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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

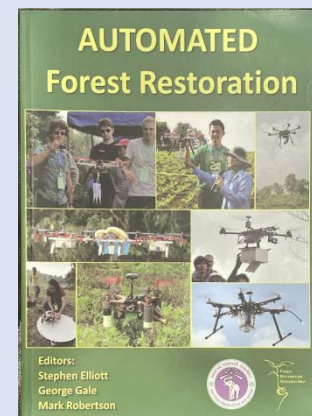
The overarching objective of FORSU is to strengthen the capacity of partner higher education institutions to contribute to well-functioning, relevant and accessible forest landscape restoration (FLR) education to meet the needs of graduates, employers, and other stakeholders, for the broader benefit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

FORSU Partners Enhance Forest Restoration Skills with Drone & LiDAR Training

FORSU project partners participated in the regional workshop “Drone and LiDAR Technologies for Restoring Tropical Forest Ecosystems” held from 24–26 July at the Doi Suthep Nature Study Centre, Chiang Mai, Thailand. The training was organized under the CLIDEV project, funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, and facilitated by the Forest Restoration Research Unit (FORRU), Chiang Mai University.

The three-day workshop strengthened practical skills of participants from Vietnamese partner HEIs through classroom sessions and hands-on field training on drone-based forest restoration and monitoring. Participants gained expertise in drone operation, image analysis using Agisoft Metashape and Pix4D, and GIS mapping and tree crown delineation using QGIS.

Although not directly part of the FORSU project, the training created strong synergies, supporting FORSU’s goals of advancing forest landscape restoration and sustainable livelihoods through modern technologies. Sincere thanks to FORRU and all participants for their valuable contributions toward a greener future.





Strengthening FLR Education: FORSU Collaborates with CIFOR-ICRAF and GLF

On August 2, 2024, the FORSU coordinating team from Helsinki met with Dr. Cora van Oosten, Director of Capacity Development & Education at the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF). The meeting focused on various FORSU project-related activities, including training on forest landscape restoration. A key outcome of the meeting was an agreement to collaborate on capacity-building initiatives. As part of this collaboration, the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF), led by CIFOR-ICRAF, will offer six online training sessions for FORSU project partners. These sessions aim to support partner higher education institutions in integrating Forest Landscape Restoration principles into their academic courses. This initiative will strengthen curriculum development and promote best practices, ultimately enhancing the overall outcomes of the FORSU project.



In addition, FORSU project partners will gain access to a wide range of learning materials, courses, and toolkits through the Landscape Academy’s Digital Campus. These resources will help expand knowledge and strengthen the application of sustainable practices. Partnerships and collaborations such as this are vital, as they bring together diverse expertise and perspectives that enhance the effectiveness and impact of projects like FORSU.



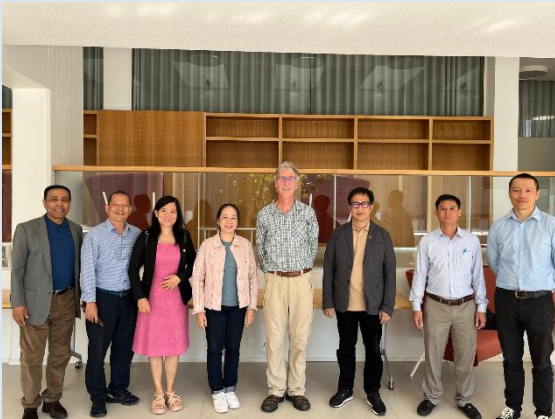
Strengthening Partnerships: FORSU Management Meeting in Vietnam 🌿

On 13 August 2024, the coordinating higher education institution, the University of Helsinki, together with three Vietnamese partners—Tay Nguyen University, Hue University, and Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry—held a productive in-person FORSU management meeting at Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry, Vietnam. The meeting focused on reviewing completed activities and planning upcoming initiatives under the FORSU project.

The session was further enriched by online participation from Dr. Cora van Oosten and Mr. Varun Tumuluru (CIFOR-ICRAF), who shared valuable insights. Discussions highlighted the important role of CIFOR-ICRAF and the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) in delivering training on Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) principles. This collaboration will strongly support the integration of FLR into academic programmes and connect FORSU partners to the Landscape Academy and Digital Campus, providing access to high-quality learning materials and resources.



FORSU Capacity-Building Week at the University of Helsinki



From 26–30 August, the University of Helsinki hosted FORSU partners from Hue University, Vietnam for a dynamic capacity-building and exchange week focused on strengthening education for Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR).

The programme featured problem-oriented curriculum and course development workshops led by Dr. Roderich von Detten (University of Freiburg), hands-on GIS and land-use change analysis training using satellite imagery by VITRI expert Johannes Jamaludin, and expert discussions on academic supervision and ethics in scientific writing,

including the responsible use of AI, led by Professors Mike Starr and Eshetu Yirdaw.

The week concluded with a visit to the University of Helsinki's teaching and research facilities, including the Viikki Arboretum, offering insights into Finland's landscapes and conservation history.

This capacity-building initiative strengthens institutional partnerships, promotes knowledge exchange, and supports the development of interdisciplinary, practice-oriented curricula, empowering educators and students to address real-world environmental challenges at local and global levels.



FORSU Management Team Meeting with TUAF, Vietnam for upcoming Climate Change Conference and Training Course

On September 3, 2024, the project management teams from Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry (TUAF) and the University of Helsinki (UH) held an online meeting to discuss the upcoming activities scheduled for November 2024 at TUAF. During this time, TUAF will host a conference on climate change and a training course on "Climate Change and Vulnerability." FORSU partners are expected to participate in both the conference and the training course. Additional details on both events will be shared via email.





Tree plantation program held at PSTU under FORSU project



Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) organized a tree plantation program from September 3-5, 2024, to reduce the project's carbon footprint. As part of this initiative, tree seedlings distributed to university staff and local residents in the Dumki area. This program aims to engage the community in sustainable practices and contribute to environmental conservation efforts.

Erasmus+ FORSU team participated coordinators' meeting at Finnish National Agency for Education in Helsinki

Last week of September 2024, the University of Helsinki's Erasmus+ FORSU project coordination team participated in a two-day program coordinators' meeting organized by the Finnish National Agency for Education (EDUFI) in Helsinki, Finland. As part of the Erasmus+ capacity building network, the team engaged in insightful discussions on Erasmus+ CBHE projects and shared updates on the activities of the FORSU project.



Empowering Digital Learning: MOOC and AI Training under the FORSU Project

From 21–22 September 2024, Tay Nguyen University hosted a dynamic training programme on the use of Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) resources and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in learning and research, under the FORSU–Erasmus+ project. The training attracted enthusiastic participation from students and young lecturers keen to strengthen their digital and research skills.

The sessions focused on effectively using MOOC platforms and integrating AI tools into academic learning and research practices. Participants gained hands-on insights into emerging technologies



and innovative methods that can enhance learning quality and research productivity. This initiative represents a significant step toward the **modernization of teaching and research at Tay Nguyen University**, highlighting its strong commitment to educational innovation and academic excellence.

Update on the FORSU project - GLF online meeting

On October 24, 2024, the project management teams from Rangamati Science and Technology University, Bangladesh, Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Bangladesh, and VITRI from the University of Helsinki, Finland, had an online meeting with Dr. Cora van Oosten and Kimberly Merten from CIFOR-ICRAF to discuss collaboration opportunities on the Erasmus+ FORSU project. During the meeting, CIFOR-ICRAF's Global Landscapes Forum and the International Model Forest Network (IMFN) was introduced as well as potential training and knowledge transfer on forest restoration discussed.





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International Climate Change Conference held at TUAU, Vietnam

The international conference on "Advancing Solutions for Climate Change Challenges in Rural Vietnam" was held from 4-7 November 2024 at Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry. The event brought together over 200 participants, including around 50 international attendees from universities, research centres, international organizations, and agencies, along with global experts in climate change. Held in a hybrid format, the conference focused on exchanging research and solutions related to climate change impacts, vulnerabilities,



adaptation strategies, and the role of education and capacity building in rural Vietnam. More than 20 staff members from FORSU project partner organizations actively participated.



Workshop on Climate Change and Vulnerability held at TUAU, Vietnam

From 8th to 9th of November 2024, a workshop on **Climate Change and Vulnerability** was held at the Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry. The workshop was facilitated by staff from the University of Helsinki and brought together 19 participants. As part of WP6 on research planning and supervision, the workshop included a lecture on rural livelihoods, resilience, risks and adaptability as well as a visit to a local tea garden, where climate change mitigation and adaptability practices and field methods were discussed.

RMSTU Celebrated International Mountain Day-2024

An awareness rally was organized by the department of Forestry and Environmental Science, RMSTU on International Mountain Day 2024 (11 December 2024). The university faculty members, students, officers and support staffs were actively participated the event. Communication materials such as caps were distributed to the participants. The event was supported by FORSU.



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