

Anyar: Value Chain, Conflict and Political Economy Complexity

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Abstract

The central area of Myanmar, known as the Dry Zone, aka Anyar region, is highly populated (9,794,814, 19% of the total population) with rural residents (83% in the region) compared to the nationwide average. The recognized situations are agriculture-based income, high debts, reliance on credit, and low market purchases on food access and consumption. The existing livelihood issues rely on crop and livestock production, industrial labor, remittance, paddy trade, and government and military personnel recruitment. The situations include unlimited agricultural policy support, land insecurity, poor access to quality inputs, price variability, high credit debts, and intensive climate change. After the coup, mass atrocities were committed by SAC against the civilians, targeting and burning the paddy fields of farmers, not only to cut the supplies to the people and PDFs but also to create a livelihood struggle and political economy complexity among the stakeholders. After four years of major damage in all sectors, the livelihood and food security issues are increasing, and the conflict has set up a complex governance system, economic and environmental impact, and basic public services. It was more highlighted after the earthquake in Sagaing and Mandalay regions, which pointed out how supply chains, demography changes, natural disasters, food security, access to services and class struggles are transforming in the chaotic situation. In this presentation, I want to discuss three key questions 1) the value change and livelihood struggles of the farmers and people that can impact the whole country and political agenda of the federal democracy, building 2) the emerging armed struggle and complexity of the governance impact on the political economy dynamic with the new actors under the neoliberal capitalism, and 3) the region's new socio-political-economic sector beyond the conflict.