

## **Draft IEE for Shae Thot Program:**

*(in bullet-point form for quick reading)*

# **Construction of Training Facility within the Livelihood Component of the "Shae Thot: The Way Forward" Humanitarian Assistance Program in Central Burma**

## **1. Background and Activity Description**

### **1.1 Purpose and Scope**

- This is an activity-level IEE supplementing the existing program IEE for the Shae Thot Humanitarian Assistance Program in Central Burma.
- Its purpose is to provide the first review of the reasonably foreseeable effects on the environment, as well as recommended Threshold Decisions of constructing a Community Development and Training Center (CDTC)
- This IEE is necessary, since the construction and operation of Training Centers is not covered under the parent Shae Thot IEE.

### **1.2 Background**

- The Livelihood component of the Shae Thot program is intended to decrease household-level food insecurity and increase livelihood opportunities both through the expansion of access to financial services, and the improvement of agricultural practices.
- However, experience to date shows that current training facilities are not adequate to meet local training demands.
- Therefore this construction activity will construct a Community Development and Training Center (CDTC) in the Bawlakhe township in Kayah State to train farmers in best agricultural and veterinary practices, and provide them with improved seed varieties and approved agricultural input products. The success of this initiative may lead to the construction of 2 additional CDTCs in the future, one in the Dry Zone and another in Rangoon.

### **1.3. Description of Activities:**

- **Construction:** The CDTC will be made up of 5 buildings: an administrative wing for offices, two classrooms that can hold approximately 35 people per class, a parking lot, two demonstration plots, and a warehouse and agricultural input store to provide farmers with improved seed varieties and approved agrochemicals

The construction project will include minimal leveling of about 2ha of open land donated by the township, the construction of a gated fence to enclose the site, and the rehabilitation of two main access roads leading to site

## **2. Country and Environmental Information**

### **2.1. Locations Affected**

- The construction site (2ha) is land that belongs to the Township. It was previously partially forested grazing land for local herders, so there will be no need for residential relocation.
- Beneficiary farmers will be villagers from the Bawlakhe and Hpsasawng townships in Kayah State.

### **2.2. Applicable Host Country Environmental Policies and Procedures:**

- The construction project has received approval from the Bawlakhe Township government officials, as well as the local Village Development Committee.

- The pesticides provided in the CDTC's agricultural input store have been approved by the Burma Agriculture Service (Plant Protection Department).
- The trainings carried out on livestock care will be done in collaboration with the Township-Level Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD). All proposed drugs are reported as registered at the national level Animal Drug Registration department in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

### 3. Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

- **During Construction:**
  - Construction may be made at an improperly sited location, leading to unwanted damage to natural ecosystems, sites with historical or traditional value, or may disrupt local drainage if the construction site is located in close proximity to a stream /water body/wetlands;
  - Stagnant/standing water already exists due to the proximity of wetlands. Any stagnant or standing water associated with the construction site will be minor in comparison;
  - Material used for construction might lead to land degradation, erosion and possible landslides and/or deforestation at the site of material sourcing.
- **During Operation:** *Note that operation is only in the purview of this IEE until hand-off to the cooperative.*
  - The activities carried out at the CDTC may lead to the contamination of surface and shallow groundwater with seepage and discharge containing pesticides and fertilizers from the demonstration plots. However, because the pesticides provided are all natural (neem cake and oil), there is little risk of this happening.
  - The provision of agrochemicals and veterinary products may have negative impacts if not adequately monitored. With this in mind, a Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP) will be developed to address these components of the activity.

**Technical assistance and extension:** Training and technical extension should have no adverse environmental impacts.

### 4. Recommended threshold decisions and mitigation actions, including monitoring and evaluation

A **deferral** is recommended for **pesticide and agrochemical procurement** activities, which will be postponed until the preparation and approval of a **Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan**.

A **categorical exclusion** is recommended for **technical assistance and extension activities**, pursuant to §216.2(c)(2)(i) (education, training and technical assistance).

A **negative determination with conditions** is recommended for seed, fertilizer procurement, as well as the construction of the CDTC, demo plots, seed storage facilities, provision of livestock animals and veterinary kits, and microfinance, savings and lending schemes.