

Sara Imbach

One of the reasons I had decided on BFH-HAFL for a second Master's degree in Agricultural Science was the school's significant number of projects in developing and transition countries. After having already worked in India as well as in the Sub-Saharan African context, I was excited to find an opportunity to write my Master's thesis in Myanmar. Conducting applied research in the framework of the Gulf of Mottama Project not only allowed me to discover a new country, its people and culture, but also to strengthen my technical skills in a meaningful way.

Together with the Helvetas Myanmar team and Dr Alessandra Giuliani, my BFH-HAFL supervisor on the ground, I have been able to define a research project to assess the potential of the mud crab value chain as a sustainable livelihood option for vulnerable coastal inhabitants in Mon State and the Bago Region of Myanmar. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic and the related travel restrictions have disrupted my plans for two field trips in 2020. For now, I am therefore working from home and concentrating on all the preparatory activities while staying in touch with the technical advisors of the project. But I remain very excited to travel to Myanmar and contribute to the Gulf of Mottama Project, as soon as the situation allows.

