THE BACKGROUND

Over the past few years, Myanmar has become one of the fastest growing economies in the world. The manufacturing sector in Myanmar is at a cross-road: whilst industrial development is progressing and remains critically important for economic growth, if not managed responsibly it could have significant negative impacts on the country’s natural environment and undermine Myanmar’s long-term development.

Cleaner production represents an opportunity to ensure growth while conserving natural resources, contributing to peoples’ wellbeing, promoting innovation and helping industries to mitigate risks, cut costs, and reduce water and energy use.

Food & Beverages (F&B) companies represent the largest industry in Myanmar

60% of companies in Myanmar are F&B producers (27,113 registered factories nationwide)

F&B companies in Myanmar are the largest consumers and polluters of water and energy

Due to energy poverty in the country, factories experience on average 3 blackouts per week

Industrial wastewater pollution is a significant threat to Myanmar’s freshwater ecosystem

89% of the country’s F&B companies are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

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WHAT IS CLEANER PRODUCTION?

“Cleaner Production is the continuous application of an integrated preventive environmental strategy towards processes, products and services in order to increase overall efficiency and reduce damage and risks for humans and the environment.”

(UNEP)

About “Tha Bar Wa”

The project’s name “Tha Bar Wa” expresses a strong commitment to nature and the resources utilised by companies. The “Tha Bar Wa” project promotes cleaner production in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the food and beverage (F&B) industry in Myanmar, thus improving the sector’s environmental performance and contributing to a green economy.

The “Tha Bar Wa” project is structured around 4 main pillars:

1. Policy
2. Technical capacity & market development
3. Green finance
4. Replication

The project activities include multi-stakeholder consultation and engagement, technical and financial trainings, capacity-building, policy advocacy, pilot projects, identification and dissemination of best practices, and establishment of a “Cleaner Production Helpdesk.”

Working closely with local and national policy-makers, F&B SMEs, local financing institutions, business associations and the academia, the project intends to:

• Create an enabling policy environment for sustainable energy and water management
• Develop capacity among F&B SMEs to apply sustainable energy and water management practices
• Support green finance solutions for green SME lending
• Replicate the cleaner production model across regions

Quick Facts

Project name “Tha Bar Wa”
Funded by European Union under the SWITCH-Asia Programme
Duration 48 months (Feb 2018 – Jan 2022)
Lead Agency World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
Project Partners - Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association (MFPEA)
- Savings Banks Foundation for International Cooperation (SBFIC)
Benefits SMEs and industrial zones of F&B sector, local banks, communities living near industrial zones, local industry associations and business intermediaries
Key stakeholders Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC), Ministry of Industry (MoI), Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), Department of Research and Innovation (DRI), Yangon Technological University (YTU), Industrial Zone Committees, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI)

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Food & Beverages (F&B) companies represent the largest industry in Myanmar

60% of companies in Myanmar are F&B producers (27,113 registered factories nationwide)

Less than 5% have functioning wastewater treatment

Electricity and disposal of wastewater are the 2 most pressing issues for Myanmar’s F&B companies.

Due to energy poverty in the country, factories experience on average 3 blackouts per week

Industrial wastewater pollution is a significant threat to Myanmar’s freshwater ecosystem

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