

# Myanmar



**Region**  
South and Southeast Asia

**UPOV membership status**  
Initiated the procedure for acceding to the UPOV Convention

**Participation in OECD Seed Schemes**  
No

**ISTA accredited member laboratories**  
No

**GM crop approval for cultivation**  
Cotton

**Law on Plant Variety Protection**  
Plant Variety Protection Law 2016

## Seed sector in Myanmar

The Myanmar seed industry has great potential, owing to the country's strategic position and proximity to major markets in the region, such as China, Bangladesh and Thailand.

The National Seed Policy of 2016 clearly demarcates the activities of the public and private sectors. The policy aims to increase the role of the private sector in producing registered and certified seed and providing quality assurance.

In 2017, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation approved the Road Map for Myanmar's Seed Sector: 2017-2020, which emphasizes the need to enforce a regulatory framework.

Steps have been taken to set up a Myanmar seed association, with support from East-West Seed, among others.

Since 2002, GM Bt cotton has been planted in Myanmar. In 2017-18, 0.3 million hectares of insect-resistant GM Bt cotton was grown, equivalent to 90% of the total cotton acreage, but still using the Bt varieties first released in 2002. Myanmar is the only country in Southeast Asia without a legal national biosafety framework, and hence field testing and approval of additional Bt cotton varieties has not taken place.

## Observations

Fourteen index companies report having a presence in Myanmar. East-West Seed has testing, seed production, seed processing and extension activities, and 100% of its seed production in the country is carried out by smallholder farmers.

None of the companies report breeding locations, which can be attributed to the political changes Myanmar has undergone and a weak policy environment. Companies appear to have entered the country relatively recently. Membership of UPOV might encourage the seed sector to invest further, including in breeding activities.

Breeding, processing and provision of extension services are the main areas of improvement for companies.

## Company activities identified in Myanmar

Company	Crops in portfolio		Company activities in country					Extension services
	Field crops	Vegetables	Breeding location	Testing location	Seed production	Processing location	Sales	
Advanta	●	●		●			●	
Bayer	●			●			●	
Bejo		●					●	
Charoen Pokphand	●	●			●		●	
East-West Seed		●		●	●*	●	●	●
Enza Zaden		●					●	
Known-You Seed		●		●			●	●
Limagrain	●	●		●			●	●
Monsanto		●					●	
Nongwoo Bio		●			●		●	
Rijk Zwaan		●					●	
Syngenta							●	

Other index companies are also active in the country. However, country-specific information for these companies is not available or was provided under non-disclosure.

\* Company involves smallholder farmers in seed production activities

## Other local companies identified in the regional landscaping study and their activities

Company	Crops in portfolio		Company activities in country		
	Field crops	Vegetables	Breeding location	Seed production	Sales
Dagon Agriculture Group	●			●	●
Myanma Awba	●	●		●	●



Access to Seeds Index