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FORSU Newsletter

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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.

## PSTU Study Visit to Bangladesh Forest Department HQ

On 19th June, Patuakhali Science & Technology University (PSTU) arranged a study visit to the Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD) Headquarter (Banobhaban) in Dhaka, as part of the Erasmus+ FORSU project. During the study tour, eight male and two female Master's level students from three Departments under the Faculty of Agriculture (Department of Agroforestry, Department of Climate Smart Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development) learned about forest landscape restoration activities and land cover change analysis in Bangladesh and identified potential areas for future restoration activities through landcover map and change analysis. Through presentations given by BFD students learned about BFD's past and ongoing efforts in forest landscape restoration and the recently finished mega project "Sustainable Forests and Livelihoods" (SUFAL).



## PSTU Study Visit to SPARRSO

On 19th June, Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) arranged a study tour to Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO) in Dhaka, as part of the Erasmus+ FORSU project. The study visit included eight male and two female Master's level students. During their visit, participants learned about space science, space technology and space applications. Through presentations, they learned about SPARRSO's activities, service areas and future plans.





SPARRSO carries out their technical work in sixteen specialized divisions, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and through their Regional Remote Sensing Center. In the agricultural sector, SPARRSO plays a crucial role in ensuring food security. It utilizes satellite imagery to estimate major crop areas, to forecast rice production and assess irrigation coverage, to manage agricultural data and evaluate crop damage. SPARRSO uses data from satellites like Landsat and Sentinel, along with weather data and makes use of advanced mapping tools like ArcGIS and Google Earth Engine (GEE).



### PSTU Study Tour to CCDB Climate Centre

On 20th of June, Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) organized a study visit to the CCDB Climate Centre located in Sreepur Gazipur, as part of the Erasmus+ FORSU project.

Eight male and two female students participated in the study tour and gained practical insights on climate change resilient agriculture and agroforestry technologies such as floating agriculture, Sarjan method of coastal homestead agroforestry, Hydroponic agriculture and vertical gardening, and their indirect role in forest landscape restoration in Bangladesh.

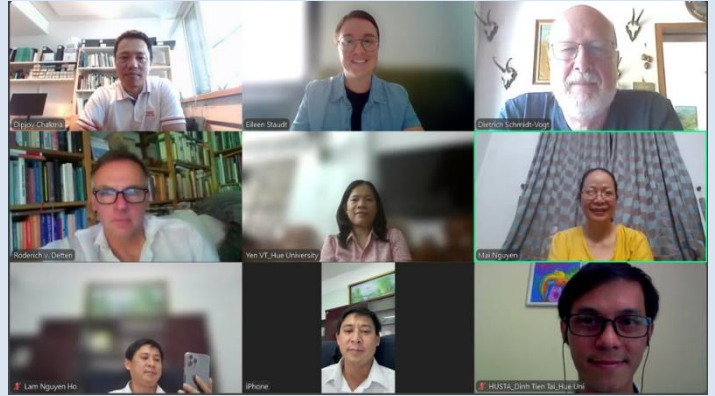
The CCDB Climate Centre located in Sreepur Gazipur was established by the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) and is one of South Asia's pioneering hubs for climate resilience and sustainable development. The Centre includes a Climate Technology Park, a Learning Centre and a Climate Campus. It is built following LEED-certified green building standards, showcasing energy-efficient and low-carbon architectural design. At the heart of the centre lies the Climate Technology Park, a living demonstration area with over 90 adaptation and mitigation technologies tailored to Bangladesh's five ecological zones: coastal mangroves, char lands, haors, dry north and hill tracts. Some innovations include solar-drip irrigation, biogas units, desalination systems, fuel-efficient stoves, and renewable energy models.





## Preparatory meeting held for the FORSU Training Workshop at Hue University

Partners from Albert-Ludwigs University Freiburg, Germany, Hue University, Vietnam, and the University of Helsinki, Finland, held a meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 to discuss the preparations for the upcoming training workshop, to be held at Hue University from 6th to 10th of October this year, as part of the FORSU project. The training workshop, titled "Competence-orientation in curriculum development and teaching: Designing a case-study based teaching module" will open soon and will be accepting FORSU partners only. Our university teams look forward to the impactful collaboration ahead!



## Hue University organized training on Methods for Climate-Resilient Household Livelihoods" and "Forest Restoration through Fieldwork"

Training on "Methods for Climate-Resilient Household Livelihoods" and "Forest Restoration through Fieldwork" for young faculty members and students held at Hue University, Vietnam, FORSU Project, supported by ERASMUS+





## Short Capacity-Building Training Courses for Young Faculty Members and Students Held at Hue University, Vietnam, Under the FORSU Project

On June 25 and 28, 2025, the FORSU Project Management Board at Hue University successfully organized two short training activities (Methods for Climate-Resilient Household Livelihoods and Forest Restoration through Fieldwork) for young lecturers and students of the Faculty of Forestry, University of Agriculture and Forestry, Hue University, Vietnam under Work Package 6 of the FORSU Project funded by ERASMUS+.



A total of twenty participants successfully completed the course and were awarded certificates, preparing them to apply their knowledge in field surveys and research on sustainable livelihood development.

These two training activities align with the objectives of the FORSU Project, which aims to enhance practical skills, analytical thinking, and climate action among the younger generation in the forestry sector, thereby contributing to the advancement of higher education closely linked to sustainable local development.



## Hill Forest Restoration and Awareness Event organized by RMSTU under FORSU project

On 20 September 2025, a Hill Forest Restoration and Awareness event was organized at Raiyna Tugun, Rangamati Sadar, Rangamati, by the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, Rangamati Science and Technology University (RMSTU), under the FORSU project. A total of 88 participants attended the event, including 3 faculty members and 85 students.



The event raised awareness about deforestation and forest degradation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and their impact on



community livelihoods. In addition, the importance of forest landscape restoration education and hill forest restoration was highlighted as key to ensuring sustainable livelihoods and environmental integrity. Further, different indigenous tree species also planted in the hill forest area to mark the event.

Students also received hands-on training in the use of GPS for forest inventory plots, location tracking, tree measurement, and the use of drones for forest assessment. The logistics and equipment used for forest assessments and forest restoration were supported by the FORSU project through funding from the ERASMUS+European Union.



### Short Capacity-Building Training Course for lecturers in Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry, Hue University, Vietnam, under the FORSU project.

👉 On September 21, 2025 the FORSU Project Management Board at Hue University successfully organized one short training course on “Introducing the MOODLE (Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment) - an online learning management system and the MOOC (Massive Open Online Course)” for lecturers in University of Agriculture and Forestry, Hue University, Vietnam under the Activity 1 of Work Package 5 of the FORSU project funded by ERASMUS+.

🍀 🍀 A total of 21 participants (18 women and 3 men) came from 07 faculties of Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry, Hue University successfully completed the course, and were awarded certificates. The course provided participants with essential knowledge and practical skills in the development and implementation of MOOCs on the Moodle platform, thereby enhancing their capacity for digital teaching and learning. During the training, participants engaged in theoretical sessions and interactive activities to promote knowledge sharing and innovative approaches to online education. During the practical session, participants actively designed their own MOOC courses using basic tools and functions, integrated interactive elements with the H5P plugin (e.g., image hotspots, interactive videos, and image juxtaposition), and developed quizzes for learner assessment.





🌱🌱🌱 This activity is an integral part of Hue University’s efforts to foster digital transformation and capacity building in line with international standards. It also directly contributes to the objectives of the FORSU project, which aims to strengthen higher education cooperation to promote forest landscape restoration and sustainable livelihoods in Bangladesh and Vietnam.

### 🔗 Strengthening Scientific Writing Skills under the FORSU Project

On 27 September 2025, Hue University organized a short online capacity-building training on scientific writing, article structure, and reporting for lecturers, researchers, and students from Vietnamese FORSU partner universities. Held under Activity 2, Work Package 4 of the FORSU–Erasmus+ project, the training aimed to enhance skills in academic writing and international publishing among participants from Hue University, Tay Nguyen University, and Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry.

A total of 33 participants completed the course, gaining practical insights into journal selection and ranking, scientific article structure, and effective publishing strategies, supported by interactive discussions and knowledge-sharing activities. This initiative strengthens research capacity within partner universities and supports FORSU’s broader goal of advancing higher education cooperation for forest landscape restoration and sustainable livelihoods in Bangladesh and Vietnam.





## Exploring FLR and Carbon Credits: TUAF Hosts International FORSU Seminar

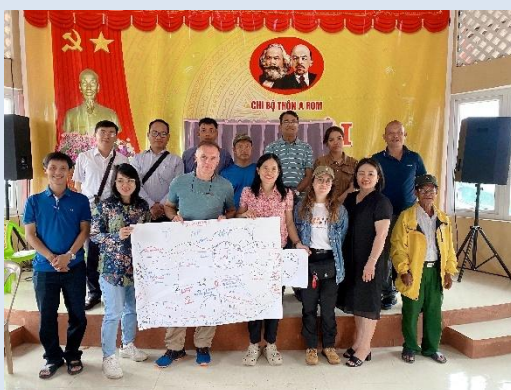
On 4 October 2025, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry (TUAF) organized an engaging seminar titled “Forest Landscape Restoration and Carbon Credits through Agroforestry Practices: Case Studies from Bangladesh and Vietnam.” The seminar highlighted recent FORSU project activities, climate change challenges, and upcoming initiatives. Participants included representatives from FORSU partner universities in Bangladesh, European university students, and Mr. Dipjoy Chakma, FORSU Project Coordinator from the University of Helsinki, Finland.



Speakers from Bangladesh presented case studies on: Forest Landscape Restoration through Agroforestry Practices (Prof. Dr. Alamgir Kabir & Prof. Dr. Ektear Uddin, PSTU), Climate Change Impacts and Indigenous Adaptation Strategies in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nikhil Chakma, RMSTU). The programme also included field visits to local sites, including organized tea estates, providing practical insights into landscape management and agroforestry systems.

## Designing Skills-Focused Teaching: FORSU Training Workshop in Hue, Vietnam

From 6–10 October 2025, the University of Freiburg (Germany), in collaboration with Hue University (Vietnam), organized a joint training workshop on competence-oriented, case-study-based curriculum development under the FORSU–Erasmus+ project. The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity of lecturers and researchers to design problem-oriented teaching modules on Forest Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Livelihoods. Expert-led sessions by Prof. Dietrich Schmidt-Vogt and Dr. Roderich v. Detten combined theory with hands-on practice in competency-based teaching and curriculum design.



Participants from partner universities in Bangladesh, Vietnam, Germany, and Finland also joined a field visit to Hong Ha (A Luoi, Hue), where real-world forest management and livelihood challenges informed the development of practical case studies. The training concluded with module presentations, expert feedback, and the awarding of certificates of achievement. This workshop marks another key step in advancing innovative, competence-based education under the FORSU project.



## Preparing for Sustainable Supply Chains: EUDR Training at Tay Nguyen University

Under the FORSU–Erasmus+ Project (WP4: Development of Transversal Skills), Tay Nguyen University hosted a training workshop on the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) to strengthen knowledge and readiness for sustainable supply chains. The workshop updated participants on EUDR requirements and compliance, enhanced understanding of traceability and supply chain transparency, and introduced the role of digital technologies, GIS, and remote sensing in implementation. Students, lecturers, and sector stakeholders explored practical case studies, particularly in coffee, timber, and rubber value chains. Participants gained clear insights into EUDR scope, risks and opportunities in accessing EU markets, and practical tools for sustainable management. The training was highly appreciated for its relevance, timeliness, and real-world focus. The initiative reflects FORSU’s commitment to strengthening capacity for sustainable development, with continued support from the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.



## Advancing Forest Monitoring: Drone Technology Training at RMSTU

A three-day training workshop (8–10 December 2025) on Forest Monitoring Using Drone Technology was successfully held at Rangamati Science and Technology University (RMSTU) under the FORSU–Erasmus+ project. The workshop aimed to strengthen the technical capacity of teachers and students in applying advanced drone technologies for forest assessment and monitoring.

The event was inaugurated and closed by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Md. Atiar Rahman, who emphasized the critical role of forests in biodiversity conservation and the importance of modern technologies for sustainable management. Mr. Dipjoy Chakma, FORSU Project Coordinator (University of Helsinki), also highlighted project progress and appreciated the strong implementation efforts in Bangladesh.

A total of 45 participants from RMSTU and Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) took part in the training. Led by Dr. Md. Farhadur Rahaman (Gazipur Agricultural University), the workshop covered drone-based image acquisition, processing, data analysis, and interpretation.

Hosted by the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, RMSTU, the training was co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, reinforcing FORSU’s commitment to technology-driven forest restoration and sustainable management.





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### Upcoming events:

- ❖ A training workshop on skills for identifying restoration areas, forest monitoring, and tracing forest change history will be held from 7–10 January 2026 at Tay Nguyen University, Vietnam.
- ❖ Preparation of a video documentary highlighting FOR\$U project activities by project partners
- ❖ The FOR\$U project closing ceremony will be held in Vietnam from 30 March-1 April 2026.
- ❖ Others FOR\$U related activities will be featured in the next FOR\$U Newsletter (issue no. 7).

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### FOR\$U Partners

