Workshop on Best Practices in Mung bean (Green gram) Seed Production, Quality Control and Maintenance"

29 February – 1 March 2016, Magway, Myanmar

Mung bean is a low-input crop that can provide green manure as well as livestock feed and thus is favored by small holder farmers. As rice production is increasingly becoming less profitable for small holder farmers, mung bean is gaining popularity as a rotation crop for cash income. Non-availability of seed of improved Mung bean varieties, various pests and diseases and poor crop management practices are some of the major factors contributing to significant yield loss.

Under a LIFT funded project entitled, "*An Integrated Rural Economic and Social Development Programme for Livelihoods Improvement in the Dry Zone of Myanmar'*, the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) of the United Nations ESCAP organized a Workshop on "**Best practices in Mung bean (Green gram) Seed Production, Quality Control and Maintenance**" in Magway, Myanmar during February 29- March 1, 2016. This workshop focused on brainstorming on the constraints in mung bean seed production in the dry zone of Myanmar and to identify possible solutions to improve the mung bean seed production systems. Over 25 participants representing a diverse stakeholder group including lead farmers, farmer association representatives, NGOs, researcher institutions, key nodal agencies of the government including Department of Agricultural Research (DAR) and private sector actively participated in this workshop. The active deliberations during the workshop helped APCTT to develop a blue print for future activities that could be implemented in Myanmar to strengthen the value chain for Mung bean production through policy, technology and market related interventions. Some of the key recommendations include identification of Mung bean Yellow Mosaic Virus (MYMV) – strain and the biotype of its vector, Whitefly; creation of a seed production zone which will comprise of a plant protection hub, storage facilities and market information centers for Mung bean seeds; collection of data on cropping system in major Mung bean growing regions and make the data centrally available for better planning purposes and so on. This workshop also provided a valuable platform for the World Vegetable Centre (AVRDC), APCTT's knowledge partner for this workshop to understand the various needs and constraints of farmers in the dry zone of Myanmar and to plan launch of new and improved mung bean varieties in Myanmar to meet these needs through their ongoing project funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

This LIFT funded capacity building programme also provided a great opportunity to contribute to the International Year of Pulses 2016 (IYP 2016) declared by UN General Assembly to heighten public awareness of the nutritional benefits of pulses as part of sustainable food production aimed towards food security and nutrition.