



/ 06. IMPROVING HUMAN RESOURCES FOR A SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION ARE STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT TO THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. FARMING IS VERY IMPORTANT TO VIETNAM: THE SECTOR STILL REPRESENTS 20% OF THE COUNTRY'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP), AND AROUND 70% OF THE POPULATION WORKS IN FARMING.

THE IMPROVEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES IS CONSIDERED INDISPENSABLE TO THE CONTINUATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, REDUCING VULNERABILITY TO NATURAL RISKS AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING CONDITIONS ARE ALSO PRIORITIES. THIS IS WHY ARES WORKS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

The Institutional Support program between ARES and the Vietnam National University of Agriculture (VNUA) focuses on young teachers at the VNUA, by involving them in the development of quality research. This research aims to train teachers and support rural development.

This partnership focuses on the exchange of expertise between teachers and researchers, prioritizing the integration of their respective disciplines into a pluri- and interdisciplinary approach to rural development. In Vietnam, this pluridisciplinary approach mainly focuses on small village farms, from production to the transformation and commercialisation of farming products, within the current increasingly free market.

One of the biggest tasks remains creating sustainability, on a social and environmental level.

Interventions by ARES over the last few years have followed this logic.

As an example, PhD research was done on the milk branch across the price range in the Moc Chau district (Son La province), in North Vietnam.

This led to an increase in the decision power of around 500 farmers, and the proposal of a management system to reduce milk production costs for around a hundred of them.

In the Hung Yen province, the Tu Dan and Yen Phu communes have specialised in the production of tolomane vermicelli, which is a traditional homemade product often consumed during celebrations. This traditional food is made from canna flour (Canna Edulis Ker). This branch, which floats the local economy, affects a multitude of actors.

Research at this level has led to a better understanding of how those who work in the tolomane vermicelli branch adapt to current economic, social and environmental conditions in the two working villages. It has also improved production conditions for around 90 rural entrepreneurs.

During more than 15 years of collaboration, ARES' interventions in rural development have allowed around 20 teacher-researchers to do a PhD thesis on themes allowing an improvement in living conditions in rural areas. Since 2009, around 90 students, including 48 women, received a grant for an International Master in Economy and Rural Sociology in Hanoi. Today, they have graduated, and have important positions in supporting the sustainable development of the Vietnamese countryside.