

Coping with Crisis: Farming and Food Insecurity in Post-Coup Chin State, Myanmar

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Abstract

This paper explores how armed conflict following Myanmar's 2021 coup has reshaped farming livelihoods and food security in Chin State. Based on qualitative interviews with 27 smallholder farmers and document analysis, the study documents how displacement, restricted access to farmland, disrupted transportation and markets, rising input costs, and insecurity undermine agricultural production. At the same time, farmers employ adaptive strategies rooted in local knowledge and social networks, including crop diversification, labour- and seed-sharing arrangements, and increased reliance on forest-based food sources described as a "second farm." While these strategies enable short-term survival, they remain coping mechanisms rather than durable solutions. The paper situates these findings within broader debates on agrarian transition and food sovereignty, arguing that sustainable food security requires political stability and institutional support that builds upon locally grounded adaptive capacities.