



Centre on Integrated
Rural Development for
Asia and the Pacific
(CIRDAP)



MYANMAR

The second celebration of

WORLD RURAL DEVELOPMENT DAY 2026

(July 6)

✦ SPECIAL EDITION OF CIRDAP ✦

EMPOWERING RURAL COMMUNITIES,
BRIDGING DIVIDES, AND BUILDING
A PROSPEROUS MYANMAR FOR ALL

✦ THEME 2026 ✦

“Toward Vibrant,
Prosperous and Happy
Rural Communities”



H.E. U Myo Zaw Thein

Union Minister
Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar



INCLUSIVE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT



POVERTY GRADUATION
& LIVELIHOOD SECURITY



GREEN & SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE



PARTNERSHIP FOR
RURAL PROSPERITY

Empowering Rural Communities, Bridging Divides, and Building a Prosperous Myanmar for All

H.E U Myo Zaw Thein, Union Minister
Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

On the auspicious occasion of World Rural Development Day 2026, I deem it a profound privilege to convey my warmest greetings to the international community and esteemed fellow member nations of CIRDAP. Representing the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the highest policy level, I reaffirm our sovereign commitment to regional solidarity and strategic policy alignment as the vital mechanisms to transform collective political resolve into permanent, structural poverty eradication.

This year's global initiative, "**Towards Vibrant, Prosperous and Happy Rural Communities**," marks an essential paradigm shift in state-level governance and ministerial oversight. True national progress cannot be measured solely by physical asset delivery or basic macroeconomic indices. True peace, stability, and shared prosperity are achieved only when development empowers rural communities as primary growth drivers rather than passive beneficiaries, securing genuine human dignity, social cohesion, and well-being. Achieving this sovereign vision requires transforming structural equity into community-led economic autonomy. State-led investments must empower smallholder producers, guarantee direct local management over essential rural infrastructure, and structurally integrate localized production networks into regional market value chains.

With approximately 70 percent of Myanmar's population residing in rural areas, rural transformation sits at the absolute heart of our nation-building agenda. Social equity is more than a policy objective; it is the cornerstone of our administration's mandate to ensure that every citizen possesses equal access to essential services and economic opportunities.

In alignment with institutional best practices, the Myanmar Rural Development Strategic Framework executes integrated operations across **five mutually reinforcing activities** designed to narrow the rural-urban divide: enhancing rural transport connectivity and expanding solar energy access, ensuring access to safe and secure water supplies for all rural communities, uplifting the standards and quality of rural education, strengthening rural healthcare services and infrastructure to promote community well-being, and accelerating rural economic development by revitalizing the cooperative system as a modern engine for economic inclusion. Through a systematic group formation and product selection methodology, this framework effectively transitions smallholders from subsistence to commercial success.

To operationalize these models, the Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development deploys its core development programs through its flagship SMART Village Project across states and regions. This cohesive framework integrates our strategic pillars across six cores mutually reinforcing sectors:

infrastructure, financial inputs, livelihood enhancement, institutional capacity building, social protection, and environmental conservation. By integrating this model with our data-driven Village Development Planning (VDP) Programme, we drive community-led participatory rural development and foster sustainable, community-managed activities. This transparent, bottom-up framework eliminates top-down planning misalignments and ensures complete administrative accountability.

The complex challenges of rural poverty eradication and climate adaptation cannot be solved by any nation operating in isolation. Within our borders, Myanmar is actively pioneering area-focused integrated rural development projects to address these issues. To scale these efforts, we welcome strategic collaborations and stand ready to work hand-in-hand with international partners to achieve sustainable global development.

In strict alignment with this year's theme, "**Towards Vibrant, Prosperous and Happy Rural Communities**," Myanmar will continue to implement targeted village development project activities with renewed momentum. I extend my warmest wishes for the shared prosperity, resilience, and happiness of all rural communities across the Asia-Pacific region.