



**COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE OF RURAL LAND RESOURCES  
IN YWAY GONE VILLAGE TRACT, BAGO REGION,  
MYANMAR**

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## **Abstract**

In Myanmar, seventy percent (70%) of the population lives in rural areas and relies on agriculture for their livelihoods. It is essential for these citizens, particularly the most vulnerable (i.e. women and ethnic minorities), that use and tenure rights are recognized, thereby supporting more equitable economic growth for all.

The agricultural sector of Myanmar has long suffered due to poor national level policies, weak land use planning, and a lack of enforcement of land-related laws and regulations, a situation exacerbated by the absence of formal tenure security for many individuals and communities. The new era of political transparency beginning in 2011, which ultimately led to the new, democratically elected administration in 2016, has heralded an era of rapid political and economic transition, something that is clearly evident in the formulation of policies that impact rural populations as well as foreign investment. A National Land Use Policy (NLUP) now exists that will form the basis for the future development of a new National Land Law.

This paper explores the degree to which a rural community in Myanmar understands existing land resource management practices with a view to documenting what future actions would be necessary to safeguard presently informal tenure arrangements.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

CSO	Civil Society Organization
DALMS	Department of Agricultural Land Management and Statistics
LTP	Land Tenure Project
LUC	Land Use Certificate
MONREC	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NLUP	National Land Use Policy
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VFV Law	Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Law

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Myanmar (Burma) is a country where people of many ethnicities exist together. Seventy percent (70%) of people living in rural areas rely on land and agriculture for their livelihoods. Land is a vital natural resource in Myanmar, particularly for the most vulnerable. A long history of various governing structures in Myanmar has enabled the capture and control of land by colonial, government, or elite powers to the detriment and neglect of smallholder and subsistence farmers.

Myanmar's agricultural sector has long suffered due to a multiplicity of laws and regulations, deficient and degraded infrastructure, poor policies and planning, a chronic lack of credit, and an absence of tenure security for cultivators (Srinivas & Hlaing, 2015). This has negatively impacted vulnerable populations, contributing significantly to and shaping current poverty rates.

Land administration, largely a colonial inheritance, is characterized by overlapping laws and multiple agencies with similar responsibilities. The Department of Agricultural Land Management and Statistics (DALMS) plays an important role in all levels of non-forest land administration. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) has jurisdiction over all forest land. These departments are responsible for protecting the land under their jurisdiction from encroachment and trespassing and ensuring effective land-use management.

As the government opens the country to foreign investment and commences with significant reforms, poor-centered approaches to development will be fundamental to shaping a future of inclusive prosperity. One of the most important areas needing reform to support rural development is land reform. The government has endorsed a National Land Use Policy (NLUP) as an important first step toward the development of a new National Land Law or a series of revisions to existing land laws. The policy is situated to facilitate bottom-up approaches to strengthening resource tenure, taking into consideration the voices of vulnerable communities.

Despite efforts to promote reform there is a limited evidence base about communities' understanding of their land resources and knowledge of the national legal framework. This study attempts to bring the voices and knowledge of such vulnerable communities into the national dialogue. The USAID-funded Land Tenure Project conducted a survey at Yway Gone Village Tract in Bago Region. This study presents the community members' voices in the hope that they will be taken into account as government and civil society work together to support revisions to the current legal framework on land in Myanmar.



## **1.1 Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are to understand:

- (1) Respondents' knowledge about the current legal framework on land, which consists of the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Law (VFV Law), the Farmland Law, and the NLUP;
- (2) Respondents' knowledge about the role of Farmland Management Body as described by the NLUP;
- (3) The status of respondents' own land, whether the land is officially registered, and if so, the name on their titling documentation;
- (4) How respondents view the importance of understanding village boundaries; and,
- (5) Respondents' knowledge about equal rights of men and women in land-related decision-making.

## **1.2 Study Sites**

Yway Gone Village Tract is the USAID-funded Land Tenure Project's (LTP) first pilot site for participatory mapping activities and is the site for this study. The village tract is located in Minhla Township, in the western part of Bago Region. The area is hilly and on the western edge of the Bago Yoma. The Bago Region produces teak and petroleum, and is Myanmar's second largest rice production area (Jhaveri & Thomas, 2015).

In Yway Gone Village Tract, there are four main villages: Yway Gone, Heingyu, San Gyi and Bant Bway Gone. Most of the residents are Bamar except in Heingyu, which is predominately Kayin with some recent Bamar arrivals. This village is located entirely in the reserve forest area under the jurisdiction of MONREC.

The total population of these four villages is 2,004 residents, according to the 2015 land use and tenure assessment carried out by LTP. Among these villages, Bant Bway Gone is the largest in terms of population and households. Agriculture is the major economic activity in all the villages.

In the past, neither the village tract nor the villages had any demarcated boundaries. LTP carried out a pilot participatory mapping and land use inventory process in 2016 that documented each village's boundaries. These activities were supported by a local civil society organization which mobilized community involvement in participatory mapping activities. Community involvement is

intended to improve the consultation process on the NLUP and to promote policy change that reflects and responds to the knowledge of the most vulnerable communities.

### **1.3 Study Methodology**

According to 2014 data reported to LTP, the total population of Yway Gone Village Tract was 2,004 in 502 households. The sample size was 100 randomly selected respondents over 18 years old, both men and women. Respondents were interviewed individually using pre-written questionnaires (Appendix 2). Data entry and analysis was completed using SPSS software (Version 16.0).

## **2 RESULTS & ANALYSIS**

This section presents study results on respondents' level of knowledge about existing land-related laws and policies, their understanding of the Farmland Management Body, the importance they ascribe to village boundary maps, and equality of men and women in land rights.

### **2.1 Respondent Profile**

Respondents were 51% male and 49% female. 30% of respondents were aged 19-29 and 7% of respondents were between ages 63 and 73. 80% of respondents were married. Most of the respondents (66%) had only a primary education, while 4% had completed high school. 76% of respondents lived in households ranging between one and five members. Respondents were largely middle class, with 44% reporting yearly income between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 kyat (\$730-\$1,460).

Most respondents derive their living from surrounding land resources. 49% reported their primary occupation as farmers with 26% performing labor as daily workers. Respondents reported other land resource intensive occupations such as bamboo cutters, paddy transplinters, drivers, and thatch sellers. Only one interviewee reported a salaried position.

*(Data sources from Appendix 1 .Table 1.1 to Table 1.8)*

### **2.2 Community Members' Knowledge of Land Laws and Policies**

The study surveyed respondents' level of awareness about the VFV Law, Farmland Law, and NLUP. If respondents reported awareness of either the VFV or Farmland Law, they were asked about their knowledge of provisions in each law. 64% of respondents did not know about the VFV

Law and only 7% of respondents reported understanding provisions of the VFV Law. Similarly, only 8% of respondents reported an understanding of the existing Farmland Law. Only one respondent knew that the existing Farmland Law defines the types of crops that can be grown by a farmer. The Farmland Law does not allow for freedom of crop selection, stating that the person who is farming the land “shall not change the originally cultivated crop with other kind of crops, without permission.” Freedom of crop choice, along with secure land tenure rights and land transfer rights, may be addressed when the new National Land Law is drafted.

Limited understanding of existing laws and policies governing land extends to the NLUP. The survey found that of the 9% of respondents who reported having an understanding of the NLUP, these respondents knew that the NLUP describes land use types, community rights for land, land dispute resolution, land use rights for ethnic nationalities, and also equal land rights for men and women. The primary respondents who had knowledge of the NLUP were committee members who had worked directly with LTP.

Despite low levels of awareness, 89% of respondents thought that having knowledge of existing land laws and policies was important. Respondents indicated that this knowledge would help to provide improved land ownership and land use security, could help protect against illegal or unfavorable land transactions with outside groups, and could provide support in land dispute resolution. *(Data sources from Appendix 1 .Table 1.9 to Table 1.12)*

This study showed that men had a stronger understanding than women of land-related laws. This is likely because men work as farmers and have more opportunities to get information while women are more often engaged in household work. However, women were more likely to report that getting information on existing land legislation and the NLUP is important not only for their land use and tenure security but also for their involvement in public land decision-making. This high level of interest in land-related information may be due to the critical role that women play in raising and feeding families, managing households, and tending to crops and animals. *(Data sources from Appendix 1 .Table 1.21 to Table 1.24)*

The community’s lack of knowledge of land laws reflects the legacy of a centrally controlled government where participatory engagement was not the norm. The NLUP, with its focus on bottom-up approaches, reflects a changing attitude towards participatory engagement.

### **2.3 Village Tract Farmland Management Body**

According to the 2012 Farmland Law, a Farmland Management Body, organized by the government, should be present in each village tract. However, most of the respondents (77%) were not aware of the existing Farmland Management Body in their village tract. No women were involved in the committee. Nevertheless, most of the respondents (85%) thought that having a Farmland Management Body was important as this body helps to provide support for land dispute resolution, to share information on land-related matters, and to assist with applications for Land Use Certificates (LUCs), which are known as Form 7s and provide parcel land use rights. *(Data sources from Appendix 1 .Table 1.13 to Table 1.14)*

This study identified a relationship between respondent's gender and knowledge of the existing Farmland Management Body in their village tract. Men always took a decision-making role and were more involved in committee than women. Possible reasons for women's lack of involvement in the Farmland Management Body include their internalized gender roles, limited education skills and abilities, lack of space for women, or lack of time for committee involvement. Despite this, both men and women concurred that both should have equal land rights. *(Data sources from Appendix 1 .Table 1.25)*

### **2.4 Private Land Management in the Village**

With regard to the land tenure situation, half of the respondents (50%) owned their land for cultivation, while the rest considered themselves landless. Among landowners, 48 had lands that were officially registered with authorities (i.e. they possessed a LUC, also known as a Form 7). However, two were not yet registered. For those that had LUCs, 41 respondents were titled in the male head of household's name. Only seven respondents had female names on the title. Despite the high number of respondents who reported having their LUCs, 74% of respondents did not understand the process of carrying out a Form 7 LUC registration. Those who had applied for a Form 7 had done so through the village tract administrative officer. Thus the process of registering for a LUC was carried out through a single person who was responsible for communicating with the relevant government departments on behalf of the villagers. Though this process facilitates rapid, mass land registration, it also means that those participating in the process have little understanding of the rights and responsibilities that go with the registration of land. *(Data sources from Appendix 1 .Table 1.15)*

## **2.5 Community Boundary and Land Use Inventory**

Previously, this village tract did not have their own village boundary map. Starting in 2015, LTP carried out participatory mapping activities in this village tract, which led to a village boundary map that was agreed by the community. However, this study showed that among 100 respondents, only 30% were aware of having their village's boundary map. 91% of respondents believed that having a complete and agreed-upon village boundary map was important for the sake of greater land tenure security, as it can be used as evidence to prevent outside interests from taking community land and moreover it will also help in solving land disputes.

Men were more aware of the village boundary map. Similarly, they were more in favor of having shared land resources recognized by the government. Women were more interested in recognition of individual land over communal land while men were more interested in communal land ownership. *(Data sources from Appendix 1 .Table 1.26 to Table 1.28)*

Another finding was that 82% of the respondents agreed that it was important for the community to identify shared land resources that are recognized by the government. If they get an opportunity for land recognition by the government, 72% of the respondents were more interested in communal land ownership than individual land ownership, while 16% preferred individual recognition. The remaining 12% were interested in both communal and individual land ownership. If their land was recognized, 56% of respondents believe the communities have the confidence and the capacity to manage these land resources. However many recognized the need to get technical support to manage land resources from government and other local organizations. The study found that 93% of the respondents cultivated crops in their yar land (shifting cultivation) and changed the originally cultivated crop to other kind of crops without informing the Farmland Management Body.

The high desire for communal land ownership is surprising given that the area is of high agricultural value. This demand may reflect the recent loss of community lands to outside investors who acquired the land sometime in the past but are only now putting up fences and marking their boundaries. This reflects a need for rapid community land demarcation processes. While LTP undertook a participatory approach to boundary demarcation and had meetings across each village, the relatively low awareness of the process indicates that more outreach is necessary. In some respects though, if the community has clarity that their village committees are protecting the community lands, then they may not need to understand the details of the village boundary demarcation process. *(Data sources from Appendix 1 .Table 1.16 to 1.18)*

## **2.6 Land Use Type based on Ethnic Nationality**

In Yway Gone Village Tract, most of the residents are Bamar except in Heingyu village, which is predominately Kayin with some recent Bamar arrivals. In this village tract, 63% of the respondents said that they do not rely on customary land use rights or management regimes. Heingyu village was the primary village that recognized customary use rights. In general, the village members described more flexible land use arrangements rather than strict customary norms. For instance, if the husband's family has a lot of land and few children while the wife's family has little land and many children, they would likely move to the husband's village. But if it is the wife's family with more available resources, they would likely move to her natal village (Eshbach & Louis, 2016). *(Data sources from Appendix 1 .Table 1.19)*

## **2.7 Equal Rights of Men and Women**

In this study, 91% of respondents agreed that both men and women should have equal land rights. Yet, 9% of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed on this because they thought men should lead on land-related matters while women should focus on their reproductive role as well as cooking, washing, cleaning, and child rearing.

Nevertheless, 63% of respondents said that women (especially mothers and wives) participated in land-related decision-making within the family in terms of discussion with family members in order to lease land or make other land-related decisions. Women have been involved in land decision-making primarily by attending village community meetings with limited involvement in the Farmland Management Body, which facilitates formal land dispute resolution and direct decision-making about land resources. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of respondents said women were not involved in Farmland Management Body meetings because they were too busy with their chores or did not get invitations to attend meetings. Such information indicated continued structural barriers to women's engagement in land management issues. *(Data sources from Appendix 1 .Table 1.20)*

## **2.8 Discussion**

There were significant differences observed between respondents of different education levels when it came to knowledge of the existing Farmland Management Body in the village tract. Those who rely on the land for their livelihoods are concerned about their land tenure security and want to have a voice in decision making. This study found that there was a significant difference between

respondents of different occupations when it came to knowledge about and understanding of LUCs (Form 7). Additionally and unsurprisingly, farmers were more likely to possess their own land and to place greater importance on having a village boundary map for their land tenure security. (*Data sources from Appendix 1 .Table 1.34 to Table 1.36*)

Overall, these findings supported a revision of the program’s development of communication strategies. Based on this survey, LTP revised its approach in the communities to focus on the right to access correct land-related information in a timely manner from the government; recognition that communities have rights to document their land that is agreed locally; and, the right for women to participate in land-related decisions, particularly the Farmland Management Body. The program revised its approach to reach out more broadly to community members to ensure that even those who did not participate in meetings or boundary walks were aware of the lessons from the legal framework and aware of the existence of the village boundary map. Going forward, it will be necessary for policy-makers to develop legislation that supports the rights of people to access land management information; the rights to be involved in decision making; and, the need for formal recognition of community mapping process maps.

### **3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

This study observed many findings on community knowledge of land-related information, the existing Farmland Management Body, and equal rights of men and women to land. It is clear that several factors need to be considered when conducting activities concerned with local people’s land tenure security and management. The followings factors can be considered as important for improvement of communication strategies, land tenure security, and good land governance.

According to this study, 64% of the respondents did not know about the VFV Law, Farmland Law, and NLUP. The NLUP includes a basic principle that transparency and easy public access to information are key to effective land management. Therefore, information sharing and transparency is the first step to involve people in consultation process. Those involved should use effective communication methods such as:

- Public meetings;
- Public information campaign;
- Posters/leaflets;
- Information boards;

- Cartoon booklets;
- Vinyl charts and maps;
- Focus group discussions;
- Radio;
- Building staff capacity to answer questions and receive feedback;
- Newspapers; and,
- Farmer to farmer education.

In this process, it is important to select mechanisms that will be easily accessible for communities that may not have a high education level, and are also relevant to the local context and delivered in the community's local language. Furthermore, information about land that is provided to communities should be accurate, timely, safe, verified, and accountable. Good educational and awareness materials can strengthen trust, increase understanding, encourage participation, build community ownership, and reduce corruption and fraud. Effective and comprehensive public awareness and communication are essential for the successful implementation of land administration and management policy and programs. Approaches should not assume that just because meetings are held and participatory processes are used, that the full community has been involved. Awareness and communication is a fundamental building block for an effective, transparent, and accountable land administration and management system, which is crucial for Myanmar's overall development agenda.

It is essential to foster meaningful participation in land-related decision making. One of the NLUP's basic principles is "to promote inclusive public participation and consultation in decision making processes related to land use and land resources management." As this study found, 63% of respondents said that women (especially mothers and wives) participate in land-related decision-making at the family level. However, while women are engaged in household level decision-making for land-related concerns such as lease and transfer of land, they remain relatively silent in community events and do not participate in formal land decision-making committees, such as the Farmland Management Body.

Women have limited involvement in land dispute resolution and direct decision-making about land resources at a community level. Some respondents said women were not involved because they were too busy with their chores or did not get invitations to attend meetings. It is noted that providing secure land rights for women often makes economic sense and is critical in fighting



poverty. There is a strong correlation between women's land tenure and reducing poverty. When women control land assets, there is an increase in women's incomes, spending on food, children's health and education, and household welfare in general. CSOs, government bodies, and other organizations should be encouraged to support the realization of the equal rights of men and women in land tenure as follows:

- Create spaces for women of all ethnicities to participate not only in National Land Council but in other administrative such as Farmland Management Bodies;
- Introduce a quota system to assure a certain percentage of women involved in development and implementation of land activities; and,
- Ensure voices of women from all ethnicities are well-represented.

Sometimes, it is difficult for women to express their views when men are present and they may refrain from speaking in public. Therefore, it may be necessary to establish a separate group discussion where they can express their opinions freely and openly.

The government and its respective agencies should create enabling environments for inclusive land-related decision making that give particular attention to vulnerable groups such as smallholder farmers, the poor, ethnic nationalities, women, local CSOs, and international NGOs. The key for public participation in land-related decision-making is effective information sharing. Without access to land-related information, it will be challenging to involve communities in consultation processes as laid out in the NLUP.

Building public participation and awareness across a community requires human, financial and technical resources. To bridge this gap, the government should consider local and international NGOs' and CSOs' operational experiences in areas of land-related management. These partners can support Myanmar's progress towards good land governance. NGOs and CSOs often have existing service delivery capacity and experiences, as well as greater access to hard-to-reach and underserved communities, making them best-placed to understand the local land contexts.

These organizations also play an important a key role in strengthening accountability and in independent monitoring of land interventions. The benefits to governments through partnership with these organizations can include:

- Enhancing sustainable land use in development and implementation of policies and legal frameworks related to land and natural resource management;

- Enhancing people-centered approaches to land-related services;
- Improving people’s participation in land and natural resource management;
- Improving capacity development and support;
- Adopting international best practices on the responsible of tenure of land;
- Strengthening rule of law and good governance; and,
- Ensuring equal opportunities for men and women over land resources, tenure rights, and participatory decision making.

As stakeholders work together to develop policy, laws, and activities that enhance land administration, this will help Myanmar achieve the national development objectives of reducing poverty, strengthening good governance, enhancing public participation, strengthening the rule of law, and building accountability in land administration and natural resource management.

## **Conclusion**

This study reviewed the knowledge and experience of 100 randomly selected community members in Yway Gone Village Tract, Bago Region, Myanmar. Study findings indicate that respondents are highly dependent upon land resources for their livelihoods, but have limited knowledge of the current laws and policies that govern land. Community members reported low levels of knowledge about their village tract Farmland Management Body, the formal mechanism by which community members can engage in land-related decision making around land use certificates and dispute resolution. Farmland Management Body membership was found to be entirely male, with no female members. Half of all respondents hold title to their land and almost all of these have LUCs, as required by law to cultivate the land. Of those who hold a LUC, significant numbers did not understand the process of registering for a LUC.

These findings underscore the need for effective communication with communities in order to enhance public participation in policy consultation processes. Effective public participation determines the role of farmers in the country’s reform process and lays the foundation for new relations between the government and the rural poor. The sprouting of new democratic institutions has allowed farmers to voice their concerns through local representatives and public protests within limits. Therefore, listening and responding to the voices of people, and keeping commitments to the people, can lead to greater accountability and provide a foundation for good land governance.

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## **SURVEY RESULTS**

### **(1) The socio-demographic factors of the respondents**

**Table 1.1: Frequency distribution of villages of the respondents**

Village Name	Frequency
Yway Gone	23
San Gyi	23
Bant Bway Gone	30
Heingyu	24
Total	100

**Table 1.2: Frequency distribution of gender of the respondents**

Gender	Percentage (%)
Male	51.0
Female	49.0
Total	100.0

**Table 1.3 Frequency distribution of age groups of the respondents**

Age group	Percentage (%)
19-29	30.0
30-40	22.0
41-51	25.0
52-62	16.0
63-73	7.0
Total	100.0

**Table 1.4 Frequency distribution of respondent's marital status**

Marital Status	Percentage (%)
Married	80.0
Not married	13.0
Divorced	3.0
Widow	4.0
Total	100.0

**Table 1.5 Frequency distribution of respondent's education**

Educational status	Percentage (%)
Primary Education	66.0
Middle education	10.0
High School	4.0
<b>Other</b>	
Monastery	7.0
uneducated	13.0
Total	100.0

**Table 1.6 Frequency distribution of occupation of the respondents**

Occupation Status	Percentage (%)
Valid	
Farmer	49.0
Daily worker	26.0
Merchant	2.0
Salaried staffs	1.0
Others	22.0
<b>Other - Bamboo cutting</b>	3.0
Dependent	2.0
Driver	2.0
Hairdresser	1.0
Lease cattle	1.0
Livestock	1.0
Paddy Transplanter	1.0
Seller	10.0
Thatches seller	1.0
Total	100.0

**Table 1.7 Frequency distribution of size of family of the respondents**

Family size	Percentage (%)
1-5	76.0
6-10	22.0
11-16	2.0
Total	100.0

**Table 1.8 Frequency distribution of yearly household income**

Income group (in khat)	Percentage (%)
less than 100,000	7.0
100,001-1,000,000	35.0
1,000,001-2,000,000	44.0
more than 2,000,000	14.0
Total	100.0

**Table 1.9 Frequency distribution of knowledge relating to VFV Law of respondents**

Question	Response	Percentage (%)
Are you aware of the Vacant Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law of 2012?	Yes I understand	7.0
	No, I don't understand	29.0
	Don't Know	64.0

**Table 1.10 Frequency distribution of knowledge relating to Farmland Law**

Question	Response	Percentage (%)
Are you aware of the Farmland Law?	Yes, I understand	8.0
	No, I don't understand	28.0
	Don't Know	64.0
	Yes	7.0

If yes, (1) the law defines the type of crops that can be grown by a farmer	No	1.0
(2) The law describes different land uses and institutions in Myanmar	Yes	7.0
	No	1.0
(3) The law controls township level land management plans	Yes	7.0
	No	1.0
(4) The law documents farmer use rights over land parcels	Yes	7.0
	No	1.0
(5) The law demonstrates how land disputes are resolved	Yes	5.0
	No	1.0
	Don't Know	2.0

**Table 1.11 Frequency distribution of knowledge on New National Land Use Policy**

Questions	Response	Percentage (%)
Are you aware of New National Land Use Policy?	Yes, I understand	9.0
	No, I don't understand	22.0
	Don't Know	69.0
if yes (1) The NLUP describes land use type in Myanmar	Yes	7.0
	Don't Know	2.0
(2) The NLUP supports community rights for land	Yes	9.0
(3) The NLIUP describes land dispute resolution approaches	Yes	9.0
(4) The NLUP promotes land use rights for ethnic nationalities	Yes	9.0

(5) The NLUP promotes equal land rights for men and women	Yes	8.0
	Don't Know	1.0

**Table 1.12 Frequency distribution of the respondents that think knowledge of existing land legislation and NLUP is important**

Questions	Response	Percentage (%)
Do you think rural community knowledge in existing land legislation and the NLUP is important?	Yes	89.0
	Don't Know	11.0
If yes, (1) To provide improved land ownership and land use security	Yes	67.0
	Don't Know	22.0
(2) Protection against illegal or unfavorable land transactions with outside groups	Yes	74.0
	No	2.0
	Don't Know	13.0
(3) The NLUP supports improved land dispute resolution	Yes	52.0
	Don't Know	37.0

**Table 1.13 Frequency distribution of knowledge on existing Farmland Management Body in the village tract**

Questions	Response	Percentage (%)
Do you know if a Farmland Management Body exists in your village tract?	Yes	23.0
	No	53.0
	Don't Know	24.0
If yes, are there women involved in this committee?	Yes	14.0
	No	2.0
	Don't Know	7.0



**Table 1.14 Frequency distribution of knowledge on whether having a Farmland Management Body is important for community**

Question	Response	Percentage (%)
Do you think having Farmland Management Body is important for the community?	Yes	85.0
	No	3.0
	Don't Know	12.0
If yes, what is the importance of having a village tract Farmland Management Body?	For Land Dispute resolution	51.0
	Form 7 registration	11.0
	Sharing information on land related knowledge	22.0
	Others	3.0

**Table 1.15 Frequency distribution of land ownership of the respondents**

Questions	Response	Percentage (%)
Do you have your own private land?	Yes, I have	50.0
	No, I haven't	50.0
If yes, is this land officially registered with authorities i.e. you possess a Form 7?	Yes	48.0
	No	2.0
If yes, is the principal name on the Form 7 male or female?	Male	41.0
	Female	7.0
Do you understand the process needed to complete or change a Form 7?	Yes	26.0
	No	27.0
	Don't Know	47.0
If yes, how did you obtain this information?	Government department	11.0
	Village tract officer	15.0

**Table 1.16 Frequency distribution of the respondent’s knowledge on the village has as boundary map**

Question	Response	Percentage (%)
Have you heard that the village has a boundary map?	Yes	30.0
	No	53.0
	Don't Know	17.0
	Total	100.0

**Table 1.17 Frequency distribution of the respondents that think having a completed and agree upon village boundary map is important**

Questions	Response	Percentage (%)
Do you think that having a completed and agreed upon village boundary map is important?	Yes	91.0
	No	1.0
	Don't Know	8.0
If yes, why it is important for you?	The boundary map supports greater land tenure security	39.0
	The boundary map prevents outside interests from taking our community land	44.0
	The boundary map solving in Land dispute resolution	6.0
	Others	2.0

**Table 1.18 Frequency distribution of the respondent’s knowledge on important for the community to have shared land resources that are recognized by the government**

Question	Response	Percentage (%)
Do you think that it is important for the community to have shared land resources that are recognized by the government?	Yes	82.0
	No	4.0
	Don't Know	14.0
If community land is recognized by the government do you prefer that this land is recognized as	shared community land ownership	72.0
	Divided into individual ownership	16.0
	Mixture/both	12.0
If land is granted, do you think that community have the capacity to manage these land resources?	Yes	56.0
	No	23.0
	Don't Know	21.0
Do you choose the crops you grow on your land?	Yes	93.0
	No	3.0
	Don't Know	4.0
If yes (1), do you inform local authorities?	inform local authorities	1.0
	Do not tell any one	92.0

**Table 1.19 Frequency distribution of the respondents on ethnic nationality land rights**

Question	Response	Percentage (%)
Are there any customary land use rights or management existent within these ethnic nationalities?	No	63.0
	Don't Know	37.0

**Table 1.20 Frequency distribution of the respondent’s knowledge on equal right of men and women on land**

Question	Response	Percentage (%)
Do you think that men and women should have equal land rights?	Yes	90.0
	No	5.0
	Don't Know	5.0
Do the women participate in land related decision making activities within the village?	Yes	63.0
	No	37.0
If yes, how do they participate in land related decision making activities within the village? (1) attending meeting	Yes	44.0
	No	19.0
(2) Involvement in land dispute resolution	Yes	3.0
	No	60.0
(3) Make decision about land resources	Yes	1.0
	No	62.0
If no, what are the barriers to involve in land related activities in the village?	Too busy with their chores	24.0
	Get no invitation	3.0
	Others	10.0

**Table 1.21 Difference between genders on knowledge on Vacant Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law 2012 of the respondents**

Gender	Are you aware of the vacant Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law 2012?			Total
	Yes I understand	No, I don't understand	Don't Know	
Male	4	13	34	51
Female	3	16	30	49
Total	7	29	64	100

$X^2=0.663$

df= 2

p-value= 0.718

**Table 1.22 Difference between genders on knowledge of Farmland Law of the respondents**

Gender	Are you aware of the Farmland Law?			Total
	Yes, I understand	No, I don't understand	Don't Know	
Male	6	14	31	51
Female	2	14	33	49
Total	8	28	64	100

$X^2=2.023$

df= 2

p-value= 0.364

**Table 1.23 Difference between genders on knowledge on National Land Use Policy of the respondents**

Gender	Are you aware of the New National Land Use Policy			Total
	Yes, I understand	No, I don't understand	Don't Know	
Male	5	13	33	51
Female	4	9	36	49
Total	9	22	69	100

$X^2=0.929$

df= 2

p-value= 0.628

**Table 1.24 Difference between genders on knowledge on existing land legislation and the NLUP is important of the respondents**

Gender	Do you think rural community knowledge in existing land legislation and the NLUP is important?		Total
	Yes	Don't Know	
Male	44	7	51
Female	45	4	49
Total	89	11	100

$X^2 = 0.790$

df= 1

p-value= 0.374

**Table 1.25 Difference between genders on knowledge of existing Farmland Management Body in their village tract**

Gender	Do you know if a Farmland Management Body exists in your village tract?			Total
	Yes	No	Don't Know	
Male	13	33	5	51
Female	10	20	19	49
Total	23	53	24	100

$X^2 = 11.711$

df= 2

p-value= 0.003

**Table 1.26 Difference between genders on knowledge on having their village boundary map of the respondents**

Gender	Have you heard that the village has a boundary map?			Total
	Yes	No	Don't Know	
Male	17	26	8	51
Female	13	27	9	49
Total	30	53	17	100

$X^2 = 0.571$

df= 2

p-value= 0.75

**Table 1.27 Difference between genders on preference of having shared land resources that are recognized by the government is important of the respondents**

Gender	Do you think that it is important for the community to have shared land resources that are recognized by the government?			Total
	Yes	No	Don't Know	
Male	45	1	5	51
Female	37	3	9	49
Total	82	4	14	100

$X^2 = 2.884$        $df = 2$        $p\text{-value} = 0.236$

**Table 1.28 Differences between genders on preference of their land is recognized by the government as of the respondents**

Gender	If community land is recognized by the government do you prefer that this land is recognized as			Total
	shared community land ownership	Divided into individual ownership	Mixture/both	
Male	39	7	5	51
Female	33	9	7	49
Total	72	16	12	100

$X^2 = 1.044$        $df = 2$        $p\text{-value} = 0.593$

**Table 1.29 Differences between education and occupation of the respondents**

Education	Occupation					Total
	Farmer	Daily worker	Merchant	Salaried staffs	Others	
Primary Education	34	17	0	1	14	66
Middle School	2	3	1	0	4	10
High school	1	0	1	0	2	4
Other	12	6	0	0	2	20
Total	49	26	2	1	22	100

$X^2 = 24.233$        $df = 12$        $p\text{-value} = 0.019$

**Table 1.30 Difference between education and knowledge on Vacant Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law 2012 of respondents**

Education	Are you aware of the vacant Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law 2012?			Total
	Yes, I understand	No, I don't understand	Don't Know	
Primary Education	3	22	41	66
Middle School	1	3	6	10
High school	0	2	2	4
Other	3	2	15	20
Total	7	29	64	100

$X^2 = 6.896$

df= 6

p-value= 0.331

**Table 1.31 Difference between education level and knowledge on Farmland Law of respondents**

Education	Are you aware of the Farmland Law?			Total
	Yes, I understand	No, I don't understand	Don't Know	
Primary Education	4	20	42	66
Middle School	0	3	7	10
High school	0	2	2	4
Other	4	3	13	20
Total	8	28	64	100

$X^2 = 7.251$

df= 6

p-value= 0.298

**Table 1.32 Difference between education level and knowledge on the new National Land Use Policy of respondents**

Education	Are you aware of the New National Land Use Policy			Total
	Yes, I understand	No, I don't understand	Don't Know	
Primary Education	5	15	46	66
Middle School	1	1	8	10
High school	0	1	3	4
Other	3	5	12	20
Total	9	22	69	100



$$X^2 = 2.524$$

$$df = 6$$

$$p\text{-value} = 0.866$$

**Table 1.33 Difference between education and knowledge on existing Farmland Management Body in their village tract of respondents**

Education	Do you know if a Farmland Management Body exists in your village tract?			Total
	Yes	No	Don't Know	
Primary Education	16	35	15	66
Middle School	4	5	1	10
High school	1	2	1	4
Other	2	11	7	20
Total	23	53	24	100

$$X^2 = 4.687$$

$$df = 6$$

$$p\text{-value} = 0.584$$

**Table 1.34 Differences between education and knowledge of understanding the process needed to complete or change a Form 7 of the respondents**

Education	Do you understand the process needed to complete or change a Form 7?			Total
	Yes	No	Don't Know	
Primary Education	18	19	29	66
Middle School	1	5	4	10
High school	0	1	3	4
Other	7	2	11	20
Total	26	27	47	100

$$X^2 = 8.048$$

$$df = 6$$

$$p\text{-value} = 0.235$$

**Table 1.35 Differences between occupation and having their own land of respondents**

Occupation	Do you have your own private land?		Total
	Yes, I have	No, I haven't	
Farmer	43	6	49
Daily worker	3	23	26
Merchant	1	1	2
Salaried staff	0	1	1
Others	3	19	22
Total	50	50	100

$X^2 = 55.960$

df= 4

p-value= 0.000

**Table 1.36 Differences between occupation and understanding of the process needed to complete or change a Form 7 of the respondents**

Occupation	Do you understand the process needed to complete or change a form 7?			Total
	Yes	No	Don't Know	
Farmer	20	18	11	49
Daily worker	2	3	21	26
Merchant	0	1	1	2
Salaried staff	0	1	0	1
Others	4	4	14	22
Total	26	27	47	100

$X^2 = 30.169$

df= 8

p-value= 0.000

## APPENDIX 2 – SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

### Rural Community Knowledge of Local Land Resources

1. Survey No. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Date: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Village: \_\_\_\_\_, Village tract: \_\_\_\_\_,  
Township: \_\_\_\_\_, Region/ State: \_\_\_\_\_

**I. Respondent Details**

- 1.1 Age: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.2 Gender            1. Male                            2. Female
- 1.3 Material Status  
(1) Married    (2) Single                            (3) Divorced    (4) Window
- 1.4 Educational Status  
(1) Primary    (2) Middle                            (3) High                            (4) Undergraduate  
(5) Post-Graduate    (6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.5 Number of Members in your Household: \_\_\_\_\_ people
- 1.6 Approximate Annual Household income: \_\_\_\_\_ (MMK)
- 1.7 Type of Employment:  
(1) Farmer    (2) Fisherman    (3) Daily wages                            (4) Seller  
(5) Salaried Employee    (6) Migrant worker                            (7) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Knowledge on Land Law and Policy**

- 2.1 Are you aware of the Vacant Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law 2012?  
(1) Yes            (2) No            (3) Don't Know
- 2.1 (a) If yes, could you please explain what you know?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2.2 Are you aware of the Farmland Law?  
(1) Yes            (2) No            (3) Don't Know

2.2 (a) If yes, which of the following is correct?

- |     |   |            |     |
|-----|---|------------|-----|
| (1) | The law defines the type of crops that can be grown by a farmer   | Yes        | No  |
|     | Don't Know  |            |     |
| (2) | The law describes different land uses and institutions in Myanmar |            | Yes |
|     | No  | Don't Know |     |
| (3) | The law controls township level land management plans             | Yes        | No  |
|     | Don't Know  |            |     |
| (4) | The law documents farmer use rights over land parcels             | Yes        | No  |
|     | Don't Know  |            |     |
| (5) | The law demonstrates how land disputes are resolved               | Yes        | No  |
|     | Don't Know  |            |     |
| (6) | Other important details: _____                                    |            |     |

2.3 Are you aware of the new National Land Use Policy?

- (1) Yes            (2) No

2.3 (a) If yes, which of the following is correct?

- |     |  |     |    |            |
|-----|--|-----|----|------------|
| (1) | The NLUP describes land use types in Myanmar               | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| (2) | The NLUP supports community rights for land                | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| (3) | The NLUP describes land dispute resolution approaches      | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| (4) | The NLUP promotes land use rights for ethnic nationalities | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| (5) | The NLUP promotes equal land rights for men and women      | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| (6) | Other important details: _____                             |     |    |            |

2.4 Do you think rural community knowledge in existing land legislation and the NLUP is important?

- (1) Yes, I think            (2) No, I don't            (3) Don't Know

2.4 (a) If yes, why do you think it is important?

(1) To provide improved land ownership and use security

Yes No Don't Know

(2) Protection against illegal or unfavorable land transactions with outside groups

Yes No Don't Know

(3) The NLUP supports improved land dispute resolution

Yes No Don't Know

(4) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Detail of village Tract Farmland Management Body**

3.1 Do you know if a Farmland Management Body exists in your village tract? Yes  
No Don't know

3.2 If yes, are there women involved in this committee? Yes No Don't Know

3.3 If yes, how many .....

3.4 Do you think having Farmland Management Body is important for the community?

(1) Yes (2) No (3) Don't Know

3.5 If yes, what is the importance of having a village tract Farmland Management Body?

(1) For Land Dispute Resolution

(2) Form 7 registration

(3) Sharing information on Land related knowledge

(4) Others: \_\_\_\_\_

3.6 Do you have any suggestions on how to strengthen or create the Farmland Management Body?

\_\_\_\_\_

**IV. Private Land Management in the Village**

4.1 Do you or members of your household have your own private land?

(1) Yes (2) No (3) Don't Know

4.1(a) If yes, is this land officially registered with authorities i.e. you possess a Form 7?

- (1) Yes (2) No

4.1 (b) If yes, is the principal name on the Form 7, male or female?

- (1) Male (2) Female

4.3 Do you understand the process needed to complete or change a Form 7?

- (1) Yes (2) No (3) Don't Know

4.4 If yes, how did you obtain this information?

- (1) Government department GAD DALMS Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Village tract administrative officer
- (3) Another source: \_\_\_\_\_

**V. Community Boundaries and Land Use Inventory**

5.1 Have you heard that the village has a boundary map?

- (1) Yes (2) No (3) Don't Know

5.2 Do you think that having a completed and agreed upon village boundary map is important?

- (1) Yes (2) No (3) Don't know

5.2 (a) If yes, why it is important for you?

- (1) The boundary map supports greater land tenure security
- (2) The boundary map prevents outside interests from taking our community land
- (3) The boundary map Solving in Land dispute resolution
- (4) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

5.3 Do you think that it is important for the community to have shared land resources that are recognized by the government?

- (1) Yes (2) No (3) Don't Know

5.4 If community land (land presently shared by villagers) is recognized by the government, do you prefer that this land is recognized as:



(5) Kachin

6.2 Are there any customary land use rights or management existent within these ethnic nationalities?

(1) Yes (2) No (3) Don't Know

6.3 If so, what are customary land use rights of ethnic nationalities? (Please notes the detail on each topics)

(Can select multiple responses)

(1) Hillside shifting cultivation; \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Community land administrative system: \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Land dispute resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

(4) Recognition of equal land rights for women: \_\_\_\_\_

(5) Others: \_\_\_\_\_

## VII. Equal Rights of Men and Women

7.1 Do you think that men and women should have equal land rights?

(1) Yes (2) No (3) Don't know

7.2 If No, why not? (Please describe the detail)

\_\_\_\_\_

7.3 Do the women participate in land related decision making activities within the village?

(1) Yes (2) No

7.3 (a) If yes, how do they participate in those activities?

(1) Attending village meetings Yes No

(2) Involvement in land dispute resolution Yes No

(3) Make decisions about land resources Yes No

(4) Others: \_\_\_\_\_

7.4 If No, what are the barriers to involve in land related activities in the village?



(1) Too busy with their chores

(2) Get no invitation

(3) Other reasons: \_\_\_\_\_

7.5 Do you have any suggestions for how participation of women in land activities can be increased? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your time!**