



## PRESS RELEASE

### State and Regional Consultation for The National Aquaculture Development Plan (NADP)

YANGON, Myanmar, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018

The Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD), in association with the Myanmar Sustainable Aquaculture Programme (MYSAP), The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI) and The Department of Fisheries (DOF), is organising the final event in a series of state and regional aquaculture-sector consultations. The objective of these consultations is to gather vital feedback from key stakeholders for the development of the National Aquaculture Development Plan (NADP). The Centre for Economic and Social Development (CESD) is currently drafting the NADP under the auspices of the MYSAP steering committee, chaired by H.E U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister of The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI), with additional members representing other relevant ministries. The series of consultations is a part of CESD's engagement with the MYSAP programme, which is implemented by GIZ Myanmar with funding from the European Union and the German Government.

This series of consultations acknowledges the importance of gaining feedback from ground-level stakeholders from different states and regions to ensure that as many inputs as possible are heard during the development of the NADP. The NADP will align with Myanmar's Sustainable Development Plan (2017-2022), National Export Strategy (2016-2019), Agriculture Development Strategy (2017-2022) and Investment Plan (2018-2023), Multi-Sector National Plan of Action for Nutrition (MS-NPAN) and Aid Coordination. The NADP will adhere to key principles of advocating for equitable social development, sustainable economic development, as well as ecological health and biodiversity. Yangon represents a key area in the aquaculture sector and is directly involved in production, consumption and export of aquaculture related products. Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein expressed commitment to aquaculture, stating that *"Yangon Region will emphasise the development of the fishery sector with a view to increase the Gross Domestic Product growth rate... fish farming is likely to help grow GDP in a short time."*

Participants at the consultation will include representatives of Yangon Regional government, executives of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF), The Counsellor and Head of Development Cooperation of the German Embassy, Deputy Head of Development Cooperation of the European Union, official representatives from the European Delegation to the Union of Myanmar, the German Embassy, as well as representatives from DOF and MYSAP. Additional key stakeholders will include civil society organisations, academic institutions, private sector associations, and





development partners working in aquaculture. The series of consultations will also host discussion groups on key topics related to aquaculture.

## Background

Prior to this event, CESD undertook independent consultations with MYSAP and DOF, conducted desk reviews of aquaculture strategies from neighbouring countries, and performed in-country assessments to gather information that spanned the entire aquaculture value chain. The consultations have provided additional information in the development of the NADP, providing an opportunity for key stakeholders to give necessary feedback on the process. Previous workshops were held in Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Taunggyi, while the culmination of the series will occur in Yangon. The completion of the state and regional consultation process marks one of the final processes in the development of the NADP. The dissemination of the draft NADP will occur in 2019.

## NADP Objectives

Myanmar is located in a rising global fish demand zone for both processing and final consumption and has relatively rich land, water, and coastal resources, as well as a diversity of agro-climatic conditions. The plan takes inspiration from the FAO guidelines, presenting a clearly spelled out qualitative and quantified objectives, with programs, activities, resources and scheduling required to achieve them. The NADP will place an emphasis on the agriculture transformation agenda with aquaculture development as one of its main drivers. Therefore, the NADP will pursue the following goals:

- Upgrading the entire value-chain through quality infrastructure, as well as linking global markets and local service corridors. In turn, this will coincide with a shift in the Myanmar aquaculture sector from a supply-driven to a market-driven outlook.
- Consideration of regulatory frameworks: aquaculture laws, land use governance and sub-national harmonisation. Promotion of investment and project financing, as well as institutional capacity building and organisational development will be central themes in the NADP.
- Advocacy for job creation and decent work opportunities, especially for women and people in rural areas. Through this approach, an inclusive policy framework will be further pursued.





- Utilising aquaculture to address food and nutrition security in different regions of Myanmar through a comprehensive, long-term development strategy. Education and training will be of primary importance to the NADP to achieve this goal.
- Sustainable development, ecological health and bio-diversity are essential for the implementation of the NADP. Fish disease control, bio-security, revised environmental standards, consideration of climate resilience and disaster preparedness are important for the long-term sustainability of the program and sector.

**The Centre for Economic and Social Development** is an independent and non-political Myanmar think tank advocating evidence-based policymaking. The CESD undertakes public policy research in macroeconomic reform, labour and social policy, food security/rural development, and governance.

**The Myanmar Sustainable Aquaculture Program** is jointly implemented by the Myanmar DOF and GIZ, and jointly funded by the European Union and Germany. The programme works with all members of aquaculture value chains, including small and medium enterprises, governmental and non-governmental organisations, private sector associations, academia, and other stakeholders.

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