

# Scaling Up Small-Scale Food Processing for Therapeutic and Complementary Foods for Children in Vietnam

Ryerson University



Cải thiện An ninh thực phẩm hộ gia đình phụ nữ nông thôn nghèo thông qua mô hình chế biến thực phẩm dinh dưỡng quy mô nhỏ ở Việt Nam



## SUMMARY

Researchers from Vietnam and Canada are tackling poverty and malnutrition among women and children with fortified foods that use locally grown crops, local manufacturing facilities, and local distribution channels. The project (2015-2018) is focused on three provinces of northern Vietnam: Lao Cai, Lai Chau, and Ha Giang.

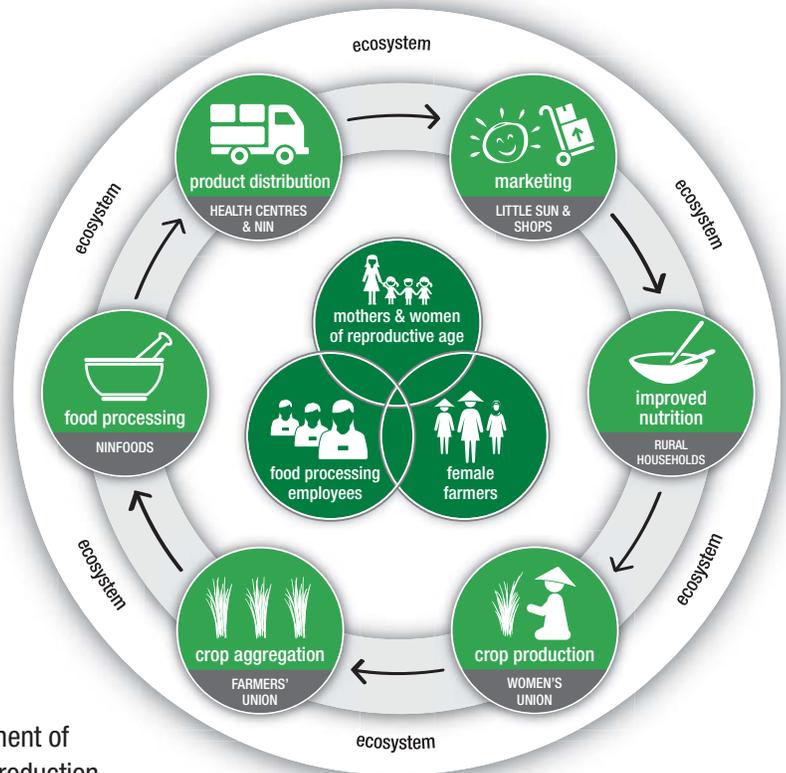
## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Vietnam's National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) is working with Ryerson University's researchers to bring sustainable solutions to rural Vietnam. These include the direct procurement of crops from smallholder women farmers, the decentralized production of fortified foods in small local food processing facilities, and a reliable commercial supply chain that sees products purchased by hundreds of nutrition counseling centres.

The Vietnam Women's Union will act as the main liaison with the women farmers who will receive training on agro-ecological practices, post-harvest handling, food safety, and how to form producer associations.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- + Improved livelihoods, nutrition and food security for thousands of rural Vietnamese
- + Increased health and productivity
- + Reduced post-harvest losses; increased shelf-life of foods
- + Reduced reliance on imports of fortified foods
- + Reduced local prices of nutritious foods for young children
- + Established reliable market for female farmers to sell local crops and support income generation
- + Local job creation, with particular focus on women
- + Evidenced-based model to inform development and implementation of national food security policies such as Vietnam's National Nutrition Strategy



### PROJECT TEAM:

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This project is funded under the Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF), an IDRC program undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through Global Affairs Canada (formerly Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada).

# STRATEGY

Using a food systems approach, the project comprises three main components:

1. The direct procurement of crops from small-scale women farmers;
2. The decentralized production of fortified complementary foods for children in a small-scale food processing (SSFP) facility;
3. The distribution of the products to nutrition counseling centres and local vendors.

NIN FOOD, a business oriented subsidiary of NIN, developed the ECOSUN product line of fortified complementary foods for children and ran acceptability tests in local communities within the project sites in northern Vietnam. The two main products are CHAO NGON instant rice porridge fortified with Iron and Zinc, and VICA vegetable powders fortified with multiple micronutrients (Calcium, Magnesium, Manganese, Zinc and Vitamin D).



# OUTCOMES

