

Roundtable

Towards a Myanmar Food Safety & Responsible Sourcing Initiative

Primary Agricultural Production, Post Harvest,
and Food Processing

Tue 8 – Wed 9 November 2016
Lake Garden Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
With simultaneous interpretation

DAY 1		
TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC
08:30	REGISTRATION	
09:00	Vicky Bowman Director, MCRB	Welcome and Program Introduction
09:05	Keynote 1: Dr. Tin Htut, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation	Opening Address <i>Myanmar's Commitment to International Food Safety & Responsible Sourcing Standards</i>
09:20	Stephen Wong, Deputy Head of Mission of New Zealand	<i>Co-sponsor</i>
09:30	Keynote 2: Kenneth Shein Group CEO, PRIME Holdings Pte Ltd	<i>International Standards: Key to Unlocking Market Access for The Growth of Myanmar's Agri & Food Exports</i>
09:45	Johann Zueblin Former Board Member of Global G.A.P., Co-Founder of the Global Food Safety Initiative and the Global Social Compliance Program	<i>Overview of International Standards for Food Safety & Responsible Sourcing: Background, Market Players, Resources, Lessons Learned</i>
10:15	Photos and Coffee/Networking Break	
10:45	Participant Introductions	<i>Brief intros from Participants (facilitated by Vicky)</i>
11:00	Guest Speaker: (via Skype) Mr. Clay Brown* Vice President, Fair Trade USA (20')	<i>Fair Trade - Overview, and Benefits of Implementation in Myanmar</i>
Session 1: International Standards for Primary Production: Global G.A.P. Pre – Farm Gate		
11:10	Panel: (Moderator: Vicky Bowman)	

	<p>Ms. Kerstin Uhlig Manager Corporate & Public Relations Global G.A.P (30')</p> <p>Daw Shwe Phue San Technical Expert, Food Safety & SPS, GIZ (10')</p> <p>Mr. Daniel Bennett Director of Agri Operations PRIME Agri Ltd (15')</p> <p>Mr. Ewan Lamont Chief Operating Officer Myanma Awba (10')</p> <p>Q&A/Discussion</p>	<p>Global G.A.P. <i>The International Standard for Primary Production</i></p> <p><i>SPS Support Measures in Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Trade Development Programme).</i></p> <p><i>Global G.A.P. Certification in Myanmar: Process and Challenges for Smallholders & Commercial Farms</i></p> <p><i>Technology, Responsibility and the Quest for a level Playing Field</i></p>
13:00	LUNCH	
Session 2: Food Processing and Food Safety Post – Farm Gate		
14:00	<p>Mr. Fons Schmid Chairman, FSSC22000, Co-Founder and former Chairman of Global Food Safety Initiative, Former Board Member of Global G.A.P.</p> <p>Mr. Sandro Kündig Director, Kündig et Cie AG</p> <p>Mr. Bill McD Stevenson, Chief Technical Advisor, Myanmar New Zealand Dairy Excellence Programme</p> <p>Discussion and Q&A</p>	<p>FSSC22000: <i>An Overview, Benefits, Case Studies and Implementation in Myanmar</i></p> <p><i>Food Safety System of a European Food Manufacturer</i></p> <p><i>Food Safety and Product Quality Issues facing the Dairy Sector in Myanmar</i></p>
15:30	Coffee/Tea (30')	
Session 3: Responsible Sourcing in Myanmar: Today's Reality, Challenges and Ambitions		
15:30	<p>Panel: (Moderator: Vicky Bowman)</p> <p>Daw Thida Win Htay, Ministry of Commerce</p>	<i>National Export strategy</i>

	<p>San Zin Oo Corporate Social Responsibility Manager APB ABC, Part of the HEINEKEN Company and Thura Aung, Executive Director, Radanar Ayar</p> <p>U Naing Thein Aung Policy Team, (AFFM-IUF)</p> <p>U Ye Myint, Chairman Myanmar Coffee Association</p>	<p><i>Upgrading smallholder farmers food safety standards to meet multinational company's demand</i></p> <p><i>Climate Change, Sustainable Agriculture and Farmers' Rights</i></p> <p><i>Experience of Myanmar Coffee Association</i></p>
17:00	END OF DAY ONE	

DAY 2		
TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC
09:00	Vicky Bowman, MCRB	Day 1 Review & Day 2 Introduction
Session 4: CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS, INCLUDING ORGANIC		
09:10	<p>Panel: (Moderator: Johann Zueblin)</p> <p>Mr Fons Schmid Chairman, FSSC22000</p> <p>Mr. Roshan Ranawake Managing Director, Control Union Certification Body</p> <p>Dr Hnin Nandar Kyaw Assistant Director, Food Division, Department of Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Health (tbc)</p> <p>Daw May Thu Soe Mya Chemical Free Q&A and Discussion</p>	<p><i>Accreditation / Certification – government role in policy and legislation</i></p> <p><i>Role & Implementation of Certification Bodies</i></p> <p><i>Activities of the Myanmar FDA</i></p> <p><i>Aiming for organic (tbc)</i></p>
10:45	Coffee Break	

Session 5: TOWARDS RESPONSIBLE SOURCING IN MYANMAR'S AGRICULTURE SECTOR		
11:15	<p><u>Breakout groups</u></p> <p>Global G.A.P: The Myanmar context</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food Safety/traceability 2. Environment including biodiversity 3. Workers Health, Safety, Welfare 4. Pesticides 	<p><i>(International experts to be distributed amongst them, interpreter on hand)</i></p> <p><i>Questions to put to group</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing Myanmar legal, policy framework including enforcement - Proposals to fill gaps - Roles and responsibilities of stakeholders
12:30	LUNCH	
Session 6: RESPONSIBLE SOURCING		
13:30	<p>Mrs. Leontein Hasselman Plugge by Skype Managing Director, SIM Supply Chain Information Management</p>	<p>SIM Transparency & Accountability for Responsible Sourcing in Supply Chains</p>
13:45	Feedback and discussion from pre-lunch breakouts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food Safety/traceability 2. Environment including biodiversity 3. Workers Health, Safety, Welfare 4. Pesticides
15:00	Coffee	
NEXT STEPS		
15:30	<p>Discussion: Priorities for action, Next steps (Moderator: Kenneth Shein)</p>	Opportunity to identify main actions and follow-up, including by participants
17:00		End of Conference

1 Background

This conference aims to bring relevant actors together to define actions that will assist the agriculture and food sectors in Myanmar to comply with market requirements for 'responsible sourcing'.

'Responsible sourcing' is increasingly a business requirement. Large companies and brands are setting up specific programs to implement best practices in their supply chains.

Suppliers are having to prove that their production meets international recognized standards as well as specific requests from companies. They are being asked to demonstrate that they apply best practices concerning food safety, social compliance, good environmental management and transparency within the supply chain. This requires the commitment of all actors within the supply chain.

Some initiatives to improve safety and sustainability of agriculture and food products have already been explored by local and international organisations in Myanmar. The opportunity now exists to bring these Myanmar-based initiatives together with international standards and experts in a two day conference in Naypyidaw of experts and other interested stakeholders to:

- exchange information and experience, to avoid duplication and reinventing what already exists
- identify gaps between local initiatives and international standards, and challenges in meeting them
- identify actions that companies, national and international organisations, government bodies and relevant standards and system providers should take to enhance responsible food sourcing in Myanmar
- raise national awareness of the importance of responsible sourcing

2 Risks and Challenges

Good practices for agriculture and food production are generally unfamiliar in Myanmar:

- Transparency and traceability within supply chains is often poor or inexistent, which is a challenge for local retailers, restaurants and hotels who want to source safely and responsibly
- Farmers often use unregistered chemicals and other farm inputs, generally imported from neighbouring countries. This results in unwanted and sometimes dangerous residues in the final products sold to customers.
- The regulatory framework is not adapted to the actual situation; registration of chemicals is out-dated The government is working on new legislation but implementation will take time

- Official food safety monitoring and control by government is at best, insufficient, and generally non-existent.
- Labour standards, including respect for workers' rights, occupational health and safety and child labour, are poor. So 10% of children under 14 are economically active, many of them in the agriculture sector.
- There is a countrywide lack of clarity over land tenure and registration, and an unresolved legacy of land grabs. This requires enhanced human rights due diligence to ensure that the rights to livelihood have not previously been violated.

The result of these heightened risks is that international food companies remain reluctant to contract with Myanmar producers. However there is an opportunity to address these concerns by introducing better practices which meet international food standards, in line with the priorities of the NLD government to boost the agriculture sector, including exports, and improve food safety.

3 Programs, Standards, Systems and Tools

In recent decades, business-driven initiatives and multi-stakeholder initiatives have developed a set of standards and systems covering primary production and manufacturing of goods (food and non-food). These standards and systems are generally based on international conventions such as the Codex Alimentarius, and core Conventions of the ILO and other UN bodies.

These standards are widely recognized by many market players and international organisations. For example, the environmental reference documents of the Global Social Compliance Programme (GSCP)¹ are recognized by UNIDO and have recently been defined as the working tool for business by the G7². To ensure coherence and avoid duplication, the GSCP equivalence process maps existing social and environmental standards and programs and the GSCP works closely together with the International Trade Centre in Geneva.

Another business-driven initiative facilitated by the CGF is the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI)³ whose benchmarked food safety standards are accepted worldwide by business. GLOBALG.A.P. is the world's leading farm assurance program, translating consumer requirements into Good Agricultural Practice in more than 100 countries.

These standards and systems [and others such as organic standards for EU markets and Fair Trade] are already available for producers in any country to implement, including Myanmar. Most of the documentation is freely available online. Rolling them out in Myanmar will allow agriculture and food producers to demonstrate that they are

¹ The Global Social Compliance Programme is facilitated by the Consumer Goods Forum (CGF), a global industry network, driven by its members; see www.theconsumergoodsforum.com/gscp-home

² On 26 April 2016 the Consumer Goods Forum (CGF) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) [cohosted a multi-sectoral and multistakeholder dialogue](#) to follow up the [G7 Employment and Development Ministers Ministerial Declaration](#) on Action for Fair Production, Berlin, 13 October 2015

³ <http://www.mygfsi.com/about-us/about-gfsi/what-is-gfsi.html>

adopting internationally recognised good practice, and increase access to international markets as well as enhancing standards of domestically consumed products.

4 Proposed participants

- Relevant Government institutions and Parliamentarians
- Agri and food industry, national and international
- Myanmar Retail / market players
- National agri and food associations
- International (possibly national) standard and system providers (Agri and Food Safety)
- Audit and certification bodies
- Service providers (extension, training, expertise etc.)
- Local civil society organisations (land rights, labour, environment, consumers)
- International NGOs
- Development partners