



# Experiencing Classics in the GEF Programme through Farming



LI Ming, CHENG Wai Pang, CHIU Chu Lee, LAM To Kam, LAU Hoi Lung, LUI Wing Sing, WONG Wing Yu  
Office of University General Education, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

## Introduction:

General Education Foundation (GEF) Programme is a common core programme which aims at shaping students into better global citizens by cultivating students' knowledge, attitudes, and values through reading classics. Expanded from successful attempts since 2015/16 of incorporating rooftop farming into one of the GEF courses, In Dialogue with Nature, to enhance students' appreciation of the science-related classics and their relevance to contemporary life, the project "Experiential Learning through Farming" is introduced in 2018/19 as a new endeavor to enhance student reflection in the GEF Programme. Through field-trips to farmlands and hands-on practices, students are expected to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the classics, and to reflect on their personal lifestyles, social system, and the ethics behind food production. A series of short lecture videos are produced and uploaded for student viewing prior to visits to a local farm and a village. Students are guided to reflect on issues including the environmental impact of agricultural technology, justice and land use, the influence of capitalism on consumption, and the attitude and ways of living with nature. This poster aims to review the experience and feedback gained from the trial run of the project.

## Objectives:

- reflect on personal life, social system, and the ethics of scientific applications, through farming and through visits to farmers and social enterprises;
- engage in critical reflection on the classics concerned based on experience and considerations of real-life situations; and
- gain solid understanding and appreciation of the classics.

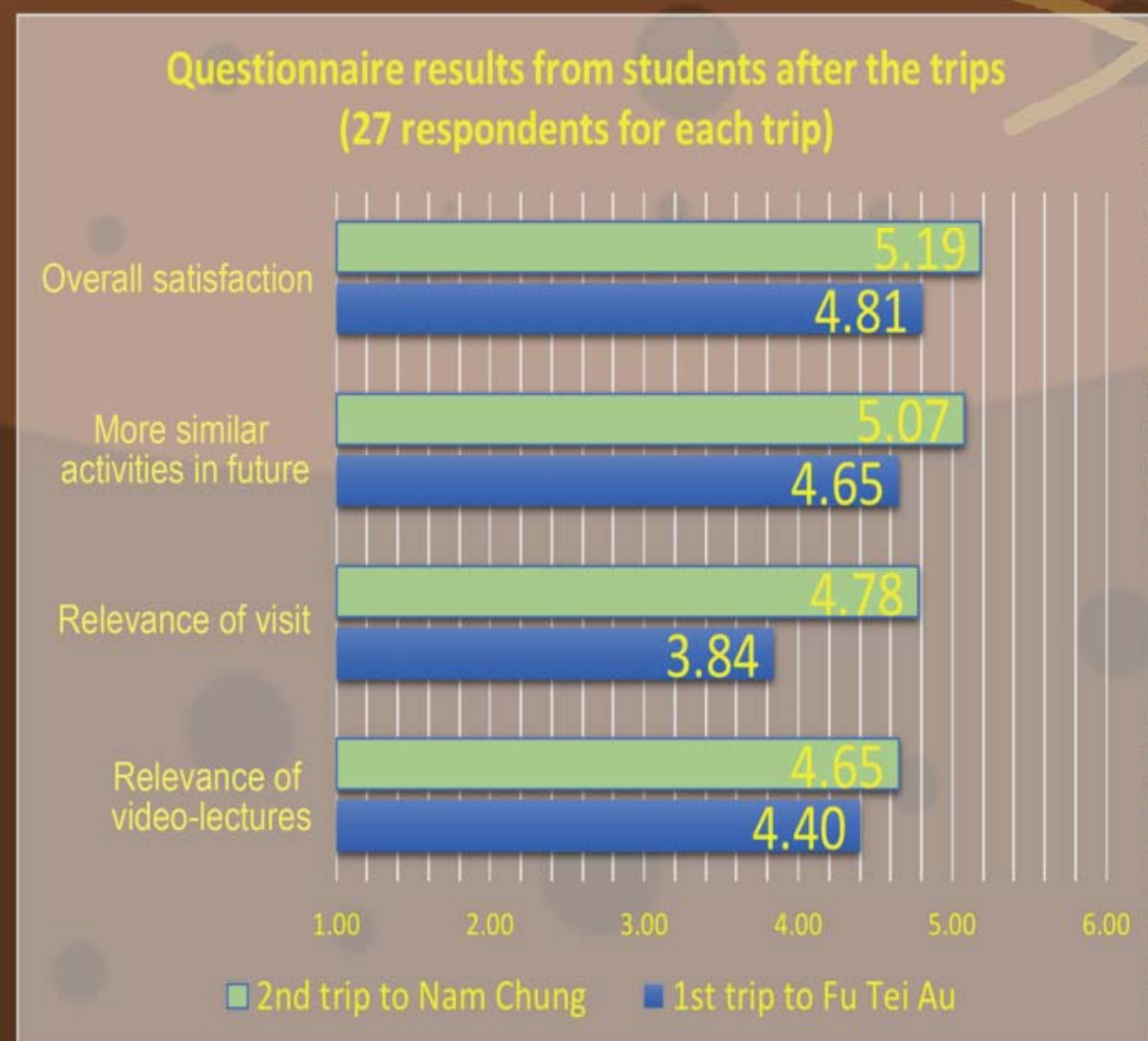
## Feedback:

- 張沁同學：「在去南涌以前，我無知地以為有機耕種只是單純為了人類的健康着想，避免人體內留有農藥的殘留物。經過《寂靜的春天》的導讀，才知道所謂農藥科技對整個生態鏈的危害。」
- 鄭曉田同學：「年輕農夫說了這樣的一番話：城市生活令他喘不過氣來，不如做一些自己喜歡又有意義的事。我不禁問自己，可會為了夢想而放棄安穩生活？」
- 林苑喬同學：活動「(南涌)後我不禁反思我們平常在菜市場買東西的時候價格其實很便宜，那到底辛勤工作的農夫有拿到他們應得的薪水嗎？還是我們一直在剝削他們？」



## Phase III – Experiencing classics through rooftop farming in the urban area (Jan 2019 – Jun 2019)

A rooftop planting site at Hui Yeung Shing Building is currently under construction for students to experience classics through rooftop farming in the coming semester.



## Phase II – Experiencing classics through organic farming in the fields (Sep 2018 – Dec 2018)

Two site-visits to agricultural landscapes of Fu Tei Au (虎地坳) and Nam Chung (南涌) were organized for about 60 students in the GEF Programme. Reflective essays written by the students were selected for publication in the EC Website and UGE News.



## Phase I – Preparation for flipped classrooms (Nov 2017 – Aug 2018)



A website on experiencing classics for the GEF Programme was developed.

## Acknowledgements:

Seven lecture videos were produced for flipped classrooms in Phases II and III to benefit more than 400 students in the GEF Programme.

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- >Centre for eLearning Innovation and Technology (ELITE), CUHK

