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Towards Vibrant,
Prosperous and Happy
Rural Communities

From Village Voices to National Progress:
The Pathway to a Resilient and
Prosperous Myanmar



Myo Naing Aung

Acting Director General

Department of Rural Development
Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development
Myanmar



Zarni Minn, Ph.D.

Director

Department of Rural Development
Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development
Myanmar



INCLUSIVE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT



POVERTY GRADUATION
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GREEN & SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURE



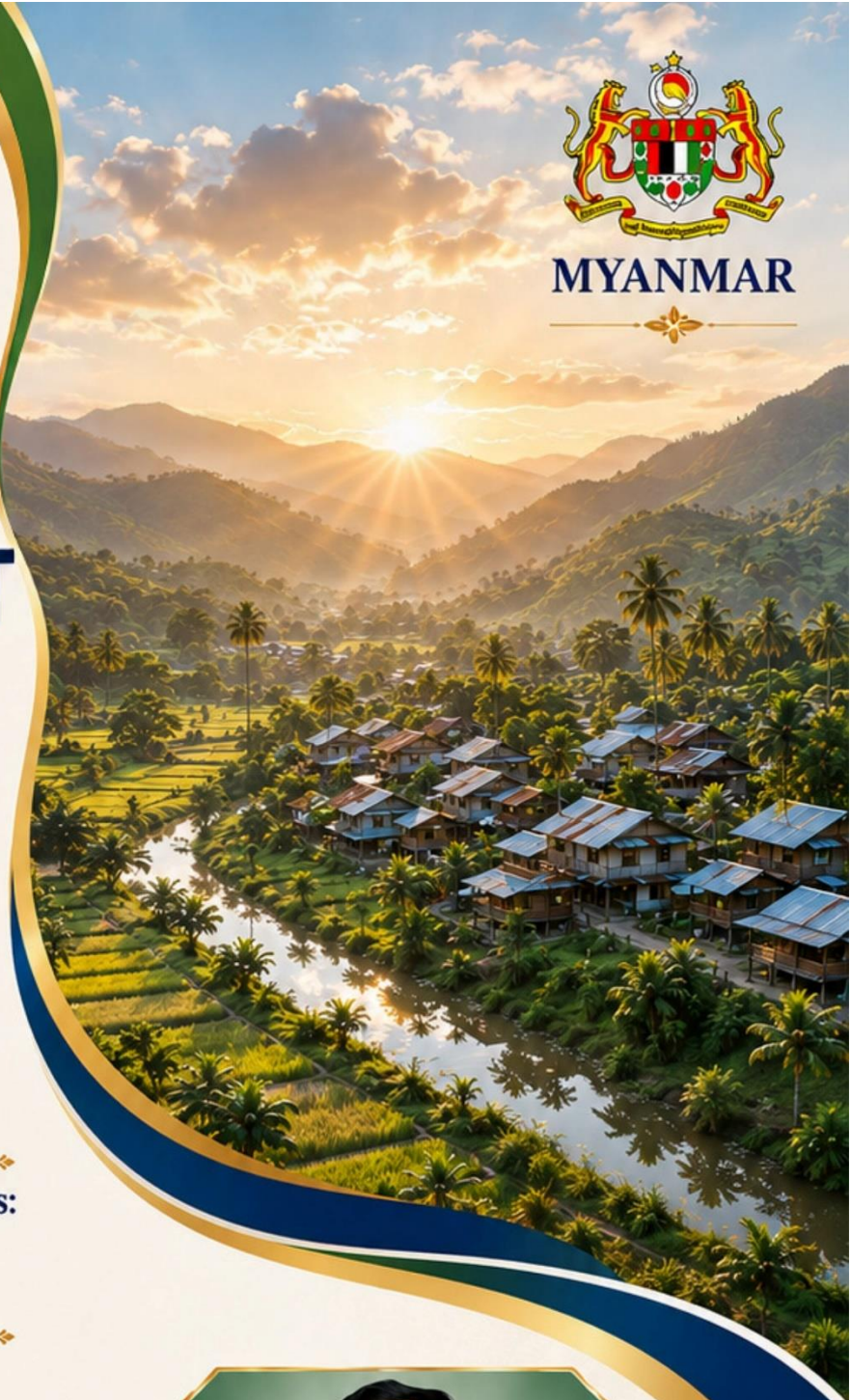
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RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE
& CONNECTIVITY



MYANMAR



From Village Voices to National Progress: The Pathway to a Resilient and Prosperous Myanmar

*By Myo Naing Aung, Acting (Director General), & Zarni Minn, Ph.D, (Director)
Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development,
Myanmar*

As the global community unites to commemorate World Rural Development Day 2026, the Dept. of Rural Development (DRD) extend its warmest greetings to our regional partners, frontline development administrators, and the resilient rural communities across the Asia-Pacific. It is our professional privilege to present this comprehensive technical overview detailing Myanmar's strategic actions toward inclusive, resilient, and integrated rural transformation. As an active and deeply engaged member state of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), Myanmar remains steadfast in aligning our national rural engineering and planning codes with regional technical criteria, recognizing that shared knowledge and harmonized implementation are essential to driving sustainable socio-economic development and structural poverty eradication.



This year, our collective regional focus marks a critical paradigm shift in how we approach rural development. We deeply recognize that sustainable rural transformation

extends far beyond passive infrastructure delivery or basic macroeconomic growth indices. True development must culminate in a holistic elevation of human dignity—fostering environments where communities are socially dynamic, economically self-reliant, and fully empowered to shape their own destinies. By equipping smallholder farmers with collective bargaining power, advancing community-led resource management, and structurally integrating local institutions into regional value chains, we are laying the essential foundation for rural ecosystems to achieve long-term resilience and profound well-being.



Translating this overarching regional vision into tangible reality is of paramount importance for Myanmar. With approximately 70 percent of our population residing in rural areas, our national priorities directly intersect with these broader developmental paradigms. Under the technical guidance of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, the Department of Rural Development (DRD) has thoroughly updated our national operational frameworks to integrate

engineered responses to emerging climate vulnerabilities, shifting agrarian demographics, and macroeconomic trends affecting the wider Asia-Pacific region.

In alignment with these regional best practices, the Myanmar Rural Development Strategic Framework structures its field operations across five distinct, mutually reinforcing pillars. Executed as core mandates of the DRD, these pillars are designed to bridge the rural-urban development gap through people-centered interventions:



- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Accelerating rural economic development.

To effectively translate these high-level frameworks into localized field actions, the DRD deploys rigorous institutional methodologies. Central to this operational architecture is the Village Development Planning (VDP) process, a participatory bottom-up model executed annually across thousands of villages nationwide. Using data-driven targeting matrices and localized indices, the VDP systematically identifies vulnerabilities and optimizes resource allocation, ensuring that developmental capital directly addresses the felt needs of our communities.



Building seamlessly upon these grassroots planning outcomes, DRD personnel engage directly with rural networks to build tangible community assets. These frontline operations encompass the construction of all-weather rural roads, the installation of multi-tiered community water purification systems, and the scaling of localized renewable energy through Solar Home Systems and community Mini-Grids. Furthermore, we actively drive agricultural productivity via solar-powered irrigation and unlock local economic potential through low-interest revolving livelihood loans, mechanical training, and digital literacy programs for village entrepreneurs.

To institutionalize these diverse, multi-sectoral interventions and pave the way for future regional frameworks, Myanmar has strategically scaled up the SMART Village Project. Managed directly by the DRD, this five-year initiative currently serves as an operational pilot across 128 villages spanning 104 townships in all states and regions. This ambitious framework integrates our foundational pillars into a unified, tech-enabled ecosystem encompassing six key sectors: Rural Infrastructure Development, Inputs and Financial Services, Livelihood Enhancement, Institutional Capacity Building, Social Protection, and Environmental Conservation.

While localized initiatives like the SMART Village Project demonstrate the effectiveness of integrated development, we recognize that the macro-level technical

challenges of rural poverty eradication and climate adaptation cannot be solved in isolation. Navigating multifaceted challenges such as geographic remoteness and severe climate shocks demands coordinated, transnational action. Moving away from scattered interventions, our real-world field applications reinforce the efficiency of area-focused integrated projects that target entire geographic clusters simultaneously, applying infrastructure and economic structures in a coordinated fashion to achieve lasting impacts.



Executing these area-focused, multi-sectoral projects naturally entails substantial investment requirements. To bridge our critical resource gaps, our forward-looking resource mobilization strategy focuses on fostering dynamic multi-stakeholder partnerships. By merging public resources, private sector innovation, and community equity, we aim to scale up climate-resilient rural markets. The continued, robust support of international development partners, donor agencies, and regional bodies remains absolutely vital to sustaining this collaborative architecture.

As we look out across the horizon of 2026 and beyond, the path forward demands steadfast administrative commitment, sound engineering practices, and transparent fiscal governance. We remain dedicated to continually updating our data-driven targeting matrices, strengthening field-level monitoring, and supporting our village cooperatives as modern business enterprises. This publication stands as both a record of technical progress and an operational roadmap for the collaborative years ahead.

World Rural Development Day is a poignant reminder that the true strength of a nation does not reside solely within its urban centers, but within the resilience, resourcefulness, and dignity of the millions who call our villages home. In honoring our frontline personnel and deepening our regional partnerships, we are resolutely committed to maintaining our strategic focus and expanding our field operations. By actively aligning our future engineering frameworks and administrative initiatives with this year's profoundly important theme, **"Towards Vibrant, Prosperous and Happy Rural Communities,"** we will ensure that every effort we undertake translates this regional vision into tangible, everyday realities for all rural citizens.