

Internship Placement:**Supervisor:** Dr. Trai Nguyen Van**Organization:**

Private sector running this business in Binh Dai District, Ben Tre Province, Vietnam.

Address:

Thua Duc Ward, Binh Dai District, Ben Tre Province, Vietnam.

Contact: Tel. +84 – 0384571171.

(Please contact Faculty of Fisheries, Nong Lam University at +84-28-3896-3343, email: nguyenvantrai@hcmuaf.edu.vn for initial arrangement)



Mangrove extensive aquaculture integrated with ecotourism

Location:

It is located in mangrove area of Binh Dai District, Ben Tre Province, near a large river mouth of the Mekong River, where mangrove is strictly conserved by law.

1. **Project type:** Mangrove extensive aquaculture integrated with ecotourism, a new business operation supported by the local government in order to conserve the natural mangrove forest while generating new source of income for local fish farmers.

Interns or students will be contacted and consulted upon receiving their application or letter of interest to develop activities and schedule.

2. **Project description:** A small-scale enterprise is running an extensive fish farming system in mangrove forest, integrated with ecotourism. This kind of business has received strong supports from the local government with a hope to promote a sustainable aquaculture model for the region. Mangrove extensive aquaculture is regarded as a good model to conserve the mangrove forest which was one of the aims of the local authorities for reducing the impacts of climate change on the coastline. However, this system based totally on the natural fish seeds for a limited fish product harvested, and then generated low income from fish for the farmer. This is a risk for promotion of the model in Ben Tre that would lead to less interest by the local fish farmers. Therefore, ecotourism has been integrated with this aquaculture model since 2017. Tourists will be engaged in all the farming activities for their exciting. Students involved in this project will learn how a small-scale private sector running their business successfully, and the farm owner might request students for their ideas' contribution to improve the operation in terms of its effectiveness.

3. **What interns/volunteers can do to help local community?** This form of internship is designed for mutual benefit, actually for interns/volunteers/University and business owner/local communities. Students involved would help the farm owners know very well how to improve their farming production, and maybe how to expand this model to the neighbor farms or local communities. On the other side, the students will have a good opportunity to learn from the real world and to deal with the real situation. Under this training environment, they would think critically at all time in a team to share and create new ideas, and to discuss then to finalize the best solutions for the problem.
4. **How to get there?** You can travel by bus to Ben Tre City from Ho Chi Minh City within 1,5 hours and a bus fare of 5 US dollars; Then catch a second bus from Ben Tre City to the side in Binh Dai district (1 hour travel) with 1,5 US dollars. The farm owner will pick up you at his station and the owner will take the boat for your travel to the farm with cost of 25 US dollar (30 minutes). Cost for living in farm may range from 10 to 20 dollars per day accordingly.
5. **Living conditions:** Be prepared to live a remote area, where freshwater for daily consumption is limited. Electricity is supplied by solar panel set-up in the farm for limited devices like computer, mobile phone, light, etc. The owner can speak English just for basic communication. It will be a life-time experience in living with a local family as its member and learning local culture, language and adapting a different way of life. Internet services and ATM/cash machines are not available at the farm side. Food will be prepared by the family at a reasonable cost.
6. **Climate:** tropical with temperature that varies from about 25 at night and up to 35°C day time almost year round.
7. **Culture:** casual dresses are accepted. Any foot wares are accepted at the province, and at the farm site you do not need them.
8. **Miscellaneous:** travel medical kit, flash light, few books, towel and other toiletries are suggested to bring.
9. **Interns are responsible for the followings:**
 1. International airfare and local travel
 2. Visa fees for visa/passport
 3. Medical /LIFE insurance
 4. Food and drinks (Approx. US\$1/meal)
 5. Any costs of trips, trainings, and others arranged personally

Note: a local student may be arranged to participate your internship program, actually for English translation purpose.