

NEPAL

Principal Investigator: Dr. Bishnu Bishwakarma

Internship Title: Graduate Research Internship 2025 in YUVA Project

Time Period: 14 days during April or May, 2025

Background/Description of the Project

Empowering Youth Entrepreneurs through Appropriate Horticultural Interventions in Nepal-YUVA (Youth) is a research-for-development project. It is one of the research initiatives of the Innovation Lab for Horticulture managed by the University of California, Davis under Feed the Future, funded by USAID. The project's specific objectives are identifying, testing, and establishing appropriate horticultural enterprises that contribute decent employment and income to Nepalese youth.

As a lead institution, FORWARD Nepal implements YUVA, while Welthungerhilfe (WHH) Nepal, as a consortium partner, provides co-funding and technical support for implementing this project. Moreover, the collaborating partners Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) of Nepal and the National Farmer Group Federation (NFGF), provide thematic expertise to the YUVA project. The local governments will establish policy provisions to establish and promote youth horticulture enterprises, including effective funding mechanisms. This project is being implemented at three local levels of Lumbini Province, Nepal- Buddhabhumi Municipality from Kapilvastu, Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan City from Dang, and Sandhikharka Municipality from Arghakhanchi district from March 2023 to July 2026.

YUVA will establish 24 horticulture enterprises focusing on youth to gather evidence of appropriate size, crop, and technology for sustained employment and income to the youth and funding mechanisms to support such enterprises. Furthermore, this project incorporates the Master's and Ph.D. students at AFU and three graduate students from Trellis fund fellowship program to exchange learning between US-based Universities and Nepali students. The graduate students from US-based Universities will visit and stay in project sites for 14 days, one graduate student in each year from 2024 to 2026. The research opportunity in YUVA project sites of Nepal will provide an excellent opportunity for the graduate students to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world situations, enhancing both academic and practical understanding of economic analysis in specific contexts.

Supervision and Support

The graduate student will work together with the project team, including field officers from all project sites, and report to the Principal Investigator. His/her supervisor from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) will provide guidance and feedback throughout the visit.

Evaluation

The student's performance will be evaluated based on the work and deliverables, reports, clarity of learning presentation and timeliness of the assignment competition.



Research Question(s) or Specific Issues to be Addressed	Range of Acceptable Disciplines and Skills	Deliverables
<p>The overall objective of the TFFP program is to i) recruit and engage U.S. graduate students in international agricultural research and development projects, and ii) Provide scientifically valid extension information to local organizations, farmers, and other stakeholders in the horticulture value chain. The graduate student enrolled in the "Graduate Research Internship 2025" in YUVA project will particularly be assigned to conduct gross margin analysis of vegetable production under open field cultivation and protected structures, collect success cases, develop poster and leaflet of the technologies and support in documentation of results of the field research activities in each case in close collaboration with project Principal Investigator and local PhD scholar. Moreover, the graduate student is expected to support preparing farmer's profile/fact sheet of farmers participating in research activities.</p>	<p>Enrolled in a Master's program related to Horticulture, Agricultural Economics, Agribusiness or a related field.</p> <p>Good analytical skills.</p> <p>Familiarity with quantitative and qualitative data collection, analysis and reporting.</p> <p>Excellent report writing and presentation skills.</p>	<p>Before arriving at project sites for research, students will participate in an online pre-departure study program to strengthen their skills and contribute 100 hours of research and virtual outreach service delivery. The expected deliverables from the intern are:</p> <p>A comprehensive literature selected review document on methodologies for gross margin analysis specific to vegetable production under open field condition and protected structures.</p> <p>Data management, an organized dataset of farmer's diary this includes quantitative and qualitative data to assess the gross margin analysis of vegetable enterprise.</p> <p>Assess what are the existing issues/challenges and opportunity of the technology, any modification/adaptation needed.</p> <p>At least four success stories related to horticultural business including vegetable enterprise.</p> <p>Prepare handouts, posters, fact sheets and leaflets related to horticultural enterprises tested by YUVA project.</p> <p>A brief report of the assignment including objectives, scope of work, methods and findings/conclusion.</p> <p>Sharing of the case study in relevant forums.</p>

