

One Health-Ecohealth in Vietnam



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IN FOCUS

Strengthening the collaboration of universities and institutions working in Ecohealth field through the Consortium Agreement of FBLI



Representatives from eight partner institutions of the program FBLI gathered in Jakarta for the CA signing

Within the framework of the program **Ecohealth Field Building Leadership Initiative (FBLI) in South East Asia, eight institutions entered the Consortium Agreement (CA), reaffirming the high partnership and commitment to collaborate in field of Ecohealth.**

The institutions are the *Mahidol University, Universitas Indonesia; Kunming Medical University; the Hanoi School of Public Health; the Health System Research Institute, the Kunming Institute of Botany; the*

Veterinary without Border and the Vietnam Public Health Association. The CA signing was the highlight of the first Regional Core Group (RCG) meeting which was hosted by the Universitas Indonesia from 17th to 20th December 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The RCG consists of the founding members of the FBLI program which is funded by the International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada and aims at promoting Ecohealth as new field in South East Asia. Besides, the progress of two year implementation of each country team (Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, and China) as well as other components of the program were reported. The side event marked the visit to the study site of the research *“Ecohealth and Dairy products: Connecting issues and*

finding interventions for small-scale farmers in the context of South East Asia” in Pangalengan, West Java, Indonesia. The meeting activity was coordinated by the Coordinating Unit of the program housed by the Vietnam Public Health Association.



Farmers and researchers identifying priority in health and environmental research

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS



Workshop and Events

1 Application Of An Eco-bio-social Approach To Emerging Infectious Iseases In Southeast Asian Global Outreach Hot Spots

Eco-Bio-Social investigation shows that the most common mosquitoes species are *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*. In December, the density of *Ae. Albopictus* mosquitoes is higher than *Ae. Albopictus* one ($p < 0.05$). However, during summer time (in July), the former remained unchanged while the latter increased by 6 times ($p < 0.05$). Numbers related to social factors such as number of tourists, tourism service, the changing purpose of land use, and changing in labor structure from 2000 until present have been collected and analyzed. They show the relationship between these factors with the situation of dengue fever in the local area. Remarkably, the number of dengue fever cases and the number of tourists in the period from 2005 to 2013 shared close relationship (Figure 1). Based on the results of the baseline investigation, 3 ecosystem areas i.e., urban areas with many hotels and restaurants located, resident areas and floating house for seafood rearing areas which have a high risk of dengue fever. The active prevention community based model will target on local residence and the tourism facilities areas. The project has built a network of collaboration and received high cooperation from the local community.

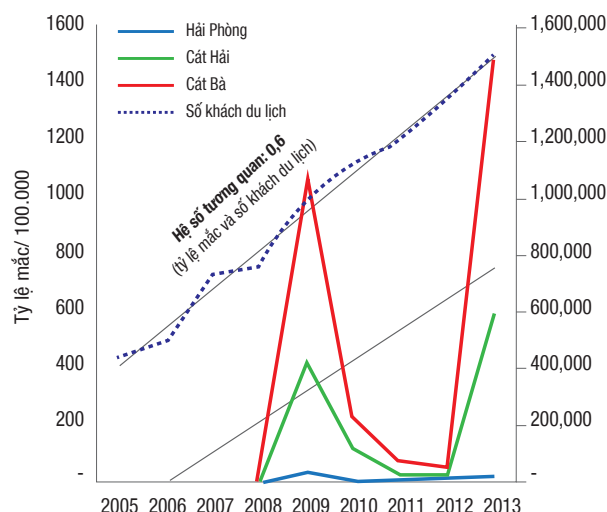


Figure 1: The ratio of dengue fever case in 10,000 people in Cat Ba Island, in Hai Phong in the period from 1990 to 2013.

2 Pilot Intervention In Poultry Production Clusters Of Tot Dong To Improve Biosecurity Level.

The intervention was part of the project “Eco-Health Assessment on Poultry Production Clusters (PPCs) for the Livelihood Improvement of Small Producers” implemented in Vietnam by Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD) and funded by International Development Research Center (IDRC) for China, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam from 2011 to 2014. Project research findings indicate PPC farms do not prevail over non-PPC ones in regards to bio-security level, environment protection and human health. Hence, the research team has implemented a pilot intervention plan in PPCs of Tot Dong in order to help them overcome those shortcomings since October 2013. Numerous intervention activities have been implemented such as: intensive training on biosecurity practices for 54% of poultry producers; organizing monthly meetings of farmer groups to promote cooperative actions; and providing financial or material supports to upgrade production facilities for target clusters and farmers. Local poultry producers are eager to learn biosecurity practices, spreading high spirit of cooperation and biosecurity production in the community. At the same time, leaders of the cooperatives improved economic management capacity and enhance their role in promoting cooperative actions of farmers. The intervention will end in January 2014.

3 International Symposium On “Green Network Of Excellence For Environmental Information” From 15 To 17 December, 2013 In Hue City Of Vietnam

The Symposium was co-organized by Hue University and the University of Tokyo with Yamagata University, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Ehime University, and Nagasaki University at the Park View Hotel in Hue city. The sponsor is the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan through GRENE project and Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) through Asia-Africa Science Platform project. The Symposium aims at sharing knowledge on present status and approaches for sustainable development, and for linking academic institutions with international funding agencies for project



Taskforce on Risk Assessment meeting at Pullman hotel.

development. Issues relevant to "Development of International Network on Health Risk Assessment in Urban Area" as well as the latest findings in the context of sustainability were addressed. Attending the workshop, Ms. Tran Thi Tuyet Hanh, lecturer of the Department of Environmental Health, Hanoi School of Public Health briefed the current situation of Ecohealth teaching and research activities at the HSPH.



A woman handling pig manure in Hanam

5

Training Course "Food Safety Risk Assessment For Informal Value Chains" 26th August - 6th September, 2013 In Hanoi

The course, co-held by the Hanoi School of Public Health and the Rakuno Gakuen University of Japan, used a good mixture of teaching and hands-on styles in delivering and advocating risk assessment in food safety field. The key trainers of the course were Prof. Kohei Makita – from Rakuno Gakuen University and Dr. Nguyen Viet Hung- from HSPH and ILRI. The course targeted to both senior and junior researchers who work on food safety issues at related universities and institutions in Vietnam. The course was designed not only focus on the overview of food borne disease issues but also other useful participatory methods and risk analysis. In risk assessment, participants learnt about stochastic processes, how to build and run a risk model and how to conduct sensitivity analysis in @Risk. Later in the course, risk assessment using @Risk was introduced. The report of the course can be downloaded here:

<https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/34399>



Risk Assessment course taught at Pullman hotel, Hanoi, September 2013

Risk Assessment trainings and activities

4

Dioxin Exposure Risk Assessment And The Sustainability Of Public Health Interventions At Dioxin Hot Spots In Vietnam

In 2013, CENPHER partly supported the PhD research project entitled "Dioxin exposure risk assessment and the sustainability of public health interventions at dioxin hot spots in Vietnam" of Ms. Tran Thi Tuyet Hanh, lecturer at Environmental Health department of Hanoi School of Public Health and PhD candidate at Queensland University of Technology. The results on "Knowledge, attitudes and practices to reduce exposure among residents living near Danang dioxin hot spot - 2.5 years after a preventive intervention" were presented at the 33rd International Symposium on Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants and POPs (Dioxin 2013), held in Daegu, Korea, on August 25-30, 2013. An abstract on "Ecohealth in practice: reducing the risk of dioxin exposure at severe dioxin hot spots in Vietnam and factors affecting program's sustainability" was also accepted at the Ecohealth 2014 – the 5th Biennial Conference of the International Association for Ecology and Health, to be held in Montréal, Canada August 11th to 15th, 2014.

6

Risk Assessment Gained Attention From Department Of Animal Health (DAH), Ministry Of Agriculture And Rural Development (MARD)

Developed and organized by the Taskforce team from CENPHER/HSPH, the another training course on risk assessment in collaboration with Veterinary Public Health section, Department of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and funded by the DAH (MARD) were held both in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city on 5 December and 7 December 2013 respectively. The one-day training course on Risk analysis, targeted on veterinary staffs in Vietnam, aimed at introducing the Risk analysis concept/approach in food safety management to participants at regional and provincial level. The fact that DAH/MARD organizes this course shows their serious intention in applying RA into practice. It also reflects the efforts of the taskforce team in convincing policy makers in regards of using RA as the tool in food safety management.



The first collaboration of MARD and CENPHER/HSPH in delivering Risk Assessment course in Ho Chi Minh city, November 2013

Taskforce hopes to be the think tank on risk assessment support policy makers with research evidences and trainings. The first Taskforce meeting was held on 26 September at Pullman hotel Hanoi, gaining attentions of quite a few important policy makers and researchers working in risk assessment field. Among the participants, it is worth mentioning the presence of Dr. Nguyen Hung Long, Deputy head of the Food Safety Department, MOH and Dr. Tran Dinh Luan, Deputy head of Department of Animal Health, MARD. They emphasized the need of using risk assessment in the current situation. The second meeting of the Taskforce was held on 30 December in the same place with the briefs on using risk assessment in food safety control in two provinces of Hung Yen and Nghe An.

7 Taskforce On Risk Assessment For Food Safety

The Taskforce on Risk Assessment (RA) is the initiative of Taskforce team from CENPHER/HSPH with the support of the International Livestock Institute (ILRI). The idea of Taskforce is to gather researchers and policy makers from some key ministries such as Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Ministry of Science and Technology to bring risk assessment as the tool for food safety. This idea was raised up amid the newly established working group on risk assessment of the MARD. The



Dr. Nguyen Hung Long - Deputy Director of the Vietnam Food Administration, MOH at the Taskforce meeting in September 2013 at Pullman hotel, Hanoi

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Ecohealth 2014 – the 5th Biennial Conference of the International Association for Ecology and Health, will be held in Montréal, Canada from August 11th to 15th, 2014. This is the chance for Ecohealth researchers to share experiences and update their activities. Vietnamese ecohealth and One health researchers will have a large number of contributions to this conference. For further information, please visit the website at <http://ecohealth2014.uqam.ca/en.html>
- The Vietnam Global Health True Leader Training belongs to a series of trainings led by the Universitas Indonesia. In Vietnam, the training will be held in Vietnam from 25 to 29 April 2014 in Ninh Binh city is proposed to fulfill such need of future health leaders. This program aims to equip health sciences young professionals who have the greatest potential to be future health leaders with hands on experiences, chance to engage with local leaders and community in the area where global health problems exist.

Location	Dates	Application Deadline
Koh Chang, Thailand	18 - 22 April 2014	4 April 2014
Hanoi, Vietnam	25 - 29 April 2014	10 April 2014
Kunming, China	5-9 May 2014	30 March 2014

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Media Partner: [Logos of various media outlets]

Investment: **USD 500/person***
*for one country, include food cost

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