Crop biodiversity for the sustainable supply of food in urban and peri-urban areas of Vietnam

Project
The alumni project targeted graduates from North and Central Vietnam, and especially those who studied agricultural and horticultural sciences. Contacts have existed with the agricultural universities in Hanoi and Hue and with the Humboldt University alumni group in Hanoi since 1995; the project was able to build on these ties.

Goal
The alumni project planned to concentrate the activities undertaken by the participating universities on crop biodiversity for the sustainable supply of food in urban and peri-urban areas of Vietnam and to achieve a higher level of cooperation.

Approach
Four workshops were held in Hanoi, Hue and Berlin. Initially, the scientists gathered information on the state of sustainable systems in farming and agriculture in urban and peri-urban areas of Vietnam. The results were compared with experience and approaches which the European Union had gained during the introduction of such a cultivation system. Field studies in Vietnam were also considered. Lectures focused on topics like biodiversity and the use of resources in horticulture and the application of integrated production methods for supplying the population with high-quality fruit and vegetable.

Benefit and Outlook
The participating universities consolidated their contacts. It was possible to integrate alumni into the cooperation and to develop focuses for future cooperation. Summer schools are planned to further intensify the academic exchange.

Challenge
Vietnam is the country with the most German-speaking alumni in Asia. There is a very strong interest in cooperation with German universities.

Contact
Dr. Dr. h. c. Michael Böhme
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Institut für Gartenbauwissenschaften
Lenzallee 75
D-14195 Berlin
Germany
Tel.: +49(0)30/31471123
E-mail: michael.boehme@rz.hu-berlin.de
Internet: www.agrar.hu-berlin.de/gartenbau/gb/WebBoehme.htm