

## Project Update: January 2008

During the first three months of the project, I have held meetings with officials of Forest Department, Shwe-U-Daung Wildlife Sanctuary, township authorities, etc., and local officials to introduce the project. Out of the eight villages with highest human-elephant conflict, we selected the five villages that have the most conflict with elephants. All the villages are active, motivated and willing to participate to test the methods. In each of the villages, we have created core group and made draft action plans. In the plans, they mentioned many methods. Those methods can be categorized as follows:

- 1) Smell – burning rubber, cattle dung & chili
- 2) Sound – using the loud speakers, bamboo detonate/explode
- 3) Temperature – fire lines using the litters
- 4) Visual cleaning nears the settlement/agricultural land – Thinning the edge of forest especially undestroyed species such as shrubs, herbs, tall grass, etc.
- 5) Crop selection – to plant the crop species that elephants do not eat
- 6) Signboards – posting the signboards at the crossing paths of wild elephants
- 7) Bee keeping – setting bee keeping boxes

The villages can conduct the majority of these activities with local resources and knowledge. However, beekeeping, for example, is not practiced in this area, so we have invited a staff person from the Livestock Department.



Left: destroyed by elephants, inspecting by governmental officials. ©KKS. Right: sugar cane plantation eaten by wild elephants at Dat-kite village. ©KKS. Middle: Leik-kya village. ©KKS.