



The John D. Rockefeller 3RD Scholars Program: CULTIVATING SCHOLAR-LEADERS IN ASIA



Winrock International created the John D. Rockefeller 3RD Scholars Program (JDR3) in 2004 to continue the Rockefeller family's longstanding commitment to building the capacity and leadership skills of scholars in emerging countries. The program promotes independent social science research and strengthens analytical skills of young professionals, primarily in Asia. Research themes focus on development challenges facing disadvantaged groups, including women, youth, ethnic minorities and low-income groups.

Why JDR3?

USAID and other donors have increasingly noted the importance of linking research and evidence-based practices to development programs to improve efficiency and effectiveness. To do this, it is imperative that donors and implementers alike address the barriers to generating high-quality social science data. The JDR3 Program uses a participatory, locally-led approach to build the evidence base for project interventions through original social science research that informs programmatic and policy decisions. Research generated under JDR3 helps establish the routine use of evidence in development planning, programming and policy.

How Does JDR3 Strengthen Local Research Skills?

Applied research grants target local, mid-career researchers and professionals who have few outside opportunities for funding. JDR3 staff and local experts provide mentoring during the grant competition process to strengthen the analysis and synthesis skills of the researchers. Local experts representing academia,

government, donors and the private sector serve on judging committees tailored to each team's needs, providing quality control and assistance, with outreach to policymakers. JDR3 staff train teams on using research results to inform policy, enabling researchers to advise key decision-makers on policy and practice.





How Does JDR3 Improve Policies and Practices in Emerging Countries?

Highlights of JDR3 research team accomplishments include the following:

Bangladesh – Creating a Legal Basis for Community Co-Management of Wetlands (2016-2017)

The team presented their findings, entitled “National Consultation on Proposals for Amendments of the Jalmohal Management Policy, 2009,” to key decision-makers at the Wetland National Policy Workshop in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Jan. 5, 2017. As a next step, the Additional Secretary will present the findings and policy recommendations to the Minister and the Parliament to amend the 2009 Jalmohal Management Policy, which dictates the current leasing system of the wetlands in Bangladesh.

Myanmar – Socio-Economic Factors Affecting Avian Influenza Prevention and Control: The Case of Village Poultry Farming in Myanmar (2007-09)

The research team’s recommendations to improve government policies related to avian influenza and small farmers attracted attention from Myanmar’s Ministry of Livestock and international donors. As a result, the team was contracted by FAO in spring 2009 to undertake a \$35,000 study of avian influenza socio-economic impacts and poultry trade on Myanmar’s western border, an area not covered by the JDR3 study. Now nationally known for their participatory research skills, the team has attracted interest from other donors. In late 2008, the team was contracted by IDE Myanmar to conduct a survey assessing their food and seed distribution program in Nargis-affected areas of the Irrawaddy Delta. Myanmar’s Ministry of Livestock is also working to follow up on the team’s policy recommendations and has recommended that the team be hired by the Ministry of Agriculture for similar research on ag-related issues.

Vietnam & Thailand – Payments for Environmental Services (PES) to Benefit the Rural Poor Thailand and Vietnam (2006-09)

In Vietnam, the results of the JDR3 team’s willingness-to-pay survey of Ho Chi Minh City residents were used to justify water company fee levels incorporated into a 2010 law mandating Payment for Environmental Services. Through this fee, between 2009 and 2012, water companies in Vietnam generated US \$2.48 million in revenues from municipal water users, which are being used for watershed conservation.

