MPRL E&P Pte Ltd.















Livelihood Development Program Report

CSR & Communications Department

1. Executive Summary

MPRL E&P is fully aware of the fact that business operations do not happen in a vacuum and that it is accountable to multiple stakeholders with a range of interest and influences on its business operations and business conduct. The CSR and Communications Department assists the company in developing and implementing a sustainability strategy that emphasizes shared value creation through regular consultations with host communities and prioritizing mutually beneficial investment projects.

In the light of the potential role the energy industry can play in order to contribute to sustainable development of the country, our CSR programs are aspired to the UN's Sustainable development goal concerning creating sustainable communities and contributing to local development.

For many lower middle income economies including Myanmar, agriculture remains central to the development efforts, and is a key sector contributing to the gross domestic product (GDP). Despite the sector's importance, food security and poverty continue to be major challenges in many parts of the rural Myanmar. In this regard, MPRL E&P intends to support the improvement of the local agricultural sector to address these challenges along with the host community and relevant stakeholders.

2. Our Key Objectives

MPRL E&P is committed towards enhancing and improving the lives of the Mann Field communities, of which major livelihood activity is farming, and helping them achieve self-reliance. MPRL E&P, in line with these CSR objectives, aims to implement a range of livelihood development initiatives in Mann Field, and in this regard, its CSR Program has supported vocational education opportunities and agriculture and livestock activities for youth, women and farming households in Mann Field.

3. Our Approach

MPRL E&P intends to contribute to sustainable development of our host communities and improvement in livelihood opportunities in Mann Field. The company does this through establishing local and regional partnerships, and investing in sustainable vocational skills development and livelihood development.

Our approach on CI projects is bottom-up, community-led and through partnerships with communities and local stakeholders. Conducting an assessment is the first step and a great opportunity to use community based participatory approaches, further involving community members and increasing community capacity. Through regular needs assessment activities with the communities, we have identified existing gaps regarding knowledge and access to improved seeds in order to take the agricultural productivity of the community to a new level.

4. Livelihood Development Programs (FY 2017-2018 to FY 2019-2020)

4.1. Vocational Skills Development

As part of CSR initiatives, MPRL E&P has provided a series of vocational training for the sustainable livelihood development of the Mann Field Communities since FY 2017-2018 in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and organizations. Over the three fiscal years, a total of 15 types of trainings based on job market analysis and preferences have been delivered to a total of 315 trainees from Mann Field as shown in the table below.

No.	Fiscal Year	Type of Training	# of Trainees
1	FY 2017-2018	Value-Added Food Making Training	27
2		Soap Making Training	21
3		Pigeon pea value-added products making training	29
4		Sewing Training	20
5	FY 2018-2019	Welding Training	27
6		Bamboo Handicrafts Making Training	17
7		Hand-made Bag Making Training	12
8		Basic Electrical Repair Training	31
9		Bamboo-based Product Making Refresher Course	12
10	FY 2019-2020	Ready-to-Eat Food Products Making Training	19
11		Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) Training	16
12		Horticulture Training	41
13		Professional Soap Making Training	3
14		Mushroom Cultivation Training	20
15		Refresher Course of Fabric Bag Making	20
Total			**315**

Vocational trainings in FY 2017-2018, FY 2018-2019 and FY 2019-2020

Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Value-Added Food Making Training





Soap Making Training





Pigeon Pea Value-added Products Making Training





Sewing Training





Welding Training





Bamboo Handicrafts Making Training





Hand-made Bag Making Training





Basic Electrical Repair Training







Bamboo-based Product Making Refresher Course





Ready-to-Eat Food Products Making Training





Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) Training





Horticulture Training





Professional Soap Making Training





Mushroom Cultivation Training





Refresher Course of Fabric Bag Making





4.2. Agricultural Initiatives

As Mann Field area is located in the Central Dry Zone of Myanmar, the majority cash crops are chickpeas, sesames and other oil crops, but most of the farmers lack access to quality seeds. Improved crop varieties can be purchased through Government and private companies, however accessibility and availability has been a major issue for the farmers in the communities.

In order to help overcome this problem, MPRL E&P has partnered with the Department of Agriculture in Minbu, Magway Region to help improve productivity of the farmers by providing knowledge sharing sessions on the use of the GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) system, systematic use of soil, chemical fertilizers, natural fertilizers, pesticides and selecting region-suited seeds.



Following the knowledge sharing sessions, MPRL E&P's CSR team and farmers discussed together developing model chickpea and sunflower farms and organizing field days. Then MPRL E&P has supported development of model farms growing chickpeas and sunflowers, and organized field days for a group of farmers from neighboring communities as the first steps. During the field days to the model farms, the farmers studied how chickpeas can be grown based on the GAP system, safe use of pesticides and how to make organic pesticides at home. They also studied the use of gypsum, comparison of wet season peanut seeds, and wet season sesame plantations. It is hoped that the farming communities will be able to integrate knowledge on the GAP and practical learning to increase their agricultural productivity, and improve their living standards.



After these field-based learning sessions, MPRL E&P engaged with the farmers who are interested to apply modern sowing techniques with improved chickpea seeds during FY 2018-2019. A total of eight farmers from four villages have participated in these activities. After the farmers completed sowing the seeds, MPRL E&P facilitated field learning sessions with the neighboring farmers to compare the differences between the traditional way and modern techniques. Most of the farmers were well aware of the improvements, and have shown their interest to use the new methods in their next crop season. The figure below shows the increase in the number of farmers who have sown improved chickpea seeds during the two fiscal years.

No.	Village	# of farmers FY 18 - 19	# of farmers FY 19 - 20	% Increase in each village
1	Chin Taung	3	14	367%
2	Kywe Cha	1	5	400%
3	Lay Eain Tan	3	4	33%
4	Man Kyoe	1	6	500%
5	Mei Bayt Kone	-	4	-
Total		8	33	313%

Number of Farmers who have sown improved chickpea seeds









4.3. Horticulture Training

MPRL E&P believes provision of horticulture trainings for the local farmers in Mann Field will enable them to adopt sustainable horticultural practices that preserve local ecosystems and promote socio-economic development. In February 2019, MPRL E&P supported a group of 59 farmers to participate in a field day organized by East-West Seed and Netherlands' Government for learning opportunities on chemical-free vegetable production, importance of good seeding and proper fertilization for optimum crop yields.





Following this, many of the farmers requested us to arrange technical trainings for horticulture. Therefore, in July 2019, the CSR team organized a training on growing tomatoes and chilies, both of which are popular vegetables with year-round demands, in collaboration with a technician from East-West Seed with a particular focus on upgrading the traditional ways of horticulture to the modern ones for optimum crop yields and sustainability.



In order to monitor and support these agriculture and horticulture activities, MPRL E&P recruited a Community Liaison whose main responsibilities are to work closely with the Department of Agriculture (Minbu) for awareness raising purposes, and to facilitate between farmers and technical persons for tackling the difficulties farmers are facing.



One of the MPRL E&P's approaches is to partner with relevant local stakeholders on community investment activities. In this regard, we have collaborated with the Department of Agriculture (Minbu) and Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary for technical knowledge support to the farming communities in Mann Field.







5. Monitoring Plans

MPRL E&P monitors the progress of the vocational trainees, and conducts review meetings with all the trainees to ensure continuous improvements and cross learning on a regular basis. For the agriculture and horticulture activities, the CSR field team will monitor on a seasonal basis according to the crops individual farmers are growing. During the crop seasons, the Community Liaison will observe closely each and every step of the farming activities.

6. Way Forward Plans

In future, the following new initiatives on agriculture and livestock will be implemented for the communities in Mann Field:

- Model sesame GAP farm
- Improved seeds bank
- Chickpea seed farm
- Systematic breeding farm of local chicken

7. Success Stories from Mann Field

Success Story (1)



Daw San May

Daw San May is a 61-year-old farmer living in Kyar Kan Village with her family of 7 people. While she works on her farms, her husband works at a ship.

She attended the horticulture training on tomatoes and chilies provided at the Shwe Twin Kyaung Monastery. The hands-on training was organized by MPRL E&P's CSR Program in cooperation with U Aung Ko Latt from East West Seed Company Limited. After the completion of the training, with the support of seeds from MPRL E&P and materials from the East West Seed Company Limited, she started to grow tomatoes on 15 September 2019.

At first there was difficulty getting water, and as a result a well was drilled. Initially, she never thought about drilling a well because the land was not supposed to produce fresh water. However, with the encouragement of the CSR Team, the well was drilled and it happened to produce fresh water! Also seedlings were damaged due to unfamiliarity with the techniques when first growing the plantations. Later things improved.

Previously, broadcast seeding method was traditionally used to grow tomatoes. As a result, the plants grow unevenly, and there are losses at the harvest time. There are also other challenges such as high labour cost to clearing weeds, labour scarcity, and heavy rainfall.



An advantage of this current system is losses during harvest and irrigation are minimized as it makes use of the planting beds. The black color of the planting beds absorbs perspirations, and therefore, the irrigation time is reduced from once in a week to once in ten days. Even when it rains, the planting beds would not collapse, and the roots do not become rotten. Other advantages include water conservation, easy harvest, efficient fertilization, easy caring, and cost effectiveness as some materials can be stored for future use such as stakes.

At present, the plants are growing strongly as they can absorb plenty of air, and they produce good harvests. Although the current harvest time is long, the plants do not show signs of slowing down and continue to blossom. Of course, this exceeds the grower's initial expectations.

This year Daw San May has grown .25 acre of tomatoes. Next year, she aims for 1 full acre. She believes she is successful in her first endeavor through close cooperation, supervision and monitoring by U Aung Ko Latt, Community Liaison U Win Ko and CSR Field Coordinator Daw Zin Mar Myint.



Her return on investment is between 7 lakhs to 10 lakhs after capitalizing 3 lakh. In addition, she is growing onions and eggplants on a small scale.

She expresses her thanks to MPRL E&P, U Aung Ko Latt from East West Seed Company Limited and CSR Field Staff for the training, technical and other supports provided.

Success Story (2)

Ko Nay Zaw is a 35-year-old farmer living in Chin Taung Village with his family. Previously he grew paddy and sesames. He had some experience growing mushroom on his own too. Then he attended the training provided by MPRL E&P's CSR Program on mushroom cultivation. He made contact with the trainer U Myo Min Thein, and ordered the mushroom spawn. His mushroom cultivation business started off on 30 October 2019.



Ko Nay Zaw

His first capital investment which was supported by MPRL E&P's CSR Program on the Pearl Oyster mushroom farm was over MMK 270,000. Over these two months, he has collected MMK 150,000 in return. In the first delivery of mushroom spawn, there was some damage because of the long transport routes. In the second delivery, the location was close and losses were reduced. The advantages are connections with customers, and due to the mushroom model farm, interested people as many as over 20 people came to observe.





The mushroom farm is like a six-month-piggybank, and there is a daily income. Being a home-based business, Ko Nay Zaw does not have to leave his home and the family can provide necessary supports as well, saving labour costs. He chose to grow the Pearl Oyster mushroom for being a type of mushroom that promotes health, and at the same time, he has started to grow Straw mushroom and Cloud Ear Fungus.



Success Story (3)



U Aung San Myint is a 52-year-old farmer from Man Gyoe Village who grows tomatoes, chickpeas and sunflowers.

U Aung San Myint

In the past, he used to grow tomatoes using the traditional method. After attending the horticulture training on tomatoes and chilies, he was interested in trying out the newly learnt cultivation method. Therefore, he worked hard on his farm with the assistance of his laborers to create planting beds and use plastic mulch as the new method suggested. Despite initial difficulties, he made it, and the results have been cost reduction and high yields.





The cost to clear weeds from the plantations used to cost as much as 6 lakhs, and now it has been reduced to one tenth. The cost to set down the plastic mulch is just over 60,000 kyats. It can help keep pests away, and thus save expenses on pesticides. As the method likens to an organic one, the vegetables produced will promote good health and prevent cancers for the consumers. U Aung San Myint has observed that weeds no longer grow in the area where the plastic mulch has been set down, and he will repeat the method in next season. The total expenditures for the farm was 7 lakhs, and up to now he has earned over 30 lakhs. He is expecting another 5 lakhs in coming months.

He ensures attending the monthly knowledge sharing activities facilitated by MPRL E&P's CSR Program and the Department of Agriculture (Minbu) to increase his knowledge and learning capacity alongside other farmers. U Aung San Myint is thankful for all the supports he has received in developing his livelihood activities.

MPRL E&P

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