

“There are four pillars of Myanmar’s seed security”

Meet Ye Pyae Kyaw from our Seeds2B team

Why does a successful Burmese join our Foundation? What is our Seeds2B team doing in Myanmar? And why is good seed so vital for smallholders? We put these and other questions to Ye Pyae Kyaw.

Could you tell us a bit about yourself?

Ye Pyae Kyaw: I’m 32, and come from Myanmar, the former Burma. I work as a Seed Portfolio Manager for the Syngenta Foundation (SFSA) in [Seeds2B](#). I graduated with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science in 2007. Before joining SFSA, I gained about five years’ experience in agrochemicals marketing, and almost another five in the non-profit development sector.



What were your reasons for joining SFSA?

Three factors influenced my decision. Firstly, the Foundation addresses important issues for my country. I knew of its activities, and was very impressed by its reputation. Secondly, I research into an organization before applying for a job, and with SFSA I found all the right things! Finally, my knowledge and experience seemed highly suited to the position.

What are your main responsibilities?

What I most enjoy about my job is its variety! Myanmar is focusing on some key obstacles for the national agriculture sector. I coordinate our Seeds2B activities with the Department of Agricultural Research, with which we have a Memorandum of Understanding. These activities cover trials and farmer field days, as well as Monitoring & Evaluation and financing. Further tasks include contributing to the evolution of our Seeds2B strategy here, and reporting both internally and to the government. I also play an ‘ambassador’ role, connecting with key stakeholders in Myanmar’s seed sector. They include the country’s Agriculture Network and its Seed Association, for example.

How does your work help smallholders?

Seed is one of the most fundamental aspects of successful crop production. If farmers can’t access good seed, their crop yields and quality stay much lower than they could be. In Myanmar, most smallholders rely heavily on farming for their livelihoods. So if we can create access to suitable varieties of high-value crops at an affordable price, this would provide a tremendous boost to smallholders’ socio-economic status. In parallel, my colleague Daw San San is also working for our country’s smallholders by establishing a platform for [agri-insurance](#).

What are the key pillars of seed access?

In Myanmar at the moment, there are four. Achieving what I call ‘seed security’ depends on accessibility of an affordable choice, availability of adequate quantities at the right time, stability of the supply channels and correct use, i.e. farmers’ agronomic practices.

How do you spend your free time?

I like reading books on economics and agriculture. At the weekends, I attend various training sessions, and exchange knowledge and insights with friends. During the long holidays I visit my parents, who live in Salin Township in the Magway Region. Magway is part of the Central Dry Zone – an important area for Seeds2B!