



Deutscher Tropentag, October 8-10, 2003, Göttingen

“Technological and Institutional Innovations  
for Sustainable Rural Development”

## An Overview of Major Crops Production in Myanmar

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### Abstract

Myanmar is an agricultural based country and the agriculture sector is the backbone of its economy. The agriculture sector contributes 34 % of GDP, 23 % of total export earnings and employs 63 % of the labour force. The purpose of this poster is to share the knowledge about major crop production in Myanmar. The data concerning major crops sown areas and production during 10 years (1991–2001) were analysed. More than 60 different crops are grown because of the prevalence of different agro-ecological zones in Myanmar. The total crop area, including both seasonal and perennial crops, amounted to 12.95 million hectares in 1999–2000. The sown area in the rainy or monsoon season is over 8.5 million hectares, or 66 % of total crop cultivation during the cool season comes second, followed by the area cultivated during the summer under irrigation. For the dry zone area the main crops are sesame, groundnut, sunflower and pulses, which are grown in dryland and rice is grown on wetland in the rainy season. In the lower part of Myanmar rice is by far the dominant crop cultivated on wetland in the rainy season and pulses and oilseed crops are grown as a second crop after monsoon rice. In the summer season, rice, sesame, cotton and jute are cultivated under irrigation. During the year 2000–2001, out of a total crop cultivated areas 16 million hectares, rice cultivation is the highest amount, 43 % of total. Pulses cultivation is the second highest 18 % and followed by oilseed crops 17 % of the total cultivated areas, industrial crops (sugarcane, cotton, jute) 5 % and other cereals (maize, wheat) 3 %. The remaining 14 % are other perennial crops (rubber, coffee), vegetables and fruits. The population will grow about 60 million by the year 2010 and the demand for local rice consumption alone will be in the proximity of 20 million tons. To be able to supply enough food for the increasing population and export the surplus, rice production will have to be increased up to 25 millions tons, by expanding the rice growing area up to 6 millions hectares.

**Keywords:** Crop production, Myanmar