

Call for Proposals No 11/19/32

„Food environments for improved nutrition“

NIFAM - Nutrition Intervention Forecasting and Monitoring

country/countries	Vietnam and Myanmar
funding agency	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture - BMEL
project management	Federal Office for Agriculture and Food – BLE
project coordinator	Institute of Plant Sciences and Resource Conservation (INRES) – Department of Horticultural Science of the University of Bonn
project partner(s)	Vietnam National University of Agriculture (VNUA) Fruits and Vegetables Research Institute (FAVRI) Hanoi University of Public Health (HUPH) Center for the Development of Organic Agriculture (CODAS) Social Policy Ecology Research Institute (SPERI) Community Entrepreneur Development Institute (CENDI) Spectrum – Sustainable Development Knowledge Network
project budget	1,106,298.32 Euro

project duration	05.07.2022 - 30.10.2025
key words	Transdisciplinary action research, model based decision analysis, nutrition interventions: e-learning platform, movie, cartoon, mobile phone application
background	<p>The understanding of food environments can give insights into the complex problem of malnutrition that affects all countries around the world. Cause-effect relationships in complex socioecological systems, such as the food environment, are not well understood. Data are often scarce or lacking. Development-oriented research struggles to offer timely and practical support in complex development conditions. The alternative approaches used in this project offer support by both, forecasting and monitoring different interventions. We propose a transdisciplinary action research and development project to co-develop a scientific framework for decision support applicable to situations where resources are limited and costs, benefits and risks of different possible nutrition interventions are uncertain.</p>
objective	<p>The NIFAM project aims to support policy makers in Vietnam (and Myanmar) by forecasting, implementing and monitoring effective nutrition interventions within a transdisciplinary research approach. The two countries have highly dynamic food environments. Both struggle with food safety and food security issues.</p> <p>NIFAM's objective is to identify and implement cost-effective interventions to sustainably improve the diets and reduce different forms of malnutrition (contributing to SDG 2). Various possible nutrition interventions will be collectively identified, modeled and monitored. They are largely digital options for communication to influence better food choices e.g. provision of knowledge via short movies (TV, YouTube), nutrition labeling of products, restrictions on marketing that targets children, an e-learning platform or mobile phone app on healthy diets.</p>
expected results	<p>The key result of the NIFAM project will be a set of recommendations for decision makers on a collection of possible nutrition interventions best suited to the highly complex local food environments specific to Vietnam. "Best" in this context means interventions with the highest and most cost-effective impact on the nutrition of local consumers, considering all known uncertainties of the food environment.</p> <p>A second important result will be a ranking of those variables within the food environment that have the greatest potential to change the modelling result (in this case the recommendation on which intervention is best). These two</p>

	<p>results give policy and decision makers two valuable options for action, namely</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) the implementation of the recommendation itself and2) the control or regulation of the factors with the greatest potential to influence the outcome of the intervention, so that the investment in the intervention is not jeopardized. <p>Further results will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation and monitoring of the best nutrition intervention (e.g. training, educational videos, comics, App, e-learning platform)• Publishing of policy briefs and scientific papers that provide a holistic understanding of food environments, consumers' dietary habits and consumers' decision making (impact pathway) in the target areas• Capacity building to apply modelling tools, including Bayesian Network models, causal diagrams, probabilistic simulation techniques, multi-criteria decision making, calibration training (Applied Information economics), and sensitivity analysis• Training and manual for policy makers and/ or researchers on modelling tools and decision analysis approaches
recommendations	<p>The key result of the NIFAM project will be a set of recommendations for decision makers about which of a collection of possible nutrition interventions within these highly complex food environments will be best suited for the local situations of Vietnam. "Best" in this context means having the highest and most cost-effective impact on improving the nutrition of local consumers, considering all known uncertainties of the food environment.</p>