

# Integrated Community-based Early Recovery Framework

## Agriculture



Myanmar

### ...Needs

Farmers continue to struggle to recover from losses incurred as a result of Cyclone Nargis. Only a very small percentage of draft animals lost during the cyclone have been replaced. So far, UNDP was able to provide over 300 pairs of buffalos to small farmers groups, and nearly 1,000 power tillers. Nonetheless, an estimated 20% of the cultivable area was unable to be cropped. This was also a consequence of the lack of credit available to purchase inputs and pay for labor. UNDP provided both inputs and cash for work for paddy planting. There is nearly no surplus capacity remaining in the local and household economy. This year, rice fields damaged by rats and crabs were mostly unable to be replanted since farmers had used all available resources to plant their crop initially. Late planting due to insufficient tillage capacity has made newly emerging seedlings vulnerable to heavy mid-season monsoon season rains which have apparently damaged or destroyed approximately 30 percent of the crop planted after August 2009 – a land area amounting to about 20 percent of the total available cultivable area of the delta. Farmers continue to live on the edge, and this year's monsoon harvest prospects do not seem at this point to be a source for confidence that the dramatic improvements that are required will have been achieved in 2009. A prodigious amount of inputs and work will be required in forthcoming seasons to rehabilitate the productive capacity of Myanmar's rice bowl.



### ...Activities

As part of the ongoing support for restoring agricultural production, a number of key activities have continued from 2008 and are being implemented in 2009.

- . Provision of seeds, tillers buffalos fuel, fertilizers, pesticides, sprayers, farm tools, water pumps, threshers and efficient stove.
- . Provision of livestock (ducks, poultry, and pigs as part of a household package of support) and animal vaccination.

- . Provision of technical inputs and support to farmers and fishing communities.
- . Demonstration for seasonal paddy and vegetable cultivation, compost making, homestead gardening, fishery and crab fattening.

### ...Outcomes

Grants and in-kind provision of agricultural input supports for the poorest and most vulnerable members of the Nargis affected communities have helped thousands of families to begin on the road to recovery of their prior productive and income generating capacity. In many cases, profits resulting from activities undertaken with assistance provided by UNDP have been re-invested to grow and diversify family enterprises, and to contributing to meeting basic household needs for food, shelter, clothing, medical care and education.

Small scale farmers have been enabled to cultivate most of their land with the help of input supports. Since landless villagers are largely dependent upon farmers to provide them with cash for work during the cultivation season, enabling farmers to plant their land has directly benefited the landless laborers who have been hired to assist in crop planting and husbandry. Enabling large scale recovery of cultivation capacity will continue to have benefits toward the end of 2009 when labor will need to be employed for crop harvest. Provision of threshing equipment will help to allay problems which occurred during 2008 harvest season when much of the crop was unable to be threshed resulting in significant post harvest losses. UNDP has provided pumping equipment to more than 100 villages where availability of freshwater from streams for some or all of the winter season makes winter season irrigated cropping feasible. This will have an overall impact on annual agricultural production, while also enabling hire of landless laborers to assist with field preparation, planting, tending and harvesting of winter season crops.

### Objectives

To reduce food insecurity over the next twelve months through early recovery support to 750 villages.

**Beneficiaries:** Most vulnerable households in 750 villages in cyclone-affected areas.

**Partners:** FAO, NGOs, CBOs

**Total Budget for 12 months:** US \$6,999,920

**Funds required:** US \$6,021,547

**Funds committed:** US \$978,373

**Donors:** Norway

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