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## About FORSU

Higher Education Cooperation for Forest Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Livelihoods in Bangladesh and Vietnam (FORSU). FORSU is a 3-year capacity building project which is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. The project includes two European Programme universities: the University of Helsinki (coordinating HEI) & the University of Freiburg, and 2 Partner universities in Bangladesh: Rangamati Science and Technology University & Patuakhali Science and Technology University and 3 Partner universities in Vietnam: Hue University, Tay Nguyen University & Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry

The overarching objective of FORSU is to strengthen the capacity of partner higher education institutions to contribute to well-functioning, relevant and accessible forest landscape restoration (FLR) education to meet the needs of graduates, employers, and other stakeholders, for the broader benefit of the environment and society.

## Learning from the World's Largest Mangrove: RMSTU Students Explore the Sundarbans

The Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, Rangamati Science and Technology University (RMSTU) organized a learning and exposure field trip to the Sundarbans Mangrove Forest from 26–30 January 2025.

A total of 43 students and two faculty members participated in the visit, gaining first-hand knowledge of mangrove flora and fauna, species composition, land and soil formation, pneumatophores, and regeneration status across key sites including Andarmanik, Kachikhali, Kotka, and Karamjal. The team also visited Joymuni village to understand local livelihoods and community dependence on the Sundarbans.



The field trip was jointly supported by RMSTU and the FORSU project, co-funded by the European Union. Participants expressed sincere appreciation for the academic, logistical, and financial support and looked forward to future field-based learning on forest restoration across Bangladesh.





## FORSU Partners Unite to Review Progress and Plan Next Steps

An online FORSU consortium meeting was held on 8 April 2025 to review project progress and discuss upcoming actions. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Dipjoy Chakma, FORSU Project Coordinator from the University of Helsinki, Finland, who outlined the agenda, including the extension of project activities until 31 May 2026. Representatives from all partner institutions—University of Freiburg (Germany), Patuakhali Science and Technology University and Rangamati Science and Technology University (Bangladesh), and Hue University, Tay Nguyen University, and Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry (Vietnam) shared updates on key activities such as equipment procurement, curriculum development, ongoing initiatives, and planned events.



Partners reported strong progress and exchanged suggestions with the coordinating universities to further strengthen capacity building, curriculum development, and implementation efficiency. The FORSU Coordinator reaffirmed continued technical and administrative support to ensure smooth project execution.

It was also announced that FORSU partners will participate in a CIFOR-ICRAF supported workshop in Bogor, Indonesia (14–18 April 2025). In addition, monitoring visits to Bangladesh and Vietnam by teams from Helsinki and Freiburg are planned for October 2025, with the project closing meeting scheduled in Vietnam in April 2026.

## FORSU partners participated Forest Landscape Restoration Education Workshop in Bogor, Indonesia

FORSU partners attended Five-day workshop on Landscape Restoration (LR) Education in Asia held at Bogor, Indonesia from 14-18 April 2025 hosted by CIFOR- ICRAF. Participants are from different institutions of Bangladesh (RMSTU and PSTU), Japan, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam including representatives from Erasmus/FORSU Project, IUCN, IUFRO and IFSA. A LR curriculum outlined for Asian academic institutions during the workshop.





## Building Research Excellence: Proposal Writing Training at Hue University

A five-day Research Proposal Writing Skills workshop was successfully held at Hue University from 12–16 May 2025, bringing together lecturers and researchers from Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry, Tay Nguyen University, and Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry. Organized under the FORSU Erasmus+ project (Higher Education Cooperation for Forest Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Livelihoods in Bangladesh and Vietnam), the training was co-funded by the European Union.

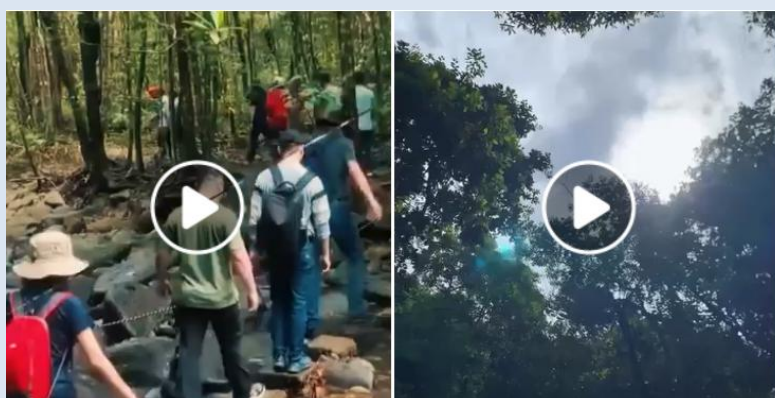


Experts from the University of Helsinki, Finland, guided participants through key aspects of research proposal development, including idea formulation, proposal structure, scientific writing, persuasive presentation, and accessing international research funding opportunities. The workshop emphasized hands-on group work, allowing participants to draft proposals and receive expert feedback.

Beyond skill development, the training fostered inter-university collaboration and new research partnerships, reinforcing FORSU’s commitment to strengthening research capacity and supporting sustainable forest ecosystem restoration in Vietnam.

## FORSU Team visited to Rector of HUAF, Vietnam

On 16th May 2025, Erasmus+ FORSU project representatives from the University of Helsinki and Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry paid a courtesy visit to Prof. Dr. Tran Thanh Duc, Rector, and other members of Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry (HUAF) in Vietnam. The visit was part of the project's ongoing efforts to strengthen academic and institutional partnerships in the region. The meeting served to formally introduce and disseminate the objectives and planned activities of the Erasmus+ FORSU, and to explore opportunities for deepening and expanding collaboration with HUAF.



**13th May 2025**, FORSU team had a wonderful visit to Bạch Mã National Park in Hue as part of our Erasmus+ FORSU project. The park’s breathtaking landscapes, rich biodiversity, and peaceful atmosphere offered an inspiring setting to reflect on the role of nature conservation and sustainability in higher education.



## Reforestation event organized at RMSTU, Bangladesh

Under the FORSU project, forest tree plantation activities were carried out at the Rangamati Science and Technology University Campus. Different tree species notably Jarul, Polash, Banspata, Boilam, Sonalu, Telsur and Bamboos were planted. The Department of Forestry and Environmental Science took the initiative with support from the FORSU project. Department Faculty members and students participated in tree plantation activities on 2nd June 2025. Students became aware of forest restoration initiatives.



## Boosting Research Skills: Modelling Workshop at Tay Nguyen University

On 19 May 2025, Tay Nguyen University, in collaboration with the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, hosted a training workshop titled “Modelling in Scientific Research: Theory and Practice” under the FORSU–Erasmus+ project.

The workshop focused on the practical use of modelling in scientific research, with particular relevance to forest and landscape restoration in Vietnam’s Central Highlands. A highlight of the event was the expert contribution of Prof. Tri Nguyen-Quang (Dalhousie University, Canada), who effectively linked theoretical concepts with real-world research applications.

The event brought together university leadership, faculty members, and researchers, fostering a vibrant environment for learning and collaboration. The workshop is expected to strengthen research capacity and support innovative, evidence-based solutions for environmental challenges at Tay Nguyen University.





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## Restoring Forests, Empowering Communities: FORSU in Vietnam

Tay Nguyen University is proud to be a Vietnamese partner in the FORSU Erasmus+ project, an EU-funded initiative promoting forest landscape restoration, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable livelihoods in Bangladesh and Vietnam.

Under the theme “Plant Today, Protect Tomorrow,” restoration activities were carried out in key forest areas of Vietnam’s Central Highlands, including Ho Lak Forest (Dak Lak) and Bu Nđor Community Forest (Lam Dong). Indigenous tree species such as Giáng Hương, Sao Đen, Dầu Rái, Cẩm Lai, Lát Hoa, and Dổi were planted for their high ecological, economic, and landscape value.

Beyond planting, the initiative actively engaged local communities, forestry staff, lecturers, students, and children, strengthening awareness of forest conservation and collective responsibility. Through education and action, FORSU continues to support a greener and more sustainable future for the region.



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### FORSU Partners

