

IDRC in Vietnam

IDRC began supporting research in Vietnam in the early 1990s, shortly after reforms known as *Doi Moi* launched the country's transition to a market economy. As a generation of Vietnamese economists realized that their skills were ill-suited for the new market system, the Centre responded with training in non-Marxist economic research.

Pro-poor economic research

Sustained support to economists laid the foundation for the Vietnam Economic Research Network (VERN). Supported by IDRC since its inception in 2002, VERN members have studied international trade, competitiveness, employment, poverty, and inequality. The Network quickly expanded to include researchers from across the country and established strong and credible links to policymakers and development practitioners. VERN research findings appear in the country's Human Development Report and its results informed trade policy, including preparation for Vietnam's accession to the World Trade Organization.

Better use of resources

IDRC support since the early 1990s has also fostered community involvement in research among key Vietnamese universities and science research institutions. Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry has become a leader in this approach. It has been working with communities in the Tam Giang Lagoon since the mid-1990s to help develop sustainable livelihoods, solve conflicts



IDRC: PETER BENNETT

Research in the Tam Giang Lagoon led to sustainable livelihoods.

between aquaculturists and mobile fishers, reduce navigational hazards, and improve water quality. As a measure of its success, local fishery associations secured fishing management rights in 2009, a first in Vietnam.

Wired to learn

IDRC was a key partner in establishing the country's first connection to the Internet and first online education service. In 1994 Netnam, a government service, began offering Internet and e-mail. Netnam thrives to this day as a private company run by the original IDRC-supported team.

In the early 2000s, Vietnam's Fisheries College No. 4 and Canada's College of the North Atlantic created the country's first Internet-based, distance education

Total IDRC support
111 activities
worth CA\$30 million
since 1991

IDRC support is helping:

- Disadvantaged groups, including women, access natural resources
- Migrant women protect their rights
- Small poultry producers reduce risk under new bird flu controls
- Farmers find alternatives to growing tobacco
- Policymakers reduce poverty

service for rural learners. IDRC continues to support online education through regional research to improve the quality of distance education.



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IDRC supports research to reduce poverty.

Some current activities

IDRC continues to support economic research and efforts to improve agriculture, food production, fisheries, and forest management. Research on women's rights and avian influenza is also underway.

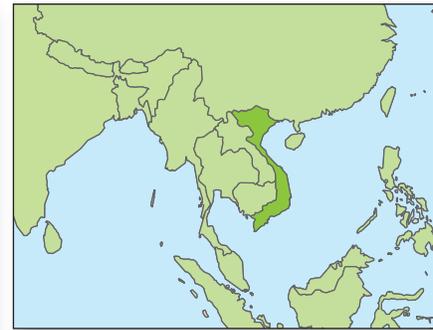
■ Fair access to fish and forests

Funding: \$792,700

Duration: 2008–2011

Grantee: Hue University of Forestry and Agriculture, Vietnam

As local authorities become responsible for managing natural resources, they need to understand how women and other disadvantaged groups are sometimes denied access to resources and thus pressed into greater poverty. Researchers continue to support fishery associations in the rapidly developing Tam Giang Lagoon. Parallel research in upland areas focuses on fair access and sustainable use of land that was recently transferred to local authorities by the state forest enterprise.



The boundaries and names shown on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IDRC.

■ Reducing the risk of backyard poultry production

Funding: \$237,200

Duration: 2007–2010

Grantee: National Institute for Animal Husbandry, Vietnam

Income from poultry produced on small farms and rural backyards in Asian countries benefits many, in particular, women and children. But these operations can increase the risk of spreading avian influenza. Researchers in Vietnam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, and Thailand are studying the dynamics of this industry and developing practices that will reduce the risks associated with bird flu. This project is one of several in Vietnam led by the Asian Partnership on Emerging Infectious Diseases Research.

■ Reducing harm from tobacco cultivation

Funding: \$45,600 (IDRC and other donors)

Duration: 2008–2010

Grantee: Hanoi Medical University

Cigarette manufacturers plan to increase tobacco production in Vietnam. But tobacco cultivation carries significant risk of injury and illness. Researchers are providing evidence of the harmful effects of tobacco farming and recommending policies that can increase farmers' choices and make them less dependent on tobacco.

■ Stronger economic research

Funding: \$775,300

Duration: 2006–2010

Grantee: Center for Analysis and Forecast, Vietnam

Through support for applied research and training, the Vietnam Economic Research Network (VERN) is further improving the country's capacity for high-quality research and effective economic policy. VERN-supported researchers are studying such issues as agricultural growth and poverty, manufacturing productivity and competitiveness, and the effects of trade liberalization on employment.

■ Migrant women's rights

Funding: \$361,300

Duration: 2007–2011

Grantee: Institute for Social Development Studies, Vietnam, and University of Western Ontario, Canada

Canadian and Vietnamese researchers are collaborating to help improve the rights and well-being of migrant Vietnamese women. Early findings point to the particular difficulties faced by women who migrate for marriage and to a need for greater monitoring and compliance with labour and immigration laws in receiving countries.

February 2010

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