



ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF AGRICULTURAL INTENSIFICATION ON HEALTH IN SOUTH EAST ASIA AND CHINA

AN UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF A REGIONAL RESEARCH NETWORK

The Ecohealth Field Building Leadership Initiative (FBLI – www.ecohealthasia.net) is a regional operational research network in South East Asia and China that focuses on addressing human health problems associated with agricultural intensification. FBLI has 3 focus areas, namely research, capacity building and knowledge translation. Funded by the Canadian International Development Research Center (IDRC), FBLI gathers researchers, policy makers, community members and other stakeholders from China, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. FBLI is also widely connected to other regional networks.

Since FBLI's launch in 2012, it has achieved significant outcomes that strengthen the Ecohealth/One Health fields.



▶ Using Ecohealth approach to address the issue of animal waste management in small-farmer holders is the research aim of FBLI Vietnam team.

Research: 15 research case studies – already published or in the pipeline - covering aspects of agricultural intensification on health (animal waste, dairy production, pesticide use, rubber plantation) using integrated approaches to research including surveys, participatory methods, laboratory testing and cross-cutting methods. FBLI research has contributed to the understanding of agriculture intensification factors and drivers affecting health and the environment.



▶ A farmer in Yunnan province of China spraying pesticide. Pesticide using among farmers is the research topic of FBLI team in China

Capacity building: The on-going future leader training program reached over 200 future global health leaders and is being further developed with support from other donors. Training materials – such as the Ecohealth Trainer Manual are available free for download: <https://ecohealth.vetswithoutborders.ca>

Training materials are being used by academics and practitioners of ecohealth for training and being translated into several national languages.



▶ Future Leader Training is a series of trainings aiming at providing young researchers an opportunity to practice Ecohealth. Here, a young researcher, taking part in Future Leader Training in Indonesia had his chance to interact with local community.

Knowledge translation: policy alliance groups comprising of policy makers, researchers and other stakeholders are being founded in the 4 partner countries to help translate research results into policy and contribute to practice change.

Outcomes highlight: FBLI contributed to changes in practices and behaviours of several target groups. Medicinal herbs and bio-fertilizer (Super Jammu) is currently being commercialized that gives added value to farmers and improves environmental sustainability. Through FBLI collaboration new funding from donors, in addition to IDRC, was acquired for ecohealth research. Finally a promising take-up of training materials to develop local curriculum of ecohealth teaching in different countries was observed as well as the research potential of young researchers through their participation in the ecohealth training program.

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