Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture

Project manager

Federal Office for Agriculture and Food

Project update

Project title (Acronym):	**Nutrition Intervention Forecasting and Monitoring NIFAM**
Geographical focus:	Vietnam (and Myanmar)
Call reference:	Food environments for improved nutrition Gestaltung des Ernährungsumfeldes zur Förderung einer ausgewogenen Ernährung
Cooperating partners:	University of Bonn, INRES, Horticultural Sciences 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) Spectrum – Sustainable Development Knowledge Network Community Entrepreneur Development Institute (CENDI)
Duration:	05.05.2022 to 31.03.2026
Budget:	1.109.599,06 Euro

NIFAM

Nutrition Intervention Forecasting And Monitoring

SPERI NURTURING NATURE

CODAS

Spectrum Sustainable Development Knowledge Network

CENDI Nurturing Nature

UNIVERSITÄT BONN

INRES Institut für Nutzpflanzenwissenschaften und Ressourcenschutz

With support from

Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture

by decision of the German Bundestag

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Map of the target region[1]

[1] Source: Uwe Dedering, 2010, Location Map of Vietnam, Creative-Commons-Lizenz „Namensnennung – Weitergabe unter gleichen Bedingungen 3.0 nicht portiert“ (CC BY-SA 3.0), https://commons.wiimedia.org/wiki/File:Vietnam_relief_location_map.jpg?uselang=de, location names were added. Mai Ngọc Xuân, 2017, Location map of Hanoi, Creative-Commons-Lizenz „Namensnennung – Weitergabe unter gleichen Bedingungen 3.0 nicht portiert“ (CC BY-SA 3.0), https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hanoi_location_map.svg?uselang=de, location names were added.

Aim of the project:
The NIFAM project aims to support policymakers 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.
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 collaboratively identified, modeled and monitored. These will be largely aimed at digital options for communication to influence better food choices e.g. provision of knowledge via short movies (TV, YouTube), nutrition labeling of produce, restrictions on marketing that targets children, an e-learning platform or mobile phone app on healthy diets.

Results:
In 2024, the models regarding the nutrition interventions were developed further by literature reviews, field visits, and Decision Analysis workshops with stakeholders. The models are based on nutrition problems in urban, peri-urban, and rural Hanoi and present nutrition interventions to improve the health status of people, particularly of children. Two models focus on healthy nutrition for children by modeling the effect of a school garden and a change in school meals. The school garden model was implemented as an intervention by CODAS at a private school in Hanoi, Genesis School Garden, and its success led to an expansion of the garden and the confirmation of supporting the installation of a second school garden in Hanoi at the Herman Gmeiner School. A monitoring framework, based on the school garden model, was developed that is adaptable to the implementation of all modeled interventions and acts as a general monitoring guideline.
The model to improve factory workers' access to safe and fresh vegetables in urban Hanoi was also implemented as an intervention. FAVRI organized a pilot selling point for vegetables from a farmer cooperative directly to the factory workers on the factory grounds. The model of the land-use situation of farmers in peri-urban Hanoi is running and offers decision support on the three different options: (i) maintain production on the land, (ii) rent land to farmers, or (iii) leave the land fallow. The PhD students working on these models were invited to Bonn and a supervised write-shop was done to focus on their manuscripts about the models and interventions.
In rural Vietnam, we studied the situation of traditional edible forest foods in the Ba Vi national park which led to a compilation containing information on edible plants, their nutritional values and health qualities, as well as possible preparation methods. This compilation will be turned into a booklet in 2025.
A new user interface was developed to facilitate the use of decision support models and it will be publicly accessible for partners, stakeholders and interested decision makers in the next year.

Key statements and policy advice:
Decision analysis is a holistic approach that can be used to structure decision-making processes in complex contexts. Risks, knowledge gaps, and uncertainties are explicitly taken into account alongside the costs and benefits of an intervention and included in the modeling.

Figure 1: Construction of the Genesis Eco School Garden. (Photo: Kristen Bryk)

Figure 2: Vegetables and herbs growing in the Genesis Eco School Garden. (Photo: Kristen Bryk)

Figure 3: Harvest and training day at the Genesis Eco School Garden. (Photo: Kristen Bryk)