



UK-China
Sustainable Agriculture
Innovation Network

Update

March 2010

Work in Progress

Project Completion

SAIN Working Group 1 held the completion workshop for the project “Improving Livelihoods on Shaanxi Farms by reducing non-point N Pollution through Improved Nutrient Management” on 11-12 March in Yangling, China. This three-year project was funded by DFID, Defra and FCO of UK government under the International Sustainable

Development Fund (ISDF). The project also got support from Chinese Ministry of Agriculture as well as Shaanxi Provincial and local governments.



The overall objective of this project is to provide access for poor farmers to information that will enable them to use N fertilizer in a rational way in order to increase crop yields and economic returns whilst avoiding environmental pollution and wastage of resources. This commonly occurs due to over-use of nitrogen fertilizer. The project did this through developing the practical tools which could be used by extension workers and staff of farmer associations to communicate with farmers. The tools developed include rapid field measurement of soil nitrate, nutrient budget and profit calculation. On-farm experiments were carried out to demonstrate the application of these tools.

See more details at:

<http://www.sainonline.org/SAIN-website%28English%29/pages/News/workshopinYangling.html>

Launch of New Projects

Three SAIN projects held kick-off workshops in China in March. These are:

Adaptation of Agriculture to Climate Change in China

The inception workshop for the three-year project was held at the Chinese Academy for Agricultural Sciences in Beijing on Tuesday 2nd March 2010. Over 20 representatives from all the partners involved in the project met to discuss



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detailed activities. The project aims to address the skills needs of adaptation researchers and Chinese farming communities vulnerable to climate change in order to enhance UK China collaboration targeted to improve the adaptation of Chinese agriculture to climate change.

See more details at:

<http://www.sainonline.org/SAIN-website%28English%29/pages/News/Beijingworkshop.html>

Agricultural GHG Emissions and Mitigation in China

The inception workshop was held in Nanjing Agricultural University on 9-12 March. The overall purpose of the project is to provide decision support tools and policy advice based on a database of appropriate, economically-costed agricultural climate mitigation strategies for each region / agricultural system in China.

See more details at:

<http://www.sainonline.org/SAIN-website%28English%29/pages/News/Greenhouse1003.html>



Harmonising Adaptation and Mitigation for Agriculture and Water in China

The inception workshop for the two-year project on “Harmonising Adaptation and Mitigation for agriculture and water in China” was held at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Beijing, 13th of March 2010. The overall aim of the project is to make preliminary estimations of the ‘carbon cost’ of adaptation to climate change in agriculture with focus on water use. Three main elements to the project include:

- Assessing/describing main impacts of climate change on agriculture in China
- Deriving adaptation policy scenarios to sustain agricultural production in China
- Developing preliminary estimates of energy consumption in agricultural water use, using case study data

See more details at:

<http://www.sainonline.org/SAIN-website%28English%29/pages/News/ADMIT.html>

SAIN Working Group 2 Held Meeting in Beijing

The group meeting of Working Group 2 (Bioenergy and Waste Recycling Innovation) was held in Beijing on 29-30 March. The meeting was hosted by Prof Zhao Lixin, co-chairs of the group, and attended by six Chinese, five UK members and representative of SAIN China Secretariat.

The participants discussed issues regarding the changes to the proposal recommended by the Chinese and UK reviewers. It was thought that the reviewers’ comments and suggestions were very helpful, and these have now been incorporated where possible into the revised proposals. Current situation of Africa engagement by WG2 UK

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members was reviewed and possible ways to include Africa partners in research and knowledge transferring were discussed. The UK members also visited biogas plant in Miyun County, gave presentations to staff and students at Tsinghua University and China Agricultural University.

News about SAIN Members

Public Engagement with Science in China

Professor David Powlson, co-chair of SAIN Working Group 1 (Nutrient Management) recently participated in a series of café scientifique events in Jiangsu and Zhejiang Provinces. These were organised by the British Council under their climate change educational programme “Climate Cool”. The aim is to introduce scientific subjects to general audiences.



(photo:
<http://www.nbast.org.cn/html/kexiezhichuang/kexiedongtai/tupiandongtai/2010/0319/2750.html>)

David spoke about reducing the carbon footprint of agriculture through more rational use of nitrogen fertilizer. His examples were based on experience from two SAIN projects that he leads. One is DFID-funded project on “Improve livelihoods on Shaanxi farms through improved nutrient management and reduced non-point pollution”. The other is a FCO-funded project on low carbon agriculture. At each event some 120 local people attended including students, school teachers, professional people and members of the public, who eagerly asked questions for over an hour following the presentations.

See more details at:

<http://www.sainonline.org/SAIN-website%28English%29/pages/News/public.html>

SAIN Member Attending Sino-UK International Food Security Conference

Sino-UK International Food Security conference was held on 8-10 March in Beijing. A number of SAIN members were invited to speak at the conference. This workshop was jointly funded by Research Councils UK, National Natural Science Foundation of China, China Agricultural University, Lancaster University, and Global Environmental Change and Food Systems.

See more details at:

<http://www.sainonline.org/SAIN-website%28English%29/pages/News/Foodsecurity.html>

Forthcoming Events

The inception workshop of SAIN project “ A Review of Manure Nutrient Use in China (MUC)” will be held in Nanjing Agricultural University on 19-20 April 2010. The project is led by Dr Dave Chadwick of North Wyke Research and Prof Shen Qirong of Nanjing Agricultural University.

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The start-up meeting of SAIN project "Conservation for enhanced utilization of crop wild relative diversity for sustainable development and climate change mitigation" will be held on 23rd and 24th May in Beijing. The project is led by Drs Brian Ford-Lloyd and Nigel Maxted of Birmingham University and Prof Kang Dingming of China Agricultural University.

Other News

DFID Launched Climate and Development Knowledge Network

On 11th March, DFID launched Climate and Development Knowledge Network. The £50 million Network, funded over five years by DFID, will link 60 developing countries with leading climate and development experts, allowing them to commission and share knowledge on how best to tackle the effects of climate change. The initiative will be managed by an alliance led by PricewaterhouseCoopers. It will support decision-makers in developing countries in three main ways:

- Generating and providing access to the latest research related to climate change impacts and mitigation strategies across the network, providing applicable evidence for their policy development
- Providing direct support and building capacity in developing countries to develop plans to meet climate change adaptation or mitigation needs
- Helping to develop a global community of practice working on this topic

See more details at:

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Media-Room/Press-releases/2010/New-climate-network-to-link-developing-countries-and-drive-adaptation-and-mitigation-policy-development/>

China's Agricultural Patents on the Rise

Patent applications for agricultural innovations, particularly for genetically modified (GM) crops, have surged in China in the past decade, SciDev reports. Statistics from the China Center for Intellectual Property in Agriculture (CCIPA) show that applications doubled between 2002 and 2008, from 4,500 to 9,300.

See more details at:

<http://www.scidev.net/en/china/news/china-s-agricultural-patents-on-the-rise.html>

Transforming Agricultural Research for Development

This paper by the Global Authors' Team (GAT) has been commissioned by the Global Forum on International Agricultural Research (GFAR) as an input into the Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) being held in, Montpellier, France between March 28th and 31st 2010. The conclusion comment of the paper says: "Agricultural research and development efforts that engage farmers and build from the bottom up can release locked-up innovation, become responsive and effective, encourage many different pathways, and result in adequate food for all. Without investments in agricultural and overall economic and social development, research alone would be a blunt instrument in efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger."

You can read the full report and executive summary at:

<http://www.egfar.org/egfar/website/new/newspage?contentId=3002>

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Low Carbon Development Roadmap for Jilin City

Chatham House (Royal Institute of International Affairs) released a programme report on “*Low Carbon Development Roadmap for Jilin City*”. This report is the result of two years of analysis of energy pathways, policy indicators, technology trends and investment requirements. It provides the building blocks for Jilin City to take a decisive step towards achieving low carbon development and become a national leader in China. The report argues that low carbon development is highly consistent with the city's existing objectives, including reducing energy intensity by shifting its manufacturing base to higher-added-value, advanced technology products; achieving excellent resource efficiency (the circular economy); realizing balanced urban-rural growth; and, critically, fulfilling China's scientific development concept.

There is potentially strong complementarity between this project and SAIN WG1 project on Low Carbon Agriculture which is also funded by FCO.

You can read the full report at:

http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/files/16194_r0310_lowcarbon.pdf

For more information about SAIN, please visit:

<http://www.sainonline.org/English.html>

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