



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

China and FAO

Partnering for sustainable domestic and global food security

Over the past four decades, FAO and China have enjoyed a solid partnership covering a large number of the country's priority areas for food and agricultural development, including sustainable intensification of agricultural production, preservation and restoration of ecosystem and biodiversity, global health and poverty reduction. Over 400 FAO projects have benefited tens of millions of people across the country, with special attention given to smallholder farmers and vulnerable and poverty-stricken groups.

Increasing food production while protecting the environment

The cooperation between FAO and China has contributed to the gains made in economic growth and increased food production of the country, which accounts for 21 percent of the world's population and only 9 and 6 percent of its arable land and water resources, respectively.

To support the sustainable intensification of agricultural production, FAO has promoted innovative interventions to support ongoing national initiatives. Novel practices, including, but not limited to, agroecological approaches, climate-smart agriculture, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, sustainable food value chains, Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), biodiversity conservation, ICT and e-agriculture, are being mainstreamed by means of policy advice and technical support, awareness raising, capacity building, institutional networking and pilot initiatives in the field.

The forestry sector has also been prioritized by piloting Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) approaches in selected provinces so as to increase carbon storage and create carbon credits for trade.

Matching FAO's assistance to China's development priorities

China has entered its 13th Five-Year Development Period (2016- 2020), and FAO, together with a wide range of stakeholders in the country, has developed the Country Programming Framework (CPF) for 2016-2020. It sets out four priority areas:

- ➔ Fostering sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture development
- ➔ Reducing rural poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition
- ➔ Promoting one-health approach for sustainable agricultural trade and improved public health
- ➔ Fostering regional and international agriculture cooperation

Supporting China's poverty alleviation programme

China has made remarkable achievements in poverty reduction. According to China State Council's official release in 2016, the country has lifted 700 million people out of poverty over the past 30 years. In October 2015, the Chinese Government has set the objective to eliminate rural poverty by 2020. This objective was subsequently listed as an obligatory index in China's 13th Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development.

Together with partners, FAO has been designing programmes to support poverty reduction interventions in China by bringing in its expertise in this area, such as empowering the rural poor and their organizations, promoting decent rural employment and rural social protection. In addition, a number of countries have shown an interest in adapting China's experience to their national context. In that regard, FAO has been mapping China's experience in poverty reduction with a view of sharing it with other developing countries.



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Fostering innovation and partnerships

Innovation is the driving force for achieving a world free from hunger and malnutrition. FAO China has established an Innovation Lab (AgLabCx) focusing on several key national issues such as addressing the connectivity gap between smallholder farmers and market, through Information and Communications Technologies (ICT), or reducing food loss and waste. The lab creates a platform for generating innovative ideas and assists in incubating the best ones. It creates an enabling environment for people,

“For more than 40 years since China's reform and opening up, the country has developed a lot in terms of agriculture, poverty alleviation, agricultural science and technology, which can be used as reference for other developing countries.”

Qu Dongyu
FAO Director-General

especially the youth, to think out of the box, and raise up innovative and feasible plans with creative and entrepreneurial thinking.

Innovation is more than technology. It is a complex process where multiple actors play different roles towards one common goal. FAO China is bringing governments, NGOs, foundations, institutions, academia, companies and other partners together to foster

agricultural innovation and to create an environment that enables innovation in agriculture to flourish and generate solutions. For example, the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation supported the FAO-Tsinghua Ag-LabCx to design innovative solutions for the development of Hani Terrace in Honghe County of Yunnan Province, which has also received strong support from the local government. In addition, in 2018, GF Securities Co. Ltd. donated USD 1 million to FAO China to support the implementation of an “SDG Villages” project, which promotes the “Internet + Agriculture + Finance” model in 16 poverty-stricken villages in China from 2019 to 2021.

Global knowledge transfer

China is a pioneer in FAO's South-South Cooperation (SSC) Programme and remains a highly committed supporter, sharing knowledge and transferring its advanced technologies with other developing countries. In 2009, China donated USD 30 million to FAO through a Trust Fund to support the FAO-China SSC Programme (Phase I). In 2015, China and FAO signed a General Agreement providing for an additional USD 50 million Trust Fund in support of a second phase.

China's Belt and Road Initiative opens additional opportunities for SSC. In close consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, FAO, with the Government of China, developed an Umbrella Programme in the field of agriculture, which covers the areas of 1) inclusive value chain development for agricultural products; 2) supporting the introduction and development of innovations in e-agriculture; 3) control of transboundary animal and plant diseases and; and 4) sustainable management of natural resources, which includes protection of biodiversity, combating desertification and mitigation of climate change risks.

Promoting the "One Health" approach

FAO promotes a "One Health" approach for sustainable agriculture development and trade and improved public health. The aim is to manage and reduce the impact of animal and plant diseases and other public health threats, especially Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), thus improving food safety and human health and nutrition.

FAO and its partners have been successfully conducting the China Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians (CFETPV) through the "One Health" approach since October 2010. As of the end of 2019, 178 graduates have conducted over 100 outbreak investigations and more than 162 epidemiological studies. Training sessions have benefited more than 13,000 participants engaged in national response to H7N9, peste des petits ruminants (PPR), African swine fever and other disease emergencies in the field. CFETPV has played an active role in promoting the innovative concept of animal disease prevention and control in China, and has provided strong technical support for improving the scientific based decision-making of animal disease prevention and control in China.

Boosting rural development: the GIAHS model

China has become the leading country in promoting FAO's Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems (GIAHS) Programme, boasting 15 out of the 57 enlisted GIAHS sites worldwide, including Rice Fish Culture in Zhejiang Province and Pu'er Traditional Tea Agrosystem in Yunnan Province. Through the GIAHS Programme, FAO China works with multiple stakeholders to protect agricultural biodiversity, indigenous knowledge systems, and resilient ecosystems, and to contribute to poverty reduction in rural areas.

In 2015, China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and FAO signed an agreement to strengthen the implementation of the GIAHS programme through capacity development activities under the FAO-China SSC framework. Within this framework, FAO and China have further promoted innovation in implementing the GIAHS Programme while also enhancing and complementing the SSC Strategy.

