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SUCCESS STORY

Master of Veterinary Medicine, specialized in Public Health at Nong Lam University Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (NLU)



Zoonosis and the safety of food of animal origin are still of great concerns in Vietnam. Rapid urbanization and industrialization without preparation have brought about emerging challenges in environmental health, threatening the security and safety of the food chain and public health in the country. Lack of knowledge of biosecurity measures and their poor application result in the overuse of antibiotics and growth promoters in feed, which pose a great challenge for animal agriculture and food safety and lead to antimicrobial resistance. Neglected foodborne parasitic and bacterial zoonoses are commonly detected among certain communities, especially the suburban and rural areas, where people still die from vaccine-preventable viral diseases such as rabies.

To this day, Veterinary Public Health (VPH) has not yet become a major component of traditional undergraduate veterinary programs in Vietnam. There has been no option for higher education specialization in VPH among Vietnamese agricultural universities and institutes. Thus, there is an urgent need to develop VPH capabilities amongst the veterinary professionals and paraprofessionals, who are currently working or will be working in the field of VPH.



With support from VOHUN and the participation of colleagues from other universities and institutes in the VOHUN Network as well as international One Health experts, Faculty of Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine of the NLU HCMC developed four activities and conducted workshops in order to develop the program of Master of Veterinary Medicine, specialized in Public Health, taught in English.

The development process included: (1) Mapping the current curriculum of Veterinary Medicine Master Program at NLU and comparing to master programs in Veterinary Public Health in other countries; (2) Developing the curriculum for the Master Program of Veterinary Medicine, specialized in Public Health at NLU; (3) Developing the modules and outcomes of the course; (4) Evaluation of the curriculum, course materials, and personnel.

By July 2018, the program was fully developed with detailed modules and expected learning outcomes (ELOs), enrollment criteria and admission requirements, and assessment for graduation.

The objectives of the Program are: (1) To develop in-depth knowledge of veterinary medicine, and extend the use of its principles to detect, prevent, monitor, and control zoonoses and emerging diseases; (2) To formulate the relationship between veterinary medicine and other fields of medicine, environmental protection, food safety, and public health; and (3) To be prepared to perform scientific research and apply advanced technologies in various aspects of the profession including in research, teaching, diagnosis, and treatment of animal diseases.

The program will extend all activities including teaching, tutoring, field-based learning activities, laboratory practical skills, etc. in collaboration with other universities and organizations in Vietnam, in the regions and abroad, and with other international organizations working in the fields of public health and one health.

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<http://www.usaid.gov/rdma/countries/vietnam.html>

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