

Work in Progress

“Low Carbon Agriculture” project held provincial workshop

The “low carbon agriculture” project under SAIN Working Group 1 held its provincial workshop in Jinan, Shandong province on 23 January. The workshop was attended by more than 40 attendees which included officials of provincial departments of agriculture, environmental protection, development and reform, academics of provincial agricultural research institutes and universities, as well as representatives of fertilizer factories. This three-year (2009-2012) project is funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the UK government.



SAIN project was reported by *Science*

SAIN’s Working Group 1 project, Improving Livelihoods on Shaanxi Farms by Reducing Non-Point N Pollution through Improved Nutrient Management, was highlighted by a *Science* article in the issue dated 12 February 2010, with the title “China’s Push to Add by Subtracting Fertilizer” (<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/327/5967/801>). This three-year project is funded by DFID and due to complete by the end of March 2010.

Study tours and visits

SAIN Secretariat has recently facilitated and hosted a number of visitors from China, including delegations from Guangdong Academy of Agricultural Sciences led by Prof Qiu Junrong, in November 2009; Department of Agriculture of Hainan Province, led by Mr Zhu Qingmin, Deputy Director of the Department, in December 2009; Hebei Academy of Agricultural Sciences, led by Prof Wang Haibo, Vice President of the Academy, in February 2010.

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News about SAIN Members

Professor **Ian Crute**, Chief Scientist at the Agriculture & Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), was awarded a CBE in the 2010 New Year Honors. Ian was Director of Rothamsted Research from 1999 to 2009, and is currently a member of SAIN Governing Board.



Prof **Tim Wheeler** of Reading University was appointed as DFID's new Deputy Chief Scientific Advisor and Deputy Director of Research and Evidence Division. Tim is a member of SAIN Working Group 3 on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, and leading a SAIN project on "Addressing vulnerabilities and building capacity for adaptation of agriculture to climate change in China"

As a reward to his hard work to help farmers in China improving fertilizer use, Prof **David Powlson**, co-chair of SAIN Working Group 1 on Soil Nutrient Management, was delighted to receive a poem from Mr Wang Zhanbio, a farmer in Heyang County, Shaanxi Province where he is leading a DFID-funded project to improve farmers' livelihood and reducing non-point pollution through improved nitrogen fertilizer management. "You come here from abroad hundreds of thousand miles away just to serve farmers; You have been working on environment protection to benefit the whole world" the poem says. Heyang is a low income county with dryland farming system where over use of nitrogen fertilizer is still common.



Forthcoming Events

- * Final workshop of Working Group 1 project, "Improving Livelihoods on Shaanxi Farms by Reducing Non-Point N Pollution through Improved Nutrient Management" to be held on 11-12th March, in Northwest A&F University, Yangling, Shaanxi province.
- * SAIN's five new projects will start up in the next two months, which include:
 - Addressing Vulnerabilities and Building Capacity for Adaptation of Agriculture to Climate Change in China, launch workshop to be held on 2nd March in Beijing.
 - Estimates of Future Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Mitigation in China, launch workshop to be held on 9-10th March in Nanjing.
 - ADMIT: Harmonising Adaptation and Mitigation for Agriculture and Water in China launch workshop to be held on 12th March in Beijing.
 - A Review of Manure Nutrient Use in China to Develop a More Rational Approach to Utilising Organic Manures and Anaerobic Digestates as Part of the

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Development of Integrated Nutrient Management Planning with Inorganic Fertilizers (MUC), launch workshop to be held in April in Nanjing.

➤ Conservation for Enhanced Utilization of Crop Wild Relative Diversity for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Mitigation, launch workshop to be held in April in Beijing.

- * Prof Wang Jianwu of South China Agricultural University will visit University of East Anglia, Rothamsted Research and Imperial College London on 1-5 March to meet various SAIN members.

Other News

- * On 15th December 2009, Chinese Ministry of Agriculture launched a major research project on “Impact of climate change on agriculture and responding technologies”. This five-year project is led by Prof Pan Genxing, with a budget over 28 million Yuan (£2.5 million). Prof Pan is also leading a SAIN WG3 project, with Prof Pete Smith of University of Aberdeen, on “Estimates of future agricultural greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation in China”.
- * On 9th February 2010, Chinese ministries of Environmental Protection, Agriculture and National Bureau of Statistics held a joint press conference revealing the results of the first nation-wide pollution survey. The survey was started in 2007, led by Ministry of Environmental Protection. The results show that agriculture is one of the biggest pollution sources to water resources. It discharges 13.2 Mt COD, which accounts for 43.7% of the nation's total, 2.7 Mt N and 0.28 Mt P which accounts for 57.2% and 67.4% of the nation's total. In the agricultural pollution, livestock is the major emitter, which is responsible for 96%, 38% and 56% of COD, N and P of agricultural discharge respectively.

For more information about SAIN, please visit:

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

or contact

In the UK :

Dr Yuelai Lu
International Development UEA
University of East Anglia
Norwich NR4 7TJ, UK
Tel: +44(0)1603 593264
Fax: +44(0)1603 591170
Email: y.lu@uea.ac.uk

In China:

Prof Tong Yanan
College of Resource and Environment
Northwest A&F University
Yangling, Shaanxi, 712100, China
Tel/Fax: +86 (0) 29 87081213
Email: tongyanan@nwsuaf.edu.cn