

Expression of Interest

11th November 2016

To: Ms Chitlekar Parintarakul (Fon)
HelpAge International
Myanmar

Subject: ***Research on The Ageing of Myanmar's Farmer Population:
Implications for Agriculture and Food Security***

Dear Fon,

Myanmar Survey Research hereby submits this Expression of Interest to HelpAge International to conduct the project '***Research on The Ageing of Myanmar's Farmer Population: Implications for Agriculture and Food Security***'. We believe our extensive research experience, local expertise and experience in particular with socio-economic surveys, put us in a very strong position to undertake this assignment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Patrick Meza
Head of Social Research



Myanmar Survey Research Company Limited

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Myanmar Survey Research is delighted to submit this proposal to HelpAge International to conduct the project ***‘Research on The Ageing of Myanmar’s Farmer Population: Implications for Agriculture and Food Security’***. MSR brings to this proposal substantial experience conducting large-scale household surveys and mixed-method surveys throughout Myanmar. We believe that our extensive experience in social research, including issues on food security, livelihoods and climate change as well as local expertise, technical and managerial capacity put us in a very strong position to successfully conduct this assignment.

Background of the Survey

Agriculture is an essential part of Myanmar, yet the shrinking family sizes resulting from sharply reduced fertility rates and preference of younger generations to move to the cities will have a substantial impact on national development and dramatically increase the percentage of older people living in rural areas. One of the impacts of this urbanization is that the farming workforce in Myanmar is ageing and this brings important questions about the sustainability of food security in Myanmar. At this point, there is limited awareness about the implications of an ageing farmer population and the development of robust evidence is necessary to allow the country to respond adequately to the social and economic implications.

The proposed research aims to analyze and understand the trends in the age of Myanmar’s smallholder farmers, assess the challenges implied by those trends, and propose possible responses to contribute to discussion on livelihoods and food security. As per the request, the study aims to address three main research questions, which are critical to Myanmar’s livelihoods and food security policies and practices in coming years:

1. What will be the future age profile of Myanmar’s smallholder agriculture population?
2. What are the implications of an older farming population for Myanmar’s agricultural future?
3. What broad policy and practice steps would help Myanmar to best position itself for this future?

Specific tasks to be undertaken by MSR

MSR will do the following tasks:

- Collect necessary information on the target areas where the research will be conducted.
- To clarify the outline and scope of the task and targeted villages, MSR will hold initial discussions with the Principal Investigator and HelpAge and will review and comment on draft questionnaire developed by Principal Investigator to ensure it is context-appropriate for Myanmar.
- Propose the sampling for the field survey (Output 1 below).
- Review and comment on the questionnaire and survey questions during meeting with the Principal Investigator in the second half of November 2016
- Translate all instruments into Myanmar language after formatting the questionnaire as necessary
- Propose pre-testing regime in target areas to verify the instruments are suitable for generating the information required.

- Allocate adequate, qualified and well-trained enumerators and supervisors with relevant language skills, and train them on survey techniques and the questionnaire content.
- Oversee and monitor the household survey.
- Ensure accurate data collection (n=600 interviews), entry, check editing and cleaning to produce Output 2.
- Produce tables as per agreed variables with HelpAge and the Principal Investigator.
- Produce a summary implementation report as described below (Output 3).
- Will provide some feedback and clarification if needed to HelpAge staff as they analyze the results.

Approach

Data will be collected by household survey method. HelpAge provided the 2 townships to be included in the Delta zone and 2 townships must also be selected from the Dry zone from the list of 6 provided. For this project MSR recommends that this project be administered using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) devices, where the entry of data will take place during the field work. The teams will be submitting the data everyday through the devices. (see ANNEX C).

Sample size	600 interviews
Sample townships	4 townships (2 in the Delta and 2 in the Dry zone)
Sample respondents per township	150 per township
Number of interviews per village	20 interviews per village
Number of villages needed	30 villages needed

The survey will take place in 30 villages in 4 townships of two agricultural-ecological zones where HelpAge has project work: the Delta and the Central Dry Zone. The sampled villages will be drawn from 2 townships in Ayeyarwady Region (Patheingyi and Pyawbwe) and 2 of the following 6 townships of the Dry Zone: Pakkoku and Yesagyo Townships (Magway Region) and Mahlaing, Myingyan, Taungtha and Natogyi Townships (Mandalay Region).

Selection of Village- tracts, Villages and Households

Townships the dry zone will be selected randomly. From each township villages-tracts will be selected as follows:

Step 1: The list of village-tracts for the chosen townships is prepared.

Step 2: By using random numbers, generated from computer, sample village tracts are selected from the list as many as the number needed for the survey in each zone.

For example, for the two sample townships in the delta, Patheingyi and Pyawbwe, all the village-tracts from the two townships will be listed. A total of 150 interviews will be completed per township 8 villages will be drawn from Patheingyi township and 7 villages will be drawn from Pyawbwe township while in the Dry Zone 7 villages will be drawn from the first township in the Magway Region and 8 villages will be drawn from the township in the Mandalay Region.

From selected village-tracts, villages will be selected. However, the sizes of villages within a village-tract can vary largely. Therefore, simple random sampling method cannot be used. MSR survey team will collect population data of villages in the selected village-tracts from the village-tract authorities when they arrive at the field location and the data will be sent to MSR head office in Yangon. The head office will select a sample village by PPS method and the name of the selected village will be informed to the survey team in the field. For better quality control, field survey teams are not allowed to select the sample villages by themselves.

The household selection will be chosen by systematic random sampling method from the total number of households in a selected village. The questionnaire will take less than an hour on average for enumeration. At the selected household, the interviewer will check for the availability of respondents – for this project the respondent should be the head of the household. The exact target group (the respondent) will be discussed further with HelpAge and be included in the sampling plan as required (normal Sampling Procedures in Annex D).

Training, Pilot Test and Fieldwork Teams

Training will be conducted by MSR in Yangon for 3 days. There will be one extra day each for the pre-test of interviews and debriefing. Pilot Test will take place in a village in the Delta zone. A debriefing will take place in the following day where all the questions will be addressed, experiences will be shared and, when needed, tools will be modified.

MSR will assign a total of 10 field staff (8 interviewers and 2 supervisors) for the field data collection. 2 teams will be deployed, one in each zone with the expectation to complete one village per working day. The field staff will be full-time and part-time interviewers of MSR who have experience in similar surveys.

Outputs

MSR will produce the following 3 Outputs:

- Output 1 – Work plan and sampling: A document that elaborates on the research proposal, refining sample plan, village selection, timeframe and roles of various actors. The work plan will also include meetings with the PI, as mentioned elsewhere.
- Output 2 – Data collection - raw data collected (non-aggregated) in both SPSS and Excel accompanied by summary tables.
- Output 3 – A short narrative report documenting the survey, including: Background/purpose/basic information on the assignment; detailed description of methodology and any constraints/limitations; description of the sample including no. households by village; maps of the surveyed areas including locations of sampled villages.

Key Staff to be assigned for this project

MSR will provide the following staff members for the overall management of the project from designing phase, implementing phase to reporting phase. We present a brief description of the qualifications and experience of each of the key professionals in the team relevant to this assignment. More information is provided in Annex B.

Patrick Meza - M.Com, Australia – **Team Leader** - Patrick will be the main point of contact between the HelpAge, the Principal Investigator and the study team. He will provide overall management and quality control of the study and deliverables. Patrick has over 21 years of experience in managing market and social research studies across Australia, Vietnam and Myanmar.

Dr. San Tun Aung - Ph.D., U.S.A. - **Senior Consultant** - San Tun is Vice President and senior consultant with more than six years' professional experience in social research as a technical advisor, senior consultant in programme evaluation and as Research Director of more than 30 projects specializing in community development, livelihood, civic education, and local governance. He is a sociologist specializing in social changes and development study.

Kay Khine Linn - M.B.,B.S, MPH – **Project Coordinator** - Kay Khine will be responsible for the day to day project coordination. She has a distinguished career and professional experience conducting research projects in public health issues in Myanmar, in collaboration with national and international universities and institutions.

San Yu Aung - MA, Japan – **Core Trainer** - San Yu will be the core trainer for the fieldwork team assigned to the project. He was a faculty member at the Yangon Institute of Economics and holds a master's degree in International Development before from the International University of Japan. He is experienced conducting social research including studies in livelihood, KAP survey, and was involved in the planning and management of the LIFT 2013 and 2015 HH Survey and LIFT funded Tetlan Baseline Assessment as a co-trainer for Nutrition and Anthropometry study.

Work plan and Timeline

The exact timeline for this project will only be included in the full proposal. Nevertheless, we have prepared the 'rough' timeline:

Tasks	Completion Date
Collect necessary information on the target areas	5 Dec 2016
Hold initial discussions with the Principal Investigator and HelpAge	8 Dec 2016
Review and comment on draft questionnaire	12 Dec 2016
Sampling plan for the field survey	14 Dec 2016
Translate questionnaire	16 Dec 2016
Train enumerators and supervisors	21 Dec 2014
Pilot and debriefing of questionnaire in target areas	24 Dec 2016
Start data collection of the household survey.	28 Dec 2016
Finish data collection of the household survey.	15 Jan 2017
Complete data checks and cleaning.	20 Jan 2017
Produce tabulations as per variables agreed by HelpAge and the PI	27 Jan 2017
Produce technical report as per Output 3	31 Jan 2017

Indicative Budget

Based on the requirements for this project MSR estimates that the total cost to complete all tasks including reporting will be **USD \$16,347** (including all taxes).

Activities/Tasks	No. of Persons / Units	No. of working days	Daily Fee USD \$	Total USD \$
Project Management				
Project Leader	1	3	400	1,200
Project Coordinator	1	10	150	1,500
Translations	1	2	150	300
Subtotal - Management				3,000
Quantitative – Household Survey				
Training room and facilities for 3 days	1	3	100	300
One day pilot test outside Yangon (meal and transport)	-	-	-	300
Core trainer	1	3	150	450
Admin/Logistic Assistant	1	3	40	120
Supervisors & Quality Control	2	15	30	900
Interviewers	8	15	22	2,640
MSR Staff Perdiem	10	19	12	2,280
MSR Staff Daily Traveling	10	15	12	1,800
Travelling to Regions Costs	10	4	15	600
Respondent gift	600	1	1	600
Subtotal - Household Survey				9,990
Programming & Processing				
CSPPro Programming and testing	1.0	5	120	600
Data cleaning and delivery of full cross tabs	2.0	4	120	960
Subtotal - CSPPro Programming and Processing				1,560
Subtotal				14,550
Overhead cost (7%)				1,019
Commercial Tax (5%)				778
Total Cost				16,347