

June 2019

## SUCCESS STORY:

### Minbu Township Farmers Earn Additional Income through Quality GAP Certified Mung Beans

U Han Nyunt is a 76 year-old farmer living in Magyeepin Village, Minbu Township in Magway Region. He currently serves as Chairperson for the Magway Township Regional Farmer Development Association (RFDA). In Minbu, part of Myanmar's dry zone region, farmers grow two types of mung beans: clear and opaque. There are many challenges for farmers growing mung beans in the dry zone including lack of access to quality seeds, limited technical knowledge and inadequate access to premium markets. As a result of these issues, the mung beans produced are lower quality and receive reduced market prices. For example, beans produced in Minbu sell for about 50% less than similar beans from Lower Myanmar.

To increase income and enhance livelihoods for struggling mung bean farmers, Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO) and Network Activities Group (NAG), through the DaNa Facility implemented by DAI Global funded by UK aid, developed a curriculum and training module for the Pulses, People, Planet Profit (P4) project to improve farmers' mung bean quality and yields. The project provided trainings on GAP, seed multiplication farming, production and collective marketing.

Through this pioneering project, Minbu Township RFDA members gained access to quality seeds and mung bean GAP certification for the first time ever in Myanmar. This initiative supported 265 out of 336 farmers in obtaining GAP certificates, making it possible for them to receive premium prices for their produce. An additional 100 acres of good quality mung beans were also cultivated due to GAP training with efforts from Magway RFDA members and Myanmar Department of Agriculture staff, yielding substantial results for farmers.

U Han Nyunt participated eagerly in all of the activities saying, "It is indeed our greatest achievement that Minbu Township farmers were the first group to receive GAP certification in mung beans ever in the country. With the support of all the key stakeholders such as RFDA, DoA, ICCO, NAG, UK aid, DaNa, and all the farmers who came together to fulfil the requirements of GAP certification and inspection processes, we were



U Aung Nay Lin proudly showing his GAP certificate

able to achieve our goal and take pride in our accomplishment. The P4 project is essential for our farmers. What I like most about the project is helping farmers to produce good quality mung beans, creating strong market linkages and opportunities, and supporting seed multiplication farm businesses."

Another farmer keen to share how GAP certification transformed his farming, and in turn his life, was U Aung Nay Lin who owns 11 acres of farmland and grows mung beans on five acres where he lives in Thee Khone Village in Minbu Township. His income has dramatically increased as a result of the P4 project intervention. Before applying GAP practices, he received only 8,000 - 16,000 MMK (£4 - £8) per basket. Last year, he collected an impressive yield of 20 baskets of mung beans per acre. He also received a premium price of 30,000 MMK (£15) per basket for his quality GAP certified beans –100% higher than traditionally grown mung beans. His revenue per acre was 400,000 MMK (£230) during the last growing season, amounting to a remarkable total revenue of 2,000,000 MMK (£1,146).

U Aung Nay Lin proudly shared ambitions for himself and his fellow RFDA members, “For me this is the first time ever earning this amount of revenue by growing mung beans so that I want to expand my cultivation. I strongly believe that local buyers are willing to offer better prices for our quality products using GAP methods. In the future, I will collaborate more in the project and try to do collective selling with other members, so we can all make more money.”

The P4 project aims to increase the incomes of 10,000 smallholder farmers through supporting the development of seed multiplication and distribution, introduction of GAP and Climate Smart Agriculture, and collective marketing.

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**U Han Nyunt**  
Chairperson  
Magway Township Regional  
Farmer Development Association  
(RFDA)



Group of mung bean farmers from Minbu Township displaying their GAP certificates

For more details on the DaNa Facility and the work of the programme, please visit: [danafacility.com](http://danafacility.com). The DaNa Facility is a project funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and is managed by DAI Europe and KPMG as part of the Business for Shared Prosperity Programme (BSP).