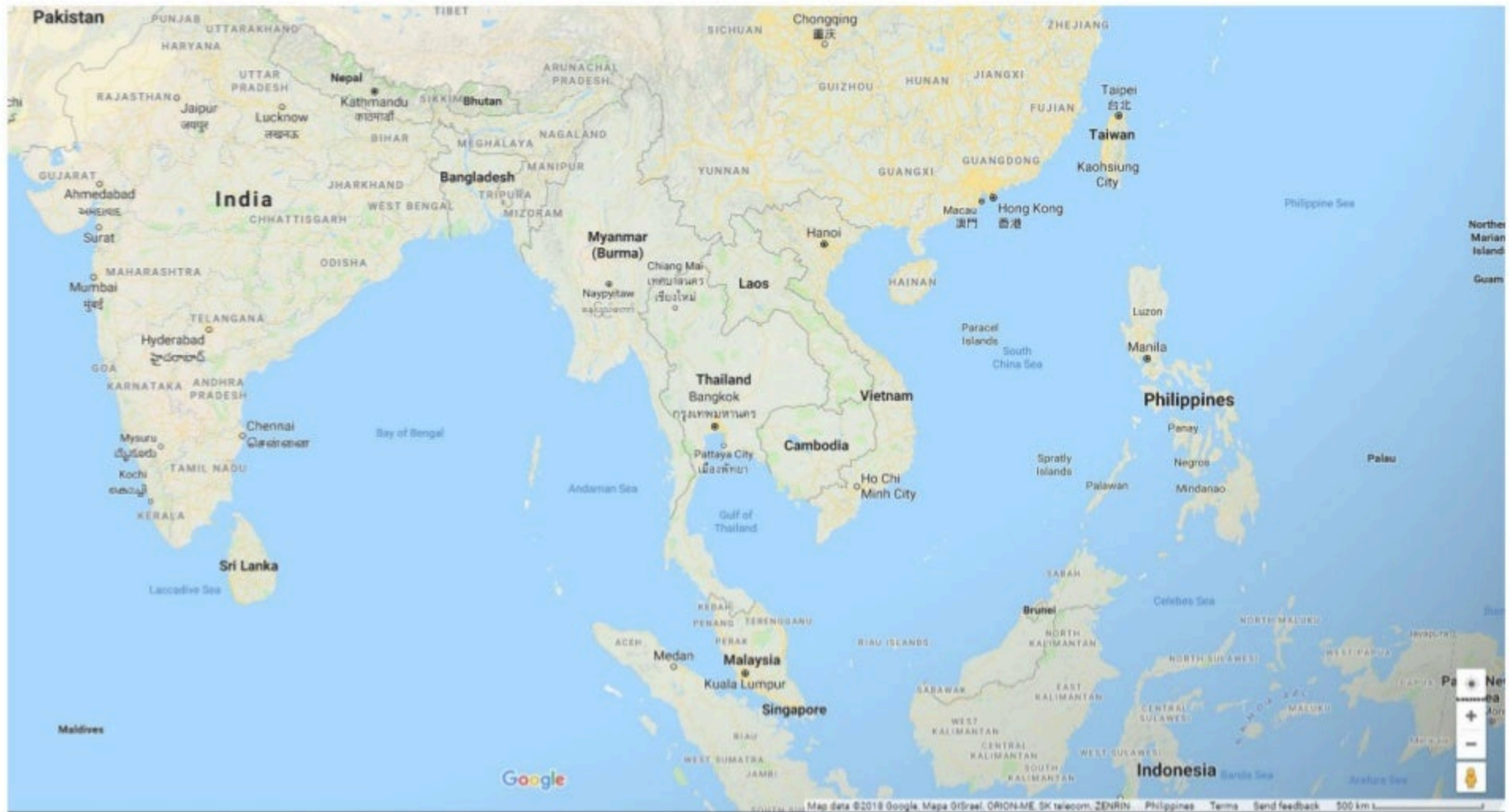


Rice farming in Myanmar: Effects of adoption of best management practices (BMPs) on livelihoods and food security of rural women

Melanie Connor, Su Su San



Myanmar



Rice Farming in Myanmar

- 7th largest rice producing country in Asia (2016)
- 28.6 million tons
- Rain-fed lowland (52.8% of total area)
- Ø 3.0 t/ha
- Traditional farming practices
- Increasing mechanization



Rice Farming in Myanmar

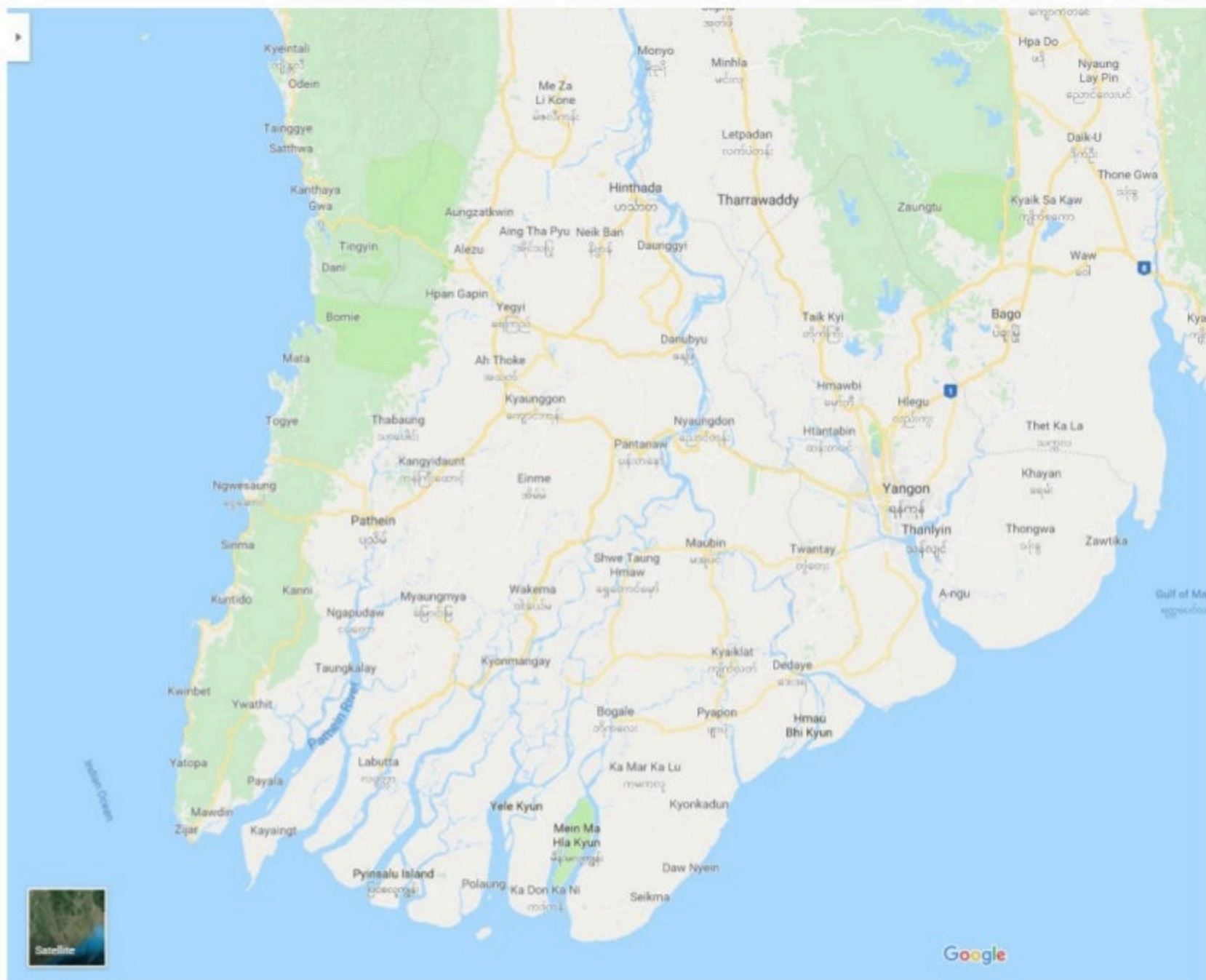
Development projects to improve food security

“Diversification and intensification of rice based systems in Myanmar” –
MyRice (ACIAR)

“Closing rice yield gaps in Asia” –
CORIGAP(SDC)

➤ Introduction of BMPs in Ayeyarwady and Bago regions





Rice Farming in Myanmar

Technologies introduced:

- Drum seeder
- Mechanical transplanter
- Pre- and post-emergence herbicides
- Balanced nutrient management
- Combine harvester
- Light weight thresher
- Flat bed dryer
- Ecological rodent management
- Storage bags for seeds
- New varieties



Women in Myanmar

- Equitable or advantageous compared to India or Bangladesh
- *hpon* – men's inborn and innate superiority
- ↻ Household heads, primary bread winners and legal representatives



Women in Myanmar

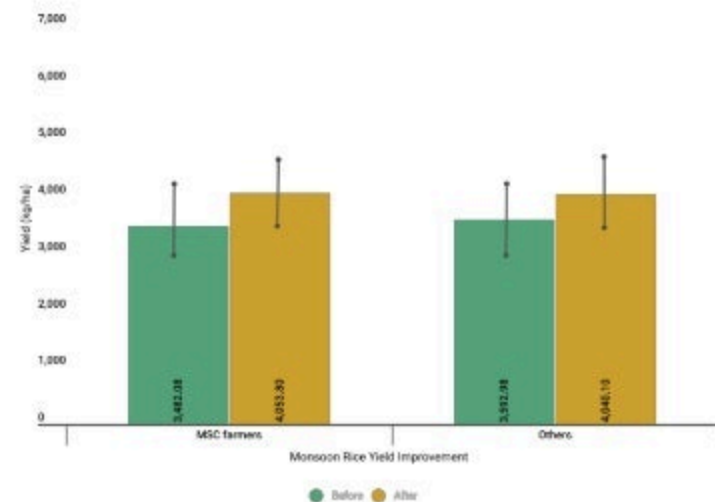
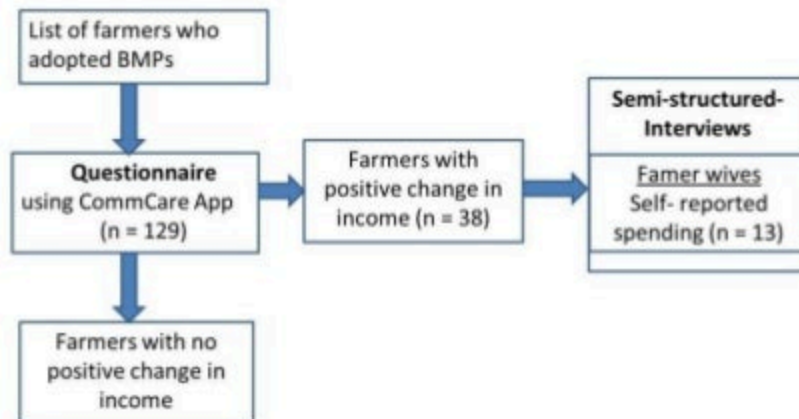
- Gendered perceptions in agricultural duties
- Seed-saving, weeding, transplanting
- Women earn less than men
- Disproportionate amount of farming and household work
- Restricted access to input and loans



Rationale of the present study

- Investigate multiple dimensions of livelihood changes of rural women in Myanmar experienced after adoption of BMPs

Based on M & E activities for MyRice and CORIGAP



Methods



Criteria:

- Part of project (MyRice, CORIGAP)
- Adopter
- Increase in income



- 13 semi-structured interviews
- In women's home
- Ø 50±10 years
- Ø 3 children



Poverty reduction

Improving homes
Buying appliances
Transport
Gold



Agricultural production

Increase fertilizer
and herbicides

Health

Able to choose
treatments
Care for elderly

Nutrition & Food security

Change from 2 to 3 meals a day,
more meat, greater variety of
curries

Human capital

Knowledge acquisition, new
businesses (shops,
vegetable gardens)



Land holding

Buying and renting
new farmland



Education for children

Saving for university
Supporting children
at university



Social capital

Donating money, time and
food, Engaging in community
activities

Financial & physical capital

Expanding farm business
Buying machines



Conclusions



- Providing and facilitating a variety of options to rural women will facilitate more rapid improvements in livelihood and development of agricultural production

- Recognize role women play to harness the contributions they make to their communities and families





**Thank you for your
attention.**

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