

Myanmar

Spotlight: Preparing Young People as Community Trainers

Food security can be a challenge for families in Myanmar, and home gardening is one way to provide relief. To address this need while nurturing the next generation of agricultural trainers, the EWS-KT Myanmar team involved 12 students in a 3-month training-of-trainers pilot program in 2022.

Participants were intensively trained in home gardening techniques and community outreach, including how to raise awareness of the nutritional value of vegetables. Each new community trainer then began to work

with 100 gardeners in their home community to increase food security and nutritional knowledge. Activities included establishing 10 home gardening demonstration plots to display cost-saving and sustainable farming techniques like homemade natural fertilizers and seedling trays made from banana leaves.

This initiative not only has increased the capacity of over 1,000 backyard growers in Myanmar but has had a lasting impact on the young trainers themselves.

2022 Results

5,772

FARMERS TRAINED



674

 DEMO PLOTS ESTABLISHED

AVERAGE NET PROFIT

US\$ 216.24

 per crop cycle, 500 sq. m. plot

247

 TRAINING EVENTS

HIGHEST NET PROFIT TOMATO

US\$ 300.54

 AVERAGE NET PROFIT, per crop cycle, 500 sq. m. plot



Training-of-training pilot program participants learn by doing

A Community Trainer Brings Best Practices to Local Growers

28-year-old Naw Kyi Kyi Htwe is a graduate of EWS-KT's 2022 training-of-trainers pilot program (see spotlight on facing page). She successfully learned vegetable production and home gardening techniques, including pest and disease management and making biopesticides and natural fertilizer.

Before this training program, Kyi Htwe had no experience in agriculture and no knowledge about crop production or conducting training. Now she has become a self-motivated community trainer, with confidence in public speaking and a wealth of knowledge to share.

Partnering with local growers, she has set up 10 home gardening demonstration farms and has successfully trained more than 100 farmers, mostly women and youth, in profitable vegetable production in her home community in south-central Myanmar.

One of her trainees, 51-year-old U Soe Myint, has long grown leafy vegetables for his own use, but now he is applying effective agricultural techniques from EWS-KT and has begun

producing new crops like cucumber and ridge gourd for sale.

“This training program made me confident in public speaking, presentation skills, and teaching skills,” said Kyi Htwe. “I have learned effective techniques for vegetable production, which is helping my community to benefit from agriculture.”

Immersed in her community, she sees those benefits, and the change she is bringing about, every day.

“The profits with new techniques are totally different from the past, and the yield is about double what it was before. My neighbors are impressed with my farm and are keen to emulate it.”

– U Soe Myint

This is part of the Effective Agri Techniques for Vegetables (EAT VEG) project, co-led by Wageningen University & Research.