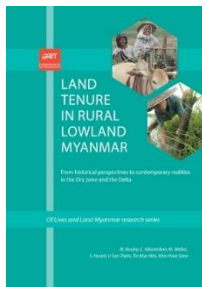


## **GRET releases a must-have book on land tenure in rural lowlands in Myanmar**

**Yangon, 26 September 2017.** A rare and compelling piece of in-depth research on land tenure in Myanmar's Ayeyarwaddy Delta and Dry Zone will be launched on October 3rd by GRET, an international development NGO working in Myanmar since 1995.



The book, entitled "*Land tenure in rural lowland Myanmar – From historical perspectives to contemporary realities in the Dry Zone and the Delta*", is being published following extensive research conducted over more than one year.

The book presents its findings through vivid accounts of farmers' day-to-day land issues. The qualitative interviews and quantitative surveys explore questions such as: what have been the impacts of land reforms on farmers' lives? How do rural families struggle to access lands? Who should be prioritised in future reforms and land allocations? What are the key causes of land insecurity and exclusion and how can these be addressed? How do small farmers contribute to Myanmar's agriculture?

Celine Allaverdian, GRET project manager, explains that the book is a must-read for anyone reflecting on Myanmar's political transition and its effects on the lives of people living in rural areas. "*The conclusions of this research are essential for current dialogue on policies, including high stakes for current land reform processes such as the revision of the Farmland Law,*" Ms Céline Allaverdian says.

GRET receives funding from the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT), a multi-donor fund working in Myanmar since 2010 to address food insecurity and income poverty. LIFT's Fund Director Katy Webley reports the research is particularly valuable for understanding how land tenure issues and policy in the pre-colonial and colonial periods shaped Myanmar's agrarian system. "*Without understanding the underlying issues and problems farmers have been facing in the past and now, it is hard to create and develop an enabling environment for farmers and the landless. The research is also very useful for its detailed analysis of livelihoods and how they are linked to land ownership in the Delta and Dry Zone*", Ms Webley says.

The GRET project, funded by LIFT, is entitled "Understanding rural land issues to engage in comprehensive policy dialogue in Myanmar". Since 2013, GRET has been conducting in-depth, socio-anthropological research on land and livelihood dynamics in various regions of Myanmar to produce a series of studies presenting a rigorous analysis of how people from various regions shape land relations in a rapidly changing social, economic and political context. "*The research seeks to provide insights to inform policy dialogue and law formulation processes, in a constructive way*", GRET lead researcher Maxime Boutry says.

### **About**

Founded in 1976, **GRET** is an international development NGO working to combat poverty and inequalities by providing appropriate, sustainable responses to disadvantaged populations. Working in Myanmar since



1995, GRET is implementing activities in agriculture, land, water & sanitation and microfinance in the Delta and Dry Zone regions, as well as in Chin state.

**The Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT)** is a multi-donor trust fund that improves the lives and prospects of poor people living in rural areas in Myanmar, with generous contributions from the United Kingdom, the European Union, Australia, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland, Sweden, and the United States of America. The Mitsubishi Corporation is a private sector donor.

This book is available freely upon request. A summary of the book is also available in Burmese.

To download the book (after the 3rd October):

<http://www.gret.org/publication/land-tenure-in-rural-lowland-myanmar/?lang=en>

(In English only).

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