CASE STUDIES FACTSHEET

Nº:
Date of Interview: ……/……/……
Enumerator name: Carly Biondi

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

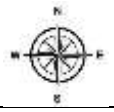
Organization name	World Agroforestry Centre East and Central Asia (ICRAF-ECA)		
Stakeholder classification	Specify		
☐ Government			
☐ Civil society organizations			
X University / Research institutes	The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) is a CGIAR Consortium Research Centre. ICRAF's headquarters are in Nairobi, Kenya, with six regional offices located in Cameroon, China, India, Indonesia, Kenya and Peru.		
☐ Private sector			
☐ Other			
Contact detail	Name: Peter Mortimer Email: P.Mortimer@cgiar.org	Position: Tel	Soil Biologist
Location	Office location: Kunming, China Chin State	Plot location: Teddim and New Suang Pyi townships	

Type of Agro-ecology schools	Specify
☐ Conservation agriculture	
☐ Organic agriculture	
☐ IPM	
X Agro-forestry	Demonstration sites specifically testing agroforestry with nitrogen-fixing trees
☐ VAC/Integrated farming system	
☐ System of Rice Intensification	

II. FARM BACKGROUND

	Detail information
Small farmers (family size & Labor)	A community forestry group, made up of 6 families, is currently working the land in conjunction with a local partner AR Yone Oo.
Land ownership	The land is currently owned by a community forestry group and will remain in their control.
Choice of crops and cultivation methods	Alley cropping and mixed planting options – use of Nitrogen-fixing shade trees Mixture of cropping option – annuals, perennials; shade tolerant and high light
Year in practice (>2-3 cropping cycles)	Trees were planted in 2015, but June/ July 2016 will be the first crop cycle
Economic benefit	The community forestry group will have access to all crops grow in the agroforestry demonstration plots. These crops will likely be used for household consumption or sold in local markets.
Peer-farmers adoption	This will be determined through the course of the project.

III. AE LAND LOCATION AND TRANSECT LANDSCAPE



Agroforestry demonstration plots were established on a total area of 3 ha (7.4 acre) of sloping land. Young seedlings of *Alnus nepalensis* were planted in mixed and alley cropping pattern on six subplots (50 x 50 m) each. Five different intercrop combinations will be tested in the first cropping season of the demonstration sites.

IV. DESCRIPTION OF INITIATIVE (BACKGROUND, REASON FOR STARTING THE INITIATIVE / GETTING INVOLVED, TECHNICAL SUPPORT RECEIVED, ECONOMIC ANALYSIS / PERFORMANCE, LESSON LEARNT, ETC.

"Agroforestry Alternatives to Shifting Cultivation in Upland Myanmar" aims to build a knowledge base and provide a knowledge platform to improve local capacity for transforming shifting cultivation systems into more productive and resilient agroforestry systems. Currently in Myanmar, farmers often adopt permanent cropping systems based on the currently marketable cash crop and relying on heavy inputs of agrochemicals. Agroforestry systems use substitute nutrient cycling between tree and crop layers as a means of maintaining productivity, which could be a more sustainable alternative than burning of woody biomass (in shifting cultivation systems) or the use of chemical fertilizer (modern cropping systems). The project is important for upland Myanmar at this particular point in time because of the recent liberalisation and opening up of Myanmar that has encouraged investors from across Myanmar's borders to invest in commercial crops such as growing maize on a large scale in Shan State for markets in China and Thailand which provides a strong incentive for shifting cultivators to take advantage of these opportunities. Experiences from countries, where these land use changes have already reached an advanced stage, such as Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam, point towards the danger of declining livelihoods in the long term perspective due to land degradation and loss of land use diversity if a significant amount of land is converted to permanent cropping systems. This project is innovative as the first systematic attempt in Myanmar to develop agroforestry systems in combination with indigenous land use systems by combining indigenous and scientific knowledge to enhance already existing system components, to introduce nitrogen-fixing trees, and to use advanced technology in a local context. Other innovative aspects of the project are to develop tools and techniques for training farmers in agroforestry by progressively incorporating experiences and demonstration plot result and to develop a knowledge platform for information exchange between different stakeholders. The aim of the project is to encourage strategies for improving livelihoods through increased productivity, and diversification while protecting biodiversity and ecological health.

V. POTENTIAL ON SCALING UP – DISSEMINATION

The agroforestry knowledge platform is one of the pillars of the project *Agroforestry alternatives to shifting cultivation in Myanmar*. This platform aims to build bridges between stakeholders present in land use change in upland Myanmar. It will achieve this by assessing current practices and possible options for different agricultural systems, as well as current international, regional and local activities related to different land uses including: land tenure advocacy, environmental resilience techniques, conservation efforts, community forestry groups and farmer field schools. The purpose of this research is to foster an institutional space to engage and disseminate new research relevant to different land use options. This platform is meant to centralize land use data by accessing current networks within Myanmar and to provide information on a range of agroforestry techniques to stakeholders. Partners, local communities, community forestry groups, and others can then use this information and research results to scale up the use of agroforestry in Myanmar. This research project is also in line with the new government policies in Myanmar. This project is fully in line with four of the six imperatives of the Myanmar forest policy; 1) Protection of soil, water, wildlife, bio diversity and environment, 2) Basic needs of the people for fuel, shelter, food and recreation, 3) Participation of the people in the conservation

and utilization of the forests and 4) Public awareness about the vital role of the forests in the well-being and socio-economic development of the nation. The project objectives are also in support of Myanmar's National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS, 2009) in which one of the three overarching goals is, "Sustainable management of natural resources- land, forests, biodiversity, agriculture and livestock and fishery" (Ministry of Forestry, 2009).

VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SUGGESTION