

Internship Opportunity in Cambodia

research or study to create evidence-based findings regarding agroecology (production, value chains and technical and social innovations)

1. Context

Eclosio along with Louvain Cooperation are implementing a project called “Partnership for Agroecology Transition, Networking, and Efficient Resilience (PARtNER)” project under the Uni4Coop platform. This project is funded by DGD (Belgian Government Funds) for 5 years from 2022 to 2026. The project provides direct supports to farmer organization (FO) partners, with partial supports from collaborators (NGOs, social enterprises, private companies, etc.) to achieve 5 results as following:

1. Improve knowledge and capacity of small-scale farmers and their family members to ensure sustainable, healthy, diversified and culturally appropriate food production,
2. Upgrade value-chains and market access of products from agroecological (AE) practices,
3. Improve governance to favour farmer rights, gender equity and democratization of decision-making space,
4. Improve sustainable and healthier consumption patterns among farmers and consumers, and
5. Co-construct studies with farmers for dissemination in particular to influence policies and decision-making in favour of the transition towards AE.

Internship program plays a crucial role in PARtNER project as the research conducted by the intern students will bridge between theories at academic institutions and the actual AE practices at the field. The findings from the research are expected to contribute to accelerating the AE innovation and adaptation.

2. Objectives of the Internship Program

The main objective of this internship program is to develop a research or study to create evidence-based findings regarding AE (agroecology) topics, specifically related to production or value chains of paddy rice, rice seeds, chicken, and vegetables. The research or study aims at promoting technical and social innovations through participatory approaches which involve local farmers and partners of Eclusio.

3. General Principles Underlying the Placement

The intern will be supervised, on the one hand, by the teaching staff of the institution from which he/she comes and, on the other hand, by the staff of Eclusio (headquarters and field), as well as by Eclusio's Southern partners. Eclusio will be attentive to the technical orientation of the work, its harmonisation and continuity.

The student will have to follow at least one training course before leaving ("preparation for departure").

The student involved in the work placement will in turn be a player in education for global citizenship and solidarity (ECMS) by getting involved, through testimonies, video and photo reports, writing articles for the Eclasio periodical, etc.

4. Duration and Desired Periods for the Internship Placement

- Between 2 months and 6 months

5. Internship Locations

The internship program will take place in both Belgium and Cambodia. Generally, the development of the academic research takes place in Belgium with involvement of research supervisor or teaching staff, while the data collection will happen in PARTNER's project areas in Battambang, Takeo or Kampong Thom provinces in Cambodia with the support from Eclasio local team.

6. Profile Required

a. **Studies, fields of research:**

- Students who study Agricultural Science, Agribusiness, Animal Production, Rural Development, Environmental Science, Bioengineering are preferred for this internship program. Students from other majors will be considered case by case.
- If selected, students can consult with Eclasio's local team in Cambodia to select and develop ideal research topics which are relevant and needed at country level.

b. **Language**

- The intern must demonstrate a sufficient level of English to enable him/her to communicate with the field teams and relevant partners in Cambodia.

c. **Behavioural and professional skills:**

- Good autonomy and work organisation,
- Good capacity for innovation and scientific rigour,
- Motivation and ability to take on challenges,
- Good ability to work in extreme climatic conditions,
- Willing to travel to or stay at rural communities,
- Good writing skills: a short monthly report will be required according to an outline provided in advance.
- The trainee will be in constant contact with the farmers, the project coordinator and other trainees. Good communication and listening skills are therefore essential.

7. Contact Persons

If you are interested, please send your CV and cover letter to Ms. Claire Wiliquet, the focal person in charge of Civic Education at claire.wiliquet@eclasio.org. The applications will be processed as they arrive.