



# Smallholders and tree nurseries in Vietnam

<b>Project title:</b>	Accessibility and involvement of smallholders in tree nurseries in Vietnam
<b>Project contact:</b>	Dr Minh Ha Hoang
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<b>Partners:</b>	North West University, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry and Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry
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## Objectives

The overall objective of this study is to obtain a deep understanding of the 'success factors' in the current tree nursery systems in Vietnam. With this knowledge we will be better placed to improve opportunities for smallholders to be involved in tree species domestication and community nurseries to help agroforestry development. Specifically, we have three goals.

1. Identify existing tree-seed and seedling supply systems, focussing on agroforestry tree germplasm, in Vietnam.
2. Define the factors for well-functioning and suitable seed and seedlings systems.
3. Analyse the possibilities and constraints for smallholders' nurseries (individuals rather than collectives) as a potential seedling supply system suitable for expanding production of preferred local and exotic agroforestry species.

## Background

The supply of superior seed and seedlings is an important part of an agroforestry system. Farmers have access to seed and seedlings in several ways, such as through small-scale nurseries that enable farmers to produce for self use and sale. Farmers can improve their livelihoods through improving their nursery management but often lack the technical capacity,



Hue nursery plants (Photo: Marc Dumas-Johansen)

support and financial resources to produce planting material of high quality. Studies from a number of developing countries show that smallholders operate nurseries either individually or as a unit (such as a community group) and that both approaches face different opportunities and constraints, making it important to assess the success factors in current nursery systems in Vietnam.



Son La germplasm nursery preparation seedlings (Photo: Marc Dumas-Johansen)

The Vietnam office will draw from the experience and knowledge of our colleagues in the World Agroforestry Centre Southeast Asia in Indonesia, China and the Philippines who are participating in the same study, which is part of a regional project on certification of community germplasm production and participatory tree species domestication.

## Current activities

Three sites have been selected for the study, representing different agro-ecological zones, in northwest, central uplands and central coastal Vietnam. These areas were selected owing to their high rate of poverty, active involvement in the Government of Vietnam's national tree planting program and the significant role trees are already playing in poverty reduction and landscape rehabilitation. Existing operators in each site have been interviewed to identify their technical and business capacity, infrastructure, production processes, entrepreneurship, quality of germplasm, quality of planting material and the source and use of germplasm.

## Methods

A team of researchers from the Centre's Vietnam office worked closely with those of North West University, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry and Hue

University of Agriculture and Forestry to decide data collection methods and how to manage data analysis and outcomes. Each team carried out field surveys in their respective province using the same approaches.

1. Two questionnaires were developed to target small-scale (that is, individual and family or group nurseries) and large-scale nurseries (that is, state enterprises, research organizations and non-government organizations).
2. In-depth interviews were carried out at the provincial level with policy makers and at the nursery level with key informants. At each nursery, managers, technical staff and workers were interviewed in order to cross-check information.

## What remains to be done?

A national workshop will be held in mid-February to discuss the results from the survey with other researchers and policy makers in order to identify possibilities for smallholders to be more productively involved in tree nurseries. We will publish information on the findings and disseminate to all interested parties. The knowledge gained will be incorporated into future activities of the World Agroforestry Centre in Vietnam.



Hue nursery seedlings medium (Photo: Marc Dumas-Johansen)