

# Thi Thi Soe

Why was I interested in the exchange student programme for a Master's degree with the collaboration of BFH-HAFL University of Applied Sciences, Yezin Agricultural University and Helvetas project, Myanmar (Gulf of Mottama Project)? I wanted to learn new teaching methods and new subjects in the heart of Europe and gain new experiences for a professional carrier as part of a two-year programme. The University of Applied Sciences (BFH-HAFL) is the best choice for you if you are looking for an amazing international environment with great variety and an interesting study programme focused on the food value chain, agriculture and forestry. As part of the programme, students can study in Switzerland for one and a half years, and focus on research and data collection in their own country or a country of interest for another half year. This study programme provided me with a lot of knowledge about international university teaching and study methods, international project organisation and implementation, politics, quality and standards, as well as problem-solving skills and creativity. The faculty members of this university are friendly and courteous, and actively support the students. I enjoyed the lessons a lot because all of the professors instilled in us principles of collaboration with the team, problem-solving, time management within our study plan and active idea generation.

In my field assignment and data collection, the research focused on the livelihood activities in natural disaster-prone areas in the Gulf of Mottama areas, Myanmar. During the data collection part, the Gulf of Mottama Project members were highly supportive in helping to decide on the survey areas and data collection methods.

For me personally, the research and studies taught me to think independently and apply the knowledge and experience I have gained in my future professional carrier in teaching and research at our university in Myanmar. I am grateful to BFH-HAFL for teaching me the vital importance of quality of research and ideas, innovative ways of evaluation, intellectual property and creation, and the freedom of speech and thought.



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