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| Network Activiteis Group |
| Research Results Sharing Workshop |
| Workshop Report |
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| **NAG** |
| **12/26/2019** |

**MYR 003**

Purpose: Stakeholder Reseach Findings Sharing Workshop

Place: MYANMA KOE Hotel, Pathein

Date: 23rd December, 2019

## Introduction

Research Results Sharing Workshop was conducted with a total of 29 participants (M 25, F 4) on 23rd December at MYANMA KOE Hotel, Pathein township. In the workshop, U Thant Zin Phyo (Senior Program Officer) and Daw Wint War Lwin (Research Officer) presented and shared the research findings was undertaken by NAG Research Team in which Kyar Phaung Survey findings, Political Economy Analysis workshops’ findings and Fishery stakeholder workshop findings to the members from Ayeyarwaddy Region Fishery Network and Fisher Development Associations from different townships of Ayeyarwaddy Region.

## Overview of the workshop

The opening speech was done by NAG Project Coordinator and then the Key Findings of Research are shared by U Thant Zin Phyo and Daw Wint War Lwin.

The Policy Impact Study Findings which are shared by NAG’s Senior Program Officer to the participants are mentioning as briefly –

The PEA study shows clearly that the new Law and the Regional Government’s policy of allocating Inn and tenders to community groups, has been welcomed by the vast majority of small-scale fishers. Some quotes from interviews highlight some individual perspectives

“ My Income from fishing has increased significantly. I can now send my children to school” Small-scale fisher Kant Balar Chaung, Bogale.

“Before we had to do illegal fishing but now that we can fish freely, we use legal methods” small-scale fisher, Thanung Kwin Village, MaUbin

“Because of giving the fishing rights to the community, the relationships between fishers and the DoF has improved”. Village leader, Sat Wa Village, Pyapon.

The evidence from the field level study suggests that the new law has greatly contributed to the positive outcome to ally more positive interest groups especially among fishers groups. In addition, the coalitions of fishers, MPs, DoF and other stakeholders through the support of Ayeyarwaddy Fisheries Partnership has been further developed to provide support to this change process.

All the Village leaders interviewed had a positive attitude towards the new law and policies. Small-scale fisher access to fishing grounds and benefits had improved in 5/8 villages. The capacity of community fisher groups was good or medium in 5/8 communities. Small-scale fishers had to pay additional money to secure fishing rights in 3/8 communities. There was no (or low levels of) conflict between fishers and others in 4/8 communities. Disappointingly, none of the community groups had any conservation measures in place.

To understand the situation more deeply, it is necessary to look at each Township and Village group on a case by case basis.

## Results by Township and Village

The findings from the study are divided by township to allow for the perspectives of the township fishery officer as well stakeholders in 1-2 villages in each township.

### Case Study - Sat Wa Village, Pyapon township

Through FDA, Sat Wa Village has been allocated the Char Tan Tender since 2014. In the early years, FDA cooperated with a local businessman as he also participated as a member of the FDA. Because of this, most of the community fisheries association member could not fish freely in the area. Since 2016, the businessman has not participated in the community fishery. The businessman reported that he had to use an inconvenient amount of time in cooperating with the community fishers, because fishers were not always willing to pay back the money advanced. The businessman continues to work as a fish collector in the village but is in favour of the 40 lakh policy as he claims it has reduced conflict between fishers and businessmen. He is hopeful that the new law will reduce the amount of illegal fishing in the area.

Since 2016, the FDA received the fishing rights but there are only 15 active members in the association. Only 10 members (out of the 15 members pay for the tender license fee) and they sub-tender the fishing rights to local small-scale fishers, based on the fishing gears that they use.

The situation in Sat Wa is generally positive and the new law and 40 lakh policy is popular with the fishers. The main beneficiaries are the 10 stow net fishers who have taken control of the tender, although they are still indebted to the Innthargyi/collector. By combining this group with 25 fishers from the Ka Dar Tan tender area*,* the FDA has been able to meet the requirements of the DoF’s 40 member rule for tender applications*.* Uniting these two groups has created some disagreement on issues but they have been able to resolve them. The stow net group, still have to borrow money from the village collector at a 10% interest per month? , weakening their co-management and fish marketing position. The stow net fishers report that through the co-managenent policy, the cost of fishing gear (stow net) licence fees have reduced, which is welcomed by them. However, they are against the annual 10% rise in the tender floor price.

Small-scale fishers are unable to benefit directly from the community tender, due to their lack of capital for investment in larger-scale fishing gear such as stow nets, and access to credit in order to engage more directly in the tender application process. Were they able to buy stow nets, then this could create a new problem as the fishery would probably not be able to support a large increase in stow net fishing effort.

The Village leader is supportive of the 40 lakh policy as fisher investment costs have decreased and their incomes should improve. He appreciates the cooperation with the FDA, which has resulted in a reduction in conflict between fishers. and illegal fishing activities in the area. The stow net group requested the village leader to allow them to operate 11 stow nets in the 10 tender points but this was refused, as other fishers and the DoF were against the idea. This is a good example of co-management in action.

As this is a tender fishing ground, the fishers argue that no conservation mesures are possible. In fact they are wrong on this point. The enforcement of a minimum mesh size for the cod end of stow nets is a conservation measure and should be considered by the group.

The community is confident of receiving the fishing rights in the future, as they are well organized and think that they are co-managing well. They have a very good relationship with the DoF township officer and appreciate the support provided to them, including ID cards and actions to prevent illegal fishing.

The charts below illustrate how stakeholder influence and importance has changed in Sat Wa, since the fisheries reforms were implemented. The importance and influence of collectors/innthaygi has declined. Small-scale fisher importance has increased but not their influence. Engagement in the co-management process has strengthened the importance and influence of GAD and MPs, possibly at the expense of the village authority who appear to have lost some influence but who have gained in importance. The position of DoF has not changed so much, due to their positive engagement in the process and the good relations with all stakeholders.

In the case of Sat Wa, the relative success of this co-management arrangement may be largely due to the facilitation by the FDA and strong support from the DoF and the Village administration

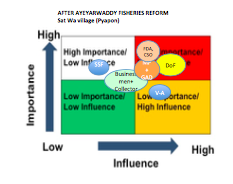
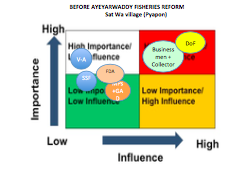


Figure 1. Sat Wa stakeholder importance and influence Before and After Ayeyarwaddy Fisheries Reform

Then, the key 10 points of PEA findings for Ayeyarwddy are shared again at the end of the Polity Economy Section and these are as following –

1. Challenge 1. - Competing Fisher Groups
2. Challenge 2- Raising Funds to Cover the Floor Price
3. Challenge 3. Fisher Group Size v. Fishery Resource
4. Challenge 4. ‘Fake Groups’
5. Challenge 5. Control of Community Inn/tenders
6. Challenge 6. Resale of Community Inn/tenders
7. Challenge 7. Demarcation of fishing grounds
8. Challenge 8. The Annual 10% Floor Price Increase
9. Challenge 9. Short Inn/tender Lease Duration
10. Challenge 10. A Lack of Fishery Management Planning & Monitoring

After the end of PEA section, Daw Wint War Lwin shared the Kyar Phong Study Key Findings to the participants and the brief information share to participants are as following –

Why do we conduct the KP study

* Kyar Phong fishery was noticed in 2010 after the irregular storm in winter season and many thousands of workers were saved in India east coast; no one know how many people disappeared in the sea.
* NAG did the survey in coastal villages aftermath of the storm
* More than 3000 fish workers are missing but no information for migrant workers from other states/ regions
* There are about 20,000 to 40,000 fishers (mostly migrant workers) at work on rafts and another 4,000 to 7,000 workers working on carrier vessels.
* Workers have to work 8-9 months ( September-May) without leaving the rafts

### History

* Kyar Phong Operated in Marine Fisheries 50-60 years ago; operated nearshore around 4-5 nautical miles
  + Smaller fishing raft and smaller number of rafts
  + Salted dried fish and shrimp
* Operation started in Mon around 1993
  + Advance payment system; Traders to owners to workers
  + Boiled and dried shrimp is the main product

### Investment

* Each Raft cost 2500-4000 USD
* Fishing Gears will be 3500-4500 USD (can be used for 3 years)
* Wages for labours on raft (1500-1800 USD per seasons)
* Food & Water (100-120 USD per month)
* Carrier Boat (30-100 Hp) operating Cost will be for
  + Wages (250-300 USD per month)
  + Fuel ( 150-250 USD for one trip)
* Average investment for 1 raft is around 10000 USD

### Return on Investment

* Boiled and Dried shrimp is 60% (10 USD per Kg)
* Bombayduck is 17% (6 USD per kg)
* Ribbon and Anchovy 23% (6 USD per Kg)
* Each raft catch around 7.5 Tonnes in a season; total returns around 63000 USD

### Areas of Operation

* Operating 18 to 100 nautical miles from shore
* Muddy bottom (gradually sloping fishing ground in the west; undulating fishing ground in the east)
* Depth about 8 fathoms
* 250 km mud belt in GoM, ranked as one of the largest mud belts of the world oceans

### Labor on KyarPhong

* 3-4 workers living and working on the raft from October to May (8 to 9 months)
  + Supervisor (Oo Si)
  + Skilled worker (Kwan Kyin lote thar)
  + Worker (lote thar)
* 7 workers per carrier boat
* 1 chief supervisor (every 5-15 rafts have one boat supervising them)

### Education Level

* Most of the Kyar Phong workers can read and write, and that they learnt from village monasteries. Some respondents finished primary and middle school education but only some workers could access to high school education.
* As the education level of Kyar Phong workers are really low, they are primarily depending on their traditional livelihood by investing their lives, blood and sweat and it is one of the reasons for exploitation of Kyar Phong workers by owners.

### Amount of Advance per worker

* The amounts of advance between new and old workers are different, and the amounts also depend on the level and skills of the workers.

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| **Position** | **Amount of Advance in Pyapon (MMK)** | **Amount of Advance in Yay (MMK)** |
| Accountant | 100,000 - 250,000 | 1,800,000 |
| Boat Supervisor | 1,000,000 - 1,500,000 | 700,000 - 1,000,000 |
| Head of Supervisor | 700,000 - 3,000,000 | 500,000 - 700,000 |
| Land Supervisor | 500,000 - 2,000,000 | 300,000 - 1,000,000 |
| Raft Supervisor | 300,000 - 1000000 | 0 |
| Land Labor | 600,000 - 700,000 | 600,000 - 700,000 |
| Raft Labor | 300,000 - 1,000,000 | 0 |
| Mechanic | 1,500,000 | 0 |
| Accountant | 1,000,000 - 2,500,000 | 0 |

### Fishing Methods

* Raft is about 40 ft long and 15 ft wide
* Bag net is about 20 to 30 ft long
* Bag Net is pulled up in every 6 hours; dangerous and difficult to pull up in spring tide
* Then, boil and dry the catches
* Approximately, each operation take 2-2.5 hours

### Pulling Factors

* Advance Payment System of 7-9 months salary
* False news though brokers; human trafficking

### Pushing Factors

* Limited employment opportunities in place of origins
  + Severe drought in dry zone and very limited supports for oil crops farming
  + Inaccessibility of inland fishing grounds by small scale fishers; monopolized by private sector and bigger fishers
  + Farm mechanization in Ayeyarwaddy Delta and reduce the employment opportunities of landless labors

### Basic Salary and Payment System

* Basic Salary for workers earn 40-60 USD per month
* 3-4 workers share the 10% bonus based on the catches above the a certain threshold
* Average income of labor is 70-100 USD per month
* Advance Payment System is the main attraction for labours \
* 7-9 months of basic salary were normally taken in advance

### Food and Supplies

* Food and Water are provided by carrier boat ( bi-weekly basis)
* Rice, oil, onion, salt and chilli Meats and vegetables were provided sometimes
* The other food items can be ordered though carrier boat but it will be deducted from their salary

### Safety and Security

* There is no proper registrations for labours and rafts; DOF have no exact information about number of rafts and labours
* Existing fishery law and labour law do not adequately cover the Kyar Phong Workers’ issues
* No Safety Equipment are provided or allowed to place on rafts
* No Communication equipment were installed/ allowed on raft; only carrier boat have radio and phone
* No safety trainings were provided to workers although expose to tropical storms and cyclones
* more than 50 percent of workers had never worked in any kind of fisheries; some of them could not swim at at all

### Issues

* Open Access and increasing number of units Labor shortage and desertion of workers
* Overfishing pressure experienced in western GOM; fishing grounds are gradually faraway from shores
* Poor working conditions
* Lack of sea safety preparedness
* Cheating by owners, traders and workers
* No proper registration system both raft and workers
* No proper monitoring mechanism for kyar Phong Fishery
* Unclear roles and responsibilities between union government and states/ regions governments
  + Inshore fisheries revenue are collected by state/ region governments
  + Offshore fisheries revenue are collected by the union government

After completing the research Sharing Section, the Question and Answer section was carried out and then the event was completed end by the remark speech of FDA leaders.

## Key Findings

* Active participation and motivation of the participants throughout the entire workshop.
* Participants had a clear understanding of the presentation according to their interesting feedbacks.
* The facilitators were able to present and discussed to reach the workshop objectives.
* The participants were clearly understood about the presentation of policy impact study findings, kyar phaung study findings, and fishery partnership interstate action plans.
* The next implementation plans for Ayeyarwaddy fishery groups were presented and also discussed their issues and challenges happening in the ground implementation

## Participants List

**Co-management Training Participants**

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| **Sr** | **Township** | **Postal Code** | **Name** | **Sex** |
| 1 | Dedaye | 10261 | U Chit Min Paing | Male |
| 2 | Dedaye | 10261 | U Moe Win Kyaw | Male |
| 3 | Dedaye | 10261 | U Kyaw Aung | Male |
| 4 | Dedaye | 10261 | U Tin Nyunt | Male |
| 5 | Dedaye | 10261 | U Aye Min Tun | Male |
| 6 | Dedaye | 10261 | Daw San San Ye | Female |
| 7 | Pyapon | 10251 | U Soe Win | Male |
| 8 | Pyapon | 10251 | U Kyin Toe | Male |
| 9 | Pyapon | 10251 | U Kyi Sein | Male |
| 10 | Pyapon | 10251 | U Win Naing | Male |
| 11 | Pyapon | 10251 | U Aye Lwin | Male |
| 12 | Pyapon | 10251 | U Mg Pyone | Male |
| 13 | Labbuta | 10121 | U San Minn | Male |
| 14 | Pantanaw | 10171 | U Thein Lwin | Male |
| 15 | Danu Phyu | 10151 | U Aung Kyin Sein | Male |
| 16 | Hinthada | 10061 | U Min Zaw Oo | Male |
| 17 | Lay Myat Hnar | 10071 | U Khin Zaw | Male |
| 18 | Nyaungdon | 10161 | U Ye Lay | Male |
| 19 | Maubin | 10181 | U Myint Aung | Male |
| 20 | Mawlamyinegyun | 10221 | U San Oo | Male |
| 21 | Kyeik Latt | 10241 | Daw Myint Myint Than | Female |
| 22 | Bogalay | 10231 | U Thaung Kwyal | Male |
| 23 | Waekhama | 10201 | Daw Thida Aye Mya | Female |
| 24 | Zalun | 10141 | Daw Khin Lae Win | Female |
| 25 | Ingapu | 10051 | U Tin | Male |
| 26 | Thar Baung | 10111 | U Lin Naing Tun | Male |
| 27 | Einme | 10191 | U Kyaw Thura Oo | Male |
| 28 | Nagputaw | 10131 | U Zaw Myo Myint | Male |
| 29 | Ye Kyi | 10081 | U Shwe Ba | Male |

## Photo Section















