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About FORSU

Higher Education Cooperation for Forest Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Livelihoods in Bangladesh and Vietnam (FORSU). FORSU is a 3-year capacity building project which is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. The project includes two European Programme universities: the University of Helsinki (coordinating HEI) & the University of Freiburg, and 2 Partner universities in Bangladesh: Rangamati Science and Technology University & Patuakhali Science and Technology University and 3 Partner universities in Vietnam: Hue University, Tay Nguyen University & Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry

The overarching objective of FORSU is to strengthen the capacity of partner higher education institutions to contribute to well-functioning, relevant and accessible forest landscape restoration (FLR) education to meet the needs of graduates, employers, and other stakeholders, for the broader benefit of the environment and society.

Advancing Forest Restoration Through Digital Technologies: FORSU Training Workshop Held at Tay Nguyen University

From 7–10 January 2026, Tay Nguyen University organized a specialized training workshop on skills for identifying restoration areas, forest monitoring, and tracing forest change history under the FORSU–Erasmus+ Project (Higher Education Cooperation for Forest Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Livelihoods in Bangladesh and Vietnam).

The workshop aimed to strengthen the knowledge and practical skills of lecturers, students, and relevant stakeholders in:

- Identifying and zoning priority areas for forest restoration
- Monitoring forest conditions and detecting changes over time
- Applying GIS, remote sensing, and spatial data in sustainable forest management and restoration

The training combined theoretical sessions with practical exercises, including thematic presentations, group discussions, real-world case studies, and hands-on computer-based training. Participants gained valuable experience in applying digital technologies and spatial analysis tools to support forest restoration and environmental monitoring.



The programme attracted active participation from lecturers, students, postgraduate researchers, and technical staff interested in forestry, forest landscape restoration, and natural resource management. This workshop represents another important milestone of the FORSU–Erasmus+ Project, contributing to enhanced international cooperation and improved education and research capacity in forestry and environmental sciences in Vietnam





FORSU CLOSING WORKSHOP LAUNCHED AT TUAF, THAI NGUYEN, VIETNAM

The three-year FORSU project closing workshop was inaugurated at Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry (TUAF), Vietnam on 30 March 2026, with the participation of all project partners from Bangladesh, Finland, Germany, and Vietnam. The participating institutions included Rangamati Science and Technology University (RMSTU), Patuakhali Science and Technology University, University of Freiburg, University of Helsinki, Hue University, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry and Tay Nguyen University.



A total of 35 participants (23 male and 12 female) attended the workshop inauguration. Professor Ha from the host university warmly welcomed all participants and provided an overview of the workshop activities followed by introduction of the participants.

Subsequently, the FORSU Project Coordinator, Dipjoy Chakma from the University of Helsinki, Finland, outlined the agenda for the morning session and divided participants into two groups to prepare the project completion report. The University of Freiburg facilitated the Bangladeshi partners, while the University of Helsinki supported the Vietnamese partners in preparing their reports and reviewing key achievements in line with the project results framework. Following the group work, Professor Edward Webb from the Project Management Team at the University of Helsinki presented the FORSU results framework and discussed the timeline for submitting the final project report by April 2026.

As part of the workshop activities, participants visited the Thai Nguyen Climate Learning Center, where they observed various climate-resilient initiatives, including forest restoration, bamboo plantation, medicinal plants and home garden development. The participants also visited a man-made lake and resort known as Flamingo for sightseeing, and organic tea garden. The field tour concluded with a visit to the world-renowned tourism village at Thai Hai Village. Honorable Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Md. Atiar Rahman from RMSTU and Honorable Rector Nguyen Hung Quang from TUAF also attended the closing inauguration event. The closing event will end on 1 April 2026.





2nd and Main Event of FORSU Closing Workshop: Strengthening Cooperation for Landscape Restoration Education Among Partners

The Honorable Rector Professor Dr. Nguyen Hung Quang delivered a welcome speech during the main closing event held on 31 March 2026 at Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry (TUAF), followed by the introduction of participants. He warmly welcomed and thanked all attendees for participating in the FORSU closing workshop and reiterated the importance of forest landscape restoration in addressing climate change and sustainable natural resource management, emphasizing the need for strengthened academic capacity, quality education, and institutional connectivity.



Professor Edward Webb from University of Helsinki highlighted the critical role of higher education in global development. He emphasized that higher education institutions can significantly contribute to sustainable development, as demonstrated by the FORSU project through the development of academic curricula, enriched learning experiences in natural resource management, and the promotion of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches.

The Honorable Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Md. Atiar Rahman from Rangamati Science and Technology University, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the organizers, the FORSU Project Management Team, and the European Union for undertaking such impactful initiatives aimed at societal well-being while ensuring environmental sustainability.

Professor Dr. Masudur Rahman, representing Patuakhali Science and Technology University, highlighted the achievements of the FORSU project in promoting joint research, academic curriculum development, and knowledge sharing among partner institutions.



Representatives from Hue University, University of Freiburg, and Tay Nguyen University Dr. Tran Nam Thang, Professor Dr. Marc Christian Hanewinkel, and Professor Houg delivered their speeches, emphasizing the strong commitment and dedication of project partners in successfully implementing project activities and underscoring the importance of continuing future collaboration and academic partnerships.

Dr. Cora from CIFOR-ICRAF presented the importance of integrating landscape restoration into higher education and strengthening institutional collaboration across Asian countries, including engagement through FORSU online platforms.





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Issue 7: January to May 2026

FORSU Newsletter



The FORSU Project Coordinator, Dipjoy Chakma from the University of Helsinki, presented the key results, major achievements, and future directions for sustained institutional collaboration.

Following the presentations, an open discussion session was held and moderated by Professor Dr. Roderic from the University of Freiburg. Professor Ha, Professor Dr. Atiar Rahman, Dr. Nikhil Chakma, and Saddam Hossen actively participated in the discussion, sharing insights on FORSU activities and the sustainability of ongoing institutional collaboration and research initiatives.

The Honorable Rector, Professor Dr. Nguyen Hung Quang from TUAU, concluded the second day of the workshop by thanking all participants for their fruitful discussions and highlighting opportunities for future collaboration.



Higher Education Cooperation for Forest Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Livelihoods in Bangladesh and Vietnam (FORSU)





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Participants visited the world-renowned Ba Be Lake

After the 2nd day sessions, participants visited the world-renowned Ba Be Lake on 1 April 2026 where they observed scenic natural beauty and ongoing restoration activities in surrounding landscapes.

The FORSU project is funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union and is scheduled to conclude in May 2026.





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FOR\$U Newsletter

FORSU Project Coordinator Visits RMSTU to Review Progress and Strengthen Future Collaboration

On 19 May 2026, FORSU Project Coordinator Mr. Dipjoy Chakma (University of Helsinki, Finland) visited Rangamati Science and Technology University (RMSTU) to review project activities, assess the completion status, discuss pending tasks, and provide constructive feedback for the successful implementation of the project.

During the visit, Mr. Dipjoy Chakma met with the newly appointed Honorable Vice-Chancellor of RMSTU, Professor Dr. Zainul Abedin Siddique, to discuss ongoing FORSU activities and future collaboration opportunities in the areas of capacity building, research, academic exchange, employment opportunities, and pedagogy.

The meeting was attended by Registrar Mr. Mohammad Jonaed Kabir, FORSU Project Manager (RMSTU part) Dr. Suprio Chakma, Chairman of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science (FES) Dr. Nikhil Chakma, Mr. Saddam Hossen, Assistant Professor, FES, Ms. Saptarshi Chakma, Assistant Professor, Department of Management, Ms. Rishita Chakma, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, and other FORSU project staff members.

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CONTACTS

Mr. Dipjoy Chakma
Coordinator of FORSU Project
University of Helsinki
Helsinki, Finland
Email: dipjoy.chakma@helsinki.fi

Dr. Nikhil Chakma
Coordinator, RMSTU Part, FORSU
Rangamati Science and Technology University
Rangamati-4500, Bangladesh
Email: nikhil.chakma@rmstu.ac.bd

Website: forsuerasmus.info

FORSU Partners

