

## ABOUT NEED-BURMA

Established in 2006, we educate, train and empower the next generation of Burmese civil society leaders in sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation and community-based economic development in order to protect the livelihood, interests, and human rights of all Burmese people.

Through the Model Farm Initiative School (MFI), NEED-Burma provides a multi-ethnic environment for motivated youth from Burma to learn alternative and traditional agriculture techniques and challenge their potential. Students participate in the six-month MFI program, living, working and learning at our sustainable organic farm and training center, located outside of Chiang Mai, Thailand.

NEED motivates and trains youth to actively work for secure livelihoods, peace and sustainable development by sharing knowledge, educating local communities and collecting data. NEED's MFI alumni continue to improve the quality and health of the land by engaging those communities who depend upon it for their livelihoods.

## OUR GOALS

- Create a progressive development path for future civil society leaders and farmers of Burma by working at the grassroots level, taking into consideration the diverse ethnicities, religions, local knowledge and cultures of Burma.
- Provide ways for local communities to achieve adequate food security and sustainable livelihoods.
- Build capacity and share knowledge at the village-level to address biodiversity loss and environmental degradation.

## OUR VISION

We are committed to strengthening Burmese civil society, so that all people may benefit from inclusive and community-based development strategies based on economically, environmentally and socially sustainable ideas. We believe in, and fight for, social justice and food security so that all the people of Burma can have access to basic rights and thrive with a secure livelihood.

### CONTACT US

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# NEED-BURMA

**Network for Environmental  
and Economic Development**



***Growing food, Sharing knowledge***

## SUSTAINABLE MODEL FARMING INITIATIVE (MFI)

NEED's Model Farm Initiative (MFI) is a six-month professional development training program in sustainable agriculture, environmental justice, community development and leadership for Burmese youth from different ethnic backgrounds. Participants live, work and learn at NEED's sustainable farm and training facility.



### Key Topics and Skills Covered:

- Rice cultivation
- Soil conservation
- Seed saving
- Aquaculture and animal husbandry
- Mud-brick house construction
- Composting
- Vegetable & fruit gardening
- Basket weaving
- Renewable energy (biogas & solar energy)
- English Language training
- Research and computer skills
- Leadership development

## VILLAGE-LEVEL CAPACITY BUILDING

NEED-Burma works to address food insecurity by facilitating and conducting capacity-building workshops at the village-level in Burma and along the Thai-Burma border. Workshops address biodiversity loss, sustainable agriculture techniques and ways to prevent further environmental degradation.

NEED-Burma also supports three MFI model farms in Arakan, Kachin and Mon States.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY

NEED and its MFI alumni mobilize communities within Burma and along the Thai-Burma border to take proactive measures to improve environmental and agricultural practices. NEED engages those individuals and communities directly affected by changes to environmental management so they can control and actively shape their own futures, and participate in the decision making process. MFI alumni collaborate with their communities to share what they have learned and experienced, and begin small-scale, environmentally sound agriculture projects.

These projects include:

- Traditional seed collection banks
- Capacity-building workshops
- Small-scale model farm operations
- Livestock breeding project

## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

NEED publishes research journals and advocacy reports on food security, sustainable agriculture and other environmental issues, written and researched in collaboration with MFI alumni. To download our publications, visit our website:

[www.need-burma.org](http://www.need-burma.org)