

A wide, flat green field, likely a rice paddy, stretches across the foreground and middle ground. The field is lush and green, with some darker patches of soil or water visible. In the distance, there is a line of trees and a small figure of a person walking. The sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds, and the overall atmosphere is bright and open.

The Life We Lived

**A Research on Land Confiscation and Livelihood Strategies of Farmers
in the Ayeyarwady Region, Myanmar**

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Research Focus

- How does land confiscation affect the livelihoods strategies of farmers in the Ayeyarwady region in Myanmar?

Myanmar: a Country in Transition

- ❑ Decades of military junta
- ❑ Roadmap to democracy presented in 2008
- ❑ New government in 2011 and major win of NLD in 2015



Myanmar: a Country in Transition

“We understood that the government needed to go, but we did not understand that society also needed to change. After the revolution, we thought we would all be free to pursue our own interests and dreams. [...] we understand that we need to take part in the transition, but we do not know what role to play” [...] Please understand how life was for us. Since birth, all we ever heard from authorities were commands—do’s and don’ts. They even told us when we could cook and when we could not. [...] There were no opportunities, only punishments. As a result, people rarely asked questions”.
(Naing, 2012 p. 136-137)

Agriculture and Development in Myanmar

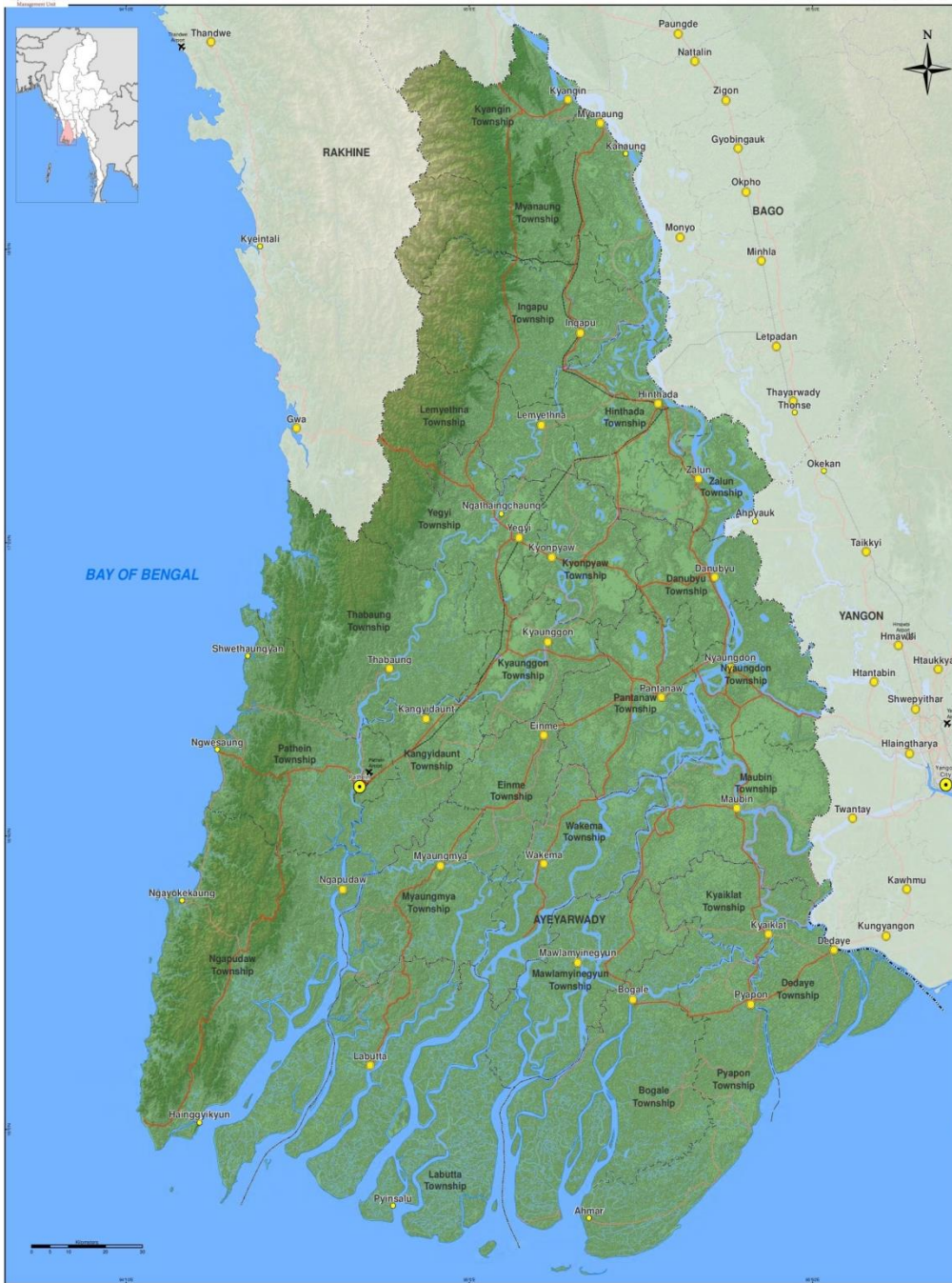
- Agriculture is a major economic sector
- From rice bowl to very low rural productivity
 - ▣ Current: Low productivity and insufficient earnings
- Policy for large-scale land development and resource-extractive economy

Land Tenure in Myanmar

- ❑ Land ultimately owned by the state
- ❑ Multi-layered law and regulation system on land tenure
- Stacked Law situation creating a variation in law implementation and enforcement.
- ❑ Troublesome legal enforcement
- ❑ Many cases of land confiscation between 1988 and 2008

Kangyidaung and Pantanaw

- Two townships in the delta region: Ayeyarwady
- Between 1997 and 1999 land has been confiscated
- No compensation or prior information



Map ID: MIMU040v02
 Creation Date: 3 July 2015 A1
 Projection/Datum: Geographic/WGS84
 Email - info.mimu@undp.org
 www.themimu.info

Capital	Airports	Township Boundary	4-50	50-100	100-250	250-500	500-750	750-1,000	1,000-1,250	1,250-1,500	1,500-1,750	1,750-2,000	2,000-2,250	2,250-2,500	2,500-2,750	2,750-3,000	3,000-3,250	3,250-3,500	
State Capital	Major Road	District Boundary	3,500-3,750	3,750-4,000	4,000-4,250	4,250-4,500	4,500-4,750	4,750-5,000	5,000-5,250	5,250-5,500	5,500-5,750	5,750-6,000	6,000-6,250	6,250-6,500	6,500-6,750	6,750-7,000	7,000-7,250	7,250-7,500	7,500-7,750
Main Town	Other Road	State Region Boundary	7,750-8,000	8,000-8,250	8,250-8,500	8,500-8,750	8,750-9,000	9,000-9,250	9,250-9,500	9,500-9,750	9,750-10,000	10,000-10,250	10,250-10,500	10,500-10,750	10,750-11,000	11,000-11,250	11,250-11,500	11,500-11,750	11,750-12,000
Sub-Township	Railway	International Boundary	12,000-12,250	12,250-12,500	12,500-12,750	12,750-13,000	13,000-13,250	13,250-13,500	13,500-13,750	13,750-14,000	14,000-14,250	14,250-14,500	14,500-14,750	14,750-15,000	15,000-15,250	15,250-15,500	15,500-15,750	15,750-16,000	16,000-16,250
River and Stream	Water Body	National Boundary	16,250-16,500	16,500-16,750	16,750-17,000	17,000-17,250	17,250-17,500	17,500-17,750	17,750-18,000	18,000-18,250	18,250-18,500	18,500-18,750	18,750-19,000	19,000-19,250	19,250-19,500	19,500-19,750	19,750-20,000	20,000-20,250	20,250-20,500

Data Sources:
 Base Map - MIMU
 Boundaries - WFP/MIMU
 River and Stream - DCW
 Elevation - SRTM 90m
 Place names - Ministry of Home Affairs (GAD) translated by MIMU

Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU) is a common resource of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) providing information management services, including GIS mapping and analysis, to the humanitarian and development actors both inside and outside of Myanmar.

Farmers Livelihoods after Confiscation

- Diversification, migration and dependancy
 - “*We do not feel satisfied. [...] We do not have our own life choices*”. (Personal communication, 27-08-2016)
 - Three groups:
 - ▣ Still landless farmers
 - ▣ Farmers that kept some land or regain some land as compensation
 - ▣ Farmers that could buy new plots of land
- Social/economic status is the main determinant whether the livelihoods of the farmers are successful

How can land administration protect, restore and promote sustainable use of land whilst building inclusive societies and reducing inequality?

Or better what are the main reasons for the lack of the sustainable use of land and an inclusive society and the presents of inequality in this case?

- Current power relations & inability to question the power in place
- Stacked laws and complex legal framework
- Insecurity
- Lacking and unclear policy

Questions?

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Share Mercy

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