



# Delta Program

## Rural Development in Ayeyarwaddy Delta, Myanmar

### Program Snapshot

Ayeyarwaddy Delta is a 3.5 million hectares region of mangrove where agriculture is the main source of income for 80% of the population. Known as the "Myanmar rice bowl", the Delta covered 50% of the national rice production until 2008 when the cyclone Nargis severely and simultaneously destroyed the economic and productive systems of the region. After the cyclone, several GRET projects were successively implemented in Bogale and Mawlamyinegyun townships, evolving from a post emergency to a long term development approach. The current program combines 4 projects :

- > Delta RISE in consortium with Welthungerhilfe (LIFT) aiming at offering diversified opportunities for economic growth of rural households.
- > MyCulture in partnership with WorldFish (LIFT) for development and dissemination of innovative small scale aquaculture system.
- > Promoting innovative irrigation techniques (Foundation Louis Dreyfus) for horticulture production and marketing improvements.
- > FIDEL (multi funding) aiming at creation of a member based financial organization.

### Approaches

- > A **complementary approach** to support food and income generation for both farmers and landless.
- > **Farmers to Farmers extension** to focus on capacity building and experience sharing.
- > **Participative and self management** for Community based organizations for sustainable ownership.
- > **Agroecology** promotion for agriculture to develop sustainable and safe production system.

Producers Organization Workshop



### Objectives

To contribute to improvement of livelihood security , economic development and local governance in Delta by:

- Empowering the rural households through knowledge and skills building.
- Supporting the emergence and strengthening CBO to sustainably provide appropriate services for rural communities.
- Facilitating experience sharing and networking of rural development stakeholders.

### In Few Figures

- Period : 2015-2018.
- 66 villages, ~3500 households in 2 townships.
- 35 Community based organizations.
- 38 t/year of certified quality rice seed produced.
- Over 2000 loans provided.

Ducklings management Demo Farm



## Extension and Advisory Services

The program supports **development and dissemination of improved and innovative practices** to increase productivity, quality and diversity of rice, vegetable, fish, duck and pig production. Cross cutting topics such as Farm and business management (with Management Advice for Family Farm) and Marketing were developed and integrated to others activities, **allowing rural households to take appropriate decisions by themselves**. A complementary Nutrition Awareness campaign will be done in 2016 to **sensitize households on their production and consumption practices**.

## Producers CBO

As collective actions are more effective to solve usual challenges of the rice value chain, the program supports **Producers Organizations (PO) based on cooperative model**. These PO are offering many services to their members such as inputs purchase, credits, storage facilities, collective sales...

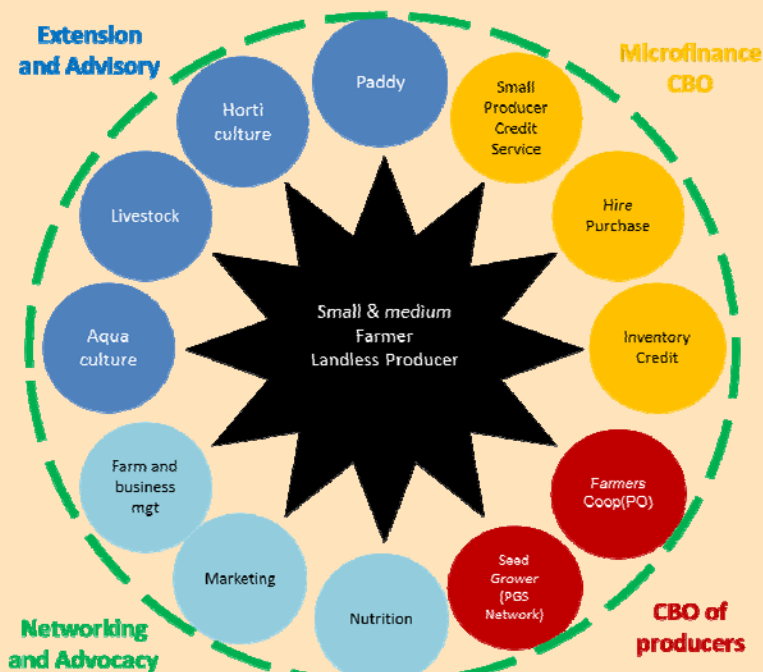
To answer to the specific need of rice quality seed barely covered by the formal sector, GRET first **build technical skills of seed growers** to reach quality production standards and then adapted Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) to have a **certification process** independent of formal administrative ways. The challenge now is to extend PGS Network so it can **ensure long term supply of local quality seed**.

## Microfinance CBO

In order to face the lack of affordable financial services, three **products adapted to farmers needs** were developed:

- > IC loan using paddy stock as collateral.
- > HP leasing system to access equipment .
- > SPCS seasonal loan for landless.

A panel of activities organized around four components



Building on its innovative decentralized system, GRET is now under process of **creating an independent and sustainable local structure** (community based financial institution) to ensure effective service delivery on the long term.

## Networking and advocacy

Coordination of development actors is done at two complementary level :

- > At **communities level** through empowerment and experience sharing of leaders and support to voice out with a **Farmers' Gazette**.
- > At **stakeholders level** through the coordination of the **Delta Livelihood Network** that will implement sharing and learning events and joint advocacy actions.

Compost making for soil fertility management



Access to equipment with Hire purchase



Vegetable demonstration farmer



Photos: © GRET

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