

### 3 Detailed description of activities

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Seven broad groups of activities are distinguished:

- A. Short, intensive teaching / training missions
- B. Staff training in The Netherlands and Germany
- C. Study abroad for PhD programmes
- D. Curriculum development and revision
- E. Stimulating international contacts
- F. Research activities to support teaching
- G. Project management and evaluation
- H. Dissemination of project Information

A detailed description of the activities within each group is provided below.

#### **A. Short, intensive teaching / training missions**

- A1. Course in 'Environmental and Natural Resource Economics' at NAU (partner 1).

Four-weeks, intensive training course in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics in English to young staff and MSc & PhD students at NAU, and to teaching staff in related fields at other universities of China by 1 teacher from Wageningen University (applicant), 1 teacher from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (partner 3) and 1 teacher from Institute for Social Studies (partner 4). The purpose is to provide training to teachers at NAU and other Chinese universities in teaching resource and environmental economics at an advanced level, using lecture materials in English. These trained teachers will be responsible for the 'bilingual teaching' (in English and Chinese) in resource and environmental economics, as required by the Ministry of Education, in the near future. The teaching will be combined with joint development of research proposals (see below). In addition, the teachers will give one seminar each on a topic related to their own ongoing research activities.

- A2. Undergraduate course in 'Environmental and Natural Resource Economics' at UoE (partner 2).

Four-weeks, intensive training course in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics in English to 100 undergraduate students and to teaching staff ('training the trainers') at UoE by 1 teacher from Wageningen University (applicant), 1 teacher from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (partner 3) and 1 teacher from Institute for Social Studies (partner 4). The teaching will be combined with activities related to curriculum development and joint research (see below). In addition, the teachers will give one seminar each on a topic related to their own ongoing research activities.

- A3. Graduate course in 'Environmental and Natural Resource Economics' at UoE (partner 2).

Four-weeks, intensive training course in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics in English to 30 graduate students and to teaching staff ('training the trainers') at UoE by 1 teacher from Wageningen University (applicant), 1 teacher from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (partner 3) and 1 teacher from Institute for Social Studies (partner 4). The course focuses on three subjects: Advanced environmental economics, advanced natural resource economics and management, and quantitative analysis in environmental economics. The teaching will be combined with activities related to curriculum development and joint research (see below). In addition, the teachers will give one seminar each on a topic related to their own ongoing research activities.

#### **B. Staff training in The Netherlands and Germany**

- B1. Staff training NAU staff (partner 1) in The Netherlands and Germany

Two staff members from NAU will spend four months each at Wageningen University (applicant), Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (partner 3) and the Institute for Social Studies (partner 4). During these periods they will attend relevant courses, collect teaching materials for courses at NAU, and prepare and discuss joint research proposals (PhD and MSc) with local staff. One staff member will focus on

issues of environmental and resource management during economic transition, while the other will concentrate on issues related to international trade and the environment.

#### B2. Staff training UoE staff (partner 2) in The Netherlands and Germany

Two staff members from UoE will spend four months each at Wageningen University (applicant), Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (partner 3) and the Institute for Social Studies (partner 4). During these periods they will collect teaching materials (including case studies) for related courses at UoE, collect materials to be used for curriculum development, and obtain training in research methods, writing of research proposals and will develop and discuss PhD and MSc research proposals.

### C. Study abroad for PhD students

#### C1. Identification of PhD-research projects and candidates

Four themes for a PhD-research project and four PhD-students, two from partner 1 and two from partner 2 will be identified for starting a sandwich PhD-study at Wageningen University (applicant, 2), Humboldt University (partner 3, 1) and the Institute for Social Studies (partner 4, 1). The research themes will be identified based on the experience from past and on-going research by the partnership. The PhD-students will be selected among the permanent staff members of partner (1) and partner (2) for the sustainability of the project. (As a PhD-study will last more than 36 months (duration of the project), the partnership will apply for additional financial support).

#### C2. PhD research at Wageningen University (applicant).

Twelve months stay of two PhD researchers in The Netherlands, supervised at Wageningen University (applicant). This stay will allow the PhD researchers to attend PhD-level courses and to prepare their final research proposal which will need the approval by the Mansholt Graduate School of Wageningen University. If financial resources are available, PhD-candidates will defend their thesis at Wageningen University (see activity C5).

#### C3. PhD research at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin (partner 3).

Twelve months stay of one PhD researcher in Germany, supervised at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin (partner 3). This stay will allow the PhD researcher to attend PhD-level courses and to prepare the final research proposal which will need the approval by the Chair in Resource Economics. If financial resources are available, the PhD-candidate will defend the thesis at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin (see activity C5).

#### C4. PhD research at the Institute for Social Studies (partner 4).

Twelve months stay of one PhD researcher in The Netherlands, supervised at the Institute for Social Studies (partner 4). This stay will allow the PhD researcher to attend PhD-level courses and to prepare the final research proposal which will need the approval by the PhD-board of ISS. If financial resources are available, the PhD-candidate will defend the thesis at the Institute for Social Studies (see activity C5).

#### C5. Applying for funding the final six month of the PhD-research

The partnership will apply for funds financing the final six month of the PhD-research abroad at the three partner institutes (applicant, partner 3, partner 4). This allows the PhD-researchers to defend their thesis at a European HEI under a sandwich construct. In case funding cannot be secured, the PhD-researchers will defend their thesis at their home institutes (partner 1, partner 2).

## **D. Curriculum development and revision**

### **D1. Curriculum revision at NAU (partner 1)**

In September 2002, a teaching reform project 'Study on Resource and Environmental Economics Teaching Reform' has started at NAU. Its purpose is to assess the need for adjusting teaching methods and targets, updating the textbooks used in courses, and adjusting the curricula. To this end, an intensive survey was organised among a large number of students and alumni. The collected information is currently being analysed. A one-week workshop will be organised at NAU with specialists from Wageningen University, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and the Institute for Social Studies to discuss the survey results and provide recommendations on the choice of teaching methods and materials and on the structure of the education programmes. The workshop will be combined with activity A1 and C. The implementation of these recommendations will be assessed by the project steering and evaluation committee during the mid-term review (see activity G3).

### **D2. Curriculum development at UoE (partner 2)**

At the UoE, the curricula for undergraduate teaching in environmental and resource economics will be developed during the project period. Three specialisations will be distinguished:

- Environmental economics
- Natural resource management and economics
- Economics and management of agriculture-related environmental issues

To this end, two workshops will be organised at UoE with specialists from Wageningen, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, the Institute for Social Sciences as well as Nanjing Agricultural University. The first workshop will draft the outline for the curricula, based in particular on the experiences at NAU, and discuss the contents and teaching materials for the major courses. It will last one week. The second workshop will assess the experiences with the implementation of the new teaching programmes.

## **E. Stimulating international contacts**

### **E1. International seminar on 'Economic Transition and Sustainable Agricultural Development in East Asia'**

A first international seminar on 'Economic Transition and Sustainable Agricultural Development in East Asia', with participants from China, Vietnam, the Netherlands and the United States has been organised in Nanjing in October, 2003. A second international seminar will be organised in Ho Chi Minh City at the end of year two of the project to discuss research results obtained by the project (activities C1. – C4., F1, F2) with invited foreign researchers working on related topics and to train partner 2 on the organisation and implementation of an international seminar.

### **E2. International Conference on 'Economic Transition and Sustainable Agricultural Development in East Asia'**

An international conference on 'Economic Transition and Sustainable Agricultural Development in East Asia', with a call for paper and international participants will be organised in Nanjing at the end of the project. The purpose of the international conference is to disseminate project results, stimulate international contacts of partner 1 and partner 2 with leading international researchers in the field and to train partner 1 and partner 2 in the organisation of an international conference including the publication of a peer reviewed edited book with an international editor including papers presented at the conference.

### **E3. Participation in international conferences by NAU and UoE staff**

To further stimulate international contacts of NAU staff, in particular with leading international researchers in the field of environmental and resource economics, the six PhD-researchers of NAU and UoE will present papers at international conferences in resource and environmental economics.

## **F. MSc. research activities to support teaching**

### **F1. Research activities in China**

The PhD projects listed above (activities under C) provide important inputs into the teaching of environmental and resource economics at NAU. In addition, however, there is a need to carry out additional research through small projects on such topics as food safety requirements, ISO standardisation, eco-labelling, water pricing, or institutional issues in forestry management. This will be done in the form of three M.Sc.-studies at NAU.

### **F2. Research activities in Vietnam**

Small, applied research projects will be organised to provide empirical evidence as well as case-study materials for the courses taught at UoE. Priority topics include uplands forest management and exploitation, fishery management and economics, economics of natural parks, and eco-labelling of agricultural products. This will be done in the form of three M.Sc.-studies at UoE.

## **G. Project management and evaluation**

### **G1. Establishing project management structure**

The applicant appoints a project co-ordinator who will be responsible for the overall co-ordination including supervision of PhD- and MSc. students of the project supported by a project assistant being responsible for the maintenance of the project web-site, dissemination of project information and project results, local support for visiting staff-members, PhD- and M.Sc. students. NAU and UoE will each appoint one local co-ordinator and an assistant who will be responsible for the co-ordination of the activities in China and Vietnam, respectively. At a kick-off meeting the project management structure will be presented.

### **G2. Reporting of project co-ordinator, applicant**

The co-ordinator is responsible for the scientific, financial and administrative coordination of the project, however the management of the project is a joint commitment of all the participants. He is the intermediary between the partners and the Commission. He is responsible for transmitting to the Commission all documents and correspondence relating to the project and he shall inform the Commission of the actual date of commencement of the work and of the person designated by each partner. As specified in the contract he shall submit to the Commission the cost statements and the periodic, final and supplementary reports after incorporating the content of data provided by the contractors and verifying their consistency with any corresponding cost statements.

He receives all the funds paid by the Commission and transfers within 30 days of receipt the amount owing to the contractors up to the maximum provided in the contract. He will inform the Commission of the distribution of the funds and of the date of transfer by means of standard summary sheets.

Partners will be informed of any event of which the main co-ordinator is aware is liable to substantially affect the project, including any change in the management structure and responsible contact persons, and any change of control affecting the conditions of participation.

### **G3. Reporting of local co-ordinators, partner 1 and partner 2.**

The local co-ordinators will be responsible for the scientific supervision of the project and the assistant for the implementation of project activities. The two local and the main project co-ordinators will be responsible for the communication between the project steering and evaluation committee (see activity G4) and implementing staff. Unforeseen activities will need the approval of all three project co-ordinators. They will meet at least once per year, during project activities.

### **G4. Project monitoring and evaluation**

A project steering and evaluation committee (PSEC) will be appointed, consisting of five senior staff members / professors from Wageningen University (applicant), Nanjing Agricultural University (partner 1) and the University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City (partner 2), Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

(partner 3), ISS (partner 4) respectively. PSEC members do not carry out any of the project activities listed above. Instead, their tasks consist of:

- general monitoring of the progress of the project
- decision making regarding overall implementation and strategy (including settlement of possible conflicts at project co-ordination level)
- academic quality control (PhD- and MSc-thesis proposals)
- mid-term review to assess the progress of the project (efficiency and effectiveness of first part) and provide recommendations for the implementation of the second part of the project
- final evaluation at the end of the project

The PSEC will communicate via the internet and meet for the mid-term evaluation at the international seminar in Vietnam (see activity E1) and for the final evaluation at the international conference (see activity E2).

## **H. Dissemination of Project Information**

### **H1. Development of a communication strategy**

At the kick-off meeting of the project a communication strategy for project results will be developed that takes into account the local cultural context and the available local media, and includes information on the human resources that will be dedicated to communications.

### **H2. Production and dissemination of a project brochure**

Within the first six months of the project a brochure in English, Chinese and Vietnamese will be produced and disseminated to stakeholders.

### **H3. Production and maintenance of a web-site**

A web-site informing about the project and its activities will be established within the first six month after the start of the project. The web-site will inform stakeholders about the progress of the project and provide project results (activities A, B, C, D, E, F).

### **H4. Production of project poster**

Within the first six months of the project a poster in English, Chinese and Vietnamese informing about objectives and activities of the project will be produced.