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ZERO  
HUNGER



Promote Sustainable  
Food Security

## OVERVIEW

NIDA recognizes its social responsibility and actively supports efforts to enhance food security among disadvantaged communities—an essential factor for human well-being. The Institute transfers knowledge through various training programs, projects, and activities designed to strengthen communities, promote resilience, and ensure long-term sustainability. NIDA also encourages faculty members, researchers, and students to develop research that benefits society. The dissemination of this knowledge aims to empower vulnerable groups to achieve self-reliance and eradicate hunger sustainably.

## POLICY

### Addressing social challenges & solutions

NIDA advances its University Social Responsibility (USR) policy by supporting poverty alleviation and community well-being through financial aid, social outreach, and donation initiatives. The institute is also guided by the “Social Laboratory” concept to promote collaborative, hands-on innovation to address complex social challenges and drive sustainable change.

### NIDA for University Social Responsibility (USR)

NIDA has established policies to strengthen its social responsibility role in alleviating poverty and supporting disadvantaged groups. The Institute allocates funding to assist students, staff, and underprivileged individuals with limited access to safe and nutritious food. It has also established a dedicated unit responsible for social outreach and networking, organizing community service, fundraising, and donation activities to support those facing social and economic hardship.

### Promoting “Social Laboratory” concept

NIDA President, Prof. Dr. Tippawan Lorsuannarat, discussed the “Social Laboratory” concept as a practical approach to addressing complex social issues. A social laboratory serves as a space for learning and experimentation, using real-world social challenges as the foundation for problem-solving. It relies on participants with diverse expertise, experience, and knowledge who engage collaboratively and actively.

This approach encourages agencies and individuals to act as change leaders and promotes social innovation through hands-on, iterative processes that lead to transformative and sustainable change. The concept is inspired by Zaid Hassan’s work with the Sustainable Food Lab, which brings together stakeholders from corporations, NGOs, and governments to co-develop and test solutions for a more sustainable global food system through a “hands-on and collective” approach.

## RESEARCH / FUNDING

### Research for strengthening community welfare funds

One notable initiative is the research project titled “Documenting Lessons Learned from Sustainable Solutions to Farmers’ Debt through Community Welfare Funds.” This project, funded by the Office of the Science, Research and Innovation Promotion Board (TSRI), aims to explore approaches to alleviating farmers’ debt problems through community funds, using model communities as case studies. The project also seeks to develop policy recommendations for sustainable debt solutions through community-based mechanisms.

Data were collected through focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with 10–15 key informants from each of the four research sites:

- Ban Donkha Subdistrict, Thung Song District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province
- Bang Namphueng Subdistrict, Phra Pradaeng District, Samut Prakan Province
- Ban Rang Phlap Community, Krab Yai Subdistrict, Ban Pong District, Ratchaburi Province
- Ban Saen To Community, Bua Yai Subdistrict, Nam Phong District, Khon Kaen Province

Participants included community leaders, fund administrators, model farmers, local development officers, and fund members selected through purposive sampling. The research employed semi-structured interviews and content analysis as the main tools.

Findings revealed three key components contributing to the strength of community funds: the community, the fund committee, and the fund members. The collaboration among these three components generated social capital, enabling collective problem-solving and sustainable debt relief. Community funds thus serve as vital mechanisms in strengthening local economic structures and offer a promising model for addressing farmers' debt in Thailand sustainably.

## TEACHING & LEARNING

### Food & hospitality fieldtrip for experiential learning

NIDA promotes experiential learning through company visits and field studies related to the food industry. Students visited Food Passion Co., Ltd., the parent company of Bar B Q Plaza, GON Food Take, Redsun, and GON Express. The visit showcased the company's expansion from restaurant operations to establishing the Food Passion Training and Learning Center, as well as its successful adaptation to the economic challenges of the COVID-19 crisis and strategies for maintaining competitiveness in today's food service industry.



Students also visited Amari Bangkok Hotel and ONYX Hospitality Group, where they learned about internationally recognized sustainable hotel management practices.

<https://nida.ac.th/nida-tourism-global-hotel-standards>

## OPERATION

### From Riceberry to Energy Booster: Workshop for BCG Innovation

NIDA held a workshop, "I-DIN SYRYP: Syrup from Riceberry Rice" to introduce an innovative Zero Waste and BCG-based product—an Energy Booster Syrup made from Riceberry, providing a healthier sugar alternative. Participants learned to make the syrup and co-developed ideas for product improvement and community extension in the Nam Sai Dok Mai Suai community, Nimit Mai Road, Khlong Sam Wa, Bangkok.

<https://tour.nida.ac.th/th/i-din-syryp/>

