

4 Methodology

(a) methods of implementation

The project focuses on human resource development at NAU and UoE, but contains important elements of curriculum development / revision elements. Human resource development is stimulated through a combination of teaching courses in China and Vietnam, 12-months visits of NAU-/UoE-staff to the Netherlands and Germany, and PhD research abroad by staff members. Recommendations on the development/ revision of the curricula in environmental and resource economics at NAU and UoE are provided through workshops with foreign experts at both universities. The curriculum development at the UoE may benefit in particular from recent experiences at NAU with the development of a similar curriculum.

Within the project, equal opportunities will be given to women and men. In line with current policies at NAU and UoE, research staff for staff training and study abroad will be selected on the proven ability and performance. In case of equal abilities and performance of two or more candidates, preference will be given to female candidates.

(b) reasons for the proposed methodology

The project addresses the needs with respect to human resource development as perceived by the two target institutes (partners 1 and 2). Activities have been designed in close co-operation between the two target institutes, the applicant, and the two European partners (partners 3 and 4). The reasons for choosing these activities, and their envisaged contributions to the project objectives, are specified in section 1.6(c) above.

(c) how the action is intended to build on a previous action (where applicable)

The project builds on three previous projects:

1. The EU-INCO project 'Economic policies, agricultural incentives and soil degradation in LDCs – a comparative analysis of low and high input agricultural systems' (contract number ERB IC18-CT98-0281). February 1999 – November 2002. Wageningen University (applicant) and Nanjing Agricultural University (partner 1) were among the six institutes that carried out this research project. The field data collected (in three villages in Jiangxi Province, China) by CLM-NAU through this previous research project are at the basis of two PhD dissertations that will be completed during the first year of the project (activities C1 and C2).
2. The project 'Strengthening education and research in environmental and resource economics at Nanjing Agricultural University'. This project was funded under the SAIL programme of The Netherlands government, Ministry of Development Co-operation and ended in December 2003. The project was carried out by Wageningen University (WU) and Nanjing Agricultural University (NAU), in co-operation with the Institute of Social Studies (ISS). The project focused both on strengthening the research capacity at CLM-NAU through joint research and on strengthening the staff capacity for education and research through staff training programs. The project has had a significant impact on teaching and research at NAU. Due to the new teaching requirements of the Ministry of Education in China and the changing economic circumstances in China (see section 1.6), there is a strong need for restructuring the current MSc and PhD programmes in resource and environmental economics. Moreover, the rapid expansion of CLM-NAU requires additional training abroad and at home for young staff and promising students. This activity was part of the second phase of project under the SAIL programme, but could not be carried out as the SAIL programme terminated. (The SAIL programme was terminated due to a change in government priority setting). This part of the second phase of the project will be carried out under the Asia-Link project.
3. The project 'Vietnamese-Dutch Project for MA programme in development economics'. Financed by the SAIL programme (The Netherlands government, Ministry of Development Co-operation). It is carried out by the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) and the University of Economics (UoE) in Ho Chi Minh City, in co-operation with Wageningen University (WU). The main output of the project is a well-established MA programme in development economics at the UoE. As project no.2, the project is now in its final phase. Due to the rapid economic growth in Vietnam in recent years and the negative effects on the quality of the environment and the availability of natural resources, there is a growing public interest in issues of natural resource management and environmental policy. The above-mentioned project activities focusing on UoE (partner 2), will make an important contribution to meeting the demand for education in this field.

(d) procedures for internal evaluation

See activity G4.

(e) level of involvement and activity of other organisations (partners or others) in the action

CLM-NAU (partner 1) and EEU-UoE (partner 2) are the two target institutes. Teaching activities at these two institutes will be carried out by staff from WU (applicant), HU (partner 3) and ISS (partner 4). Supervision of PhD research is provided by staff from WU, HU and ISS). Staff training abroad is organised by staff from WU, HU and ISS. All three European institutes are involved in curriculum development and revisions as well.

(f) reasons for the role of each partner

CLM-NAU (partner 1) and EEU-UoE (partner 2) are leading institutes in education in the field of environmental and resource economics in South China and Vietnam. They are the target institutes of the project. The project builds on existing contacts and successful past co-operation of the two target institutes with Wageningen University (WU; applicant) and the Institute of Social Studies (ISS; partner 4).

WU is the co-ordinator of the project. The Environmental Economics and Natural Resources Group at WU focuses on the economic analysis of national and international environmental and natural resources problems, with the aim of improving understanding of these problems and of identifying possible solutions, including policy recommendations. A large share of the research focuses on environmental and natural resource management problems in transition economies (see <http://www.sls.wageningen-ur.nl/enr/>). The research at the Development Economics Group within WU focuses on rural households in developing countries and their responses to policy incentives in situations characterised by low and uncertain incomes, and incomplete markets. The issues addressed include economic policy analysis, rural institutions and markets, as well as technology choice and use of natural resources. A large share of the research focuses on China (see <http://www.sls.wageningen-ur.nl/dec/>).

The Chair group of Resource Economics of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU; partner 3) has extensive experience with research on sustainable natural resource use in Vietnam and in Central and Eastern European countries. Their research highlights the analysis and development of institutions for sustainable resource use. The Chair of Resource Economics within HU has developed curricula at the MSc level which integrates environmental and resource economics with institutional and political economy (see http://www.agrar.hu-berlin.de/wisola/fg/ress/index_e.html).

The Institute of Social Studies completes the partnership (ISS; partner 4). Within the ISS, the Centre for the Study of Transition and Development (CESTRAD) will contribute in particular to the PhD supervision and curriculum development in the project. CESTRAD is a specialised unit for research, policy analysis and training, on the economics and politics of transition. Its research focuses on the complex processes of social, economic and political change taking place in transition economies (CEE, FSU, China, Vietnam and Mongolia), and developing countries that are going through transitional processes (see <http://www.iss.nl/cestrad/index.htm>).

(g) team proposed for implementation of the action

The team will consist of the following persons and tasks:

- (a) Senior staff member Environmental Economics and Natural Resources Group, WU (applicant): overall project co-ordinator, reporting to the commission, teaching, PhD/MSc supervision, curriculum development
- (b) Senior staff member Development Economics Group, WU (applicant): teaching, curriculum development, PhD/MSc supervision
- (c) Assistant to the overall project co-ordinator, WU (applicant) preparing information and communication material, time planning, supporting travel arrangements
- (d) Senior staff member CLM-NAU (partner 1): project co-ordinator China, PhD/MSc supervision, curriculum development
- (e) Assistant to the local project co-ordinator China (partner 1) preparing information and communication material, time planning, supporting PhD and MSc students

- (f) Staff member EEU-UoE (partner 2):
project co-ordinator Vietnam, short research projects in Vietnam, curriculum development
- (g) Assistant to the local project co-ordinator Vietnam (partner 2):
preparing information and communication material, time planning, supporting PhD and MSc students
- (h) Senior staff member Chair of Resource Economics, HU (partner no. 3):
PhD supervision, teaching, curriculum development
- (i) Senior staff member ISS (partner no. 4):
PhD supervision, teaching, curriculum development