize conventional</i>	1,256	1,437	1,522	21%	From 2021
<i>Garlic conventional</i>	1,735	1,848	1,765	2%	From 2021
<i>Groundnut conventional</i>	394	424	429	9%	From 2021
<i>Ginger organic</i>		2,240	2,932	31%	From 2022
<i>Chili organic</i>		640	736	15%	From 2022

- Input prices for main crops have not decreased as forecasted in the proposal. This is due to unforeseen circumstances related to civil unrest, which spiked the prices of all inputs due to halted border trading, inflation of the local currency, and transportation difficulties. However, it is notable that: i) the cost of inputs for organic ginger and chili is reduced by 21% and 9%, respectively, compared with conventional methods; ii) the profit margin has significantly increased for all crops.

Full data is provided in Annex 6 and 7 – production records and analysis.

Outcome	Indicator	Means of verification	Status
2. Increased livelihood opportunities and enhanced access to market for rural communities	- Market connection with private sector in place in every village for raw products	- Contracts with private companies	3 contracts (2 Myanmar, 1 Denmark)
	- Value chain for added-value products in pilot villages	- Training reports	Switch to creation of ginger and chili producers association.

	- Increased market value of organic ginger and chili by 10%	- Market survey - Project reports	Achieved
Outputs	Activities	Target Indicators	Status
2.1 Market analysis conducted	2.1.1 Production of market analysis	1 market analysis is conducted	Completed
	2.1.2 Connection with private sector and retailers	1 market connection per each product	Completed
2.2 Post harvest and processing solutions introduced in 5 pilot phase villages	2.2.1 Training for processing ginger techniques	1 batch of trainings per cluster of 5 villages (tot. 4)	Switch to creation of ginger and chili producers association.
	2.2.2 Creation of simple business plan	1 business plan per village (tot. 20)	Switch to creation of ginger and chili producers association.
	2.2.3 Pilot of the ginger value chain for value added products	1 ginger value chain established	
2.3 Contract for selling the production of main crops is in place	2.3.1 Contract definition and transaction in act	1 contract per each village in act (tot.20)	Completed, collective contracts

The production component of the agriculture activities was paired with an economic and marketing development action. The project team worked toward 2 directories: ensuring that the farmers were able to produce a high standard quality production, consistently through time, guaranteeing the volume, and ensuring that the market connections are stable and would value the premium quality with surplus price. Market actors were found and connections were made, unfortunately the export market has been difficult to target as the trade borders were often closed and the whole system went through disruption after the military coup. The strategy the project adopted was to create an association. In November 2022, the project successfully united its farmers within a Ginger and Chili Producers' Association (GCPA), which has achieved official registration – Annex 8 for registration documents.

The primary objectives of this operation are as follows:

- Establishing a collective selling system to ensure standardized quality production.
- Ensuring association members have access to a viable market with equitable prices, reflecting higher value for their quality produce.
- Securing access to quality inputs at fair prices through collective procurement.
- Providing sustained support to the producers.

Through the establishment of the GCPA, the project has facilitated farmers' access to diverse market channels, thereby ensuring the possibility of securing favorable contracts and strengthening their market positioning (sample contracts in annex 9). A significant achievement has been the partnership with the Danish company Warfair, who purchased a sample of Myanmar dry chili and introduced it to the European online market in 2022. The product underwent a full due-diligence in Denmark, which certified the absence of any chemical residue in the final product (warfair.store/collections/myanmar/products/chili). The farmers obtained a premium price in recognition of the produce's quality and discussions for new orders are currently in progress.

Overall, the results for Outcome 2 have been reached in its entirety:

- Market connection was put in place for every village, though the GCPA;
- Value chain for value added ginger products was indeed pursued and achieved through the set-up of the association, which enabled the ginger farmers to access a better market channel;

- The value of organic ginger and chili at the domestic market level was increased as expected with organic chili being valued 8.5% more than the conventional, and organic ginger 10% more. At international level, they were both valued between 50 and 70% more. Costs analysis at Annex 7.

Outcome	Indicator	Means of verification	Status
3. Strengthened women participation in communities' decision-making process	- 24 Women Saving groups are set-up and active	- WSG Letters of agreements	Achieved
	- Every VDC includes women members	- VDC constitution documents - Meeting minutes	Achieved
Outputs	Activities	Target Indicators	Status
3.1 WSGs are formed and active	3.1.1 Selection of participants	747 women are selected	752 women selected
	3.1.2 Training for WSGs capacity building and LoA signing all 24 groups.	24 LoA are signed and training conducted (14 already signed + 10 new LoA)	100%
	3.1.3 Disbursement of capital fund for 10 new WSGs	10 WSGs receive the capital fund (14 already received)	Completed
	3.1.4 Monitoring and update activities	1 monitoring plan per each group is developed (tot.24)	Partially achieved
3.2 Home garden practices improved	3.2.1 Implementation of training for improved home gardens for 20 villages	1 batch of training per each year (2) per village (20) is conducted (tot.40)	Completed
	3.2.2 Connection of home gardens and WSGs for inputs purchasing scheme and selling the production	1 simple home garden cropping schemes per each village (20) is prepared (tot. 20)	Completed
3.3 Women are included in the VDCs	3.3.1 Revision of VDCs plans and organizational structures for 20 villages	20 VDC constitutional documents are updated	Completed

24 Women's Self-Help Groups (WSGs) have been formed and are active in the 20 project villages (refer to Annex 10 – LoA WSGs), with a total participation of 752 women. These groups convene monthly, supporting the villages' livelihood system through loan and credit systems. The capital of each group has increased on average by 87%, peaking at 130% (see Annex 11 – WSGs Financial Monitoring). The capital fund is composed of the project's original fund, the interests on the loans, and the savings of the members, generated from the livelihood activities in which the women are involved, such as the purchase and distribution of home gardening seeds and the rental of agriculture machines (corn thresher) to the farmers to add value to the production.

The project also promoted the creation of women's skills through the introduction of home gardening, providing them with the opportunity to generate extra income and save on food purchasing. This initiative strengthened access to nutritious food during the current crisis period. All home garden owners, totaling over 600 people, 100% women, underwent monthly training and technical assistance. An analysis of the economics of Home Gardens (HGs) is provided in Annex 12.

The final step in strengthening women's roles within the community was their inclusion in the Village Development Committees (VDCs), the steering group responsible for development initiatives in the villages. Following the project's achievements and the increased role of women, it was decided through a series of participative meetings to mandate at least 40% participation of women in each committee. This target was

fully achieved (see Annex 14 for a sample VDC Letter of Agreement, and Annex 15 for the composition of the 20 villages' VDCs).

All of the expected results of outcome 3 were fully achieved.

The project did not pursue outcome 4. The ORGAP approach is promoted to institutional-level stakeholders due to its political sensitivity; this choice was approved by the donor.

1.3 Achievement of objectives

Overall, have you achieved what you wanted with the intervention? (Select one of the answers below)

Did not achieve at all	To a lesser degree than expected	Close to expected	Exactly as expected	Better than expected
		X		

For each of your outcomes (objectives or goals), note in the table below how close you are to fulfilling the objectives (in percent).

	Achievement in %
Achievement of outcome 1	85%
Achievement of outcome 2	90%
Achievement of outcome 3	95%
Achievement of outcome 4	N/A

0-19 %: very low achievement
20-39 %: low achievement
40-59%: medium achievement
60-79%: high achievement
80-100%: very high achievement

1.4 Number of people reached

	Number
Number of persons who have participated in activities	1,376
Number of persons who have been affected by the interventions' activities (besides the persons who have participated directly)	10,654

NB: Please copy the above data into Vores CISU when uploading the report.

1.5 What lasting, sustainable improvements for the target groups have the intervention contributed to?

- The adoption of CS and organic practices has not only increased yields but has also equipped farmers with valuable skills and knowledge. Even after the intervention, farmers continue to employ these practices, ensuring continued productivity gains and environmental sustainability.
- The establishment of the GCPA remains a vital platform for collective selling and market access. By maintaining this association, farmers can still benefit from diversified market channels and premium prices for their produce, ensuring sustained income and market viability.
- The WSGs continue to empower women in decision-making processes and provide them with financial safety nets. The skills gained through home gardening persist beyond the intervention, enabling women to generate extra income and access nutritious food. Additionally, their inclusion in VDCs ensures ongoing representation and influence in local governance.

2. Changes and adjustments

2.1 Describe the most significant contextual challenges, and how these have influenced the intervention. How have you adjusted the intervention to adapt to these challenges?

The social and political situation in Myanmar continued to deteriorate throughout the project implementation, severely impacting its progress. Outcome 4, for instance, had to be suspended entirely due to the growing militarization and the impossibility, not to mention the dangers, of collaborating with the military government. Every project activity demanded extreme caution to avoid raising suspicion and potentially putting the local population at risk.

The economic environment has significantly deteriorated since the inception of the project proposal. Consequently, the project team has opted for a more cautious strategy regarding the agriculture value chain, focusing predominantly on the domestic market. This involves prioritizing actions ensuring quick and secure access to income, promoting short to medium-term goals.

The project's target area remained relatively better off compared to other regions for most of the project duration. However, it continued to be inaccessible to foreigners, forcing external monitoring to rely on indirect methods. Additionally, inflation substantially increased the cost of essential items, materials, project inputs, and transportation. Fear of the ongoing conflict and lack of livelihood opportunities drove many young people to migrate, prompting the project to adjust its target demographics to include a wider age range.

However, in the end of January 2024, armed fighting broke out between the military regime and a loyal Pa-O group on the one hand, and a rival Pa-O group on the other, around southern Shan State where the ORGAP project is located. These clashes forced residents in many villages to flee their homes. Especially it affected one of the two project areas, Hsihseng, where there were fighting with artillery fire and air strikes. The situation in February 2024 was that approximately half of the 20 villages participating in the project were affected by the conflict and MIID decided to move their office away from the conflict area for the safety of staff.

3. Inclusion of target groups

3.1 Fill in the table below. Add your primary target groups in the left column (primary target groups are persons who have participated directly in your activities). Add or delete columns according to how many primary target groups you have had in the intervention. Check the box according to what extent your primary target group(s) have been included in shaping the implementation of the intervention:

	Less degree of inclusion and participation <i>Target groups have been informed about the content of the intervention and their opportunities for participating in activities but have not participated actively in decision-making processes.</i>	Medium degree of inclusion and participation <i>Target groups have been consulted in decision-making processes related to the intervention.</i>	High degree of inclusion and participation <i>Target groups have contributed directly to the further development of the intervention and made decisions in collaboration with the implementing partner(s).</i>	Very high degree of inclusion and participation <i>Target groups have had the power and ownership to make decisions in connection with the implementation of the intervention.</i>
Target group 1 <i>Farmers</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Target group 2 <i>Women</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.2 Describe/explain your answers in 3.1. How have target groups been included in the implementation of the intervention? Have you used any specific methods or approaches? Or why have target groups not been included?

The project actively included target groups in the intervention through a participatory approach. For farmers, this involved selecting crops jointly with the project managers, ensuring a sense of ownership and buy-in. Training methods like farmer field schools emphasized "seeing is believing," allowing participants to adopt practices they found meaningful. The decision to form an association, crucial for market protection, was reached only after thorough discussion and consensus with the farmers. Women's empowerment was fostered by building upon their traditional roles and raising local awareness of their importance within the social structure. Furthermore, the project employed a significant number of local people, either with extensive experience in the area or from the project villages themselves. This local workforce ensured a strong cultural connection and deep understanding of the target communities.

4. The partnership

4.1 How would you assess that decisions have been made in relation to the implementation of the intervention? Please fill in the table below:

Decisions	Choose the description that best suits your partnership	Describe/explain your choice <i>Explain more about your relations in the partnership. How have you discussed the implementation of the intervention throughout implementation, and how have you made decisions?</i>
Decisions have primarily been made by the Danish organisation and local partner(s) have been informed about the decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	
The local partner(s) have been consulted before a decision has been made by the Danish organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Decisions have been made jointly in the partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The partners met bi-weekly, occasionally increasing the frequency as required. These discussions formed the basis of the overall strategic approach. Day-to-day operations were overseen by the local partners to ensure seamless implementation. Reports were produced semi-annually, with written updates compiled more often. Financial reporting accompanied each funding request submitted by the local partner. On two occasions ADDA visited Myanmar, engaging directly with the project team to discuss approaches, methodologies, and strategies.
Decisions have primarily been made by the local partner(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Decisions have been fully made by the local partner(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

4.2 Describe how the partners (and other actors, if relevant) have been strengthened through the intervention.

The intervention has strengthened partners MIID and MOGPA in several ways. ORGAP's successful approach is being adopted in the second phase, ORGAP-2, allowing them to leverage their expertise for even greater

impact. Their work with ORGAP has inspired similar projects in other regions, demonstrating their capabilities and potentially leading to future collaborations. Importantly, ADDA's continued presence alongside MIID and MOGPA during challenging times strengthens their ability to operate effectively in difficult environments. Finally, the focus on development actions over purely humanitarian support equips the partners with the skills to address long-term challenges and create sustainable solutions for communities in Myanmar.

5. Lessons learned

5.1 How have you received feedback from target groups and collected experiences and results throughout the intervention? Describe the methods and tools you have used. What strengths and weaknesses have your way of monitoring had?

A number of tools were used to monitor activities and evaluate their impact. Production activities were monitored through sample reports, direct observation of marketing activities, and peer-to-peer review following PGS standards to ensure production quality. Farm leaders provided valuable information and will transition to Village Extension Officers (VEOs) in ORGAP-2. Women's empowerment was monitored through participation in meetings, separate gendered sessions, and observation. The economic component relied on cashbooks and observation. The strength of this monitoring system lies in its direct involvement with target groups, providing constant first-hand data and a clear picture of the situation. However, due to limited access for foreigners, most data collection is done indirectly through local staff from the partners' organizations. Some information are corroborated with objective data (e.g., produce quality, income, cash books), it would however strengthen the evaluation and the reflection on the lesson learned having foreigner accessing the project area.

5.2 What are the most important lessons learned? What advice would you give yourselves if you were to implement the intervention again?

Strong partnerships with local organizations like MIID and MOGPA proved essential. Local staff provided valuable information and facilitated interaction with target groups, allowing the project to gather consistent firsthand data despite limitations on direct access for foreigners. This experience highlights the importance of building strong local partnerships for effective data collection in challenging environments. However, relying on local staff for information also presents a challenge. While their insights are invaluable, indirect data collection can be susceptible to potential biases or inaccuracies. To address this, the ORGAP-2 prioritized strengthening the capacity of local beneficiaries, particularly those transitioning to Village Extension Officers (VEOs) in ORGAP-2. By providing them with additional training in data collection and analysis techniques, the project can ensure the future reliability and quality of information gathered. Finally, when feasible and within safety and security protocols, exploring alternative access strategies to the project area for project foreign personnel should be considered. Direct interaction with target groups would offer even richer data and a deeper understanding of the project's impact on the ground. These considerations have been included in the design of the second phase of ORGAP.

6. Information work in Denmark

This section only applies if intervention related information work in Denmark has been budgeted for.

News and information to the public, ADDAs members and projects about the ORGAP 2, has not been budgeted for. However, it is mentioned here, that ADDAs news magazine 'News&Views' has been distributed to all ADDAs members, projects, embassies and others (2 times annually) as well as ADDAs monthly News Letter, which is describing in some detail ADDAs project activities in ADDAs project countries.

7. Follow-up

This section only applies if CISU has carried out a monitoring visit to the Danish and/or partner(s), if the letter of approval contained specific advice or if the organisation did not comply with CISU's requirements to financial management at the time of application.

N/A