



Rice fields are being harvested by Myanmar Rice Federation in Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung.

MRF provides rice harvesters, dryers to Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung

By Min Thit (MNA)

PHOTO: YE LIN AUNG

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) and Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation (MAPCO) are providing rice harvesters and dryers to Maungtaw and Yathedaung townships in the Maungtaw region of Rakhine State, where many rice paddies were abandoned or unable to operate due to labour shortages after the terrorist attacks in August.

With the help of the government and professional organisations, about 1,500 acres of rice has been harvested using machinery, it is learnt.

"The Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) had formed nine work groups. The agriculture and livestock group is one of the nine work groups. The MRF conducts agriculture-related matters.

There are ownerless rice fields in Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung as well as rice fields with ethnic national owners who are unable to harvest the rice. Both of these rice fields were being harvested by (machine) harvesters" said MRF secretary U Ye Min Aung.

The MRF and MAPCO are using eight harvesters in Oo Daung, Aung Mingala, Ngwe Taung, Aung Zayya, Phawutchau and Mawyawaddy villages in Maungtaw Township and 14 harvesters in Zedipyin, Gwasone, Auk Kyaung Taung, Thane Taung, Thamihla, Kyunpaw,

Kalachaung and Htway Laung Tin villages in Yathedaung Township.

In order to prevent wastage of harvested rice, a rice dryer has been set up in Buthidaung Town. Two rice dryers, one in Alethanyaw Village and another in Kyeinchaung village, were set up in Maungtaw Township.

"There are 30 acres of rice fields. Because of the events in this region, farm workers became scarce, but the MRF came to help harvest with harvesters. That was a great help. Per acre output was about 30 baskets. If the government can provide some technical and financial assistance, it will be very helpful to the rice farmers", said Farmer U Maung Soe Win of Zedipyin Village, Yathedaung Township.

Another farmer agreed that the assistance has been invaluable. "In this region, we usually hire farm workers when it is time to harvest. Lack of farm workers is an every year occurrence. Due to the recent problems, it became worse. We thought we wouldn't be able to harvest the rice in time. Thankfully, MRF came to harvest" said farmer U Maung Han Soe of Ngwetaung Village, Maungtaw Township.

It was learnt that the MRF and MAPCO are planning to construct two 15-ton rice mills and two 6-ton rice mills in Kyeinchaung, Alethanyaw and Ngakhuya villages of Buthidaung Township and Maungtaw Township.

"Rice mill machineries have already been sent. They

were not installed yet because we are not ready. The construction will be completed during the open season" said U Ye Lin Aung of MAPCO.

Emergency requirements and important requirements of UEHRD were reviewed and resolved by the private sector through combined efforts and construction and basic infrastructure construction work group, agriculture and livestock work group, economic zones development work group, information and public relations work group, job creation and livelihood training work group, health work group, micro-financing work group, crowd-funding work group and travel development work group were formed on 21 October.

"The State Counsellor formed UEHRD. It is non-government. Private business organisations and private business persons will participate in rebuilding Rakhine State. Mainly, Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung regions will be rebuilt. If the project is successful here, private-public (government) partnership will enter into other states and regions. It is with this aim that we started this" said U Ye Min Aung of MRF. The above mentioned work groups are resolving current issues such as resettlement and providing humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State as well as mid-term and long-term works such as establishing businesses, creating job opportunities, increasing trade and investment. ■

The Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor

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The Establishment of the Advisory Board for the "Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State"

1. The Committee for implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State was officially formed with Notification 75/2017 dated of 12 September 2017 by the Office of the President of Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

2. The above-mentioned notification provides for the formation of an advisory board with the local, regional and international experts, as well as experienced individuals to provide necessary advice for the effective implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State based on the situation on the ground.

3. Accordingly, the Advisory Board for the "Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State" has been established with the following persons;

- (1) Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai
Chairman, Asia Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC), Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand
 - (2) Mr. Urban Ahlin
Speaker, Chair of the Riksdag Board Member of the Swedish Parliament
 - (3) Governor Bill Richardson
Chairman, Richardson Center for Global Engagement
Former Governor of New Mexico and Former United States Secretary of Energy
 - (4) Professor Lord Derzi of Denham
Former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of Health, Department of Health
Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council
 - (5) Mr. Roelof Petrus (Roelf) Meyer
Former Minister of Defence
Former Minister of Constitutional Affairs and Communication
Former Minister of Constitutional Development and Provincial Affairs South Africa
 - (6) U Win Mra
Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
 - (7) U Tun Myat
Former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General
 - (8) U Khin Maung Lay
Member of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
 - (9) U Hla Myint
Former Ambassador and Myanmar Representative to the ASEAN inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights
 - (10) Dr Daw Khin Nyo
Health and Sport Development Committee
Pyithu Hluttaw
4. The Advisory Board for the "Committee for implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State" will undertake its responsibilities in accordance with its Term of Reference (ToR) in order to provide effective advice.
5. Dr Surakiart Sathirathai will assume the position of Chairman of the Advisory Board.