

# Establishing an independent Variety Testing Service in Myanmar

SMP1970



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# 1. Background Seed Money Project

How do recent law/regulations (positively) affect (Dutch) seed companies?



# Establishing an independent Variety Testing Service in Myanmar

The **major** objective was to:

- Assess the feasibility of an independent variety testing service that can run sustainably on a cost-recovery basis.

**Sub-objectives:**

- Assess the focus and scope of the variety testing service, i.e. in terms of crops and services (only VCU testing or also pre-screening, demonstrations and trainings)
- Explore suitable sites for the variety testing service in a number of agro-ecologies of the country
- Further assess the interest of Dutch seed companies (beyond the current two) and their long-term commitment
- Review existing regulations and procedures to ensure compliance
- Develop a project proposal and business plan for the variety testing service for follow-up funding





## 2. Legal framework

Procedures are available

### Laws and Regulations

- Seed Law
- Fertilizer Law
- Pesticide Law
- Plant Pest Quarantine Law
- Plant Variety Protection Law
- The Law of Protection of the Farmer Right

The Law Amending the Seed Law  
(Pyithung-Uthaw Law No.5, 2015)  
The 1st Meeting of Thabaw, 107th W.B.  
(18th February, 2015)

The Pyithung-Uthaw hereby amends the Law

1. This Law shall be called the Law Amending the Seed Law

2. In section 2 of the Seed Law

a. After sub-section (a), sub-section (a-1) and (a-2) shall be inserted as follows

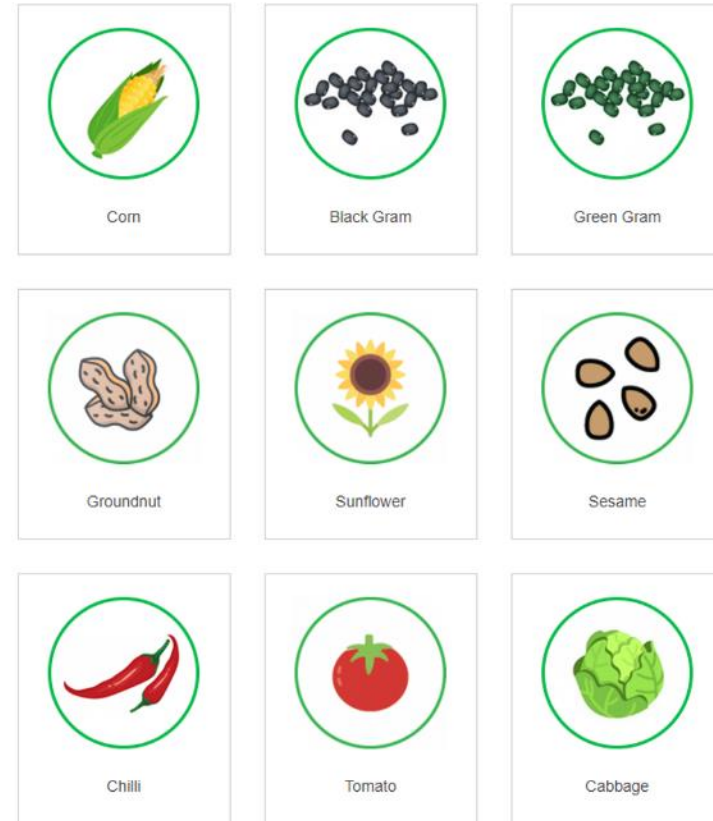
(a-1) Parent Line means the line used as parent to breed and produce plant variety

(a-2) Parental Crop means crop that is cultivated continually and which is enable to obtain benefit at a certain period



# Procedures are available

- For 17 crops variety testing is required;
- Multi-locational trials, at a minimum of three locations, are required to test the varieties on their Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU);
- Procedures and protocols are clearly described and given at the website of the Myanmar Seed Portal;
- Applications can be done online;
- Technical and National Seed Committees plan to have quarterly meeting to decide on registration;
- An one-stop shop for seed regulatory services becomes operational in the first half of 2020.



### 3. Practical situation

But the reality is slightly different





# Variety testing in reality

- An overview of all different testing locations (both government and non-government) with characteristics (climatic zones, size, soil etc.) in Myanmar is lacking;
- On farm level track records (history) of the variety trials done over time are absent;
- Although site selection is one of the most crucial aspects in variety testing this is not properly taken care of by the trial/farm managers;
- Testing formats including the data records are not uniform and complete for the various crops;
- Responsible persons at testing locations have limited knowledge, skills and experience in setting up a clear plot design where the site selection is of major importance.





#### 4. Demands seed companies





- Cost effective and reliable procedures
- Outsourced to accredited body
- Less bureaucracy
- Accountable test results
- Swift timeline



- Less paperwork
- Pre-selection trials
- Promotion of improved varieties / demo
- Training of researchers
- Training of trainers & outreach (follow up VEGCAP a WUR program)

Recognition certificate for a variety is issued for the importer or distributor, not for the breeder (Requires lobbying)



A photograph of three women standing in a lush green cornfield. The woman on the left wears a white lace hat and a black jacket. The woman in the middle wears a yellow hat and a plaid shirt, pointing towards the right. The woman on the right wears a traditional conical hat and a purple jacket, holding a notebook. The background shows more corn plants and a distant hillside.

## 5. Proposal impact Cluster

But the reality is slightly different



# Objective and Scope

- The objective of the Impact Cluster is to: facilitate Myanmar and international seed companies with testing, registering and popularizing new varieties so as to increase the access to superior and well-adapted varieties for Myanmar's farmers.
- Set up independent at cost price working seed testing "stichting" or NGO
- Envisaged services:
  - Pre-commercial trials;
  - Variety trials;
  - Demonstration trials and field days;
  - Paperwork;
  - Capacity building.

## 6. Q & A

